

# Youth STRIVE Magazine

Vol. 1

## Student Testimonies

*"I was anxious..."*

## Math Feature

*"But with God, all things..."*

BAD HABITS, FAILURES, &  
PRE-GRADUATION DOUBTS?

## Get Inspired!

Assessments, Verses,  
Quotations, Poems  
& more...

CLAIM  
&  
PRAY

Trusting God  
to Come Through

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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We are so pleased you would take the time to read our class magazine. The students have worked diligently as a team, with a goal to inspire those who read this publication, all while practicing the skills they have been learning throughout the school year so far, and using the talents God has given them.

This magazine grew out of the inspiration taken from one student sharing what she remembered from one Midday Power Surge. Jordanique (who has since moved on) shared that she learned that we must “STRIVE against sin”. Since that moment, that word kept coming up in class, and God started planting and developing in my mind the need to urge my 8th Grade class to STRIVE - STRIVE against sin, bad habits, and negative thinking! Setting this word as our class motto, I desire to encourage them to STRIVE for EXCELLENCE, for the mastery of skills and talents to the glory of God, and ultimately towards heaven. This is my wish for you too, Dear Reader!

As you peruse these pages, take inspiration where we have found some, even from the testimonies of the students and the experiences we have had so far this school year. The God who created you can and will extend His hand to help you reach the reward, if you would partner with Him...and **STRIVE!**

*Zynia Spencer*  
Grade 8 Teacher

## NOTE FROM THE JUNIOR EDITOR

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It brings me great joy that you have read this magazine. The 8th grade class, and teachers have worked tirelessly on this magazine with the hope that you will be encouraged to STRIVE in whatever situation you may be in, because God is fighting for you! (Ex 14:14)

As you read through this magazine, it is our prayer that you are blessed, and you will find encouragement through these pages.

*Peyton Q.*  
Grade 8 Student

### **REMEMBER:**

- Be strong
- Be thankful
- Be responsible
- Be intelligent
- Be valiant
- Be empathetic



## LISTEN UP!

BY LEARNING COACH LAMONT

As learning coaches, we witness our own children go through the ups and downs of navigating the path to becoming a successful student. With great anticipation we watch like a mother bird from the not so far distance, her baby bird preparing to take their first flight from the nest. Will they make it safely? We wait with bated breath, ready to whisk them back to safety should they fall. Oh, what rejoicing when they safely land, though sometimes frightened and battered in flight. They too feel the joy as they have discovered independence, accountability, and responsibility.

All dedicated Learning Coaches can agree that teaching our children to believe and claim the promises is the key. You CAN do ALL things through Christ who strengthens you. All you have to do is ASK and it WILL be given unto you.

*Mrs. Lamont*  
Learning Coach



# MEET 3 ANGELS ACADEMY'S 2023/2024 GRADE 8 CLASS

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Before you read the students' testimonies, take a brief moment to get to know the students of grade 8 who are also the major contributors to our class magazine.

**Gaston B.** (Tennessee)  
Guitarist/Singer

**Jayden L.** (Georgia)  
Definitions Guy/Doctor

**Aryane D.** (Dominica)  
Resident Poet/Illustrator

**Peyton O.** (Florida)  
Junior Editor & Graphic  
Designer

**Mychel F.** (Georgia)  
Violinist/Intellectual

**Brianna P.** (Delaware)  
Japanese Instructor/  
Pronunciation Guru

**Princeton J.** (Florida)  
Singer/Chef

**Jeremiah S.** (Georgia)  
Illustrator/Clever  
Wordsmith

**Lenny J.** (Florida)  
Pastor/Icebreaker

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## Our Past Classmates

Gabriel C.(Haiti) - Science Lover

Jordanique N. B. (Jamaica) - Rock Collector

Lesedi (S. Africa) - Horse Lover/Graphic Designer

Gene N. (S. Africa) - Instrumentalist & Singer

Tamera A. (Guyana) - Singer





Presents...





# CLASS MOTTO

S

T

R

I

V

E

SERVE  
TEACH  
*Rise*  
INCREASE  
VICTORIOUS  
ENDURANCE

STRIVING  
To  
Reach  
Intellect  
Vision &

ENLIGHTENMENT

*Strive*



STAY FOCUSED  
TRY HARDER  
REWARD  
INSPIRED  
VALUABLE  
ENTHUSIASTIC

S - Heart, Mind & *Soul*  
T - *Tactics*  
R - Ready for anything  
I - Image and *Influence*  
V - The *Value* of your goal  
E - Work hard and *Earn* that goal

*Youth*  
STRIVE 2024

Be Strong  
Be Thankful  
Be *Radiant*  
Be Intelligent  
Be Valiant  
Be Encouraging

I CAN DO ALL THINGS  
Through  
*Christ*  
Philippians 4:13  
who strengthens me.



*Don't  
Give Up*

*TRY  
AGAIN!*

Stay on Track.  
Turn your eyes on Jesus.  
Remember your goal.  
Improve from your mistakes.  
Value others.  
Excel in what you are doing.

