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God Bless the Service Provider

Austin Shrader

In the distant future, the world as we know it will change. Wars over terrorism, religion, and land will end.

A solution to worldwide hunger will take effect, providing food for everyone in the world. Corrupt and ineffective governments will fall, and all other crises, national and international, will cease to exist. Out of the ashes of the old world, a new society will rise in which all the people of the world will live peacefully and happily together. The cause of worldwide peace and unity is not the result of war or one government reigning over all others. It is the result, however, of man's recognition of the one true higher power. A divine power of such immense knowledge and wisdom that far surpasses any human learning capabilities. In the future, the world will be ruled by the almighty Cell Phone.

As the sun rises over the horizon on what is promised to be a beautiful Tuesday, the good people of Anywhere, Texas, begin waking up to the start of a new day. The small town of Anywhere is a well organized suburban town with a population of around 17,000 hard working, good Samaritans. In an extraordinary house on an ordinary street, five year old Suzy Smith was just waking up. Little Suzy crawled out of her bed clutching her fuzzy teddy bear to her chest. Wearing her warm and soft pajamas, Suzy quietly walked over to her nightstand and turned on her lamp. The lamp illuminated a brightly colored room with pink and purple walls and toys placed carefully across the room. The lamp also illuminated little Suzy's favorite thing in the world, her cell phone, placed lovingly on the night stand like an idol. A smile spread across little Suzy's cherub like face as she carefully grabbed the wonderful device. Still hugging her beloved Teddy, Suzy pressed the cell phone into her chest, hugging both Teddy and the phone for a moment. Then, Suzy looked down at Teddy in one hand and her cell phone in the other. A brief look of puzzlement flashed across her face as she looked at Teddy and then the phone as if making an all too easy decision. The look of puzzlement quickly left her face as Suzy carelessly tossed Teddy over her shoulder and walked out of her room holding her cell phone lovingly to her heart. Little Suzy walked out of her room and carefully down the stairs. Still holding her cell phone affectionately, little Suzy silently entered an already deathly quiet kitchen to the smell of scrambled eggs and frying bacon. Golden rays of sunshine shone through the windows and danced across the kitchen counter tops. Suzy's father sat at the kitchen table while Suzy's mother stood idly at the counter.



LONELY Christina Chuang

Upon Suzy's arrival, Suzy's parents both looked at their daughter adoringly. Suzy walked over to the table and crawled up and into a chair next to her father.

Suzy placed her cell phone on the table in front of her and continued to gaze at it as if the device might suddenly declare that Christmas had been rescheduled and moved to tomorrow. Suzy's mother reached into a pocket in her apron and pulled out her own cell phone. She stood there looking down at the phone as her fingers flew across its keys like lightning. Finished with the task on the phone, she dropped it back into her pocket. Moments later, Suzy's cell phone lit up on the table and

began to screech and shake as it vibrated around in circles like a dying bird. Suzy quickly grabbed her phone from the table and silenced its wailing like a loving mother to a crying baby with a simple touch of her finger. Bent over the phone, Suzy read the message that appeared on the phone's lit up screen. The message read...

"Suzy darling, do you want some breakfast?" Suzy's mom had texted from the kitchen counter, a mere two feet away from her daughter.

Suzy's fingers swept over the letter/numbered buttons of her phone with similar accuracy and respectively sent her mother a reply. Her mom was waiting though, ready with her phone in her hand to stop the vibrating as soon as it began.

"Yes please, mommy." The message from Suzy read.

Suzy's mother turned and faced the counter, swiping the screen on her phone with a lilac colored finger nail. She entered some brief commands into her phone and then dropped it back into her pocket. When she was done, a plate of freshly cooked eggs and bacon appeared with a light pop on the counter top. The two eggs were arranged as eyes and the single piece of bacon formed a smile; Suzy's favorite. Suzy's mother placed the plate on the

table beside Suzy's cell phone and sat down in a chair next to her husband, the whole while never uttering a word. While Suzy sat quietly eating her breakfast, her father went back to watching the morning news on his cell phone. A pair of jet black headphones emerged out of his phone and snaked up and into his ears. A news anchor appeared on the phone's tiny screen and began talking about yet another story of someone being saved by their cell phone. An even smaller picture appeared in the upper right of the screen next to the anchor of a beautiful middle aged woman. Her name appeared below her: Mary Magdalene. The news anchor went on to tell of a tragic story of how Mary had been driving home one night and skidded on a patch of black ice. The car flew off the road and rolled several times. Her body crushed and bloody from the hellish accident, she managed to find her cell phone from the twisted remains of the car and called 911. With tears rolling down her face, Mary recalled that after she dialed 911; she nearly passed out from her injuries. In her semiconscious state, a heavenly glow seemed to be shining from her phone. Mary went on to tell that right before she passed out, a shimmering silhouette of a man appeared over her and told her she would be okay. The news anchor said something further, and then the news switched to commercials, something about a new downloadable app available to control your lawnmower.

