

Getting It All  
Together

**Teacher Guide**

Beyond Thumbs      and      Skills Discovery

231

by  
James Curtis

© 2013 Reaching Youth Publishing

ReachingYouth.net

### Disclaimer

This resource is provided 'as is' and meant to show some alternative low-budget methods to be a part of the Bible's Great Commission to all Christians.

Its author, websites, and publishers shall be held blameless for any harm – physical or intellectual, real or imaginary by the reading or construction mentioned on these pages.

[~] [~] [~]

# Table of Contents

## Barefoot 101 Computing: Getting It Together

Unity as in John 17 (“that the world may know that thou hast sent me”)

1. Left Toes – PARTS of computer sys.
  - a. How is each part like me?
  
2. Left Fingers – PROCESSES
  - a. How can each process be used to serve Jesus?
  
3. Right Fingers – PROJECT Steps
  - a. How easy is it for me to see God’s helping me in each step?
  
4. Right Toes – PRECAUTION
  - a. How can I do a better job with precaution?

[~]



# Left Toes -- PARTS of a Computer System

HIS ADRENALIN WAS ABOUT TO EXPLODE LIKE A ROCKET. Gramps sat on a chair with a dozen children seated on the floor in front of him. They knew that whatever came next would blow their socks off with new insight into computers and God's love for each of them.

He asked, "How many of you want to learn about computers?" The children were ecstatic in their response. The silver-haired, retired computer programmer had taught many corporate managers how to use computers. But nothing came close to the inner joy of pouring God's love into all those little eyes.

"Before we take off our shoes and socks, our first computer lesson is that God gave us computers. We have Him to thank for all this technology stuff. But we must use it with His leading or we'll probably get ourselves into trouble."

Gramps began taking his left shoe and sock off, as he told all the boys and girls to do the same. "We're going to start learning about computers and how special you and I are, at the same time." He continued, "My friend Zeb here is going to give you each a sheet of paper and a pencil. I want you to trace around your left foot on the piece of paper.

The silver-haired club leader asked, "gang, which toe is the most important? And also, which finger is the most important? You can save your breath, because they are all just as important as the other, AND they have to work as a team. God made our bodies like that. There are important reasons why our little toe is there, just as much as big toes, or thumbs."

When everyone had finished, "OK. Put your shoes and socks back on."

From the back of the room, a child asked, "Gramps, have you got a computer you use with your feet?" He replied, "Hold on a bit, and you'll be surprised." His eyes scanned the eyes of all the children. He thought he could see hurt, hate, fear, and hunger in many of their eyes. Gramps wished he

could be a special grandpa to each of the children. Maybe learning about computers would be the way.

Zeb taped a sheet of paper to a wall, with a left traced on it, as Gramps finished tying his shoes. Fighting against his hand tremors, Gramps wrote five words next to tracing of the five toes; Printer, Monitor, Mouse, Keyboard, and CPU. Gramps quizzed the children about each of the objects that make up a computer system, as they wrote the same five words on their papers.

Responding to Fran's question, Gramps explained that the CPU was the big box of the computer.

1. The CPU is the nickname for the Central Processing Unit that lives in the big heavy box of the computer system. It works so hard doing so many things; it has to have a fan to keep it from sweating. In the front of it, we slide in floppy disks, memory sticks, and CDs. In the back of it are lots of mysterious cables to all the other parts of the system. Among other jobs, this CPU does three special ones.
  - a. The most obvious is that it counts and calculates.
  - b. Then, like a football coach, it helps all the parts cooperate with each other.
  - c. Thirdly, it houses the library for storing all sorts of things to remember. They can be words, numbers, pictures, and even sounds. Whew! No wonder it needs a fan.

In very simple terms, Gramps taught the children,

2. The main purpose of a PRINTER is to get pictures and words on paper so we can share them with others when the machine is turned off.
3. The MONITOR is a window to enable us to see what is going on inside the computer.

4. The mouse is used to tell the computer what to do when words are not the language. They like to talk in circles, colors, and curly cues. But most of all, computer mice like to be held in little hands or for people too sick to type on a keyboard.
5. If you like to write poems or stories that bring a smile to others, you will need a KEYBOARD. It likes to help you tell the computer system what to do when details are important. It's just loaded with commas and question marks all ready for you to put them where you want them. Keyboards have buckets full of any sized numbers you want.