STRIVE  
TO RECEIVE  
IMPORTANT & VAST  
EDUCATION

S - Sincere  
T - Trust  
R - Restore  
I - Inspire  
V - Virtuous  
E - Elevate

SINCERITY  
TRUST  
RESTORE  
INSPIRE  
VIRTUOUS  
ELEVATE



A young man with short dark hair, wearing a grey hoodie, is shown in profile from the chest up. He is looking out over a cityscape at sunset. The background is a warm, golden light from the setting sun, with a blurred view of a city and some greenery in the foreground.

# VISION STATEMENT

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## **MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, PP. 99, 100**

**“REMEMBER**

that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you.”



# LEST WE FORGET...

Over the 1st & 2nd Trimesters, Grade 8 has been busy practicing the art of memorization - you know, hiding the truth in our hearts. We have worked on two Spirit of Prophecy quotes from Messages to Young People, by Ellen G. White, and a few memory verses. In English Language Class we even memorized the poem "Don't Quit" by John Greenleaf Whittier!

These all have so much inspiration built in, that it only made sense to share them with you. If we don't want to forget, we need to lock the messages in through memorization. We have even more to learn, but for now, won't you join us in memorizing THESE precious truths for when you need the encouragement? Add YOUR memorized verses at the end!

## MEMORIZATION QUOTATIONS

"Many whom God has qualified to do excellent work accomplish very little, because they attempt little. Thousands pass through life as if they had no definite object for which to live, no standard to reach. Such will obtain a reward proportionate to their works."

**Messages to Young People 99.3**

"Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you."

**Messages to Young People, p. 99-100**

# MEMORIZATION VERSES

Need help with memorization? Check out [memorizer.me](http://memorizer.me) for online memorization practice.

“But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

**Matthew 13:23 KJV**

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

**1 Peter 5:7 KJV**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

**Galatians 5:22-23 KJV**

What are yours?

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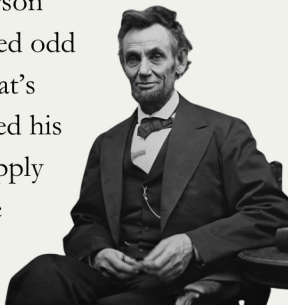
# THE RIGORS OF READING

Many youth do not have a great relationship with God because they struggle with reading - technically or with developing a love for it. Since that's how we can grow in God, we must put effort into building this skill. Grade 8 students were shaken when they learned that this school year would be reading-intense, but they took up the challenge. They've been studying through *Christ Object Lessons* by Ellen G. White, and with guidance, have read: *Abraham Lincoln* by Wilbur Fisk Gordy, *Two Noble Lives* by Laura E. Richards, *Touch of Magic* by Lorena A. Hickok, and *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller. What have they gathered?

## What was the most inspiring event to you in the life of Abraham Lincoln, Helen Keller, and/or Annie Sullivan?

"Abraham Lincoln came from humble beginnings and made his way in life to lead a great nation. He faced backlash from people who didn't see the same as him, but he kept going. If that's not inspiring I don't know what is." -- **Brianna P.**

"Abraham Lincoln was an inspirational person for me. He lived in a small cabin and worked odd jobs, but he did not let that define him. That's why I liked him. He worked hard and reaped his reward - becoming president. I know if I apply myself, in school and other things, I can be great." -- **Princeton J.**



"Annie Sullivan inspired me because she got through many rough routes in her life, like her brother's death, her mom's sickness, and her dad's abusiveness. But she went on to school, became a teacher for Helen, spread positiveness and died as a great person. If we can get through hardships in our lives, soon God will make great paths for us."

-- **Lenny J. J.**

"Abraham Lincoln was an inspiration to me, because even when he received death threats, he did not change. People didn't like him just because he was going to abolish slavery. But he kept going up until he became president."

-- **Jayden L.**

"Abraham Lincoln inspired me to do good while I'm alive and to share good influences around me, so that even when I die people can be inspired by me. Annie Sullivan inspired me to push on amidst the hard times. Even when she didn't have anyone that she could lean on in her childhood, she still grew up to be the diligent and persevering teacher of Helen Keller. Helen Keller taught me that even if I have short comings, I must strive and never give up."

-- **Aryane D.**

"What's inspiring to me about these three people is that they didn't come from wealthy families, nor live a life without struggle. All of them had it rough, and I'm happy about that. By looking at these 3 examples, I see and realize that it doesn't matter if I become blind or deaf at a young age, have to take care of myself at a young age, or even lose loved ones at a young age, as long as I strive for a goal and believe I'll reach it, then anything is possible."

-- **Jeremiah S.**

"When Helen learned how to communicate with people was the most inspiring for me. I just can't stress enough how different she saw the world and hearing about all her struggles was just an eye opener. I was very happy when her cage of a world was opened, and her mind was set free ready to learn." -- **Mychel F.**



# M4TH3M4TIC5

God's Tool for Character Building



“MUBANGA, YOU HAVE THE BIGGEST HEAD IN THIS CLASS  
AND YET YOU ARE THE DUMBEST!!”