Suzy's father took a sip of his steaming cup of coffee and wiped his peppery mustache with the back of his hand. He shot his wife a text informing her that he was off to work and silently stood up from the table. With a slight pat on Suzy's head and a smile at his wife, he walked out of the room. Suzy was very proud of her daddy. He worked so hard at his job. Every day, daddy would go upstairs and enter his office, closing the door behind him. There he sat all day working, making phone calls, texting co-workers, and creating chart after chart on his phone for various products in the market. At a quarter past six in the evening, daddy would finally emerge from his office, not too tired from the day's work to still play Suzy's favorite tennis game on her cell phone with her. Suzy, still too young to understand, didn't know that every working man around the world did the same thing as her daddy, day after day.

Finished with her breakfast minutes later, Suzy began to piddle with her phone at the table. Her mother gave her a warm grin and made quick movements on her phone's touch pad. The dirty plate zoomed over to the kitchen sink and automatically began scrapping off the remaining scraps of egg and bacon with warm soapy water.

“Suzy, you need to go get dressed and get ready to leave for school.”
Suzy’s mom texted her from across the table.

“Okay mommy.” Suzy replied back.

Suzy left the table and went upstairs to get dressed. Ten minutes later, she came down dressed with her bright pink backpack on, the obligatory rectangular bulge in her front jeans pocket. Her mother stood occupied in the middle of the living room, controlling the duster by pointing her cell phone around the room. After texting their goodbyes, her mother turned away from her dusting and gave Suzy a big hug and kiss on the cheek. Suzy then left for school. Walking right past the front door, she quietly trekked up the stairs and back into her room. Placing her backpack on the floor next to her bed, she pulled out her cell phone and sat at her desk. Suzy pulled out her favorite pair of pink head phones and plugged them into her phone. Scrolling past hundreds of pictures of friends, songs, games, and some of her apps she had gotten for her last birthday, Suzy came to a screen on her phone that read:

Little Oaks Elementary

Educating Your Children Today, In Preparation For Tomorrow

After typing in her screen name, she was logged into her class of twenty six other five year old children. All these children Suzy knew but had never met in person. Above her cell phone’s screen, a little camera focused on Suzy’s face and emitted a holographic version of Suzy into the virtual classroom. Suzy’s teacher, Mrs. Clearwater, sat behind her desk. She graciously watched over all the students as they all logged into the class room with a low humming sound. Back in Suzy’s bedroom, a bell rang out from her phone on her desk, signaling the beginning of class. Mrs. Clearwater rose from her desk and began.

“Today we will continue our lesson on how to further personalize your cell phones button colors.” Mrs. Clearwater trilled in a high pitched voice to the holographic images of twenty seven rosy faced students, all paying strict attention.

“You start by shifting through the main menu to the screen that says...” Mrs. Clearwater whirled on in a squeaky voice.

Little Suzy sat at her desk, immersed in her lessons throughout the school day. The class covered topics such as the history of technology, the scientific anatomy of cell phones, proper texting grammar, and Suzy’s favorite

subject, Service Provider appreciation. Each day, the class would spend at least an hour in which they talked about the Great Service Provider. Suzy would never forget the first day of school when they learned that the Service Provider was the son of God. In class they talked about how the Service Provider united the world and created the now peaceful Great Society that everyone lived in. They learned that the Service Provider was rumored to have magical battery recharging powers and could turn water into gigabytes. The class would draw pictures of the Service Provider and color them in with bright and beautiful colors. Suzy, as well as everyone else in the world of course, loved the Service Provider. He was idolized and thought to be the greatest hero in the world.

The day went by like any other day, peacefully and completely silent. Suzy finished her school work and her daddy finished his work as well. After her dad came out of his office, the family had a wonderful dinner of cheeseburgers and French fries, which tasted a little like radiation. Suzy and her dad even played a game of tennis on their phones in the living room together after dessert.

That night, Suzy sat kneeling down next to her bed in her pajamas to say her prayers, just like any other night. She pulled out her cell phone and bowed her head as she began to text.

"Dear God, thank you for everything you have provided for me and my family. Thank you for my friends and the wonderful life I have. Most importantly God, thank you for my amazing cell phone and all the great things your son the Service Provider has done to keep the world safe and peaceful. Please guide me to grow and achieve great things like Him. In the Service Providers name we pray, TTFN." The text ended.

Similar texts were being sent all over the world, saying the same thing. Suzy stood up from her prayer, and after kissing her cell phone, she lovingly replaced it on her nightstand next to the lamp. She looked around her room momentarily for her teddy bear but gave up quickly with a shrug of her shoulders. Little Suzy quietly crawled into bed without a word and turned off the light. She had a strange dream of a brave little girl hiding in a cold and dark place, writing in a diary. Somewhere near the hiding girl, dark figures with mysterious symbols on their arms continued to march closer and closer.