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# All in God's Plan

**By Frankie Fong**

Over the past month I have felt that God has wanted me to talk about love. From a number of seminars to preachings from different pastors, and even being asked to write this article, I feel it's God's plan to help explain about love. You may be asking—"What is love?" Well that is hard to explain as we have many different kinds of love. There is the love you have for family which is totally different from the love you have for a friend, and even totally different from the love you show to your boyfriend or girlfriend.

When you have a boyfriend or girlfriend it can be great and amazing. It can also hurt when the "honeymoon" phase is over or when they dump you and you feel empty. This empty feeling for me came every Valentine's Day when I didn't have anyone to date. It was hard watching other people get showered with love and I could only watch.

After my first girlfriend broke-up with me, let

us call her Ariel, during the last half of my senior high school, I was completely lost, hurt, and felt completely empty on the inside. I spent time with friends and played games but those things only made me feel good for a little, the good feelings eventually faded away.

I then turned to God to find some way to fill what felt like the Mariana Trench in my heart. As I read my Bible I came to understand a bit of what God's love is. I saw that Jesus was still willing to die for us even though He was rejected by everyone else. This act of love still inspires me today and is what inspired me to do an amazing act of love in my senior year of high school.

For you see, Valentine's day was coming up as I was reading about God's love after this break up. For me it felt that being alone on Valentines day after a break up is much like having your body completely sun-burned then being left in



Simple Valentine Day Card

the desert in the middle of the day. Despite this feeling I wanted to do something to show the love the Jesus had shown us.

I started going through a list in my head of what I could do, but didn't really have anything. I finally went to my mom and asked her about some simple craft ideas that I could do. She told me about using blank index cards and then gluing bits of tissue paper onto the card and making a stain glass window design. This was the basic idea I needed but I took it one step further and did the

## Cont...

stain glass window design in the shape of something they like to do.

Now that I had what I wanted to do, the next thing I needed to decide was whom I was going to do this for. I started to write down my friend's names. This gave me a list of about 30 people but I waited until school the next day to finalize my list. The next day I started talking to people, and before the end of the day I ended up with a list of over 200 people and a list of some of their favorite things to do. This list included freshmen to seniors. For the first time since my break up I felt renewed and ready to take on the world.

Over the next two weeks I went to work on the cards, thankfully I did not have work on them alone. My sister and friends helped me work on the cards and created the images on the cards. There was one more thing I wanted to do. I wrote on the back of the card an individual message to each person that the card was addressed to.

Simple  
Valentine Day Card  
Ideas!



The night before Valentine's Day, I got a call from Ariel who yelled at me

for, at the time, a simple misunderstanding. I was shattered and felt completely lost again. I almost didn't go through with the cards but God encouraged me to go through with it anyway. I handed out the cards and gave candy to those who I didn't get a chance to work on a card for them. People gave a simple appreciation for the cards but there was no fanfare, or special treatment but I had no clue the impact that cards were going to do. To be honest I still don't know the full extent of their impact.

It wasn't until a few months later that I had given out the cards, that I got this letter saying how

