

Is Heaven Actually Real?

Most of us have never seen an atom, yet scientists who describe them and their properties make us believe atoms exist. No one is alive today who shook hands with Napoleon or Abraham Lincoln, but because of historical records these individuals left behind, we know that they were indeed real people who actually lived. Chances are that you have never been to the North Pole, but does that make it any less real? Of course not.

The same is true of heaven. There are people who deny heaven exists. You can't see it with a telescope, but it is there—a real and tangible place God created for his people. It takes the eyes of faith, rather than a telescope, to see the reality of heaven and begin to grasp that this place awaits our arrival.

According to the Bible, it's spacious. Jesus said, "There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:2).

The final book of the Bible, Revelation, gives more details of what the future holds. Vast numbers of people call heaven home right now. Someday

you will arrive there too—if you have taken the necessary preparation steps.

Perhaps you are wondering, "How can I be sure I'm going to heaven?" The Bible tells us, "This is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Believing in God's Son involves more than simply believing he exists. It requires us to accept that Jesus took the penalty for our sin upon himself when he died. Believing this is the first step to a transformed life in Christ and eternal life with him in heaven.

Heaven is real and Jesus is designing a place for us. Will you prepare yourself

to go? "The 'right time' is now," the Bible says. "Today is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

[Jim Kraus]

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|| November 2018 ||

Guardian of the Trail

There are dogs specifically trained for search and rescue, and then there's Nanook. Thanks to one adventurous Siberian husky, 21-year-old Amelia Milling of Tennessee is alive. Milling, who is deaf, was hiking in Alaska's Chugach State Park when one of her hiking poles snapped. The force sent her sliding and tumbling 700 feet down a snowy mountain. She wasn't critically injured, just unsure of her next move. Then she looked up and saw what she thought was a white wolf watching her—until she noticed a collar. Nanook pulled her to safety.

When she began hiking again, Nanook decided to stick around.

Good thing. Milling slipped and fell again while crossing the Eagle River. Nanook grabbed her backpack straps with his teeth and pulled her to shore. Milling wasn't about to give up the trek, curling



up in her sleeping bag to get warm, but she was in danger of hypothermia. Nanook licked her face to keep her alert until she finally activated her emergency locator.

After Alaska state troopers picked them both up, authorities introduced Milling to Nanook's owner, Scott Swift, who lives near the start of the trail. Swift admitted that Nanook is a free spirit that often goes wandering off by himself in search of rescue missions.

"I believe the dog is a guardian angel," Milling said.

NAME & ADDRESS:

HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SPLENDID forever!



A MESSAGE OF CHEER AND GOOD NEWS. Pass it along!

The Dangerous Peel

Everyone knows the gag. Someone slips on a banana peel and goes splat. But ever wonder where that idea came from? Turns out, in the mid-19th century, bananas were a popular street food. People would eat their bananas and toss the peels anywhere and everywhere. Piles of peels collected, growing slimy and rotten. Slipping on banana peels became such a concern that *Harper's Weekly* lectured readers on the potential broken limbs that a discarded peel could create, and Sunday school teachers warned children that an injury of that sort could put them in the poorhouse. Thankfully today, we have garbage cans and compost piles to eliminate the danger.



A Wish Comes True

Myda Lewis of Stillwater, Oklahoma, had one thing unchecked on her bucket list. As her birthday approached, Lewis's hospice

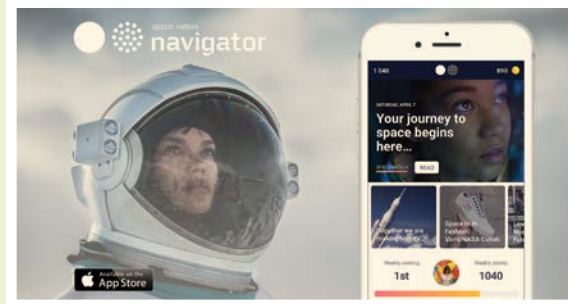
nurse found out what the nearly 107-year-old had always dreamed of doing: she wanted to ride in a convertible like she was in a parade. Determined to make it happen, the nurse spread the word throughout the community, and when the day came, the residents of Stillwater showed up to celebrate. Lewis donned a sparkly tiara, pink sunglasses, and a diamond-studded sash, and rode down Stillwater's Main Street in a silver convertible as hundreds of confetti-throwing folks cheered her on. Resident Carmen Steele said the outpouring of community spirit and support "just shows what Stillwater is made of."



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Accessible Training

Ever dreamed of being an astronaut? Space Nation, a Finnish company, has developed an app to begin your training. The Space Nation Navigator app, developed in partnership with NASA and Axiom Space, a company that helps train NASA astronauts, offers 13 training topics, ranging from the science of space to the dangers of spaceflight. The trainee learns through



games, social missions, and fitness challenges. Each lesson encompasses physical, mental, and social elements of space missions, based off real NASA records, images, and video.

"We hope an app like Space Nation's will help global users better understand what it takes to be an astronaut in a fun and entertaining way," says Mike Read, manager of commercial space utilization at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Classy Losers

Japan may have lost the FIFA World Cup this past summer, but they gained something greater—world respect for their impressive sportsmanship. After Japan's national soccer team was eliminated by Belgium in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, they did something unexpected. They cleaned their changing room, leaving it spotless, and left a note for their hosts that read thank you in Russian. Japan's supporters showed exemplary behavior, too—staying after the game to clean up litter in the stands.

Just for laughs



"I think he still has a little puppy left in him."



"Since I'm driving, why don't you tell me your thoughts instead of texting me?"

All guests bring us happiness—some in coming, some in going.

"The less I pray, the harder it gets; the more I pray, the better it goes."
—Martin Luther

It takes two to make a quarrel, but only one to end it.