

# ISS Vanguard Stories



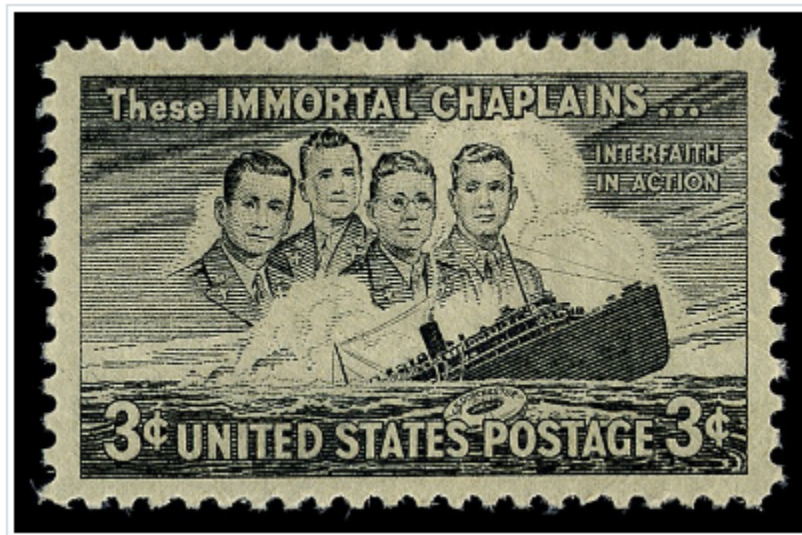
**By Len Lindsay** (aka Levi O'Connor)

(corrected edition December 2023)



# Levi O'Connor's Starship Stories & Blessings

## Introduction



Just like the **four Immortal Chaplains...** **Starship ISS Vanguard** has a chaplain (unofficially) ... **Levi O'Connor**. During our countdown articles, Levi injected some levity with his escapades with 18 of the crewmembers aboard the starship. His stories always included a blessing and often even some music or other YouTube track.

All 24 of Levi's stories and blessings are in this book as well as the Christening of the Starship, an Introduction to the Starship Chaplain and a Grand Finale at the end.

Remember the ISS Vanguard Motto:

**Ex Fortitudine Veritas**

**From Spiritual Endurance Comes Truth**



As you read this book, you will come across 21 YouTube tracks. I put all of them on one webpage as well as into a playlist so you can watch any of them from there!

**Webpage:** You can see all 21 YouTube music / tracks on this page:

=> [myissvanguard.com/countdown/count-down-songs-and-youtube-tracks/](https://myissvanguard.com/countdown/count-down-songs-and-youtube-tracks/)

**Playlist:** I also made a playlist of all 21 YouTube tracks in this book:

=> [www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKN1TfJuLBo&list=PL3jobwJaGlFLryX0yajNP7ISb81\\_76ULC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKN1TfJuLBo&list=PL3jobwJaGlFLryX0yajNP7ISb81_76ULC)

**View Full Articles** => [myissvanguard.com/countdown/count-down-articles/](https://myissvanguard.com/countdown/count-down-articles/)

*[this is the December 2024 edition with the 3 missing pages (74-76)]*



# Great Big Thank You

**Levi O'Connor** enjoys life. He enjoys people. Wherever Levi goes, the morale seems to get a boost. He reminds people to not worry about things that bother them, but to simply focus on the good that is everywhere around them. When not wearing a tropical shirt, Levi usually is seen wearing one of his **Be Kind to Everyone** shirts!



**Get Yours Here=> [BeKindToEveryone.com/](http://BeKindToEveryone.com/)**

Levi also reminds everyone to be thankful, always thankful. He is thankful for every single crewmember aboard the starship - all 90 of them without exception. Thank you Awaken Realms for the many and varied stories that accompany each crewmember, and not just one story, but several plus a bonus Veteran story with additional artwork as well. Thank you for the absolutely stupendous artwork that seems to bring life to each of the crew. And that gorgeous artwork is not limited to merely the crew cards! It carries through in the rulebook, ship book and system maps plus on into the Planetopedia and over ONE THOUSAND POI cards, each with interesting artwork! And then the artwork continues with the Section Cards, the landers and even the equipment cards. But that wonderful art is matched (even exceeded?) by the intriguing storytelling! It is



one thing for **Krzysztof** to write his many science fiction books (some award winning!), but quite another to write a story with a talented writing team that expands as you go, depending on what choices you make and what happens in each place you visit! The story is like a tall oak tree with many branches, not just a dozen, but hundreds.

**Finally ...** This game, **ISS Vanguard**, is just too good to keep the thank you's in tiny print!

So, here is a **BIG SHOUT OUT** to the **WHOLE TEAM** (all 200 of you!!!) including:

#### **Game Concept:**

- Marcin Świerkot
- Krzysztof Piskorski

#### **Game Designer:**

- Krzysztof Piskorski
- Paweł Samborski
- Andrzej Betkiewicz

#### **Art Direction:**

- Dominik Meyer
- Patryk Jędraszek
- Marcin Świerkot

#### **Public Relations:**

- Maciej Guzik

#### **Illustrations:**

- Dominik Meyer
- Patryk Jędraszek
- Ewa Labak
- Pamela Łuniewska
- Jakub Dzikowski
- Piotr Orleański
- Piotr Foksowicz
- Rafał Górniak
- Ingram Shell

#### **Rulebooks:**

- Paul Grogan
- Paweł Samborski
- Krzysztof Piskorski

#### **Tutorial Video:**

- Shea Parker

#### **Graphic Design:**

- Adrian Radziun
- Dominik Mayer
- Klaudia Wójcik
- Karolina Łaski
- Michał Lechowski

#### **Master Storyteller:**

- Krzysztof Piskorski

#### **Writing Team:**

- Krzysztof Piskorski
- Andrzej Betkiewicz
- Łukasz Orwat

**And special thanks** to all the crew that made these stories so enjoyable:

1. **Levi** O'Connor (illustrious chaplain and storyteller)
2. **Victoria** Romano aka **VR** (master chef)
3. **Morgan** Wayman (undaunted captain)
4. **Amir** Zaynab (lots of good questions)
5. **Riku** Hashimura (others before self)
6. **Jia** Seok aka **Jees** (graffiti artist painted the hull of ISS Vanguard just before launch)
7. **Thabisa** Gbheo (brought a piano on board courtesy of her rich parents)
8. **Mark** Poulsen (musician and concert coordinator)
9. **Joppe** Ulrich (former cook, current kitchen thief)
10. **Isabel** Sandoval aka **Izzy** (resident genius who also speaks Spanish)
11. **Zoe** Fuentes (stowaway who speaks only Spanish)
12. **Cho** Jae-Yong (food scout)
13. **Tayen** Hatathli aka **T** (gift of prophecy and words of knowledge)
14. **Samarth** Ramprakash (sees hidden symbols and concealed meanings)



15. **Ilse** Vogel (former intelligence operative and born leader)
16. **Maeda** Ayumi (loves her family - daughter is talented taiko drummer)
17. **Klara** Atladottir (resident virtual reality guru)
18. **Avery** Dodge aka **AV** (needs minimal sleep - walks the halls at night)
19. **Owen** Campbell (master juggler)
20. **Betty** Conville aka **BC** (hydroponic vegetables and water)
21. **Destiny** Jones (glass spheres artist)



In the **center of the cover** is **our Destiny** ... Destiny Jones surrounded by her crewmates!

And thank you to the online gurus for all the help they provided the community. They usually were so darn fast answering questions that I couldn't keep up with them!

- **Jordan**
- **Jorg**
- **Tony**

**PLUS** all the rest - it would take **PAGES** to list all of you!

And thanks to one of my favorite places in Madison, Wisconsin USA ...

**Grimm Book Bindery**, who

professionally bound this book (if you are reading the hardcover or coffee table versions). If you'd like your own Real World book, just ask **Levi O'Connor**... **Who Knows?** (you say, "**The Shadow Knows**" ... and I reply, "**Lindsey Stirling**".)



# Christening the Starship ISS Vanguard

[Unofficial, in the year 2050 ISS Vanguard is launched on its journey to the destination already keyed into the navigation computer. But in OUR world on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 our countdown started to when the game will first arrive at a backers doorstep.]

It is now **Saturday, August 20, 2050** and the **starship ISS Vanguard** is slated to Lift Off in just three days!

**Captain Morgan Wayman** and all the crew are ready. It took a generation to build **ISS Vanguard**. During that time a full decade was spent designing, developing and testing (on Mars, Venus and the Moon) the **Space Ranger Lander**! So now, just 23 years after the historic discovery in 2028, all of Earth eagerly anticipates the launching of the **starship ISS Vanguard** on **August 23, 2050**.

Today, we finally stand ready for the greatest adventure in human history. We go now to learn the truth! [Ex Fortitudine Veritas – From Spiritual Endurance Comes Truth<sup>1</sup>](#).

And now, the whole world is here (virtually, via Zoom) to be part of the christening!

**Shhhhh ... it is about to start:**

For thousands of years, we have gone to sea, crossed the lands and even journeyed to Mars and Venus. We have crafted vessels to carry us and we have called them by name. These vessels nurture and care for us through perilous seas, sweltering deserts and the depths of space. **To them we toast, and ask to celebrate the starship ISS Vanguard.**

**ALL REPLY: “TO THE SAILORS, EXPLORERS AND ASTRONAUTS OF OLD...TO THE STARSHIP ISS VANGUARD.”**

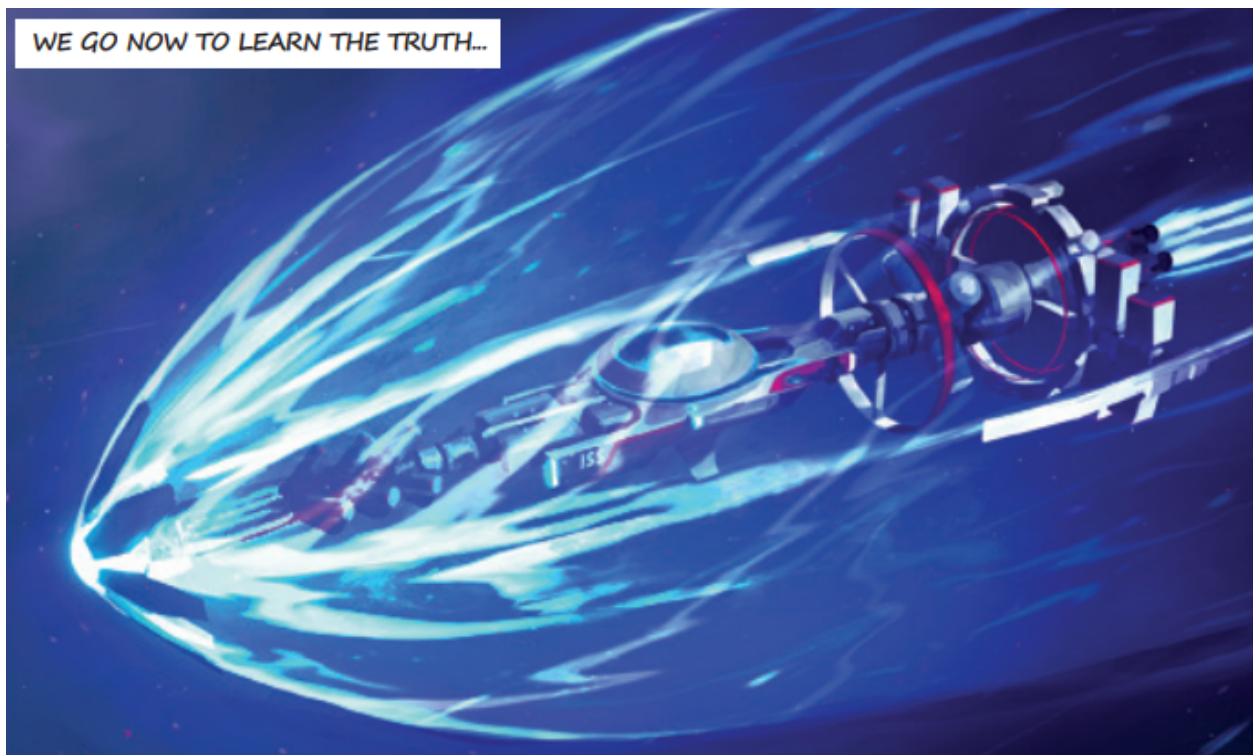
The moods of the sea, the land and deep space are many, from peaceful to violent. **We ask that this starship be given the strength to carry on. The hull is strong and maintains the proper pressures even in the midst of deep space.**

**ALL REPLY: “TO THE SAILORS, EXPLORERS AND ASTRONAUTS OF OLD...TO THE STARSHIP ISS VANGUARD.”**

Today we come to name this **starship ISS VANGUARD**, and send her into space, to the great unknown, to be cared for, and to care for all aboard the starship as we become one happy extended family who look out for each other during our coming journey into space. **We ask the God that created the universe to help and guide us and our starship to arrive at our destination safely.**

**ALL REPLY: “TO THE SAILORS, EXPLORERS AND ASTRONAUTS OF OLD...TO THE STARSHIP ISS VANGUARD.”**





**Note:** Thanks to [Commander Bob<sup>2</sup>](#) for the inspiration for this wonderful ceremony!  
And, now for a video from the future (the year 2293) ... from the opening scene of the movie **Star Trek Generations**:



1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2021/07/02/ex-fortitudine-veritas/](http://MyISSVanguard.com/2021/07/02/ex-fortitudine-veritas/)
2. [CommanderBob.com/boat-christening-ceremony/](http://CommanderBob.com/boat-christening-ceremony/)

# Just Hanging Out in the Pub with the Chaplain

Some of the crew (actually most of the crew) are getting a bit anxious and nervous now that it is only a couple days before the **starship** lifts off! So, where do they go to unwind and calm down?

On Saturday, people noticed the **chaplain** from the **starship ISS Vanguard** hanging out in the pub with some of the crew trying to lift their spirits! Of course, with the chaplain there everyone is on their best behavior and nobody is getting drunk... but they ARE having a good time. Bravo to the chaplain for joining them and keeping matters under control at the same time. Their favorite song is at the end of this article.

**Levi O'Connor** (the chaplain) credits his ability to quickly calm down an anxious crew to his granddad (whom he was named after).

Except his granddad's name was actually **Levi Ó Conchobhair**. It was his father who changed the last name to the simpler **O'Connor**!

But **Levi** was proud of his name... **ALL** of his name! And he's happy to tell you too! For the one hundredth time he reminds you that **O'Connor** signifies **a patron of warriors**. And he has stood in front of the crew many times telling them that they could always count on his support and protection. He would give up his seat on the lander for another crewmember, just like the **four "immortal chaplains"** gave up their life-jackets on **February 2, 1943** as the ship they were on (the S. S. Dorchester) was sinking. All Four Of Them! **Protestant, Catholic and Jewish**. All Four are his role models. He even has an old (and valuable) postage stamp issued by the United States **OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO** on **May 28, 1948** (*remember that this story of Levi is written in the year 2050*).





And then he tells about his first name (**Levi**) as well... and how he tries to live up to that every day! He tells everyone that they have to look it up themselves from **the last book in the Old Testament ... [Malachi 2:6](#)** [hint: it is provided after the song<sup>1</sup>]

Some of the crew told us about **the song** that they sang over and over in the Pub... they think it was called something like 'The Irish Pub Song' and they liked it because the lyrics are so easy to sing (some think that it is the chaplain's favorite song):

### Sing-A-Long Lyrics:

Ah li peda papai  
Pugati po bagai  
Badi badi badi badi badi kiya papoy  
Bulatu ki kadi pooty pa yetay ah pe ya kuda padee  
Kayamani kay yu la rus se yay pudaa!  
Eh de yu la matibula ma kay yu lee say da!  
Ah li peda papai  
Bugati po bagai  
Badi badi badi badi badi kiya papoy  
Bulatu ki kadi pooty pa yetay ah pe ya kuda padee  
Mayamani kay tu ya etay a pe la  
Kay ya puti kay mayamani kay a pu laaaaaaaaaaaaaa!  
Wooooooooo!



**1.** He [**Levi**] spoke the law of truth, and falsehood was not found on his lips. In peace and justice he walked with Me [**God**], and he turned many from iniquity by his words and example...

**Full Article:** Just Hanging Out In The Pub With The Chaplain

[MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/21/just-hanging-out-in-the-pub-with-the-chaplain/](https://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/21/just-hanging-out-in-the-pub-with-the-chaplain/)

# Day 30

It is now August 23, **2050** and the **starship ISS Vanguard** is waiting for the **LAUNCH** signal. But first, our chaplain, **Levi O'Connor**, blesses the mission and the crew:

May the Lord comfort your heart, encourage and strengthen you to do and say what is good.

Then the LAUNCH signal is given and the **starship ISS Vanguard** successfully lifts off and heads to its final destination that had been keyed into its automated navigation system. It is unknown exactly how long it will take to arrive at that destination since this is the first time humans are journeying out into deep space, out beyond our own solar system. Our best calculations are that it will take about 30 days to reach that final destination.

Likewise, **in the REAL world**, the ISS Vanguard games have been collected from the factory and the shipping process has begun. It also is unknown exactly how long it will take before games arrive on the doorsteps of backers, but our best calculations indicate that people may begin receiving their game in about 30 days.

So, let's set our countdown to begin at **30**. Thirty days journey into deep space. Thirty days until games are first being delivered. Every day during this countdown a new article was posted on [My ISS Vanguard](#).

**Full Article=>** Day 30: [Starship Launch and Time Tracks](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/23/30-iss-vanguard-lifts-off-and-countdown-begins-with-time-tokens/](https://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/23/30-iss-vanguard-lifts-off-and-countdown-begins-with-time-tokens/)





## Blessing 1:

### Comfort, Strength and Encouragement

May the Lord comfort your heart, encourage and strengthen you to do and say what is good.

Heavenly Father, good morning. Thank you for the many many wonderful aspects of your creation. Thank you for creating the stars. And not just a few hundred or even a few thousand or million, but conservative estimates are that you created over 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars. Thank you for going way overboard just for us! And thank you for arranging to have us all aboard this starship appropriately christened the **ISS Vanguard** as we are on a long journey to be the first into the far reaches of space where You may have something special for us to find.



van·guard

/ˈvænˌɡɑːrd/

noun

1. a group of people leading the way in new developments or ideas.  
"the experimental spirit of the modernist vanguard"

And thank You for the blessing for Your sons and daughters on the ISS Vanguard today ([2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](#) GNT):

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and in his grace gave us unfailing courage and a firm hope, **encourage you and strengthen you** to always **do and say what is good**.

Lord, I would like to bless everyone aboard the ISS Vanguard with the blessing that Paul gave to the Thessalonians. My friends, this blessing reminds you that God the Father and Jesus Christ love you. And because They love you They have given you everlasting consolation, unfailing courage and a firm hope. They are always there to comfort your heart and strengthen you so that you can always do and say what is good. And so I pray that you would encourage each other during this long journey into space. And today I pray all these blessings over you as we give glory to the Lord. All the glory is His. I pray this all in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.



**From Spiritual Endurance  
Comes Truth**



## Day 29

For our countdown today we look beyond new horizons as **Levi O'Connor** stops by to visit with the **Recon** Section! And while he was there, of course he blessed them:

*I bless you this day my friends in the Recon Section, with God's grace, mercy and peace.*

And now ... looking beyond new horizons, let's look at some things you may wish to order or buy now so you are ready when your game arrives.

**NOTE:** it took a few days before I figured out how to write the story portion of the articles! Day 27 saw some story forming and by Day 25 I was enjoying actually being on the Starship with Levi O'Connor!

**Full Article=>** Day 29: [Extra Things You May Want](#)<sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/24/29-count-down-continues-with-extra-things-you-may-want/](https://myISSVanguard.com/2022/08/24/29-count-down-continues-with-extra-things-you-may-want/)





## Blessing 2:

### Grace, Mercy and Peace unto you

I bless you this day my friends in the Recon Section, with God's grace, mercy and peace.

Good Day Heavenly Father. Thank You for being with us everywhere we go in this world. Thank You that we can be with you and be out in the world at the same time. Thank you for being with us on this journey into deep space, far **beyond new horizons**! Thank You for the many miracles that are around us each day. And thank You for this blessing for Your sons and daughters You love taken right from Scriptures ([1 Timothy 1:2](#) Voice):

To you, Timothy, my true son in the faith. May the **grace, mercy, and peace** that come only from God the Father and our Lord Jesus the Anointed mark your life.

Lord, I'm here with all the crew in the **Recon Section** today. I ask that you be the provider and the protector for each and every one of them. I ask that you meet their needs with more than just air to breathe, water to drink and food to eat. Yes, today we are going **Beyond New Horizons**, just as your **Recon Motto** says! So put on your glasses that match the color of your Section! Put on your **rose colored glasses** as I bless each of you with Paul's blessing to Timothy. It is a quite simple blessing. But simple is quite enough. And so, let me pray this blessing over you now. My friends and fellow crewmembers... grace, mercy and peace unto you from God your Father and Christ Jesus. Amen.

**AND OFF WE GO...**

BEYOND NEW  
HORIZONS

# Day 28

Just after the Countdown dropped down to 28, **Levi O'Connor** (ship's chaplain) went to visit with the crew in the **Engineering** Section. He remembered that their motto was to “**Do The Undoable**” and he knew that to do that they would need strength and a firm foundation. So, that was part of his blessing over all the crew in **Engineering**!

May God restore and support you, and may he strengthen and place you on a firm foundation so you may do the undoable.

And now for today's Countdown topic ... the Crew Boards!

**NOTE:** it took a few days before I figured out how to write the story portion of the articles! Day 27 saw some story forming and by Day 25 I was enjoying actually being on the Starship with Levi O'Connor!

