NOT DISABLED

A letter to Grandpa Graham



Harriet Omondiagbe

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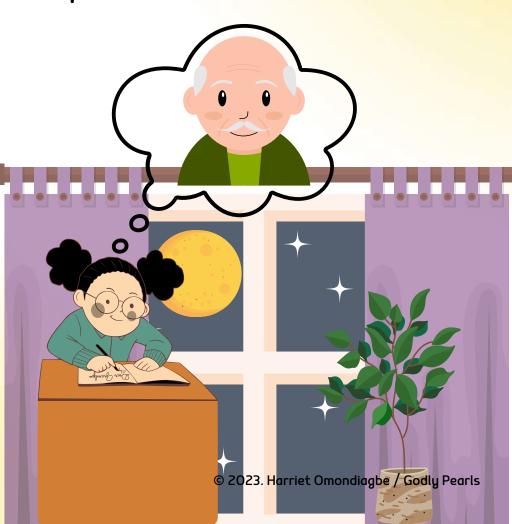
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

"Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?". Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him" (John 9:1-3).

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Dear Grandpa Graham.

I hope you are doing well. Like I promised. I am writing to share an exciting experience from my last trip with Mum and Dad.



Mum and Dad were invited to Angel's Care Missionary School for disabled children.

I travelled with my parents, made lots of new friends and took lots of pictures!



We spent one week at the Missionary School. My parents taught the children some lessons from the bible. I learnt a lot from the children. Do you know that most of them looked different from me? I'll tell you more about them.



This is Debby. She has got one arm but likes to draw and paint a lot. She does not complain but is focused on her work. She has inspired me to work hard on my music lessons and volleyball classes.

Ecclesiastes 9:10



In Miss Thompson's class, there are students who find it difficult to speak clearly. Miss Thompson helps them learn how to speak using speech therapy. They blow bubbles, make sounds and slowly form words. They taught me to be determined as I learn difficult things.

1 Corinthians 9:24



Hilda and Evelyn are friends. Hilda is blind and uses a walking stick. Evelyn likes to share fun stories with Hilda. They laugh a lot and have so much fun together.

Hilda taught me that you can be happy no matter what might be happening to you.

Philippians 4:4-7



Jason and Laura both need a therapy dog to help them stay focused, calm and interact with other students. I love the way they care for their dogs. Jason and Laura taught me to be patient and kind.

Ephesians 4:32



Karl and James are friends. James has got a prosthetic leg fitted to help him walk better after he had an accident. He loves to play soccer. With his prosthetic leg, he is not afraid to try and play soccer again. James taught me never to be afraid to try again when I fail.

Psalm 37:23-24



Alex and Philip both use hearing aids because they find it difficult to hear clearly with their ears. But they seemed very good at using their tablets to learn and talk with the other students. Alex and Philip have inspired me to keep learning using my tablet rather than play video games all day.

Proverbs 22:29



Jordan can not walk and uses a wheelchair to get around. He is not afraid to ask for help. Mr John was always smiling and willing to help. Jordan taught me that it is OK to ask for help when I need it.



Melissa finds it difficult playing on the field with other children, especially on very sunny days. She is sensitive to light and prefers to play alone. But her friends always found a play they can all enjoy. Melissa taught me to accept friendship and love from people who care about me.

1 Peter 4:8-10



This is Ben. Whenever he heard a loud noise, he felt pain in his ears. Sometimes, he wore headphones and the students in his class usually talked quietly. The students in Ben's class taught me to think of others and how I can make them happy, rather than thinking only about myself.

Philippians 2:3-4



Sam and Freda are friends. Sam had an accident and now walks using crutches. Sometimes. Sam feels sad that he can no longer play basketball. So. Freda encourages him and reminds him of all the other great things he could do. like singing. Freda taught me to encourage other people when they feel sad.

Hebrews 10:24



Laura has Down Syndrome and is usually very quiet. But she likes to just sit. smile and eat her lunch with Miss Clara and Peter. Laura taught me that sometimes. my smile is all I need to give other people.

Proverbs 17:22



On Saturday morning, before we left Angel's Care Missionary School, we attended a small graduation party. Timothy, Hilda and Sara were some of the students who got prizes for getting excellent grades. I was inspired to do my best in everything I do.



Dear Grandpa, it is time for me to sleep. I hope you enjoy reading about my amazing friends. I hope to visit Angel's Care Missionary School again and share with the students all the lessons I learnt from them.

I look forward to our fishing trip during my next school holiday. I love you Grandpa.

Signed, Susan





About the book.

What experience can you remember from your last trip?

For Susan, it was meeting the students at Angel's Care Missionary School for Disabled Children. While they had different forms of disability, they were full of love, hope, joy, etc. They were focused and determined to pursue their dreams; despite the challenges they faced as a result of their disabilities. Susan concluded at the end of her visit that while the students may appear different, they were not disabled.

The book, *Not Disabled*, will help kids to learn and show empathy to everyone, especially to those who are different from them. Kids will understand that there is strength (or ability) in disability.

The book, *Not Disabled*, references bible verses to establish that God is the ultimate source of our abilities. Through God, all things are possible!

Other books by the author.

- 1. Dear God, Your love is the best!
- 2. Jesus loves me and died for me The true Easter story series, book 1
- 3. Jesus is alive The true Easter story series, book 2
- 4. My emotions and God
- 5. I can praise God
- 6. ABCs of nighttime talk with God

ABOUT THE AUTHORS.

Harriet Omondiagbe

Dr. Harriet Omondiagbe is a Christian writer and author. She writes for Godly Pearls, a Christian organization in New Zealand.

Harriet is passionate about godly parenting and wants to see kids thrive in a godly home. Through her writing, she hopes to offer biblically-sound resources to teachers, parents and caregivers, so they can in turn, help their kids to develop a growing faith in Jesus, and real love for God.

Godly Pearls

Godly Pearls is a Christian organization in New Zealand. Our goal is to encourage and empower people to pursue an intentional and deeper relationship with God.

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