I still remember those words from my 7th-grade Math tutor. I could hear my friends just laughing at me, and I became very embarrassed. I didn't know what to do. My older sister began to take matters into her own hands, waking me up at 4 in the morning to study. While I can still remember the stress of those days, what I learned when I began to study would forever change my life. Mathematics began to mold me into who I am today. Later on, I discovered how Mathematics can assist in building character, creating order, and how numbers are used in prophecy. I would like to share a summary of this knowledge with you in hopes that you will also see the necessity of Math.

When you think of character you think of what a person does on a constant basis. When you think of God, it is inevitable that your mind goes to the fact that He is merciful, and can never lie. When you think of your mother, you might think of her as kind, affectionate, and understanding. These attributes do not exist in a vacuum but are a direct result of decisions that are made.

WHEN YOU DECIDE TO STUDY MATH, IT WILL TEACH YOU **DISCIPLINE**.

Although it takes effort to sit down - amidst the distractions of life - and study, you won't only be acquiring the skills needed to understand Math, but you will also be training yourself to have a *CHARACTER* that is driven by principle.

*“Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.” Matthew 18:22 KJV*

# M4TH3M4TIC5: GOD'S TOOL FOR CHARACTER BUILDING

*"Mathematics is the alphabet with which God has written the universe." ~Galileo Galilei*

Once you have decided that you are going to study instead of doing your favorite pastime, you need to understand that there are steps that must be followed. Just like when you answer Math problems, if you don't follow those steps, you will not get the correct answers. The first step can be done simply - get a sheet of paper and write down your study schedule for the day. Planning and working the plan has proven very beneficial, so much so that it is even in the Bible when God orchestrated the "watches" for people to ORDER their day around the times to pray. Implementing this step-by-step process will lead to a well-ordered Math problem and a well-ordered life.

## IS THERE A CONNECTION BETWEEN **MATH** AND THE **ADVENTIST FAITH**?

As you reflect on order, let's consider the numbers that are all around us. There are 7 days in a week, 365 days in a year, 300 bones in a baby, and 206 bones in an adult. God even thought of the precise number of petals on a flower! The list is endless when you begin to observe our world. Imagine if you had 3 legs, 2 heads, and 6 eyes!! You can see that numbers create structure and order. God even used numbers to communicate an important message to us. This is what has formed the foundation of the Adventist faith - the 2300-day Prophecy. God is the Master Mathematician and He has used numbers since the inception of our world.

These are the lessons that I learned as I began to understand Math more deeply. Recently, I was able to reconnect with the very same tutor that embarrassed me in 7th grade. I was able to thank him for his wake-up call. After his tutoring with me, I went on to graduate with straight A's. What made the change? I was able to maximize the opportunities and time that God entrusted me with to order my life. As I did this, I grew, I learned, and my character changed.

**So, what will you do with your opportunity?**

*"As for these...children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom..." Daniel 1:17*



# Don't Quit

*by John Greenleaf Whittier*

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
**Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.**

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won had he stuck it out;  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow--  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than,  
It seems to a faint and faltering man,  
Often the struggler has given up,  
When he might have captured the victor's cup,  
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,  
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out--  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far,  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit--  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.  
For all the sad words of tongue or pen,  
The saddest are these: "It might have been!"



# Student Articles







# LISTEN UP!

BY LEARNING COACH LAMONT

"I challenge you to strive on days when your grades and comprehension are less than what it should be because you failed to meet the mark. **RISE UP!**"

**Study** to show yourself approved unto God first. It's guaranteed... all good things will be added unto you.

**Trust in God** to give you the wisdom, knowledge and understanding you seek. Be...

**Resilient.** When you feel disappointed with that grade or fail to meet the parent expectation. Rise up! Be determined to press toward the prize. Be...

**Industrious.** This is what the Lord requires. "Not slothful in business; (but) fervent in spirit." Diligence and perseverance no less is what is stressed. Look up for...

**Victory is ahead.** Well done will be heard in the end. So be...

**Earnest** and **Empowered** from this day forward. In all you do, do it as unto the Lord."

## Playing for Jesus

I strive to play the guitar for God because it combines musical skill with work for God. It involves mastering the instrument of the guitar, while seeking to work for God through music for His glory.

Whether leading worship or playing for personal enjoyment, the journey of playing the guitar for God creates a connection between God and me.

*Gaston B.*







# Ensuring Endurance

*Aryane D.*

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Striving to me means to persevere and diligently seek your goals. Striving has helped me a lot so that I don't give up easily and fail in the things that I like the most. Enduring and striving go hand in hand. If you won't strive then you cannot endure and if you cannot endure, you cannot strive. Enduring and striving can sometimes be very hard especially when there is peer pressure, criticism, discrimination, and numerous bad influences, but God has taught me that whenever I want to give up, I can pray, and He has said that "if we knock He will answer."

S - Sincere  
T - Trust  
R - Restore  
I - Inspire  
V - Virtuous  
E - Elevate

S - SERVE  
T - TEACH  
R - RISE  
I - INCREASE  
V - VICTORIOUS  
E - ENDURE

I am trying to have a better relationship with my God. Although it seems stable, being stagnant is not moving at all, not making any effort to get closer with God. As I get closer with God, I see how imperfect and unworthy I am, but I have to strive to be like Him every day - even when the currents of life take a turn, even when things do not turn out how I like them, I still must hold on to the promises of God and strive to "be holy, just as my heavenly Father is holy."