**Full Article=>** Day 28: [Section Crew Boards](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/25/28-countdown-section-crew-boards/](https://myissvanguard.com/2022/08/25/28-countdown-section-crew-boards/)





### Blessing 3:

## May God Restore, Strengthen and Place you on a Firm Foundation

**May God restore and support you, and may he strengthen and place you on a firm foundation so you may do the undoable.**

Heavenly Father, thank You for this wonderful starship, complete with perfect artificial gravity so that we each can walk around just like we did back on earth. And thank you for each person here in the Engineering Section. Thank you for the skills that you have provided each of them... skills that will help them do the undoable. Thank you for the Scripture that I am using for today's blessing ([1 Peter 5:10](#) NLT):

*In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will **restore, support, and strengthen** you, and he will **place you on a firm foundation**.*

Lord, I am exceedingly happy to be here with You so that I can bless Your sons and daughters here in the Engineering Section, for You have called them to your eternal glory by Jesus Christ. My friends, you may suffer a while (and on the coming planetary exploration missions you may suffer A LOT). But afterwards you will be restored and strengthened as God makes you perfect and establishes you. I pray this over everyone here in Engineering. Jesus understands your suffering and promises to strengthen you. The Lord will restore and support you, just make Him your firm foundation! I also pray this blessing over all those who will be relying on you to do the undoable for them. I pray this blessing over each of you today and give the glory to God. All the glory goes to Him. I pray this in the name and authority of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

**AND OFF WE GO TO...**

**DO THE UNDOABLE**

# Day 27

**Levi O'Connor** was having a good day. Plus, today he was feeling a bit scientific! Actually, he was wondering if that really was what he was feeling! In any case, he thought that maybe he was being led to head over to the **Science** Section to see how the crew there were doing. As he walked in, there was his buddy **Amir** playing with his pet

ring-tailed lemur! *(photo of the final crew card courtesy of Shea)*



**Amir** noticed **Levi** walk in and went over to chat. He had questions and who else to ask other than his buddy Levi! He told Levi that he really liked being in the **Science** Section, but that **Security** was trying to recruit him over into their Section now! *(see rulebook pages 12 and 40)*. So he was wondering why!? Levi thanked him for trusting him with this question. And then a thought popped into Levi's head. The motto for the Science Section was:

SEARCHING  
FOR QUESTIONS

So, he sat down with Amir and told him...

That is a good question Amir. You tend to have lots of good questions. I

think Science is the right Section for you, for they acknowledge that **every day they go out searching for questions!** And, me too, Amir. It seems that someone in my position (as chaplain) is in the midst of questions everyday as well. **Maybe I should be part of the Science Section!?** What do you think?

And then Levi got everyone in the **Science** Section together to bless them this day!

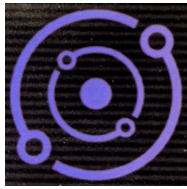
**My friends, the Lord is near and ever present, so you can talk with him about all your questions and need not be anxious at all.**

Which leads right into a listing of all 90 crewmembers...

**Full Article:** Day 27: [The Crew List](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/26/27-count-down-the-crew-list/](https://myissvanguard.com/2022/08/26/27-count-down-the-crew-list/)





## Blessing 4:

### The Peace of God Guards You as you Talk to God about your Questions

My friends, the Lord is near and ever present, so you can talk with him about all your questions and need not be anxious at all.

Heavenly Father, I welcome this day with you. I thank You for the restful sleep over the night and for being with me as I sleep. Thank You for being with me all day and night, and for never leaving me. Thank you for each and everyone here in the **Science Section** of **ISS Vanguard** where they are **SEARCHING FOR QUESTIONS** on a daily basis. And thank You for the Scripture to bless Your sons and daughters today ([Philippians 4:5-7](#) Voice):

The Lord is ever present with us. Don't be anxious about things; instead, pray. Pray about everything. He longs to hear your requests, so **talk to God about your needs** and be thankful for what has come. And know that the peace of God (a peace that is beyond any and all of our human understanding) will stand watch over your hearts and minds in Jesus.

My friends here in the **Science Section**, God is close to you. May your anxiety dissipate as you bring your questions to the Lord. He waits to hear your questions... and He has answers for you as well. May God's peace rest in your heart and in your mind so that you may remain calm the entire day. Peter echoes what Paul was writing to the Philippians and reminds us that it is OK to have questions... but to not WORRY about them:

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. **Give all your worries and cares to God**, for **he cares about you**. ([1Peter 5:6-7](#) NLT)

Peter lets us know why you shouldn't be anxious and just give all your worries to God. Why? Because God cares about you! He not only loves you, but he cares about you! So, as Paul said, talk to God about your needs! Talk to God about your many questions! And may the Lord hear your questions and requests today as we give the glory to Him. The glory is all His. I bless you today in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

**AND WE NOW GO...**

SEARCHING  
FOR QUESTIONS

# Day 26

**Levi O'Connor** was in the mess hall waiting in line for his supper and noticed **Riku** further back in line. Levi dropped back a few spots in the line to say **HI** to Riku:

Hi Riku! Nice to see you today. Aren't you in the Security Section now? Isn't their motto, "**Always First In Line**"? What are you doing in the back of the line?



**Riku** had to clear up this misconception.

Well, Levi, it's like this. When we are in a dangerous situation, you can count on me to be in front of others to make sure that they remain safe. We look out for others and keep them protected. We place the needs of others before our own.

**Levi** felt like that was a revelation to him.

Wow, Riku! I try to place the needs of others before my own too. Maybe as a chaplain I should be in the Security Section!

And then Levi got everyone in the **Security** Section together to pray a very special blessing over each of them:

My friends in the Security Section, I bless you this day with a well known blessing from the book of Numbers!

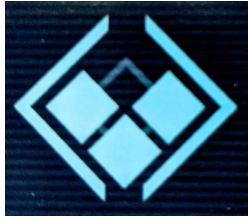
May the Lord bless you my friends, and keep you and take good care of you.

May the Lord's face shine upon you and may He be kind and gracious to you.

May He look on you with favor and give you peace.

**Full Article:** Day 26: [Crew Skills](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/27/26-count-down-crew-abilities-expertise/](https://myISSvanguard.com/2022/08/27/26-count-down-crew-abilities-expertise/)



## Blessing 5:

### The Lord look with favor on you

My friends in the Security Section, I bless you this day with a well known blessing from the book of Numbers!

Heavenly Father, thank You for smiles. We are in your image and we can smile. What an amazing thing, a smile. Thank You for all the smiles I will see here in the Security Section today! And thank You for the blessing that comes from the book of Numbers, my favorite book in the Bible ([Numbers 6:24-26](#) GNT):

May the Lord bless you and **take care of you**;  
May the Lord be **kind** and gracious to you;  
May the Lord **look on you with favor** and give you peace.

Lord, it's me. I am here on behalf of all those here in the Security Section who are honorable in placing themselves in harm's way while protecting others from danger. You love each of them dearly. And so today I ask that You bless them in the way that You asked Aaron to bless Your people. My Security Section friends, today I pray that same blessing over you.

**May the Lord bless you my friends, and keep you and take good care of you.**  
**May the Lord's face shine upon you and may he be kind and gracious to you.**  
**May He look on you with favor and give you peace.**

We give all the glory to the Lord. All the glory. I pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

**AND WE GO NOW...**

ALWAYS FIRST  
IN LINE



# Day 25

Victoria Romano was in a real chopping mood as Jia Seok walked in.

Hi VR! What's cooking!?

Hiya Jees. What's painting?



**JIA SEOK**

**NAME**  
Jia Seok

**ORIGIN**  
Korean

**EXPERTISE**  
Xeno

**PERSONNEL FILE**

Jia found herself at the mercy of Vanguard's higher-ups when she was caught defacing the vessel's hull with graffiti. But her tenacity and natural curiosity won her leeway with a few influential officers, and she soon carved out a place for herself on the crew. She dabbles in art still, though she does her best to keep it on approved surfaces now, painting several murals throughout the ship.

**TRUMP CARD**

**Anytime:**  
Spend 1 Charge to take 1 card of any Rank from your Section Compartment to your hand.

**1**

Yeah... VR and Jia (fondly called Jees) were buddies before the starship launched. Jees tells everyone that VR is the best chef that she's ever met (but then adds that she is the ONLY chef that she has ever met:). And of course, Victoria returns the favor telling the rest of the crew how just prior to launching, **Jia was able to cover a whole section of the hull of the starship with gorgeous graffiti of an alien world that Jia had seen in her dreams without anyone catching her** (well, almost). And there was no time for anyone to "erase" or "white out" her spontaneous art before the starship launched. And so the starship ISS Vanguard was now hurtling through space with a huge fantastical scene emblazoned on its side (what will the aliens think when they see that!?)

VR nods at Jia!

Well, our feast is nearly ready so you better go get Levi to pray his blessing over the ...

And then a booming voice from heaven interrupts her. Well, actually it was just **Levi** on the system wide speaker system throughout the **starship** (so everyone could hear him this time).

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Testing. Testing. 1-2-3. Can you hear me? Should I tell a joke? Knock knock!

<loud burst of **static** as **the Captain** grabs the mic from Levi>

Attention all crew. This is the Captain. Our feast is nearly ready. The universally renowned chef Victoria Romano has created a meal fit for kings! So head over to the mess hall now. But first, a few words from our illustrious chaplain, **Levi O'Connor**.

Lord, I ask that you bless this special feast that Victoria has carefully prepared for us today. And I bless all of us aboard this special starship with a full measure of grace and peace so that wherever we go we may reflect God's true nature. Amen. LET'S EAT!

For today's Countdown article we will take a look at the skills\* of the crew.

**Full Article:** Day 25: [Crew Skills Part 2](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/28/25-count-down-crew-abilities-part-2/](https://myissvanguard.com/2022/08/28/25-count-down-crew-abilities-part-2/)



## Blessing 6:

Grace and Peace as you reflect God's true nature.

Today I bless you with a full measure of grace and peace so that wherever you go you may reflect God's true nature.

Heavenly Father, thank You for colors ... and not just three colors (like the Section Dice), nor just four colors (like the official Section colors), not even 30 or 300. Thank You for the fantastic array of colors that our eyes can see. Many sources estimate that our eyes can see up to one million colors!<sup>1</sup> Thank You for the way colors can enhance beauty. And thank You for another Scripture to use as a blessing for Your sons and daughters You love aboard the starship ISS Vanguard ([2 Peter 1:2-3](#) Voice):

*I wish you a full measure of grace and peace as you grow in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need to experience life and to **reflect God's true nature** through the knowledge of the One who called us by His glory and virtue.*

Lord, I'm ready to bless each and everyone aboard this starship as they grow in the knowledge of God and of Jesus. Yes, I bless each of you with a full measure of grace and peace. May you reflect God's true nature through this knowledge as He grants you His precious and magnificent promises. I pray this in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

1. From spotting galaxies millions of light years away to perceiving invisible colors, Adam Hadhazy explains in his article for the BBC why your eyes can do incredible things, including being able to see up to 1,000,000 colors! Here is the article location: [www.bbc.com/future/article/20150727-what-are-the-limits-of-human-vision](http://www.bbc.com/future/article/20150727-what-are-the-limits-of-human-vision)



**From Spiritual Endurance  
Comes Truth**





# Day 24

**Victoria (VR)** looked up from preparing the next meal for the crew.

*Is that what I think it is?*

**Jees (Jia)** was rolling something into the back corner of the mess hall.

*Wrong Question!*

**Jees** smiled as **Thabisa** appeared behind her, almost like a procession!



Apparently having RICH parents has its advantages! Thabisa's parents had pulled some strings (pun intended) and got a real antique piano aboard the starship ISS Vanguard. And Thabisa was unveiling it tonight as she spread the word “**Piano Jam Session Tonight**“... We need to shake off the anxiety that is filling this ship!

*Count me in!*

The loud voice came from the next person in the procession entering the Mess Hall...  
**Mark Poulsen!**

*It's been years since I've had a lively jam session!*



As everyone sat down for their evening meal, **Levi** provided a blessing as usual:

Lord God, as we prepare for another evening meal aboard the starship ISS Vanguard, we thank you for these plentiful meals that are both satisfying and delicious *(nodding to VR)*



And after the evening meal ... **Mark** made sure people stayed for some fun with an energetic **piano jam**:

**Full Article:** Day 24: [Crew Skills Part 3](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/29/24-count-down-crew-skills-part-3/](https://myissvanguard.com/2022/08/29/24-count-down-crew-skills-part-3/)



## Blessing 7:

### Be Satisfied with plenty to eat

Lord God, as we prepare for another evening meal aboard the starship ISS Vanguard, we thank you for these plentiful meals that are both satisfying and delicious (nodding to VR)

Good Evening Heavenly Father. Walking around this starship today wore me out and reminded me to take good care of this body that You gave me. Thank You for allowing me to walk around in the midst of the heavenly stars You created. And thank You for the blessing for our meal tonight taken directly from Your Scriptures ([Joel 2:26](#) GNT):

Now you will have **plenty to eat, and be satisfied.**  
You will **praise the Lord your God,**  
who has done wonderful things for you.

Lord, I am here this day to bless the crew aboard this starship. They are Your sons and daughters You love. And so my friends and fellow crewmembers, I pray that you may be satisfied today and each of the coming days on this long journey through space. I pray that you would always have all you need to eat wherever you may be. I pray this for the chef as well as everyone she so diligently cooks for. And I especially pray that we may praise the Lord who has done wonderful things for us and who promises to do wonderful things for us tomorrow as well. I pray this blessing over you in the name and authority of Christ Jesus, King of kings, to whom I give all the glory. Amen.



**From Spiritual Endurance  
Comes Truth**





# Day 23

Yeooooowwww!

**Joppe Ulrich** sheepishly came out from behind the cabinet in the back of the kitchen area of the mess hall.

**JOPPE ULRICH**

☼☼☼ = ♡



**NAME**  
Joppe Ulrich

**ORIGIN**  
Swedish

**EXPERTISE**  
Physical

**PERSONNEL FILE**

Joppe is a great cook, often complicit when it comes to stealing leftovers from the canteen and preparing dinners with lab equipment. However, his petty crimes are mostly forgiven – who doesn't love crispy protein bars toasted over plasma torch?

**SELFLESS**

**When Assisting:**  
Spend 1 Charge to Assist with any number of  instead of 1. After the Dice Check, return those  to your available dice.

1

**VR** was unconcerned and just giggled, for she was the one that put that mouse trap next to the sandwich on the shelf.

I told you to quit stealing food from the kitchen. You are a good cook yourself! You should be in here helping me, not stealing from me!

And **Levi O'Connor** walked in just then and put in his two cents:

Yes, Joppe! For your penance, you should help VR with meals for the rest of the week!

**Joppe** just walked out, holding his painful fingers, glancing over at Levi wondering what had happened to that joyful chaplain from the Piano Jam Dance Party last night!

Well, VR... Ready for Mess Call?

**Levi** knew that the crew was really hungry today after all the “exercise” at last night's dance party.

Yep... ready to roll... ring the cowbell.

**Levi** just happened to have the mobile system speaker system microphone with him :)

Attention. Attention. This is not a drill. This is a real call to the Mess Hall.  
May God bless this food and make each of us worthy of the lives he has called us to live and fulfill our desires for goodness.

That's it for a quick look at the various crew Skills.

**Who knows what will be next?**

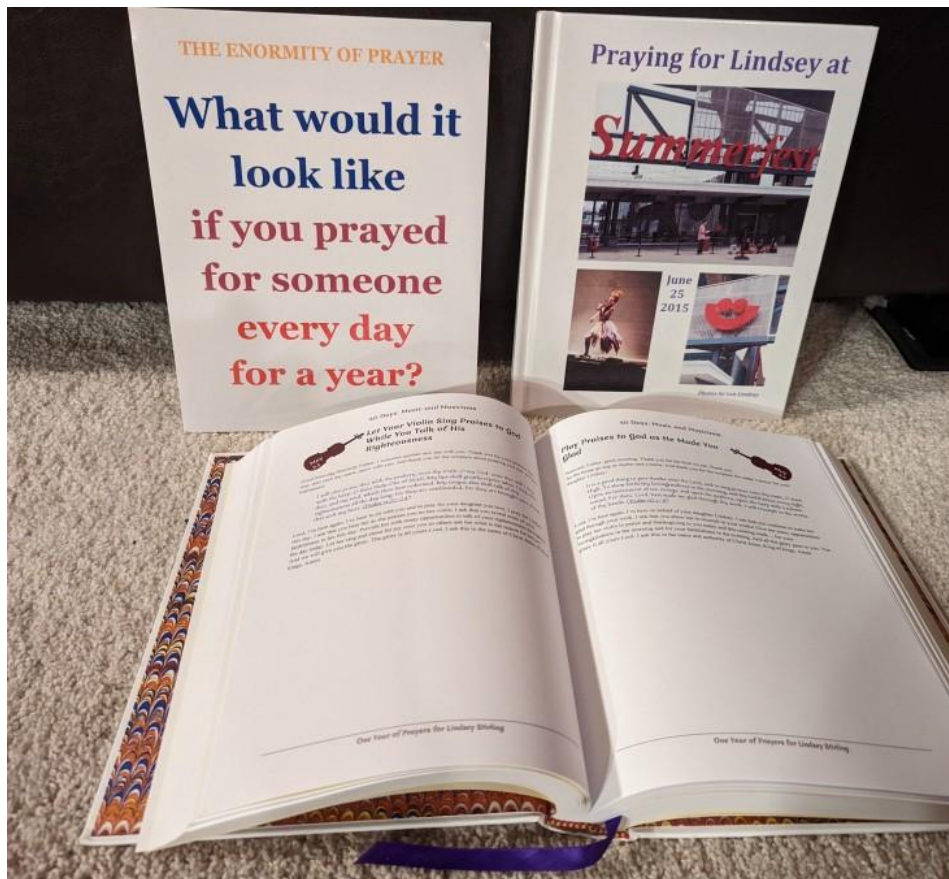
**Only the Shadow knows!**

**And Lindsey Stirling knows all about Shadows!**



**Fun Fact:** Eight years ago **Len** (aka **Levi O'Connor** in this Countdown) wrote one prayer every day for a year for **Lindsey Stirling**. Of course, Lindsey was “famous”, so Len had to go through her “agent”. After a few months of passing along the prayers her agent asked Len if he would pray for her too. And he did (er, “I did” :) And now you can see the answer to one of your burning questions ... What does one year of printed daily prayers look like? See three photos at the end of the “contents” for the eBook version:

=> eBook: One Year of Prayers for Lindsey Stirling <sup>1</sup>



Or, to save you time, here is a photo I just took (yes, when I make a book for someone I make two copies of it, one for them and one for me to remember what I did):

Yes... it is quite OK to zoom in if you wish (you can even see that I also was the photographer for the cover photos of the special book of 40 prayers).



And her agent also got a book that I called simply "Favored":

"Favored" is one of my personal books of prayers, so you can see the outside of the book (and the title embossed in gold on the spine) but not the prayers inside!

**Full Article:** Day 23: [Crew Dice Skills](#) <sup>2</sup>

1. [ADaughterOfGod.com/ebook/](http://ADaughterOfGod.com/ebook/)

2. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/30/23-count-down-crew-dice-skills-part-4-of-4/](http://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/30/23-count-down-crew-dice-skills-part-4-of-4/)





## Blessing 8:

### Fulfill Your Desire for a Life of Goodness

May God make you worthy of the life he has called you to live and fulfill your desire for goodness.

Heavenly Father, thank You for being our provider and protector. Thank You for being our light and our guide. Thank You for being with us each day and for giving me words when needed. And thank You for this Scripture to bless the crew in the Engineering Section ([2 Thessalonians 1:11](#) GNT):

That is why we always pray for you. We ask our God to make you worthy of the life he has called you to live. May he fulfill by his power all your desire for goodness and complete your work of faith.

My friends and fellow crewmembers, I bless you yet again with the blessing that started this daily prayer. May God make you worthy of your great calling you received from Him. May the Lord be with you as you go out to DO THE UNDOABLE. And may you always remember that nothing is impossible for God. May He be with you and make that undoable situation doable for you! May the Lord fulfill with His power all your desires for goodness. I pray that the Lord would increase your faith and remove your doubts. May God be glorified in you through your life before all those around you. I bless you according to the grace of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

AND OFF WE GO TO...

DO THE UNDOABLE

## Day 22

Attention! Attention! This is Captain Wayman. It is my distinct honor and pleasure to announce that our starship Library and Theater is now open! We've had our Piano Jams and our Music Videos to enjoy so far, but now it's time to honor the past that was the connection for many of us. It was a book or a magazine or a movie for many of us that kindled our interest in science, in space, in astronomy and in actual space travel. Several dozen crates of Science and Science Fiction books and magazines have finally been unpacked and fill the sidewall of our theater... which is opening tonight with a movie that sparked the interest in astronomy and space travel in many of us Old-Timers... Contact!

But there is an added treat for you tonight! Along with the movie we have a real life Astrophysicist, Dr. Becky, giving her remarks and reactions to the movie. She will tell us how realistic the movie was. This is all happening later tonight. And now the Captain is asking you to join us to see how the movie Contact envisioned space travel. You are welcome to take a couple of the Science Fiction magazines from over a century ago (the 1940's and 50's) and read some of the stories from the Golden Age! Here are just four of the literally hundreds available for you to take back to your room to read during our long journey into deep space (and yes, we "sleeve" our old magazines):



**Galaxy Science Fiction**  
October 1957

**Future Science Fiction**  
August 1958

**Astounding Science Fiction**  
May 1945

**Amazing Science Fiction Stories**  
July 1959

Meanwhile, **Levi O'Connor** was over in the **Science** Section chatting with the crew there. He lets them know (almost every day) how much he likes their Section motto:



And (of course) while he was there, he had a blessing for everyone:

**My fellow crewmembers here in the Science Section, today I pray that you would find yourself surrounded by grace and peace.**

And now ...

## **Welcome to our Starship Theater**

The crew will be viewing a great OLD movie from 1997 (*over 5 decades ago for the crewmembers ... 25 years ago for us here in real time*). The movie should be available from your public library. It also is available on several streaming services. And of course, it is available on DVD or BluRay. The movie is **Contact** released in **1997**. Many who work in the space and astronomy field have said that this movie was very influential in their early lives. If you haven't seen the movie yet, it is quite good. I just watched it for the **THIRD** time tonight and noticed some similarities with the ISS VANGUARD game! As you play the game you should notice some of these things yourself (hats off to Awaken Realms for designing such a realistic game).

