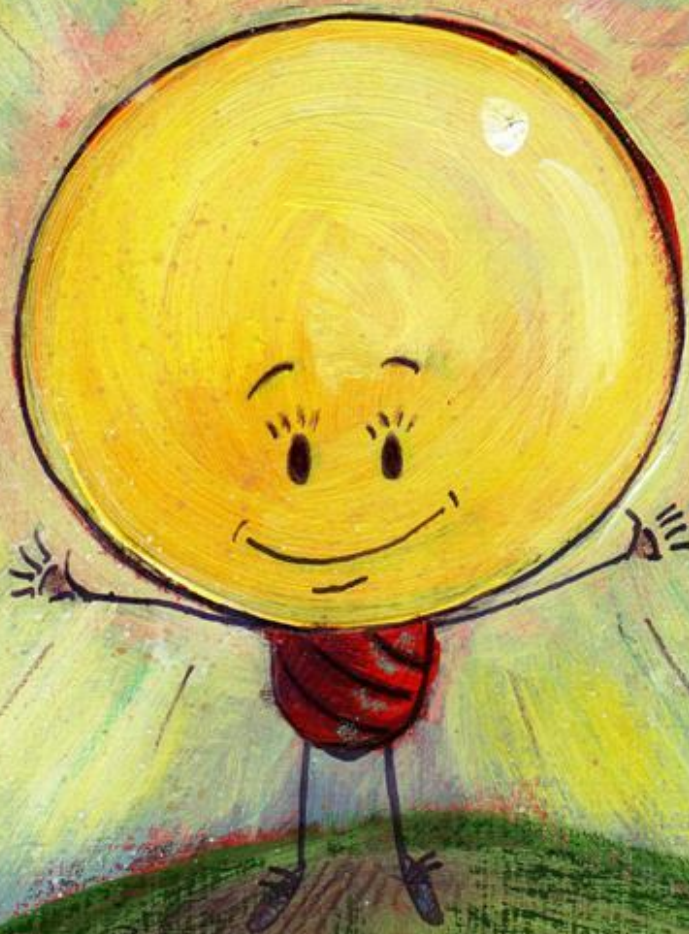


# Jonas Makes it Possible



by George Lihou

## An Introduction to “Jonas Makes It Possible”

Many people have asked “Why is it called The Jonas Centre?”

The following story was written to explain the Christian Gospel to children who attended Explorer/Pathfinder camps during their summer holidays at Climping in West Sussex.

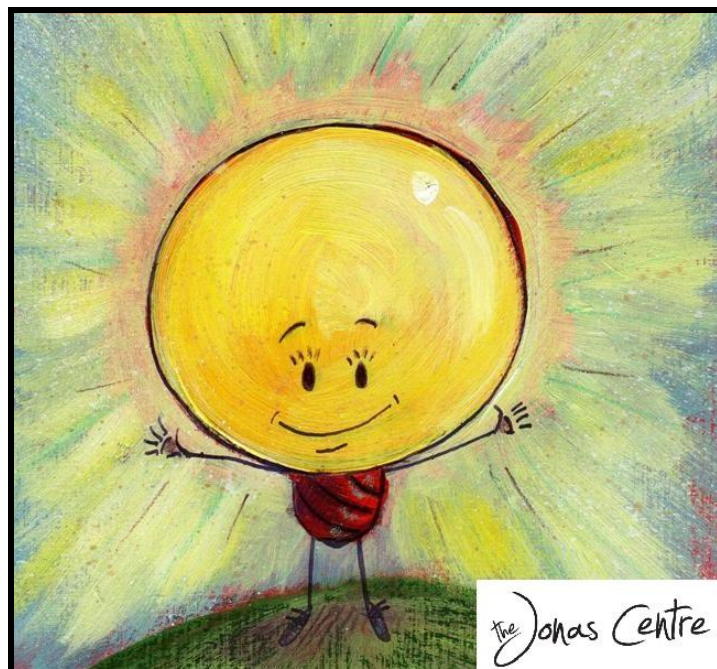
These holidays led to a vision for a place where more children and families could benefit from living together away from home for a few days experiencing God’s creation and discovering what God can make possible in their lives.

It was for this reason that The Jonas Trust began to develop The Jonas Centre in Wensleydale in the Autumn of 1996. Prior to managing The Jonas Centre, some of its staff had been actively involved at Climping for over a period of 20 years.

