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## Link Letter No.9 March 2011

*Hey kids – how are you doing?* I bet that you are all cooler than me! I heard that you had a lot of snow again this year? I am sooooooooooooo jealous of that, here I am dripping with sweat as I type... it is SO hot! We believe that this year has been hotter than the other years here, and the grass is now brown... no green in it at all! We cannot WAIT for the rains, but there is no sign of them yet! It is regularly over 41°C in the SHADE – where it is coolest – hotter out of it! Ask your parents, carers or teacher to show you a thermometer and look at the difference of the cold where you are, and the hot where I am!

For Christmas, I went to Nairobi in Kenya, where it was hot, but not as hot as here! While I was there, I also had my birthday, lots of friends – English, Swiss, Dutch, German, Kenyan – all joined together, and we shared lunch. In the evening a few of us went to the cinema (there is no cinema in Yei – so when we are in a big city in Kenya or Uganda, this is a nice treat!) to see *'The Voyage of the Dawn Treader'*. I loved it – it was great!

After Christmas, I went to the conference for Pioneers International so that I could work with the children who are living overseas with their parents and involved in mission where they live. I absolutely loved being with the children! Working here in Sudan is very different; there is not paint, glitter, sparkly things, craft items etc available in the shops, and I will not bring it in to Sudan for working with children, because then their usual leaders can't use these things, and it does not help the leaders at all. So, being able to use these things suddenly, as the children here will all be used to using things like this, was so much fun!

I was in Nairobi, the big city where we can buy all these things. I had lots of



**Making a picture of what we think heaven is like**

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**Top:** One of the children having fun with the rocket balloons

**Bottom:** Decorating the edge of a mirror with truths about who we are  
- so whenever we look into it, we are reminded of how special we are



**The children having fun with a parachute**

fun shopping, planning and doing each of the activities with the children. Sometimes children who grow up in a different country to the one their parents are from can find it hard to know who they are. The real *'who we are'* is found in our friendship with Jesus; the bible tells us more about this, and this is for anyone who is His friend. Let me put some of the activities that we did with the children in this letter; perhaps you can do some of the activities at home as it's good for all of us to know more about who we are!

#### **Who am I?**

##### ***Princess or Prince***

1 John 3:1 says: *'See how much our father (our heavenly Father, God) loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are.'*

If we are children of our Heavenly father, that means that we are children of the Most High King. THAT means that we are Princes and Princesses! How exciting!

Why don't you take some time thinking about what that means to you – and whilst you do that, why not make yourself a crown?



**Cheeky "Boots" in my laptop bag**

#### **Who am I?**

##### ***Chosen even before Creation***

Ephesians 1: 4 says: *'Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us...'*

Wow – all that time before the world was created, God chose YOU! How amazing is that?

Enjoy decorating some biscuits; choose which ones you want and choose how you want to decorate them. While you do, think how amazing you must be that God chose you such a long time ago.

#### **Who am I?**

##### ***Someone whose name is written on God's hands***

Isaiah 49: 16 tells us how our names are written on God's hands, like Andy's name is on Woody's foot.

Matthew 10: 30 also says that God knows the number of hairs on your head. Jesus knows *all* there is to know about you – and loves you soooooooooo much!

Draw your name and decorate it as you would like to! Think about how special your name is, that God has it on His hands!

**Who am I?**

***Made in the image of God***

This is what we learn from Genesis 1:27! God decided to make us all in his own image!!

When we look in the mirror, we see an image of ourselves. And God made us in HIS image!

Enjoy a game of Pictionary with some friends – as you try to get them to guess what you are drawing – you are making an image of that thing!! Enjoy!

**Who am I?**

***Wonderfully made***

Psalms 139: 14 says so much about how much God values and loves us! It tells us that we are wonderfully made.

Have some fun now with everyone else! Take a piece of paper and draw a head, with a neck. Fold over the paper, so that you can just see the necklines. Then give it to someone else to draw the body; they make lines for the legs, and fold it over again so only those lines are showing. Then pass it onto the last person who draws the legs! When you are all finished, open up the pictures, and enjoy looking at the funny people you drew!

**Who am I?**

***A citizen of heaven***

In the book of Philippians 3: 20 we are told that we are citizens of heaven! *How cool is that!*

We are citizens of the place we live. But wherever we live now, we are only there for a short time, because our real home is in Heaven! Where we can live for EVER! Hurray!

Find some old scraps of material and shiny paper that you can use to make a big picture of what you think heaven will be like! Remember, there is no pain or sad tears or bad things!

**Who am I?**

***Someone who delights God***

Zephaniah 3:17 says: *'For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty saviour, He will delight in you with gladness, With His love, He will calm all your fears, He will rejoice over you with joyful songs!'*

WOW! The Lord who created the universe delights in you! When you are playing, He loves watching you! When you are scared, He loves to help you have peace.

Find a rocket balloon and have some fun seeing it fly around the place! As you enjoy this, remember – God is enjoying YOU! He loves you so much!

**Who am I?**

***God's Masterpiece***

Ephesians 2:10 says that we are God's masterpieces, the *best* bit of all His creation! WOW! We are the best bits!

Take some of play dough and make something out of it. While you do this, think about how it feels to be the best bit of all God created! How do you think that means we should be living our lives?

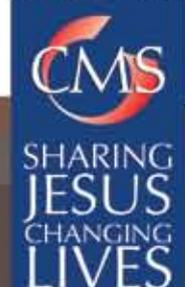
I hope that you have fun thinking and praying to God as you do these things. You are God's special child and He will always love you, no matter what, you can always talk and listen to Him! Hurray!

I thought I should also tell you that I now have a little kitten, though he is growing bigger every day! We have called him 'Boots' – remember Puss in Boots in *Shrek* – looking all cute and cuddly one minute, then attacking someone the next, this is my kitten! He's lovely really, though last week he got stuck in a tree; Nelie was the brave one to go up and get him down! Little rascal!

Lots of love

Ruth x

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