

We are looking forward to the first resurrection



56

The previous lessons form the basis upon which we can discuss our preparation for Christ's return with the children. A prerequisite for our participation in the first resurrection is that we are worthy and prepared for Jesus' appearance. The children come from varied and widely differing lifestyles and social conditions, but they all have one common goal of faith. All are looking forward to the first resurrection and to being with Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father for ever.

The children learn that, with them, many other children from all over the world, are preparing for the first resurrection, so that they may be worthy and acceptable on that day. That is why they pay attention to everything that is said in the divine services and in Sunday-school and why they try to act accordingly.

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y name is Ance Verlain. I am eight years old. I live in Libreville-Likouala (Gabon, Africa).

I speak Punu, my mother tongue, and French.

We are a family of six. My mother is New Apostolic. She is a teacher and teaches 7 to 10-year-old children. My father does not belong to our church. He works as an administrator in a secondary school. I have two sisters and a brother. We live on the ground floor of a small block of flats.

“I get up at six o'clock in the morning. After we have washed ourselves and had breakfast, my sisters, my brother and I help in the kitchen and then we go to school. The lessons are from 8am to 12.30pm one week, and from 1.30pm to 5pm the next. After I have done my homework, I go and meet my friends.

We play ball with other children. My uncle, my mother's brother, is an evangelist. My little brother often wants to hold divine services at home just like our uncle. Then he stands in front of us, speaks loudly, gesticulates and says that is what our uncle does when he stands behind the altar.

“The congregation to which I belong is Libreville-Glass. It was the very first congregation established in Gabon. We have to take a taxi to get to church. This is the only means of

transport in our city. We also often walk to church.

“A small experience: When the New Apostolic ministers came to Gabon in 1991, our whole family, with the exception of my father, accepted the Lord in these servants. My father did not want me to be baptized in the New Apostolic Church although he had allowed this to be done for my brother and sisters. I so much wanted to become a child of God too! I always went with my mother and my brother and sisters to the divine services, but I did not receive Holy Communion. I was always very disappointed. I often prayed: ‘Dear Lord, please help me to become a child of God!’ Finally he answered my plea. In 1993 I was baptized and sealed. I am so happy to be his child!

“My wish is to take part in the first resurrection.”

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“My name is Andrew Miller.

I am nine years old. I live in Alexandria (Virginia, U.S.A.).

I speak English.

My family consists of my father, my mother, my sister and I. My father is an evangelist, my mother an organist.

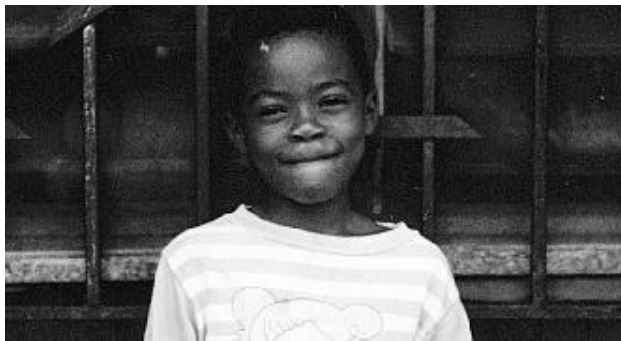
“My home congregation is Silver Spring, Maryland. Our church was dedicated in 1982. Before that the divine services were held in rented premises. The new church is a wonderful

gift from our heavenly Father.

"A small experience: Our apostle teaches us that, before we leave the house, we should pray daily for our heavenly Father's protection. Once I experienced this in a very special way. One neighbour had parked his car very near to our house. Suddenly the car caught fire. Due to the angel protection our house remained intact. We could even help our neighbour. We called the fire-brigade and looked after their children.

"I am learning Spanish at present. I also take piano lessons. I hope to become an organist in our congregation when I am older. I would also like to be a vineyard-worker for the Lord.

I am looking forward to the first resurrection because we will



"I am looking forward to the first resurrection" translated into Punu, the home language of Ance, is: "NINE GHI RONDU ILUMBU A GHI MUA-NE NIAMBI AU GHI BONGUE BANES BANDIS."

have no more worries or troubles in the wedding chamber. I am also happy that we will then be closer to the heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus during the thousand-year kingdom of peace. We can help others if we share with them what we have received. For our future with the Lord it is important that we listen attentively in the divine services and in Sunday-school. We will be able to understand everything if we ask the heavenly Father to help us. I have experienced this myself."

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*In German it reads:
„ICH FREUE MICH AUF DIE ERSTE AUFERSTEHUNG."*

1 The children tell what they know about the day of the first resurrection.

To emphasize this we look at the picture of the last lesson.

(We wait and long for the first resurrection, the day the Lord Jesus will take us up to heaven with him. Then we may be with him and his Father. That is our goal of faith.) Many children of God wait and long for this great day with us. We would, of course, love to meet them all, but that is not yet possible. However, we will all meet in the thousand-year kingdom of peace. Today we learn a little more about Ance and Andrew.

2 We compare their circumstances with our own; differences and similarities.

(Looking forward to and preparing for the first resurrection we all have in common. We pray daily: Come soon, Lord Jesus, and shorten the time.)

3 We encourage the children to draw up their own personal descriptions (Fill in the personal portrait, including details of their family or their wishes. The children may also write their own story with which we could continue in the next lesson.)