“Clubbers, pay very close attention to what I’m saying right now. The Bible stresses from cover to cover, the life blood of Christian living is PRAYER. How would you like to be a little mouse and be in the corner of the room and able to hear one of our Lord’s prayers?... Actually, we are invited to... and it’s recorded in the book of John chapter 17 just as He was preparing to go to the Cross. Read the chapter and see how many times at these pressing moments that our UNITY was uppermost on His mind. He saw that we need to work together always. We need to act as a team of Christians. We need to be synchronized together like a computer or symphony orchestra.

As we learn about computer parts all working as a team we also need to pray at least daily for the unity in our family and also in our church.

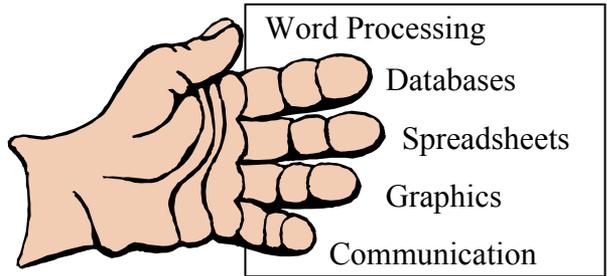
(end)

# Left Fingers – PROCESSES of a Computer

THE CHILDREN'S EYES GOT WIDER BY THE MINUTE. "Gramps" had just shown them how to think of the five toes of the left foot as the 5 basic parts of a computer system. Those are the CPU, printer, monitor, mouse, and keyboard.

"Clubbers, now I want you all to trace around your left hand." Then

Gramps had his silver-haired friend, Zeb help again. "Write these words next to your left hand fingers you just traced on that paper." As



instructed, Zeb wrote the words, 'Word processing', 'Databases', 'Spreadsheets', 'Graphics', and 'Communications'. Gramps explained the words, "These left 5 fingers remind us of the WAYS we use the computer.

We can easily think of

Word processing as	Sentences
Databases as	Stacks
Spreadsheets as	Sums
Graphics as	Shapes
Communication as	Sharing

Zeb pointed at each finger as his silver-haired friend taught the group.

((Refer to the chart on a following page))

Sitting in the back of the group, Bonny said, “Wow-e-e! These computers can do so much, it makes my head spin.” Many of the clubbers nodded in agreement. Gramps told the children, “Miss Bonny, that’s true for sure. But we have to be mighty careful with the things we learn about computers and what we do with what we learn. What I mean is, the Bible tells us we are to teach others the things we learn; especially that God gave us computers and we need to honor Him by how they’re used.”

“Do you remember when we read the first two Bible verses in John? Well, Zeb, I want you to read verse three.” Zeb never did very good in school. And he certainly never imagined he’d be helping teach computers to young thirsty minds. Zeb just figured that God’s Word and God’s Love must be able to jump over all sorts of obstacles.

Like an astronaut’s words coming from outer space, Zeb carefully read, John 1 verse 3, “*All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made.*” Zeb smiled at his silver-haired computer teacher, and thought to himself, ‘boy it’s fun teaching about computers and Jesus.’ Zeb got so excited, he blurted out, “Doesn’t that mean that God made computers for us to use?” The children all knew that was really a great thing that Zeb did, and they all applauded him.

Gramps said, “What I want all of you to do, is to take your paper tracings with the words on them, and teach your folks about computers. Ask them to help you cut out some pictures that show the different parts of the computer systems and how they are used.

(end)

Like using our fingers together, computers use these 5 processes together to give us a whole world of ways to magnify God and teach others. Here they are:

**Shoes-Off Computing** by Jame

THE CHILDREN'S EYES GO! Gramps" had just shown them how to th parts of a computer system. Those are th Gramps had his silver-haired frie the fingers of the other hand, traced on t continued. "Write, 'Word processing', ' 'Communications' by those next five fir Gigabyte explained the words, " computer system. These second 5 finger

**Word processing** closely simulates our speech and reading. It's super good at checking our spelling and getting our grammar to be readable. It uses different shapes and sizes of letters to help older people see the important things you say.

Qty	pkg	Item
1	ea	Head entrance 2.5" pvc
1	ea	Rod, Gnd 8 ft
500	ft	Wire 12/2 indoor
7	ft	Wire Main feed Alum 4
30	ea	Wire phone 2 pr 24 awg
145	ea	2x 4 asst. 7.5 - 18"

**Databases** are lists with an attitude. Like the telephone book, they have each row (record) in the same sequence. It makes it super easy to sort and search for names or wire or anything else.