In the same way, God has great plans for each of us. We have been attracted away so that we miss out on God’s best but Jesus has made it possible for us to be rescued by coming and dying for us and His Holy Spirit can then give us the strength to live in His light.

The Jonas story has since been used in similar camps at The Jonas Centre.

Now you know why we are called “The Jonas Centre”.

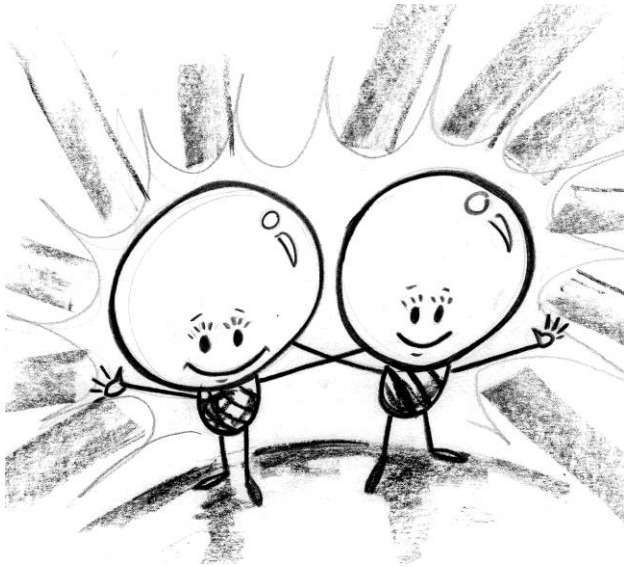


# Chapter One

There was no beginning. They had always existed. The land was marvellous and the views were breathtaking. The sky was always blue and the brilliance of the light never faded, there were trees for shade and they never wilted. There was fruit in abundance and an ever-changing variety of flowers grew along the banks of the clear, cool river. There were no clouds, no troubles, no sadness, in fact, nothing to spoil the wonder of that place since the devilish demon (Devlin by name) had been banished to the distant land of Decameron.

Devlin could spoil everything but there was no place for him here. He had no power in this haven.

In the midst, perfect in every detail, merging agreeably with the environment was to be found the home of Professor Godwin himself. The professor was one of those wonderful people whom you do not meet very often.



It would be difficult to say how old he was. In fact, his age didn't seem to matter. If you were old, he would seem old as well, and able to understand how you felt. If you were young, he would seem to be of similar age and know just what would interest you most. He was the kind of person who seemed to know about everything - not in a stuffy, boring, kind of way - because, when he talked you couldn't help listening and becoming so interested that time seemed to pass incredibly quickly. That was another of the amazing things about this place, time didn't seem to matter. Minutes seemed to be hours; days seemed to be

weeks and months seemed to be seconds.

Professor Godwin didn't live alone. He lived with his son, Jonas. Jonas was his only son and the two men did everything together. When I say they did everything together, I mean just that. Jonas was so like his father that on a dark night you could mistake one for the other. But in this place there were no dark nights at all. There were no nights! It was always light!

That's what it seemed to be all about.

Within their home, Professor Godwin and Jonas had a special room. I will call it a laboratory - but it wasn't really like any laboratory that you will have seen. It was from here that the permanent light seemed to come.

I wonder if things were the same before the Devilish Devlin was banished to Decameron. I wonder how long it will be before he becomes active again. I wonder what the Professor and Jonas are up to in that laboratory of theirs. They seem to be getting great joy and satisfaction from what they are doing. ....I wonder?

# Chapter Two

What were the Professor and Jonas up to in that laboratory of theirs? Were they just generating the light that seemed to be everywhere in this place? - making everything so colourful and sparkling, allowing nothing to be hidden from view. Any onlooker would have been dazzled by the brightness and beauty of the place - but of course, there were no onlookers - just Professor Godwin and his son. It was for this reason that they were busy.

Within the space and time around them they were building another place. It was to be as beautiful and wonderful as the place where they lived. There would be enough light for that place too. There would be land with grass and trees and fruit and flowers. There would be rivers and seas. It would be perfect.

The Professor and Jonas thoroughly enjoyed the place where they lived. In fact, their presence seemed to be everywhere, even when they were busy in their laboratory. They would need some creatures that could enjoy this new place that they were making. Better still, they would have lots of different creatures. Some would live on the land and move about just as they did. Others could live in the waters and move through them in a different way. Then there could be others who would live in the air and rise up above the land and water on wings. Some of the creatures could be really small - almost too small to be seen. Others would be really big.

