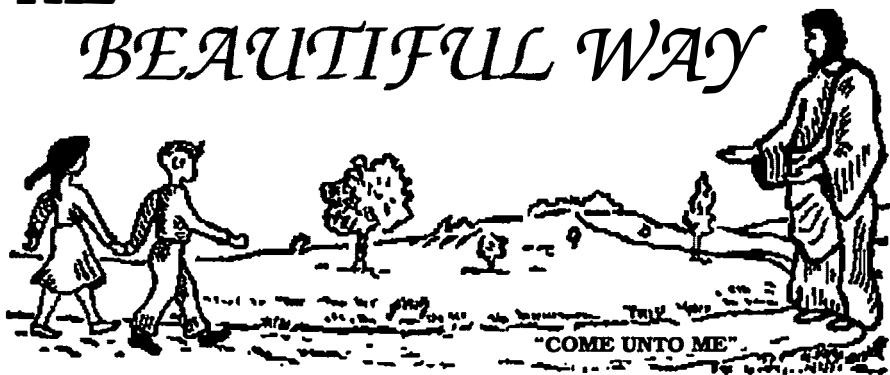


# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 July 3, 2005

## The Prison Riot

(Continued from last week.)

During Gladys Aylward's second year at Yangcheng a pleasant young man came whose name was Lu-Yung-Cheng. He was a convert sent from Tsechow by Mrs. Smith. She said she would pay his salary, which worked out to be nine pence a month. He was useful if only because he could keep an ear to Yang's romantic interpretation of the Scriptures. About two weeks after he arrived he and Gladys were standing in the courtyard when a messenger from the *yamen* rushed in waving a piece of scarlet paper. He gabbled at such a rate that Gladys found it difficult to understand him.

"What's the paper for anyway?" she asked Lu-Yung-Cheng.

"It's an official summons from the *yamen*," said Lu-Yung-Cheng nervously. "A riot has broken out in the men's prison."

Gladys was really not very interested. "Oh, has it?" she asked.

"You must come at once," said the messenger urgently. "It is most important!" Gladys stared at him. "But what's the riot in the prison got to do with us? It can't have anything to do with my foot inspection."

"You must come at once!" repeated the messenger loudly. "It is an official

order." He hopped from one foot to the other in impatience.

Lu-Yung-Cheng looked at her doubtfully. "When that piece of red paper arrives from the *yamen*, you must go."

There was a nervous tremor in his voice.

"All right, you go and see what it's all about," said Gladys. "It's obviously a man's job."

"I know nothing about prisons; I've never been in one in my life. Though I really don't see what you're supposed to do."

She could see from Lu-Yung-Cheng's face he did not want to go.

"Hurry, please hurry!" cried the messenger.

Reluctantly, Lu-Yung-Cheng trailed after him to the door. Gladys watched him reach the opening, take a quick look behind at her, then dodge swiftly to the left as the messenger turned to the right. She could hear the sound of his running feet as he tore down the road.

Within two seconds the messenger discovered his loss. He stormed back through the doorway crying "Ai-ee-eel!" and shaking his fist in rage. He raced across the courtyard towards Gladys, a little fat man without dignity.

"Now you must come," he shouted.

"This is an official paper. You are ordered to come. You *must* come. Now!



## The Living God Among You

**Joshu 3:7-10, 13, 17;  
4:1-3, 6-7**

**7** And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.

**8** And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.

**9** And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the Lord your God.

**10** ...Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites,...

**13** ...As soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, ...shall rest in the waters of Jordan, ...the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

**17** And the priests...stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

**1** And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the Lord spake unto Joshua, saying,

**2** Take you twelve men out of the people,...

**3** And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, ...twelve stones,...

**6** That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?

**7** Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

**The Message: God wants us to know that He, the living, omnipotent God, is with us!**

### Questions:

1. Who did the Lord say He would magnify?
2. What did He promise?
3. What were the priests to do when they came to the brink of Jordan?
4. Who was among the people?
5. Who would He drive out before them?
6. What kind of ground did the priests stand on in the middle of the river?
7. How many men did the Lord tell Joshua to take?
8. What were they to take out of the middle of Jordan?
9. This was to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to the children of Israel forever.

### Verse to Memorize

**But the Lord is the true God,  
he is the living God, and n  
everl sting king:...**  
**Jeremi h 10:10.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

Finally the children of Israel, under Joshua's leadership, were ready to enter the land that God had promised them—the land of Canaan! God knew how easily the Israelites became discouraged. Just the appearance of danger caused them to lose all their strength to fight. Unless they knew for certain that God was with them and would help them in their battles, they could never face the battles ahead.

The nations they were to combat had gods. But they were gods of wood and stone; images they had made themselves. These gods had no power at all. Unless they were carried they could not move. They were dumb idols; they could neither hear nor speak.

What a contrast they were to the God of the Israelites, the living God! He spoke to them through Joshua instructing them how to cross the wide Jordan River that blocked their path into Canaan. Then, as they obeyed, He proved that He had all power—He commanded the water and it stood up in a heap, just as He said it would. The children of Israel walked across on dry land because the water obeyed His command. He proved by this miracle that He was right there with them to guide and defend them. He wanted to fill the Israelites with confidence for their entrance into the promised land.

God had another purpose for His miraculous guidance of Israel through the Jordan. They entered hostile territory when they crossed that river. The river blocked their retreat—they must face the enemy! They were in an unknown region, giving them a dis-

tinct disadvantage in warfare with the inhabitants of the land.

Joshua called the people to hear the word of the Lord instructing them how they were to cross the Jordan River. He foretold that when God drove back the river it would be as if He had stretched out His hand to strike all the inhabitants of the land. The proof which He gave of His power in causing the waters of the Jordan to divide would be a certain guarantee that He would give them victory over all the tribes He had sent them to conquer. He, Himself, would drive out the Canaanites from before them—the dividing of the Jordan would be as a sure token of His presence with them.

Gladys Aylward's purpose in going to China was to tell the people about her God, the Living God. These poor people needed to know that they too could have such a God to continually guide and protect them. Gladys never imagined that she would be challenged to face a prison riot to prove the power of her God but He did not fail her. He proved the truth of her message by subduing the riot.

As long as you are in the world you are on enemy territory. God knows that you have no power in yourself to overcome the evil all about you. Each day you face new challenges and decisions. Without the guidance and power of the living God to help you, you cannot make it to heaven. God is no respecter of persons. He wants to show Himself strong and mighty in your life just as He did to the Israelites and to Gladys Aylward.

When you ask God to forgive you for your sins, He will make your heart clean and pure. Then He comes to live in your heart too! You must let God have control of your life every day. Then when you have an extreme test you will face it confidently knowing the living God is in you and will fight your battle.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

With me! If you refuse you will get into trouble!"

"All right," she said mildly. "I'll come. I really don't know what's the matter with Lu-Yung-Cheng. He must feel ill or something. But I certainly don't see what a riot in the prison has to do with me...."

They hurried up the road and in through the East Gate. A few yards inside the gate the blank outside wall of the prison flanked the main street. From the other side came a terrible sound: screams, shouts, yells and other horrible noises.

"My goodness!" said Gladys, "It certainly is a riot, isn't it?" The Governor of the prison, small, pale-faced, his mouth set in a worried line, met her at the entrance.

Behind were grouped half a dozen of his staff.

"We are glad you have come," he said quickly.

"There is a riot in the prison; the convicts are killing each other."

"So I can hear," she said. "But what am I here for? I'm only the missionary woman. Why don't you send the soldiers in to stop it?"

"The convicts are murderers, bandits, thieves," said the Governor, his voice trembling. "The soldiers are frightened. There are not enough of them."

"I'm sorry to hear that," said Gladys. "But what do you expect me to do about it? I don't even know why you asked me to come...."

The Governor took a step forward. "You must go in and stop the fighting!"

"I must go in...!" Gladys' mouth dropped open; her eyes rounded in utter amazement. "Me! Me go in there! Are you mad? If I went in they'd kill me!"

The Governor's eyes were fixed on her with hypnotic intensity.

"But how can they kill you? You tell everybody that you have come here because you have the Living God in-

side you...."

The words bubbled out of the Governor's mouth; his lips twisted in the acuteness of distress. Gladys felt a small, cold shiver down her back. When she swallowed, her throat seemed to be filled with grit.

"The—Living God?" she stammered.

"You preach it everywhere—in the streets and villages. If you preach the truth, if your God protects you from harm, then you can stop this riot."

Gladys stared at him. Her mind raced around in bewilderment, searching for some fact that would explain her beliefs to this simple, deluded man.

A little cell in her mind kept blinking on and off with an urgent message: "It's true! You have been preaching that your God protects you from harm. Fail now and you are finished in Yangcheng. Discard your faith now and you discard it forever!" It was a desperate challenge. Somehow, she had to maintain face. Oh, these stupidly simple people!

But how could she go into the prison? Those men—murderers, thieves, bandits—rioting and killing each other inside those walls! By the sounds, louder now, a small human hell had broken loose. How could she...? "I must try," she said to herself. "I must try. O God, give me strength."

She looked up at the Governor's pale face, knowing that now hers was the same color.

"All right," she said. "Open the door. I'll go in to them." She did not trust her voice to say anymore.

"The key!" snapped the Governor. "The key, quickly!"

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Joshua. 2. To be with him as He was with Moses. 3. Stand still. 4. The living God. 5. The Canaanites. 6. Dry ground. 7. Twelve. 8. Stones. 9. Memorial.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 July 10, 2005

## Madman!

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward realized that the effectiveness of her ministry with the Chinese depended on her action now. She had preached openly that she was not afraid because she had the Living God within her. "If you preach the truth," the Governor of the prison reminded her, "if your God protects you from harm, then you can stop the prison riot!"

With a prayer for protection Gladys answered falteringly, "All right. Open the door. I'll go in."

Quickly one of the Governor's orderlies came forward with a huge iron key. It looked like it was designed to unlock the deepest, darkest dungeon in the world. The key grated loudly in the keyhole; the immense iron-barred door swung open.

Gladys was literally pushed inside. It was dark. The door closed behind her. She heard the great key turn. She was locked in the prison with a horde of raving criminals! By the noise it sounded as if the criminals had all gone completely insane! A dark tunnel, twenty yards long, stretched before her. At the far end it appeared to open out into a courtyard. She could see figures racing across the entrance. With faltering footsteps, she walked toward the courtyard. There she came to an abrupt standstill, rooted in horror.

The courtyard was about sixty feet square, with queer cage-like structures around all four sides. Within its confines a writhing, fiendish battle was going on. Several bodies were stretched out on the flagstones. One man, obviously dead, lay only a few feet away from her, blood still pouring from a great wound in his scalp. There was blood everywhere. Inside the cage-like structures, small private battles were being fought. The main group of men, however, were watching one convict who brandished a large, blood-stained chopper. As she stared, he suddenly rushed at them and they scattered wildly to every part of the square. Gladys stood there, aghast at this gruesome form of "tag." The man on the ground, with the gash in his skull, had obviously not dodged in time.

No one took any notice whatsoever of Gladys. For fully half a minute she stood motionless with not one single cell of her mind operating to solve her dilemma. The man rushed again; the group parted; he singled one man out and chased him. The man ran towards Gladys and then ducked away. The madman, with the axe, halted only a few feet from her. Without any instinctive plan, hardly realizing what she was doing, Gladys took two angry steps toward him.

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The Philistines gathered their great armies and marched into Israel to fight against King Saul and his soldiers. Every morning and evening they sent their champion, a giant named Goliath, to challenge an Israelite to fight him.

Now David was the youngest of Jesse's eight sons so he was the one who cared for the sheep. He spent many hours alone out in the pastures. This gave him much time to think of the greatness and goodness of God; he praised God for His mercies.

One day a lion suddenly snatched one of the lambs and ran. David chased and caught the lion. He rescued the lamb and killed the lion. At another time a bear tried to kill one of David's sheep. God blessed him to kill it also.

One day David's father told him to carry some food to his brothers who were fighting with King Saul's army. David was talking to his brothers when suddenly he heard the TERRIFYING voice of Goliath call out for one soldier to fight against him. David was surprised to see how frightened King Saul and his soldiers were at the sight of this giant.

Although David was still young, he knew by experience that God was greater than any enemy. "Who is he that he should defy the armies of the living God?" David asked indignantly.

The soldiers were amazed at David's courage. This giant had been terrorizing them for forty days and no one had dared accept his challenge and fight with him! Soon word reached

King Saul that David was willing to face Goliath. Quickly the king sent for him.

King Saul was probably surprised to see such a young man dressed only in shepherd's clothes. But David spoke boldly, "I will go and fight with this Philistine!"

When Saul doubted his ability to fight against such an experienced man of war, David told him how God had helped him kill both a lion and a bear. "He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine," David assured Saul, "because he has defied the armies of the living God!"

Goliath laughed at David when he saw him coming toward him with only a sling in his hand for a weapon. He cursed David by his gods and threatened to feed him to the birds and beasts of the field.

David was not frightened. "You come with a sword, shield and spear," he called boldly, "but I come in the name of the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied!" Then, running toward Goliath, David put a stone in his sling and let it fly. God guided that stone to the right spot. Goliath fell flat on his face!

Because David talked with God often, he knew that indeed He was the living God, well able to avenge His armies of this enemy who dared to defy them. This prepared him to face the giant confidently. Goliath was no match for the God David knew and served!

Will you accept the challenge to be courageous for God? Be obedient to God and conquer the little things of life. Never try to fight your own battles. Go to God in prayer and let Him fight for you. Read your Bible daily. This will tell you what a mighty God you serve and give you strength and courage. Then when the big test comes you will, like David, face it with courage and let God prove that He lives in you and fights your battles.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



## Armies Of The Living God

**I Samuel 17:23-24, 26, 28-29,  
31-34, 36-37**

**23** ...Behold, there came up the champion,...Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines,...

**24** And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

**26** And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

**28** And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why comest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

**29** And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

**31** And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

**32** And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

**33** And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine

to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

**34** And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

**36** Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

**37** David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee.

**The Message: David knew  
even Goliath was no match  
against the armies of the  
living God!**

### Questions:

1. What was the champion's name?
2. What army did he fight for?
3. What did the men of Israel do when they saw him?
4. Who was Eliab?
5. What did Saul do when he heard David's words?
6. What did David tell Saul he would do?
7. Why did Saul think David was no match for Goliath?
8. Who had Goliath defied?
9. What gave David confidence that God would deliver him from Goliath's hand?

### Verse to Memorize

**And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.**

**I Samuel 17:47.**

"Give me that chopper," she said furiously. "Give it to me at once!"

The man turned to look at her. For three long seconds the wild, dark pupils staring from bloodshot eyes glared at her. He took two paces forward. Suddenly, meekly, he held out the axe.

Gladys snatched the weapon from his hand and held it rigidly down by her side. She was conscious that there was blood on the blade and that it would stain her trousers. The other convicts—there must have been fifty or sixty cowering there—stared from every corner of the courtyard. All action was frozen in that one moment of intense drama. Gladys knew that she must clinch her psychological advantage.

"All of you!" she shouted, "Come over here. Come on; form into a line!" She knew vaguely that the voice belonged to her but she had never heard it so shrill. She screamed at them like an undersized, infuriated sergeant-major or like a schoolteacher with a class of naughty children. "Get into line at once. You, over there! Come on; form up in front of me!"

Obediently the convicts shambled across, forming into a ragged group before her. She regarded them stormily. There was silence. Then suddenly her fear had gone. In its place was an immense, soul-searing pity that pricked the tears into her eyes. They were so wretched. They were so hopeless. A mass of thin faces: angular cheekbones, puckered lips; faces contorted with misery, pain and hunger; eyes, dark with fear and despair, looked into hers. They were remnants of humanity, half-men dressed in rags, caked in dust, running with lice; animals more than men, and the cages in which they were penned around the arena were those of brutes. She could have wept openly that human creatures could be so wretched. With an

effort, she tightened her lips and took command again. The fear had gone but she knew she must still control them with her authority.

"You should be ashamed of yourselves," she said, berating them like an irate mother scolding a crowd of naughty children. "All this noise and all this mess!" She waved her arms to indicate the bodies and blood the battle had left behind. "The Governor sent me in here to find out what it was all about. Now, if you clean up this courtyard and promise to behave in the future, I'll ask him to deal leniently with you this time." She tried to keep her eyes away from the still figures of the dead. She knew she must focus her attention on the criminals until all their desperate violence had seeped away.

"Now what is your grievance?" she snapped. "Why did you start fighting like this?"

There was no answer. Several hung their heads in shame.

"I want you to appoint a spokesman then," she went on. "He can tell me what the trouble is. And then you can start cleaning up this courtyard at once. Now go over in that corner and appoint your spokesman. I'll wait here."

The convicts trooped over into the corner she indicated and talked among themselves. A few moments later, one of the taller men of slightly better physique approached. Like the others, he was dressed in rags.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Goliath. 2. Philistine. 3. They ran away. 4. David's oldest brother. 5. Sent for David. 6. Fight Goliath. 7. David was young while Goliath was an experienced man of war. 8. The armies of the living God. 9. God had delivered him from the paw of the lion and bear.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 July 17, 2005

## Help For The Prisoners

(Continued from last week.)

God answered Gladys Aylward's prayer for wisdom and courage to stop the prison riot. Boldly she ordered the convicts to appoint a spokesman who would explain to her why they had rioted. Obediently they gathered into a group and sent one man to speak with her.

