

#4 – Moon Missionary

This promised to be a real super Saturday club meeting of the Space Ray Pathfinders. All the preteen clubbers gathered around their silver-haired leader and ace story teller. No one said a word. Gramps leaned forward on his wooden box and looked intently into the eyes of each of the youth, as he began telling a story he had written about another story teller named Zeb. Gramps cautioned the clubbers “Now after I tell you my story, I'm gonna ask you some questions, so remember the facts of the story, OK?” The story begins...

The far-off planet Earth looked to Mark like a giant living, breathing, marble, as he awoke to the first glimpse out his moon habitat bedroom window. Just as he was sliding his ten-year-old body out of bed, the low air pressure alarm sounded and almost scared him. The room lighting immediately switched to the pink-colored glow of emergency mode.

It didn't take much memory to make sure that all the equipment and utilities were turned off. Jumping into his sweats like a fireman, Mark headed out the door. All his emergency drill practices had taught him to follow the green tape trail down the hallways – and to be careful to walk fast, but not run.

Mark was born on the International Space Station orbiting the Earth, and at the age of eight, moved with his missionary parents to Moon Base #3, near Hilbert Crater. Mark's dad was a Christian missionary, in training for a possible church planting assignment on the Mars colony that was still in the planning stage. He also worked as a technician on the Primary Laser Survey Team.

Moon base #3 was home to only four other young people. As though part of some programmed response, all the children gathered around silver-haired Zeb in Safety Pod #14 until the emergency was over. Zeb was loved for all his juicy long-ago and far-away stories he told his young listeners about Earth. His stories were packed with excitement and intrigue his long memory would weave for the youth. First, Zeb led his young “team” in prayer for the safety of their parents and the workers in

responding to the air pressure emergency. Then he sort of apologized to the 5 boys and girls for having to hold their church services in the Farming Pod among all the plants and things, instead of in a beautiful Chapel Pod designed just for worshiping God. With every eye on him, he began telling about the Croton Church Kids. The silver-haired story teller's little audience squeezed in closer, not wanting to miss a word.

He told them that many years ago, on Earth, in a small town called Croton, children attended church with their parents in a broken-down building that didn't have the fine air conditioning and lighting like here on Moon Base #3. The building had only one room with no insulation in the walls. During the cold Earth winters, the mothers had to leave on their coats and wrap blankets around their feet to stay reasonably warm. The restroom was in a separate little building outside, with nowhere to wash hands.

Zeb painted a word picture of the time he and a friend had to climb through one of the church's back windows because the front door lock refused to open. He also explained what honey bees, mice, and a few other Earth animals were, as he told of the uninvited visitors to the church services that scared the ladies.

Gramps ended his story for the Pathfinder clubbers with, “OK. How many of you think you remember the story about Zeb and his Moon Base friends pretty well?” Most did very well.

Space Ray began the lesson with, “Rockets and satellites can't do much of anything without the computers that control them. And every one of those computers can't function without memory – actually two kinds of memory. Those two kinds are short term memory, called RAM and long term memory the disk drives provide. What were the two kinds of memory used in my Zeb story?”

“These two kinds of memory are super important and that's why God gave us both kinds in the computer between our ears. Try hard each day to use both kinds in praising God and learning His promises in the Bible – God's Rocket Manual.”