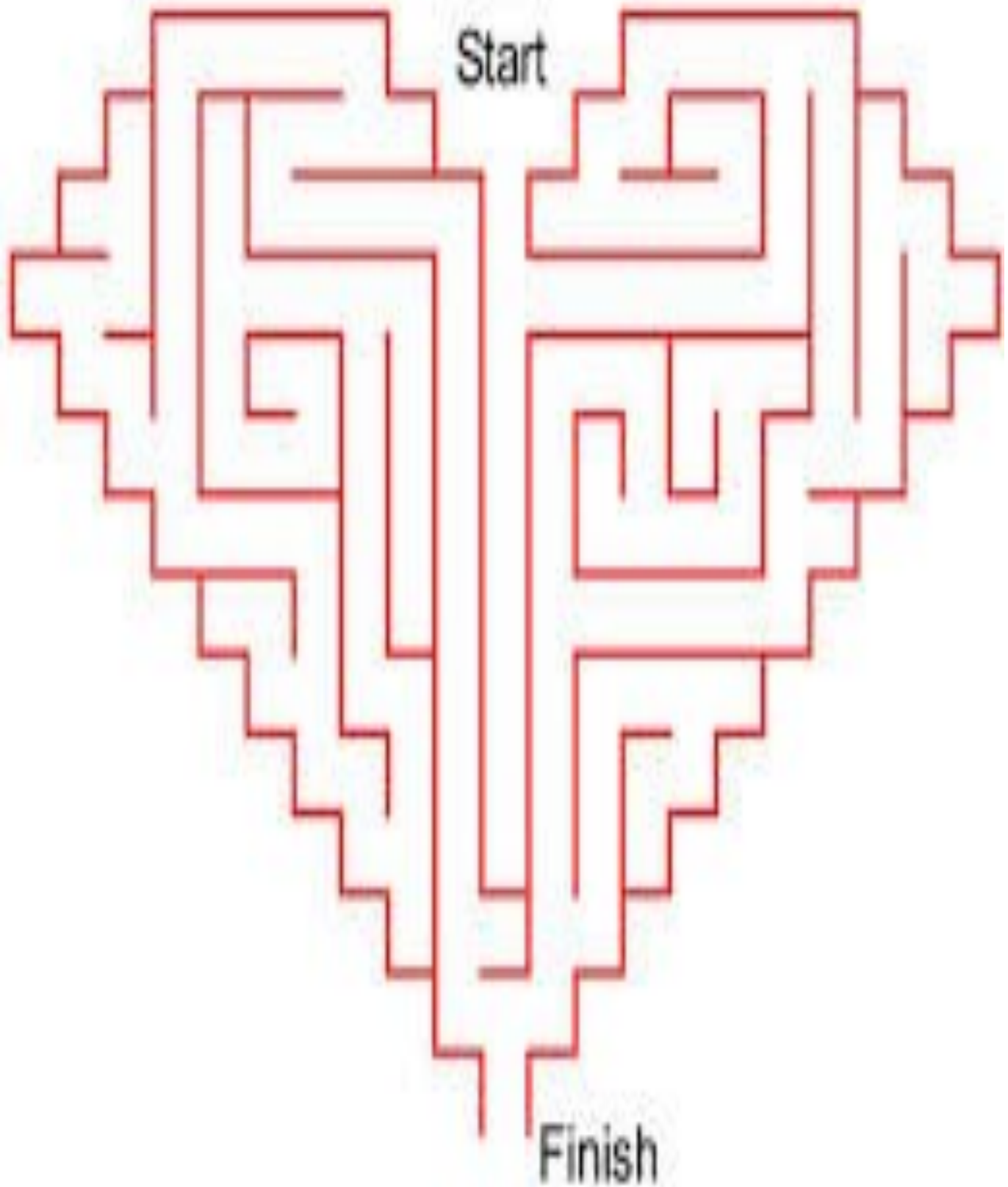
much it help this person believe in God again. A couple of months after that I find out that this family I knew said that it was the nicest, sweetest thing that anyone has ever given their daughter and had actually framed it!

This all came from an idea after a break up and what should have been an awful time, and when I got tired of seeing other people that looked just as lonely as me. This really all came from God though and how he loved us in both the bad and the good times. For it says in Genesis 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today"

I encourage all of you, who are reading this to try some simple acts to show God's love to your school or work place you will be amazed at how much of an impact it can have. Thank you all for your time and God Bless you until we speak again!



Valentine Gift Ideas!!



# February Thoughts

January was a beautiful kick off to 2015. We had a small group who helped out with Beacon Light Mission. We had a great turnout for the All Nighter. We also had a group of students and adults participate in the 2015 Turn Your Campus event at Biola University. With hundreds of students, parents, youth workers and educators, it was pretty packed. The music, from award winning DJ Icy Ice to the Josh Chavez band, was pretty amazing. The day was packed with information and challenges from a large variety of speakers and leaders. Last month we spent a lot of time on the ideas of goals, planning, and strategizing for life.

This month is a month that we typically spend a lot of time in regard to the idea of “Love.” We say that we “love” a ton of things. We love friends, family, desserts, games, pets, and various things. But what we mean when we talk about love isn’t always the same. How people see the word ‘love’ can differ a lot. Sometimes the way we use the word love is simply to describe the idea of liking something a lot. Sometimes we speak on love expressing that it’s a priority worth sacrificing over. Sometimes we haphazardly toss around the word as we jump from one thing to another. And sometimes we refer to love when it is painful and it costs. The Bible uses the word love over 680 times. It covers the ideas of loving God, loving other people and loving yourself. These ideas are summed up in a conversation that Jesus has with a teacher. This particular teacher was listening to Jesus sharing a lot of thoughts and ideas as well as being in some deep discussion with other leaders. This teacher then asked Jesus the question, “What is most important?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. <sup>30</sup> And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-34 NLT)

This answer was not really new to this teacher. It might not be new to you either. This month we’ll be looking at biblical examples of relationships. We’ll look at some of the love stories in the Bible. We’ll also look at stories of friendships and partnerships. Those relationships have the power to encourage and build up. They also have the power to distract and ruin.