Satan is a roaring lion and in our striving for a better spiritual life he will send trials and temptations our way. However, we have to stand fast and remain faithful to God no matter what comes.



**I believe that striving is developed - it does not come about suddenly. As we go through our daily lives we should always remember that learning to strive for the little things will help us be able to strive for the heavenly kingdom above.**

# Violin Vigor

## Mychel F.

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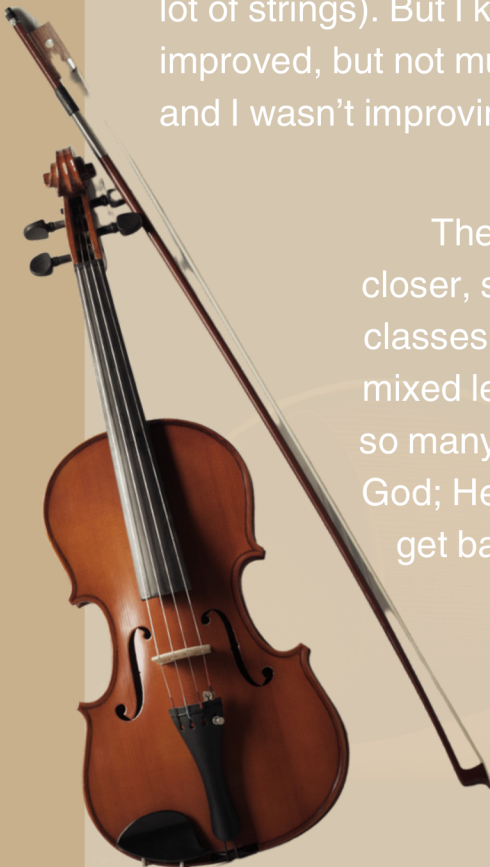


I wasn't as interested in violin back then as I am now. I've been doing violin for some time now, and well, I've gotten pretty good at it. I remember when I was younger, I wasn't particularly interested in violin, but I went to classes because I had friends there and I wanted to hang out with them. I'd usually talk through classes and get in trouble; I faked playing during concerts because I hadn't learned the music we were playing and I was too scared to play and look dumb.

Then, the pandemic hit. I had to leave classes and my friends, so I just locked my violin up in its case, only taking it out to play around with it and then put it away. At one point I just decided to start again for a few reasons: I didn't want to waste my parents' money, I was really bored with life, and if I'm being honest, I wanted to impress my parents by playing at church. I knew some things about playing, but not a lot. When I started playing again, I watched YouTube videos, tried tuning by ear, and broke a few strings (well...I broke a lot of strings). But I kept on keeping on; I tried to practice daily and somewhat improved, but not much. At this point I was getting tired. I had run out of rosin, and I wasn't improving; every time I played it sounded bad.

Then, I found Joyful Noise again. Their new location was closer, so we took no time signing up. I went back and started my classes. I decided to do Choir and Violin 2 and 3 because I had a mixed level. I'm glad I went back. I've had so much fun and made so many new friends and I've improved quite a lot. I owe this all to God; He knew just what to do to help me: He helped Joyful Noise get back on their feet, He helped me find them again, and He helped me improve as well!

*God always has our best interests at heart. So, trust in Him and He will bring you through or help you to reach whatever it is that needs His help.*







# Learning Life Lessons *Princeton J.*


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Striving can mean so many things to people depending on what they do, but let's get into it. I would say that STRIVING for me looks like doing the best I can in cooking and school. For cooking, I must do my best to be precise. I know that to be a good cook I should follow the recipe exactly, but I don't like to measure things. However, to get better I have to follow instructions or I will learn the hard way. Now, I hate school with a passion, but I know it is there for my benefit... so that I can get a good job, for instance. So, I feel like I need to strive to be motivated for school.

I have an interesting story. When I was in 6th grade we had hard memory verses to learn and I did not care at all. So, two days before I recited my memory verses I was rushing and not putting in the effort to get the verse ingrained in my head. The day came to recite it and I was so happy I “learned” it... I thought I knew it well, but when it was my turn, I stuttered through the whole thing. Now, what I strive for is to practice my verses as soon as I get them.

Here is the STRIVE acronym I created to help me remember that education is one of the most important things in the world.

*Ultimately, we must strive to honor God in what we do or say... Strive to reach the end goal of heaven to be with our loving Savior forever.*

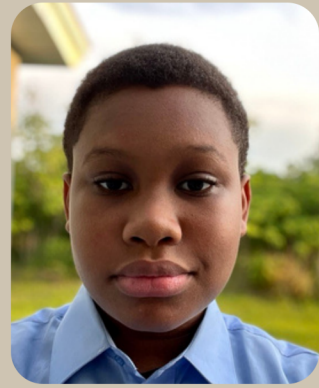


S - STRIVE  
T - TO  
R - RECEIVE  
I - IMPORTANT &  
V - VAST  
E - EDUCATION

# Embracing Faith, Crushing Temptation

*Jenny J. J.*

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Striving, if you think about it, is a big word... full of meaning. Some Christians may be striving currently, while others may feel they have nothing to strive for. I am currently striving to resist temptation. It's not easy, but I know I can resist in God's name. Striving against temptation can become an everyday battle in people's lives, especially for Christians. The devil's goal is to tempt us and bring us deeper into sin.