"My name is Feng," he said. "I am their spokesman." While the others cleared the bloody courtyard, Gladys listened to his story. Later she learned that he had once been a Buddhist priest; he had been convicted of theft from the other priests of the temple and sentenced to eight years in jail.

Feng explained that no one really knew why, or how, the riot had started. They were allowed the chopper—he indicated the axe which Gladys still carried—for an hour every day to cut up their food. Someone had quarreled over its possession, someone else had joined in, and suddenly, without anyone knowing exactly why, the volcano of passion had erupted and a lava of blood flowed everywhere. He could not explain this strange occurrence. Perhaps it was that many of the men had been there for many years, he said. As she knew, unless their friends or relatives sent in food, they starved. It was hard to sit up against a wall and

starve to death while other men ate. Sometimes the officials took one of them out into the square and executed him. That terror hung over many heads. Sometimes the spirit grew so oppressed that it burst out of a man in a wild tumult of violence. That, he thought, is what had occurred. They were all very sorry.

"What do you do all day in here?" asked Gladys seriously.

"Do? There is nothing to do."

"No occupation of any sort?"

"None!"

"But a man must have work, something to do. I shall see the Governor about it."

It was at that moment she became conscious that the Governor and his attendants were behind her. She did not find out until later that there was a small opening towards the end of the tunnel through which they had heard everything.

The noise of the riot had died, and they had now thought it safe to enter and take an official part in the peace treaty. The Governor bowed to Gladys. "You have done well," he said gratefully. "We must thank you."

"It's disgraceful," Gladys said bitterly. "These men are locked up here week after week, year after year, with nothing to do. Nothing to do at all!"

"I do not understand," the Governor said, looking bewildered.



## Reproaching The Living God

**Isaiah 37:4, 6-12, 14-17, 20**

**4** It may be the Lord thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the Lord thy God hath heard:...

**6** And Isaiah said unto them.... Thus saith the Lord, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

**7** Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and return to his own land: and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.

**8** So Rabshakeh returned,...

**9** ...And...sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

**10** ...Let not thy God, in whom thou trustest, deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.

**11** Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered?

**12** Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed,...

**14** And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up unto the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord.

**15** And Hezekiah prayed unto the Lord, saying,

**16** O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

**17** Incline thine ear, O Lord, and hear; open thine eyes, O Lord, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.

**20** Now therefore, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord, even thou only.

**The Message: Those who dishonor God will be punished!**

### Questions:

1. Who did the king of Assyria send to reproach God?
2. Who told them to not be afraid of the words of the king of Assyria?
3. What did the Lord say He would send on him?
4. He shall hear a \_\_\_\_\_ and return to his own land.
5. How would the Lord cause him to die?
6. Rabshakeh sent messengers to tell King Hezekiah. "Let not thy God \_\_\_\_\_ thee."
7. Why did Rabshakeh think God could not save Israel?
8. What did Hezekiah do when he received Rabshakeh's letter?
9. Hezekiah prayed God to save them so that all the kingdoms of earth might know what?

### Verse to Memorize

**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.  
Hebrews 10:31.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Sennacherib, king of Assyria, captured cities all around Jerusalem. He was confident that he could easily conquer Jerusalem. But there was one great difference between Jerusalem and the other cities; Hezekiah, the king of Jerusalem, served and trusted in the living God!

As Assyria's great army surrounded Jerusalem, Rabshakeh called to the people and told them, "The great king of Assyria says, 'In whom do you trust that you would dare rebel against me? Don't let your king, Hezekiah, deceive you. He will not be able to deliver you. Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, 'The Lord will surely deliver us.' Have any of the gods of the other nations delivered them out of the hand of the king of Assyria? How then will God deliver Jerusalem?'"

Hearing this, the men tore their clothes and went back to tell Hezekiah everything Rabshakeh had said. When the king heard it he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the Lord to pray. He also sent men to the prophet Isaiah to tell him, "This is a day of great trouble. It may be that God will hear the words of Rabshakeh whom the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God. Pray for God to help us!"

Isaiah sent word back to Hezekiah saying, "The Lord says, 'Don't be afraid of the words that you have heard. The servant of the king of Assyria has blasphemed Me. I will send a blast on him. He will return to

his own land and there I will cause him to be killed by a sword.'"

Soon Rabshakeh got word that another king had come to fight Assyria so he went back to his own land. But he wrote a letter to Hezekiah, saying, "Don't let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you, saying, 'Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.' Have the gods of the other nations delivered them?"

When Hezekiah read this he went up to the house of the Lord and spread the letter out before Him. He prayed, "O Lord God of Israel, You alone are God. Hear the words of Sennacherib who has reproached the living God. Truly, Lord, the kings of Assyria did lay waste all the nations and their lands and cast their gods into the fire. For they were not gods but the work of men's hands; they were only wood and stone. Now, O Lord our God, save us that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord God, even You only."

God then sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah, "I have heard your prayer. The king of Assyria shall not come into this city. I will defend this city and save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake."

That very night the angel of the Lord went to the enemy camp and killed one hundred and eighty-five thousand soldiers. When the others woke up the next morning, the camp was filled with dead bodies! There was nothing for Sennacherib to do but return home in utter defeat. Then, while he was worshipping in the house of his idol god, two of his own sons killed him with a sword.

God proved that He was indeed the living God! Our "Verse to Memorize" tells us that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands (fall under the displeasure) of the living God. Because God lives forever, He can punish forever! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Gladys knew the Governor was grateful that she had stopped the riot. She decided to press her point. "Of course you have riots if the prisoners have nothing to occupy their time, year after year. You must find them occupations."

The Governor was still completely puzzled. "Occupations?" he repeated.

"They must have work to do. We must get looms so they can weave cloth; we must find them all sorts of jobs so that they can earn a little money and buy food, and get back a little self-respect."

The Governor nodded. Whether he agreed or not she could not tell. "We will discuss it later," he said amiably.

"I have promised them there will be no reprisals," she said.

The Governor nodded again. A few corpse were rarely the subject of an official inquiry or even an embarrassment to the Chinese penal system. "As long as there is no recurrence," he said, "we shall forget all about it."

"That is good," said Gladys. She turned to Feng. "I'm going now, but I shall come back. I promise I will do all I can to help you."

She saw upon her the dark eyes of the priest who was a thief, "Thank you," he said. "Thank you, Ai-weh-deh."

She did not know at the time what the word "Ai-weh-deh" meant. That evening she asked Lu-Yung-Cheng when he returned from the long walk he had so suddenly decided to take.

"Ai-weh-deh?" he said curiously. "It means the virtuous one." She was known as Ai-weh-deh for all her remaining years in China.

The episode in the prison raised Gladys' prestige considerably in Yangcheng. Becoming official foot-inspector had given her some importance, but stopping a jail riot had conferred honor of a different sort altogether. She noticed that merchants

standing in their shop doorways, who had ignored her for so long, now bowed politely as she passed. Her two soldiers were as pleased about the affair as if they had received a raise in pay.

She did not forget her promise to the prisoners, either. The Governor, at heart, was an educated, kindly man, and in the years that followed became a good friend of hers. If the condition of his prison was wretched, it was because the conditions in all Chinese prisons were dreadful. If only to prevent more riots breaking out, he was perfectly willing to accept suggestions from Gladys. No large-scale reform could be accomplished; there was no money allotted to the improvement of prisons. Gladys had no money either, but she did manage to get a couple of old looms from friends of the Governor, and a supply of yarn. She obtained cotton cloth and set the prisoners to making the puttees (long strips of cloth wound spirally round the leg from ankle to knee) which were worn in Shansi, and a miller's wheel, so they could grind grain and make a little money out of that work.

Gladys visited the prison regularly, almost every day, when she was in Yangcheng. She taught them facts about hygiene and read them stories. She was amused when she thought to herself that the prisoners were the only parishioners she was always certain of finding "at home." She managed to get some domesticated rabbits and they kept them in hutches and bred from them.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Rabshakeh. 2. The Lord. 3. A blast. 4. Rumour. 5. By a sword in his own land. 6. Deceive. 7. The gods of other nations had not saved them. 8. Went to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord. 9. That He is the only Lord.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 July 24, 2005

## The Convicts Go To Church

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys did many things to help the prisoners. But the greatest thing she accomplished was to arrange for them to leave the prison one Sunday. It happened when the Governor's old school friend, a scholar of some repute, visited Yangcheng.

"He is a Christian," the Governor told Gladys importantly. "Perhaps I could prevail upon him to preach in your Mission."

"A good idea," said Gladys at once. "And I'll tell you what; why don't we have all your convicts down to listen to him?"

"Do you mean allow the convicts out of jail?" The Governor was very perturbed. "That is impossible!"

"Why is it impossible?" Gladys questioned. "Some of them have never left that courtyard for ten years or more. It would be a great event for them. It would do them all good!"

"But they're convicts...!"

"You could guard them," Gladys answered persuasively. It would flatter your old friend, too—if he's a good Christian, that is."

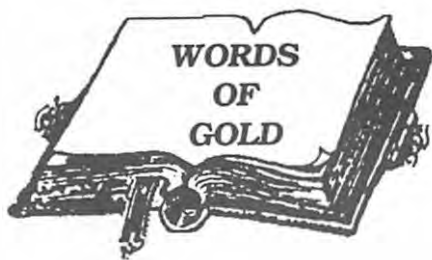
From the moment that Gladys stopped the riot in his jail, the Governor had regarded her with great respect. He knew that, at least on that occasion, her religion had worked; his had not! Reluc-

tantly, after a little more persuasion, he agreed to let the prisoners out of jail for this one occasion.

Gladys never forgot that Sunday that the convicts came to church. Manacled together with heavy chains, the prisoners marched out of the prison yard. As they walked down the main street and out of the West Gate people lined the roads to stare at them. Then, just outside the city gate, the whole troop halted instinctively and stared with a bewildered hunger at the scenery. For some it had been years since they had seen mountains and deep canyons, the fields and trees and the windy mountain world that they now saw falling and rising all about them. Compassionately, for two whole minutes, the soldiers who were guarding them allowed them to stand and take in the view.

The prisoners murmured among themselves as they looked out at freedom. Then they marched down the narrow street to the Inn of Eight Happinesses where Gladys welcomed them warmly. They filed through the courtyard, then into the old ancestral hall at the far end which had now been converted into a mission hall.

There the prisoners sat on the floor. The Governor's friend beamed to see such a large, attentive audience. He preached to them for three solid hours! It was perhaps the most blissful church service ever conducted in the province



## Serving The Living God

**Daniel 6:16-27**

**16** Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

**17** And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den,...

**18** Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting,...

**19** Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

**20** And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

**21** Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

**22** My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me:...

**23** Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

**24** And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, ...and the lions ... brake all their bones in pieces

or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

**25** Then king Darius wrote...

**26** I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

**27** He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

**The Message: Our highest honor is to serve the living God!**

### Questions:

1. Where did they put Daniel?
2. Who said God would deliver him?
3. What did they put over the mouth of the den?
4. How did the king pass the night?
5. What did the king do early the next morning?
6. What did he ask Daniel?
7. Why didn't the lions hurt Daniel?
8. What did they do with the men who accused Daniel?
9. Who said that the God of Daniel is the living God?

### Verse to Memorize

**...Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.**

**Daniel 6:16.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

King Darius could see a great difference between Daniel and his other chief men. He could depend on Daniel to carry out his orders and have his work done in good time. Naturally, when he needed someone to fill a more responsible position, he thought of Daniel and promoted him. Soon Daniel was first of all the presidents and princes of the kingdom. The other chief men became jealous. They watched Daniel closely to find some fault that they could report to the king. But the closer they watched, the more they saw how perfectly he served the king.

These men knew that Daniel prayed to his God three times every day without fail. This gave them an idea. They devised a plan that would surely destroy Daniel. Going to the king, they told him that all the presidents, governors, princes, counselors and the captains had met and decided that a new law should be made. This law would state that whoever asked a petition of any god or man for thirty days, except of the king, would be thrown into the den of lions and destroyed. King Darius must have been caught off guard; he foolishly signed the new law.

Soon Daniel heard about the new law. But this did not change his service to God. Faithfully, three times a day, Daniel opened his window toward Jerusalem, kneeled down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to God as he always had.

The other chief men were watching. As soon as they saw Daniel on his knees, they rushed to inform King

Darius. As soon as he heard how Daniel had been trapped, the king realized it had been foolish to sign the law. He worked feverishly, trying every way he knew how to deliver Daniel from his awful fate. But he could find no way. At sundown the chief men came, reminding him that the law could not be changed—it must be executed.

Sorrowfully, the king called for Daniel. As Daniel was about to be thrown down into the den of lions the king told him, "Thy God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you!" A stone was put over the mouth of the den and the king put his seal on it.

King Darius couldn't sleep that night. He refused to eat or listen to music to soothe him. All night he thought of Daniel down there among the hungry lions. Very early the next morning he hurried to the den of lions and called out pitifully, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God, whom you serve continually, able to deliver you from the lions?"

Then to the king's joy and amazement he heard Daniel's voice! Quickly he commanded men to pull Daniel up from the den. They were astonished—Daniel had not been hurt at all! "My God sent his angel and shut the lion's mouths," Daniel explained.

Then King Darius made another law. It said that everyone in his kingdom should fear and tremble before the God of Daniel. "For He is the living God!" he declared.

Paul was writing to you and me when he said, "You are the temple of the living God!" (II Corinthians 6:16.) It is important that we know and always remember this. Because He is the living God, He will never die; He is the same now as He was in Daniel's time. You can be certain that if you give your life to God, as Daniel did, and serve Him faithfully, He will never fail you!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

of Shansi. No one was anxious to return to prison. They would gladly listen as long as the portly minister wished to preach!

Finally, however, the service came to a close. At the end of it, through their spokesman, the convicts thanked Gladys gravely for allowing them such a privilege. Then, with chains jangling, the manacled prisoners marched back to jail.

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The Mandarin proved himself to be a true friend to Gladys. Often they had long and serious talks together. He was an educated man and asked many questions, some of which Gladys could not answer.

One day he said, "You send your missionaries into our land, yet our country is far older in civilization than yours. You look upon us as a nation of barbarians, do you not Ai-weh-deh?"

"Not barbarians, but those who need the true God."

"Our poets were singing and writing in Chinese when Britain was an uncivilized island on the edge of the then known world, yet you come to teach us a new faith. You try to convert us to a new religion."

"Mandarin," Gladys said, praying that God would direct her words, "look out of this window. Think of the poverty, the misery and the starvation all around us."

"But it has always been in China; it always will be so. It is the will of the gods."

"Not the will of *my* God. He will bring hope and happiness."

"Ai-weh-deh, you preach and you work for your God, but I do not think you will make a ripple on China's consciousness as great as the ripple a *gnat* makes when he touches the surface of a great ocean."

"Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born two thousand years ago. He was a Baby born of an humble mother in a stable in an insignificant village. Yet, because of the ripple He created, I am

here, many thousands of miles away from my own land."

"You have learned the intricacies of our beautiful language exceedingly well, Ai-weh-deh."

"I think perhaps I understand it better than my own language, Mandarin. I belong here; I feel I am needed here."

"Yes, you are needed. I do not understand all you teach, Ai-weh-deh, but I admire what you have done for us."

"But I want to do more, Mandarin. You have given me permission to visit the prison, but the conditions are terrible. My country is not as old as yours, but our people would not tolerate such conditions as exist here, even for their criminals—the poor, manacled, filthy, half-starved wretches!"

"But they *are* criminals, Ai-weh-deh."

"Yes, but that does not mean they should be treated like pigs, neither does it exclude them from God's mercy and forgiveness. Poor, unhappy China!"

"You pity us, Ai-weh-deh?"

"I pity you because the love of God is not shed abroad in your hearts. Jesus said that for His sake we should visit those in prison, clothe the naked, feed the hungry and care for the fatherless."

"Then that is why you took home that child from the roadside?"

"Poor little mite! If I had not taken her, she would have died."

"Children die like that every day—hundreds of children. But now you are her mother."

"Yes, I am her mother."

"This must be a strong faith of yours, Ai-weh-deh."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Into the den of lions. 2. The king. 3. A stone. 4. In fasting. 5. Hurried to the den of lions. 6. "Is thy God able to deliver thee from the lions? 7. God sent an angel that shut their mouths. 8. Threw them into the den of lions. 9. King Darius.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 July 31, 2005

## The Needed Revival

(Continued from last week.)

During the Chinese-Japanese War a body of Christian pastors, evangelists and teachers, who would not take part in the hostilities themselves, banded together in a unit to help the wounded. It was a fine body of men who willingly risked dangers and discomfort that they might bring help, both physically and spiritually, to those in distress.

At that time Gladys Aylward was living almost on the battlefield. Often there were between thirty and forty wounded men lying in her courtyard. She applied to this unit for help because she felt that someone far more capable than herself should take over this work but for some time she got no reply.

They were also busy arranging for their annual convention. Although traveling was very dangerous they invited people from all the surrounding districts to attend a week of services. They prayed for great blessings and continued their preparations.

As their guest speaker they had invited the pastor of a church three days' journey away. They hoped and prayed that he would be able to attend. At last the first day of the convention arrived but not the guest

speaker. Months later they learned that the Japanese had refused him permission to travel.

The Christians came pouring in, some having walked for over a week, some for five days. They were thirsting for fellowship and came prepared for a great blessing.

After the welcome meeting on the first night, the guests were shown to their rooms and given food. Those who were the leaders were on their knees in the chapel seeking God's guidance in this awkward situation. By tomorrow there would be over a thousand people in the compound. What were they to do without a guest speaker?

