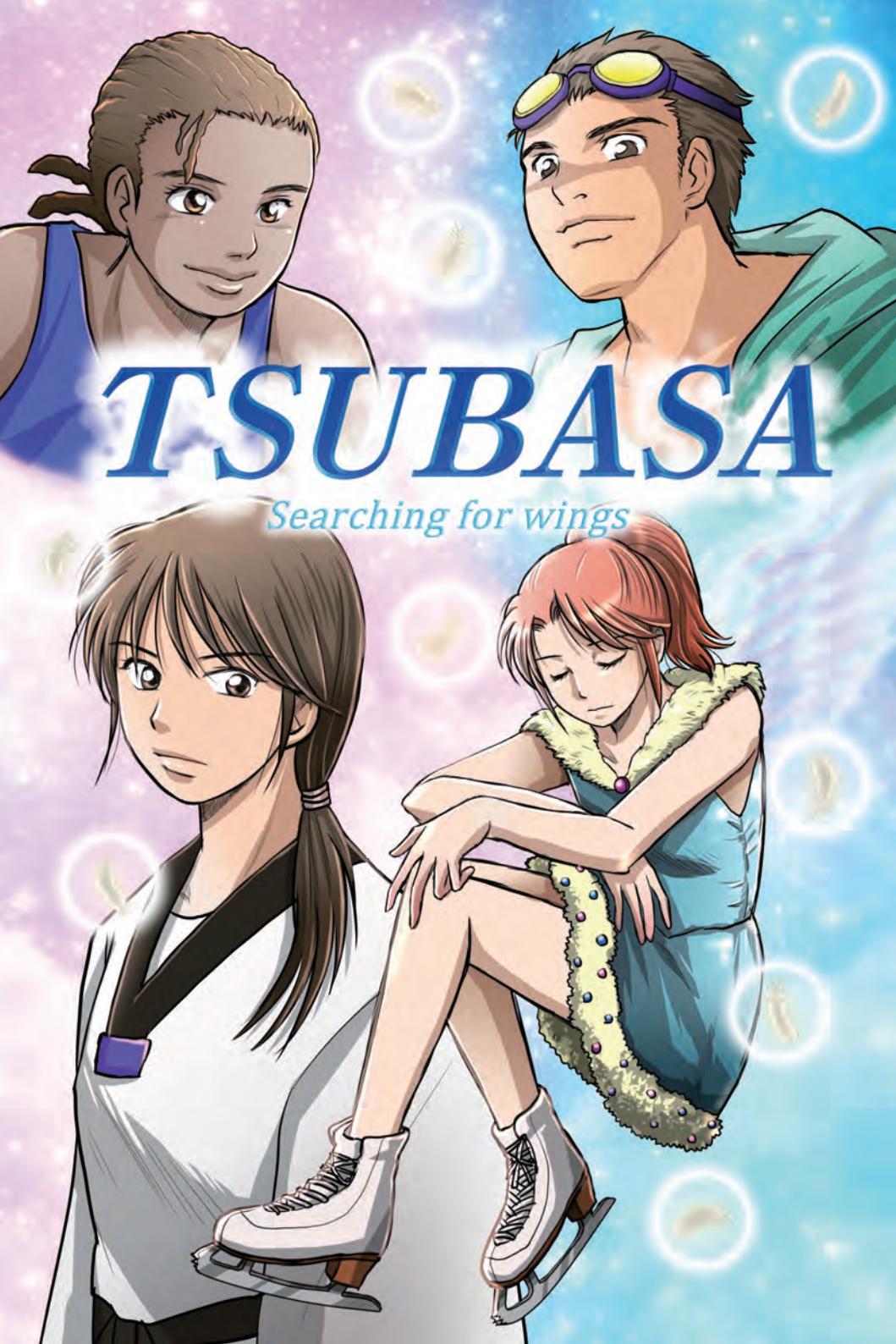


TSUBASA

Searching for wings



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In my mind there is a feeling of inferiority
that I can't share with anybody...



I just couldn't gaze at people
more brilliant than me.

If only

Hooray...

I had the other wing (talent)....

Swish

That girl
looks
like
she has
wings.

I thought
I could fly too...

Whoa!
She's so
pretty.

I want to
be like
her!

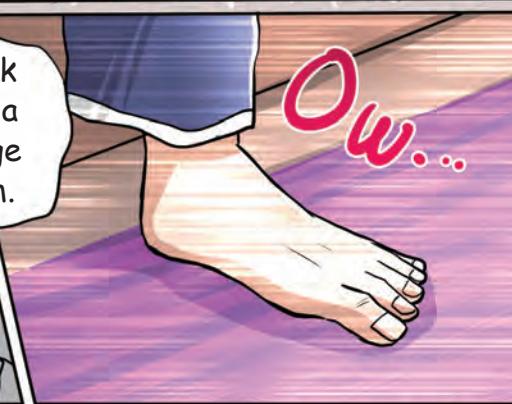
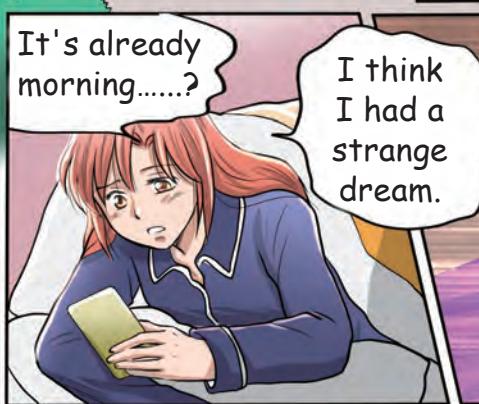
I want to
try ice
skating!

It started
with a local
ice show.

I felt as if the
first white ice
skating shoes that
I had

Tee-hee

would drastically
change my life.
That was what I
thought.



Oh well,
my old wound
again...

When it
throbs in the
morning, it
won't be a
great day.

Oh, I'm
running late.

With a dream that never
came true, I'm an adult facing
everyday realities...

Oh.....
It is Ms.
Yoshino.

clickity
clackety

People have
their own
way that
suits their
life.

She was still
a little tiny
girl when
I was in
the skating
club...

Wow.
She won,
huh.