I look back on my life, and especially the relationships I had growing up. Sometimes I put a ton of time into those relationships. Sometimes I poured myself into trying to get and have those relationships, even when they were not good for me. Most of those have faded away. I’ve discovered that the only relationship that has been consistent in my life without fail, is God. Friends change. Relationships with family can be a roller coaster at times. But God stays consistent. His love for us never changes or wavers. A beautiful thing about having a relationship with God is that it is designed to be bigger and wider than ourselves. Our relationship with God is designed to bless and affect others as well as to strengthen and bless ourselves. When you look at your relationship with God, how much can others see it? When you look at your relationship with God, how much have you allowed it to help you see all of who you are and what you are capable of? We’ll be taking the next several weeks to look at those thoughts.

This month, we’ll be taking some time to enjoy eating desserts, being together, and sharing creatively about love during our **Agape Feast** on Wed, Feb 11th. In addition to **Beacon Light Mission**, there will also be an opportunity to give and serve on Sat, Feb 14th. We’ll be taking some time to love and serve the families in our church and community by helping to host a **Parent’s Night Out**. For those interested in being reminded about God’s feelings for them as well as helping learn about how to share your faith, there will be an opportunity to go to **Dare to Share** in San Diego Feb 20-21. Please take some time to look at your schedules and talk to your families about the options. In Planning ahead, there will be additional opportunities to grow and be encouraged. See some of the additional options in the back of this newsletter. You can also stay informed by connecting with us on the church website, the Student and Parent Facebook pages, and through the text alerts. (Middle School—Text JHS to 33733; High School Text HSGroup to 33733)

There may be times this month you may struggle with feeling left out or alone. I want to encourage you by letting you know that You ARE Important. You ARE Loved. You DO have a place. And You have a TON to Offer. The greatest message of love comes from John 3:16. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (ESV) We might not always be perfect at showing or expressing love, but we do have a perfect example of it.

Praying we would experience and embrace more of God’s Love,

*Jackson*

# January Highlights



\*\*Don't forget if you'd like pictures to be shown in our newsletter hash tag it to: #FBCDowney

Or just email it to either Alex or Jackson. (more info pg 11)

# Turn Your Campus 2015





# February Fun Page

By Sherry Fong



H	E	A	R	T	S	W	E	E	T	O
K	T	K	A	F	L	W	O	W	E	R
K	I	S	S	Z	C	D	G	X	L	I
C	H	H	C	Z	U	L	I	E	O	X
W	A	M	A	R	P	O	V	G	V	L
R	P	N	J	W	I	N	E	E	E	R
E	P	K	D	M	D	R	O	S	E	S
D	Y	T	Y	Y	H	U	G	Y	D	C