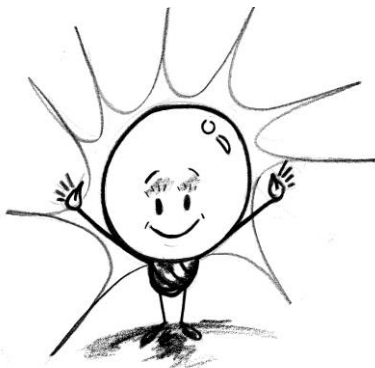
They were getting great satisfaction out of their work, just like an artist painting a picture or a writer making up a story or a small boy playing with clay. But this was real! This was no picture or model. This was a real place with real living things.

Then the climax came.

"Let's", said the Professor, "Let's make a creature something like you and me, Jonas. Let's make a creature - a Climper we'll call it, who will be able to take some of our light into this place that we have made. They can be my children, just as you are, Jonas. They will be your special brothers and sisters."

And that's just what they did. The day of the Climper had come.

Now, you'll want to know what a Climper looks like and that's not too easy to describe. Imagine an onion - the wrong way up and you'll be thinking of the right kind of shape. But Climpers are not solid like an onion. Their outside skin is transparent, except for their base. The Professor designed them this way on purpose so that the light could shine out from them. So from within their head, or body, for they are much the same, flows some of that tremendous light that the Professor wanted to bring to this new place, which, because it was smaller than the Haven where they themselves lived, they decided to call it Littlehaven.



The Professor and Jonas looked at the Littlehaven that they had made and they were pleased with it. They looked at the Climpers who they had made to live there and considered how to control them from the Big Haven above.

It was then that the tremendous idea came!

"We won't control them, Jonas, they have our light to show them the way. We will let them control themselves."

So the Climpers began their life in Littlehaven, with their lights glowing, watched over by the Professor and Jonas. The Professor loved and cared for them just as you would expect a good father to care for his children. But what was the devilish demon, Devlin, doing all this time? Can the land of Decameron still contain him?

## Chapter Three

All was dark in Decameron. There was an icy cold that would send shivers down your spine and then, without warning, it would become so hot and sultry that you couldn't get your breath and wished for some shade. But there was no shade in Decameron because there was no sun to give light or cast shadows. There were no grassy fields, just a kind of jungle with trees that seemed slimy and black with trailing branches that seemed to tug at your hair as you walked beneath them. Spidery creatures ran past your legs, and your feet would sink into the black, slimy, mud. The sky was filled with shrieks and screams that seemed to come from some tortured creatures that seemed nowhere to be seen.

Somewhere, where you couldn't see him, but where he could always see you, somewhere in the midst of Decameron lived the devilish demon, Devlin. He had never forgiven the Professor for banishing him to this dark place, even though he preferred darkness to light. As the power of the Professor was stronger than the power of Devlin, there was not much he could do but lie and wait for his opportunity.

Then, as he waited, he saw the glow of the newly created Climpers, shining from Littlehaven. He watched, he thought, and he planned - and, in keeping with his name, his plans were devilish. He may not be able to destroy the Professor - but what power he might be able to have over these unsuspecting Climpers!

A Climper's life depended on the light that shone out. With the light, each Climper could enjoy all the pleasures of Littlehaven, which the Professor had provided for them. Each Climper was free to decide what to do at any particular moment.

It was here that Devlin saw his opportunity. He could make things look attractive too. If he could persuade some Climpers to decide to go his way, instead of the way that the Professor had planned, then he would have the chance to extinguish their lights. Then their lives would be meaningless and the Professor's lovely Littlehaven would be spoiled.

So Devlin had his fun. He devised all sorts of devilish things to attract the Climpers' attention. It was not very long before his scheme worked. One by one the Climpers fell into his trap. Their light was extinguished and they no longer found any worthwhile purpose in their lives. Such was the cunning of Devlin that the Climpers didn't really realise what was happening. They blamed themselves

and each other when things went wrong. Some even blamed the Professor. They didn't give a thought to Devlin.

The Professor had given them the freedom to choose and, unwittingly, they had chosen the way of Devlin and had cut themselves off from the light, which had previously brought them joy and purpose. The so-called excitement which they now got from Devlin had very little to offer in comparison to the joy that the Professor had created for them in Littlehaven. As generation of Climpers succeeded generation, so the young Climpers had no knowledge of what life had once been like when they knew the Professor as their father and before the devilish demon's schemes had separated them from his light and love. A Climper with no light shining from within is a pathetic creature.