Suddenly a child pulled Gladys' garment. "Ma, there is an important man seeking you."

She hurried out to find a tired, dusty man in a soldier's uniform waiting for her. He saluted politely.

"Madame, I have been sent to discuss your appeal for help for the wounded in this district."

"Oh, dear!" Gladys said impatiently. "I cannot discuss this with you at this moment. Tonight we have started a week's convention, and I shall have no time until next week. If you will sit down and rest, my little boy will bring you food and show you somewhere to sleep. I must return to the chapel." She hurried back and again fell on her knees.



## Our Guide

**John 16:13**

**13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

**Romans 8:14**

**14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

**Acts 10:9-10, 19-20**

**9** ...Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

**10** And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance.

**19** While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

**20** Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

**Acts 16:9-10, 19-20,**

**22-23, 25-30**

**9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

**10** And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia,...

**19** ...They caught Paul and Silas,...

**20** And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

**22** And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

**23** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

**25** And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

**26** And suddenly there was a great earthquake,...

**27** And the keeper of the prison... would have killed himself,...

**28** But Paul cried...Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

**29** Then he...fell down before Paul and Silas,

**30** And...said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

**The Message: God has given us a wonderful Guide, the Holy Spirit.**

### Questions:

1. What will the Spirit of truth do?
2. Who are led by the Spirit of God?
3. Where did Peter go to pray?
4. Who told Peter that three men were looking for him?
5. Who had a vision in the night?
6. Where did the man ask them to come?
7. Where did they take Paul and Silas after they had beaten them?
8. What did Paul and Silas do at midnight?
9. What did the jailor ask Paul and Silas?

### Verse to Memorize

**I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.**

**Psalms 32:8.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

During the Civil War, the Union troops needed to get across a range of the Appalachian Mountains before the next day. The commander was unfamiliar with the mountains so he stopped in a village at the foot of the mountains and asked for a guide to lead his men over the high ridge.

News spread from house to house that a guide was needed. Few people were left in the village who had been across the mountains. The men who tackled the mountains were away in the war. Finally they found one boy who knew the mountains well. He was willing to risk his life to be their guide.

Calling his troop together, the commander introduced the guide. The boy looked small and incapable to many of the strong soldiers but they were ordered to obey his every command.

"In some places the path is only wide enough for one horse," the boy told the men. "And slipping off the path could mean certain death. Please keep in single file and step to the right or to the left when I say. Pass the word on to the man behind you."

It was dark before the men reached the pass but they had to press on. "Two steps to the right," the little guide called out in the darkness. "Two steps to the right," every man called to his follower. "Three steps to the left," the guide called, knowing that ahead the path curved to the left. "Slow and cautious," he

called, "the cliff drops off very dangerously!"

On through the dark, rainy night the army filed along the treacherous path. When the sun shone the next morning they were safely on the other side of the mountain.

Our life is like that dangerous mountain trail. We must have a guide to help us stay on the safe path. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit are our guides. If we obey their directions, they will let us know where to step because they know the dangers that we cannot see.

We must trust our guides. Some people reason that the Bible doesn't apply to our modern age. They choose their own way and quickly are lost.

The Bible is like a road map. We must study it to know the right way to live. The Holy Spirit is a wonderful teacher. He will bring scriptures to your mind that make it clear which way we should go. Then the Spirit will give you power to obey the instructions from the Word and resist doing wrong.

Some instructions in the Bible are very clear, such as, "Thou shalt not kill," or "Thou shalt not steal." However there are other things that are not mentioned specifically. The devil would like to confuse us. But we can turn to the Holy Spirit at these times. Jesus said He would guide us into all truth.

Gladys and others prayed earnestly for God to send someone to lead the convention. The minister they invited could not come, but God answered their prayers in an unexpected way. The Holy Spirit led Jonathan Wen to the convention just at the right time. God used him mightily in the meeting. So we, too, can be a blessing to others by allowing the Holy Spirit to prepare us and guide us. What a wonderful blessing to have such a Guide throughout our entire life!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

A few moments later a new voice began praying in a different dialect. He prayed with such power! They were amazed that it was the dusty soldier who was praying among them. As they rose, Gladys grasped his hand. "You are a Christian!" she said joyfully.

"Of course! I would not be in the group to aid the wounded soldiers if I were not."

The only place for him to sleep was at the door of Gladys' room, which was already packed full of women and children. When they got up in the morning, he was gone. After the prayer meeting, which lasted two hours, there was breakfast. This was followed by a half-hour of singing; then came the first real meeting of the day. The place was packed to suffocation. The people waited in eager anticipation while the leaders were still uncertain what to do. Then in came the soldier in the same worn, gray uniform but looking clean and fresh because he had bathed in the river.

He stepped on the platform and began to speak. The hush and the sense of great power that came upon them were never to be forgotten. When, at the end, he asked for Christians to rededicate their lives, everyone fell on their knees and prayers came from all over the building.

For five days this man, Jonathan Wen, led them. They had prayed for revival, now it had come like a mighty flood. Every day dozens accepted the Savior for the first time. Men and women from the city wandered in to see what it was all about and before long they, too, were on their knees weeping for their sins and praying for God's forgiveness. How great was the joy that, at last, the years of faithful sowing were resulting in this abundant harvest.

On the final evening Jonathan and the leaders led a farewell meeting. They knew they would never meet

again because word had come that the enemy was pushing closer and would be on them very soon.

The women, one by one, said goodbye to Gladys, and everyone went quietly away. She was so exhausted that she fell fully clothed on the bed beside the children.

Very early she was awakened by a strange noise. Thinking it was enemy bombardment, she picked up the youngest child and rousing the other children rushed out to the front courtyard. Instead of an enemy plane, a wonderful sight met her eyes. Hundreds of men and women were praying—some kneeling, some standing. A power that she could only liken to that of Pentecost swept over the place. In a moment, she too was on her knees, awed and full of great reverence.

As the morning lengthened, they said farewell once more and this time they left in twos and threes on their long trek homeward. Two days later the Japanese arrived, but all the guests were by then well away into the mountains, taking a little of heaven's glory with them.

One day, weeks afterward, as Gladys was singing some choruses a Japanese officer approached and said, "People in the mountain villages sing your songs. I have heard them."

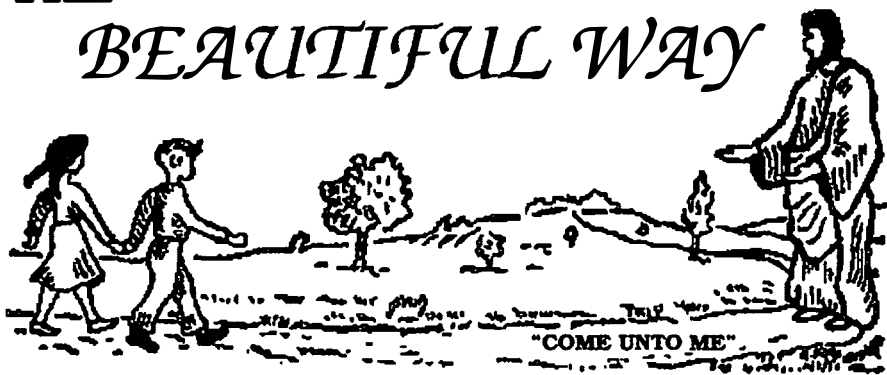
She nodded and smiled but said nothing. The enemy might be moving across their country into the mountains, but before them had gone God's Holy Spirit. He had sent to them a messenger of His own special choosing and had strengthened their feeble faith before the time of greater testing.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Guide you into all truth. 2. The sons of God. 3. On the housetop. 4. The Spirit. 5. Paul. 6. Macedonia. 7. To prison. 8. Prayed and sang praises to God. 9. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?")

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Aug. 7, 2005

## At War!

(Continued from last week.)

One morning there was an unusual noise over the town. When the people ran out of their homes they saw many little silver planes in the sky, shining in the sunshine. They shouted and waved excitedly; none of them had ever seen an airplane before. Then the planes flew low over the town, backward and forward, dropping their bombs.

Meanwhile, they were holding their morning service when a bomb hit the mission house. Gladys could recall nothing more until she was dragged out of the ruins some time later.

When she had pulled herself together, she dug in the debris until she found her little first aid box. But all it contained were a few small bandages and a bottle of iodine. Yet hundreds were dying, if not already dead, all over the town! It was heartbreaking, and a terrible introduction to the awful ravages of war which they were to endure again and again.

The Chinese were dazed and unable to organize any effectual sort of service. There was the never ending work of burying the dead, comforting the living, attending to the wounded, looking after the babies and helping the poor, stricken mothers.

The inn was so badly smashed up that they had to move in with another missionary who had come into the area a few months before. From there, for the time being, Gladys continued her work of evangelizing the villages. Sometimes Mr. Lu, the Chinese evangelist, accompanied her, but more often she took two or three of her children with her.

Her travels took her far afield and sometimes she entered villages occupied by the Japanese. They did not interfere with her and some of the Japanese soldiers came to her meetings. They did not understand Chinese but they joined in the choruses. One or two of them were Christians already, so they sang in their own language.

Yangcheng was actually on the battlefield itself and was forever changing hands. When the Chinese army moved up and camped near, she visited the soldiers in their quarters and was invited to have tea with the general and his wife. They were most friendly and soon she was one of their frequent visitors.

On one occasion the general was poring over his maps when Gladys was in the room.

"I wonder if they have reached this place yet," he said, pointing on the map.



## Jesus, The Son Of The Living God

**Matthew 16:13-17**

**13** When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

**14** And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

**15** He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

**16** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

**17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

**John 6:66-69**

**66** From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

**67** Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

**68** Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

**69** And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

**Galatians 2:20**

**20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**I John 4:15**

**15** Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

**II Corinthians 6:16**

**16** ...For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Colossians 3:1, 3-4**

**1** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

**3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**4** When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

**The Message: We find our greatest joy and power when we let Jesus, the Son of the living God, live and rule in our hearts.**

### Questions:

1. What question did Jesus ask His disciples?
2. Who did people think Jesus was?
3. Who did Peter say He was?
4. Who had revealed this to Peter?
5. When so many people quit following Him, what did Jesus ask the twelve?
6. Peter told Jesus, "Thou hast the words of \_\_\_\_\_."
7. "Ye are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ God."
8. Who said He would dwell in them and walk in them?
9. Who is our life?

### Verse to Memorize

**...Christ liveth in me:...**  
**Galatians 2:20.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

God made man in His own image. He desired him to be a habitation of His own Spirit. Man became a living soul when God breathed His breath of life into him.

When Jesus lived as a man on earth, God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and gave Him power. Through this power He went about doing good, freeing people from the bondage of the devil and healing the sick. God was with Him. Even when the chief religious leaders turned against Him, Jesus was able to say, "The Father has not left me alone because I always do those things that please Him."

God's purpose for us is that we should be like Jesus in every way. He sent Jesus to first redeem us from the awful power of the devil and then to be an example for us to follow. This is the highest goal we can ever achieve in life.

But the most wonderful fact is that Jesus actually comes to live in our heart. He knows what is pleasing to God and will work that out in our life! So then, it is not by our own effort that we become like Jesus. When we abandon ourselves entirely to Him, He will come in and make our whole life brand new. He will give us His pure mind and thoughts. We will speak as He directs.

Paul described this life by saying "...I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." To know that Jesus actually

lives in your heart gives you power to say, "No!" to the devil when he tempts you to sin or be selfish. You can boldly tell him, "Jesus lives in me!"

A minister and his family moved to a new place. Their little boy came in after the first afternoon of play and told his mother, "Oh, Mother, I have found such a lovely, good little girl to play with here! I never want to move again."

"I am very glad," the mother replied happily. "What is the little girl's name?"

"Oh," the child answered, suddenly becoming very sober, "I think her name is Jesus!"

"Why, Frank!" the shocked mother replied, "What do you mean?"

"Well, Mother," he answered matter-of-factly, "she was so lovely that I do not know what she could be called but Jesus!"

Is your life so Christ-like that others would think this of you? When Jesus lives in your heart, His gentleness, sweetness and loving submission to the will of God will be evident in the way you live every day!

Others saw Jesus as just another one of the great prophets. They soon left Jesus. But Peter knew that Jesus was Christ, the Son of the living God. He was the only One who could lead them to eternal life. They would never leave Him!

Gladys drew great strength and comfort from knowing that Jesus was with her even while the bombs dropped. The people were confused and hurting. They looked to her for help and hope. The scripture, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," reminded her that He was with her. When she read the little card on her wall that said, "God hath chosen the weak things," she knew she could depend on Him to be her strength. How wonderful to know Christ lives in me! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Oh, yes, I was there a week ago and they were all over the place," she replied. "They came to my meeting." After that she often gave information of enemy movements. When she was out visiting her village congregations she found out where the Japanese were and what regiments were being used, and she passed the information on to the general. She was able to go out quite openly to do her work as an evangelist, often in enemy-held territory, and nobody interfered with her. From 1938 onward they were in the middle of the fighting. Four times Yangcheng changed hands. First the Nationalist armies would take it, then the Japanese, and each time they had to flee to the hills and live where they could, in caves or holes in the ground, and eat if they were lucky.

Each army, in turn, looted the city, until none of them had anything left. Yet, when the army left the city, they went back to the ruins of their homes, only too thankful to get there. Gladys had two planks for a bed, two stools, two cups and a basin. On the broken wall still hung a small card that said: "God hath chosen the weak things—I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." And it was true! She had passed through the fire, but He had strengthened her.

One day her old friend, the mandarin, sought her out in the caves where she was caring for a crowd of refugees.

"It is good to see you are still alive and well, Ai-weh-deh," he greeted her with real feeling. "I have come to bid you farewell. I am leaving this province, and another governor will take my place."

"Oh, I am sorry."

"I have watched you ever since you came, Ai-weh-deh. You love all our people, and you work hard for them."

"It is God's will that I do so, Mandarin."

"That I have come to know. Before I leave, I would like to be received into your church and worship the God you worship. Will you grant this?"

"God will grant it, Mandarin," she replied, her eyes full of tears. In the midst of all this suffering and privation her God was still working. After years of sowing the seed, He was allowing her to see it bear fruit in the heart of this honored and powerful representative of Old China.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gladys' mule inn was a complete shambles, but she continued to use the courtyard as a sort of first aid station.

She had sent most of her children to various Christian homes in the surrounding villages but she was needed in Yangcheng. Just around the corner from her inn a family had been completely wiped out, so she used their desolate house as her temporary home.

Often as many as forty wounded men—sometimes Japanese, sometimes Chinese—would be carried into her courtyard during the day. There were no organized field hospitals and the suffering was terrible. She did what she could for the less severely wounded—put on bandages, gave them food and drink and let them rest until they were taken off to their various camps. She still had Mr. Lu, the evangelist, with her, and at times there were other Chinese Christians who gave what help they could but it was shockingly inadequate.

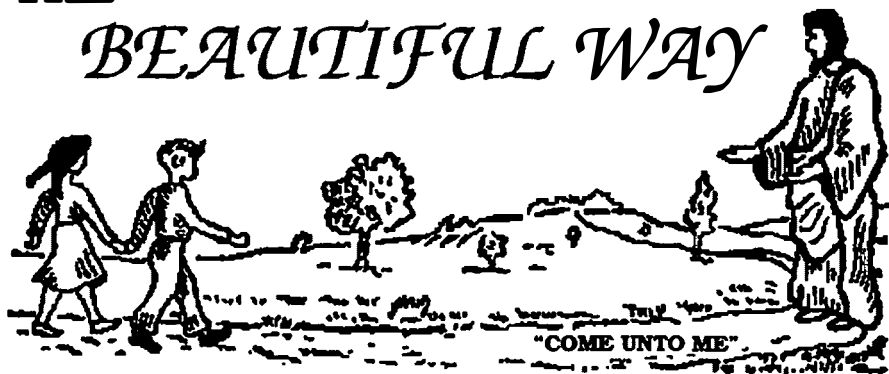
(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Who do men say that I am? 2. John the Baptist, Elias, Jeremias or one of the other prophets. 3. Christ, the Son of the living God. 4. God. 5. "Will ye also go away?" 6. Eternal life. 7. Temple, living. 8. God. 9. Christ.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Aug. 14, 2005

## The General

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward stood in the middle of the courtyard and held up a large Bible picture. She looked at her listeners, her heart full of pity for them because they did not know God's love.

"We are all sinners," she said, pointing unthinkingly at a crowd in the doorway. "God says all have sinned, and the wages of sin is death. But because God did not want us to perish, He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sins and mine. If you will believe in Him and accept Him as your Savior, you will have great peace and happiness in your heart. And even if the enemy comes again and kills your body, your spirit will go to heaven where Jesus is."

About half an hour later, Lu rushed in. "Have you had a visitor?" he panted.

"Only the Chinese women."

"No one else?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Because the general is coming here for you."

Almost before he had finished speaking, some soldiers marched in and spoke to Lu. "I have to go with these soldiers," he said looking strangely pale.

"But why do you take him?" she asked the men.

"He is wanted at headquarters."

Gladys could do nothing. She was left alone, wondering what would hap-

pen next. A few moments later more soldiers marched in. She tried to greet them in a friendly fashion. After all, they were their soldiers, not the Japanese. She went into the kitchen to make tea, but when she came out, she realized that this was certainly not a friendly visit. The six soldiers stood stiffly on guard all around the courtyard.