I strive to resist temptation and become sinless, so that I can be more like Christ. If someone or anything angers me, I calm myself down because I remember that I am a striving young boy for Christ, and I believe in Him and love Him. I repent of my sins, pray for God's help, and aid others by praying for whatever their needs are.

*Have faith in God*

As Christians, we can put striving into practice. Since God will always be there for us, all we have to do is get on our knees, confess our sins, and know that God gave His only son to die for us. God loves us and He will help us overcome. So, let's choose to do the things He would want us to do.





# My Temptations and Encouragement

Jayden L.

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Striving, for me, means to work hard for something you really want to accomplish in life. Like striving to get a new bike, or a new house. A time where I had to strive was actually for a school-related thing. I was struggling to figure out a math problem, and even though I was tired, I pushed through until eventually, I finished the assignment!

Another time where I had to strive was when I had to work hard NOT to take something I really wanted after my mom said “No”. The temptation was real as I still wanted to take that thing I wanted. But I’m glad I didn’t take it! When we are tempted to do something, we should strive to not yield to that temptation.

There is a scripture that talks about striving for the Kingdom of Heaven. It is taken from Luke 13:24, and it says:

*“Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”*

What this verse means is that we should strive to be in the Kingdom of God - to be with Jesus in the clouds with all the Saints of Christ.





# Overcoming Anxiety

*Peyton Q.*

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Anxiety, fear, and nervousness DO NOT define you. It's normal to be anxious, fearful, and nervous. I have experienced these sentiments in my life. These emotions usually appear when an assignment, quiz, test, or exam presents itself. We can't live in a constant state of anxiety, it will destroy us.

While preparing for exam week, I was anxious because I wanted to pass all my subjects and I had to study hard. When exam week came I passed all my subjects! My anxiety never went away during the exam week, I just knew I had done my part (studying) and I needed God to do the rest.



Art by  
Aryane Dennis

S - Be Strong  
T - Be Thankful  
R - Be Radiant  
I - Be Intelligent  
V - Be Valiant  
E - Be Encouraging

This is just a simple example but it can be used for bigger examples as well. We must do our part and trust that God will do His.

**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE  
HEART; AND LEAN NOT UNTO THINE  
OWN UNDERSTANDING.  
PROVERBS 3:5 KJV**



# Reaching my Goals

*Brianna R.*



To me, striving means never giving up, no matter how hard life gets, (and that does mean that life WILL get hard). It means working hard, and fighting to reach your goal. I want to work hard to reach my goals and live my dreams. I want to have no regrets and be happy.

Striving  
To  
Reach  
Intellect  
Vision  
Enlightenment

What I am currently striving for is to be able to become a better writer and music producer because those are the things that I really love to do. I'm also striving to become more fluent in Japanese by studying it more often.



One thing I had to strive for when I was younger, was being able to be myself and let go of the negative feelings around me, not caring about what others said about me. It was hard because I could never make friends, and I didn't just want to hang out with my sister all the time, so I was tempted to change to fit in. I'm glad I didn't, because I love who I am now. I believe that when striving we should look to God for our support in all things. He helped me realize that I didn't need to be what others wanted me to be. If I could just be myself, even if they bother me for that, then I'm okay with it.

*"I can do all things through  
Christ which strengtheneth me."  
Philippians 4:13 KJV*



# Surpassing Limits

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In my opinion, striving means to devote serious effort or energy to something you want, to do whatever it takes to achieve your goal, to withstand trials and temptations, to not take the easy way out, and to keep moving forward and surpass your limits. In order to achieve anything, you must have it in your heart, mind, and soul. You need to be a tactician with a strategy always in mind, so you can be ready for anything that comes your way. While you're at it, you should portray a good image and have a positive influence on others. The value you put on your goal must be great if you plan to go far for it. Then, if you work hard for that goal of yours, you'll earn it.

Throughout the year, I have been striving to be the best person I can be. Whether it be physically or spiritually, I've been trying my best. A few of the things I am trying to improve in my daily life are in devotion and muscle gain. I will keep on pushing until I reach those goals - no matter what.

SOUL  
TACTIC  
READY  
IMAGE  
VALUE  
EARN

God strove to save us, so He sent His only begotten son to the earth to die for us. Christ strove by going through the same trials and temptations that we are going through and by dying on the cross. Their goal was to give us a chance at not perishing, but at having everlasting life.

*Let us strive to be more like God,  
for strength is not born from  
strength, but weakness.*

Art by

Jeremiah Sutton

Jeremiah  
S.







# Striving

by *Gene N.*  
*from South Africa*

Striving means to push for something that you've been wanting to do for a while, and be the best you can be at it. Striving is a big word; it's not just a small word. It means you work hard toward what you want to accomplish, without giving up, until you reach your goal.