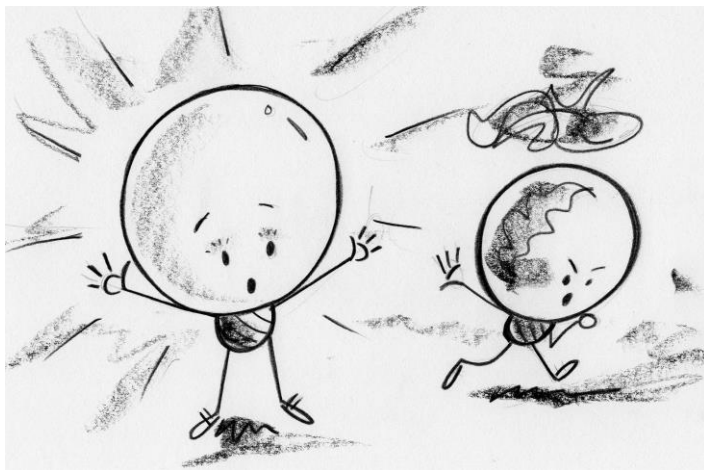
Has Devlin really won? How will the Professor respond to this challenge? Will Climpers ever shine again?

## Chapter Four

Jonas quickly became aware of how his father was feeling. He had never seen him quite like this before and the feeling became his as well. It wasn't exactly gloom, more a feeling of sadness and bitter disappointment. After all, the Climpers were his creation. He loved these special children of his and Littlehaven was his idea of a wonderful place where they could enjoy all the marvellous things he had prepared for them.

Now they had turned their backs on him and were going to a miserable existence with Devlin instead.

"We must rescue them, before it is too late, Jonas", said the Professor. "We must warn them of the dangers ahead if they don't turn back. Decameron is no place for a Climper to end up in."



turn back.

However, Devlin's power had gripped them too firmly. They took no notice of those glowing Climpers and continued to choose the way of Devlin.

The Professor knew that there was only one thing left to do and Jonas knew what his father was thinking.

So, in the same way as he had created Climpers in the first place, Professor Godwin created some new Climpers, equipped with his light and switched on. These would be special messengers from the Professor and were called Proff-etts. They grew up with the other Climpers in Littlehaven and tried to tell them about the Professor and the sort of life that was available for them in his family if they would

"You must go to Littlehaven, Jonas. You must tell the Climpers about me - about our light - and about our wonderful family. You must tell them how they can escape from the clutches of Devlin. Show them that if they join up with you - then our power can flow through them again. Tell them that they are meant to be my children and that I love and care for them and want the best for each one of them.

It will be dangerous, Jonas, but I will be with you and watching you - and nothing can extinguish your light permanently - not even Devlin.  
So Jonas became a Climper.

Will Jonas be able to rescue the Climpers? Will they take any notice of what he has to say? Will they believe him?

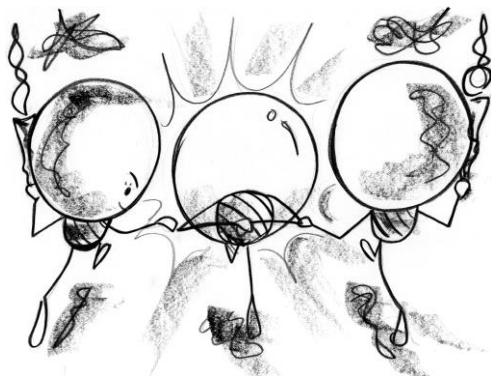
## Chapter Five

Jonas grew up amongst the Climpers with a light brighter than they had ever seen before. When he became fully-grown he gathered a set of Climpers around him. He told them why he had come - but he felt sure that they didn't really understand about the Professor and about the Big Haven and about the light. He showed his power by mending damaged Climpers and bringing light to others. He made friends, but he made enemies too. Devlin made sure of that. Devlin had been enjoying himself and he wasn't going to give up easily.

Because Devlin wasn't very bright, in more ways than one, he thought that the only way to stop Jonas gaining the support of all the Climpers was to extinguish his light - but he knew that it would not be easy to do this.

Jonas knew what it would mean if his enemies got their way. He knew too that this was part of his father's great plan for rescuing the Climpers and bringing them back into his family. If his light became extinguished he would experience the separation from his father that had made the Climpers themselves so pathetic. He had always been with his father. He had always had the joy of shining brightly like him. He couldn't bear the thought of being separated from him for one moment but if this was the only way, he was prepared to suffer - if, in the end he could save other Climpers from the same ghastly fate.