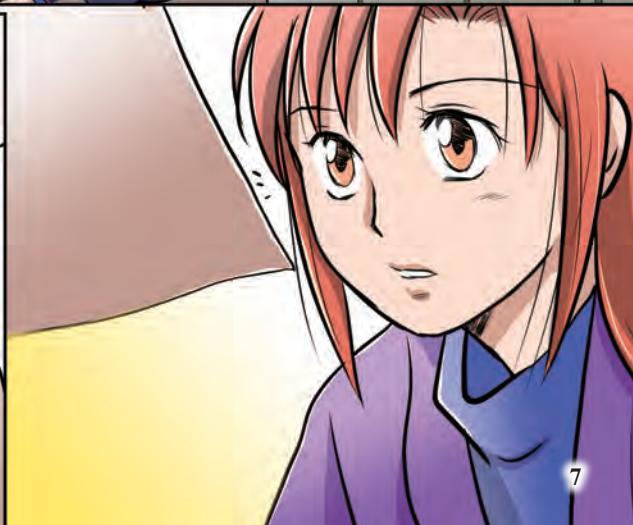
※ Yoshino wins at Four Continents
Figure Skating Championships.

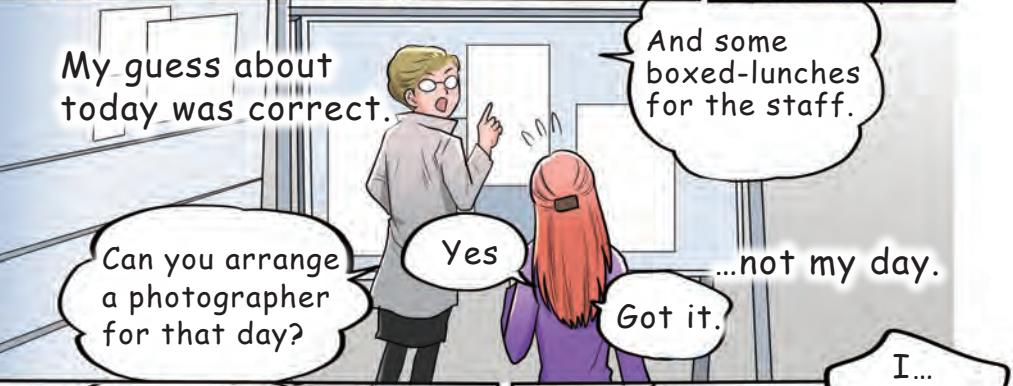
Story1 God's love

Currently, I am suffering from a sense of inferiority. I could not become what I aspired to be.....
Ringgg-q-q-q...

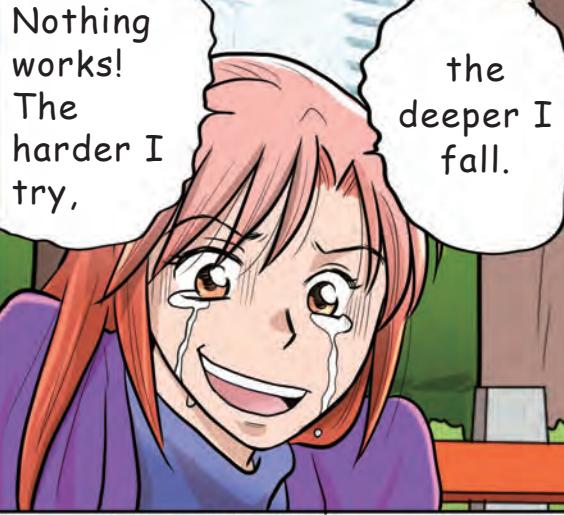


Hey! What did you do now, Asagiri?





Depressing





I had a fracture of the right ankle when I was younger just before an important competition.



It took me several months to treat the injury.

Meanwhile, my body kept growing, and I couldn't jump at the right timing...

The more desperate I became, the more I got annoyed. I couldn't figure out how to fix it.

I can't jump!!

Why can't I jump?

Advice from my coach could no longer soothe my feeling.

Do it!!

I've been working harder than anybody.

Surely I can.

Twirl

Swishhh

Flap

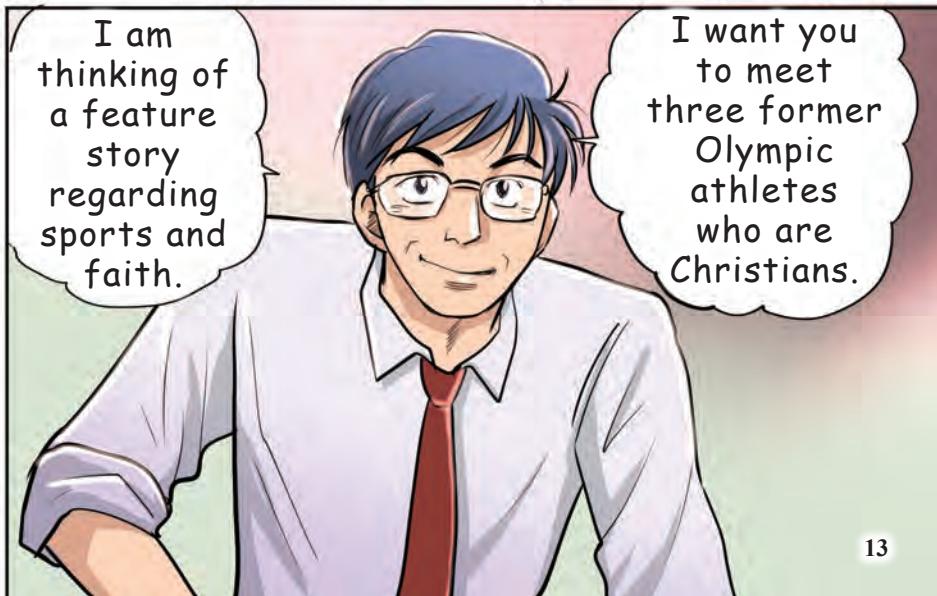
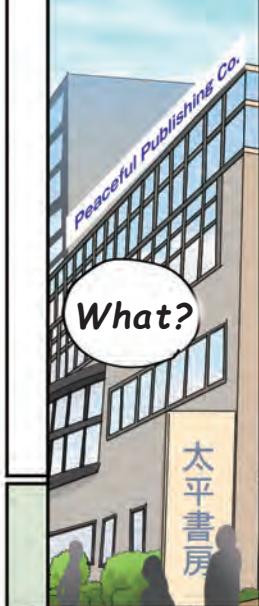
After my last jump,

Flap

Flap

I broke my ankle
again in the same spot.