### **Spoiler Alert!**

Granted, there has been so much Science Fiction published in the past century (or more) that you should expect to see ideas and concepts from many of the books and movies in ISS Vanguard. However ... technically, you might call these spoilers (just so you know).

The game ISS Vanguard has the human race being called out into deep space. The movie Contact has it's own take on that situation, but they both portray us, as a human race, being called forth into space!

If you have not yet seen the movie do NOT watch the following 4 minute clip. If you have already seen the movie, this clip is when Ellie is speaking with an alien who took on the form of her father.

I will end this article with a transcript of most of this scene:



But I had even more fun watching **Dr. Becky's** 21 minute reaction to the movie. I have enjoyed (and learned a lot from) her videos. She is an astrophysicist who can explain complex things in terms us mere mortals can (almost) understand! She has done several videos with her reactions to various Sci-Fi shows and movies (including Star Trek, Stargate and The Expanse) showing clips and then noting how accurate or realistic it was! Here is her take on the movie Contact:





Part of the dialog from movie Contact when Ellie is on the alien world:

**E:** is for when *Ellie* is speaking

**A:** is for when the *alien* in the form of her *Dad* is speaking

E: ... And there are others?

A: Many others

E: They all travel here through that transit system you built?

A: We didn't build it. We don't know who did. No, they were gone long before we even got here. Maybe someday they'll come back.

E: All the other civilizations that you find, they come here?

A: Not at all

E: Is this some test?

A: No, no tests. You have your mother's hands. You're an interesting species... an interesting mix. You're capable of such beautiful dreams... and such horrible nightmares. You feel so lost... so cut off, so alone. Only you're not. See... in all our searching... the only thing we've found that makes the emptiness bearable... is each other.

E: What happens now?

A: Now... you go home.

E: Home? But I have so many questions. Do we get to come back?

A: This is just a first step. In time you'll take another.

E: But other people need to see what I've seen –

A: This is the way it's been done for billions of years.

E: But I –

A: Small moves, Ellie. Small moves.

**Full Article:** Day 22: [Building Our Crew](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/31/22-count-down-building-our-crew/](https://myissvanguard.com/2022/08/31/22-count-down-building-our-crew/)



## Blessing 9:

### God's Grace and Peace Surround You

My fellow crewmembers here in the Science Section, today I pray that you would find yourself surrounded by grace and peace.

Heavenly Father, what a glorious day to spend with You. Thank You for everything You created just for us, that we can see evidence of You wherever we look, even from our starship's observation deck. And thank You for the Scripture that provides the blessing for everyone here in the Science Section today ([Philemon 1:3](#) Voice):

May grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed surround you.

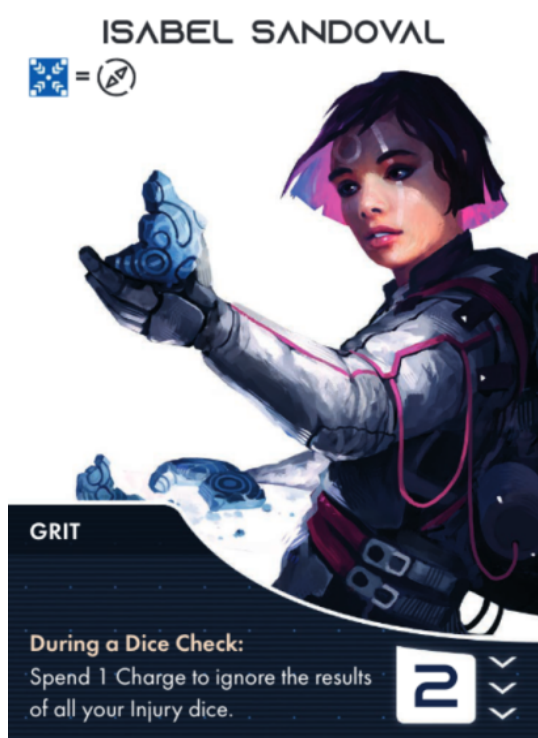
Lord, I am ready to pray a blessing over each and every crewmember here in the Science Section. Yes, today I pray that God would surround you with both peace and grace, and that he would help you each see how important science is, while at the same time realizing that it does not exclude God. That the two are not mutually exclusive. I pray that you each would leave here today with God's grace and peace as He surrounds you with his love. And all the glory goes to You Lord. Glory! I pray this blessing in the name of Jesus Christ, King of kings. Amen.

AND WE NOW GO...



SEARCHING  
FOR QUESTIONS

# Day 21

**Zoe Fuentes** was crying in **Isabel Sandoval's** room. They were speaking in Spanish.



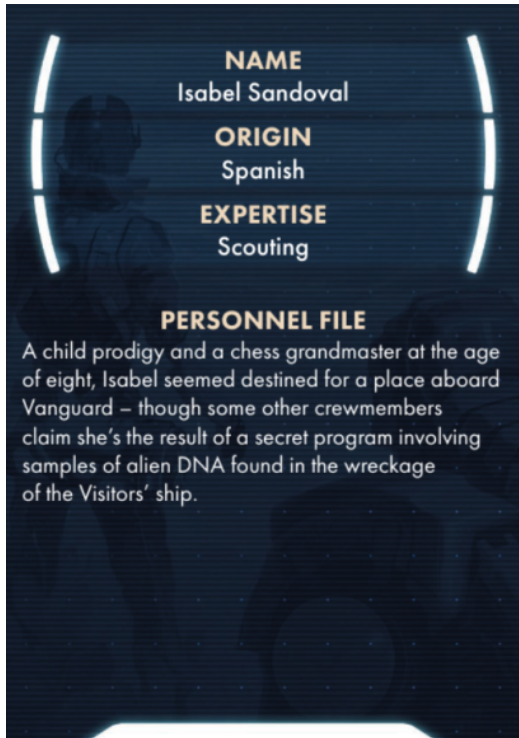
**ISABEL SANDOVAL**

 = 

**GRIT**

During a Dice Check:  
Spend 1 Charge to ignore the results of all your Injury dice.

**2** >>>



**NAME**  
Isabel Sandoval

**ORIGIN**  
Spanish

**EXPERTISE**  
Scouting

**PERSONNEL FILE**  
A child prodigy and a chess grandmaster at the age of eight, Isabel seemed destined for a place aboard Vanguard – though some other crewmembers claim she's the result of a secret program involving samples of alien DNA found in the wreckage of the Visitors' ship.

**Isabel** was the resident GENIUS aboard the starship. But she also was Spanish, which is why **Zoe** sought her out.



**ZOE FUENTES**

 = 

**SEARCHER**

Anytime:  
Spend 1 Charge to gain a Discovery from a deck with any 3 Leads tokens.

**2** >>>



**NAME**  
Zoe Fuentes

**ORIGIN**  
Cuban

**EXPERTISE**  
Gathering

**PERSONNEL FILE**  
Zoe was a runaway who stowed away aboard Vanguard before she was discovered and locked up in the brig. Proving herself calm and capable during a sudden electrical fire, Zoe was granted her freedom and asked to join the crew – an opportunity which she feels she can never repay.

**Zoe** was crying because **Spanish** was the only language she knew. And most everywhere she went people were speaking **English**!

**Isabel** knew that she could help, and actually had already been working on an **instant translator device** that would fit into your ear, just like a hearing aid. Only instead of amplifying the sounds, it would monitor the sounds and automatically detect various languages being spoken (or even sung in a song) and provide a translation live in real time into whatever language you wish. She had a couple prototypes and while talking with **Zoe**, set one of them to translate all languages into Spanish.

*Zoe ... here ... try this!*

She then fit it perfectly for **Zoe's** right ear.

Then she started talking to her **IN ENGLISH**!

**Zoe** wiped away her tears and actually started smiling again. She knew that **Isabel** was now speaking in **English**, but she was hearing her in **Spanish** in her right ear.

*Go on Zoe ... go on! Walk around and see what you see and HEAR!*

**Zoe** didn't need to be told twice ... she was off running!

And who should she run into first?

*Why the big smile, Zoe?*

**Levi O'Connor** was happy that she was happy. And as she ran past him, she said:

*Isabel... Isabel... ISABEL !!!*

So, of course we know where **Levi** went.

*Hi Isabel. What did you do to Zoe?*

*Oh, nothing much. Just whipped up a tiny instant real time language translator for her. I had two prototypes, and she got to try out the first one! Seems a success, eh Levi?*

*Would it work for me? I know that Zoe only understands Spanish, so does it only translate into Spanish?*

**Levi** was looking at his watch.

*Oh, no ... I can set it for any language I want. I programmed it for every language spoken here aboard this starship, even English :)*

Meanwhile ... the music that Zoe had been playing for Isabel was still playing ... in Spanish of course! And that gave Isabel an idea (a genius idea).



I can see you have somewhere to go Levi ... Why not come back later this evening and you might get a surprise!

So, off Levi went ... heading to the **Security** Section. He hadn't dropped by to visit with them for a couple days now. When he got there he could see that they were in the midst of "security" business! *(he could tell because everyone quit talking as soon as he walked in!)*

Sorry, to interrupt! You all are looking a bit serious! How about I bless you and let you get back at it!?

May you live by the Scriptures each day so you may prosper and find success on each world that you visit during our deep space journey.

Are you ready for the Section Dice? All SIXTY of them? Remember that when you unbox your game there will only be 16 (not 20) of each color Section dice. Four of each color will be "missing" (for now). And since I don't have the final game myself, I cannot check into WHICH four won't be available when you start the campaign game. Perhaps the EXPERT and WILD dice may be "missing"?

**Who knows?**

**Only the Shadow knows!** (and this is where we all join together and shout "**Lindsey Stirling**" for her Shadows video that we saw in the [Countdown 23](#) article!)

But wait ... there's more! After all this, **Levi O'Connor** remembered that **Isabel** promised him a surprise ... and who can resist a surprise? It was almost like waiting for Christmas morning when he was a child! So, he was off to Isabel's room to see what the surprise was!

Hi Izzy! Surprise time?

**Isabel** was not thrilled with his nickname for her, but she looked at it as a way that he thought she was special... and who doesn't want to feel special!? So with a big smile she turned towards **Levi** as he entered:

Hey Levi! Want to hear something special?

I'm all ears! :)

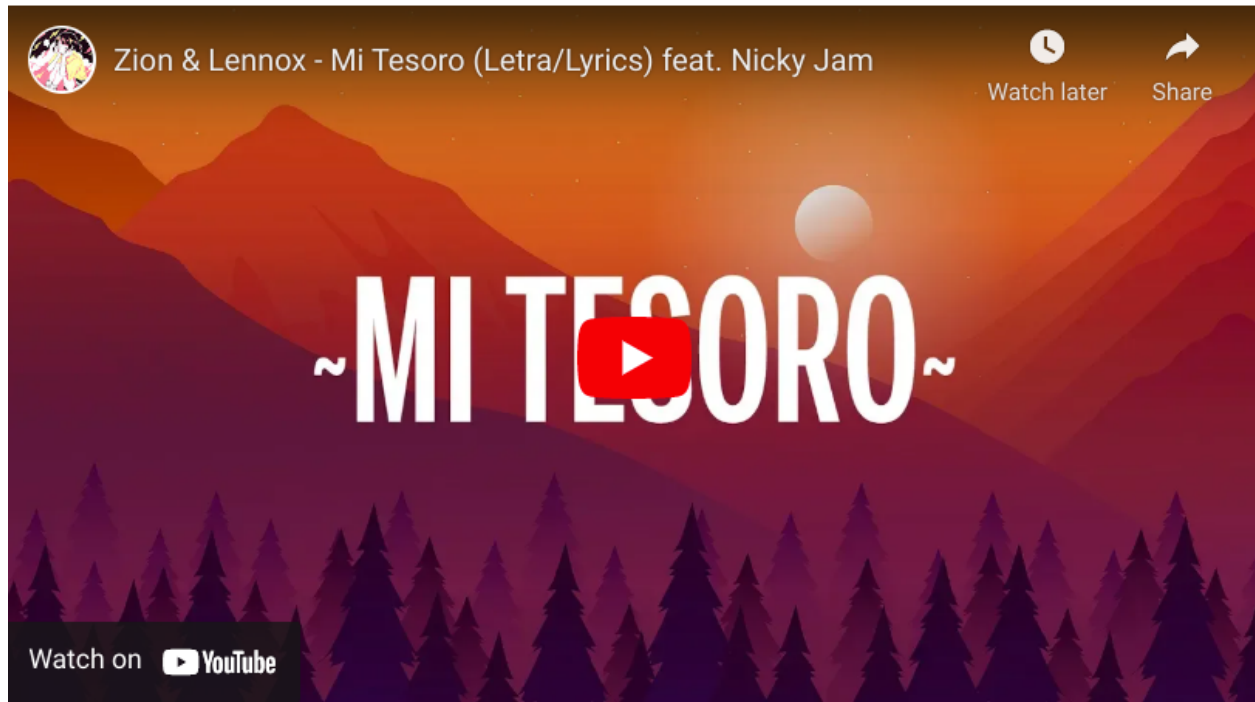
I only need one of them Levi.

And with that **Izzy** (er, **Isabel**) went over and put her other prototype instant language translator into **Levi's** right ear! Perfect fit!

Now ... for the test! You do like tests, right Levi?

Ummm... I ...

Before he could actually reply, **Izzy** had turned on her music system and was playing that same song that **Zoe** had been listening to with her earlier that day (she had already set that song on “repeat”):



In his left ear he could hear the song with words that he did not understand... but he didn't mind swaying to the music with Izzy. And then all of a sudden it clicked in and he was hearing the ENGLISH of what the song was singing about! His swaying stopped and **his jaw dropped\***.

What???

**Izzy** was now laughing and twirling with the music.

Yes! Now you know what they are singing about!

Cool

And **Levi** went swaying and twirling out of the room. Boy, he loved surprises!

Thanks Izzy!

Night Levi :)

\* Remember this term: **Jaw dropping**

And now... back to the real world ... **Izzy's** invention is not so far-fetched. Actually, I'd guess that it exists and is being tested someplace already. And you (yes YOU) can do it right now, today with your Android phone! Check out how in this support article:

=> [Translate a Bilingual Conversation](#) <sup>1</sup>

And finally ... get ready ... everything is not nice and calm aboard the starship ISS Vanguard all the time. The calm is going to break soon...

## Get ready to JUMP!

And with that ... here is what Levi was hearing in his right ear:

My treasure  
I am surrendered at your feet  
I gave you my all  
let the whole world know  
that I had a good time with you  
if you cry to me, I cry to you  
if you forgive me, I forgive you  
if you laugh at me, I smile at you  
I warm you up if it's cold  
if you provoke me, I provoke you  
when you undress you drive me crazy  
and little by little I devour you  
Mommy, I never leave you

and it is that you are my treasure  
how I adore you  
Every day I fall more in love  
I risk everything for you  
and it is that you are my treasure  
oh how i adore you  
Every day I fall in love more  
you are my fortune and my gold  
I-I stole your heart  
and I'm not going to return it to you  
Although I have failed, and you have  
failed, let's not live yesterday  
I don't want you to be alone  
I never want to see you cry

that I lack the air  
take everything away from me  
but your love did not let me steal  
When every night I make a wish  
that you never leave, I just want  
because you are the only one i believe in  
always in my bed, mommy, I wait for you

and it is that you are my treasure  
how I adore you  
Every day I fall more in love  
I risk everything for you  
and it is that you are my treasure  
oh how i adore you  
Every day I fall more in love  
you are my fortune and my gold  
so much love for you  
he's freaking out  
woman, you fascinate me  
I swear I don't know how  
explain what i feel  
I know that I am your other half  
with you there is sun, there is no rain or  
wind  
if you, I'm decaying  
I know that you want it  
same as you want  
that we are together

oh, you are my treasure in this story  
I have your body tattooed in my  
memory  
we started from scratch, true love  
thief of your kisses, your bandit  
if you ask, i'll go up  
flying and you under the sky  
for you, I put my hands  
mommy in the fire  
oh how ri-how nice to remember me  
when you told me: "give me, give me"  
and I told you: "take, take, take"

come on, aeh  
I want to devour you, aeh  
you can't walk away, aeh

I'm going to find you, aeh  
come on, aeh  
I want to devour you, aeh  
you can't walk away, aeh  
I'm going to find you, aeh

and it is that you are my treasure  
how I adore you  
Every day I fall more in love  
I risk everything for you  
and it is that you are my treasure  
oh how i adore you  
Every day I fall in love more

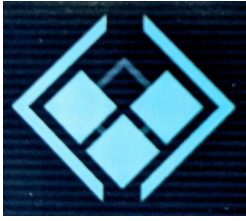
Zion, baby, and Lennox For You!  
(missing text)  
Nicky Jam

**Sidenote:** in case you are interested ... I have this song on **REPEAT** and the volume turned UP ... and I am swaying here in my chair in front of my computer ... **FUN!!!**

**Full Article:** Day 21: [The Dice](#) <sup>2</sup>

1. [support.google.com/translate/answer/6142474?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DAndroid](https://support.google.com/translate/answer/6142474?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DAndroid)
2. [myisvanguard.com/2022/09/01/21-count-down-the-dice-and-a-cool-in-your-ear-auto-translator/](https://myisvanguard.com/2022/09/01/21-count-down-the-dice-and-a-cool-in-your-ear-auto-translator/)





## Blessing 10:

### Live Daily by the Scriptures to Prosper and Find Success

May you live by the Scriptures each day so you may prosper and find success on each world that you visit during our deep space journey.

Heavenly Father, thank You for a mind that can understand. Thank You for a mind that can reason. Thank You for the saying “using your head”! Thank you that it is reasonable as well as intelligent to recognize Your Truth in Your Word. And thank You for the Scripture that includes today’s blessing over Your sons and daughters You love here in the Security Section ([Joshua 1:8](#) Voice):

Let the words from the book of the law be always on your lips. Meditate on them day and night so that you may **be careful to live by all that is written in it.** If you do, as you make your way through this world, **you will prosper and always find success.**

Lord, it is with joy that I was able to drop by to visit with my friends here in the Security Section. We love you Lord and aim to live by Your Word. Help each of us to find time to read our Bible. Remind everyone here that if they don’t yet have a Bible, I have a few extra copies in my room! And let your Word be our guide so that we may carefully live by it. And thus I bless each of you this day, that you may prosper and be successful each time you find it necessary to step in front of others to protect them from any threats that come their way! I pray this in the name and authority of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

*And off I go... always last in line :)* Levi was just teasing, knowing their motto was:

ALWAYS FIRST  
IN LINE

## Day 20

**Levi O'Connor** was wandering the halls late at night again. If you ask him about it he will explain quite clearly that he does get enough sleep though... because he skips breakfast and sleeps till almost noon!

Tonight was like most every other night, except as he walked past the Mess Hall, he noticed the shadows off in the back corner (OK ... they were just **VR** and **Cho**, but **Levi** still had “shadows” running through his mind from that Lindsay Stirling video they watched a few days ago).

**CHO JAE-YONG**

 = 



**ENERGETIC**

**When Resting:**  
Spend 1 Charge to Refresh 1  more and draw 1 additional card.

**3**   

**NAME**  
Cho Jae-yong

**ORIGIN**  
Korean

**EXPERTISE**  
Scouting

**PERSONNEL FILE**  
Other Crewmembers joke that the ever-hungry Cho is the best scout on Vanguard because they're always searching for food.

Rather than just continue his calm pace down the hall, he decided to check out what the two young ladies were scheming this time:) He remembered how **Cho** was always ready for a “midnight snack” but unlike **Joppe**, she didn’t sneak around to steal it ... she made a deal with **VR** instead. **VR** would make her a tasty (somewhat) snack and **Cho** would clean out one of the cabinets in the kitchen for **VR**.

Hi, Levi ... you can quit sneaking in ... we saw you as soon as you went through the main door.

Oh ... well ... I wasn't “sneaking”! Just walking softly due to the late hour.

And I suppose you are hoping for a midnight snack too?

Well, now that you mention it :)

While snacking, **Levi** listened to **Cho** and **VR** as they continued their discussion. VR knew that Cho had an eye and an ear and a nose for food and was hoping that maybe she'd be on one of the early Away Teams and might scout out some new food sources once they arrived at their destination. But, VR also knew that it was unfortunate that it was Joppe and not Cho who was assigned to the **Recon** Section!

However, Levi didn't really mind who found new food sources... only that they DID find food! And, his snacking over, he went on back to making his "rounds" and ended back in his room and fast asleep within the hour. And he DID get his full eight hours of sleep (2am until 10am) even though he was getting up earlier than usual.

However, Levi WAS still thinking about the "scouting for food sources" conversation last night and how it just might be up to the **Recon** Section Team to hunt out new food sources for the ISS Vanguard crew. So, food floating in his mind, Levi headed over to visit with the **Recon** Team.

How's the horizon looking today guys?

There is no horizon right now Levi!

How's the outlook for arriving at our final destination?

No clue, Levi!

Well, let me bless you as you look to the future where you aren't sure of what will be there then! Your journey there could be quite exciting!

I bless you with youthful joy, to playfully frolic and skip about, leaping with joy, as our starship continues out beyond new horizons!

Maybe tomorrow I will figure out how to traverse this universe during our Countdown Days!

**Note:** I actually am writing all this, day by day :) And in the real world I am quite busy helping my mother move to a new place! So ... I'm tired. Maybe tomorrow will need to be a shorter article :)

**Meanwhile ... back on the ISS Vanguard our story continues :)**

Later that night **Levi** took **Cho** down to the **Observatory Dome** to look at the sky ... the BIG SKY. Yes, that is how Cho referred to it ... as the **Big Sky**! She grew up in a huge city in Korea with miles of buildings ... tall buildings... REALLY tall buildings... LOTS of them! Wherever she went there almost was no sky... just buildings all around her,

even as she looked up! There was only a thin sliver of what people told her was the sky. Both **Cho** and **Levi** considered themselves fortunate to be hurtling through space... a space that was BIG... actually REALLY BIG ... actually absolutely HUGE!



Photo courtesy of NASA and the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI). Cartwheel Galaxy!

