Purpose: To develop the ability to express spiritual feelings and thoughts in the form of poetry and verse.

Process:
• Write a poem that reflects the current year's theme.
• Upload the entry on or before March 15, 2019.
• Submit your entry as instructed on the NTLTC Preconvention page located at ntltc.org/precon-submission.html.

Rules:
1. The poem may be written in any meter or rhythm. It does not have to rhyme. Poems that do rhyme can adhere to any rhyme scheme.
2. Poems shall start with a title line.
3. The story should be type written, 12 point Arial, Helvetica or Verdana font and shall not exceed one page.
4. Adult assistance shall be essentially verbal. Adults may discuss the theme and possible poetic applications, make verbal suggestions on content and style, and note editorial corrections on the participant's written work.
5. Only one poem per participant will be accepted.
6. Poetry is an individual event.
7. There are five grade levels in this event: Grades 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12.

Awards:
Ratings and awards of gold, silver, bronze or honorable mention will be given according to the judging criteria listed.

Judging Criteria:
• Creativity - Unique or unusual expression of ideas.
• Theme - LTC theme should be clearly and accurately presented.
• Scheme - Uses rhyme schemes, meter or non-rhyming schemes that achieve a poetic effect.
• Readability - Appropriate use of "poetic license," desired effect, easy flow.
• Overall Effect - Words, style, meaning, attention getting.

Use of Materials Submitted to NTLTC
Ownership of work submitted to NTLTC as a part of NTLTC events remains the property of the submitter. The participant authorizes use of the entry by the NTLTC Board of Directors in any way the Board may deem appropriate. This may include but is not limited to promotion, fund-raising, or training for the purpose of Christian leadership training of youth.