	E	F	G	H	I
26	Junty Water				\$26.10
27	gement of Ohio		Jul		\$73.70
28	inald L. Baldwin		Jun		\$1,048.00
29	Pin VV. Pulze		Jun		
30	al Pwr, Hangar		kwh	3890	\$353.46
31	al Pwr, T-Hangars		kwh	439	\$49.85

**Spreadsheet** programs start out like a bingo card with up/down columns and left/right rows. One cell (box) can look for information in another.

The most powerful thing is that each cell can contain numbers, words, and especially formulas. This kind of program was what made home computers really take off. We can use this to make best use of all the wonderful things God has given us.



**Graphics** includes pictures but also shapes and colors of every imagination. This however is a powerful tool that Satan uses on the Internet to poison our minds with his garbage.



**Communication** includes searching and sharing information and concern with others. This computer process is HIGHLY DANGEROUS and can cause irreparable damage to your mind and the reputation of others. We MUST ask God every time we touch the keyboard to GUARD our eyes and minds and also to GUIDE us in using our computer to magnify Him and build up His church.

# Right Fingers – PROJECT Steps of Computing

THE CHILDREN WERE ALMOST AFRAID TO LOOK. “Gramps” had shown them how to think of the five toes of one foot as the 5 basic PARTS of a computer system. Those are the CPU, printer, monitor, mouse, and keyboard.

Then the five fingers represented the WAYS of using a computer. They were Word Processing that made sentences and stories, Databases were for organizing things in lists, Spreadsheets were for doing arithmetic, Graphics used pictures and colors, and Communication is used for sharing and searching information through the telephone lines.

“Clubbers, I want you to now trace around your right hand with your fingers slightly spread apart,” directed Gramps. Zeb taped the paper on the wall and waited for Gramps’ next instruction. “Zeb, I want you to put the letter ‘P’ next to each finger on that picture. Boys and girls, each of our fingers reminds us of some important lessons about honoring God with our computing. Let’s see what they are.” He motioned for Zeb to begin adding to the hand drawing.

1. “So then the first finger that starts with a ‘P’ is for **Prayer**. If we want to honor God with our computing, we need to ask Him first, to give us creativity in what we do. Do you remember we have talked about Computer Grace before?”
2. “The second finger or ‘P’ is for **Purpose**. We need to ask ourselves what the purpose is for what we are about to do on the computer. Why am I doing this?”
3. “The third finger that starts with a ‘P’ is **Provision**. When we sit down in front of a real computer, we need to be prepared. We need to not have any pop or chips around the computer. It’s best to have the correct chair so our posture is right for our body.”

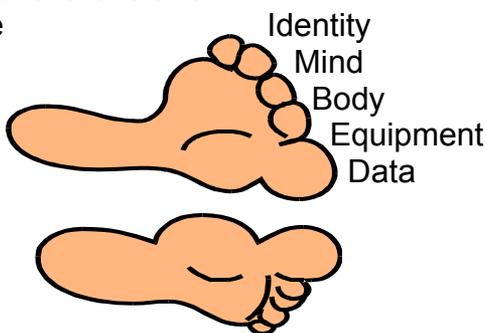
4. “The fourth finger is for **Planning**. We need to use His order to pick intermediate goals to finish our project.”
5. “The last ‘P’ is for **Praise**. Our achievements must be credited to God and His leading and provisions. The shortest chapter in the Bible is also the middle chapter. Psalm 117 tells us we are to praise God for all His merciful kindness.”

So for all our computing projects we need to be focused on honoring God with His gifts.

(end)

## Right Toes – Precautions of Computing

“OK gang. We’re learning about computing in a fun way. Now I need you to take your RIGHT shoe and sock off. I guess it takes clean feet to learn about computers my way,” Gramps said with a big grin. Gramps reviewed what they’d already been taught. “We began with the toes of the left foot that told us about the main PARTS of every computer system. Then we learned the five basic PROCESSES of computing. That each finger of the left hand taught us the steps we use for every important PROJECT.” The silver-haired club leader quizzed the preteen clubbers to see if they had remembered what each finger and toe stood for. He was pleased with their lessons well learned.