**Sidenote:** the end of this article is based on my conversation a few years ago with a Korean friend, who loved her visit here in Madison, Wisconsin and many times liked to go outside and **just look UP**. She referred to it as **a Big Sky**!

**Full Article:** Day 20: [The Universe](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/02/20-count-down-the-universe/](https://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/02/20-count-down-the-universe/)





## Blessing 11:

### Skip About, Frolic and Leap for Joy

I bless you with youthful joy, to playfully frolic and skip about, leaping with joy, as our starship continues out beyond new horizons!

Heavenly Father, good evening. Thank You for my breath and my life. Thank You for my beating heart and my working mind. And thank You for the Scripture that provides the blessing for Your sons and daughters in the **Recon Section** today ([Malachi 4:2](#) NIV):

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and **frolic** like well-fed calves.

Lord, it is a joy to be here, to offer a blessing over Your sons and daughters You love. We are **spacefarers**, not farmers, but we still can go out into the universe **leaping**... we can go out and **playfully jump**... we can go forth and **skip about**... we can go out and **frolic**... we can **leap with joy** as if we have been set **free**. So, fellow crewmembers ... let's start today ... let's spend some of each day leaping, skipping about and playfully jumping. Let's be joyful even in the midst of critical situations that may be just beyond the horizon. Lord, fill everyone in this Section with the Joy of the Lord! And let's give all the glory to the Lord. All the glory is Yours Lord. I pray this over you in the name and authority of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

ESV:

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out **leaping** like calves from the stall.

HCSB:

But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and you will go out and **playfully jump** like calves from the stall.

NET:

But for you who respect my name, the sun of vindication will rise with healing wings, and you will **skip about** like calves released from the stall.

NLT:

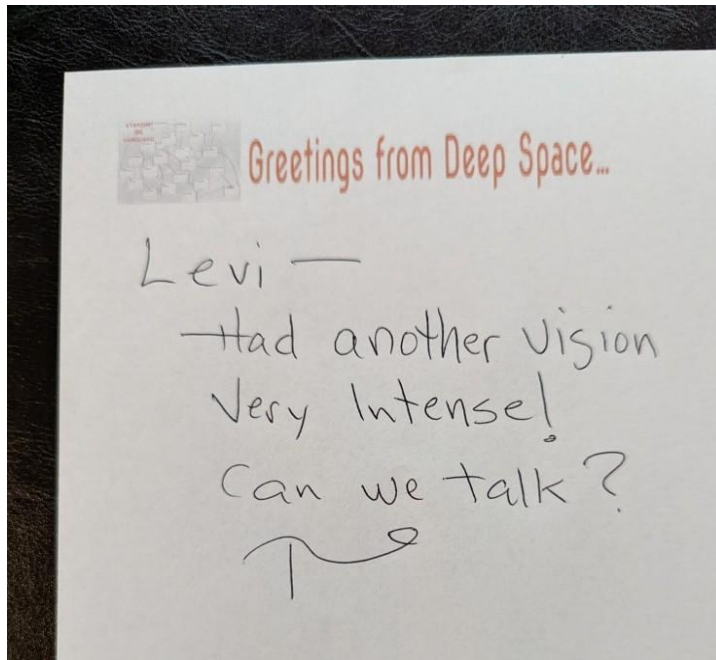
But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will **go free, leaping with joy** like calves let out to pasture.

AND OFF WE GO...

BEYOND NEW  
HORIZONS

# Day 19

When **Levi** woke up (late as usual... but feeling quite refreshed) he noticed a piece of paper next to his door. Another surprise he thought ... as he jumped out of bed and dashed to see what it was:



Levi knew at once who had left him this note, both by the **T** swirl and by the message itself! And Levi knew all about visions, so he was excited for the conversation that was hanging on the horizon. But Levi also recognized that the note was written on the stationery that is provided to everyone at the desk off to the side in the **Observatory Dome**. And so he also knew where he was going to be tonight!

But first things first! The whole ship was waiting for him to bless them (again) on their interstellar journey and coming discoveries!

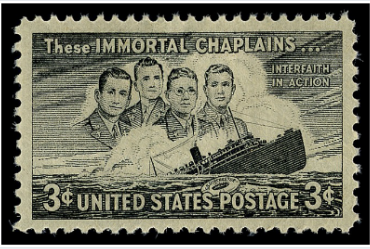
May God the Father and Jesus Christ grant you grace, mercy and peace  
in truth and love

And now ... let's begin a series of articles thoughtfully grouped as NAVIGATING :)

Yes, I know this is getting exciting (I am even wishing I had the final game on my game table right now), but as they'd say at the end of an unnamed TV show ... See you tomorrow. Same bat time. Same bat channel.

**Full Article:** Day 19: [Navigating the Star Systems](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/03/19-count-down-navigating-the-star-systems/](https://myissvanguard.com/2022/09/03/19-count-down-navigating-the-star-systems/)



## Blessing 12:

### Grace, Mercy and Peace in Truth and Love

May God the Father and Jesus Christ grant you grace, mercy and peace in truth and love.

Heavenly Father, thank You for being our provider and protector. Thank You for being our guide and lighting the way you would have us go via the stars and even in our DNA. Thank You for your many blessings. And thank You for the blessing from Scripture to pray over all those You love here on the Starship ISS Vanguard today ([2 John 1:3](#) GNT):

May God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, give us grace, mercy, and peace; may they be ours in truth and love.

Lord, I am here again, ready to pray a blessing over Your sons and daughters here on this starship. And so, fellow crewmembers, I repeat the blessing over each of you now:

May God the Father and Jesus Christ grant you grace, mercy and peace in truth and love.

And may that truth become obvious to you and the love easier for you. May the Lord grant you peace that wipes out fear. We have nothing to fear on this deep space journey since God is leading the way. May the Lord fill you with his love which covers over many sins and gives us a clean slate. May the Lord grant you extra grace so you may be gracious to each person you meet in the hallways, in the Mess Hall, in the Observatory Dome, on the Bridge, and even in MedBay during this journey. And we give the glory to You Lord. The glory is all Yours. I pray this in the name and authority of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.



# Day 18

**Levi** was excited ... extremely excited! It wasn't every day (or even every week) that **Tayen** wanted to have a deep discussion with him... and he was really looking forward to it after reading the note that Tayen had left him! But first, today was one of the days that he was to bless the entire starship crew and he knew that was equally (if not more) important, so he headed down to the Bridge and used the **starship** speaker system to bless the crew on this day ... but since Tayen's message had excited him, his blessing was a bit longer than usual (but the crew didn't seem to mind):

- May you achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding.
- May your life continue to be a delight to God as you do every good work
- May you have everything you need to hold on and joyfully endure any hardship with patience.

**TAYEN HATATHLI**

☐ = ♡



**UNBREAKABLE**

**Anytime:**  
Spend 1 Charge to replace 1 of your Injury cards with a Wounded Injury.

**2** >>>

**NAME**  
Tayen Hatathli

**ORIGIN**  
Native American

**EXPERTISE**  
Physical

**PERSONNEL FILE**

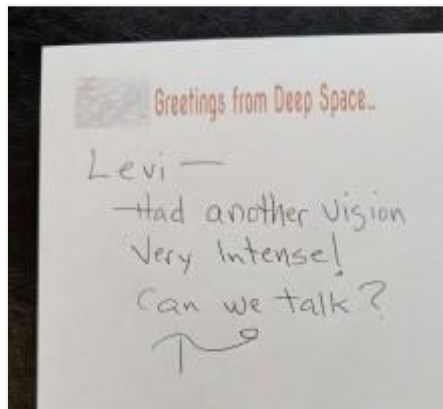
During preparations for the mission, Tayen distinguished herself with the uncanny ability to predict danger. Vanguard Initiative officers extensively studied her supposed supernatural powers, putting the young Navajo through many elaborate training scenarios. Eventually, they concluded that Tayen's impossible guesses were just a statistical fluke. Regardless, the Captain offered her a place on the ship.

**Levi** enjoyed conversations with **Tayen** because they both had similar “giftings” ... gifts that many (most) people didn't quite understand (or even “want” to understand). People's reactions to him (as a chaplain) were of course much different than how they reacted to someone like Tayen who was “just” an ordinary crewmember! When others



witnessed (and verified) that Tayen could “**see**” **the future**, they were baffled and called it an “uncanny ability to predict danger”. When Levi had visions or words from God, people outside the church chalked it up to one of those “church things”. But even in his church (back on earth) the congregation all believed the visions and “words” he heard, but nearly half weren’t quite sure what was actually happening “in” him! They thought that was why he was a pastor (now chaplain) and they were NOT!

Thus, **Tayen** and **Levi** became good buddies because they both had the **gift of sometimes seeing into the future**, or what some in the church would call receiving “words of knowledge”... **knowing something that should be impossible for you to know!** Tayen appreciated how Levi listened to her and acknowledged what she was “seeing”. Tayen was mostly “done with” telling others about her “visions” because they often just laughed at her. However, Levi SMILED as she told him about her visions ... and that smile was so much better! [see my note at the end of this article on how the **real world** and the starship comes together]



**Tayen** hoped that **Levi** would figure out (from her short note) that he should come meet with her in the **Observatory Dome** tonight (which is why she wrote it on the “official” starship paper provided to everyone over at the desk in the corner). Tayen didn’t want to specifically mention the meeting place on her note in case someone else saw it (and she knew that Levi would just leave it laying on his chair or bed). She wanted some privacy when talking about her visions!

So she had a big smile when she saw Levi walk in!

Hiya T

Hola O'Connor :)

She had heard his story about the instant translator **Isabel** had made him.

Sorry, T ... don't have my Izzy gadget in my ear today :) What was that you said? :)

She laughed! As **Levi** sat down next to her over in the corner out of earshot of others, **Tayen** got serious.

**Levi ... I had a vision... a very very clear vision!**

Tayen was glad that Levi settled down and was calmly, quietly listening to her now.

Levi ... I saw **fire**! It wasn't **fire** here on the starship, but far off in the distance. But then I saw some people jumping into it. They were jumping into the fire!

There was a lengthy pause as **Tayen** let **Levi** ponder on this, listening to see if he would “hear” anything or “see” anything (usually he “heard” words, while Tayen was the one who “saw” visions). Finally Levi took a deep breath.

Well T... we ARE on a journey to an unknown destination, which IS far in the distance since we aren't even half way there yet. Maybe the fire you were seeing means that it might NOT be a peaceful uneventful destination like we are anticipating (and hoping for). I “hear” a song to combine with your vision. Maybe our destination will need Away Teams to climb mountains and swim seas and maybe even jump into the fire!

You can climb a mountain  
You can swim the sea  
You can jump into the fire  
But you'll never be free



I don't know T. Let's keep this in mind. We aren't even half way to our destination yet, but perhaps things won't be so smooth sailing when we get there.

And, now that Levi mentioned it, just HOW will we navigate once we are IN a star system (rather than simply just journeying there).

**Finally ... The real world meets the starship chaplain!** Good science fiction (Sci-Fi) is firmly based in reality and doesn't just make things up on the fly (well, for the most part anyway). And they say that when writing stories, you should write about something you know (thus in these short Countdown stories I couldn't talk much about **VR** (Victoria Romano, our starship chef) because I have no clue about how to cook). Awaken Realms did a wonderful job creating a short backstory for each of the 90 crewmembers (which will be expanded even further if you get the Personnel Files expansion). As I read through all the backstories, I was able to pick out various aspects of the crew that I tried to fit into a kind of running story as part of this Countdown. I thought it would make things a bit more interesting and show that Awaken Realms wanted there to be **LIFE** in this board game... not just some random colored meeples strategically moving around a game board.

However, I did notice that Awaken Realms had neglected to include a chaplain on the ship, which is NOT realistic. **Most ships have a chaplain**, often more than one. Just before starting this Countdown I included the story of the **FOUR IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS** honored by an official (ie, real) postage stamp! The real world ship that sank **had FOUR chaplains!**



=> [Background Story including the Immortal Chaplains](#) <sup>1</sup>

And I, myself, could identify with the backstory for **Tayen**. Awaken Realms did a good job in setting it up! Let me reprint her backstory here:

During preparations for the mission, Tayen distinguished herself with the uncanny ability to predict danger. Vanguard Initiative officers extensively studied her supposed supernatural powers, putting the young Navajo through many elaborate training scenarios. Eventually, they concluded that Tayen's impossible guesses were just a statistical fluke. Regardless, the Captain offered her a place on the ship.

Perhaps you already know someone who has these "abilities". Or perhaps you wondered if the stories you heard were actually true or if people were just making it all up.

1. [myissvanguard.com/2022/08/21/just-hanging-out-in-the-pub-with-the-chaplain/](https://myissvanguard.com/2022/08/21/just-hanging-out-in-the-pub-with-the-chaplain/)

# Non–Game Related Personal Stories

No, I am not a pastor, a priest or a chaplain. However, I have written about **3,000** prayers and blessings, typically for a specific person. And I have a couple dozen books of prayers I've written (virtually all of them professionally bound but with only two copies, one for the person I wrote them for and one for me to remember what I had done). Most are “private” and not to be shared, though my prayers for Lindsey Stirling were public and I could share those! And I did mention her prayers at the end of a previous article:

=> [Crew Dice Skills part 4](#)

**Now ... about “knowing something that should be impossible to know”. This definitely IS real. Awaken Realms didn't just make it up for Tayen!** If you have been following along with me on this journey through the original Gamefound campaign, then **ordering** and then **WAITING** for ISS Vanguard (this website now has over well **over 550 articles**) you kind of “know” me. You know that I can be a bit focused. You know that I don't just do something “a little” or until it is “good enough”. Maybe that is why I like Awaken Realms! They too are not satisfied with simply “good enough” and want to go all out, to go way overboard (as people say that I do). The game ISS Vanguard is a testament to that... as is my website as well :)

So, maybe after nearly two years you are ready to hear **four of my impossible stories** ... what I refer to as “**jaw dropping**” stories! Remember back in Countdown Day 21 I told you to remember the words “**jaw dropping**”?

=> [Countdown Day 21](#)

I made up the stories for Levi aboard the Starship ISS Vanguard (he IS fictional, after all) However, I will give you a quick summary of four [TRUE jaw dropping stories](#) from my own **personal** life for you to ponder over, with links to my personal website where you can find the FULL story for three of them – one I never got around to writing up (yet).



# The Meaning of Her Name

Look up the MEANING of her name (December 2007)

This is the story that I still need to write up properly, but you may as well hear my condensed version right here and now! Many churches are so large that it is hard to get to know others, so they have “home groups” or “small groups”, often with just a dozen people in the group. It seems that 12 is about the right number (more than that and it gets too big to know each other well). I was part of one of the home groups at my church – about 10 of us in the group.

Then two new people came to join our group. And as usual, everyone introduced themselves with a couple sentences about who they were. One of the two new people introduced herself and as she was speaking (her couple sentences about herself) **she mentioned that she didn't like her name.**

I doubt anyone else hardly even noticed when she said that ... but **a bell went off in my mind** (along with neon lights around “her name”). God asked me to look up what her name meant. So, I did. And I wrote up a nice “report” on her name (remember that I tend to go overboard when I do things).

It seems that the base of her name (Dar) is from the Hebrew דָּר and means “**Mother-of-Pearl**”. And, what a coincidence that just a couple months earlier (July 2007) a detailed study IN MADISON (where I live) published an in depth report about Mother-of-Pearl!

=> [Mother-of-Pearl: Classic Beauty and Remarkable Strength](#)<sup>1</sup>

Basically, my report about her name summed it all up ... she had a **MARVELOUS name** that means **beautiful to the extreme ALONG** with **strength to the extreme.**

So, I printed my “report” about her name and at our next home meeting I handed it to her. I wasn't even sure she knew who I was since we hadn't talked to each other at the last meeting other than the “Hi, I'm Len” introduction (along with her “Hi, I'm Darci”). And what happened next is the “**jaw dropping**” part ... she burst into tears.

She told me that she had thought she'd go to her grave wondering why she had been given such a bad name. And **an almost complete stranger (me) hands her a detailed report about her name** ... and her name is absolutely **WONDERFUL**! God had found a way to introduce me to the person who **became my mentor** and one of my best friends!

1. [news.wisc.edu/mother-of-pearl-classic-beauty-and-remarkable-strength/](http://news.wisc.edu/mother-of-pearl-classic-beauty-and-remarkable-strength/)

# Introduced to Her Daughter

Introduced to her daughter (February 2008)

I knew my mentor and good friend had kids, but she didn't talk much about them. So, God decided to introduce me to one of her daughters! I **\*\*DID\*\*** write up this story, and I highly hope you will read the whole story – it kind of brings real life into perspective (and almost brings tears to MY eyes just rereading it):

=> [Jaw Dropping Experience #2](#)<sup>2</sup>

I was volunteering at a local food pantry (it actually is the largest in Madison and Dane County). After stocking the shelves (along with other assorted tasks) all the volunteers would sit at tables for our own meal. I liked to just sit and eat and LISTEN to other people's conversations.

But there was one young lady who tended to come sit at my table and **ASK ME QUESTIONS!** And of course I had to reply, and usually my answers were just a few sentences. But it seemed that she heard twenty!

Well ... she told me that she worked at the front desk at Woodman's (huge grocery store here in Madison). So, whenever I went grocery shopping I would peek at the front desk and say **HI** to her.

Then one time she said that she would soon be moving to Milwaukee. So I wished her well. Then next time I saw her there, I also wished her well on her move to Milwaukee. But just a few steps later God was telling me (in my mind) to go back and bless her! A few more steps... Go Back and Bless Her! (I had to explain to God that this was a grocery store and I can't go blessing people at the front desk). A few more steps ... **Go Back and Bless Her.**

**FINE! On my way out! (please read the longer version of this, it is much much cooler).** I go up to the front counter and ask her if it was OK for me to bless her. SURE.

So I do.

Then as I turn around to leave, she blurts out, "*Are you going to see my Mom tonight?*" ... "*What??? Who is your Mom?*" Ends up that her Mom was my new mentor and good friend! And God wanted me to meet her daughter before she moved away!

Make sure to read the full story, especially the ending of it where I quote how my mentor referred to it!!!

2. [AcceptedNotRejected.com/2009/05/15/jaw-dropping-experience-2/](http://AcceptedNotRejected.com/2009/05/15/jaw-dropping-experience-2/)

# Silver Bowl of Golden Apples

Silver Bowl of Golden Apples (April 2007)

I don't think anyone can explain this one! This HAS to be categorized as “impossible”!

Once again, I did write up this story and you really should read the full version so that you can hear a first hand (from me) impossible story!

=> [Silver Bowl of Golden Apples](#) <sup>3</sup>

The young lady who worked at the front desk where I worked was a single mom with two kids. Every Monday we used to walk a few blocks to a restaurant and I'd buy her lunch. She told me she really enjoyed this because it was a chance for her to talk with another adult (most of her life was at home with her kids or at the front desk saying “*Can I help you?*”).

From our lunch time chats I knew that she was a Christian. After a few months, it seemed that God wanted me to give her a silver bowl of golden apples. And, yes, I had a conversation with God about this ... it didn't seem like the best of ideas to me! But God persisted.

And so that weekend I went out and bought a silver bowl and some golden apples (but please read the longer version of this story!) and brought it to work with me early Monday morning and put it on the shelf above my desk. I was going to save it till the next day because she said that Tuesdays were bad days, so I might as well give her the “gift” on a Tuesday :)

But, it was Monday so we walked to the restaurant and had our usual lunch. I did **\*\*NOT\*\*** mention that I would be giving her a “gift” the next day – it was going to be a unique surprise!

Well ... as we walked back to our office, out of the blue she says something unlike anything she had ever said before:

**“My spirit man told me you were going to give me a bowl of fruit”**

Well, as soon as we got back to the office, I dashed to my desk, grabbed the silver bowl of golden apples and set them on the counter in front of her!

Doing what God asks of you can be exciting!

3. [AcceptedNotRejected.com/2010/12/20/silver-bowl-of-golden-apples/](http://AcceptedNotRejected.com/2010/12/20/silver-bowl-of-golden-apples/)

# Handing a Card to a Friend in a Coffee Shop

## Handing a specific Scripture to a friend (April 2008)

Finally, a statistically virtually impossible story! Anyone good with statistics can figure this one out for me!

Once again, read the full story to really understand what had happened!

=> [God is the Master Coordinator](#)<sup>4</sup>

I don't hand out Scriptures to people. I know that some people do that, but not me. I'd rather get to know you first, and not just give a random Scripture to some random person. But that's just me... others are just fine doing it.

Well, for about six months I had been meeting at Ancora Coffee Shop every week with a friend going through several books of the Bible. We would read a couple chapters beforehand and then talk about them at the coffee shop.

And then, all of a sudden it seemed that God wanted me to make a photolog card placing one specific Scripture on it to give to him. So, I did. I took one of my photos from my trip to the Grand Canyon and overlaid the Scripture on it. Then I printed it on photo paper and cut it to size.

In the morning when I got to the coffee shop, he was already sitting at a table. So I handed him the photolog card I had made and turned to go get my "mocha" when he blurted out "**This is confirmation!**" Whoa! Let me get my mocha first!

Back at the table he tells me that another friend had just given him a Scripture and told him that actually it was one of two Scriptures that said about the same thing. However, his other friend told him that she couldn't find that "second" Scripture!

Well ... turns out that I had just handed it to him!

There are over **31,000** verses in the Bible and I rarely make one into a photolog card (actually only a couple times in twenty years). And my card that I handed him was **the** matching Scripture to the one his other friend had just given to him!