## *What does it mean to you?*

### **STRIVE**

**S - Stay focused**

**T - Try harder**

**R - Reward**

**I - Inspired**

**V - Valuable**

**E - Enthusiastic**

To stay focused on accomplishing my goal. To try harder to finish what you have begun and be better at it. To keep the reward before you, and know you can reach your goal. To be inspired to be more than I am. To recognize the valuable lessons. It is valuable to learn how to push myself and finish what I have started. To remain enthusiastic because, sometimes, we get discouraged along the way.

I have strived to become a better person, and, by the grace of God, I am getting there everyday - little by little. I am now striving to become better in my music and singing.

In addition, God has helped me to not be selfish. When I was running athletics, I always used to want to come first and I was very proud of myself. Eventually, God showed me that it was not all about winning, but about doing good deeds for others instead of always being first and the best.



I ask myself the question, "How can I apply striving to my spiritual life?" I can strive to be closer to God and be more obedient. Also, I can strive to be more like Jesus - kind and loving, soft and gentle, honest and humble.

# My Journey of Faith & Learning

by Lesedi S. from South Africa

Striving is like a big adventure for me. To me, striving means having F.A.I.T.H., which stands for "Finding Answers In Trust and Hope." It's like believing in something bigger than yourself, and that would be God. He helps me face my challenges. Once, I was on a horse, trying to learn this tricky move called counterung. But, oh boy, I had a big fall! I hit my head on a log; I was in pain and it was super scary. For the next two months, I was so scared to try counterung again. It felt like I had a lot of fear of falling again. But guess what? With God's help and a lot of faith, I faced that fear. It wasn't easy, but I did it! Striving means not giving up, even when you're scared, and trusting that things will get better with a little faith.



## How God Has Helped Me

And then there's my dream of being a painter. Painting is my happy place, but sometimes I mess up, and it feels like a storm of mistakes is ruining my masterpiece. I even took a break from painting because of it. But you know what's cool? With God's help, I'm back at it, learning and getting better.

Striving is like painting. It's making mistakes but knowing that each mistake is a step towards being better. For me, striving is not just about the goals; it's about the journey. It's about having faith, even when things are tough. It's like having a secret weapon called trust in God. Whether it's conquering fear on a horse or turning mistakes into masterpieces with a paintbrush, striving is an adventure where faith is the compass guiding us to success.

*"Finding Answers In Trust and Hope"*



# Feel Like Giving Up?



It is hard to strive towards a goal and positive reward when obstacles seem to keep getting in the way, isn't it? When you fall behind, or work piles up, or the subject matter is harder than what you've encountered before, how do you handle it? Let's evaluate your process when you are challenged by something and feel like throwing in the towel.

## Quiz

**What are the challenges you face?**

- a. School work
- b. Home life
- c. Time management
- d. Disability \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**What challenges you at school?**

- a. Rules
- b. Bible Doctrines
- c. English Language
- d. Mathematics
- e. Science
- f. History
- g. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**What challenges you in home life?**

- a. Noise
- b. Chores
- c. Rules
- d. Siblings

**What do you do when you face a challenge?**

- a. Seek help (Parents/Teacher/Tutor)
- b. Try and try again/Study more
- c. Don't turn in assignments
- d. Nothing/Give up

**What bad habits do you have that don't help?**

- a. Don't see the value in the work
- b. Poor time-management
- c. Poor study habits
- d. Fail to ask for help immediately
- e. Lazy/Don't really try

Do you often feel challenged or like there's something you don't know and you have no clue how to figure it out? \_\_\_\_\_

When this happens, do you feel like giving up? \_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to help when you feel that way? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the pages that follow, you will find a brand new piece from our Resident Poet who, inspired by her father's work in poetry and the book "Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan, crafted her very own poem just for our publication.

# The Journey Home

by Ariyane D.



I came to a halt wondering what to do,  
There were two paths and signs in my view,  
The left path was broad and smooth,  
No rocks on the way,  
The sign in its direction said, "You can have full sway!"  
The right path, however, was rocky, rugged, unpleasant to the eye;  
The sign stated that on striving and endurance, you could wholly rely,  
I had a little book – let's call it the Bible;  
Within it, there are instructions to guide you.

Unsure of the best path to take,  
I looked upon the book which held no mistake,  
It said that on my journey I must encounter  
*STRIVING* and *ENDURANCE*,  
So, I chose the right path with hope and assurance  
That I would make it to where it leads me,  
And there I could find rest and be happy.

As I traveled on the old, rugged path,  
I encountered a place that was hard to pass.  
Along the dusty trail on both sides,  
Were bushes of thorns, where many have cried.  
I remembered that in the book it was stated,  
That I would come across the piercing thorns of truth,  
HERE many gave up because they were too frustrated,  
But HERE my endurance I could prove.  
Through the place of thorns, I knew it was a struggle,  
I saw blood, and fragments of clothes torn –  
I could see trouble!