## Cheesy pick-up lines for your pleasure !

**Are you religious? 'Cuz you're  
the answer to my prayers.**

**If you were a vegetable you'd be  
a-CUTE-cumber.**

**Are you a banana? Because I  
find you a-PEEL-ing**

**I like Legos, you like Legos, let's  
build a relationship together.**

## KEY

CANDY	HUG
CUPID	LOVE
KISS	RED
GIVE	ROSES
HAPPY	SWEET
HEART	FLOWER

# February 14th

WORD SEARCH

## FINDING LOVE IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

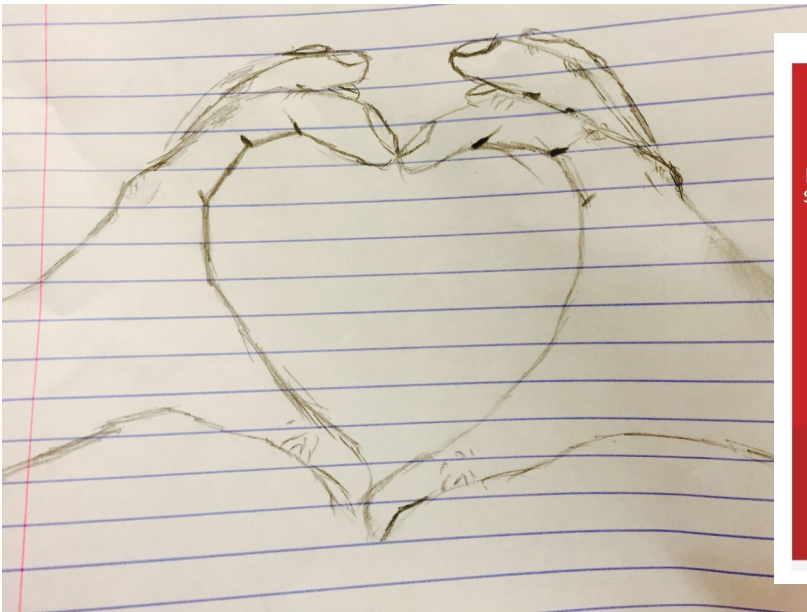
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 M C D I R R M H E X E P D P E  
 W Z K L Y S R E W O L F J O J



- XOXO
- CARDS
- FLOWERS
- CUPID
- HUG
- TREATS
- FRIENDS
- RED
- CHOCOLATE
- DEAR
- HEART
- LOVE
- CANDY
- DOVES
- PINK
- KISS
- SWEETHEART
- FEBRUARY
- VALENTINE



# Submit Your Art!



**First Baptist Church of Downey Student Ministries**  
Feb Upcoming Events

<p><b>Beacon Light Mission</b> Serving the Homeless in Long Beach Sat, Feb 7 2015 Meet @ FBCD 5pm</p>	<p><b>Agape Feast</b> Wed Feb 11 6-8 pm Music, Games and More! Bring a dessert to share</p>	<p><b>Parents Night Out</b> Sat Feb 14 5 pm – 9 pm Serve and Help give moms and dads a night out</p>
<p><b>Dare to Share</b> Fri, Feb 20—Sat Feb 21 4 pm – 10 pm Join us as we head to San Diego and hear From Greg Stier, Zane Grey and The Digital Age &amp;85 (\$70 by Feb 7)</p>	<p><b>Ignite</b> (Weds 630-8) Couples in the Bible</p>	<p><b>Entrench Middle School</b> (Sundays 1050-Noon) Miracles of Christ</p>
	<p><b>Immerse</b> (Sun 530-630 pm) <i>Principles for Building and Strengthening your Relationships</i> Introducing: Eve Rey Body</p>	<p><b>Entrench High School</b> (Sundays 1050-Noon) Bible Battle Buddies</p>

For additional Details and MORE, check out [FBCDowney.com](http://FBCDowney.com)  
For Text updates and Reminders: Middle School—Text JHS to 33733 High School Text HSGroup to 33733

**FEBRUARY**  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

This month a wonderful piece of art was submitted by Isaiah from 8th grade.

\* Please contact me (Alex) or Jackson to submit your art for next month’s newsletter!

## Stay Informed!

Check out [FBCDowney.com](http://FBCDowney.com)

Find our Student and Parent Facebook Pages

### Text Updates

Middle School—Text JHS to 33733

High School—Text HSGroup to 33733

College—Text FBCA to 33733

### *Showing God’s Love*

*- A Series By Greg Guier*



# Loving Yourself

By Alex Perez

Ever since we were little we gave out candy on Valentine's Day. I want to go back to the days when no one was left out, but as we got older we realized the day was meant for love. Girls got roses and boys became broke. If you are like me however, you love the holiday, because come February 15th all the good candy is on sale ... haha. But in all seriousness, society has shown us we need to be loved, and we do. One thing we are never taught or told is to love ourselves. When people are in a relationship they pour everything they have into their special someone. Their time, their energy, but do we do that for ourselves? I will be the first to say I don't. I have beaten myself up emotionally, and it has been hard to admit but physically too. I thought what I was doing to myself wasn't hurting anyone, and to be completely honest it wasn't hurting anybody but myself. But I was alright with that if it meant one day I would truly be happy. As I said we do so much just to be loved, but one very wise person I love to call my best friend made me realize we can't love or be loved until we learn to love ourselves first; It was hard to understand at first, I figured I was doing what I was doing so one day hopefully someone will love me but that wasn't the case. I was just hurting myself. I hoped I would have a great