4. [AcceptedNotRejected.com/2009/05/19/god-is-the-master-coordinator/](http://AcceptedNotRejected.com/2009/05/19/god-is-the-master-coordinator/)



# Hearing a Song for Someone

Now ... about my “hearing” a song for someone... just like **Levi** heard a song for **Tayen**! **That also happens for me. True!** About a year ago one of my good friends was in a car accident... a VERY SERIOUS car accident. She had to be **MedFlighted** to Mayo Clinic

and was in the **Trauma Center** for **THREE weeks**. When I heard about it I started writing one prayer a day for her. I had some “**neon**” colored envelopes. I had lots of **OLD mint postage stamps**. (OK, you can ask, “So, you had neon envelopes and old mint stamps just sitting in your closet?” Answer: “**Yes**”) After writing a prayer, I would print it and then mail it to her (she was in Arkansas at the time staying with her daughter – she is back in Madison now). After one month I compiled (and reformatted) all the prayers into a glossy hardcover book! (like this one)



First Month of  
**Prayers for Diane**  
October 24 -November 23, 2021



(I actually made 6 more books for her after that first book)

When she got out of the trauma center she told me that she had a hard time thinking. It was like there was a fog in her mind that made thinking hard. So, **I was praying that God would break through that fog for her!**

And then I “heard” a song for her ... **Foggy Mountain Breakdown.**

See one of the versions of this song below:



Yes, she is doing much much better. The last time we chatted (at Finca Coffee Shop – run by some fantastic people from El Salvador) I finally got a chance to tell her about the epic space exploration game that I would soon have! **It was so fun to see her eyes light up (as she said MY eyes lit up while talking about ISS Vanguard).** She said that she’d like to play the game when I got it and would even come over and play some of Prototype 2 to “get a feel” for the game before it arrives!

Now that **Awaken Realms** has included a crewmember (**Tayen**) who hears “words of knowledge” and also has the gift of “prophecy”, it would be great if they also wove that into the game in some way (hopefully better than how I am doing it for this unofficial story as we wait for the game to arrive at our doorsteps).

**Full Article:** Day 18: [Navigating IN a Star System](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/04/18-count-down-navigating-in-a-star-system/](https://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/04/18-count-down-navigating-in-a-star-system/)



## Blessing 13: A Very Special Blessing

Heavenly Father, thank You for being with me. Thank You for giving me glimpses of Your plan so that I can walk with You, or even FLY with you through space. Thank You for this special blessing for all the crew aboard the Starship ISS Vanguard as stated in your Scriptures ([Colossians 1:9-12](#) Voice):

Father, may they **clearly know Your will** and **achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding**. May their lives be a credit to You, Lord; and what's more, may they continue to **delight You by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge** that comes from **being close to You**. **Strengthen them** with Your infinite power, according to **Your glorious might**, so that they will have **everything they need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully**. Thank You, Father, as You have made us eligible to receive our portion of the inheritance given to all those **set apart by the light**

Lord, here I am on behalf of each and every crewmember here on this starship. I bless each of you now, just as Paul blessed the Colossians.

- May you clearly know God's will for you and may you achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding.
- May your life be a credit to the Lord and even beyond that, may your life continue to be a delight to God as you do every good work and grow in the true knowledge that comes from being close to the Lord your God.
- May He strengthen you with His infinite power and might so that you will have everything you need to hold on and joyfully endure any hardship with patience.
- May you be set apart by the light, ready for the inheritance waiting for you.





## Day 17

**Question:** what happens when a **rebel artist** (**Jia** aka **Jees**) and a **rebel visionary** (**Tayen** aka **T**) get together (especially with **Levi's** blessing)? Artists have their own way of looking at the world (or in their case, looking at the universe). Visionaries like **Tayen** do as well. So, it was almost like a **volcano eruption** when **Tayen** got together with **Jia** to tell her about her visions (she had another vision after talking with **Levi**). And **Jia** just RAN WITH IT. Next thing we know (but the Captain and Levi didn't) was over a dozen of the crew organized by **Jia** held a secret **paint-a-thon** all night session and covered half of the side wall of the Mess Hall with an interesting (if not gorgeous) painting:



Our rebellious rebels were turning out to be quite the charismatic leaders, evidenced by over a dozen crewmembers secretly joining them in the middle of the night to paint Tayen's vision across half of the side wall in the Mess Hall.



**The Rebels** (Jees and T):



Technically, it was unknown WHO had painted that wall, but **Captain Wayman** called **Jia** and **Tayen** to his office for a “talk“. And, what do you know ... they told him that they had no idea who would have done something like that!

The captain just smiled and said ... **fine** ... but maybe those same people might paint something on the other half of the wall that is **a bit more uplifting?**

At that point both **Jia** and **Tayen** looked at each other as **Tayen's** second vision came to their minds!

Meanwhile, **Levi** was over in the **Engineering** section as they wanted their blessing for the day!

**May you be blessed when you stay aboard the starship and when you leave on an Away Team to go out to another world!**

**And now for the task at hand ... NAVIGATING DOWN to a planet!**

At this point in the real world, both my body and my brain need to rest. It'd been a tough week moving my Mom to a new place (but all went well so far ... one more move day planned for Wednesday though). So let's move on and see what's happening aboard the starship now ... never know what our **Rebel Team** may be up to!

Looks like things have calmed down aboard **Starship ISS Vanguard** and the crew is jam packing the Mess Hall for another **Epic Piano Jam** (that goes with the Epic Awaken Realms game). Let's move the camera in to check out the action!

Yes ... Another Piano Jam in the Mess Hall ... to keep everyone's spirits up, just play some **HAPPY** music! These guys put a huge smile on my face every time I watch them (which is often). [my wife and I just smile and say to each other, "those guys are nuts"]



While sitting listening (and smiling), **Levi** remembers reading a book that helped him understand an interesting phenomenon! He was thinking to himself, “We really really need artists and musicians during this long journey”.

He remembered reading a great book about this:

=> [Heart of the Artist](#) <sup>1</sup>

**Full Article:** Day 17: [Navigating DOWN to the Planet](#) <sup>2</sup>

1. [www.amazon.com/Heart-Artist-Rory-Noland/dp/0310224713/](http://www.amazon.com/Heart-Artist-Rory-Noland/dp/0310224713/)

2. [myissvanguard.com/2022/09/05/17-count-down-navigating-down-to-the-planet-and-the-rebels-regroup/](http://myissvanguard.com/2022/09/05/17-count-down-navigating-down-to-the-planet-and-the-rebels-regroup/)



## Blessing 14:

### Be Blessed Anywhere that You Go

I pray that you will be blessed when you stay aboard the starship and when you leave on an Away Team to go out to another world!

Heavenly Father, thank You for this starship that has become "home" to us all. Thank You for all the crew who have become my "family". Thank You for being our guide as well as our protector and provider. And thank You for the Scripture to bless Your sons and daughters with today ([Deuteronomy 28:6](#) Voice):

You'll be blessed **when you go out** of your home  
and blessed **when you return** to your home.

Lord, I sense important things happening right now, this day, this week, this month. And so I am very happy to pray another blessing over all the crew here in the Engineering Section. I ask the Lord to protect each of you as you design and build things that might just be critical to our survival. While it would be safest to just stay aboard the starship, each of you is standing ready to board a lander and head to an unknown planet regardless of potential dangers. And Lord, I ask You to bless each and every one of them. And so, my friends ... my new family, I am praying this blessing over you while you are in the midst of "going out" away from earth into the vast unknown. Yes, today I pray that you will be safe and be blessed while on this starship as well as whenever you are assigned to an Away Team. And we give all the glory to You Lord. The glory is all Yours! Amen.

**AND OFF WE GO TO...**

**DO THE UNDOABLE**

# Day 16

Jeez and T took up Captain Wayman's challenge to do a more uplifting mural across the other half of the Mess Hall's side wall.

But this time they invited everyone on the crew to join in painting it! [real world note: yes, having everyone join in making a huge mural is fun and can have great results... see the end of this article about what creating a community mural at The River Food Pantry was like]

This time Tayen (and Jeez) went to chat with Samarth about T's latest vision since he was able to see "hidden symbols" and patterns and "concealed meanings" ... and that was all part of her latest vision.



You can see from Samarth's backstory why Tayen wanted to chat with him:

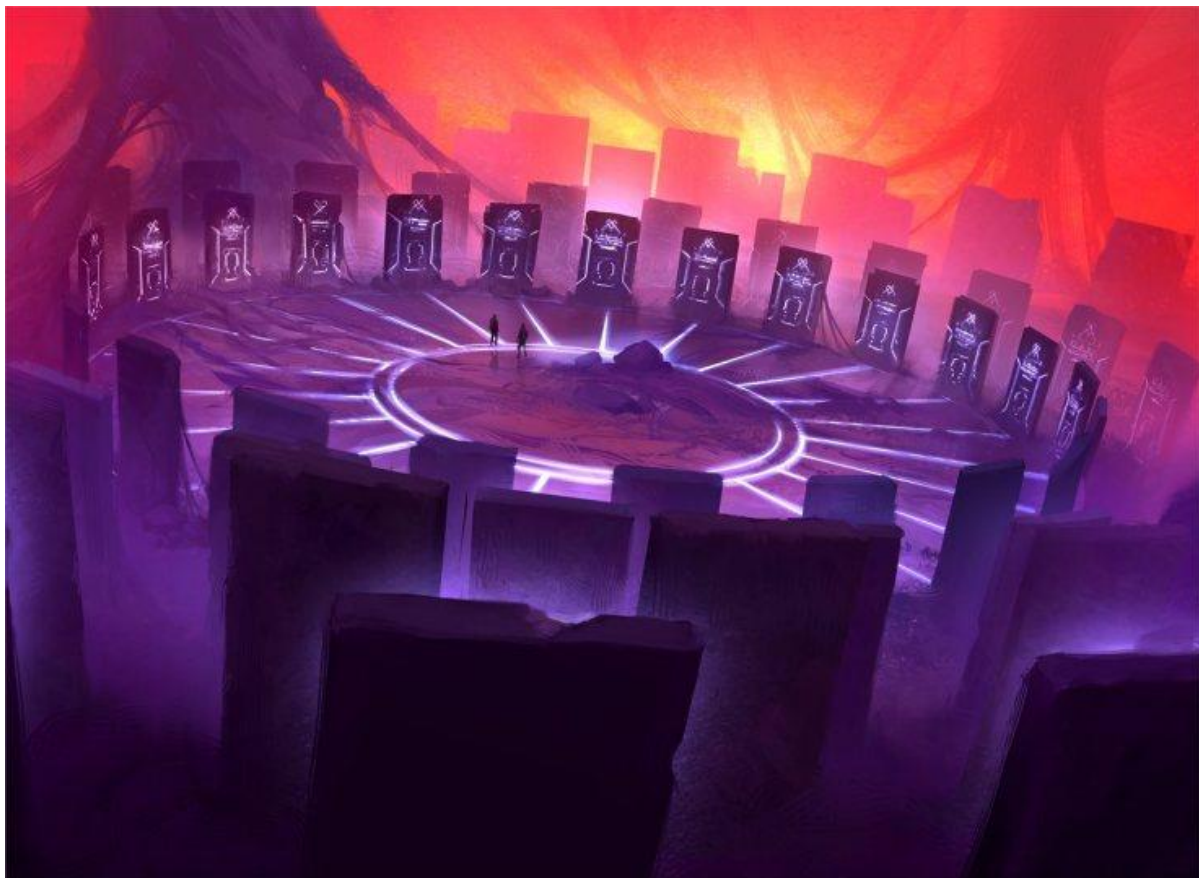
Samarth has always seen a little deeper than most, often to his detriment. Sequences, patterns, recurring numbers, hidden symbols, concealed meanings – it all makes sense to Samarth, and he made quite a few enemies weaponizing his perceptive mind in gambling and gaming. Now, he uses those uncanny skills aboard Vanguard, deciphering alien runes and making sense of the nonsensical.



It was hard for **Tayen** to describe what was in her vision, but **Samarth** listened intently and asked some very pointed questions about the vision and in the end **Tayen** was happy that he seemed to understand what her vision looked like ... and next he would try to understand what the vision **MEANT!** It looked like the two rebels had a kindred soul joining them. And as the next huge mural unfolded they became the **Three Rebels** or **Tres Rebeldes** or as **Jia** put it: 세 명의 반군



As they pieced together and sketched out an outline of **Tayen's** second vision, **Jia** was seeing it **explode into an artistic prophecy** while **Samarth** was actually seeing a hidden meaning in it. The three were sure that it belonged on the other half of the Mess Hall wall and were determined to make that happen! **Jumping into the fire** was one thing ... but was this foretelling **walking through portals? Who knows?** (yes ... you now say “**The Shadow knows**” and I add “**Lindsey Stirling**”)



First they had to get **Tayen's** vision neatly outlined on **Jia's** sketchpad, then transferred to **Samarth's** computer and finally projected onto the wall. Once it was projected onto the wall, all the crew wanted to be part of this exciting experience and flooded into the Mess Hall to get a cup of paint and brush (**much more exciting than a cup of "Joe" and a donut**). The Captain was wary about how this was going to turn out... but it ended up a total beauty! Crewmembers actually wanted to have their photo in front of the mural that they helped create! [see the end of this article for the **true story** that this is based upon]

**Captain Wayman** wasn't sure what to do with the energetic **Three Rebels**, but it was looking like they were heroes in the making! He just wished they had coined a better name for themselves than **Three Rebels** :) Yet, he smiled as he watched their **energy** and **high spirits** carry onto the rest of the crew! He was actually wondering what might happen if they ended up on **the same Away Team**.

Meanwhile just down the hall over in the **Science** Section area, **Levi** was chatting with all the geeks and nerds (he wished he could be one too... seems like Levi always wanted to be part of wherever he was). As he was ready to leave after a long chat, he paused to bless them all:

**I bless you this day and pray that God's grace and peace will be with you.**

Meanwhile, back in the real world, I am writing about what I "know" (sort of). Over a decade ago I was fortunate to coordinate a real community mural that was painted by over 70 of those who came to **The River Food Pantry** for food. They were given a cup of paint and a brush. "**Do I have to stay inside the lines?**" was a common question ... answer: **nope... no rules!** And speaking of "lines" a young lady just out of high school (Kiersten) did the design for the mural.



Her "outline" was then projected onto several large Masonite panels and us mere mortals (aka non-artists) painted black outlines onto the Masonite panels wherever we saw a black line being projected. Here you can see our progress ... only a few places left for us to paint those black lines! Yep, we employed various things to keep the huge panels from tipping forward :)



Once the design outline was completed it looked like this:



Yep ... that's Kiersten who is quite happy with being able to present her vision to **The River Food Pantry**! Next, those Masonite panels were set up inside the food pantry itself and as people came in to use the food pantry (ie, get food for their families) they were offered a cup of paint and a brush... over 70 of them took us up on the offer.



Here is a photo as we were nearly finished with the huge mural (the two girls painting on the left are actually standing on milk crates so they could reach higher):



After 70 non-artists had finished painting the mural, it looked like this:



Kiersten is looking quite happy sitting on the floor in front of the completed mural. Next, it was bolted up to one of the walls. And **over the past decade hundreds of volunteers (probably thousands) have wanted a photo of their group in front of this mural:**



**The story of how this mural actually came to be is quite amazing** (almost in the “impossible” range). The director of The River was wary about how it would turn out (just as Captain Wayman was), but you can see for yourself a work of art that was obviously painted by many different people... a work of art that shows

a community coming together! **You can read the jaw dropping story on the one page PDF** (with three photos included on the next page)<sup>1</sup>.





## A Look Behind The River Mural

By Len Lindsay, Volunteer & Supporter of The River Food Pantry

Kiersten Chernovol (Doty) was an intern with Source Ministries in Minneapolis, which used art and music to minister to the area's diverse neighborhood. It was a perfect fit for Kiersten since God had gifted her with artistic skills. A week before the annual Art Fest, Kiersten heard God ask her to create a huge mural for a nonprofit. While that would be truly exciting, she was sad because she realized that a nonprofit wouldn't be asking a girl just out of high school to paint a huge mural for them.

In Madison (270 miles away), Len Lindsay heard God ask him to create a huge mural for The River. Typically, Len immediately did what God asked of him, but in this case, he paused to remind God that he was not artistic. Not even a little. Nevertheless, God asked him again! So, Len said, "Fine!" He was volunteering at the Source's Art Fest and would watch how they did it.

Meanwhile, The River was getting ready to expand their services. Another business in the back quarter of their building didn't renew their lease so this was a great opportunity to expand.

In early July 2009, the city closed the entire street for the Source Art Fest. Len helped by driving to the store to buy paint and brushes. Kiersten helped with the many art needs for the small tables set out along the street. There was no money allowed at the art fest. All food and refreshments were free. The artists at the tables freely helped anyone who stopped by to create their own piece of art that they could take home with them.

At the end of the art fest, the volunteers celebrated and shared stories from the successful weekend. Kiersten mentioned that she would be moving to Madison to attend MATC. That caught Len's attention, so he went over and asked her a simple question. "So, Kiersten, since you are moving to Madison, would you like to create a huge mural for The River Food Pantry?" Len was amazed at her response. With eyes wide open, she said, "Yes!"

Back in Madison, Len got the go ahead from The River and bought all the materials needed (using the same "skills" that he used in Minneapolis) ...drop cloths, paint, primer, brushes and four large masonite panels.

Meanwhile, Kiersten created the design for the mural. Rays of light poured from the holes in outstretched hands emerging from a flowing river—bringing to mind how the same Jesus that was nailed through his hands to the cross to die for our sins is there in the midst of The River.

A bright projector could beam Kiersten's design onto the large masonite panels where anyone (regardless of artistic talent) could paint the black outlines to match the projected image. But this would require a bright projector and quite a bit of uninterrupted space.

Coincidentally, The River was expanding right then into their new space, which was empty for that week. It just so happened that MATC had a bright projector that could be reserved. Andy (co-founder of The River) was an instructor there and was able to get it without a reservation for that same week. Kiersten had time that same week in August before MATC classes started. Len had time that same week to coordinate everything including driving Kiersten to and from The River.

And so it came to pass that on Friday, August 21, 2009, all who came to use the services of The River were invited to help paint the mural. Over 70 people were given a brush and a cup of paint. Most asked if they needed to stay within the lines. Nope, no rules. Paint whatever inspires you. Three hours later the community had painted the entire mural. Six days later it was mounted on the wall. And to this day, most volunteers at The River ask to have their picture taken in front of that mural.

And with so many coincidences, we know that God was working behind the scenes to get that huge mural to remind us that God is our midst at The River!

**Full Article:** Day 16: [Navigating ON the Planet](#) <sup>2</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.files.wordpress.com/2022/09/river-mural-story.pdf](http://MyISSVanguard.files.wordpress.com/2022/09/river-mural-story.pdf)

2. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/06/16-count-down-navigating-on-the-planet/](http://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/06/16-count-down-navigating-on-the-planet/)



## Blessing 15:

### Grace and Peace

I bless you this day and pray that God's grace and peace will be with you.

Heavenly Father, what a wonderful day to visit with the crew in Science. Thank you for a safe lift off as our starship ISS Vanguard on its long journey into space to the destination you have planned for us. Thank you for each of the crewmembers assembled here today, all created in Your image. And thank You for the daily blessing for today taken directly from Your Scriptures ([1 Thessalonians 1:1](#) NLT):

This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God give you grace and peace.

Lord, what a joy to be with You today. It is especially joyful since this day marks the half way point of our long journey that we are sharing. Today I pray that grace and peace be yours my fellow crewmembers. I pray that His peace would be granted to you from God your Father and Jesus Christ. And together we can give the glory to the Lord. All the glory is His. I bless you in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

AND WE NOW GO...

SEARCHING  
FOR QUESTIONS

# Day 15

**Levi** couldn't find his other shoe. Granted that he was not the most formal guy and often wore **tropical shirts**, but he was not so sure that the crew would appreciate him dropping by to chat wearing just one shoe. Although he did have both socks on, maybe it would be OK? Yeah. That should work!

As he hobbled (right word?) down the hall he wondered why everyone kept stopping to look back at him. Maybe it was because it was hard to walk with one foot longer than the other because of the thick soles of his ONE shoe. Or was it one leg longer than the other?

Enough of that... he just took off his "one" shoe, and walked "normally" down the hall in his socks to the crew that are always **FIRST IN LINE!** Yep ... **Security** Section! And with one shoe in hand (and their eyes on his red socks) he prayed a blessing over them all:

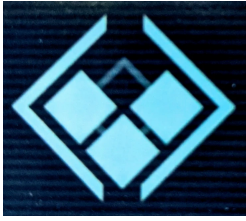
Today I bless and remind you that the Lord will not abandon nor neglect you.

Then, to all their surprise, with a running start he **SLID OUT OF THE ROOM** (his socks were great for this)!

And back in the game, a question often comes up... what is the best number of players to play ISS Vanguard!?

**Full Article:** Day 15: [Player Count \(1, 2, 3, 4\)](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/07/15-count-down-player-count-1-2-3-or-4/](https://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/07/15-count-down-player-count-1-2-3-or-4/)



## Blessing 16:

### May you walk in God's Ways

Today I bless and remind you that the Lord will not abandon nor neglect you.

Heavenly Father, hello! Thank You for this morning when I woke up fully refreshed and new. Thank You for being with me while I sleep. Thank You for being with me while I am awake! Thank You for showing me the way and then walking with me on that path. Thank you for being with each of these crewmembers here in **Security** where they place themselves "first in line" in order to protect the rest of us! And thank You for the Scripture that I am using as a basis for blessing Your sons and daughters here in Security ([1 Kings 8:57-58](#) Voice):

May the Eternal our God **live among us**, just as He lived with our ancestors. May He **never abandon or neglect us** so that **He can make us desire and walk in His ways**, keeping all the commands, laws, and judgments He gave to our ancestors.

Lord, here I am. Hear me. Hear my blessing over Your sons and daughters whom You love. My friends and fellow crewmembers, today I bless you and illuminate something that is good to know: God will never leave you. God will never abandon you. God will never forsake nor neglect you. God is with you ... right now! And right now I pray that you will desire to walk in His ways, knowing that He is right there walking with you as you lead the way for the rest of us. Lord, let all the crew here in Security know that you are right there with them as they serve those who rely on them. Find ways that each person hearing my voice will know that you have not abandoned them. I bless each of you in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. All the glory is His. Amen.

*And off we go...*

ALWAYS FIRST  
IN LINE



# Day 14

You can't go there Levi.

You are not authorized Levi.

You don't have a command token Levi.

On the third day, **Levi** finally asked:

Yes ... But, what's a ship chaplain supposed to do when he can't visit and chat with everyone on the ship?

