

Mission CriTikal

#4 Lyla's Sky Promise

This is going to be tricky... Daenum wasn't sure how he could explain much about God to another teen without using Bible verses and such. He read between the lines, so-to-speak, since Lyla didn't read hardly at all. So holding a Bible with its precious unerring words in front of her wouldn't work very well.

Near the mission spot and the boxed in area, Dae laid on the ground watching those slow moving clouds, as he so often did. As though God was just on the other side of that big cloud over there, Dae began asking upward, how he could share that Gospel message of Salvation to someone that can't read, but wants to know more about Heaven's eternal provisions.

Not so much like it was a bolt of lightning or something loud or flashy, the answer came to him – it was one of God's countless promises to humans, real angels have no appreciation for. Dae rubbed his nose to hold back a thank you tear.

The afternoon's sun was still a real toaster and found Dae sitting on the ground in the shade of a large tree filled with lazy waving leaves.

As promised, Lyla and her younger brother reached the mission spot, but didn't see Dae. She announced loudly, “Hey! We're here. But where are ya?” “Over here in the shade!” was the reply. As Lyla walked slowly to the shade, Dae remembered that when he first saw Lyla, he thought she must be an angel; a teen angel.

It wasn't real obvious at first, but as the two teens in the shade were discussing the weather and such, Willy began gathering branches and stripping off the lesser twigs and leaves. Almost as though he were building a skyscraper foundation, he laid his branches on top of those already aligned between the corner stakes of the new mission.

Looking at her, Dae began, “Lyla. Ya remember the questions ya asked me yesterday, about God? Ya asked how come he has some people living in fancy houses and why He has some people living in sheet metal shacks?” He continued, “Lyla. There's a lot of God's gifts to us our eyes can't see – but there's also a lot we

can see. See?”

“We can't really judge how much God loves us, just by what we see and hear.” The teen boy changed his seated position to better face the teen angel with the questions that no real angel could ask. He spoke on, “Ya seen a rainbow, right? Well that's a powerful gift to all humans – individually. Besides being lovely to look at, after a rain, it's actually a promise from Heaven, to me and to you, Lyla.”

“Way back in Bible times the people all acted so terrible toward God and each other, God got fed up with it. We'll call their rotten actions and attitudes SIN. Well, God decided He was going to wipe all the sin and sinners off the earth. That's when He had Noah build a boat – the ark, to save all the animals and just 8 people. So after the flood, God promised He'd never do that destruction again, and He put the rainbow in the sky as a promise to me and to you.”

Dae continued, “Now remember I said Noah put the animals on the ark? Some of those animals were saved to make babies after the flood was over. But some of those animals had a very special purpose. They were to be sacrifices to God. That means they were killed and their blood was sprinkled on an altar, according to God's plan. The shedding of their blood was applied to the sins of Noah and his family aboard the ark.”

“Lyla. Better than the rainbow promise, the best gift God has given to us, we can't see with our eyes either. It's the sacrifice for your sins and mine – but not an animal sacrifice. It was the sacrifice of His own sinless Son – Jesus Christ.”

The teen to teen salvation lesson was interrupted by Willy calling them to come see the work he had done on the mission box. It was like he was taking part ownership in the mission project by his working on it.

Isn't it interesting that missions even has a place for 8 year olds that want to be part of something important happening – whether it's skyscrapers or sky promises of love and provision?