"Sit down and have some tea," she invited the one nearest to her, though she felt anything but comfortable.

"Soldiers on duty do not sit down," he replied curtly.

There was nothing she could do but wait and pray. Two hours later there was a commotion in the courtyard. It was the general himself. She bowed to him, and asked him to enter her poor home.

He glared at her fiercely. "Do you know, woman, that you are under arrest?"

"But why?"

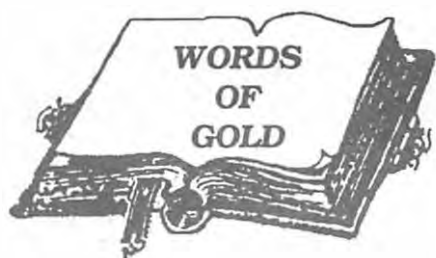
He still glared but made no answer. She turned and went back into the kitchen, her legs feeling very shaky. He followed her in.

"Woman, what do you know about me?"

"Nothing, except that from your uniform I conclude you are the general who has retaken our city and, of course, I have heard your name."

"Who told you about me?"

"Nobody. I only know what everyone else in the city knows."



## Peter's Vision

**Acts 10:7-20**

**7** And...Cornelius...called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier...

**8** And...sent them to Joppa.

**9** On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

**10** And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

**11** And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

**12** Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

**13** And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

**14** But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

**15** And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

**16** This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

**17** Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

**18** And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

**19** While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

**20** Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

**The Message: Through a vision of unclean animals God taught Peter that salvation is for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.**

### Questions:

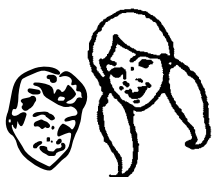
1. Who did Cornelius call?
2. Where did Cornelius send them?
3. What was Peter doing while they came near the city?
4. How was Peter feeling?
5. What happened to Peter while the meal was being prepared?
6. What kind of vessel did he see coming from heaven?
7. What was in it?
8. What did the voice tell Peter to do?
9. How many times did this happen?

### Verse to Memorize

**I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.**

**Psalms 32:8.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

While in Joppa Peter made his home with a man named Simon, who was a tanner. It was here in his home that Peter had a very strange vision.

It happened one day at noon. Peter felt very hungry but the meal was not ready so he went up on the flat roof of the house to spend some time in prayer.

Peter was soon lost in prayer. As he prayed he fell into a deep sleep or trance and saw something that looked like an enormous sheet being let down from heaven by four corners. As it came nearer, Peter saw that the sheet was full of all kinds of animals and birds!

While he wondered what this could mean a voice spoke to him saying, "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat."

Now Peter was still hungry but he was not that hungry! Many of the animals were those that, according to the law of God given to Moses, were unclean. The Jews were forbidden to eat anything unclean and all his life Peter had strictly obeyed this law.

One reason God commanded the Jews that they must not eat certain animals was because He wanted to put a difference between Jews and Gentiles. He knew that if His people ate and drank freely with idol worshippers they would soon be eating things that were offered to their idols. This would lead them away from Him, the true God, and they would worship the evil gods of the Gentiles.

So Peter answered vehemently, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean."

The voice then answered, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."

The sheet was lifted back to heaven and lowered a second time and a third. Still Peter refused to touch the animals because he was a Jew. Finally the sheet and the animals were drawn back up into the sky and disappeared.

Peter was wide-awake now and greatly troubled. He knew that there had to be an important message in this mysterious vision, especially since it was repeated three times! Surely God did not want him to eat unclean food. There must be some other explanation.

And there was a deep life-changing message in the vision. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, had opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. The great gospel message must now be preached—salvation was for all men everywhere, Gentiles as well as the Jews! Through this vision God wanted to teach this truth to Peter. He must be willing to take the gospel to all men everywhere.

This was not an easy task. First Peter's own prejudices must be overcome. Then he must face the vehement opposition of the Jews. They hated the Gentiles intensely. They would not understand Peter's new convictions. But God knows how to prepare us for the services that are before us. Peter would understand the deep meaning taught by the vision as he followed the Spirit's instruction to him.

So as he thought about the vision and its meaning the Spirit of God told him, "Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

By this time Peter heard a loud knocking at the gate of the house. He knew this must be the men the Spirit had spoken of. Climbing down from the roof, he went to the gate to meet the men.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Oh, yes, someone did! Tell me who it was, and I will take my soldiers away."

Again and again Gladys declared that she knew nothing of his private life. But he continued to rave and curse and, at length, after much shouting, he left. But the soldiers were still on guard.

A little later she asked them politely if she could send out for some food. They refused so she ate the small bowl of porridge, which was all she had in the house. Still there was no sign of Timothy or Lu, so she lay down, fully dressed, to get what rest she could.

It was about ten o'clock when there was a great noise outside again.

"Come down, I say, come down at once!" shouted a man's harsh voice.

Getting up she leaned over the balcony. "I am not one of your soldiers. I am a free citizen of China," she replied with dignity. "You come up here."

Once more the general stamped in, swearing terribly and stood glaring at her in the broken doorway.

"I demand, for the last time, that you tell me who told you private things about me. If you do, I will see that everything is easy for you."

"I cannot tell you. I do not understand what you mean. I have never seen you before. No one has ever spoken about you."

After more threatening and cursing, he left again.

For two days she remained under guard without food. On the third day the general, accompanied by more soldiers, marched in and sat down.

"Woman you have been here three days; are you ready to tell me the name of the person who told you about me?"

"I cannot, for I do not know what you are talking about."

"Then how did you know that I was a sinner?"

"I only know that the Bible says so."

She picked up her Bible, opened it and handed it to him. He pulled off his hat, threw it down and began to read. When she saw him without his hat she remembered that, as she pointed at

those in the doorway she had caught a fleeting glimpse of a man!

For an hour he held her Bible while she turned to verse after verse, pointed them out and let him read them for himself.

"What was this Bible?" He demanded. "What was this gospel she talked about? Who was Jesus Christ?"

She explained as patiently as she could while he argued and questioned. Gradually he quieted down. He quit swearing and a note of great longing came into his voice. "It is impossible for me to be saved," he said at length.

"With God nothing is impossible."

"I am too wicked!"

"No one is too wicked. Will you kneel down with me and confess to God that you have sinned but you want to take Jesus Christ as your Savior?"

Still the battle waged. "What do I get if I believe?" he demanded.

Another two hours went by while the Spirit of God strove for this man's soul and the devil fought to keep him under his domination. Eventually he knelt down of his own accord, humbly confessed his sins and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord.

By this time she was almost fainting with fatigue and hunger. The general got up from his knees, looked at her, then hurried out and ordered his men to bring her food.

He stood by while she ate. Then he burst out, "If I have taken this God, then I have to tell my men about it, don't I?"

"Yes, if you want to be a real Christian."

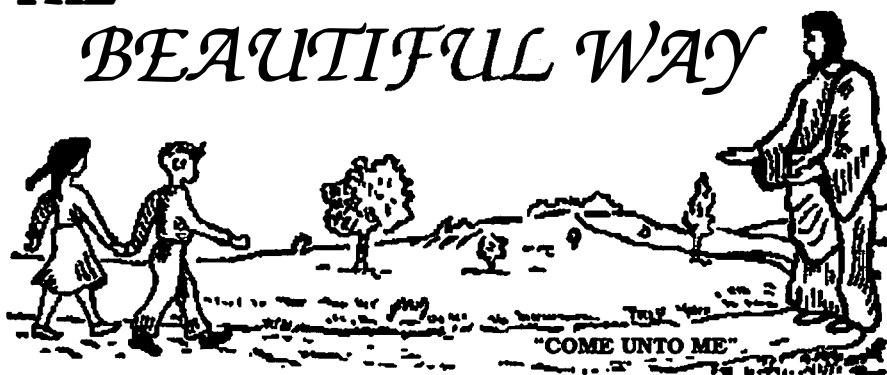
"I will address my men tomorrow, but I want you to be with me."

(To be continued next week.)

- (Answers: 1. Two of his servants and a devout soldier. 2. To Joppa. 3. He was on the housetop praying. 4. He was very hungry. 5. He fell into a trance. 6. It was like a great sheet. 7. All kinds of animals. 8. "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat." 9. Three times.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Aug. 21, 2005

## Big Brother

(Continued from last week.)

Finally the general left, taking the guards with him. That night Gladys Aylward slept peacefully, utterly exhausted with the strain of the evening. The next morning men arrived and very politely escorted her to the parade ground. The general made her stand on the platform beside him.

"Up to this time we have been a bandit troop," he said to his soldiers after some preliminaries. "I have led you in killing and looting and we have always been successful. Now we will cease to be bandits and become honorable soldiers, because last night I took Jesus Christ as my God. I find that this Book (waving Gladys' Bible) is against dishonesty and wickedness. Now will every man who is willing to join me come out and promise that we will cease to kill or loot for gain, but will serve this true God?"

He got down and handed Gladys her Bible. "Will you get me a Bible for my own, Ai-weh-deh?"

"I will send out to the village and find one for you."

She returned home, rejoicing in this man's brave confession. A messenger found a Bible and took it to the general, who thanked him and said, "Tell Ai-weh-deh that I will come as soon as I am free."

She waited, hoping that he would come soon so that they could pray and

read together. But the next morning she heard that all the soldiers had left the city during the night. She was bitterly disappointed.

Gladys heard nothing more of the general for another two years. Her house was in ruins so she lived in another house whose owners had been killed. But she continued to use the old courtyard as a primitive dressing station for the wounded. Often as many as forty men were lying on the floor while she did her best with what poor medical supplies she could muster. One day a batch of wounded soldiers had just gone and she was attempting to clean the place up somewhat when a dirty beggar hobbled in.

"Do you want to come in and sit down?" she asked.

He sat down on a stone—they had no furniture. He looked desperately ill and almost starving.

"Bring some warm food," she said to Timothy. The boy quickly got him a bowl of porridge.

"Don't you know me?" the beggar asked as she came near him.

"No, I don't"

"I belong to Jesus."

"When you have had some food you can tell me about Jesus."

"But I still belong to Jesus." This seemed to be the only sensible remark he could make.

After he had eaten his food, she said, "Where are you going?"



## Cornelius

**Acts 10:1-6; 21-28**

**1** There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

**2** A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

**3** He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

**4** And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

**5** And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

**6** He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

**21** Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

**22** And they said, Cornelius... was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

**23** Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

**24** And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

**25** And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

**26** But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

**27** And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

**28** And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

**The Message: Through the vision and Cornelius Peter learned that the gospel should be preached to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.**

### Questions:

1. What job did Cornelius have?
2. Cornelius was a devout man. In what ways did he show his love for God?
3. How did Cornelius know to send for Peter?
4. When Peter went to Cornelius who did he take with him?
5. What did Cornelius do as soon as he met Peter?
6. What did Peter tell him to do?
7. Why did the Jews not keep company with those of other nations?
8. What had God shown Peter?

### Verse to Memorize

**Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons....**

**Acts 10:34.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Cornelius, a captain over a band of one hundred soldiers, lived in the city of Caesarea. Although he was not a Jew, he worshiped the true God. He prayed daily and taught his family and servants to worship God also.

He was praying one afternoon, about three o'clock in the afternoon, when an angel suddenly appeared to him. Fearfully Cornelius asked, "What is it, Lord?"

"God has heard your prayers," the angel assured him. "Now send men to Joppa to the house of Simon the tanner who lives by the seaside. Simon Peter is staying there and he will tell you what to do."

The angel disappeared as quickly as he had come. Immediately Cornelius called for two of his servants and a devout soldier. He told them all that had happened and sent them to Joppa to find Simon Peter as the angel said.

It was the next day, while Cornelius' men traveled toward Joppa, that Peter saw the vision as he prayed on the housetop. Peter knew nothing about them coming and they knew nothing of his praying, but God knew both him and them. He was preparing their meeting with perfect timing.

So when the men from Cornelius knocked at Simon's gate Peter was already expecting them. Three men stood there inquiring for him, just as the Spirit had said.

"I am Simon Peter," he told them. "What do you want?"

The three then told Peter about their master, Cornelius, and how the angel had commanded him to send for Peter. "Stay with me tonight and I will go back to Caesarea with you in the morning," Peter told them.

Early the next morning Peter and some other believing Jews set off with Cornelius' three servants for Caesarea. When they arrived at Cornelius' house he was anxiously waiting for them. He had invited all his family and friends to hear what Peter had to tell them. As Peter entered the house, Cornelius fell down on his knees to worship him. Quickly Peter pulled him to his feet, saying, "Stand up, I am just a man like you!"

Peter had never gone to the home of a Gentile before. Strict Jews refused to be friends with Gentiles because they knew this was how idol worship had started among their people in the past. "You know," he told Cornelius, "that it is unlawful for me, as a Jew, to associate with or visit a man of any other nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man unclean when He has made him clean. That is why I came here without question. Now, why did you send for me?"

Cornelius told him the story of the angel's visit. "We are ready to listen to the words of God that you bring to us," he added eagerly.

So Peter began to speak to them. "I see now," he said, "that God does not just love the Jews but that He loves those of every nation who obey Him and try to serve Him."

Then Peter told them about Jesus. As he spoke God gave them the Holy Spirit just as He had the believers on the day of Pentecost. When the Jewish believers who had come with Peter saw this they were amazed and rejoiced that God's salvation is for people of every nation.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Home."

"Where is home?"

"Here."

"But surely you do not belong to Yangcheng!"

"I belong to Jesus," he repeated again.

Timothy pulled her aside. "Don't you know who he is?"

"He says he belongs to Yangcheng, but I think he is ill in his head."

"He is the general," Timothy whispered.

She turned and stared at the poor, miserable specimen sitting on the cold stone. "What is your name?" she asked gently.

"No name. I belong to Jesus."

That evening she took him home. She and Timothy cared for him and very slowly his health improved. As he grew stronger, she learned more of his story. On the day when he had bravely confessed his faith before the troops, he had waited in vain for the men to come and promise their allegiance to him. That evening, instead of coming to pray with Gladys as he had promised, he was arrested by his own men. They took away his clothes, tied him on a mule and went off during the night.

For many months they continued as bandits, burning, looting and rioting. They dragged their general with them everywhere, afraid that he would expose them to the government if they let him go. In every possible way they tried to break his faith. He was tortured, starved, kicked and beaten, but still he held out. Fixed in his mind was the knowledge that because he belonged to Jesus Christ he could no longer be a bandit.

After nine months of this terrible testing, when they were in the northernmost part of the province, a man came to where he was tied up one night and said, "We did far better when you were our leader. We want you back. Will you lead us again?"

"No, because I must still stand for Jesus Christ."

"Then, if you are really sure, I will

help you to get away."

Later the man managed to give him a suit of peasant clothes and set him on the way back. He begged in the villages, worked in the fields, always afraid that his men would find him. In every place, though he knew so little, he told people that he belonged to Jesus Christ and was His servant.

He became very ill and his mind was very clouded. All he could remember was that he belonged to Jesus and Yangcheng. After fifteen months of wandering, he made his way to Yangcheng, and instead of a bullying, cursing general, he came into the same courtyard a poor, battered, penniless beggar. This faith, implanted that one night of struggle, had been as a grain of mustard seed and had remained unmovable, though all else had gone from him.

As his health improved, his mind cleared once more; but the blustering bandit has gone. In the village the children adored him and hung around him. No one except Timothy and Gladys knew his true identity. To the Christians he was Big Brother and they truly loved him.

But Big Brother never really grew strong again. His chest had been weakened by suffering and exposure, and a year after his return, he died. The Christians in the village mourned him with great sorrow—to them he had indeed become Big Brother.

They never knew his real name but Gladys was proud to have him buried as Wong-wei-deh, her brother; proud to know that her 'son in the faith' had endured so faithfully for our Savior and Lord.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. He was a centurion (captain over one hundred men). 2. He gave much alms and prayed to God always. 3. An angel appeared to him telling him to do so. 4. Certain brethren from Joppa. 5. Fell at his feet. 6. Stand up. 7. It was against their law. 8. That he should not call any man common or unclean.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Aug. 28, 2005

## Wanted!

(Continued from last week.)

All during the war Gladys Aylward got more and more children to care for—poor, neglected little waifs whom no one wanted. Every week some new child would be added to her family. Villagers and soldiers brought in orphans and sometimes children walked in on their own for they were told that Ai-weh-deh would care for them.

As the war dragged on year after year the numbers grew until she had over a hundred children to care for. They needed constant attention, and they needed feeding. She tried to give them lessons, to teach them psalms and something of the Bible. The general, to whom she gave information about the enemy, and many others became interested in her work.

"I hear, Ai-weh-deh, that you are looking after a hundred or more children in the ruins of your mission," the general said one day. "What do you do when the Japanese occupy the town? How do you get food for such a large family?"

"When the Japanese take the town, we carry on just the same. When they bomb we go out into the caves in the mountains and come back when it is over. We use the hall as a dressing station just the same, and often we have your men and the Japanese in at the same time. I beg food from everybody—

the Japanese as well as anyone else. We have always managed, for God always provides."

"Have you heard of the orphanages that Madame Chiang has opened for children such as yours, Ai-weh-deh? She has government money and all over China temples and colleges are being requisitioned to house homeless children. I suggest that you write to her and tell her what you are doing and ask her help."

Gladys wrote that letter and the reply came back: "If you can bring the children into Free China to Shensi, we will look after them. I will also send you money for your work in Yangcheng if someone can collect it."