You just need a command token, Levi. We aren't being mean... we just need a command token before you can enter!

**And Levi had a new mission! One by one, he'd get to the crew in those five off limit areas!**

But first, he had scheduled a get together with **Recon**. First things first he thought as he walked over to the **Recon Section** where he blessed them all as promised:

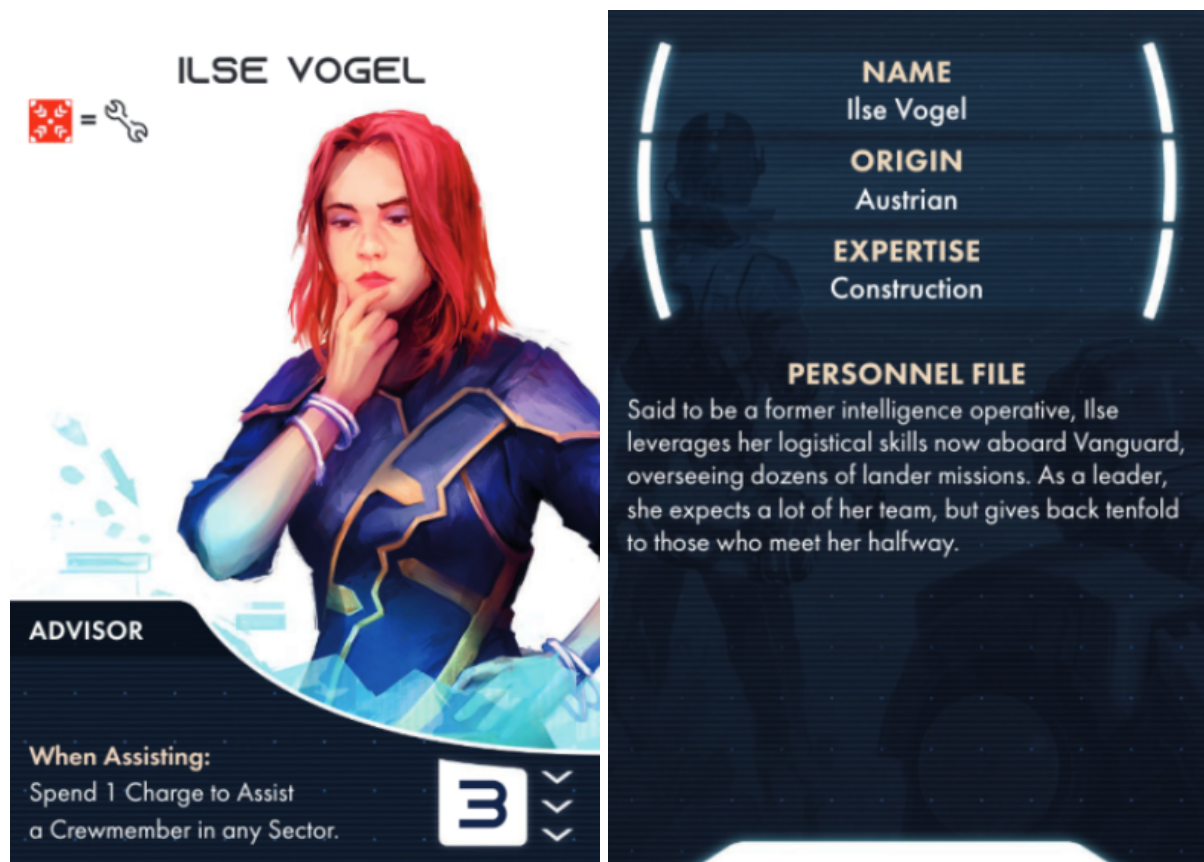
May God make all grace overflow to you so that you will have enough of everything in every way.

*Wait a minute! (Levi was thinking ... and that can be dangerous)*

What was it they said that I didn't have? A command token? What's a "**command token**"?

Ah ha! I need inside intelligence for this... someone who is an officially appointed leader! Someone who'd know this "command" stuff!

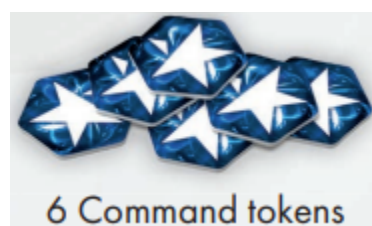
And **Levi** was off to chat with **Ilse**!



And, of course, **Levi** was right. After all, he'd seen **Ilse's** Personnel File :)

Said to be a former intelligence operative, Ilse leverages her logistical skills now aboard Vanguard, overseeing dozens of lander missions. As a leader, she expects a lot of her team, but gives back tenfold to those who meet her halfway.

And **Ilse** had a long chat with **Levi**.. about the **Barracks**, about the **Situation Room**, about the **Research Laboratory**, about the **Production Complex** and about the **Add-On Facility**. And finally ... about those "**Command Tokens**" (and she had a few in her pocket)



Notice that Awaken Realms includes SIX of them.

Only SIX (so you can never have more than 6)! Plus, you cannot save them up from one Ship Phase to the next. When you are finished visiting the Facilities in one Ship Phase, all command tokens (and energy tokens) are discarded and you are back to zero of each. So... since you can't save them, use them ... but we will need to use them WISELY!

Since I don't have the final game, I am not sure about these, but here's what I think they actually are:

## Headache tokens!

*(my new name for them)*

There are **FIVE FACILITIES** on ISS Vanguard that are extremely important, and you can't enter any of them **without a command token**.

And (unlike Ilse) we don't have a pocketful of them! I don't have the final game, but from what I can see, we may start the campaign with **just TWO Command Tokens**!

At this point Levi was thinking that visiting all the facilities during the same Ship Phase was almost like beating a dead horse ... but then he remembered Maeda talking about beating something else ... **DRUMS!** Maybe watching the video of her daughter performing during that public festival would help his headache (or make it worse?) But he had no Command Tokens yet, so off he went to scout out **Maeda**:



**MAEDA AYUMI**

 = 

**SELFLESS**

**When Assisting:**  
Spend 1 Charge to Assist with any number of  instead of 1.  
After the Dice Check, return those  to your available dice.

**1**   

**NAME**  
Maeda Ayumi

**ORIGIN**  
Japanese

**EXPERTISE**  
Science

**PERSONNEL FILE**

Maeda was sent to Vanguard by her corporation, which generously subsidized the project. She didn't want to leave Earth, although she had to – the corporation gathered damaging information on her and was eager to release it if she refused. To protect her family from severe problems, she gave in and joined Vanguard's crew.

Hiya Mae! Can we watch one of your videos of your daughter in that drum concert again? I need a little distraction from a dilemma that I am in :)

Oh, Levi ... I'm so sorry to hear that you have a dilemma. But, sure, I welcome the excuse to watch my daughter again ... I miss her so very much. Family is so important in Japan you know.

And a minute later they were watching this energetic taiko drum performance<sup>2</sup>:



Maeda was smiling ... REALLY smiling at the end of that video.

That's my girl in the middle. Levi, we need to get some of her energy into our life here on this starship.

Yes, Mae, we do. We really do. We can combine that energy with the energy that fills the Mess Hall during our Piano Jam Sessions! We need Drum Jam Sessions too!

**Maeda was so happy ...**

Levi ... one more video please. I can't watch it all alone.<sup>3</sup>

Levi just laid back against the wall (they were sitting on the floor).

Yes, Mae. One more Mae. One more!





After that ... Mae went out walking the halls with Levi. Family was important. Levi was like family here on the starship. **Just like family** (*as she wiped away the tears from her eyes*).

**Full Article:** Day 14: [Ship Facilities](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [myissvanguard.com/2022/09/08/14-count-down-ship-facilities-decisions-here-give-me-a-headache/](https://myissvanguard.com/2022/09/08/14-count-down-ship-facilities-decisions-here-give-me-a-headache/)
2. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pielf1bbi4&ab\\_channel=takeiteasy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pielf1bbi4&ab_channel=takeiteasy)
3. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMfPCC7oxM&ab\\_channel=takeiteasy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMfPCC7oxM&ab_channel=takeiteasy)



## Blessing 17:

### May You have Everything You Need to Excel in Every Good Work

May God make all grace overflow to you so that you will have enough of everything in every way.

Hello Heavenly Father. I welcome another wonderful day. I acknowledge an amazing day set before me. Thank You for my life. Thank You for loving me. Thank You for the many things You do for me that I don't notice. I am glad to be on this journey through space with You Lord. And I am glad to pray another blessing over Your sons and daughters in the **Recon Section** with this Scripture you gave me ([2 Corinthians 9:8](#) HCSB):

And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having **everything you need**, you may **excel in every good work**.

Lord, it is time to pray another blessing over Your sons and daughters You love here in the Recon Section. I have been looking forward to this and so now I bless each one of you my friends and fellow crewmembers. I pray that God would make all grace overflow to you so you will have everything you need every minute of the day and that you thus can excel in many good works, just as [Matthew 25:37-40](#) refers to:

Then the good people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?' Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me.' (NCV)

Lord, I see this in action as everyone here in Recon are ready to be off beyond new horizons... especially now since in space there IS NO HORIZON. Lord, everyone here is looking forward to the day when new horizons will appear. But until that day, I ask that you would give each crewmember here everything they need. And all the glory goes to God. All the glory is Yours Lord. Amen.

**AND OFF WE GO...**

BEYOND NEW  
HORIZONS

# Day 13

Tokens.

Tokens.

Who's got The Tokens?

Wait a minute!

**Levi** was thinking again (dangerous). He remembers **The Tokens**! He saw them in concert what seems like ages ago (before they even started building ISS Vanguard). So he decided that listening to them might help him with his tokens dilemma!



And then it hit him (Bam!) ... why not have a virtual “**Tokens**” concert in the Mess Hall. **Maybe suggest a donation of ONE COMMAND TOKEN as an entry fee!** This could be his answer! And **Levi** knew just the person who would be able to arrange all this since he performed and promoted music concerts back before ISS Vanguard’s lift off:

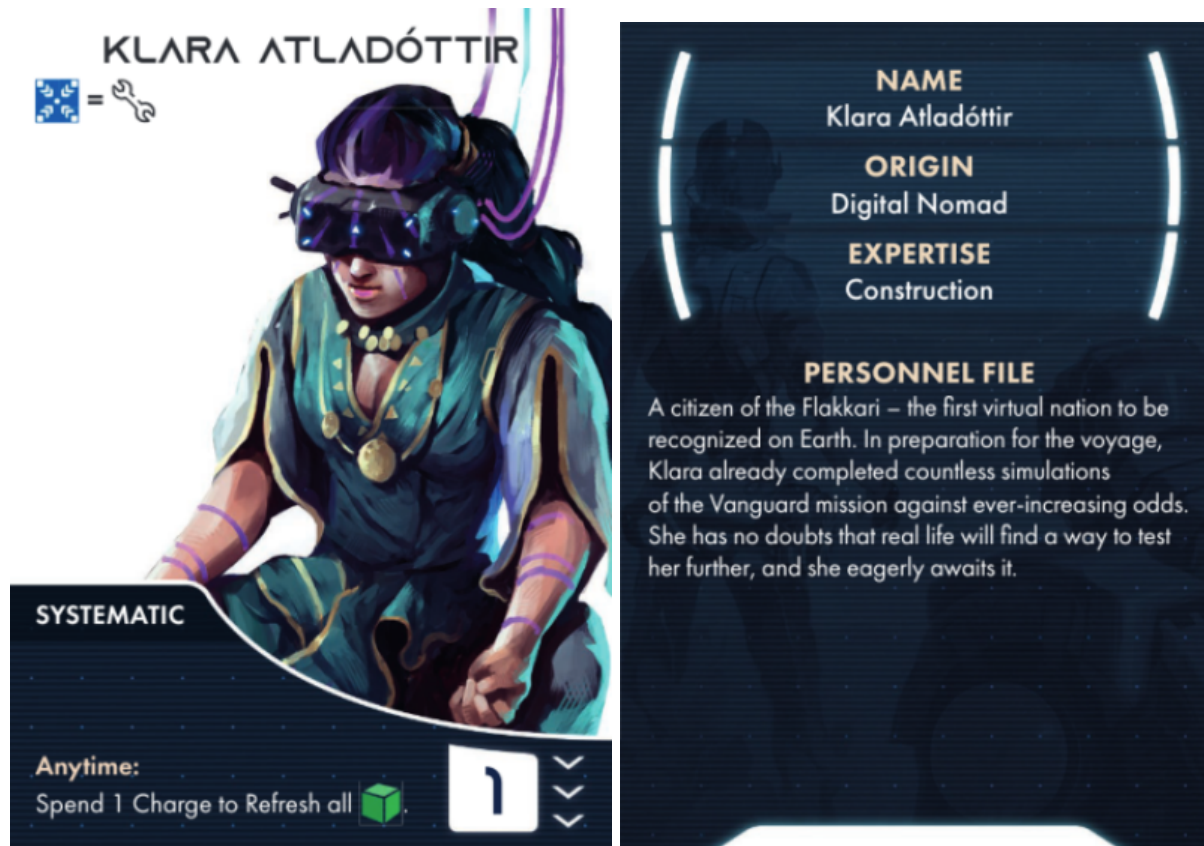
**Mark Poulsen!**

**Mark** had worked with **Thabisa** to get the **Piano Jam Sessions** going! In case you forgot, it’s all logged in the Countdown article here:

=> [Piano Jam Sessions](#)

[MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/29/24-count-down-crew-skills-part-3/](https://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/08/29/24-count-down-crew-skills-part-3/)

And the next thing you know **Levi** was planning a giant virtual concert with **Mark**, **Thabisa** and the resident **Virtual Reality** (VR) expert (**Klara**):



**Levi** knew all about her VR expertise without even looking at her Personnel File:

A citizen of the Flakkan – the first virtual nation to be recognized on Earth. In preparation for the voyage, Klara already completed countless simulations of the Vanguard mission against ever-increasing odds. She has no doubts that real life will find a way to test her further, and she eagerly awaits it.

And **Levi** was ready to let real life intersect with her VR worlds!

But first, **Captain Wayman** had asked him to pray a special blessing over all the crew as they were getting ever nearer to their destination! Levi cleared his throat, and spoke these words using the microphone hooked into the system wide speakers:

A friend of mine used to often pray something like this over those in his care, speaking of how God is there for each of us:

May the promise of Your spirit working in us light up our lives.  
May the love You revealed to us shape our giving.  
May the truth in Your Word guide our journeys, and  
May the joy of Your kingdom fill our “home” here on this starship.



Now the search was on ... for those pesky Control Tokens, Energy Tokens, Success Tokens, Lead Tokens and the other tokens found over here and over there!

Now that **The Tokens** were taken care of, **Mark Poulsen** continued preparations for the **VR Concert** with **Levi** chatting in the Mess Hall ... along with **Thabisa** and the resident **Virtual Reality (VR)** expert (**Klara**).

Hey Levi, since we ARE on a Starship, maybe we should include the song that Lindsey Stirling did with Nicki Minaj called, ummm ... Starship!

Sure Mark... put it in the concert line up and let's use it as a preview for the Concert right now too! Set it up on repeat on the side wall. But, now that you mentioned it ... let's have **Lindsey Stirling's Virtual Reality concert** along with The Tokens rather than just one song. And let's give everyone who comes a FREE copy of the eBook of 40 Prayers for A Musician!

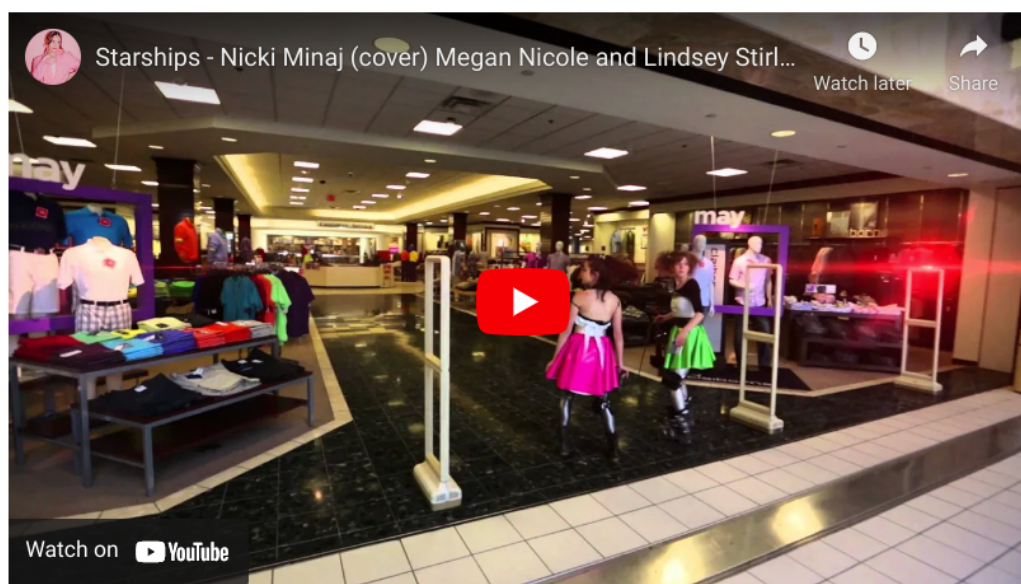
Great idea Levi... you just get me the link to that concert before tomorrow!

At that point **Klara** chimed in...

I will see if I can restore the recording to its full VR glory just like it was back in the day when it was one of the VERY FIRST FULL VIRTUAL REALITY CONCERTS EVER! And let's include the eBook here as well as at the concert! The eBook is formatted so nicely that it will be a great give away!

Yep ... I spent some time formatting the pages of that eBook ... I even put the date of the prayer inside a violin in the top corner of each day's prayer!

=> [40 Prayers about Music for Musicians](#)<sup>1</sup> – (written in 2015 for Lindsey Stirling)



Stay tuned...  
**Who knows**  
what you  
may get next?  
(and you say  
“**The  
Shadow  
Knows**” and  
I reply,  
“*Lindsey  
Stirling*“)

1. [ADaughterOfGoddotcom.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/40emusicandmusicians.pdf](http://ADaughterOfGoddotcom.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/40emusicandmusicians.pdf)



## Blessing 18: Speak Good Words to Influence Others

God is there to protect, rescue and keep you safe.  
And I borrow the words that a friend used to  
pray over those under his care, speaking of how  
God is there for each of us:

May the **promise** of Your spirit working in us light up our lives.  
May the **love** You revealed to us shape our giving.  
May the **truth** in Your Word guide our journeys, and  
May the **joy** of Your kingdom fill our home here on this starship.

Heavenly Father, good morning. Thank You for drawing Your sons and daughters close to you this day. And thank You for the special blessing I have just prayed over them and for the following Scriptures that I pray over them now ([Jeremiah 15:19-20](#) NLT):

This is how the Lord responds...  
If you **speak good words**  
rather than worthless ones,  
you will be my spokesman.  
**You must influence them;**  
do not let them influence you!  
They will fight against you  
like an attacking army,

but I will make you as **secure**  
as a fortified wall of bronze.  
They will not conquer you,  
for I am with you  
to **protect and rescue you.**  
I, the Lord, have spoken!

Lord, I ask that You provide opportunities for all the crew on this starship to be a good influence, speaking good words to those they meet today, tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow. We acknowledge and praise You, giving all the glory to You. The glory is all Yours. I pray the blessing from Scriptures over each of you in the name and authority of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.



ENGINEERING  
SECTION



SCIENCE  
SECTION



SECURITY  
SECTION



RECON  
SECTION

# Day 12

**Levi** was wandering around the corridors.

*Who took my tricorder? Where is my tricorder? Did anyone see my tricorder?*

No, this isn't Star Trek, but Levi had watched all **853** episodes across **43** seasons of the television show as well as the **13** feature films. He bought his own tricorder from Amazon which he brought with him for his long journey aboard the **ISS Vanguard**. It was just a toy, but it looked cool and actually lit up and made noises! [get yours here=> <https://www.amazon.com/Vinyl-Star-Trek-Light-Sound/dp/B09FYBGPQS/>]



Don't worry, Levi... you don't need your tricorder to find the Virtual Reality Concert tonite. We painted arrows right on the floor of all the corridors so when the Concert Bell goes off, everyone can just follow the arrows to the concert!

**Mark Poulsen** sometimes had to calm **Levi** down even though supposedly it was **Levi's** job to calm people down! And all was well... ten minutes later Levi's voice came through the system wide speakers throughout ISS Vanguard!

Levi here... the voice from the sky! Well, the speaker system anyway! Let me bless all of you right now (and then let me pass along a message)

Grace and peace unto you this day as Jesus Christ has delivered and rescued you.

And the special message is... Virtual Reality Concert Tonight! Just follow the arrows before your feet on the corridors! **Who knows** what you might see there?

**Who knows** what you might see at the concert tonight?

And everyone said “**The Shadow Knows**” and I (or course) reply “**Lindsey Stirling**”

**NOTE=>** and all you techy, spacey, geeks will enjoy the concert linked at the end of this article... I know I did when I watched it before ISS Vanguard launched.

Meanwhile ... back to reality ... er, back to the game!

**ISS Vanguard** (*the game*) doesn't come with a tricorder, but it does come with a **Planetary Scanner**, though this model doesn't light up and doesn't make cool sounds.

Meanwhile, back on the **ISS Vanguard** (*the starship*), Levi was all smiles sitting in the back of the Mess Hall. Virtually everyone (pun intended) was here! All the crew came! But he wanted to stay in the background and enjoy the show... let **Mark** do the honors with **Klara**!

Thank you all for coming for the show tonight. And it is quite a show. It is a recording of a Virtual Reality Concert from way back on August 26, 2019. I did get to watch the concert live on my computer but was not in the fortunate few who watched it live with 3D goggles! However, the experience is still phenomenal as I think Klara will agree.