“Well, our right toes are going to tell us about the PRECAUTIONS that go with computing. By the little toe in your right foot tracing put the letter I. Then continue on with

the remaining toes in spelling the word IMBED. Now the word imbed doesn't really mean anything important for us here. It's just an easy way to remember the precautions of computing we are about to study."

- "The letter 'I' reminds us to protect our IDENTITY whenever we are typing on the computer, especially if we are on the Internet or typing email messages.

There are all sorts of people that want to know information about our parents, our passwords, addresses and all sorts of things. Some very evil people will create computer games for small children that ask questions about where their daddy works, what their phone number is, and all sorts of things that have to do with our personal identity. This ugly practice is called 'Phishing'."Gramps made sure everyone understood what he was teaching. They did.

- "The letter 'M' reminds me that I must protect my MIND as I use the computer. Even if we are using a computer all by itself, Satan will be working very hard to have us waste our time on it and even be doing things that don't honor Him. God gave us computers to use to praise Him and perform His purposes for it. A good way to help this to happen is to keep a Bible next to the keyboard, open to your favorite verse that reminds you how much God loves you and values your efforts for Him. We call that our 'Computer Bible'. Our computer Bible will even help us to be extra creative and we think of neat things for schoolwork, reports etc."
- "Protecting our BODY is represented by the 'B' toe.

- We show we care for our bodies by the way we sit when we're computing. That's called our posture.
- We need to have a pad along our keyboard, to rest our hands on while we are typing,
- Keep the monitor away from a bright window, and
- Get up and frequently stretch our muscles.
- If my computer plays music, I should be careful to not let it play too loud.”
- “The ‘E’ toe tells me I must be protective of my EQUIPMENT – my computer. We must keep little hands away from it where needed. Computer keyboards don’t like pop and potato chips. Don’t let them near each other. Every computer system should be plugged into a Surge Suppressor (and it plugged into the wall.) Computers without suppressors can be electrocuted if lightning hits the power lines out by the road.”
- “The IMBED letters for each toe end with the ‘D’. This last toe stands for DATA.
  - When we get data off the Internet or from someone’s email, we must be very careful that the information is correct.
  - Sometimes we can download data from the on-line that can contain hidden information that can destroy all the other data our computer already has stored. We call this hidden information Computer Viruses and Spyware. It’s best to only use websites of which mom and dad approved.
  - It’s also a VERY good practice to back up your information on a second disk, in case something ugly happens to your hard drive.

Gramps ended the lesson with the ‘Precaution Day’ story elsewhere in this book (end)

## First and Forgotten – Surge Suppressor

“WHAT IS THAT UGLY THING? DON’T GET AROUND ME. IT LOOKS CREEPY,” were some of the comments from the preteen clubbers. Tony brought the ‘creepy’ thing into the old clubhouse and dropped it onto the middle of the floor, like it was a long tailed lizard. After a few more comments about the lizard-looking thing, Tony said, “I don’t know what it is. It was with some other junk computer stuff in Thompson’s trash can. No problem, Gramps will be here shortly and he’ll tell us what it is.”

The silver-haired computer club leader had only taken 3 steps inside the door when he spied Tony’s thing in the middle of the floor, surrounded by some of the early club members. Almost like it was a birthday present, Gramps clapped his hands and exclaimed, “Oh boy! Have we ever been needing one of those!”

Each of the clubbers looked at each other and thought, “I believe Gramps has flipped his lid. His mind must have snapped.” They all felt their Tech Trash Computer Club had been getting along just fine without this ‘whatever-it-was’. The old gentleman happily rubbed his hands together like he was going to sit down to a gooey piece of birthday cake. He reached down and picked up the thing, not at all like you’d pick up a lizard, and said, “Am I ever glad we’ve now got one of these suppressors. My oh my the lessons we can learn about God from this rascal.”

With a smile, Bret whispered in Jeanie’s ear, “Gramps sure is fun. He can getcha excited about God’s love with nothing but a little bent screw in his hand.” They both remembered that many times Gramps has told the clubbers, “God has so much love to share, we can use about anything to tell others about it.”

Gramps began his lesson, “I nicknamed this a ‘First ‘n Forgotten’.” With a warm wrinkle-skinned smile he continued, “The real name for this First ‘n Forgotten is

actually a Surge Suppressor.” One of the group asked, “A what? Say that again, Gramps.” This is called a Surge Suppressor. It is the very first part that is used by a computer system, but so often it is forgotten, with terrible, horrible consequences.”