They discussed the matter with the elders of the mission hall and decided that Mr. Lu, the evangelist, should take the first party of children and collect the money in Shensi. It was a hard, difficult journey, for it meant walking for days over the mountains, crossing the Yellow River, and then going still farther west. Mr. Lu agreed to go, and the children were wildly excited.

They set off eventually, about a hundred of them, taking provisions for a day or two. They would have to beg or buy more on the way. They expected the journey to take about two weeks, so that Mr. Lu would be back within the month.

After they left things went on as before. Children kept coming in greater numbers; they had a hundred again



## Prison Doors Open

Acts 12:1-11

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

**The Message: God can deliver from the most impossible situation!**

### Questions:

1. What did Herod do to James?
2. Why did he arrest Peter?
3. How did Herod make sure that Peter could not escape?
4. What did the church do while Peter was in prison?
5. Where was Peter sleeping?
6. Who smote Peter on the side?
7. What happened to the chains when Peter stood up?
8. What did Peter think was happening?
9. Who opened the iron gate leading to the city?

### Verse to Memorize

**...There is no other God that can deliver after this sort.**

**Daniel 3:29.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

King Herod was willing to do anything to gain favor with the Jews so he made friends with their chief priests and rulers. It did not take long for him to realize how much they hated those who believed that Jesus was the Christ so he began to make trouble for those who believed on Him. First he had James, the brother of John, arrested and later killed with the sword. The chief priests and rulers were so pleased by this that Herod sent soldiers to capture Peter and put him in prison also.

So Peter was arrested. This happened during the time of the Passover feast. Herod's intention was to hold him until the feast days were over and then bring him out to his enemies. This meant certain death.

Once before, when Peter was imprisoned together with John and other apostles, an angel came at night and opened the prison doors telling them to go teach the people in the temple. The next morning, when the officers came to bring them to trial, they found the prison door locked and soldiers standing guard. But when they came into the prison the prisoners were gone! While they wondered how grown men could simply vanish, someone came running to tell them that Peter and the others were in the temple teaching about Jesus.

Herod was determined that this did not happen again. This time he appointed four different changes of the guard to keep watch on Peter every moment. At night Peter was chained to a soldier on each side of

him. He could not possibly escape! Now when James was killed the church felt the loss of their leader very keenly. They could not spare Peter too. Each day they met and prayed for his release. But the days passed and still Peter lay in the dreary prison. As the feast days came to an end and the time came for Herod to give Peter over to the Jews the Christians grew more intense in their prayers. Finally the last night came. They decided to meet at Mary's home. The burden was so heavy they continued in prayer all night.

About midnight that same night Peter lay fast asleep chained to his two soldiers. Other soldiers stood guard just outside the prison door. Then suddenly a bright light shone all through that prison cell and an angel stood over Peter. Striking him on the side the angel raised Peter up commanding, "Get up quickly!"

As Peter obeyed the chains fell to the prison floor. "Get dressed," the angel said, "and put your shoes on." Peter was sure this was all a dream but he did as the angel said. "Now," the angel continued, "put your coat on and follow me."

Still thinking that he was surely having a dream Peter followed the angel. They walked right through the prison and past all those guards to the great iron gate that led out to the city. As they approached, the heavy gate swung back as if it had an automatic opener. Peter and the angel stepped out into the street.

They walked down the dark street a short distance and then suddenly the angel disappeared. Peter looked all around. Where was the angel? Was he asleep or awake? Then as he took a deep breath of the cool night air he realized he was not dreaming. The Lord had sent an angel and delivered him from prison!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

before the month was up. Gladys and her Chinese helpers went on with the teaching, story telling and efforts to keep them clean and with enough to eat. They waited for Mr. Lu, but one month passed, then two and he did not appear, nor was there any news.

The war situation had become steadily worse. One day the general's wife told Gladys, in great confidence, that the Chinese army was about to retreat. "You must come with us, Ai-weh-deh," she said. "We will look after you and the children and you will be safe with us."

Gladys thought and prayed about it. Then she said, "You take the children, but I must stay. Christians never retreat."

That night an officer called with a letter from the general himself, begging her to accompany them. On the back of the letter she wrote, "Christians never retreat."

The next day this party of children also left and the mission hall was deserted. But she had decided her place was here. The Japanese had come before and she had lived through it, so they could come again.

Two nights after the children left she was preparing for bed. She had read her Bible, said her prayers and was just climbing into bed when there was a knock at the door.

"Who is there?" she demanded.

It was a soldier and a member of the mission hall. So throwing on her robe, she let him in.

"Ai-weh-deh, you must retreat with us," he broke out.

"No, I won't. My place is here. I have work to do."

"I have been sent by the general to plead with you to change your mind. Even if you do not retreat with us, Ai-weh-deh, you must leave Yangcheng."

"But why?"

"The Japanese intend to take the city tonight or tomorrow and they want certain people."

"That has nothing to do with me. I will stay as I have done before."

"But you are one of the people they want."

"Me? What do they want with me? No, you are just saying this to make me leave."

"Then look at this." And from his pocket he pulled a crude poster. "I found this on the city wall. They are all over the place."

She stared at it. "Wanted: Ai-weh-deh" was printed on it, together with three other names. "Any person giving information which will lead to the capture, alive or dead, of the above mentioned, will receive a reward from the Japanese High Command."

"I must think this over," she said slowly. "Thank the general and all of you. Good-bye."

He left and she sat on alone, not knowing what to do. Then, late as it was, she went to the mission hall and consulted an elder.

"You must go, Ai-weh-deh, you must go," he said firmly.

The women who were there wept. "Oh, don't leave us, you are our mother, don't leave us."

She went back to her room, her mind in turmoil. She burned all her papers and photographs, but still did not know what to do. She did not want to throw her life away for nothing, and she knew the Japanese would have no mercy on a "wanted" person. But did God want her to stay with her people and help them? She got out her Bible and prayed and prayed, "O Lord, tell me what to do. I'm all mixed up. I don't know if I should go or stay; please tell me."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Killed him with the sword. 2. To please the people. 3. He delivered him to four quaternions (sixteen) of soldiers to keep him. 4. Prayed without stopping. 5. Chained between two soldiers, bound with two chains. 6. An angel. 7. They fell off. 8. He thought he was seeing a vision. 9. It opened by itself.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Sept. 4, 2005

## The Long Trek

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward had been warned to leave because the Japanese would soon be in control of the town. As her friends left they begged her to come with them. At first she firmly refused, but when they showed her a poster naming her as a wanted person she reconsidered. Finally she got out her Bible and prayed and prayed, "O Lord, tell me what to do. I'm all mixed up. I don't know if I should go or stay; please tell me."

She opened her Bible and the first words she read were "Flee ye; flee ye into the mountains; dwell deeply in hidden places, because the king of Babylon has conceived a purpose against you."

That was enough for her. She had no more doubts; she would leave the next day. She went to bed and slept peacefully. Early in the morning she was up and ready to be off. She called to the gateman, "Get my mule ready and take me down the road."

"No mule will get out of here today, Ai-weh-deh. They are here; they came last night. Come and look."

She looked through a peephole in the gate, and there on the roadside sat the Japanese soldiers washing their feet.

"Let me out of the other gate, then," she said. This was the gate through which the Chinese carried the dead but that did not matter now. Unless she got

out at once, she also was as good as dead. She had only one thought now and that was to run—run—run, as far away as possible.

She got through the Gate of the Dead, across a stream and started to run across a field. Then the Japanese saw her. Bullets splattered all around and there was a great deal of shouting. She fell down. The bullets came closer. She pulled off her thick padded coat and rolled under a bush. The bullets riddled her coat but eventually she crawled out and ran again. She fell, got up, ran, crawled and climbed, but eventually the firing ceased and she sank down utterly exhausted. After awhile she set off again and made for a road. She walked all day and at night reached a friendly village where she was welcomed and given refreshment.

The next morning she set off again and in the evening reached Cheng Tsuen where many of her children were.

On her way Gladys had decided that she would take the children to Shensi herself. It was impossible to keep these children in the war zone any longer and by now she knew that something must have happened to Mr. Lu.

It was not until long afterward she learned that he had gotten through safely with his crowd of children. He was on his way back when he was arrested and brought before a military court. Because his dialect was that of Tsincheng, which was occupied by the



## Too Good To Be True

## Acts 12:11-23

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

**12** And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary...where many were gathered together praying.

**13** And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

**14** And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness. but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

**15** And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

**16** But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

**17** But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

**18** Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

**19** And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he exam-

**20** And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon....

**21** And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

**22** And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

**23** And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

**The Message: Even those in earnest prayer for Peter could not believe that he could be knocking at the gate!**

### Questions:

1. How did Peter get out of prison?
2. To whose house did he go?
3. What was taking place at this place?
4. Who came to the door when Peter knocked?
5. What did she do when she recognized Peter's voice?
6. Who did the people think it was?
7. Meanwhile, what did Peter do?
8. What happened to Peter's guards?
9. Why did the angel of the Lord smite Herod with worms?

### Verse to Memorize

**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**

**Luke 1:37.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

To suddenly be delivered from prison when he was lying bound by chains between two soldiers seemed too good to be true. It was hard for Peter to believe that it was not all a dream! Surely he would soon wake up and find that he was still a prisoner doomed to death.

Finally the reality hit him. In amazement he thought to himself, "Now I know that the Lord sent His angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews!"

After considering what he should do, he decided to go to Mary's house. Hurrying through the streets he saw a light in the window even though it was the dark hours of morning. Inside a group of Christians were still in prayer for Peter.

Peter approached the gate and knocked. Finally a young girl named Rhoda came and asked "Who is there?" To her amazement a voice answered, "It is Peter. Let me in."

Rhoda was so surprised that she did not even stop to open the gate. She burst into the prayer meeting exclaiming, "Peter is at the gate!"

"You are crazy!" everyone answered. Peter was in prison. How could he be knocking at the gate?

"It is true! It is Peter!" Rhoda insisted.

"It must be his angel," someone decided.

Meanwhile Peter stood at the gate still knocking. At last someone went to see who really was there. They were astonished to see Peter himself standing there! Clustering around him ev-

eryone began asking questions all at once.

Peter held up his hands for them to be quiet. Then he explained how the Lord had sent an angel to lead him out of prison.

How good it felt to be out of the cold, dark prison and in the comfortable home of a friend surrounded by his loved ones! But Peter knew he still was not safe. He was sure that Herod would send soldiers to find him as soon as he learned that he had escaped. So he said, "Go tell James and the other brethren what has happened." Then he went to another place to hide from Herod.

At daybreak there was much excitement at the prison. Imagine the soldier's bewilderment. The chains were still attached to their wrists, they were still right where they had been with Peter between them and everything else was just as it had been. But Peter had mysteriously vanished! The soldiers were still standing guard outside. There was no way that their prisoner could have escaped.

But God had intervened. The prayers of the saints were answered in a way far beyond what they had imagined or dared hope!

No one knew what had become of Peter. King Herod was furious when he heard that his prisoner had escaped. He called the guards and questioned them closely but they could tell him nothing—Peter had simply disappeared! Such an answer could not satisfy Herod. Finally he commanded that the guards be put to death.

Not long after this, Herod, dressed in his royal robes, made a great speech to the people. As he spoke, the people began to cry out, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man!" This pleased Herod but it angered God. Immediately the angel of the Lord smote Herod. Worms invaded his body and he died.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

enemy, the authorities refused to believe his story about the children. They locked him up as a suspected Japanese spy.

Her friends tried to dissuade her. "It is miles and miles to Sian and you have no food and no money with which to transport a hundred children. You might stand a chance of getting through alone but not with such a crowd of little ones," they said.

"The Lord will provide," she replied. "I believe these children must go to Shensi and there is no one else to take them. Tell the big children to get the little ones ready and say we are going for a nice long walk."

"But which way will you go? The Japanese control every road."

"Then we must go over the mountains and down to the Yellow River."

"Go over the mountains with all these children? You must be mad!"

"They are not safe here. Any day they may be bombed and killed. There is danger for them everywhere until they are in Free China."

She went to the mayor and begged grain for the journey. After a great deal of argument he said, "I will give you enough to last until the next town, Ai-weh-deh, and two men to carry it for you. I admire your courage, but it is very foolish."

Early the next morning they set off—one hundred children whose ages ranged from under three to sixteen. At first some of the children ran excitedly in front, some dawdled by the way, and some dashed here and there. But as the day wore on they quieted down and were glad to keep to the road. The big ones helped the little ones along, often carrying them on their backs.

The two men stayed with them that first day, then she recruited two from another village the next day. The people of the towns and villages helped them if they could but food was scarce.

Often there was no proper road, only a mule track, and they walked on and on, over the mountain ranges. They

slept by the roadside or in temples. Once they spent the night in a soldiers' camp, but usually they lay down where they were under the open sky. They had no blankets so they slept in tight clusters to keep each other warm. They begged food all along the way but often all they had for supper was thin gruel. As the days passed, the children became fretful and showed signs of exhaustion and there were many tears.

"Ai-weh-deh, my feet hurt!" "My shoes are worn clear through!" "Ai-weh-deh, my tummy aches. I cannot walk anymore." The older children grew too tired to carry the little ones, and their marches grew shorter and shorter.

She tried everything she could think of to distract their attention from their aches and pains and to keep them trudging on. They would sing all the hymns and choruses they knew. Sometimes she would start a text like "Bless the Lord, O my soul," and the children would reply, "And all that is within me, bless His holy name." Or she would say, "Jesus Christ came into the world" and they would shout, "To save sinners!" It brought a lump to her throat and tears to her eyes to hear the poor little mites sing "Count Your Blessings" when at present they had so few blessings to count.

For twelve long, weary days and twelve shivering nights they struggled on and on. How far is it to the Yellow River? How many more days must we walk? How many more mountains must we cross? These were the first questions when they reached a village.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The Lord sent His angel and delivered him. 2. Mary's. 3. Many were gathered to pray. 4. Rhoda. 5. Ran in and told them that Peter was at the gate. 6. Peter's angel. 7. Continued knocking. 8. Herod had them put to death. 9. Because he did not give God the glory.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Sept. 11, 2005

## Crossing The River

(Continued from last week.)

Then, at last, Gladys Aylward and the one hundred children climbed the last range of mountains. There before them they saw gleaming in the sun—like a beckoning ribbon of gold—the Yellow River!

"See, there is Yuen Chu!" the older children called to the little ones. "When we get there we will have plenty of food and we will be able to paddle and swim."

But the little town of Yuen Chu that lay near the banks of the river was deserted. Every house was empty. There was no food, and the children wept bitterly with disappointment.

At last Gladys found a few soldiers. "Can you please give us some food?" she pleaded.

"How many of you are there?"

"A hundred children."

"It is impossible to feed so many. We have rations only for three days for ourselves. We will give you a little—but for one hundred!"

"Is there any food in the town?"

"Not a scrap! Everyone has been evacuated. The Japanese are expected any day. Our army has retreated across the river, and there is nothing left for the enemy."

They made some thin soup and ate it by the roadside, then she led her dispirited, disappointed, weary band down to the riverside, near the ferry.

"If we stay here we will get the first boat across tomorrow morning," she said as cheerfully as she could. They bathed their tired feet and laid down on the riverbanks to sleep but the

children were awake long before dawn.

"We are so hungry, Ai-weh-deh. Is there no food for us?" they cried.

"We'll soon be over the river and there is plenty of food there. The boats will be here before long."

They waited straining their eyes to the other shore. But long after it was light there was still no sign of movement. She realized then that the ferryboats had ceased to run but she did not tell the children. The big ones soon guessed for themselves.

Finally she called six of the older boys. "We will go back into the town and see if we can find something. The rest of you must stay here in case the boat comes."

They walked to the military headquarters where she asked the captain, "Are there any boats going across the river today?"

"The river is closed. There will be no boats going across because they are all at the other side."

"But what about the ferry?"

"That is closed too. We can do nothing. The Japanese are expected any hour now."

She went down on her knees and begged for food for her children but they would give her none. She went to another military post and begged again. They would hardly believe that what she told them was true.

"Where have you come from?"

"We have walked from Yangcheng over the mountains. It has been a terrible journey."

"We will give you a little food but we have only enough for the smallest children. We cannot possibly feed you all."



## Obedience

### Deuteronomy 11:26-28

**26** Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

**27** A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day:

**28** And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

### Joshua 23:14-16

**14** And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you: all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

**15** Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the Lord your God promised you: so shall the Lord bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you.

**16** When ye have transgressed the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them: then shall the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

### Joshua 24:24

**24** And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

### Ephesians 6:1-3

**1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

**2** Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise:

**3** That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

### Colossians 3:20

**20** Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

### Hebrews 13:17

**17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

### Proverbs 30:17

**17** The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

**The Message: Your happiness and safety depend on your obedience to your parents, to authorities and to God.**

### Questions:

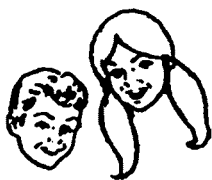
1. What will we receive if we obey the commandments of God?
2. If we disobey God's law what will we receive?
3. How many of the good things God promised came to pass?
4. Why would God bring evil things upon the people?
5. What did the people promise Joshua?
6. Who must children obey?
7. What is the first commandment with promise?
8. Who is pleased when we obey our parents?
9. Everyone must obey whom?

### Verse to Memorize

**Obey them that have the rule over you,...**

**Hebrews 13:17.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

God loves children. He has a special and beautiful plan for the life of every child. The devil's purpose is to capture and destroy young lives. He works hard to plant rebellion in children's hearts. But every obedient child is safe. God, as a wise and loving Father, is able to keep His children safe as long as they stay within His protection.