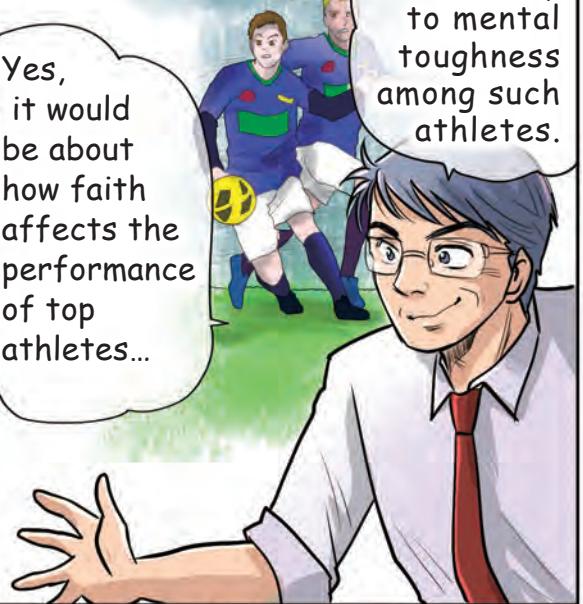
The injuries
made it
impossible
for me to
return to
skating rinks.



What?!?
Faith...



Yes,
it would
be about
how faith
affects the
performance
of top
athletes...



I would
like you to
research
the key
to mental
toughness
among such
athletes.



I heard that
you were a
figure skater.



Coverage
of athletes,
huh...



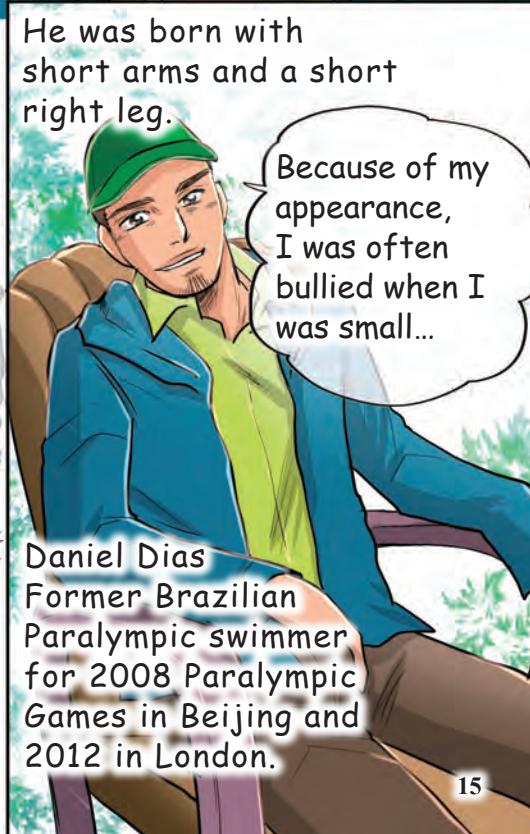
But since my boss
has high hopes
for me.....

I thought
you'd be a
good fit.

I,
I see.

Clench

I'm gonna
have to
do it!

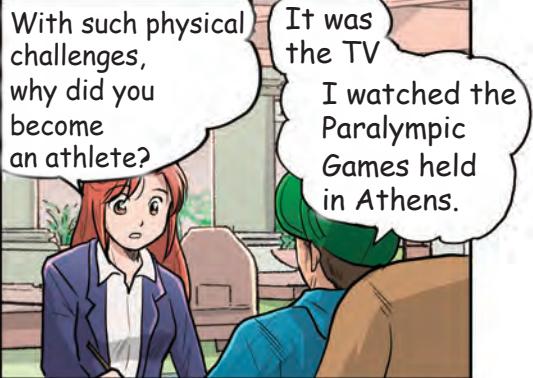


that I had no legs,
that I'm disabled.



Why...was only I born
like this?

I was the one that
couldn't come to
terms with my
disability the most.



A lot of people with
physical challenges
were competing there.



Later,
my parents took
me to Sao Paulo,



Although I could not run or jump like others,

but in the water, I was free!!



Phew



Perhaps swimming was.....

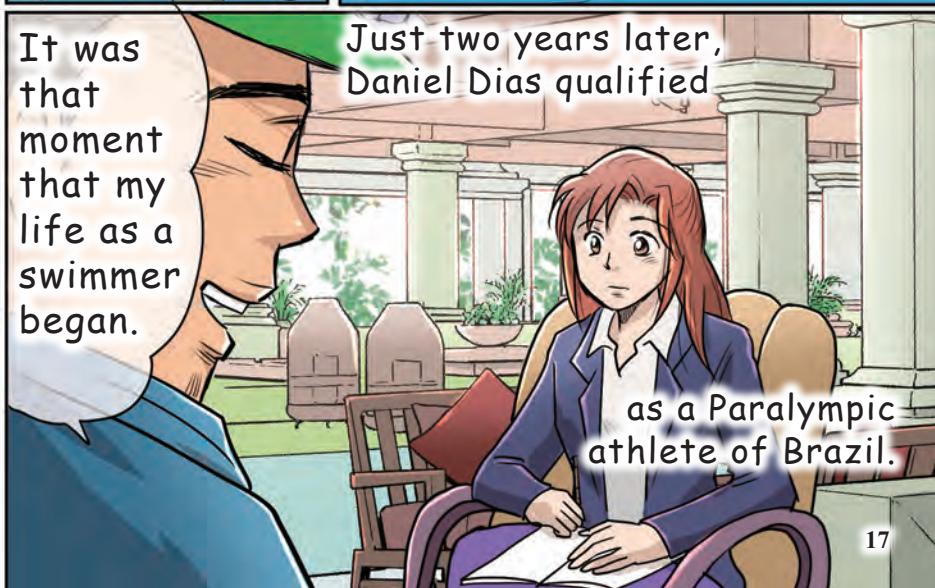
My talent.... Is a gift from God.



It was that moment that my life as a swimmer began.

Just two years later, Daniel Dias qualified

as a Paralympic athlete of Brazil.



Although he lost to an Australian athlete in Breast Stroke during the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, he won in all the other races.



He alone brought nine medals back to Brazil.

What is your most memorable moment of the Paralympics?

Ah.....
the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London was the most unforgettable.



I was delighted when I beat the Australian swimmer I lost to in Beijing and set a new world record.

However, what made me ecstatic the most was that I was a flag bearer during the opening ceremony of the London Olympics.



With a loud cheer,

When I turned around, all the athletes were

Following me!!



They were following
me,
the one who
was bullied
as a child!!

I just
couldn't
believe it.