*continued...*



# The Journey Home

by Aryane Dennis

Sometimes the truth hurts, and we feel discouraged,  
And sometimes we do not have the courage.  
So, we turn back before we even start,  
And do not realize from good we doth part.  
I forced my way through the thick, bushy thorns.  
My skin was bruised, my clothes were torn.  
I put aside my feelings and still pressed on.  
I was proud, though the thorns tore my skin,  
That the fight against the thorns I could win.  
I did not know if my chances were thick or thin,  
But with my chest held high,  
I journeyed to meet my King!

Later on, the path became quite tiresome.  
Traversing a rocky path was cumbersome,  
So, I rested, and thereupon, I saw a staff,  
And the written word it bore was "FAITH".  
I picked up FAITH and, indeed, I was happy,  
That the King would prepare this for me!

It was not silver or any type of gold,  
But upon it I could steadfastly hold.  
As I continued on this journey,  
FAITH taught me things I could not see.  
I learned that my FAITH would need to increase  
much more,  
If I wanted to meet the King on that celestial shore.

Still on my journey, soon the race will be won,  
If I STRIVE and PRAY and keep pressing on!  
In this world, every day we have to face trials.  
Pure gold is only refined through the most brutal fires.  
Press on! Press on! Not long to go,  
Through rain, through drought, through sun or snow,  
And when we meet on that celestial shore,  
We'll praise the King forevermore!

*End.*



# INSPIRATION STATION

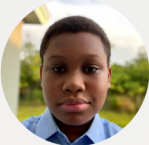




# STAYING INSPIRED

## *Who or what inspires you?*

If you sometimes feel like giving up, then check out this section. Students answer the question, “Who or what inspires you?” Prayerfully, you’ll gain inspiration in the same places, too. Get motivated to keep on going by God’s grace!



“EGW’s Books have been inspiring me this school year. The books are ‘To Be Like Jesus’, ‘The Upward Look’, and ‘Messages To Young People’. They help with Christian growth and encouragement in your spiritual life, in my opinion.” -- Lenny J.J.

“I have been mainly inspired by the Lord and my parents throughout the school year. Reading God’s word is vey enlightening, I learn more about God’s character and His love. My parents are always loving, caring, and compassionate and they always inspire me to keep pushing, trying, and learning.” -- Peyton O.



“My teacher, Ms. Z, has inspired me a lot. Her willingness to stay back even 30 minutes or more after class to help out those who didn't understand something fully or at all. I thank God for her because she has been an amazing teacher! Thank you, Ms. Z!” -- Jayden L.

“My mother has been an inspiring person to me. She is the most selfless, kind, smart, and funny, person I ever met so I look up to her.” -- Brianna P.



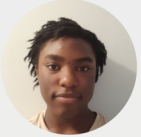
“God is the one who has been helping me through this school year. My grades this school year have been upsetting for me. I haven’t seen them like this in a long time. But, by God’s grace, I will do better and study more.” -- Princeton J.

*continued*

# STAYING INSPIRED

## *Who or what inspires you?*

“For me, it's my siblings. They are all very caring and successful, and they always inspire me to try harder and push me further along this path of mine. I've looked up to them forever and I want to make them proud, so I will continue to try harder and they will continue to inspire.” -- Mychel F.



“Throughout this whole school year, I have to say that the one I've found most inspiring is no other than Helen Keller. The descriptive way she wrote, the way she got back on her feet no matter what obstacle came her way, and how her lack of eyesight and hearing did not stop her from achieving greatness.” -- Jeremiah S.

“The Lord has been inspiring me this school year. He has been doing so many things for me. When things seem hard and difficult, He always makes a way out for me.” -- Aryane D.



Who or what inspires **YOU**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Students,**

***Rise up!*** Failure is not an option!

***Rise up!*** Parents, coaching and lending a hand.

***Rise up!*** The teacher, imparting words of wisdom, like a daily preacher.

Never give up; never give in. Make this the year you thrive. Go on,

***RISE UP and STRIVE!***

LISTEN UP!  
BY LEARNING COACH LAMONT







# OBJECT LESSONS

## ‘Seeds of Truth’ to Characters like Christ

*by Ariane D.*

As a class we had a project to plant seeds and to grasp a spiritual object lesson. Many seeds have sprouted, and a few have withered away, but there is always something that we can grasp from the growth of a plant. These lessons can strengthen, encourage, and mold the heart of the developing Christian, and can give light to those who have lost their way.

Let’s consider the seeds that thrived and sprouted gracefully. These seeds represent a well-established Christian who accepts and receives God’s word with a happy heart. It is important that we live lives that God approves of, so that He’ll be pleased with the things we say and do. Seeds that have sprouted show the Sower that the conditions for the seed to grow were favorable. When we keep our surroundings clear of immoral influences, we allow the word of God room to spring forth in our hearts, and we become faithful stewards for Christ. But the Christian journey does not only stop here – throughout our walk with the Lord we are to make sure that the conditions around us are favorable so that we can continue to grow.

God only helps us when we make the effort to serve him. Even when the plant grows, there are still many obstacles that it must overcome to be a survivor. It’s just like the Christian life. When the seeds of God’s word intrigue us and we believe it, we will have many trials to face until the Lord comes to take His people home. That is why 1 Timothy 6:12 says,

*“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”*



*continued.....*



## 'Seeds of Truth' to Characters like Christ by Aryane D.

Now, on the other hand, there were seeds that withered and died for various reasons, but one thing stands sure - they lacked something that they needed in order to spring forth and grow! Certain requirements must be met in order for a seed to sprout and keep growing. Thankfully, there is always something that can be done to improve the growth of a plant. So it is with our spiritual development.