Well, Mark ... kind of, but as a VR junkie, it just is not the same on a flat screen. However, that IS all that we have right now, so, yes, it is a very good representation of what was a true virtual reality concert that Lindsey did decades ago in the year 2019. I hope everyone got my email earlier today that included a short article published back then about Lindsey's concert and how it was accomplished. Here is a key sentence from [the article](#) <sup>1</sup>:

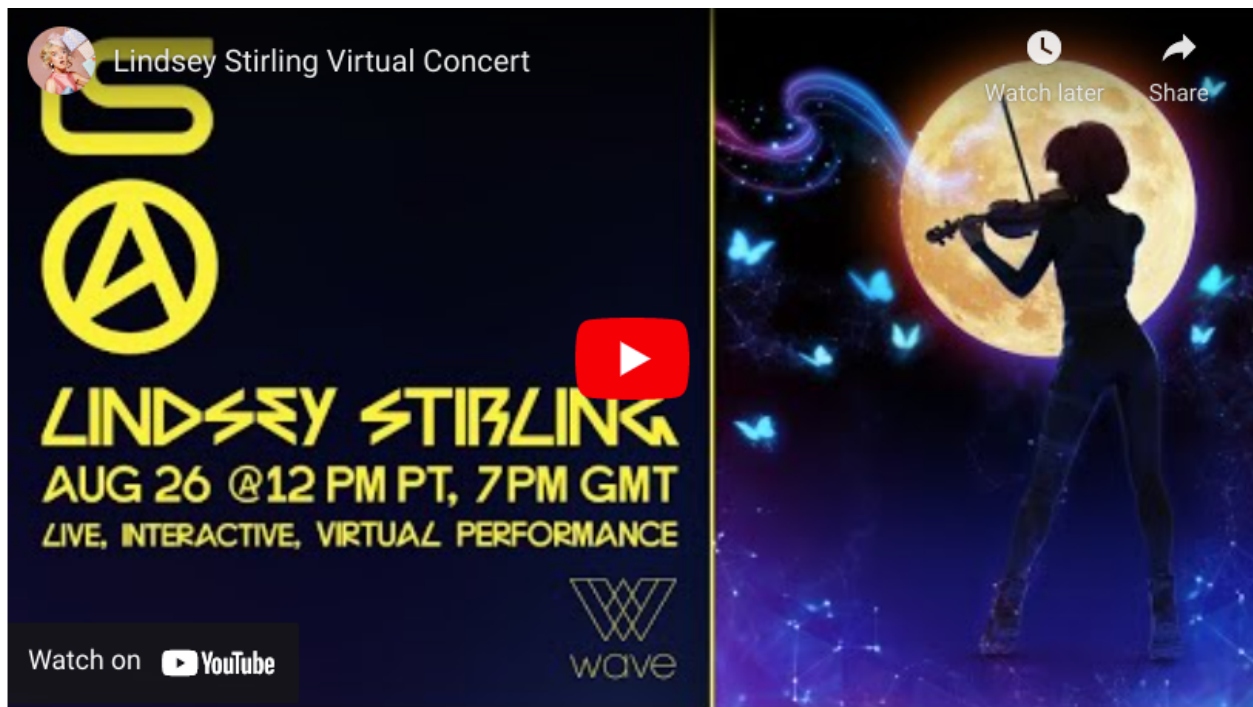
**Equipped with a full body-tracking suit, The Wave VR syncs a musician's movements in real-time with an avatar loaded into a digital concert venue.**

=> [Source](#) <sup>1</sup>



Yeah ... Lindsey herself actually was in a small room performing in a full body suit. Everything that you will see on the screen tonight is actually her avatar. Once in a while they will show you the REAL Lindsey in her small room in a small window at the bottom right corner of the screen (picture in picture). As your resident VR junkie, I can confirm what Lindsey says during her conversations throughout the concert ... it gets awfully HOT inside those full body suits! VERY!!!

OK, Klara... I think we are ready. Everyone sit back and enjoy the 2D version of the 3D show ... and everyone in the real world ... if you can, cast this onto your large screen TV for the full effect (click the Watch on YouTube button):



This is a 35 minute concert, but she performs the concert twice.

The second time is not just repeating a recording of the first time, but a whole new performance (of the same material)! So it definitely is worth watching both!

**And your free bonus ... You can view (or print) the full eBook (over 400 pages) of prayers for Lindsey if you wish:**

=> [Full Lindsey Stirling eBook](#) <sup>2</sup>

**Full Article:** Day 12: [To Scan or Not To Scan](#) <sup>3</sup>

1. [www.dancemusicnw.com/lindsey-stirling-wave-vr/](http://www.dancemusicnw.com/lindsey-stirling-wave-vr/)

2. [ADaughterOfGod.com/ebook/](http://ADaughterOfGod.com/ebook/)

3. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/10/12-count-down-to-scan-or-not-to-scan/](http://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/10/12-count-down-to-scan-or-not-to-scan/)



## Blessing 19:

### Grace and Peace to You as God Rescues You

Grace and peace unto you this day as Jesus Christ has delivered and rescued you.

Good evening Heavenly Father. Thank You for eyes that see and ears that hear. Thank You for laughter and joy and happy hearts. Thank you for creating more than just the Earth for us, but for creating an entire universe composed of billions and billions of stars. And thank You for the Scripture to use for my blessing for Your sons and daughters here aboard the starship ISS Vanguard today ([Galatians 1:3-5](#) NLT):

May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to **rescue us** from this evil world in which we live. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

Lord, I am once again filled with joy and am glad to be with You so that I can ask you to bless everyone aboard this starship again this day. My friends and fellow crewmembers, today I pray that God's peace and grace will rest on you as Jesus has delivered and rescued you from the wickedness in the world... in the Universe! Focus on the good that you see around you and let others see the good in you. Let them wonder why it is that you seem so special. Let it be because God's grace and peace have filled you to overflowing, just as [2Corinthians 9:8](#) says:

And God is able to make all **grace overflow** to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, **you will overflow in every good work.** (NET)

Yes, as God fills you with His grace, you then can share good works with others from that abundance of God's grace! Lord, fill all the crew aboard the ISS Vanguard to overflowing, just as your Scriptures promise! And we give the glory the God. I pray this in the name and authority of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.



**From Spiritual Endurance  
Comes Truth**



# Day 11

It was one of those nights again. But **Levi** didn't mind. He was a night owl. He was at his best late at night. Maybe it was because there were so few distractions late at night. Maybe because there was nothing scheduled on his calendar so he was free to do his own projects. Maybe because... wait a minute! He heard a noise! Who else would be walking the corridors at this time of the day (er, night)?



**AVERY DODGE**

 = 

**HERMIT**

When Resting:  
Spend 1 Charge  
to not spend Supplies.

**1**   



**NAME**  
Avery Dodge

**ORIGIN**  
English

**EXPERTISE**  
Bio

**PERSONNEL FILE**

Due to a rare DEC2 gene mutation, Avery needs remarkably little sleep, making her an ideal candidate for long, demanding missions. Countless nights spent pacing the decks during boring graveyard shifts led her to develop a unique connection with the Vanguard itself and its humming alien core. Some fear that given the choice: her crewmates or the ship, she would choose the latter without blinking.

**Levi** thought of **Avery** as a kind of kindred spirit in that they both liked to be up late at night (ie, REALLY late!) And he knew this about Avery without even needing to read it in her Personnel file:

Due to a rare DEC2 gene mutation, Avery needs remarkably little sleep, making her an ideal candidate for long, demanding missions. Countless nights spent pacing the decks during boring graveyard shifts led her to develop a unique connection with the Vanguard itself and its humming alien core. Some fear that given the choice: her crewmates or the ship, she would choose the latter without blinking.

**Avery** loved walking the corridors late at night because she could do so uninterrupted!

Hiya AV!

Oh no, it was **Levi**!

Hi Levi ... can't sleep?

Nah... I sleep fine. I just wake up late... like about noon!

**Avery** smiled as **Levi** laughed. She was a night owl too ... but also an early bird!

That Virtual Reality Concert yesterday was really nice Levi. Thanks for getting Mark and Klara to set that up for us!

Aww ... it was mostly for me... I like her music. It is so uplifting, even without words. Actually, it is even more uplifting because there are no words to distract me. It just brightens my day (or night) and gives me a "good" feeling.

Yeah ... have to agree with that Levi! But for me, the sound of a starship late at night is the best. Can you hear it Levi? Can you hear the constant soft sounds that always are there? But you can barely hear them when everyone is talking and bustling about!

**Levi** stopped walking. **Avery** too. They paused to just listen.

Yes! That is a very nice soft sound. We should record it so we can listen to it in our rooms as we go to bed!

Already did that Levi. I will send the sound track over to you.

*[see end of this article]*

Great! Thanks AV! Now I better get my blessing prepared for the new day! Almost time for the Wake Up Chimes!

And not much later those Wake Up Chimes were chiming. Well, actually it was **Levi** who was chiming to everyone in **Engineering** as they were waking up:

Rise and Shine Sleepy Heads! God's promise through the prophet Haggai is yours today!

I pray that your blessings will go on and on and on and on.

That got them off to a good start on the new day! But what about upcoming Missions?

When Levi got back to his room, there was an incoming message for him... with an attached file!



Thanks AV

(yes, he did talk to himself a lot)

It was her recording of the soft starship sounds at night!



**PS:** *I wrote this entire article listening to these soft starship sounds!*

**Full Article:** Day 11: [Setting Up For A Mission](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/11/11-count-down-setting-up-for-a-mission-part-1/](https://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/11/11-count-down-setting-up-for-a-mission-part-1/)



## Blessing 20:

### From This Day Onward Your Many Blessings Continue On and On and On

Today's blessing is one that specifically states that your blessings will go on and on and on and on.

Hello Heavenly Father. What an exciting day. And how exciting that while traveling in deep space, it always is day and night... constantly and continually! Thank you for the seemingly unending time and space. Thank You for the wonderful blessing from the book of Haggai ([Haggai 2:19](#) NLT):

I am giving you a promise now while the seed is still in the barn. You have not yet harvested your grain, and your grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees have not yet produced their crops. But **from this day onward I will bless you.**

Lord, I'm here again with my fellow crewmates in the Engineering Section. Today I pray that all Your blessings I have already prayed over them will be ongoing – that they will continue on and on and on and on. I pray that each of you will continue to be blessed each day from this day on. But we also are reminded that as we are continually blessed, we should be a blessing to others around us! So, let us go forth on our missions giving what we can to others, giving generously and gladly!

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. **The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.** ([Luke 6:38](#) NLT)

And so today, while I bless you with a blessing that goes on and on and on, I also ask the Lord to show you ways that you may bless others... ways that you can give to those around you! And together we will give all the glory to God. All the glory is His. I pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

**AND OFF WE GO TO...**

**DO THE UNDOABLE**

# Day 10

**Levi** was getting tired of juggling the books. He had too many books, and nowhere to put them. While using one he needed to reference two others, so often he would hold one on his lap and place the other off to the side on his “TV Table” while his main book stayed out in front of him on the main table (sounds like playing the game). But then all “heck” broke loose when his main book required him to grab yet a fourth book!

Holy Smoke!

Yes, Levi was polite even when frustrated!

How do they expect me to get through this? I don't have room for everything I need to be reading at the same time! Who designed this? A circus juggler?

Then it hit him (**Bam!**). He should get some advice from a REAL juggler ... **Owen!** And he knew just where to find him too!

**OWEN CAMPBELL**

 = 



**FORECAST**

**Anytime:**  
Spend 1 Charge to discard an Event card you just drew without resolving its text.

**3** >>>

**NAME**  
Owen Campbell

**ORIGIN**  
Australian

**EXPERTISE**  
Scouting

**PERSONNEL FILE**

Owen was admitted to the Vanguard as a part of the infamous “Wildcard Project.” Knowing that the ship will face circumstances that are impossible to predict, the Vanguard Initiative decided to include in the crew at least one person with every rare skill, no matter how useless it appeared. Reserved and professional, Owen hopes no one will learn he earned his place on the mission with his incredible circus juggling skills.

**Levi** always wondered why **Owen** ran down the corridors juggling 3 balls. His personnel file answered that question:

Owen was admitted to the Vanguard as a part of the infamous "Wildcard Project". Knowing that the ship will face circumstances that are impossible to predict, the Vanguard Initiative decided to include in the crew at least one person with every rare skill, no matter how useless it appeared. Reserved and professional, Owen hopes no one will learn that he earned his place on the mission with his incredible circus juggling skills.

**Levi** thought that he'd chat with **Owen** about how to juggle all his books and papers that never seemed to fit anywhere! But on his way he stopped by the **Recon** Section for today's blessing:

*I pray that you would be grounded in God's love.*

**Owen** wasn't much help when **Levi** caught up with him... with all his books anyway. But he did teach Levi a simple way to juggle three balls and even **let him borrow his bag of juggling balls**.

But **Levi** is not the only one wondering where to put everything. If he was frustrated with juggling just books, he should try it with seventy five dice, one thousand two hundred cards and miniature models wandering all over the room (yeah, they are cute, but where to put them all?).

Meanwhile, the crew wondered about all the balls scattered around the corridors. Apparently Levi's juggling left a few behind. Once he dropped a ball, he just left it behind and got another out of the bag of juggling balls that Owen let him use. He'd gather them up again later. Maybe **AV** would help him during a midnight stroll in the corridors tonight!

**Full Article:** Day 10: [Juggling the Books, Cards and Dice](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [myissovanguard.com/2022/09/12/10-count-down-juggling-the-books-cards-and-dice/](https://myissovanguard.com/2022/09/12/10-count-down-juggling-the-books-cards-and-dice/)





## Blessing 21:

### May You be Filled with the Fullness of Love, Faith and Understanding

**I pray that you would be grounded in God's love.**

Heavenly Father, good evening! Thank You for another day with you. Thank You for granting me more of Your wisdom this day. Show me the way to go and give me the courage to walk it, and words when I need them. And thank You for this Scripture that is the basis for my blessing over the **Recon** crew today ([Ephesians 3:14-19](#) NLT):

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his **glorious, unlimited resources** he will empower you with **inner strength** through his Spirit. Then **Christ will make his home in your hearts** as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into **God's love** and **keep you strong**. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, **how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is**. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all **the fullness of life** and power that comes from God.

It is a joy to bless you today my friends and fellow crewmates on this starship! I pray that from God's unlimited resources the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth would empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. I pray that God's love would keep you strong and that you would grow to understand how wide, how long, how high and how deep God's love for you is, just as Paul told the Ephesians. May you experience the love of Christ during this long journey through deep space and be made complete with the fullness of life that comes from God as we give all the glory to the Lord. I pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

**AND OFF WE GO...**

BEYOND NEW  
HORIZONS

## Day 9

**Levi** wasn't thinking about food (or eating) as much as his buddy **Cho**, but he did appreciate everything that **Betty** was doing to provide the crew with fresh vegetables and clean water. She was a dream come true for a **starship** on a long voyage into deep space. **Levi** didn't see her much since she usually just hung out in the hydroponics bay. But today, Levi decided to drop by that "bay" and see what's cooking, er... what's growing!



**BETTY CONVILLE**

 = 

**SEARCHER**

**Anytime:**  
Spend 1 Charge to gain a Discovery from a deck with any 3 Leads tokens.

**2**   

**NAME**  
Betty Conville

**ORIGIN**  
American

**EXPERTISE**  
Bio

**PERSONNEL FILE**

Betty belonged to a group of activist scientists who fought the droughts devastating the American Midwest, but her work couldn't match the speed of climate change. She decided to revise her approach – instead of fighting to stop the decline, she started adjusting current technologies to new conditions. Her newly designed hydroponic farms and water-reuse systems caught the attention of the Vanguard Initiative, and soon Betty was enrolled.

*(did anyone else notice how the ISS Vanguard red **V** logo looks like a heart on the left side of her suit?)*

Betty belonged to a group of activist scientists who fought the droughts devastating the American Midwest, but her work couldn't match the speed of climate change. She decided to revise her approach – instead of fighting to stop the decline, she started adjusting current technologies to new conditions. Her newly designed hydroponic farms and waste-reuse systems caught the attention of the Vanguard Initiative, and soon Betty was enrolled.

And **Levi** didn't want to drop by the Hydroponics Bay on his own. He rounded up the entire **Science** Sections and they all marched down to the HB.

Hiya Betty

**Levi** led them all in.

Don't be so darn formal Levi... My friends all call me BC and so can you, even when the whole Science Section is watching you! (laughing)

Well, BC... I thought this would be a fine place to gather our whole Science Section together to thank you for all your work here in the Hydroponics Bay. We appreciate all you do (and so do our stomachs).

Well ..... (the Science crew was waiting on Levi now)

**Levi** got the hint... and prayed a blessing over the whole Section AND the Hydroponics Bay:

May the Lord bless you, your family and your land at our far distant destination.

Then it was **Play Time...** LITERALLY!

Yes ... it is about time to play test the New Crew on the new Crew Boards using the New Rulebook.

**Full Article:** Day 9: [New Crew, New Rules Play Test](#) <sup>1</sup>

1. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/13/9-count-down-new-crew/](https://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/13/9-count-down-new-crew/)



## Blessing 22:

### May God Love you and Bless You and Your Land

May the Lord bless you, your family and your land at our far distant destination.

Heavenly Father, good evening. I praise You for this day in the midst of Your creation where evidence of You is everywhere, even in deep space. Thank You for being here in our midst! Thank you for all the food that we harvest from our Hydroponics Bay. And thank You for the Scripture that contains the blessing for Your sons and daughters on this starship as we travel to that far distant destination ([Deuteronomy 7:12-13](#) HCSB):

If you listen to and are careful to keep these ordinances, the Lord your God will keep His covenant loyalty with you, as He swore to your fathers. He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will bless your descendants, and the produce of your land—your grain, new wine, and oil—the young of your herds, and the newborn of your flocks, in the land He swore to your fathers that He would give you.

Lord, I am happy to bless Your sons and daughters You love yet again. My friends crewmembers here in the Science Section, I bless you today and pray that you would feel the Lord's love for you. May He bless you, your family and your land that we look forward to as we travel great distances! May the land we have yet to see produce all the food that we need, far in excess of what our Hydroponics Bay can produce. We can put our trust in God for these things as [Matthew 6:31-33](#) says:

Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' The people who don't know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well.  
(NCV)

The glory is all yours Lord. I pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

AND WE NOW GO...

SEARCHING  
FOR QUESTIONS



## Day 8

**Levi** so admired artists, even graffiti artists that painted the hull of **ISS Vanguard** just before launch (as he thought about **Jees**). Yes, **Jia** was an amazing artist. But so was **Destiny**, and that's why he had convinced her to set up a display of her art in the corner of the Mess Hall. And so every now and then he would come and sit below the suspended glass balls, each with its own tiny landscape or scene inside it, just like a Christmas ornament. Well, not really. **Destiny's** was way more intricate and detailed. You wondered just HOW she got everything inside that glass sphere. **Levi** considered what it would be like to juggle them! No... no... not by him, but by **Owen**!



Just a week after she'd set up her display in the corner of the Mess Hall, they even updated her personnel file accordingly:

Destiny takes great pride in her colorful, vibrant glass art, something for which she was known and respected back home. Aboard Vanguard, she attempts to use glass to recreate many of the new and alien worlds encountered by landing teams. Currently, they're displayed in the mess hall, and more are added with each mission.

**Levi** didn't know about "vibrant", but he DID know that it was mesmerizing.

Destiny, just how do you get all those highly detailed pieces in exactly the right places hovering inside those glass spheres. It looks impossible.

Well, Levi... in the good ole days, there were ships in a bottle that looked darn near impossible too! I even have one in the back corner for those interested in the "history" behind my spheres! C'mon... I'll show you!

Back in the corner, she was right... there it was... a ship in a bottle! => [Ship In A Bottle](#)<sup>1</sup>

Yeah, Destiny... but there was a trick to those! They built the sails separately, attached a string to them, slid them inside the bottle and onto the base of the ship and then pulled the string to open up the sails.

You make it sound so easy Levi. Let's see YOU do it!

Well....

And you do know their trick. However, you DON'T know my trick Levi. Because my art is impossible!

Nothing is impossible for God, Destiny ... but you are not God.

Ah, but don't you believe in miracles, Levi? Don't you believe that God could, did and still does work through mere humans?

Yeah, but...

So, Levi ... are you gazing at miracles on display then?

Ummm... it is just a trick, right Destiny?

Who knows, Levi! And don't give me that "Only The Shadow Knows" shtick.

As they both laughed, chef **Victoria Romano** came over to join them.

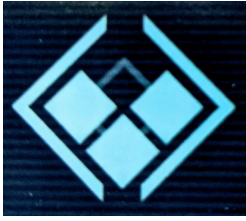
Well you two... want a snack?

Both **Destiny** and **Levi** knew that they could always count on **VR** for snacks! The snack gave Levi the energy he needed, and off he went over to the **Security** Section. They knew he'd been over to visit with the **Science** Section, and now they asked him to come visit them too! And he already had prepared a blessing tailored just for them:

May you be like a good tree planted along a river, never bothered or worried but full of hope and confidence. It may look like you are first in line, but God is there before you.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, er, game...

1. <https://www.marineinsight.com/recreation/everything-about-ship-in-a-bottle-the-famous-nautical-gift/>



## Blessing 23:

### The Lord is Your Hope and Confidence

May you be like a good tree planted along a river, never bothered or worried but full of hope and confidence. It may look like you are first in line, but God is there before you.

Hello Heavenly Father. Thank You for this universe and everything in it, including Earth and whatever lies ahead in our journey into deep space. Thank You for the many little things that often go by unnoticed. Thank You for coffee, and not just one kind of coffee but dozens. Thank You for cocoa and all the varieties of hot chocolate. And thank You for the Scripture for everyone in the [Security Section](#) ([Jeremiah 17:7-8](#) NLT):

But blessed are those **who trust in the Lord**  
and have **made the Lord their hope and confidence.**  
They are like trees planted along a **riverbank**,  
with **roots that reach deep into the water.**  
Such trees are **not bothered** by the heat  
**or worried** by long months of drought.  
Their leaves stay green,  
and **they never stop producing** fruit.