With deformed
limbs

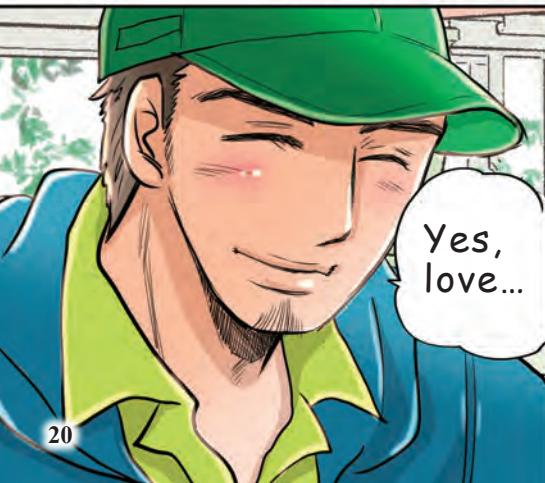
I who couldn't
grab anything
with my hands
and used to cry
alone.



But before
I knew it.



I realized that
everything is
about love.



Although I hated
looking in the
mirror when I was
young.....

But not
anymore.



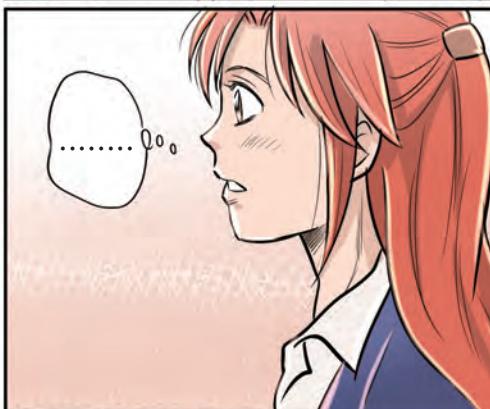
I no longer see a
disabled person
whenever I look in
the mirror or the
river surface.

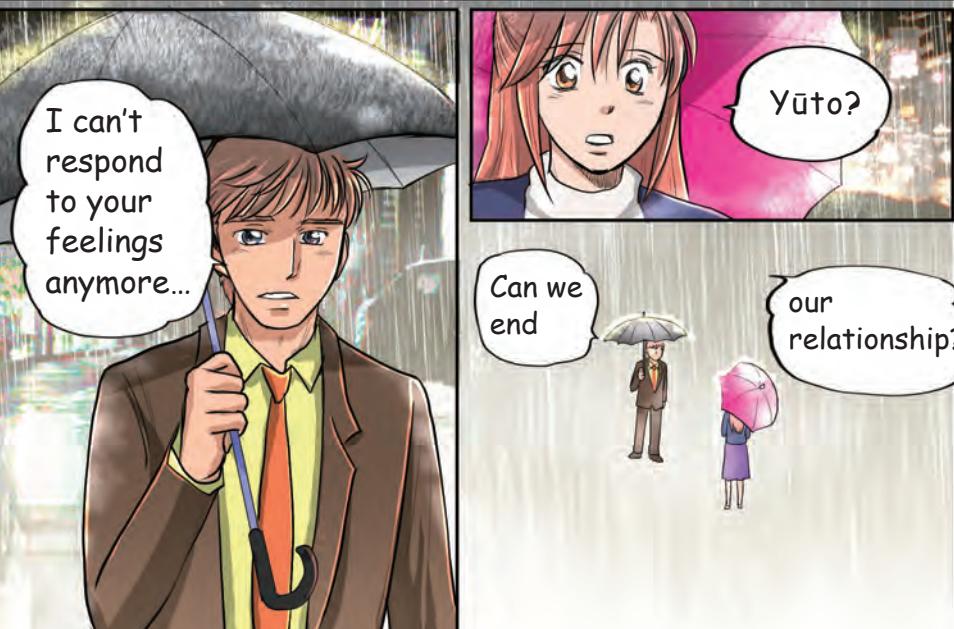
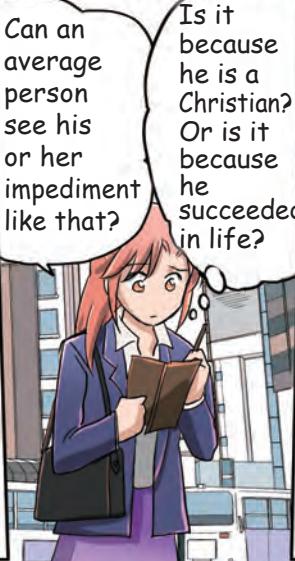
Because I
realized that



I was made perfect
by God
from the beginning.

I was
made in
love.





I could not ask, why?



Because I...



Story2 Sin

You are
Ms. Asagiri

Former American
track and field athlete,
Lauryn Williams

Nice to meet you. Thank you very much for your time today.

Boy, you look so young!

Are you 18?

I am 26

Really?

In 2005, she was definitely the fastest woman in the world.

2004 Athens Olympics
100m silver medal.

She also secured a gold in the same event at the 2005 World Championships in Athletics.

As we know, in Athens, she ran for the US 400-meter relay team.



Victory is already in our hands.

The then US team was comprised of top athletes.

We'll set the new world record!

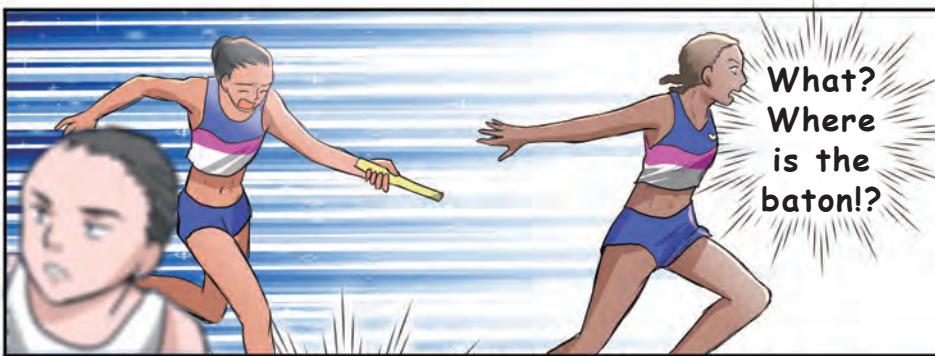
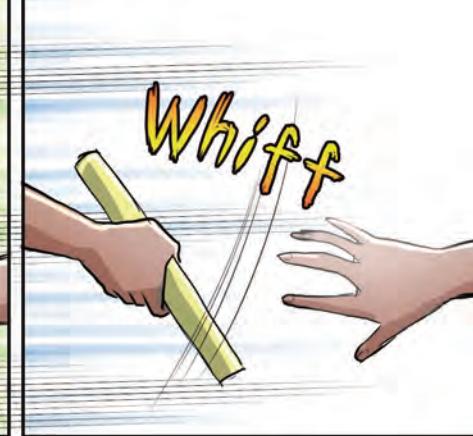
Yes!!

