



# Assembly Communicator

## Children's & Young People's Section

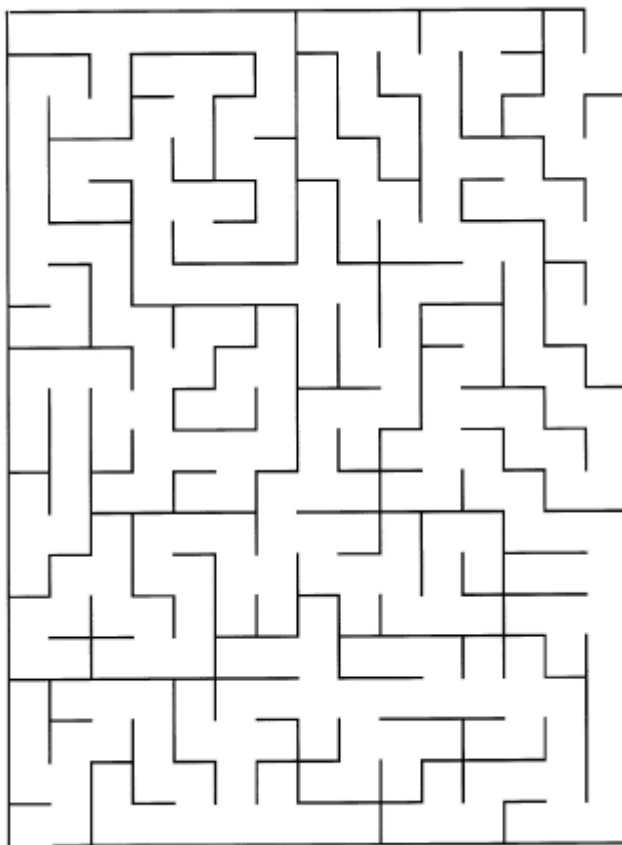
### December 2006

*Homeward Bound!*

*Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm...What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him! (Matthew 8:26-27)*

*He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake (Psalm 23:3).*

← Enter here



*In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:6).*

*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 16:25).*

*Strive to enter in at the strait [narrow] gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able (Luke 13:24).*

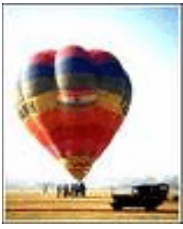
*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name (Psalm 100:4).*



Exit

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me (John 14:6).*





**Joseph Kittinger** holds a number of records due to one particular jump: the highest balloon ascent, highest parachute jump,

longest free-fall, and fastest speed by man through the atmosphere.

Project Man High used high-altitude balloons to study cosmic rays and determine if human beings were capable of going into space. On June 2, 1957, Kittinger made his first high-altitude ascent in a balloon—it lasted almost seven hours and took him to an altitude 96,760 feet.

Kittinger was transferred to Project Excelsior (meaning “ever upward”). Kittinger’s first jump, which occurred on November 16, 1959, was a near disaster. After jumping from an altitude of 76,000 feet (14.39 miles), Kittinger’s small parachute malfunctioned, opening early and catching Kittinger around the neck, causing him to spiral down toward Earth and lose consciousness. Fortunately, his emergency automatic parachute activated at 10,000 feet, saving his life.

On August 16, 1960, Kittinger made his most famous free-fall. In this flight, he made it up to an altitude of 102,800 feet. He stayed at this altitude for about 12 minutes, which must have been very unpleasant—not only was it as cold as minus 94° Fahrenheit, but he had a severe pain in his right hand from a malfunctioning pressurized glove. Then he jumped. He fell for almost five minutes before reaching a safe altitude to open his main parachutes

and float down to the ground. In this time, he went as fast as 614 MPH, not quite breaking the sound barrier but still achieving the fastest speed by man through the atmosphere.

How close to death have you been?

God tells us that we were dead in our sins. *And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins* (Ephesians 2:1).

The word *quickened* means to be made alive from once being dead. This death and life refers to our spiritual death and life.

Joseph Kittinger came close to physically dying when his parachute opened at the wrong time. However in planning for his mission, safeguards were built in and at 10,000 feet his emergency chute opened.

The Lord Jesus had a plan to save us from the penalty of our sins. God the Father loved us so much that He sent His son—*For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life* (John 3:16).

Joseph Kittinger reached an altitude of 102,800 feet (19.46 miles) above the earth. He stayed in that cold, hostile environment for about 12 minutes. If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, Ephesians 2:6 tell us He—*hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*.

Joseph Kittinger has been given honor for his achievements. God the Father has made us accepted in the Beloved (our Savior, Jesus Christ).

## God's Creatures: African Lion

**STATUS:** Although the population of lions is declining, they are not currently listed as endangered or threatened. (The Asiatic lion is endangered.)

**DESCRIPTION:** Renowned for their majesty and nicknamed the King of the Jungle, lions possess both beauty and strength. Males are distinguishable by their manes which protect them while fighting. Lions vary in color but are typically a light, yellowish-brown.

**SIZE:** Males stand at a shoulder height of about 4 feet and reach about 5 to 8 feet in length. Their tails average a length of 3 feet, and they can weigh as much as 330 to 550 pounds. Females are smaller than males.



**POPULATION:** Since the early 1950s, the lion population in Africa has been reduced by half. Today fewer than 21,000 remain in all of Africa.

**LIFE SPAN:** 15 years in the wild, 24 years in captivity.

**RANGE:** The lion is found throughout the south Sahara desert and in parts of southern and eastern Africa.

**HABITAT:** The African lion inhabits grassy plains, savannahs, open woodlands, and scrub country.

**FOOD:** Lions feed upon a wide array of animals, including wildebeest, impala, zebra, giraffe, buffalo, and wild hogs. They will also feed on smaller animals such as hares, birds, and reptiles.

**BEHAVIOR:** The only social member of the cat (Felidae) family, lions live in large groups called "prides," consisting of about 15 lions. Related females and their young make up the majority of the pride. A single male, or sometimes a small group of two to three males, will join a pride for an indefinite period, usually about three years or until another group of males takes over. Females do almost all of the hunting. They are mainly nocturnal and work in teams to stalk and ambush prey. A lion can run for short distances at 50 miles per hour and leap as far as 36 feet. They are also territorial; males roar and use scent markings to establish their domain.

**OFFSPRING:** A female gives birth to litters averaging three to four cubs. If the entire litter dies, she will mate again within a few days. They begin hunting at 11 months and remain with their mother for at least two years.

**THREATS:** Loss of habitat to population growth and agricultural expansion as well as hunting and poisoning by livestock ranchers.