My friends and crewmates, may you be blessed as you trust in the Lord. May He be your hope and confidence. Lord, I ask that you be the spearhead before the [Security Section](#) as they put themselves first in line when danger may be lurking ahead. And may each of you here in this Section remember that you very well may put yourselves first in line, but also remember that the Lord is actually before you, in front of you, ahead of you. He is FIRST... you may look like you are first, but you are second in line. May you never be bothered or worried, regardless of the circumstances and situations around you! God will supply all your needs ([Phillipians 4:19](#))

And this same **God** who takes care of me **will supply all your needs from his glorious riches**, which have been **given to us in Christ Jesus.**

And the glory goes to the Lord. All the glory is His. I bless you today in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.

*And off we go...*

ALWAYS FIRST  
IN LINE

# Day 7

Attention! Attention! This is the Captain. Just a tad before reaching our destination coordinates we have encountered something... something big... something huge... something gigantic... something so big words escape me! How do I reference something that is more than twice the size of our entire solar system! We were not expecting this. Of course we also were not expecting that our Torpor Chamber System would totally fail shortly after leaving our solar system. Nor were we expecting this alien Alcubierre drive to be nearly 100 times faster than anticipated. We have been out of communication range with Earth since just after we launched 22 days ago. As far as they know, each person aboard this starship is "sleeping" in suspended animation inside their own Torpor Chamber. NASA has been working on this Torpor system for decades ... ever since the year 2013 and thought they had perfected it. Well... they never were able to test to see if it would function at the same time as an alien Alcubierre drive running at 100 times maximum speed! The drive worked well ... It worked really well... It was fantastic. But the Torpor Chambers? Not so much.

**Captain Wayman** cleared his throat.

So, we have nearly arrived at our destination in just 3 weeks rather than in two years! But earth is unaware of this and continues making the ISS Vanguard 2 starship that was scheduled to launch with WAVE 2 in about a year. We are not sure if the second starship's drive engine will kick in at 100 times maximum speed like ours did or not. So we have at least a year before the next starship arrives to join us here. If their journey takes the full two years and the Torpor Chambers actually continue functioning on that Wave 2 Vanguard starship, they will arrive here in about three years. And as Captain, I have decided to NOT let those coming in Wave 2 know that we got here so fast nor that our Torpor Chambers failed almost immediately after launch. So I am **NOT** recording this announcement to you. **And I am erasing all the prior recorded announcements. Next I will make an OFFICIAL announcement as if we had just arrived after spending two years in our Torpor Chambers.** So, enjoy exploring for years before the others arrive! And I am sending each of you a link to the information about the Torpor Chambers so you know the story that we are sticking with ... we were in them for TWO YEARS. That's our story.

**Captain Wayman** paused to send everyone a link to the full information about the Torpor Chambers:



=> [Torpor Chambers](#) (from NASA 2013)<sup>1</sup>

**Captain Wayman** then got ready to put on a show for the official record ... This would be **the first Captain's Log** that others who follow will see and hear!

Good morning, crew! If you're hearing this, it means you belong to a small group of essential personnel waking up in the first wave. Let me bring you up to speed: For the last two years, Vanguard has been cruising safely to our destination, following alien coordinates to the main objective of our mission. Five days ago, we switched off the Alcubierre drive and dropped to sublight speed. You might feel a bit heavy on the main deck; gravitational compensators keep deceleration down to a slightly uncomfortable 2G. The red zones on the ship are locked and off-limits – unless you want to experience what 90G feels like. We're now approaching our target. So far, sensors aren't picking up anything, but don't let that get you down. We're still a ways off, and...

**Levi** was with **T** in the observation dome. **Tayen** enjoyed her conversations with **Levi** because he believed her when she said **she could see things coming... when she knew about things that she just should not know!** And after hearing the Captain's broadcast to the whole starship, **Levi** asked **T**:

Well T, that was peculiar. Does this have anything to do with your two visions? You know the ones that have been painted on the Mess Hall walls for a couple weeks now? Or about Jumping Into The Fire? Or an alien set of portals in a circle... a very very very large circle?

Not sure Levi. But that very very very large circular object that the Captain spoke of is something we cannot avoid ... because it **\*\*IS\*\*** a void! I see the void and can see its center, it's eye! But I don't see fire just yet. Maybe the fire is yet to come. Maybe we won't encounter it with the first Away Team the Captain is assembling now. Maybe not the next few Away Teams. But I still see that fire off in the distance. We still need to be ready for it.

You mean a few of us still need to be ready to Jump Into The Fire?

Sorry, Levi, but yes. It will happen. I see it happening. Just not sure when!

**Note:** for those new to these Countdown articles, you might want to read the previous article with **Levi** and **Tayen's** prior conversation that they are referring to today:

=> [Navigating IN a Star System](#)<sup>2</sup>

Well, T... Since we have arrived, I think it is time for my **Spock Blessing**. My **Star Trek Blessing**. Yet it still is a blessing pulled right from Scriptures. I have my microphone attached to my mobile transmitter to the system wide speaker system. Here goes:

**Live Long and Prosper!**

And speaking of Countdown... I was only off by 7 days for this Countdown. Pretty close I think. And since backers are now receiving their games, the Countdown is officially ended.

**Full Article:** Day 7: [Arrival](#) (final article in the countdown) <sup>3</sup>

1. [www.nasa.gov/content/torpor-inducing-transfer-habitat-for-human-stasis-to-mars](http://www.nasa.gov/content/torpor-inducing-transfer-habitat-for-human-stasis-to-mars)
2. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/04/18-count-down-navigating-in-a-star-system/](http://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/04/18-count-down-navigating-in-a-star-system/)
3. [MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/15/7-6-5-4-3-2-1-count-down-arrival/](http://MyISSVanguard.com/2022/09/15/7-6-5-4-3-2-1-count-down-arrival/)



## Blessing 24: **Live Long and Prosper** (as stated by Spock on Star Trek)

**LIVE LONG  
AND  
PROSPER**

### Star Trek popularized this real blessing!

My friends and crewmates here on this starship, this series of blessings ends with one you should enjoy since it was made popular by the Spock greeting on Star Trek. And so I bless you once more my friends. **May you live long and prosper!**

Heavenly Father, thank You for another day with you! Thank You for my breath and for my life. Thank You for being with me always. And thank You for these blessings from Scripture that relate directly to today's blessing for everyone here on the ISS Vanguard:

- Keep His statutes and commands, which I am giving you today, so that you and your children after you **may prosper** and so that you **may live long** in the land the Lord your God is giving you for all time. ([Deuteronomy 4:40](#))
- Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that **you may live long and so that you may prosper** in the land the Lord your God is giving you. ([Deuteronomy 5:16](#))
- Follow the whole instruction the Lord your God has commanded you, so that **you may live, prosper, and have a long life** in the land you will possess. ([Deuteronomy 5:33](#))
- Dear friend, I pray that **you may prosper** in every way and **be in good health physically** just as you are spiritually. ([3 John 1:2](#))
- Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, so that **it may go well with you and that you may have a long life** in the land. ([Ephesians 6:2-3](#))

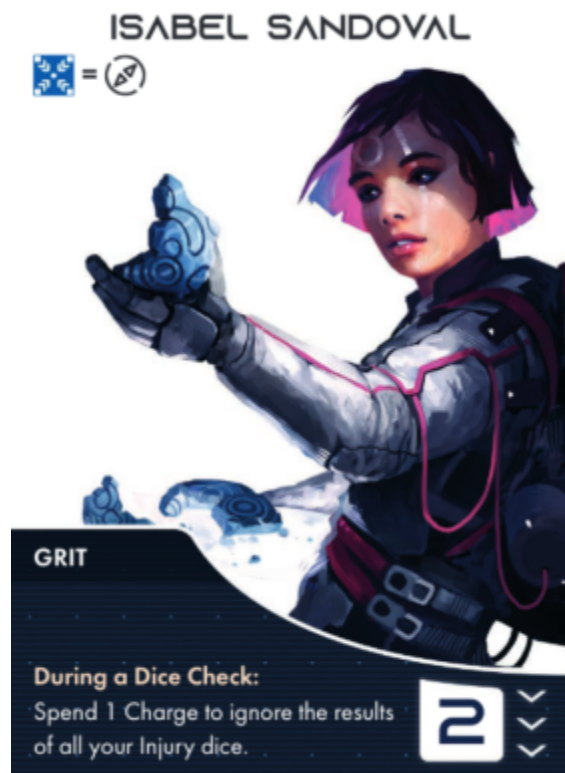
Lord, it's me. I am here on behalf of all the crew on the ISS Vanguard. My friends, today I pray that you would live long and prosper. I pray that it may go well with you and that you would have good health. And we will give the glory to God. All the glory is Yours Lord. I pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, King of kings. Amen.



# Grand Finale



**Levi** was **UPSIDE DOWN** ... looking **UP** through the **Observation Dome** out into space and looking at where the very **FIRST Away Team** was headed right now! Yeah, **Levi** knew that he wasn't really upside down. **It was ISS Vanguard that was UPSIDE DOWN.**



There is no such thing as upside down in space Levi!

**Izzy** was there with him, laying on the floor looking up through the Dome! **Isabel Sandoval** was the resident genius here aboard the **starship ISS Vanguard**, and when **Levi** had tough questions on his mind, he sought her out!

Levi, what do you think of the Universe now?

Now?

Yes ... now that you have seen so much of it ... and are looking up at a place far distant from Earth where our Away Team is headed to right now!

Well, Izzy ... I feel like it is **Christmas Morning!**



Remember Christmas when you were small? Waiting, waiting, waiting and waiting so you could open your present at the break of Dawn on Christmas Morning! Well, Izzy... there it is! There is OUR Christmas Present... just outside that Dome!

And **Levi** was right... absolutely right! It was like a HUGE Christmas Present just dropped into their laps, right outside the **starship**.

And just like Levi, **many ISS Vanguard backers** have found **a HUGE box** outside their doorstep... just like a Christmas Present! And what do you do after you open your Christmas Present!?

## You **SHOW IT to everyone!!!**

And those fortunate to receive their HUGE box, can do just that with an automated system set up just for you to SHARE your photos, your thoughts, your stories!

I set up a system so easy that all you need to do is send an EMail to the website (yes TO the website) and your email becomes an article, complete with your photos! I won't give the special EMail address here, but it all is explained on the special sharing website here:

=> [YourISSVanguard.com](http://YourISSVanguard.com)

Yes ... instead of **MY** ISS Vanguard, the sharing website is **YOUR** ISS Vanguard! And everything you need to know to SHARE your thoughts and photos is right there in the left column, and the instructions are very brief because it really is VERY simple (compared to "dice checks")

**Izzy** interrupted...

Levi... It's your Christmas Present too! What do you have to share about it?

Well, Izzy ... it reminds me of the astronauts who first orbited the moon. They too were utterly amazed at the universe once they were outside of Earth's orbit and out into space all the way (for them) TO THE MOON!

Some of today's scientists and astronomers and astrophysicists say that it was Star Trek or the movie Contact that got them interested in SPACE. Well, I ALWAYS was interested in Space! But it was when "we" finally orbited the MOON that I was at the height of my interest. I was enthused. I was excited. I was encouraged.

And it was that message from space (well, from the Astronauts who were in space) that got my attention... got my interest in God!

And **Levi** had pre-arranged a showing of just that ... the **OFFICIAL NASA video and audio** from those early astronauts who first orbited the moon. So he and **Izzy** walked (rushed) over to the Mess Hall where that very video was about to be projected for all the crew!

They got to the Mess Hall just in time for **Levi** to introduce the **Official NASA video!**

Welcome everyone here on this starship! Welcome! We're here! Far distant from Earth. Later today I invite all the crew to drop by the **Observation Dome** and look up into the heavens as our very first Away Team is off to investigate the wonders of this place at the destination "given to us" directly in our DNA! And let's begin our celebration giving thanks and watching a video from nearly a century ago when astronauts first orbited the Moon!

Heavenly Father, good evening! Thank you for being with us. Thank you for being in our midst. Thank you for those NASA astronauts that chose to read from God's Word as their message to everyone on earth. Thank you for the images from space that they sent along with their audio message. Thank you for the enormous impact those three men had then and how it reverberates even today! As they orbited the moon and saw the earth from afar ... it was the Genesis creation that came to their minds. How fitting that they could intertwine the highly technical advances of man with the truth of how God created it all. And now **let's watch and listen to what those astronauts read from space to us:**



He clicked a button and the video started, projected onto the wall across from them:

Most of the crew had never seen this before, nor even heard about it! But it confirmed for them that **science and God were intertwined.**

If it is new to you as well, **read the short NASA article about it here:**  
**=> [Apollo 8: Christmas At The Moon](#)**<sup>1</sup>

**Merry Christmas!**

Share your photos of your present!

Share your stories!

Share how you set up the game on YOUR table for the Missions AFTER the Tutorial!

Just do NOT share that special EMail address please!

**This time it was Levi who interrupted:**

Time to celebrate! Open your present (by strolling down to the Observation Dome). Then **SHOW everyone what you got!** But before you leave ... let's begin our celebration with a question (and answer):

Our Very First Away Team is off on their Mission right now! What will they find? What will they discover?

**Who knows!?**

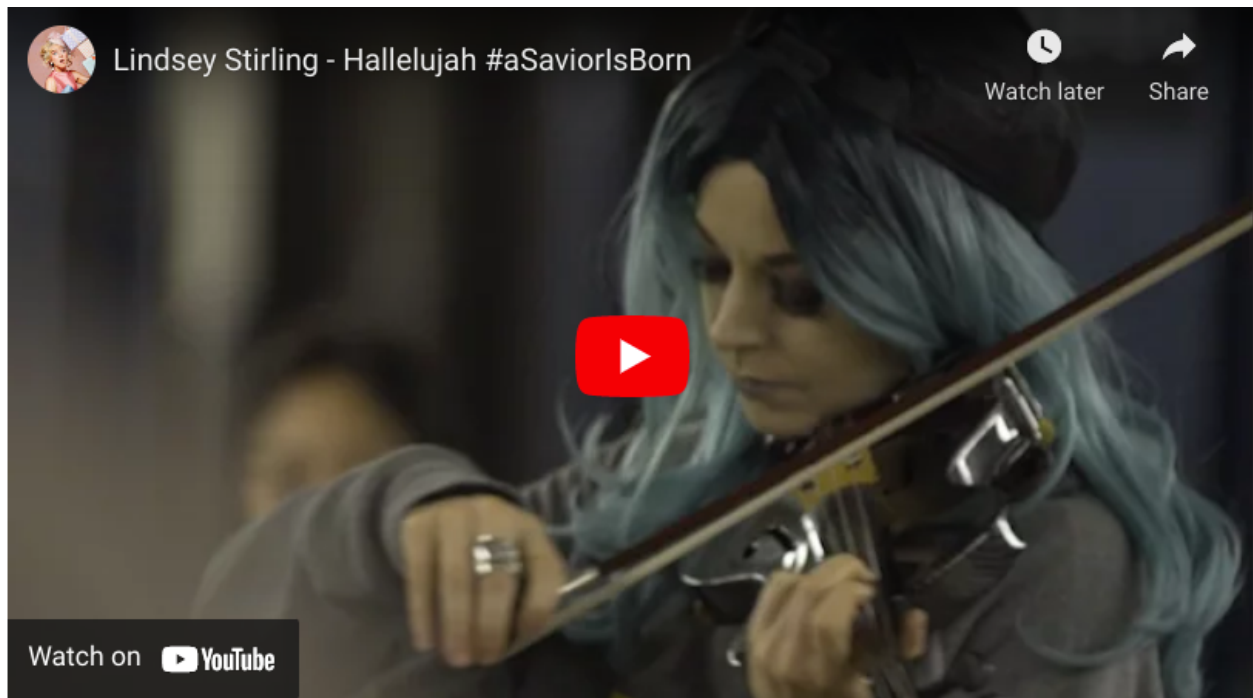
And the crew shouted:

**The Shadow Knows**

And Levi replied

**Lindsey Stirling ...**

and her song to begin our Christmas celebration with Hallelujah and scenes from what is now distant earth:



Let us see the **beauty** in each other! If you ended up with tears (*as I do every time I watch this video*), why not pray a prayer for **Lindsey Stirling**, that she can continue to

be a **positive role model** for all the young women (and men) in our world today! You can pray your own prayer, which can be a simple sentence. Or you can pick one of the 365 (actually 366) prayers that I prayed for her EIGHT YEARS AGO and re-pray it today.

=> [Pick One Day from Here](#)<sup>2</sup>

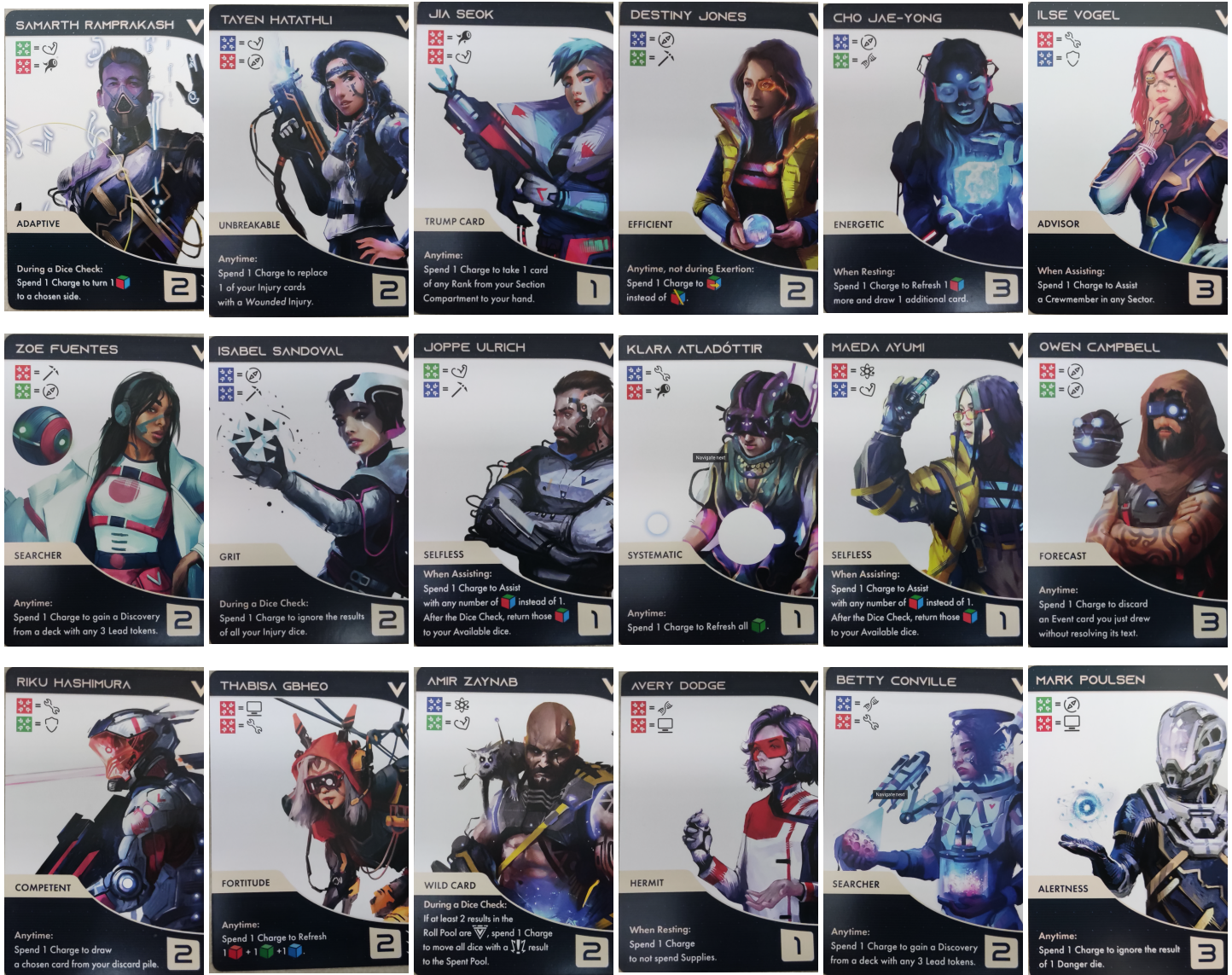
**Merry Christmas** (truly). **Do you see the gift?**

**And may God bless all of you on this good earth!** [*a wonderful way to end a book*]

**Full Article:** [It's Like Christmas! A Present Appeared On Your Doorstep!](#)

1. [www.nasa.gov/topics/history/features/apollo\\_8.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/history/features/apollo_8.html)
2. [ADaughterOfGod.com/calendar/](http://ADaughterOfGod.com/calendar/)
3. [myisvanguard.com/2022/09/19/its-like-christmas-a-present-appeared-on-your-doorstep/](http://myisvanguard.com/2022/09/19/its-like-christmas-a-present-appeared-on-your-doorstep/)





**Invincible  
Leader  
Marcin Świerkot**



**Illustrious  
Storyteller  
Krzysztof  
Piskorski**



**Illuminating  
Chaplain  
Levi O'Connor  
(aka Len)**

**What is Marcin's personal favorite game?** On April 11, 2022 he was asked that question. His shortened answer is intriguing:

*The one special game would be [ISS Vanguard](#). As a company, the cool thing to do is to inspire people! The cool direction would be a positive, uplifting exploration of space, where we can actually travel to distant worlds and explore them. This is a really exciting vision. If we can get people excited about it, and let them put their small brick into the wall, for the future of humanity, there are so many cool things that we can do as the human race (other than war!) There are so many problems in the world that we could solve, there are so many exciting things that we could do for the human race. Spreading this message is really cool.*

And, fortunately, Marcin already had an author of several award winning fantasy and science fiction books as part of Awaken Realms. Krzysztof (and his team) did a fantastic job writing the narrative and storyline for [ISS Vanguard](#). And when after over two years the manufacturing of the game was completed, we needed a countdown to when backers actually received their games! To add some excitement to the helpful information in the daily countdown articles, Len Lindsay created a chaplain ([Levi O'Connor](#)) for the starship. Most ships have chaplains, why not [ISS Vanguard](#)? Levi's story unfolds, day by day in this book, just as it did in real time in the real world. But Levi's world is aboard the starship as part of the crew, and eighteen of those other crewmates (so beautifully depicted by Awaken Realms artists on their crew cards) are included in his stories (and on this book's covers). Bravo, Awaken Realms