Lauryn ran the third leg.

The second runner, Marion was leading the race.

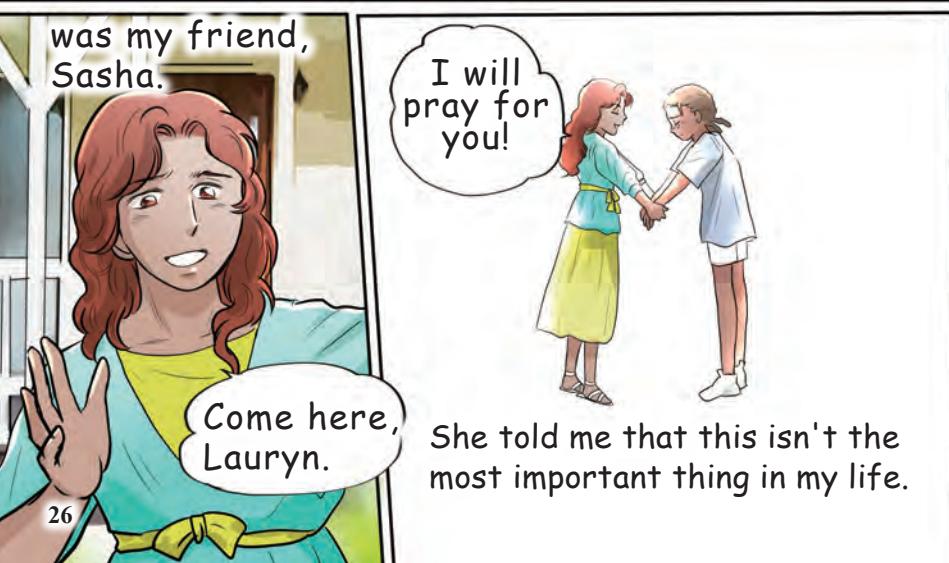
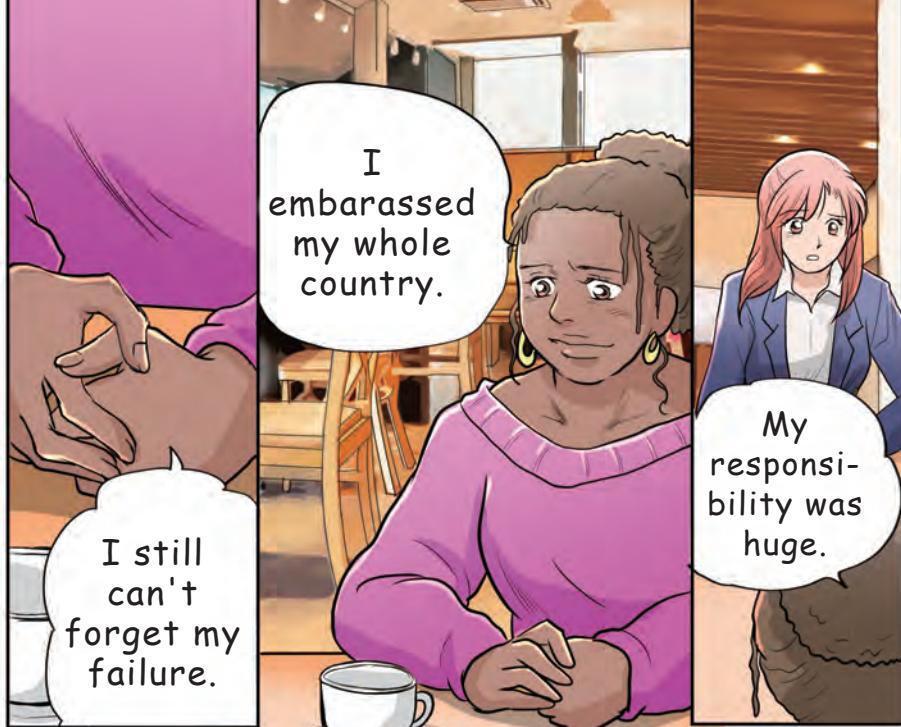
Roaaaaar!!!

Lauryn only needed to widen that lead.

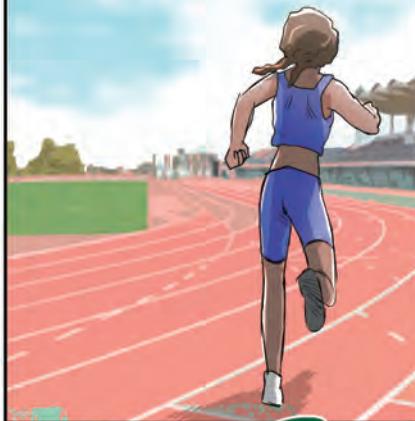


The US team overran the exchange zone.





I was encouraged by her words and prayer and so I concentrated on the sport again.



At the Beijing Olympics in 2008, I was selected for the 400-meter relay again.



Roaaaaar ...



Everybody had no doubt about winning a gold medal this time.

Our starting runner came in first as expected.

Here!

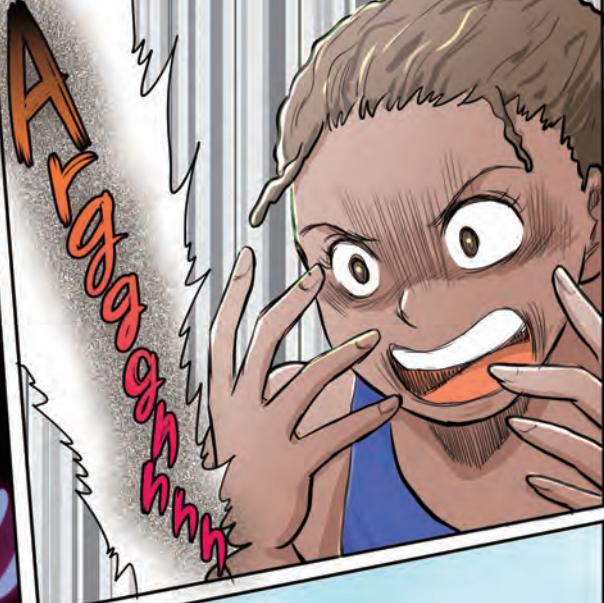


The second runner kept the position, and when the baton was about to be handed over to Lauryn...