“Let me explain... When the electricity comes out of the wall, it first goes through one of these surge suppressors. Then the electricity goes to the printer, monitor, CPU and all the computer parts.” Gramps tone turned more serious with, “The terrible problem is that the surge suppressor usually is on the floor or behind the desk and we don’t see it. Even MORE WORSE is that some people don’t even care enough about their computer to have one. That could spell DEATH for your computer system.”

The clubbers all huddled even closer to their leader, to not miss a single word. You would have thought he was telling a murder mystery story. “The surge suppressor makes sure that no bad electricity gets to the computer to harm it. Sometimes when it’s raining, the lightning will shock the electric wire going down your street. That big chunk of electricity would get into your computer and kill all the tiny parts. But the job of the surge suppressor is to crunch up all those big chunks of electricity and protect your computer.”

“When people make a list of things, they often put the most important thing on the top of their list. It gives us an idea of its importance in relation to all the other things. Jesus does this too.” Opening his nearby Bible Gramps said, “Look here in Galatians 5:22. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, etc.* If we are listing all the parts of a computer system, we need to start with ol’ ‘First ‘n Forgotten’. If we are going to list the things in the life of a Christian, we begin with...love.”

Some discussion followed about ol’ ‘First ‘n Forgotten’ then Gramps summarized this valuable lesson. “You and I can easily make a list of all things we need to get done today or tomorrow. We’ll probably put the most important one on top. But the Bible tells us right here in Matthew 6:33; “*But*

*seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and ALL these things shall be added unto you.”*

“Clubbers, always take time to tell your friends about the computer saver and our Blessed Savior of Souls.”  
(end)

## **Four Legged Tongue – God’s Design For Us**

The hot afternoon sun had already made the old clubhouse too hot for the computer clubbers to have their meeting inside. They all grouped, with Gramps at their center, under a nearby big Oak tree. He began with, “Whew! It sure is hot today! OK. Everybody that can, I want you to wiggle your ears.” Some of the preteen clubbers made the strangest facial gestures trying to get their ears to move, but there was no real success from anyone.

Gramps continued, “When elephants are warm, they wave their giant ears real slow to cool themselves.” Marcy told Gramps, “But Gramps we aren’t elephants. We’re humans. See, we don’t have any long trunks, so we can’t wave our ears to keep cool.” The old gentleman slowly nodded his head in agreement, and then suggested, “OK. I got another idea to keep cool. Come here Tongue - come here, boy.”

The dog that the club had adopted and named Tongue walked up to Gramps with his big red tongue hanging to one side and panting about as hard as he could. Gramps pointed to the big red tongue and told the clubbers, “See, Tongue here, pants real hard to keep cool. That’s the way God designed him. Let’s you and I try to cool off by panting like Tongue, here.” The silver-haired club leader waited a few moments for any unusual results. No one got cooler and they said so.

“Well how do you suppose computers cool off? They don’t have a tongue or any ears to wave.” he questioned the

group. Before anyone had a chance to answer, he showed them one of the computer power supplies they had been working on. One of the clubbers waved his hand with, “I know! I know, Gramps! The fan is used to cool it.” Gramps thanked the clubber for her correct response.

“Clubbers, I want you to look real close at this power supply. There is something else that helps with cooling. They’re called fins. Do you see these metal tabs sticking up like fingers? They are cooling fins that help the fans to do their job. But the very best way of keeping cool was put into our bodies. God saved His best design for you and I, that He loves so much better than any animals or computers.”

“God has given us skin that is full of holes. When we get real warm the little holes get bigger and let tiny amounts of moisture out. We call that sweating or perspiring. Now when the tiny amounts of moisture on our skin evaporate, they take some heat with them. That makes us cooler.” Many of the clubbers remarked, “Wow!” “I didn’t know that!” “Man that’s neat!”

“But that isn’t all of God’s wonderful design for us. As the moisture comes out the little holes in our skin, it cleanses our skin and keeps it healthy.” The silver-haired teacher paused once more to emphasize his following summary. “Boys and girls, God is always thinking about our health and how we treat things He has loaned to us...like our bodies. We may be just thinking about getting cool. But God wants to remind us that we need to wash our bodies, especially our hands, and bring honor to Him in so many ways.”