The day came. He was handed over to his enemies. Of course he had the power within him to escape - but that was not part of the plan. He was ready to do anything for the sake of the Climpers. Devlin's hour had come. His followers had devised a particularly violent way to extinguish a Climper's light. In a few



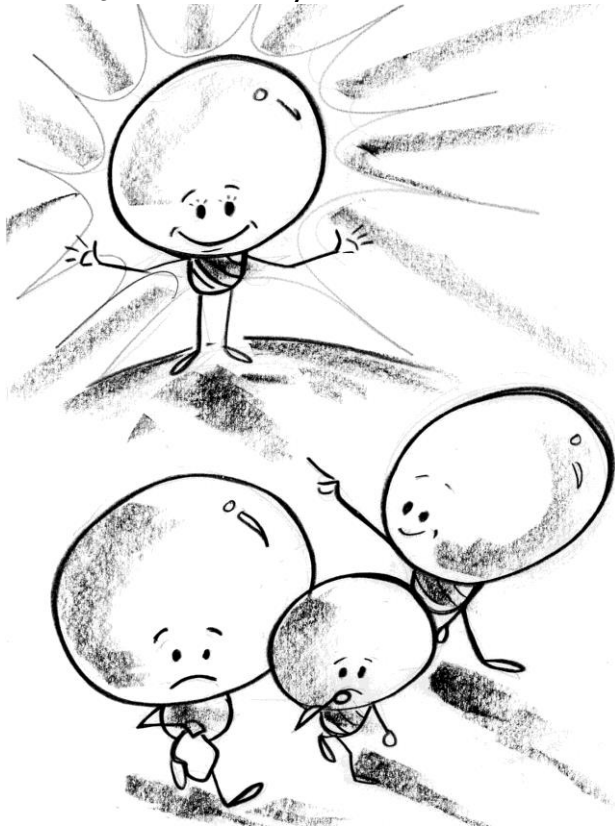
hours it was done. Those who had been his friends took refuge for fear that the same would happen to them and the little light that they had gained from Jonas got weaker.

Had Devlin triumphed? Had the Professor lost the only son who lived with him in the Big Haven? Were the Climpers unable to be rescued?

## Chapter Six

The Climpers who followed Devlin, even those who Devlin was using without them realising it, were triumphant. The Climpers who had been friends with Jonas were puzzled and sad. They hadn't expected this to happen. You would have expected the Professor to be sad as well and it will surprise you to know that this was not the case. His plans had not been foiled by Devlin. On the contrary, Professor Godwin was about to complete his plan for rescuing Climpers from the clutches of the devilish demon.

Jonas's body had been thrown into a bin. This was the usual end for extinguished Climpers. It was also usual for Devlin to take them from there to Decameron.



This was not to happen to Jonas! When his friends looked for his body - it was gone! Then they were aware of a light behind them. It was Jonas! Alive! Shining brighter than ever! The Professor's plan had been completed and they were overjoyed.

Now, surely the other Climpers would listen to what Jonas had to say. Surely they would see what a mistake it was to follow Devlin. He had never brought power back to an extinguished Climper. Now they must see that an unlit Climper is a pathetic creature who is missing the purpose for which he was created. Jonas and his friends would now be able to explain to all the Climpers that they too could have the light in their

lives by joining up with him. Jonas provided the only way by which they could have the Professor's power in their lives, be sure of being his children, and have the light that can never be extinguished.

Jonas gave them even better news. He told them that switched on Climpers who were his brothers and sisters would never be taken to Decameron by Devlin but when the time came for them to leave Littlehaven there would be a place reserved for them in the Big Haven with the Professor. So, in every way their lives would be better.

Will Jonas be successful in persuading the Climpers? Will all the Climpers join up with him? What difference will it make for a Climper to be glowing with light, like a child of the Professor, just as he had originally planned?

## Chapter Seven

Life was great for the Climpers. Jonas was with them. Their lights were glowing. They could feel the Professor's power flowing through them. They



wondered how they had managed to exist before without knowing that the Professor was their father and had great things planned for them in his family. Life had purpose again. They must help other Climpers to get to know Jonas and join up with him.

The day began like any other day. They were walking with Jonas when he broke the news.