I dropped
the baton!!



It was as if I
was having a
nightmare.

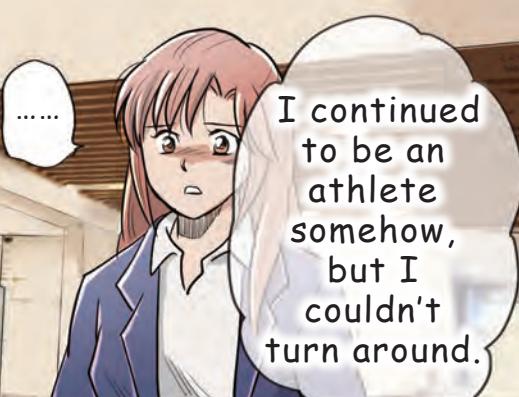


Not
once.

But twice
I made
the same
mistake.



I got sick
of myself
repeatedly
making
mistakes
no matter how
hard I tried.



I continued
to be an
athlete
somehow,
but I
couldn't
turn around.



So, I
took a
year off
from
races in
2010.

You know,
in the year.



I met
God!



G.....
God.....huh.



Yes.....more
specifically,
I spent time with
my Christian
friends.

And read the Bible
together with
them, and asked
them all sorts of
questions.

While doing so, my values started changing.....



Back then, although winning the gold medal in the event was my sole purpose in my life,

yet my goal shouldn't be winning gold. I understood that I would be wrecked, if I kept glorifying the gold medal.

When I realized that, I was freed from the weight of guilt of failures,

and was finally able to pull myself together.

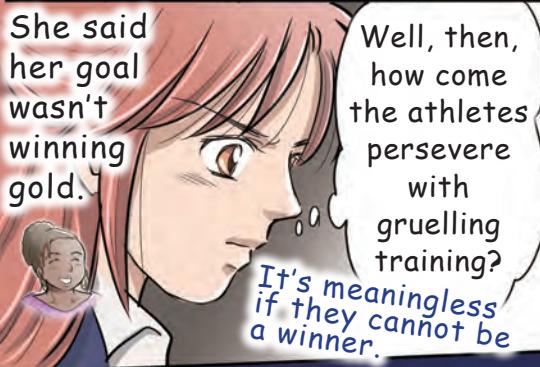
The rest of my athlete career was really fulfilling.



After the 2012 London Olympics, Lauryn retired.

Remarkably, she competed in the bobsled in the 2014 Winter Olympics and won the silver medal.

Apparently there were only five people in the world who have medals in both the summer and winter Olympics.



Both Daniel and Lauryn said,

I've found love.

I was freed from sin and failure.

I don't understand what they mean.

Daniel had no wings from the beginning,



Lauryn, made unacceptable mistakes, twice.

In the midst of despair, she lost her "wings."



No...
that's not enough to
convince me.
Why am I irritated
when I think of
them?



Yet, she rose up like a phoenix.

Am I...
Am I
envious of
them?

and defined her generation.



The last interview **Yoriko Okamoto**

When I was young,
I wanted to be a world champ
in Tae Kwon Do.



I thought I would be worthless if I didn't achieve success in those days,

2000 Sydney Olympics Bronze Medalist.

so I worked hard to win a medal.

The only Japanese medalist in Taekwondo.

Story3

An encounter with Jesus Christ

I know, I know what you mean!

Winning a medal is what's most important after all, isn't it?

Oops.

Ah... erm I'm sorry.

Oh

I inadvertently insisted on my view.

I came here to listen to her.

Did you do sports before?

Y, yes..... I did figure skating when I was young.

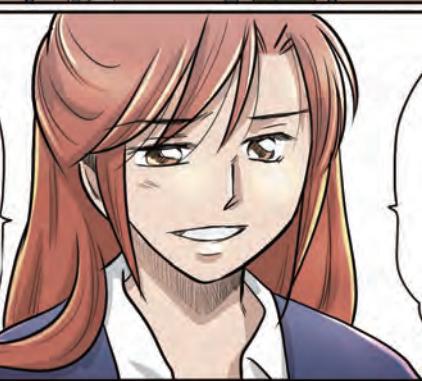
wow, that's wonderful.



I injured myself while practicing before a major competition, though.

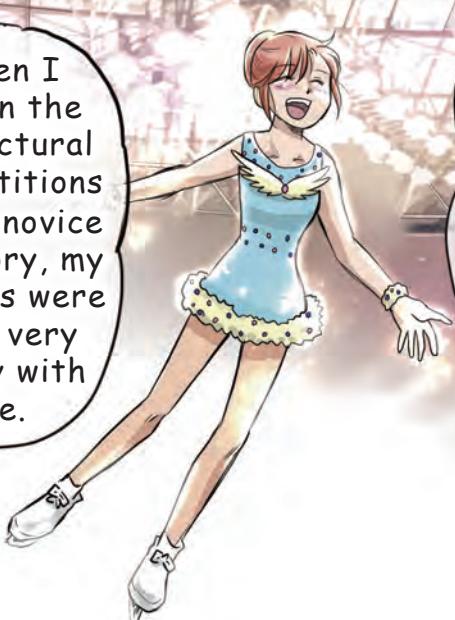
Later I made a comeback, then fractured the same spot, end of story.

I see... sorry to hear that.



When I was young, I tended to do things my own way, and could not make friends in school.....

That was why I could focus on figure skating, and was happy that I was good at it.



When I won in the prefectural competitions in the novice category, my parents were both very happy with me.

I felt as if my parents had finally accepted me, so I worked harder than anybody else.

But I couldn't make it.
I'm not gifted but an ordinary girl by nature, and failure is the norm.

Ever since I got injured, the harder I worked on my work and love life, the worse both of them became...

Oh, I'm sorry. I'm talking too much about myself.

That's all right. I am no longer an athlete but am a pastor.

What? A pastor?

Yes

So my current job is to listen to other people.

Hmm...
As you are and I was, there seems to be a lot of people that think that one is worthless if one cannot succeed in life.

In my experience,

Although I was happy for a short while whenever I won a match.

Every time I lost, I became anxious, and had to suffer again. Then I would have to work even harder.