Under the shade of the old Oak tree, Gramps continued talking with the preteens about spiritual cleanliness too.

Can you teach someone about the fabulous way God has designed us to keep cool and help our bodies to keep clean?

(end)

## Cutting Corners Really Hurts – Quality

**OUCH! THAT COMPUTER CUT ME!** Everyone looked in the direction of the injury. Judy held her injured finger in her mouth, giving evidence the wound was more sting than stain.

“Gigabyte Gramps”, with his bright silver hair was the leader of these dozen or so preteen clubbers. The SpaceGate Computer clubhouse was actually just a condemned building with no heat or electricity. But thanks to Gramps and God’s goodness, the clubhouse had become an after-school heart hospital for youth with tested souls and troubled spirits. Of the whole universe, Gramps wanted to be nowhere else than this old building.

After a few moments, he had all the clubbers sit Indian-fashion on the old wooden floor in front of him. For the last three days the clubbers had been making Tech-Trash Evangelism Kits for inter-city missionaries to use. It was God’s version of recycling at its highest.

Jake would begin by removing the small power supply out of a junk computer. His process was to take a metal file and carefully file the sharp edges off the power supply metal. He would then give the supply to Nancy. She would cut off all the long wires and cables, before passing it on to Tommy.

Nancy often had to hide her face till her tears ceased. As she watched worthless computer parts become powerful tools for missionaries, Nancy felt her own life was becoming important to God. Boy, did she ever need that.

“My oh my. I see you clubbers are really getting in the spirit of transforming trash into tools,” Gramps said to the clubbers, with a smile. “While we take a break, now would be a good time to review our directions. You’d better pay close attention because these things we do can become dangerous if we’re not following instructions as best we can.”

“You and I are responsible for doing TWO assembly jobs. Let me explain. The first assembly job is assembling

our own attitudes and actions. We can call them our KID-assembly steps. Only then can we do our best at our KIT-assemblies for missionaries. Did you get that? KID assembly comes before KIT assembly. One more time. K-I-D assembly comes before K-I-T assembly.” Gramps held up one hand with fingers spread wide. He pointed to each finger as he stressed each of the following five points:

“Our first KID assembly operation (on ourselves) is:

- Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ – the only way of Salvation.
- Trust Him that our efforts are a part of His Heavenly plan – even if we don’t recognize it, at the time.
- As we read His word each day, be continually reminded that we are held accountable to Him for our attitudes and our actions.
- Let’s decide to do our best, not just good enough to get by. If we don’t, we or someone else can be seriously harmed. Judy knows about that.
- The result of the above directives is that we have a burning desire to use our talents to share Jesus’ love with others.”

Gramps discussed each of the above five operations of the KID-assembly with the clubbers. It wasn’t long before each of the clubbers could point to their fingers and teach the same operations. Gramps told them often, that God only wants helpers who love Him so much they work hard to do their best at each of their tasks, whether big or small. As the clubbers gathered around him and his open Bible, he often used verses from Matthew 24 and 25 to show God’s rewarding those who serve faithfully.

Next, their silver-haired manager discussed with them the step-by-step process of missions ‘Computer Donuts’ KIT assembly, to be used to introduce others to the eternal love of Jesus Christ. The ‘Donuts’ KIT steps were somewhat like these:

1. Jake -- Remove power supply from old computer. Remove the metal cover. Save the screws.
2. Tommy -- File sharp edges to prevent injury in handling. Bend the power plug pins out of shape. (This prevents anyone from plugging a power cord into the assembly after it has been removed from the computer.)
3. Nancy – Carefully cut all the wires of the power supply to about 2 inches in length. The removed wire is to be stored in a shopping bag for later use.
4. Judy – Used an old toothbrush to clean dust and cobwebs out of the unit. She also double-checked for sharp edges. She was sort of a quality control inspector for the steps already done.
5. Bret – reassembled the power supply using fairly short pieces of wire from Nancy’s wire bag. This ‘Computer Donuts’ Kit is one of their ‘No tools needed’ ‘Kit ‘n Skits.’
6. Marcy – Placed the power supply into the awaiting shoebox. She carefully folded the Computer Donuts Skit and the Elephant Ears Skit together and put them into the shoebox container.
7. Betty – Added a piece of paper with the club address in the box. It also said, “Packed with prayer and care. Dylan was glad he could help Betty tie the cover on the kit box with more of Nancy’s wire. They wrote on the box, “Computer Donuts Kit.” Next, they looked at each other and smiled with the joy that comes from serving Jesus with what they had.
8. Gramps – After about eight of the Donuts Kits were finished and stacked neatly on the clubhouse table, the clubbers all gathered around, as Gramps prayed. “Dear Lord, we know You could make these kits by just the words from Your lips. That’s how You made the universe. But today we are thankful to You for allowing us the privilege of using our talents the best we can, to serve You. We ask that wherever these kits go, they will inspire others to love and trust You.