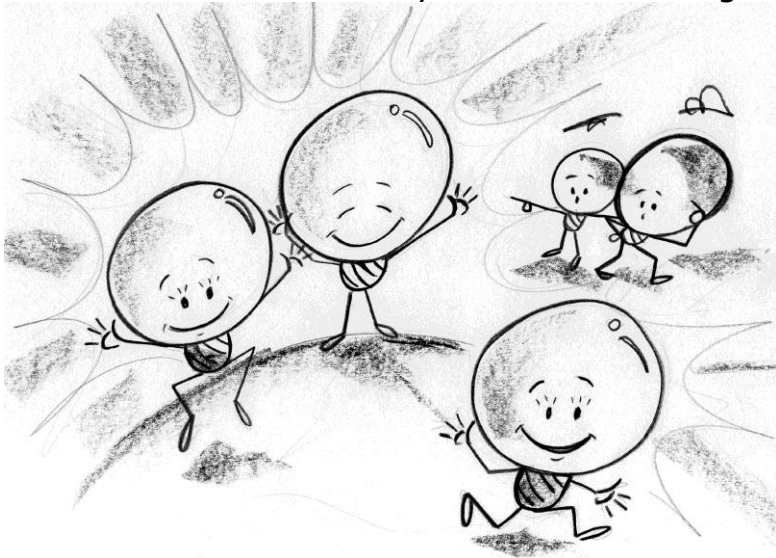
"I am going to leave you," he said.

Their hearts sank and their lights flickered.

"Leave us! - you can't do that!"

"I must return to our father and prepare for when you come - but don't worry - wait together and I will send help to you."

Their lights flickered again, but they didn't go out. They wondered how long their power would last without Jonas beside them. Then they remembered what he had said - and they waited - wondering what was going to happen.



It was several days later that it happened. The unlit Climpers were going about their daily work getting together all the things that they thought would make their lives better without realising that it was light they needed. Suddenly, they were aware of a tremendous commotion. A crowd soon gathered. They saw a group of brilliantly lit Climpers singing and dancing and shouting. No one had ever seen anything

like it before. Then one of them stepped forward and began to explain about Jonas; how he had come to Littlehaven to warn the Climpers about Devlin; how he had been extinguished and how he had come alight again; how he had returned to the Professor and that all this commotion was because he had sent his special power to those who were switched on to him and were in his family.

Some of the crowd could see that something spectacular had happened. They couldn't ignore this Climper. The evidence was in front of them. They recognised this Climper who was talking as the one who had run away when Jonas was extinguished. Something had changed him. The Climpers really were alight and glowing brighter than ever. They were not afraid to speak about Devlin despite what had happened to Jonas. Obviously what they were saying was worth listening to.

"What must we do?" they shouted, "What must we do?"

"Believe Jonas, and turn your back on Devlin", they were told. Then an even more amazing thing happened. One by one, more Climpers began to glow with light. It was as if the lights of an enormous stadium were being switched on one after the other. It got brighter and brighter. More and more Climpers were deciding to join up with Jonas and enjoy being in the family. He hadn't been extinguished in vain. His light hadn't really been put out to satisfy Devlin but so that many more Climpers could be switched on.

Littlehaven might have been able to ignore one or two glowing Climpers but would it be able to ignore the hundreds that were now alight? Was Devlin beaten? Would he still be able to extinguish Climpers and take them to Decameron? What did the future hold?

## Chapter Eight

Devlin, the devilish demon was angry. Years ago he had been banished to Decameron and more recently he had enjoyed exerting his powers in Littlehaven and attracting unsuspecting Climpers to himself. He wanted them to miss the best and be satisfied with the life that he had to offer. But now! Now, the power of Professor Godwin and his son, Jonas, was let loose amongst the Climpers and he wouldn't be the victor much longer unless he too became extra busy in Littlehaven. He would stir up his followers. He would rouse them against these goodly, glowing Climpers. He couldn't stop the Professor but he could try to put out some more lights.

The cunning of Devlin knows no ends. "If I go to them myself", he thought, "They will recognise me and be on the defensive. I will attack them through their own thoughts".