In order to survive, I must have my own way, and succeed.....



So I worked hard, thinking that if I did not succeed, I would not gain anything in this life.

As a result, the more I succeeded as an athlete, the more guilt I felt every time I made a mistake.

In the past

If it is so painful.

I want to just die.....

—I thought.

It's hard because you set a goal and try to achieve it all by yourself.

Still I always had to smile and be radiant

as if I had had no problem. It was painful.

While I was
still an athlete.



when I was training
in South Korea.

My coach brought me
to church on Christmas
Eve.



I watched a play
there

and was
amazed by
the life of
Jesus Christ.
Tears were
rolling down
my face.

Then the
pastor
asked me,

Do you
believe
in Jesus
Christ?



I believe
in a god
but not
Christ.

Then why was
there a need for
Jesus to come to
earth and die on
the cross?

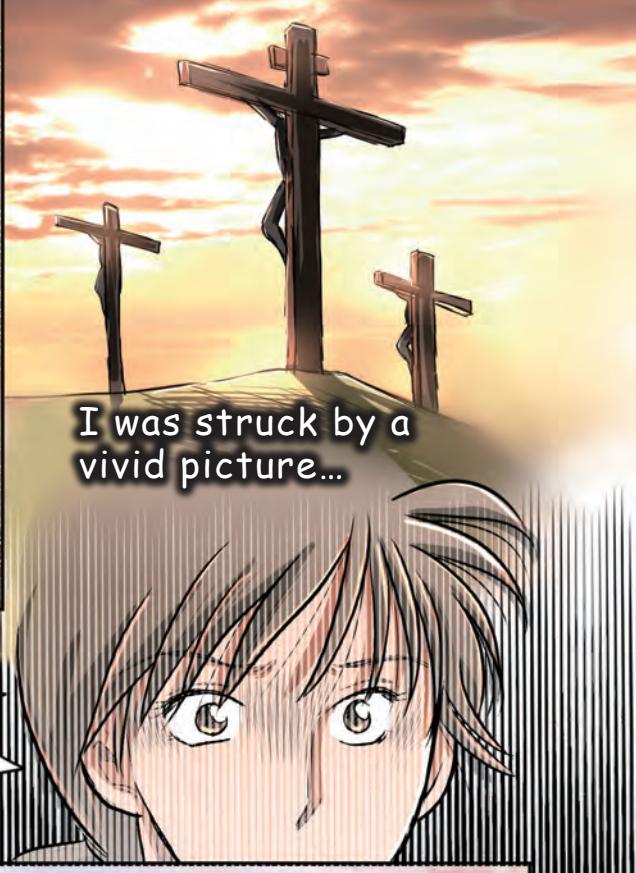


I thought
that was a confusing
question.

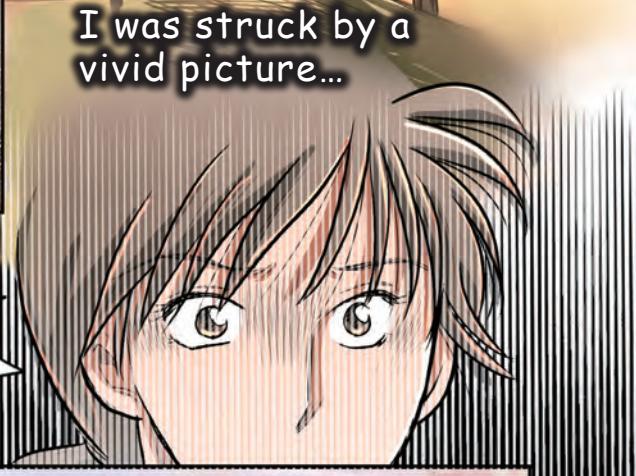


You're asking me why?
I don't know...

But at that moment,
for some strange
reason...



I was struck by a
vivid picture...



The presence of
God, on the cross



looking down at me!!

Why did Christ choose the cross for our sins?

I can't possibly explain how I understood. I just did.

A, ah...
This must be God's love!

Then I don't need to suffer any-more!!



We all want to become the ideal me... So we work hard to become that.

I got to know God's amazing love, and was freed from this curse.

Well, this is just a personal experience but...

That is why I want to tell you this.

God created sports for us in order to enrich our lives.

But regrettably, the current sports industry is focused only on nurturing talent that can perform well.



Instead of looking at those, I want you to know that you are irreplaceable, created by God.

That is why there are distortions, as well as people who suffer from it.



Abuse of authority is part of that as well.

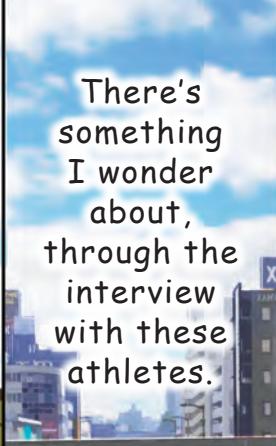


Even though you don't know God, you are important to God.



You and I are precious and loved.

So don't be fooled by superficial success, fame or glory, and lose yourself.



There's something I wonder about, through the interview with these athletes.



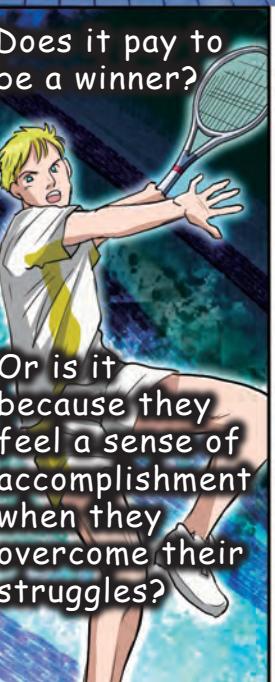
What made Daniel and Lauryn able to continue the life of competitive sports...so cheerfully?



In the first place, athletes are people that don't hesitate to work harder, but.... How can they work so hard even though it is so tough?



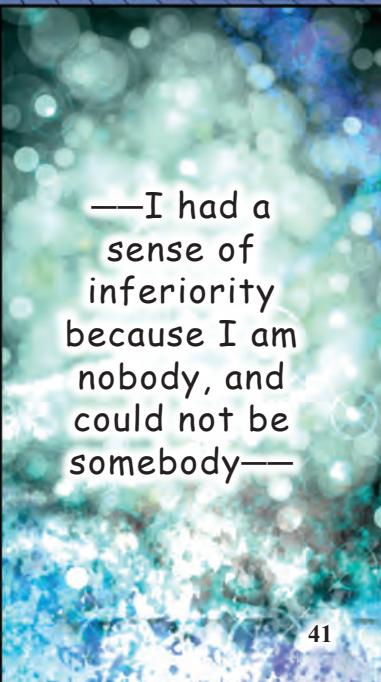
Is it because they pursue perfection in their performance?