And that they will guide others in using what they have to spread Your love and mercy. Amen.”

(end)

## A Family of Iron

WHAT AN AWFUL LOOK JERRY HAD on his face as he entered the old clubhouse door. “Gramps. I don’t understand something here in my Bible. Have you got a minute?” The question to the silver-haired gentleman was absurd to say the least. Every time one of the preteen computer clubbers came to Gramps with a question, it was like sampling the frosting on a cake. How he loved to be a club leader to these 14 or so youth.

“Jerry. There are a lot of questions I have myself. But maybe I can help.” The puzzled boy plopped himself onto an old wooden box and opened his Bible on his lap. With upturned eyes hungry for simple truths he said, “My pastor has said more than once that we are to read God’s Word. And he’s also said not to skip any, ‘cause it could be more good stuff waiting to be enjoyed.”

“Well, I sure don’t see any problem with that.”

“But Gramps, let me read you two verses. They start here in Joshua 19:38:

*“And Iron, and Migdalel, Horem, and Bethanath, and Bethshemesh; nineteen cities with their villages. This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Naphtali according to their families, the cities and their villages.”*

With a stressed expression, Jerry continued with, “What bothers me so, is that I’m supposed to read these two verses with all the others and not think of the task as punishment. What good is it for me to read a bunch of names I can’t pronounce, let alone, know where these cities actually are? I’m not Jewish and certainly get no inheritance,

whatever exactly, that is. Why not just skip these yucky verses and get to the good stuff, like killing giants, talking donkeys, splitting the Red Sea, etc?”

Seating himself next to the distressed boy, Gramps leaned over and picked up a little piece of wire with a strange connector on each end. He rolled it a few times between his fingers making sure Jerry was watching the process. The wrinkled skinned man that loved each clubber so much had an incredible way, without words, of working on a problem of the day in a calm collected manner.

He then handed the computer wire to Jerry. Jerry repeated the finger spinning he had just seen Gramps do. Gramps asked, “Jerry, what is the name of the wire? What place is it used?” “Well-I-I-I Gramps, I don’t know anything about that computer wire. At least, right now, I don’t.”

The old gentleman rose to his feet, took the wire from the boy’s hands and started toward the trash can, stating, “Well I guess it’s not worth anything. We’ll just throw it away and pretend it never existed.” In a flash, Jerry sprung to his feet and shot to a point in front of the trash, then exclaimed, “NO! GRAMPS! NO! Don’t throw it away. Someone knew it was good for something otherwise it wouldn’t be there. We better not throw it away!”

The computer wire was handed back to the boy as he and the old man returned to their seats. Gramps picked up Jerry’s open Bible. He caressed the open pages with hands that had weathered many a storm. “Jerry, there are so many young people around the world who are not blessed like we are to have our own copy of God’s Word. Many children have no school to teach them how to read all these precious words God has given to us.”

Gramps placed the boy’s hand next to his on the bible page. The bible lesson for all ages began. “Jerry, every word in the Bible is inspired by God. Every one is God breathed with all the power that spoke the stars and universe into existence. There is not one mistake in all these 66 books. If there were, Satan would have touted it in the ears of every generation.”

“Look in your verses and see the name of the city called Iron? Jerry, do you suppose there was a little fellow like you living in Iron town who saw all the wonderful land before him? I’ll bet he heard his parents talk about the immeasurable mercy that God had for His nation to give his parents and relatives such gifts. And Jerry, I’m sure he knew there were many times that his relatives in Iron and all around displeased God by their selfish thoughts. Wouldn’t you have liked to be able to talk to that little fellow about our God Who gave us the gift of Salvation, far more valuable than even the land around them?”

With a smile Gramps ended with, “We must keep reading God’s Word because it gives us strength to help our family of loved ones...like the families of Iron.

(end)

[~] [~] [~]