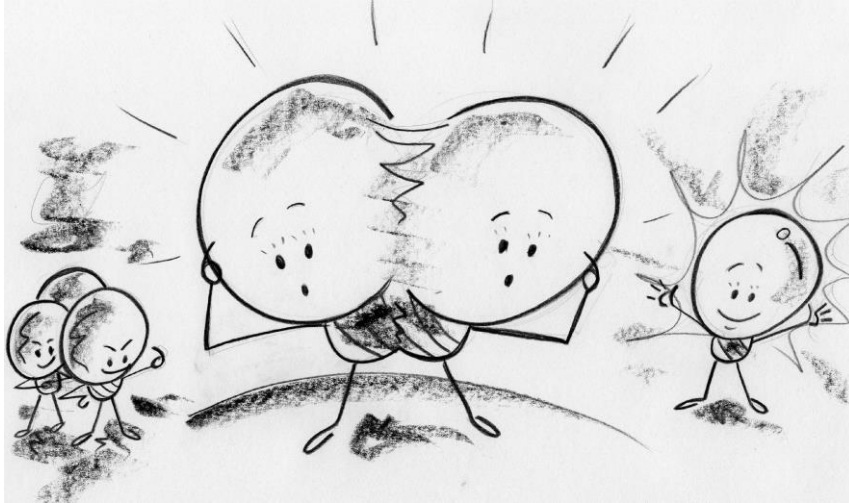
And that is what he did. He spoke to glowing Climpers, one by one, right into their heads, just like the headphones of an Ipod.

"You're not really any different from anyone else", he would say, "All that talk about Jonas, it's all a story made up to trick you. You don't want to believe rubbish like that. You were having a fine life before - you don't need anything different now. All this talk about glowing, it's only a passing fashion. It'll be out of date in a few months' time - and what do your old friends think about you anyway - you'll lose them, you know. They won't stand for your new ideas about being switched on to Jonas - who was he anyway? How can he be your brother? He was only a Climper like you. What makes you think he was any different?"

In this way Devlin hoped to discourage many Climpers who had started to glow. Certainly, some began to flicker. They were the ones who hadn't joined tightly enough on to Jonas and hadn't started to take on the family likeness. They still had one eye on the darker side of life that had previously seemed so attractive. But those who had really seen the advantage of being switched on and really meant to find out what life was like in the Professor's family were not taken in by Devlin's subtle brainwashing.

Devlin was bright enough - in a dark kind of way, to see that he would have to use other methods as well if he was going to stop the Climpers from glowing. Attacking their minds was not enough. He would have to employ more violent means because the followers of Jonas were increasing in number.

The glowing Climpers soon became aware that some of their dark neighbours were keen to stop the story of Jonas from spreading. Sadly, the day came when one of them was smashed by stones thrown by their enemies because he wouldn't stop glowing. His friends were sad, but they remembered that Jonas had said that glowing Climpers would never end up in Decameron and they knew that he had gone to meet the Professor and Jonas face to face in the Big Haven. Devlin kept on putting devilish schemes into the minds of the enemies and they kept on making things hard for those who were switched on to Jonas.



The glowing ones had two secret weapons that their enemies didn't understand and, as long as they used them, their lights never became dimmer.

They had what we might call radio waves. Through these they kept in constant communication with Jonas himself. Although they couldn't see him,

they knew that he heard their messages. In fact, he had used the same method to keep in touch with the Professor when he was in Littlehaven. They told him about their difficulties and he sent them extra strength. He told them when they were worried and he cheered them up. They shared their fears and their joys with him and he kept their lights glowing. Sometimes he seemed so close to them that they could recognise his voice telling them what to do.

They also had words which the Professor had written to help them and they were able to read and understand them because they had his light to see with. The dark Climpers got hold of these words, and even read them sometimes, but didn't get much help from them because they didn't have the light that came from Jonas.

Sometimes, one of the glowing ones would try to manage without reading these words, or using the radio waves, and very soon their light would begin to go dim and they would be in danger.

Will Devlin succeed in extinguishing more Climpers? Will the glowing ones keep it up? Are the radio waves and the written words enough to keep them glowing?

## Chapter Nine

Have you ever heard a professor cheer? Let me tell you that Professor Godwin and Jonas were in constant touch with the glowing Climpers in Littlehaven. They watched everything that was happening and gave all the power and help that was needed whenever it was requested. After all, these Climpers were once again his own special children. It was almost as if a great cheer like that rose in the laboratory each time another Climper joined the family and began to glow again.

The Climper population was growing all the time. The Climpers usually lived alone in little houses called 'shades'. These shades were not much use when the Climpers were dark - and Jonas had told the glowing Climpers not to hide their light under a shade but to let everyone see that they were switched on to him.

Now something new happened to the glowing Climpers. They found that their light grew stronger and more powerful when they gathered together in groups so they started to meet together regularly. They used the radio waves when they were together in the group as well as when they were alone. They thought about the written words and they remembered how Jonas had come to live with them and been extinguished and how he had come alight again. They shared experiences together and were able to help each other to stand up to the attacks of Devlin.

