

# 家新伴你行 Stay Connected ... We Care!



## **Truthfulness** *Jesus said, "Simply let your 'yes' be 'yes', and your 'no' be 'no'.... Matt5:37*

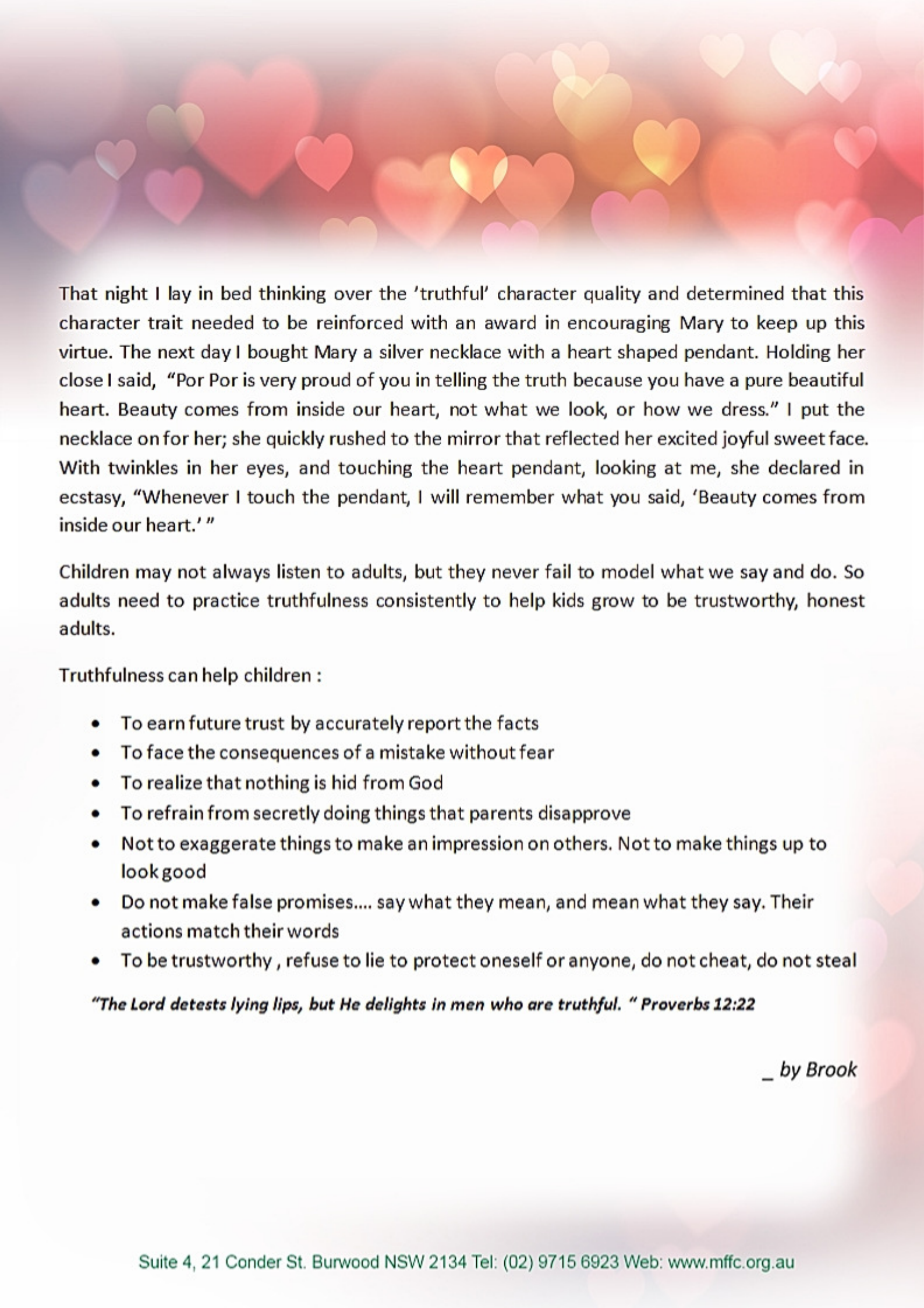
On one particular day both my husband and son-in-law had dinner appointments, my daughter invited me over for dinner. It so happened that she had to take Betsy, the eldest child, to Gymnastics training and would not get home till 6pm, leaving Mary and Johnny home with a Helper.

Being curious to see how well the younger kids, aged 8 and 5 would behave without Mum's presence, I arrived an hour early to find them playing well together.... building legos, and soon presented me with their collaborated final product in great pride. I was delighted and praised their co-operation, harmony and skills. No sooner have I finished my compliments, Mary pulled out a little note book with a page full of writing and asked me to read it.

With tremendous enthusiasm, I began to read, she wrote: "Mummy left home and told me to get Johnny to do 3 columns of writing for his homework. He said "no". I said, "you can do 1 ½ columns "but he walked away. I ran after him and PUSHED him, and he fell on the floor. He got angry and kicked the shoe shelves. All the shoes fell and scattered everywhere. I went upstairs to do my homework." This was a record of an incident to show Mummy when she came home. I noticed that underneath the word 'pushed' there was an erased mark and spaces left before the next word. My granddaughter drew closer to me, pointing to the word 'pushed', and speaking in a low tone, said, "I originally put 'he accidentally fell' but then I know I should tell the truth because God likes children who do not lie, so I rubbed it off and put "pushed', which was the truth."

I was absolutely thrilled with delight at her honesty, confessing her original deception without fear. I gave her the biggest hug, encouraging her to keep up in telling the truth in all circumstances, because nothing is hid from God and He delights people who are honest, and trustworthy.

I felt that the moral of this incident was incomplete without the process of apology and forgiveness. I gently held Mary's hands, corrected her unkind behaviour in pushing, and her lack of self-control, and that she had to say sorry to Johnny. She apologized willingly and Johnny said, "I forgive you, don't do it again!" They hugged each other happily while I whispered a prayer of thankfulness.



That night I lay in bed thinking over the 'truthful' character quality and determined that this character trait needed to be reinforced with an award in encouraging Mary to keep up this virtue. The next day I bought Mary a silver necklace with a heart shaped pendant. Holding her close I said, "Por Por is very proud of you in telling the truth because you have a pure beautiful heart. Beauty comes from inside our heart, not what we look, or how we dress." I put the necklace on for her; she quickly rushed to the mirror that reflected her excited joyful sweet face. With twinkles in her eyes, and touching the heart pendant, looking at me, she declared in ecstasy, "Whenever I touch the pendant, I will remember what you said, 'Beauty comes from inside our heart.' "

Children may not always listen to adults, but they never fail to model what we say and do. So adults need to practice truthfulness consistently to help kids grow to be trustworthy, honest adults.

Truthfulness can help children :

- To earn future trust by accurately report the facts
- To face the consequences of a mistake without fear
- To realize that nothing is hid from God
- To refrain from secretly doing things that parents disapprove
- Not to exaggerate things to make an impression on others. Not to make things up to look good
- Do not make false promises.... say what they mean, and mean what they say. Their actions match their words
- To be trustworthy , refuse to lie to protect oneself or anyone, do not cheat, do not steal

*"The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful. " Proverbs 12:22*

*\_ by Brook*