The commandment, "Children obey your parents" is the first commandment with a promise. It promises that if they obey their parents it will be well with them and they will have a long, happy life.

Disobedience is dangerous, as the following story shows.

Anna and her brother, Willie, lived near a pond and when the cold weather came it was great fun to skate on the ice. They would often slide across it on their way to school. One morning, as their mother buttoned their coats, she said, "Don't go across the ice this morning, children. It has begun to thaw and it is dangerous."

"No, we won't," the children promised.

But when they reached the pond, Willie said, "Why, see, Anna, how hard and thick the ice looks. Come on, let's slide across it."

Instantly Anna thought of their mother's warning and their promise to her. "We'd better not, Willie," she said quickly. "We promised Mother, you know."

"But Mother will never know," said Willie. "She thought the ice was thawing. She won't care when she knows it isn't. You may do as you like, Anna,

but I'm going to slide across right now!"

When Anna saw her brother starting across the pond, she followed. But they had gone only a little way when the ice began to crack and then to give way under them!

Anna turned and hurried back to the bank but Willie had gone too far. She saw him go down in the icy water. She ran to the road, screaming at the top of her voice.

A man was passing by at that moment. He picked up a board and ran to the pond as fast as he could. He reached it just in time to save Willie. Dragging him up on the bank he called loudly for someone to come and help him. Two or three men came running. They worked over Willie until at last he opened his eyes and asked faintly, "Where am I?"

When they took him home to his mother she thanked God for saving the life of her disobedient boy. But the danger was not yet past. Willie was a very sick boy for many weeks. It was a long time before he could go into the woods with Anna, and there was no more school for Willie that year.

—Adapted from *A Hive of Busy Bees* by Effie M. Williams

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*Obedience is the most important lesson you must learn. An obedient child finds it easy to obey God. Learn to have an obedient heart by immediately doing as your parents or teachers ask.*

*Right now you are building the foundation of your life. Use your young mind to study God's Word so you will know His commandments. Then prayerfully ask God to help you obey them. Listen carefully to the instructions God gives through His ministers as the Gospel is preached. As you obey, God will bless you and keep you from the snares of the devil. Then your life will be an honor to your parents and to God, as well as a great blessing to others.*

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

She was almost in despair. All night she worried and prayed, prayed and worried. She was at the end of her tether.

*If only I wasn't saddled with all these children, she thought bitterly. Nobody else bothered about them; why did I have to get myself and them into this mess?*

Then a voice said, "I died for these children. I loved every one of them. I gave them to you to look after, for My sake."

So the hours went by until the dawn broke. A girl of thirteen, called Sualan, stood beside her. "Ai-weh-deh, do you remember when God called Moses that he took the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry land and every one of them got safely across?"

Gladys nodded. Sualan smiled sweetly at her as she asked, "Do you believe it?"

"Of course, I do!" she replied immediately. "I would not teach you anything I did not believe."

"Then why don't we go across?" she asked simply.

That shook Gladys. "But I am not Moses," she gasped.

"Of course you are not, but Jehovah is still God!"

That was like a physical blow. All the years she had been preaching had she really believed that Moses did take the children of Israel through the Red Sea? Did she believe that the waters rolled back and stood up on either side while they crossed dry-shod? She had staked her life on God's mighty power. Why did she doubt now?

She turned to Sualan. "We will go across," she said, and truly believed it. Sualan called some of the older ones together and they knelt in prayer. Sualan prayed simply, "Here we are, Lord, just waiting for You to open the Yellow River for us."

For herself, Gladys bowed in silence, but in her heart she said, "O God, I am finished. I can do nothing more. I am at the end. I am nothing. It is only You, Lord, now—You above! O God, don't let us down. Save us—prove Yourself."

Some of the little boys ran up and pulled herskirt. "Get up, get up!" they shouted. "There is a big man here!"

She was trembling all over when she stood up. A Chinese officer stood watching her.

"Are you in charge of these children?" he asked.

"Yes."

"How many are here?"

"A hundred."

"What are you doing here?"

"Waiting to cross the river."

"But who are you?"

"I am Ai-weh-deh, of the mission hall in Yangcheng."

"Are you crazy? Do you not realize that we expect a Japanese infantry attack at any moment? Don't you know that Japanese aircraft are patrolling all the time? If they spot these children they will machine-gun them. Who are these children, anyway?"

"We are refugees trying to reach Sian."

"Refugees! Then why did you not cross the river long ago?"

"We could not get a boat."

"You did not expect us to leave boats for the Japanese, did you? But I will signal for one now."

He made a long, low whistle, like a seabird and raised his arm.

"The boat will be across at once. There is a village on the other side where you can get food."

"Oh, thank you!"

"Are you looking after these children alone?"

"Yes."

"But surely you are a foreigner?"

"Yes."

"You have chosen a strange occupation."

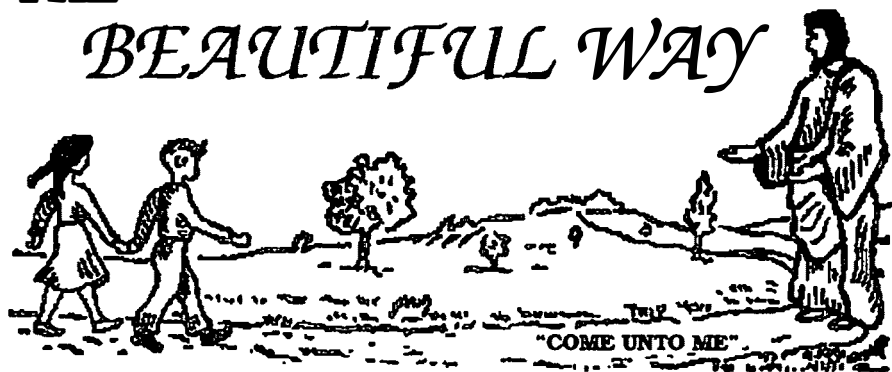
He had hardly finished speaking when the children cried out excitedly that a boat was coming. The first lot got in and the boat went backward and forward until all were safely over.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. A blessing. 2. A curse. 3. Every one. 4. If they disobeyed His laws. 5. To serve God and obey Him. 6. Their parents. 7. Honor your father and mother. 8. God. 9. Those who have the rule over them.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Sept. 18, 2005

## More Danger

(Continued from last week.)

After Gladys Aylward and the one hundred Chinese children in her charge made it safely across the Yellow River, they hurried toward the nearby town in hopes of finding food. The people of the town were very kind and took the children into their homes. They fed them until they could eat no more. Then the children talked, telling of their terrible journey over the mountains.

"All of us bigger ones helped to carry the little ones," they boasted. "Ai-weh-deh was always carrying one or two of the sick ones. And when we got to the river we waited so that we could walk across like the children of Israel did, across the Red Sea, but God knew we were so tired of walking so He sent a boat, and that was far better."

After a few days' rest they set off again to Mienchin. There they could get a train that would take them within a few days' march of Sian. When they reached Mienchin they found that it too had been badly bombed. An old woman directed Gladys to a refugee organization that was located in an old temple. There they found cauldrons of steaming food and a warm welcome.

That afternoon she led all the children to a pond on the edge of the city where they tried to wash off the worst of the dirt from their clothes and bodies. In the evening she assembled them in the courtyard and addressed them.

"You all know what a train is, don't you?" she said.

There was an excited bubble of conversation. No, most of them didn't know what a train was. What was it? They'd never heard of such a thing.

Gladys demonstrated with sound effects, and "Oohs" and "Ahs" of delighted anticipation greeted her description. Sualan, Ninepence, Teh, Liang, the older boys and girls were, on the surface, more sophisticated about the approaching experience. Of course they had heard about trains. What was there to get excited about? But they were excited, nevertheless.

"Tomorrow you will line up with clean hands and faces, and anyone with a dirty face or dirty hands will not be allowed on that train." Her speech over, the children scattered, to play about and terrorize the other refugees in the temple, before clamoring into their bedding, chattering eagerly of the wondrous experience that was to befall them the next day. They dropped off quickly into the



## The Blessing Of Giving

### Mark 10:17-22

17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

### Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

### Acts 20:35

35 ...Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more

blessed to give than to receive.

### Malachi 3:10

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

### John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

### II Corinthians 9:7

7 ...God loveth a cheerful giver.

**The Message: There is great blessing and rich reward to those who give freely.**

### Questions:

1. What did the man who came running to Him call Jesus?
2. What question did he ask?
3. Jesus told him, "Thou knowest the \_\_\_\_\_."
4. How did Jesus feel towards this man?
5. What did Jesus tell him to do?
6. If he obeyed, Jesus said he would have \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. How did the man feel as he left Jesus?
8. It is more blessed to \_\_\_\_\_ than to \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What kind of giver does God love?

### Verse to Memorize

**...Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

**Acts 20:35.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

A minister, hearing about a great need in a new mission field, told his congregation. He knew many in the audience were well able to give generously, but even as he spoke he could tell they just weren't interested. He sat down with a heavy heart while the collection plate was passed.

Meanwhile, in the last pew, a little crippled girl sat who was about nine or ten-years-old. She had lost part of her leg in a terrible accident. The future looked bleak until some kind friends in the church bought her a pair of crutches. They changed her life completely! She was like a ray of sunshine, cheery and bright, as she went hobbling about on her new crutches.

She sat alone this morning listening intently to the minister. "I wish I could give something," she thought, "but I can't. I don't even have a penny!"

Then a very soft voice spoke to her heart, "There are your crutches!" She drew back at the thought—she *could* not give her crutches.

"Yes," the voice persisted. "You can, and if you did then other people would learn about the Lord Jesus. He has done so much for you. When others learn about Him, He will bless their lives too. Give your crutches!"

"No, no!" she said passionately.

"Yes!" the quiet voice insisted.

It was a fierce battle for the little girl but finally she knew what she must do. She waited for the collection plate with tears in her eyes.

The one taking the collection hesitated when he came to her. "It is only

cripple Maggie," he thought. "It isn't worth passing the plate to her." But, out of courtesy, he passed the plate to her. In her childlike simplicity she picked up her crutches and tried awkwardly to balance them on the plate!

The man choked back tears when he realized the great sacrifice little Maggie was making. He put out his hand to steady the crutches on the plate and started walking back up the middle aisle of the church with the plate and crutches.

This caught the attention of everyone. They all knew Maggie—how could she give her crutches? Suddenly the banker blew his nose; it was a moment of high emotion. The merchant reached for his checkbook.

The minister said, "Our little friend has given us a wonderful example of sacrifice!"

Then someone spoke up, "I want those crutches and will give \$50. for them!"

"Pass the plate again," someone else insisted. And when it came back the next time there was a large amount of money for the missionary work.

Little Maggie happily hobbled out of the church on her crutches. She had obeyed and the Lord not only met the need but gave her crutches back too!

—Adapted from *Quiet Talks with Workers* by S. D. Gordon

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*Giving to God is the very best investment and it is an investment everyone can make. Jesus said that if you give you will receive; your return will be in direct proportion to your giving. So, the more you give to God, the more He will give you!*

*Never hesitate because you have very little to give. God will bless your sacrifice, as He did Maggie's, to meet the need. The young boy gave his lunch to Jesus and with his gift Jesus fed a multitude of people with food left over!*

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

sound sleep of the very young and very innocent within minutes of feeling their quilts around them.

They were all up at dawn the next morning, eagerly tying up their bundles, scrambling to be first at the great stone basin full of water in the temple courtyard so that faces and hands should be the requisite color required by the omnipotent Ai-weh-deh. They lined up to have their basins filled with steaming millet, scooped the thick mixture into open mouths with dexterous chopsticks, and with astounding co-operation formed a long, crooked line before Gladys had even tied up her own bedding.

She thanked the women running the refugee center, blew her whistle, and with lots of laughter and an explosion of chatter, they set off for the train.

The station was a long, raised piece of concrete three feet above the track. Any roof it possessed had been blasted away long before by falling bombs. A hundred yards from the platform the railway lines curved out of sight between a jumble of houses. It was upon this bend—on being told that from this direction the train would appear—that a hundred pair of eyes were focused.

Gladys had lined them up in three straggling ranks. The air was tense with anticipation and after a few minutes, far off, there came the noise of the train! One hundred children tensed, a little uneasy. Those were very strange noises. Such a whistling anger, such a terrifying rumble and hiss! Eyes twitched towards her and back to that fatal curve. Was Ai-weh-deh quite certain she was right about this "train" thing? Even in the distance it sounded like the grandfather of all the dragons in the world. Supposing it gobbled them all up? The

noise grew greater. Couplings clanked as buffers met; brakes screamed in steely anguish, and round the corner, steaming and blowing and snorting, came the hideous iron terror! There was one loud, anguished squeal of utter terror from the children. The ranks dissolved: panic was contagious. Bundles, basins, chopsticks flew into the air. Children fled in every direction. By the time the train was still twenty-five yards away, not a single child remained on the platform. The wooden carriages clattered to a halt. The engine subsided into heavy, steamy breathing, and Gladys tried to collect her charges.

The older boys and girls, already ashamed of their sudden panic, were rounding up the younger ones, plaintively protesting that they had only run away to catch the others. One batch of eight-year-olds was found to have raced all the way back to the refugee center. Children were retrieved from under boxes and bales, from every conceivable hiding-place within two hundred yards of the station. Group by group, she assembled them once more on the platform.

Fortunately, the train seemed to be in no hurry to go anywhere at all. The carriages were simply wooden boxes with roofs on. There were no seats. And there were many other refugee passengers with their bundles and basins. Gladys managed to pile all the children into one long carriage.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Good Master. 2. "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 3. Commandments. 4. He loved him. 5. Sell his possessions and give to the poor, then come and follow Him. 6. Treasure, heaven. 7. Sad and grieved. 8. Give, receive. 9. Cheerful.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Sept. 25, 2005

## More Disappointment

(Continued from last week.)

At Shanchow the train stopped. A porter shouted, "All change—all change. The train is not going any farther, you must get out."

"But there are lines ahead; I can see them," Gladys Aylward argued.

"Listen, woman," he said impatiently, "those lines go close to the river. The Japanese are on the other side, and where the river is narrow they shoot across. Understand?"

"But what can we do?"

"You walk from here. You see those mountains? You cross them and go down the other side. Then you can rejoin the train."

"But those mountains are thousands of feet high and we have babies with us. We are already tired out. How can we get across?"

"How do I know? You had better see the stationmaster."

Gladys pleaded with the stationmaster. "Please, sir, can't you help us? I have a hundred weary children with me. We have been on the road twenty days already. The children cannot get over those mountains."

"I am sorry but there is nothing we can do. This train goes no farther, so you must get out. There is a hut over there where you can spend the night,

and the refugee people will give you food."

"Oh, please sir, there must be something you can do to help us to reach Sian."

"Madam, there are millions of refugees all over China."

"But these are children!"

"Madam, I can do nothing more. If you wish to go farther, the only way is across those mountains. I will send two soldiers with you. There is only one pass left open. The Japanese are on the one side and our troops on the other, but the soldiers will help you to get through."

"How long will it take?"

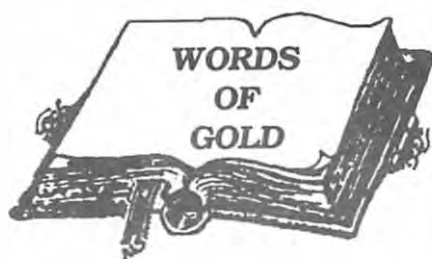
"If you start early in the morning, you should reach Tung-kwan in two days."

Gladys looked at the mountains, the tops of which were hidden by the clouds. As far as she could make out there was only a faint mule track.

"Thank you very much," she said.

"If there is no other way, we must attempt it. We will be ready to start at dawn."

Gladys had no sleep that night. The journey before her was going to try even the strongest and some of the children already were ill. But what could she do? They could not go back and they could not stay here. She had to get the children to safety whatever it cost her.



## Peace

### Psalm 29:11

11 The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

### Psalm 55:18

18 He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me

### Psalm 119:165

165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

### Isaiah 26:3

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

### Isaiah 32:17

17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

### Isaiah 48:18

18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea

### Mark 4:35-41

35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the

ship, so that it was now full.

38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

**The Message: When Jesus makes our heart His home, He brings peace into our lives.**

### Questions:

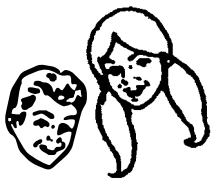
1. With what will God bless His people?
2. What will God speak to His saints?
3. What will they have who love God's law?
4. What must we do to keep perfect peace?
5. What is the work of righteousness?
6. What beat upon the ship?
7. What was Jesus doing during the storm?
8. What did Jesus speak to the sea?
9. What happened to the wind?

### Verse to Memorize

**Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

**John 14:27.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Oscar was a wonderful family dog. The children rode on his back. They threw their caps in the air for him to catch. They tossed sticks into the river so they could watch him plunge in and bring them back to land.

Mother did not worry when the children had to walk to school because Oscar walked beside them. She knew he would protect them. In the evenings, he walked to the school to get the children.

But there was one thing in particular that gave the family great comfort. It was the way Oscar watched over little Ernie. He was too young to go to school, so he wandered around the farm playing at whatever suited his fancy. Oscar was always nearby seeing that no danger came to his little master.