The Professor and Jonas were very pleased to see these gatherings because Climpers were beginning to see the real reason for which they had been created. The Professor loved to see the members of his family meeting happily together like this. When the Climpers met together in this way they received even more power from the Professor.

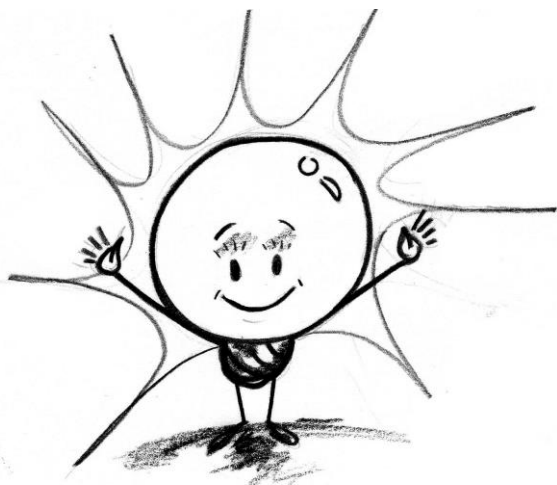
Sometimes a Climper would stray away from the group thinking that they could manage on their own. The result of this was very sad. It was just as if that Climper had been a glowing coal that had fallen out of the fire - the longer it stayed out of the group, the colder and duller it got, and more often than not Devlin saw his chance and reduced the glow to a glimmer.

The Professor didn't change his original plan. He continued to allow Climpers to control themselves. Every Climper had the chance to hear about Jonas. They could see the glowing Climpers and discover how to join the family and glow for themselves. I wonder why it was that so many Climpers chose to stay in the darkness. I suppose it was the power of Devlin from which they found it hard to get loose. It was sad to see so many Climpers choosing to lead a life without any real purpose. They were being taken in by the cunning schemes of Devlin when they could have turned their backs on him and found the real meaning of life. That was the great plan when the Professor made Littlehaven and created the Climpers to be his sons and daughters.

It made the Professor sad too - very sad, because he loved all the children he had created. He loved them as much as his special son, Jonas, and he longed for them to return his love by coming back to him.

Will more Climpers get switched on? How long can the glowing ones keep it up? Will Devlin try more ways to stop them?

## Chapter Ten



There is one thing that I haven't told you and that is when all this happened. You may be surprised to know that our story began thousands of years ago, and that it was over two thousand years ago that the Professor sent Jonas to live amongst the Climpers in Littlehaven. You might have expected to hear that the glowing Climpers had all faded out years ago - but you would be wrong. There are many of them in Littlehaven today.

How then has the news of Jonas and the Professor travelled throughout Littlehaven through the years? The answer is simple. When a Climper switches on to Jonas and receives the power of the Professor in his life, he glows brightly for the first time. At that moment the Climper begins to realise what it means to be a child of the Professor and what life is all about. He turns his back on Devlin and discovers the strength that Jonas gives to live life to the full. Most of all the Climper finds his real purpose in life. At that moment he (or she) is certain that they are in the family and begin to become more and more like Jonas and takes on the family likeness. A Climper was made to glow - to give out light - and until a Climper has the power of Jonas he hasn't really been alive at all.

The Professor cares about the Climpers in his family so much that he takes very great care that Devlin will never put their lights right out again. If they begin to flicker they know that they can come to him, admit where they have gone wrong, and be sure that he will give them another new start, brightly glowing once again.

Becoming a glowing Climper is so exciting - so wonderful - that it cannot be kept a secret and a Climper who has joined the family cannot help letting other Climpers know what has happened,

The difference between a Climper who is glowing with light and a Climper who is switched off is so great that other Climpers can't help but notice. This is why the story of Jonas is still told today. The power of the Professor, which comes through Jonas, has been passed on from one Climper to another ever since those first Climpers began to glow.

Do you think that you will see the difference that the light has made in their lives if you visit Littlehaven tomorrow?

This is not really the end of the story. This story has no end.

We are still living out the rest of the story at this moment!

### **What next?**

The Bible tells us that Jesus was with God and was the same as God and already existed before the world was created.

Through him, God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. He was the source of life, and this life brought light to mankind. He became a human being and lived among us.

**(Read this in John's gospel Chapter 1 and verses 1-4 and verse 14.)**

God loved the world so much that he gave his only son (Jesus) so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life....The light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light because their deeds are evil.  
**(John 3 verses 16 & 19)**

"I am the light of the world," Jesus said. "Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."  
**(John 8 verse 12)**



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