outcome, but if I wasn't stopped, I could have possibly done major damage. I won't tell you exactly what it is that is wrong with me. I know I am hinting toward it, but I still haven't been able to talk about it out loud. That is just something I need to work on if I ever want to be happy one day or be loved. It has been a crazy past year and a half for me, and even writing about it is hard. But it is a step closer to loving myself fully the way God has made me, the way I am. I went on a retreat not too long ago with my friend's youth group, and what I heard there was completely true and seemed nearly impossible at the time. One of the leaders gave us teenage girls the secret to never being jealous. She said in order to never be jealous EVER again, we need to realize God made us, and no one else can be as amazing as we are because they will never be us. I mean, yes, all of us are amazing but no one can be a better me and no one can ever be a better you. Let's remember this as we go into the Valentine's Day holiday. Also remember if you will be like me on Valentine's Day, and not get anything from a person of the opposite sex, don't be discouraged. I've come to realize that God has someone planned for me in this world, just as He has someone planned for all of



My best friends and I decided to get purity rings, promising to wait for our future someone so we can love them one day with everything we have.

us. You have not met them yet, but one day you will have someone to love you for you, someone to spend your Valentine's Day with, and someone who has been waiting for you just as you have been waiting for them. Just because you might not get something from someone this Valentine's day doesn't mean you aren't loved, because God loves us all unconditionally. That is better than anything in the world, and greater than anybody else loving you. Knowing that a King not only knows you by name, but loves you, is just something amazing to think about and remember.

# Upcoming Events!

## February

- Feb 7th - Beacon Light (Meet at church at 5)
- Feb 11th—Agape Feast (Please bring a dessert to share) 6 pm—8 pm
- Feb 14th—Parents Night Out (A night of students serving) 5 pm—9 pm
- Feb 20-21- Dare To Share (San Diego) \$70 Per Person

## 2015

### March

March 30—April 3 Rainbow Acres Mission Trip (More info to come soon)

### April

**Planet Wisdom** -April 24-25, 2015 (\$50 Per Person)

Join us as we return for another year at Planet Wisdom!

Worship, Drama, and excellent teaching with hundreds of other students.

This year we will be looking at OUR STORY

### May

**YSTeam Training** May 8-9

Join us as we return to YS Training for some incredible worship, great teaching and practical ideas.

If you currently serve as a leader or are looking into possibilities for leadership in the future, this is for you!

\$60 per person (Current leaders please see Jackson)

**Submissions wanted!**

**March Theme: Spring Cleaning, Spring, New Life, Friendship**

**Submissions Due Feb 22nd**

Email Alex [pzalexandria@yahoo.com](mailto:pzalexandria@yahoo.com) (new email) or Jackson. [jacksonf@fbcdowney.org](mailto:jacksonf@fbcdowney.org)

## Some of the Greatest Gifts you can give to express love

Hugs—Michael I	Something From the Heart—Ethan S	Help when needed —Melani A
Newest Video Games—Quinn S	Knowledge of Jesus Christ—Mario S	Time, Encouragement, Candy, Flowers—Jim F
Hugs, Music, Recommendations, Jesus—Andrea B	Money, Appreciation—Tyler S	
Compassion—Rafaela	Your Time & Effort—Mary Emma G	
	A Hug—Jessica P	

## Some of those I Love ...

Family, Friends—Abbey R	My Family, Me, Jesus—Emily	Wife, Children, Grandchildren, Church, Youth Group, - Jim F
Family—Connor F	My Family, Jesus—Ethan S	
Family & Friends—Melanie A	God, Family, Friends—Andrea B	
Mom, Sisters, Brother, Sister-in- Law—Jessica P	My Family—Quinn S	
My Family and Friends! - Jason R	My Family, My dog—Michael I	
My Family, Your Mom! Friends— Mary Emma G	Husband, Kids, Family, Friends— Rafaela R	
My Mom, Dad, Brothers, Family— Tyler S	Wife, Kids, Family, Jesus, Country —Mario S	
Friends—Nabila T	Kiersten, Sister, Friends, Pastors, Elders, Students—Mauricio	
Family & Friends—Katherine S		

## Your Article Could Be Here!

What we are looking for:

Short stories

Devotionals

Your Questions

Your Memories (Past Events)

Photos / Artwork

They do not have to be long. (Or they can be as long as you would like.) We are looking for a minimum of two paragraphs.

You can look up a passage of scripture and share about what God is teaching you. Share about your stories, your struggles and your

dreams. We want to give you options as well as opportunity. Hope to hear back from you!

**TAKE THE Opportunity!**