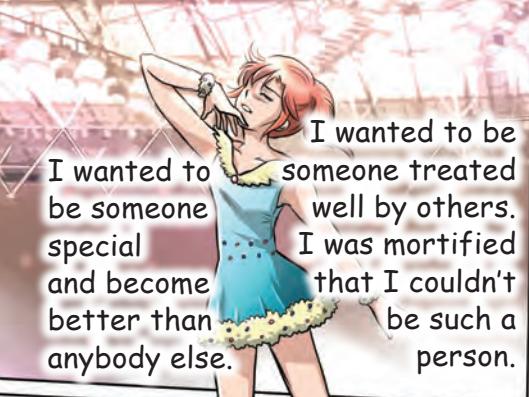
Or is it because they want to leave their mark in history?

Does it pay to be a winner?

Or is it because they feel a sense of accomplishment when they overcome their struggles?

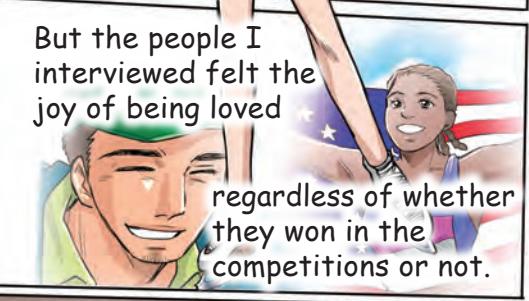


—I had a sense of inferiority because I am nobody, and could not be somebody—



I wanted to be someone special and become better than anybody else.

I wanted to be someone treated well by others. I was mortified that I couldn't be such a person.



But the people I interviewed felt the joy of being loved

regardless of whether they won in the competitions or not.



Perhaps that was why they could spread their wings and fly.

They were expressing their gratitude to God by doing their best, using their God-given body, soul and spirit, so it seemed.





What were the wings I had genuinely been pursuing?



Perhaps, in our weakness.

All the more reason to know the love of God .



so that we will be strong.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

In life, how you begin something is not nearly as significant as how you finish, whether you're running a race, completing a project or simply living life. We want to help you finish well. As you have read each of these Olympians made a decision to finish strong, which has affected every part of their lives.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW GOD PERSONALLY?

Receiving Christ involves turning to God and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. You receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer

Prayer is talking to God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart, then you can pray this prayer right now and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

What is your next step toward finishing well?

You are invited to read the next pages that would help you to finish well.

Depend

Do not
depend on
feelings

The promise of God's Word, the Bible, is our authority--not our feelings. Christians live by faith and trust in the character of God Himself and His Word.

This picture illustrates the relationship between Fact (God and His Word), Faith (our TRUST in God and His Word), and Feeling (the result of our faith and obedience) (John 14:21)



The train will run with or without the caboose. However, the caboose is useless for trying to pull the train.

"In the same way, we as Christians should not live by feelings or emotions, but by our faith in the character of God and the promises of His Word. That "Fact" comes first."

Suggestions for Christian GROWTH

Spiritual growth results from trusting Jesus Christ.

“The righteous man shall live by faith”

(Galatians3:11).

A life of faith will enable you to trust God increasingly with every detail of your life, and to practice the following:

- G**o to God in prayer daily (*John 15:7*).
- R**ead God's Word daily (*Acts 17:11*); begin with the Gospel of John.
- O**bey God moment by moment (*John 14:21*).
- W**itness for Christ by your life and words (*Matthew 4:19; John 15:8*).
- T**rust God for every detail of your life (*1 Peter 5:7*).
- H**oly Spirit-allow Him to control and empower your daily life and witness (*Galatians 5:16,17; Acts 1:8*).

Communication with other CHRISTIANS

God's Word instructs us not to forsake
“the assembling of ourselves together” (*Hebrews 10:25*).

Several logs burn brightly together but put one aside on the cold hearth and the fire goes out. So it is with your relationship with other Christians.

If you do not belong to a Church, do not wait to be invited. Take the initiative; call the pastor of a nearby church where Christ is honored and His Word is preached. Start this week, and make plans to attend regularly.

If you have prayed and invited Jesus into your life and have further questions, we would like to connect with you, please visit these websites.

<https://www.cru.org>



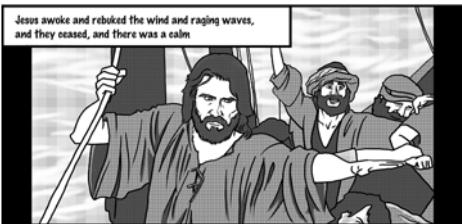
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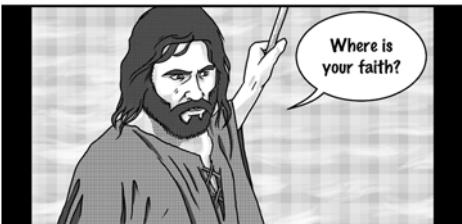
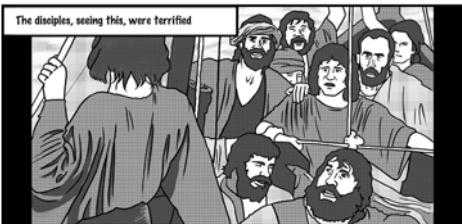
<https://www.jesusfilm.org>



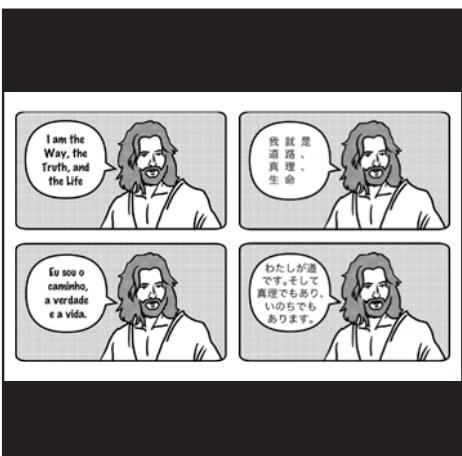
①



②



③



④



Jesus Film Project App

The Jesus Film Project mobile application is available for download on the App Store & on Google Play



