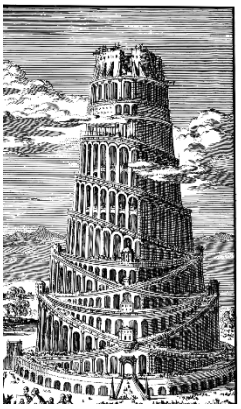
Cornerstone Elim Church, Silverdale DORIS DOODLES **Pride** **10.10.2026**

Bore da Zao shang hao *Buenos dias* Zao shang hao *Debro Jutro*
Bonjour Kaalai Vanakkam *Guten Morgen* Gunaydin

Why do we have all of these different languages? Would it not be much better if we all spoke the same language? Well, that was what God made possible in the first place. **Genesis 11:1** ***'Now the whole earth had one language.'*** What was it that changed this situation?





Men worked together, made some bricks and decided to build a new city. They started to build a tower and intended making it so tall that it reached up to Heaven. It would be a Ziggurat temple tower that was square at the base and have sloping stepped sides which would give access to the top of the tower. At the top there would be a shrine to some god or other. The men undertook this mammoth task by their own united effort. Why did they want to do this? It was because they were so proud that they wanted to rule and be in control instead of coming under God's authority.

God was not at all happy about the above situation so decided to do something about it. He came down from Heaven and confused the language of the men building the tower so that it became too difficult for them to work together as they were no longer able to communicate with each other. Not only did He do this, but He also scattered them to different parts of the world instead of leaving them living unitedly in one place. The place where the tower was built was then named 'Babel', which means 'Gateway to a god.' We can read about this in **Genesis 11: 1 – 9.**



Satan

Satan was an angel in Heaven with God. His name was Lucifer, which means 'shining one' or 'morning star'. He was an angel of great beauty and high rank, but became proud of his own splendour. He decided that he wanted to sit on the throne of the Most High. This of course, was rebellion against God and he was thrown out of Heaven. **Isaiah 14: 12 – 14** tells us about this.

Pride







Pride seems to be high on God's 'No-no' list. We may not always use the word 'proud' but may refer to people as boastful, big-head, haughty, know-all, conceited, lordly, domineering, imperious, snobbish or arrogant. Are we sometimes guilty of coming into this category? It can be something that we might be quick to see in others, yet at the same time, having traits of it in our own lives of which we are unaware. Jesus said that pride is one of the things that comes out of our hearts and defiles a person.

Why are we proud? Do we have a basic need to be noticed? We are always very observant of the things that folk say about us and we all like to be considered as good and thoughtful. Do we enjoy being in the top position in order that we will be noticed and looked upon with awe? Are we boastful about our achievements? Do we think that we are better than other people? All of these things label us as 'proud'. Our motive for what we aim to do is very important. If our motive is to achieve a particular thing, then that is fine; however, if it is in order for us to be noticed or make a name for ourselves, then that is a different matter.

Baptismal promise



I have always found it difficult to remember the chapter and verse of texts in the Bible. I can find the texts easily enough as I know roughly where they are, but am never able to quote chapter and verse. When I was baptized my baptismal promise verse was **Psalm 27:1.** That night I was determined to try and memorize not only the text, but also chapter and verse. By the following Sunday morning I was quite chuffed with myself for having achieved that goal. Have you noticed though that when we are too puffed up God has a habit of deflating us in some way? During that morning service a lady in her 80's stood up and quoted off by heart the first 5/6 verses of that same psalm. God certainly took me down a peg or two and put me in my place!

Humility

What is the opposite of pride? It is humility. God wants us to be people who are humble rather than show-offs. Being humble does not mean putting ourselves down unnecessarily, but having a heart that considers others to be better than ourselves. It is nothing to do with weakness. It is a matter of valuing the opinion of others, knowing our place and being ready to learn. We need to recognize our limitations without trying to convince others that we are better than we actually are. Boasting about our achievements can not only make us unpopular, but is also a serious hindrance to our growing strong spiritually and spoils our relationship with God.



A prayer

Lord please help me to have a humble heart. I pray that You will help me to be in the right place and be able to copy Jesus who was humble enough to wash the feet of His disciples. I may not have to wash the feet of others but I ask You to help me to have those same feelings and be the person that You want me to be. Amen