One day while Father and Mother were planting the garden, Ernie and Oscar wandered off. Ernie was only allowed to walk to the end of the lane to meet his brother and sister when they came home from school. But this day he took his own way and wandered out of the lane and went down the main road toward the town. Then he saw another road that looked interesting and walked on that road.

Neither Ernie nor Oscar was missed all afternoon, but when the older children returned from school without Ernie and Oscar the parents became alarmed. Three groups of searchers set out to find Ernie. One went to the fields, another to the town, and the other went into the

nearby forest. After a full hour of searching, Ernie was found sleeping peacefully beside the gate of another farm. Oscar lay beside him, faithfully guarding him.

—Adapted from a true story related by Charlotte Huskey

*Just as Oscar watched over Ernie, so each of God's children has a guardian angel who watches over them. We may sleep peacefully knowing God is protecting us by His angels. In times of trouble, sorrow, or any need, we can be at peace because we know that God knows all about it and will see that things work out for our good.*

*Peace is an assurance in our heart which makes us feel calm when trouble is around. Jesus lay peacefully asleep in the boat because He knew His Father was standing guard. His disciples were fearful of being drowned because they had not learned to trust in God. We, too, are God's little children and can feel this peace when things around look very bad. Peace does not depend on us not having troubles; it depends on us having faith that God is in control. Faith in God, Who has all power, will give us peace right in the middle of problems and trouble.*

*The devil wants to rob us of our peace. We must keep our mind on God or the devil will bring in doubts and cause us to start worrying instead of trusting God. Worry will quickly take the place of peace in our hearts if we look at the trouble instead of looking to God Who is watching over us.*

*The children slept soundly all around Gladys. They trusted her to take them to safety. Gladys was well aware of their great danger and her own helplessness, but she knew God was still with her. She felt peace in knowing He was caring for them even in all their disappointments and trouble.*

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

The journey was far worse than any they had undertaken. The mountain tracks were steep and in many places had fallen away. They had to scramble over loose rocks and slide down steep slopes. It was a nightmare journey and without the help of the soldiers many of the children would never have gotten through. They had to watch them continually as they slipped here and there. The soldiers and she had to carry one, or sometimes two, children apiece all the way and constantly urge the others forward.

They slept on the bare mountain and then trudged onward for another long day. In the evening they reached Tungkwan and cheered up at the sight of the railway station. The officials, however, shook their heads. "There are no more trains from here; it is too dangerous."

"But what can we do?" she cried in desperation. "We have come over the mountains from Sanchow and before that we had walked for twenty days from Yangcheng. We are going to Free China to Madame Chiang's orphanages. They were expecting us. Is there nothing you can do? My children cannot walk any farther; many of them are ill."

"If I help you, are you willing to obey my instructions implicitly?"

"Yes, if it means getting the children through."

"Are you willing to travel at your own risk?"

"Yes, oh, yes!"

"Then I will tell you in confidence. One train does go through. Every morning before dawn, a coal train goes through to Hua Shan. Sometimes, where the river is narrow, the Japanese shoot at it, sometimes not. If they heard voices or saw people, they would certainly shoot. Can you promise to keep your children quiet?"

"Oh, yes. I will see that they do not move or make a sound."

"Tomorrow before dawn, then, you will find the coal trucks waiting here. Get aboard. But if you value your lives, keep your heads down. And good luck, lady! I admire your courage."

They all lay down in the fields, and when the little ones were asleep she called Sualan and the other older boys and girls together.

"Listen carefully," she said. "All of you are old enough to understand that tonight you must keep the little ones absolutely quiet. If they make a noise, the Japanese will shoot at us."

You must go to sleep for a little while, but when I wake you, you must carry all the little ones and place them between big lumps of coal on top of the truck."

"But what will we do if they waken?"

"They are so worn out that they will not awaken if you are careful. When they do awaken we will be out of danger. You understand?"

"Yes, Ai-weh-deh."

"Go and sleep now. I will wake you when it is time to go."

"But will you not sleep yourself, Ai-weh-deh?"

"Perhaps I shall doze," she replied.

"But you are ill, Ai-weh-deh; you should rest. For days you have been ill. You have carried one child, sometimes two all day, and you have given nearly all the food to us."

"The Lord will help me to carry on. I will rest when we get to Sian. Now you must sleep."

She lay down on the bare ground, every bone in her body aching, but her heart was touched at the love and sympathy the children felt for her.

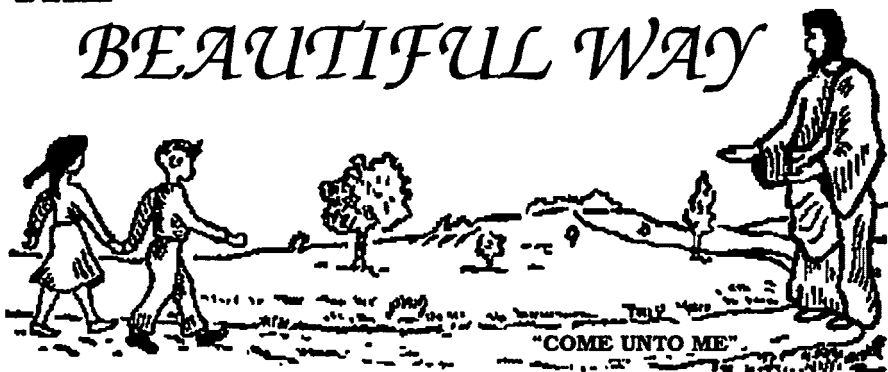
"Please, God, give me strength to take them where they will be cared for," she prayed. "Help us all to reach Sian."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. With peace. 2. Peace. 3. Peace. 4. Keep our mind stayed on God. 5. Peace. 6. Waves. 7. Sleeping on a pillow. 8. "Peace be still!" 9. It Quit blowing; there was a great calm.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Oct. 2, 2005

## Safe At Last!

(Continued from last week.)

After a few hours Gladys Aylward awakened the older children. It was time to board the coal cars as the train would be leaving soon to take them closer to Sian and safety. In silence Gladys and the older ones carried the younger children, one by one, and placed them gently on top of the coal. The hard lumps did not disturb them. They had slept out for many nights now and were utterly exhausted.

Gladys appointed two older children to each rail car so that they could watch the young ones when they woke up. Finally, when all had boarded, the train began to move forward in a series of jerks. She laid back, her head against a lump of coal. It was useless to think of dirt. Finally, she dozed off.

When she woke up dawn was breaking. Not a shot was fired, or at least she had not heard any. She felt refreshed but weaker. When the little ones finally awoke, they screamed with laughter at the sight of each other covered with coal dust.

"You have gone black in the night," they laughed. And with the quick recovery of childhood they were as lively as crickets for a little while.

Once more they had to leave the train and, with clothes in filthy condition, they set out on the last walk—just three days to Sian they were told! They

begged food from soldiers and villagers; they slept on the roadside, and they kept on trying to sing until at long last Sian, which stood for them almost as the Celestial City, lay before them.

Their weary feet hurried forward, but they were rudely halted. The city gates were closed and, though Gladys pleaded, the gate-keeper refused to open them.

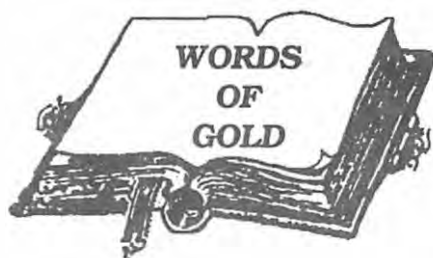
"You cannot come in here," he shouted. "The city gates are closed against refugees. The place is swarming with them already. There is no food—nothing. You must go somewhere else."

"But there is money waiting for us here. We have been on the road for twenty-seven days. We were told to come here. You must let us in, you must!"

This last disappointment was too much for her. They trailed around the city walls but every gate was closed. What could she do? Where could she go?

Then someone took pity on them and told her of a Buddhist temple at Fu-Feng where children were cared for. It was only a day's train journey away, and it was one of Madame Chiang's orphanages.

By now she was too ill to remember much of what happened. They must have gone on the train, for when they reached the orphanage, food and beds were ready for them. Her children were



## Our Good Shepherd

### Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### Isaiah 40:10-11

10 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold,...

11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

### John 10:11-12, 14-16

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

### Ezekiel 34:12

12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them....

**The Message: We are as helpless as lambs. Our eternal safety depends on having the Lord as our Shepherd!**

### Questions:

1. Who did David say his shepherd was?
2. In what kind of pastures did he lie down?
3. He leadeth me in paths of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. David said he would fear no evil though he walked where?
5. What was prepared for him in the presence of his enemies?
6. Surely \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will follow me.
7. In whose house would he dwell forever?
8. Jesus said he was the good \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Who leaves the sheep when he sees the wolf coming?

### Verse to Memorize

**And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.  
I Peter 5:4.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Gladys Aylward's one purpose was to lead one hundred children out of the war zone to safety. They would surely be killed if they did not escape. Those who knew her plan told her it could not be done. She might be able to escape alone, but with one hundred children? They assured her it was impossible!

Without God's guidance and help Gladys knew she was undertaking an impossible task. But she was willing to risk her life to lead the large group of children to safety by God's help. There was no easy or safe route to lead them. She chose the best way available. Her heart ached for the children as they suffered from exposure, hunger and tiredness. For almost a month they walked over the mountains before they finally reached the orphanage and safety. They would be well provided for here; there was plenty of food and beds were ready for them.

Her children were safe at last! Her work for them was finished; it was time for her to leave them and go on to another work for the Lord. The next morning Gladys called the children together. Together they thanked God for all His loving care and protection. It was difficult to say good-bye. Gladys had grown to love each child dearly and was deeply concerned about their future. She knew there was One who could be with each child always, to love and protect them throughout their life. This was the Lord, the Good Shepherd. To remind them that they had Someone they could always trust and depend on she led them as they recited the twenty-third Psalm. Gladys

was comforted as she heard the young, innocent voices proclaim, "The Lord is my shepherd." They were in good hands so long as they let Him lead them.

Have you ever watched an insect hurrying along? You can see what it's headed for and when it comes to an obstacle you can easily see the best way for it to take because you have a good view of the whole situation.

I watched a butterfly in a high window in the tabernacle in Green Bank at a camp meeting there. During one morning service my attention was drawn to it because it was quickly darting from one edge of the window to the other and from top to bottom. That evening when I came back to service I checked and saw the butterfly was still there, still flitting about over the window. But its movements were much slower. Even the next morning in prayer meeting, after watching awhile, I saw that it was still there. It was scarcely able to move but it was still struggling to fly through the glass to freedom. By the next service there was no more movement.

This beautiful butterfly could have easily escaped. It is an open tabernacle; the butterfly could have soared out of the building with ease. But it could see only one way out—an impossible way. It died in a futile attempt to fly through a pane of glass.

None of us know how to safely make it to heaven. We are on enemy territory and the devil is always watching for ways to destroy us. The way he wants to lead us often looks so inviting and logical but it always leads us away from God's favor and protection. His one goal is to destroy us at last.

That is why Jesus came to save us. He lived on earth to show us how to please God and overcome every trouble we meet. Now He offers to be our Shepherd. He knows the way!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

safe at last! Her work for them was finished.

The next morning she called the children together and said, "Let us say thank you to God for all His love to us." They said "The Lord is my Shepherd" together, then she said good-bye to them.

The people at the orphanage begged her to stay and rest until she was well again, but her mind was in turmoil. She could not rest; she had to go on. There was so much she had to do. "God will care for me," she kept repeating, and set out to preach in the villages.

She did not remember much after that until she found herself in a hospital in Sian. Gradually she learned what had happened.

She had tried to preach in a village but had collapsed. No one knew who she was, so a boy went to the American missionary who got a cow cart and took her to the mission house. After two days they brought a doctor from the Sian hospital. He had shaken his head over her. "There is very little hope; she has pneumonia and typhus. Do you know who she is?"

"Not the vaguest idea. She has not spoken a word since we brought her here."

"If we could get her to the hospital, there is a chance we might save her. It is a long journey, but if we could get a cattle truck put on to the midnight train we could take her as she is, in this bed."

So she was taken in that cattle truck. Later she learned that kind unknown friends knelt around the bed to hold it steady during the journey. They scarcely dared to hope she would be alive when they reached Sian. Then, suddenly, to their amazement, Gladys began to sing a hymn. Then she prayed and preached a sermon about the prodigal son. They could not understand all she said because her dialect was of the north. They still believed she was Chinese.

In the hospital at Sian, they fought to save her life. "She should have been dead long ago," the doctor said. "She is suffering from relapsing fever, typhus, pneumonia, malnutrition, utter exhaustion and probably many other minor complaints."

She was too ill to talk. For over a month she laid, conscious of very little that went on around her. Then, like a miracle, Mr. Lu from Yangcheng arrived in Sian. After escorting the first group of children to Sian he was arrested. When he was finally released he set out immediately to try to find the other group of children and Gladys. He was overjoyed to find she was still alive.

"She is from Yangcheng in north China," Mr. Lu told the doctor and nurses.

"Then what is she doing here in Sian? Yangcheng is hundreds of miles away!"

"She has been bringing children to safety from behind the Japanese lines."

"What is her name?"

"I only know her Chinese name, Ai-weh-deh, but there is a boy who she brought from Yangcheng and he has a book that belonged to her. He carried it all the way in his pocket. It is an English book, and it has some writing in it."

They eventually found the book and on the flyleaf was written, "To Gladys from Aunt Bessie."

They stared at Gladys in amazement. Was it possible that she was English and not Chinese, as they had imagined?

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. Green. 3. Righteousness. 4. Through the valley of the shadow of death. 5. A table. 6. Goodness, Mercy. 7. The house of the Lord. 8. Shepherd. 9. An hireling.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Oct. 9, 2005

## Chu En

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward had no idea how long she laid in the hospital. Typhus affected her memory and the following two years were very hazy. She did realize that she was a wreck, physically, when the hospital authorities finally decided they could do no more for her.

She could not walk, but Mr. and Mrs. Fisher took her to their home in the little mission station at Mei Shein. She remembered little else except for how lovingly they cared for her. Mrs. Fisher was a trained nurse and gradually helped her back to a certain measure of health, at least physically.

When she left their house, she stayed for several months in the mission. Her children were in the orphanage near there and she could see them and they could visit her. She went out preaching in the villages, but finally she moved back to Sian because her children longed to have a home once more with her.

She found a factory was standing empty. In a room at the back of this factory she went to live with fourteen of her children. Some of these were now growing up and able to help a little.

When the girls reached the age of twelve, they brought sewing and mending home and were paid so much for a set amount. The boys, as soon as they

could, went out each day and carried loads or did other odd jobs. The little money they brought in was a great help at this time.

It was in connection with one of these boys that Gladys had a wonderful experience concerning answered prayer. Chu En was the son of a Chinese pastor who had been killed by the Japanese. His mother was trying to escape with her five children when she was taken seriously ill on the river bank at Yangcheng. Gladys was asked to visit her, but it was too late to do anything. She died the next day. Five children were left as orphans.

Gladys adopted Chu En, and the other four were taken in by different Chinese Christian families. Chu En was always a quiet, studious boy, obviously very intelligent, and she never had any trouble with him. He was with her two or three years before they took that awful journey over the mountains to Sian. By that time he was the only one of his family still alive. One sister had died of tuberculosis, two other children were killed during the raids, and his younger brother had joined what was called the "Children's Army," which was simply wiped out in a terrible slaughter by the enemy.

It was perhaps these awful experiences which had made Chu En serious and thoughtful beyond his years. Gladys knew he ought to go to school and continue his education, but she



## Knowing God's Voice

**Acts 16:9-10, 13-20, 22-25**

**9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

**10** And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia,...

**13** And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made: and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

**14** And a certain woman named Lydia,...which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened,...

**15** And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying,...come into my house, and abide there....

**16** And...as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

**17** The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

**18** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

**19** And when her masters saw that

the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas,...

**20** And brought them to the magistrates,...

**22** And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

**23** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely:

**24** Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

**25** And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:...

**The Message: Paul knew it was God speaking to him through the vision and he was ready to obey.**

### Questions:

1. What appeared to Paul in the night?
2. What did the man ask him to do?
3. Where did they endeavor to go after this vision?
4. Where did they go on the Sabbath?
5. Whose heart did the Lord open?
6. What did the damsel cry after Paul and the others?
7. What did Paul command the spirit to do?
8. Where did they put them after they were beaten?
9. What did Paul and Silas do at midnight?

### Verse to Memorize

**Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**

**Ephesians 5:17**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Gladys Aylward was sure God was calling her to go to China to tell the people about Jesus. Soon after she gave her heart to the Lord she realized He had a claim on her life; she now belonged to Him. Jesus made her life so happy and complete she wanted to tell everyone and let them know He could change their lives also.

When she heard that millions of people in China had never even heard of Jesus, she began encouraging others to go and tell them the good news. Finally she realized that she was the one God wanted to send to China.

In our story Chu En realized God was calling him to return to Yangcheng. There was work for him to do there for God. Gladys was shocked when he announced calmly that as soon as possible he was going to return to Yangcheng. She told him he could not go back and explained all the reasons why. He listened in silence. She thought he had dropped the idea.

But Chu En could not forget the call anymore than Gladys could ignore her call to China. He assured her that God had spoken to him in the same way and told him he must go back to Yangcheng. Gladys understood, then, that it was God's will; she began preparing him to go.