Every day that we wake up out of our beds is a new opportunity to be better stewards for God. We must understand that in order to have interest in the Word of God, one's heart must be already cultivated - open to receive this divine truth. Many who do not have an interest in God's Word find it difficult to have a relationship with Him for themselves - perhaps they were raised by parents who didn't know the Lord, peradventure they were around the wrong influence, or possibly unidentified things prevented them from knowing the Lord. The seeds that wither and die are the people who do not take the time to make their hearts ready to seek the Savior and believe on Him. Although preparation of the heart includes great toil and sacrifice, it is truly worth it in the end. Many fail to see this need, and thus, go their own way which leads to destruction. Malachi 4:1 says:

*"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."*

My brothers and sisters, look upward to Christ and let nothing come between you and your Savior. Life is a rough path to traverse, but whenever you feel discouraged and dismayed, think of a resilient seed that sprouts and presses upward until it has served its purpose for humanity. So too, God is telling us today to press on and "STRIVE for the mastery" no matter what snare the devil puts in our way. Let us be like those seeds that grow up to bear much fruit for the Lord.

*"But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold." Matthew 13:8 KJV*



# CLAIM & PRAY

What makes it hard to get through the difficult situations is when you have NO support.

No assurance that things will turn out. But as budding Christians we are learning and hope you can realize that God has provided us with so many promises of His love, mercy and support. He has assured us that if we “draw nigh” to Him, He will “draw nigh” to us and help us. Can’t you see His hand stretched out as you read these promises?

## CLAIM

“I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;  
turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.”

**Psalms 17:6 KJV**

“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your  
heart, All ye that hope in the LORD.”

**Psalms 31:24 KJV**

“Whereunto I also labour, striving according to  
his working, which worketh in me mightily.”

**Colossians 1:29 KJV**

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without  
waver; (for he is faithful that promised;)”.

**Hebrews 10:23 KJV**

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might  
be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world  
through lust.” **2 Peter 1:4 KJV**

“And this is the confidence that we have in him and if we ask anything according to his  
will he heareth us:” **1 John 5:14 KJV**



**PRAY**

**Heavenly Father,**

We ask for Your blessings upon all who will encounter the pages of this magazine. May it inspire readers to strive for excellence, reach higher, work harder, and to do everything to glorify Your name. Touch their hearts, uplift them and draw them closer to You. May this magazine be a beacon of hope and encouragement, reflecting Your truth and love in every word and image. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**



# Teacher's Blessing



“And he shall be like a tree planted  
by the rivers of water, that bringeth  
forth his fruit in his season; his leaf  
also shall not wither; and whatsoever  
he doeth shall prosper.”

**Psalms 1:3 KJV**

Abiding in Him, you may flourish.  
Drawing your life from Him, you will  
not wither nor be fruitless. You will  
be like a tree planted by the rivers of  
water.

**Steps to Christ, p. 69**



# Graduation Year

The **8th** and **12th** grades are graduation years here at 3 Angels' Academy! Eighth graders qualify to move from lower to high school, and 12th graders work to justify graduation from 3AA and entry into the real world! Sounds exciting...and scary....and exciting all at the same time, doesn't it?!

You have qualified to be promoted or for graduation in *June 2024*. WOOHOO! Everything you have been learning so far has been gearing you up for this move to a higher level. Now, you are on the last leg of the journey!

**What will you do with this last opportunity?**

**STRIVE!** *"Don't Quit"!*

*"Ascend the WHOLE length of the ladder of progress. Let NOTHING hinder you."*

**Jeremiah 12:5 KJV**

*"If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses?"*

It is **NO** time to get discouraged or give up! Get up, shake off any supposed failures and humbly take hold of the strength of our faithful God. He has promised that *"He it is that doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."*

Just remember to do your part...

**STRIVE!**

# STRIVE SUMMER PLANNER

MONDAY

**TUESDAY**

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

June

[illegible]

July

[illegible]



# THANK YOU



Special thanks to each of the Youth STRIVE contributors. From those who validated, encouraged and prayed over the idea, to the students who participated and did their best with their articles; from our Feature writers, editorial team, illustrators, and proofreaders, and to every parent and person who has encouraged the Grade 8 class to do their very best and not to give up - THANK YOU!


We give HIGH praise to God for inspiring this idea and for the talents and abilities He has given us and encouraged us to use in the production of this magazine. May He get ALL the glory and ALL the praise! We hope that “seeds of truth” received from reading this magazine will be germinated and tended by the Spirit of God and that you will STRIVE to bring forth an abundant harvest to the glory of God.

## *Remember...*

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:7-9





It is our prayer, that you were truly inspired and blessed  
by the magazine. Let us look forward to hearing the  
"Well done!"  
Remember to STRIVE  
till you reach...

THE END

*-- From the 8th grade class of 2024*