

JESUS IN SPACE

A True Story That's Out of This World



Written by
Cecilia Cicone

Illustrated by
Gabhor Utomo

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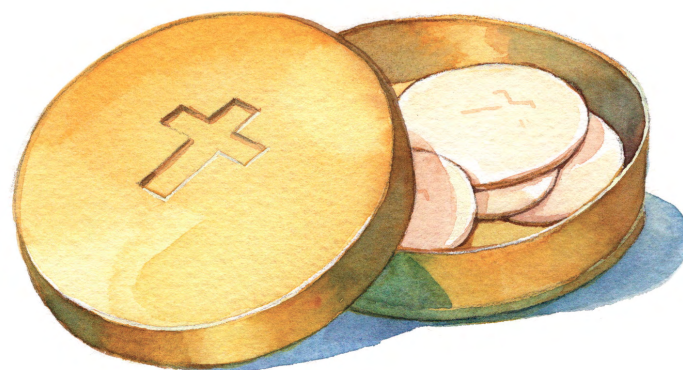
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For Sr. Allison Regina and Sr. Orianne Pietra René,
thank you for always encouraging my crazy ideas for the glory of God.







Tom was an astronaut. He trained to go to space, and he ate space food.
There was only one problem. Tom hadn't been to space yet!



JANUARY 16, 1990: Dr. Tom Jones is selected to join the next astronaut class for NASA.



He worked very hard to prepare for the day when he would finally go on a mission. Tom spent long hours flying airplanes, taking classes, and learning how to operate the space shuttle. He wore his space suit in a special swimming pool to feel weightless, just like he would be in space.

Then, the day came that Tom had been hoping for.



JULY 16, 1990: Dr. Tom Jones begins training as an astronaut candidate with his class. They practice flying, experience zero gravity, scuba dive, and study about space.



“Tom, we have a special mission for you,” the astronaut director told him. “We need you to be a part of a team of astronauts who will take new and detailed pictures of the Earth from space. The photographs will help us understand forests, mountains, and seasonal changes on the Earth. They will make it easier to study events like volcano eruptions and earthquakes, to help keep people safe. Would you like to be on this team?”



JULY 16, 1991: Dr. Tom Jones finishes his year of astronaut training.



Immediately, Tom felt joyful. He would now have a chance to use the gifts God had given him to help people.

“Yes, of course!” Tom replied.

“Thank you for taking this job,” his boss said. “You will have some time to train and prepare. The mission will not be easy, but I know you are the right person for the job.”

As Tom left the meeting, he nearly floated down the hall! He whispered this prayer, “Thank you, Jesus.”



FEBRUARY 1992: Dr. Tom Jones is asked to join the crew of STS-59, a mission aboard the space shuttle *Endeavour*.
“STS” stands for “Space Transportation System.”



The next two years were busy for Tom. He met the other astronauts who would make up the crew. They spent nearly every workday together. They planned their spaceflight. They practiced what to do if something went wrong. And they got to know each other better so that they could work well together and help each other.



MARCH 5, 1993: The entire crew of STS-59 begins training together. The crew includes Sidney Gutierrez, Kevin Chilton, Jay Apt, Michael Clifford, Linda Godwin, and Tom Jones.