Paul and those traveling with him had one purpose. They wanted to tell everyone about Jesus. But they knew their efforts would be futile unless they let God direct them. Twice the Holy Spirit stopped them from preaching where they intended. Then one night God gave Paul a vision. He saw

a man from Macedonia begging him to come and help them. When he told the others about the vision, they realized that God had called them to preach the gospel to these people. Immediately they started for Macedonia.

God has a purpose for every life and when we invite Him into our heart He will direct us in fulfilling that purpose. We can be assured that His purpose is the very best way to live our life. He loves us deeply because we are His creation. He showed that love when He was willing to send His own Son to suffer for our sins so we could be free to live out His divine purpose.

It is wonderful to know that God is directing us through life. He is no respecter of persons; He will be as faithful to tell us what to do as He was Paul and the others. But we must be just as willing to obey immediately. We must yield our whole heart and life to Him or He cannot use us fully.

Our verse to memorize tells us that we should understand what the will of the Lord is. That is assuring us that God wants to make His will known to us. God will direct us through His word, His Holy Spirit and through prayer just as He did those we read about in the Bible.

Paul and Silas could sing praises to God and pray even though their feet were held fast in the stocks and their backs were bleeding from their awful beating. They were here because God had sent them. They knew He would work things out for good somehow. When the earthquake shook the prison doors open and the jailor fell down asking how he could be saved, they saw the mighty hand of God at work in it all. Gladly they instructed him how to be saved. The jailor and his family were saved and baptized that very night. It is wonderful to know the voice of God and let Him lead our lives! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

had no money and had to care for her large family of other orphans.

While on a visit to Sian, Dr. Tsung noticed Chu En and suggested that Gladys should let him take the boy home with him and he would help him in his studies. Gladly she accepted the offer, and Chu En accompanied Dr. Tsung to his home on the borders of Yen-an.

It was almost a year later before he returned. It was for the New Year holiday—the one great celebration time in China. He had grown taller, was even more serious and polite, and she was proud to call him “my son.”

The night before Chu En was due to return to Dr. Tsung's home, he startled Gladys by announcing calmly that as soon possible he was going to return to Yangcheng.

“Oh, no, you are not, Chu En,” she said emphatically. “You cannot go back. All that we knew and loved there has been destroyed; that is not home to us anymore. Yangcheng is wholly occupied by the enemy, and there is no way back.”

Gladys thought that had settled the matter. The next day Chu En returned to Dr. Tsung.

Three months later, as she was preparing for bed one night, she heard someone moving about outside her room. She opened the door and called, “Who is there?”

“Me. Chu En.”

“Chu En! Why are you here? Are you in trouble? Have you run away?”

“Oh, no, nothing is wrong, but I am going home.”

“Chu En, we settled all that when you were here at New Year's.”

“You settled it, Ma. It was you who talked. If you remember, I said nothing.”

“Maybe that is so, but it does not alter the fact that you cannot go.”

“Ma, do you remember what you felt like when you knew God wanted you to come to China?”

“Of course, but you can know nothing of that.”

“I do, because God has spoken to me in the same way. He has told me I must go back to Yangcheng. He has work for me there.”

Gladys could not doubt him; all she could do was to help him and pray for him. She prayed for a pair of trousers and a pair of shoes. She found out later what Chu En was praying for.

The days went past and Gladys wondered why God had not heard her. No trousers, shoes or material came their way. About ten days later Chu En said, “Ma, why do you worry about things I do not need? Will you pray for what I really want?”

“But you need shoes and decent trousers.”

“I came from Yangcheng without shoes. I can go back the same way. These trousers will cover me a while longer.”

“Then what is it you want me to pray for?”

“A stethoscope.”

“A stethoscope! What on earth is that?”

“One of those instruments with two things you put in your ears and listen to people's insides with the other end.”

“But where could I get a thing like that?”

Chu En shook his head. “I don't know, but God does.” So they prayed for what Gladys believed was almost an impossibility—a stethoscope.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. A vision. 2. “Come over into Macedonia, and help us.” 3. To Macedonia. 4. To the river side. 5. Lydia's. 6. “These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.” 7. Come out of her. 8. In the inner prison. 9. Prayed and sang praises to God.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 Oct. 16, 2005

## The Stethoscope

(Continued from last week.)

Chu En, one of Gladys Aylward's orphans, was sure that God was calling him to return to Yangcheng because there was work for him to do there. At first Gladys told him he could not go back because Yangcheng was occupied by the enemy. But when she understood that God had put this desire in his heart and was calling him to a work there, she helped him to prepare for the long trip back.

She knew he needed clothes badly, so she began praying that God would send him new trousers and a pair of shoes to wear. Nothing happened. Gladys wondered why God did not answer her prayer. Then Chu En assured her that what he needed, to do God's work, was a stethoscope, not clothes. It seemed like an impossible request but Gladys joined him in praying for a stethoscope.

Another week passed by. Then one day Gladys met an old refugee woman in the street who she thought she had seen in church the previous day. She stopped her and asked, "Did I see you in the refugee church on Sunday?"

"Oh, yes, I was there."

"Where do you come from?"

"My pot of food is on the fire. Come to my hut while we talk."

Turning, they went into a small hut. Gladys sat on the stool while the

woman stirred her pot on the fire. As her eyes grew accustomed to the dim light, Gladys looked around. There was little to see except a rather unusual red wooden box in one corner.

"You are looking at my box. I brought that all the way from Su Chow. I carried it on my shoulder. It is very, very precious."

"What is in it?"

"How should I know? I have not opened it."

"Then how do you know it is precious?"

"Because it belonged to our nice clean lady."

"Who was she?"

"A lady who came to our village and told us about Jesus. Oh, she was lovely, so clean and kind. The enemy was coming, but the men of our village were determined they would not harm our nice lady. So they carried her to a cave and hid her, but she left her box behind in my house. Before she could return we had to flee. I could not leave my dear lady's box for the enemy, so I carried it safely all the way."

"Will you let me open the box?"

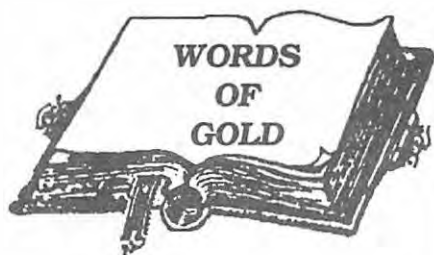
"Certainly not! Who are you that it should have anything to do with you?"

"Are you a relative of hers?"

"Yes."

"What relation?"

"Her fifth cousin." This was the relationship that all Chinese of the same name claim with each other.



## God Answers Prayer!

### Numbers 11:18-23, 31

**18** And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the Lord will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

**19** Yeshall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days;

**20** But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the Lord which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?

**21** And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month.

**22** Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?

**23** And the Lord said unto Moses, Is the Lord's hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.

**31** And there went forth a wind from the Lord, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round

about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

### Luke 11:9-10

**9** And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

**10** For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

### Isaiah 65:24

**24** And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

**The Message: God, our Heavenly Father, loves to answer our prayers and give us good things.**

### Questions:

1. What did God tell the people that they would eat?
2. What did the people say when they wept in the ears of the Lord?
3. How long would they eat?
4. How many footmen were there?
5. Who thought this was impossible?
6. What did he think the Lord would have to do to feed so many?
7. What did the wind bring from the sea?
8. Ask, and it shall be \_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_ and ye shall find; \_\_\_\_ and it shall be opened.
9. God said, "Before they call, \_\_\_\_."

### Verse to Memorize

**If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**

**John 14:14.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

Chu En knew from experience that God does answer prayer. He saw God work miracles in Gladys Aylward's life. He knew his escape from the war zone, with the other children, was in answer to her prayers.

God had spared his life, now Chu En gladly gave it back to Him to use in any way He chose. He knew the dangers and hardship that he would encounter in Yangcheng but he was willing to face death itself to please the God whom he loved. Since that is where God wanted him to work, he was assured that He would be with him and give him strength and success.

In Isaiah, God promises, "Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." God knew long before Chu En did that he would want a stethoscope and He answered that prayer long before it was prayed. We know nothing more about the missionary lady who had owned the stethoscope except that one day she packed that precious instrument in a box. She had no way of knowing Chu En would need it. She had nothing to do with getting it to him. But God had His eye right on it.

It was no mere coincidence that Gladys spoke to the woman refugee that day and followed her into her hut. God was directing her to the answer of their prayers.

Prayer is a powerful and wonderful gift from God. He always hears us when we pray and He loves to have us talk to Him. Think of the most wonderful, loving father who loves to protect and provide for his children and you

begin to get a glimpse of your Heavenly Father.

Even the best earthly father sometimes is too busy or tired to listen every time we come with our little problems or desires. But God loves to have us pour out our hearts to Him and tell Him every detail of what is bothering us. Day or night and as often as you choose you can pray to Him and He will hear. In the most urgent and extreme need and danger He is there just in time.

I was riding on a long trip to camp meeting one time. We had driven all night and had many miles ahead of us. To help keep the driver awake, I was looking down to choose one of Bro. Leslie Busbee's story tapes to listen to. When I looked up I saw that the cars ahead had merged into one lane and were stopped. On the left side was a concrete wall and in the right lane there were workers. We did not have time to stop at the speed we were traveling!

The driver saw the situation about the same time and braked as hard as he could. I said, "Lord, help!" but it seemed a crash was inevitable. Then, just as we screeched closer to the stopped car, the driver eased over to the right. By hugging close to the concrete wall the driver came to a stop about a half car length beyond the back bumper but without hitting either the car or the concrete.

It was a miracle! I couldn't help exclaiming, "He did it!" I was certain there was no way to avoid a terrible collision, yet God did it in answer to that short little prayer!

Even Moses could not believe that God could provide enough meat for the thousands of Israelites in the desert for a whole month. But God commanded the wind and it blew in enough quail to feed the multitude.

Prayer is a powerful privilege God has given us. Ask the Lord to teach you how to pray. Live a life of obedience to God and He will gladly answer your prayers. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

She stared at me closely. "Yes, you are rather like her."

Gladys nodded. "We are all alike. We all do the same thing because we belong to the same country."

"Very well then, you may open the box."

Inside that box was a queer collection—food that had gone bad, odds and ends of clothes, a few books, and at the bottom a small leather case. As Gladys opened this case she could scarcely believe her eyes. On one flap lay a thermometer, tweezers, scissors and, in the bottom, a stethoscope!

Picking out the answer to their prayer with hands that trembled, she said, "Will you let me take this away? Later I will return and decide what to do with these other things."

The woman stared at the queer object in Gladys' hand and then nodded her head. "You are my lady's relative. If that strange thing is of use to you, take it. It is of no use to anyone here."

Jubilantly Gladys hurried home. When she saw Chu En in the courtyard she waved the stethoscope, saying, "God has answered our prayers!"

Chu En seized the stethoscope and hugged it to him as he said, "Now do you believe God wants me to go back to Yangcheng?"

The next day, still wearing his old trousers and with no shoes on his feet, no food or money, only the precious stethoscope in a little bundle, Chu En set off. Gladys never saw him again.

Three months later she received a scrap of paper on which was written: "I am well, are you well? Praise the Lord, hallelujah!" There was no name or address but Gladys recognized the writing as Chu En's.

Three months later she had an identical note. Then the Communists took Shansi and there was silence. She thought Chu En, like so many more, had given his life for his faith.

About eighteen months later Gladys met a man who spoke in the dialect of

Yangcheng. He asked her to tell him the gospel.

"Why do you ask?"

"All I know is that if you have this gospel you have peace and joy in your heart."

"But how do you know that?"

"Where I come from I have watched nine people being baptized in the river. When I asked how they had courage to do this when it was forbidden by the Communists, they said it was because they had Christ in their hearts."

"But how did they know of baptism if no one is preaching?"

"Because there is a wise young man who has a curious instrument with which he listens and knows all that goes on inside. He has told them about Jesus."

So Gladys knew that Chu En was still giving the water of life to needy souls in spite of enemy opposition. Yangcheng—the place so dear to her heart—still had its witness! She hoped that someday Chu En would tell her the whole story of the stethoscope and how it helped him during those awful days.

Refugees came pouring into Sian from the East. These people spoke completely different dialects. Among them were three godly Christians from Shansi, Mr. and Mrs. Wong and Mr. Cheng.

Gladys and these three decided that something must be done for the refugees. They obtained permission to use the old factory as a church. There they could preach in an understandable dialect for these refugees from Hopeh, Honan, and other provinces.

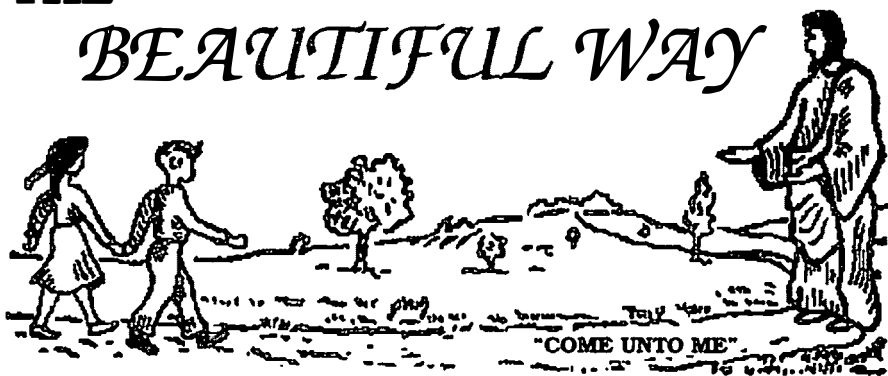
(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Flesh. 2. "Who will give us flesh to eat?" 3. A whole month. 4. Six hundred thousand. 5. Moses. 6. Kill all the flocks and herds or gather all the fish of the sea. 7. Quail. 8. Given you; seek; knock 9. "I will answer.")



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Oct. 23, 2005

## Spreading The Gospel

(Continued from last week.)

After a time Gladys Aylward left most of the children in the care of Pastor Ma. She was unable to care for them and continue preaching in the surrounding villages at the same time. Gladys was invited to take part in a conference of young people and speak to them about pioneer gospel work. When she arrived at their headquarters, she discovered that this group was actually from Kai Feng. They had been students in the school there but had been driven out by the enemy. Many of the students had scattered, but about sixty of them had determined to keep together and study when they could. They had carried along with them benches and books and various other things from the college and had studied while they trekked.

But Gladys could not give the lectures because she became ill again. She lay in bed, weak and full of doubts. Why had God allowed her to come here among strangers all for nothing? she wondered. One day she heard murmurs coming from the next room. It sounded as if people were praying. Gladys crept out of bed, threw on her robe and slippers, and slipped out to investigate. Peeping through the open

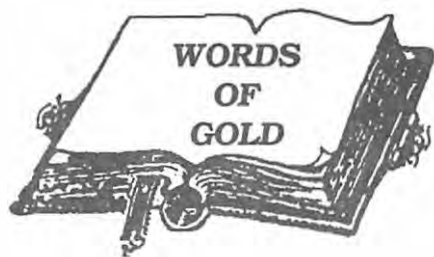
doorway she saw about fifteen students squatting around what was obviously a map.

Then one went forward, shut his eyes and poked with his finger at the map, much as she had often done as a child when they had played the game of putting on the donkey's tail. When he opened his eyes, he read aloud the name of the place where his finger had landed, and said, "Does anyone know anything about this place?"

Gladys stood spellbound while one after another prayed about this unknown town or village. Then another went forward, again jabbed blindly with his finger, and read another name. At the end of the meeting she questioned the students and learned that they had this part of the northwest laid on their hearts and were praying for different places every day. Gladys stayed there for three weeks, in bed most of the time. Then at another of these strange prayer meetings she asked, "Is anyone going to these places you are praying for?"

"Nobody is free. We have not finished our studies. We have no money and no one knows the country. Our special prayer is for someone to go and spy out the land."

Two days later Gladys was convinced that God was asking her to go to this unknown territory. She of-



## Spreading The Gospel

**Acts 17:15-28**

**15** And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens:...

**16** Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

**17** Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews,...

**18** Then certain philosophers... encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

**19** And they took him,...saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?

**20** For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

**21** (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

**22** Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

**23** For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

**24** God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is

Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

**25** Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

**26** And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

**27** That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

**28** For in him we live, and move, and have our being;...

**The Message: Jesus lived in Paul's heart and directed his life. He wanted everyone to know about Jesus and the one true God.**

### Questions:

1. Where did they bring Paul?
2. What was the city wholly given to?
3. What did Paul preach to them?
4. Who did the people think Jesus was?
5. Where did Paul stand to speak to the people?
6. What was the inscription on one of their altars?
7. Who made the world and every thing in it?
8. He does not dwell in \_\_\_\_\_ made with hands.
9. In Him we \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ and have our \_\_\_\_\_.

### Verse to Memorize

**God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands.**

**Acts 17:24**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Those who truly know Jesus and His power to change lives long to tell others who need Him. Many missionaries have risked their lives and some have died to take the gospel to those who have never heard about Jesus and His power to save.

When Paul was struck blind on his way to Damascus, the Lord sent Ananias to pray for his sight to be restored. The Lord told Ananias that He had chosen Paul to tell the Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel about Jesus. So from the beginning Paul understood what God had called him to do. He spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel everywhere he had the opportunity.

While Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy he toured the city. Everywhere he went he saw idols. He was amazed at how many different gods these people worshiped. There was even an altar to the Unknown God!

Paul found a Jewish synagogue and went there to speak to the Jews about Jesus. He met with anyone who wished to speak to him in the marketplace. He used every opportunity to preach Christ to the people. Some listeners were sincere but many were just curious. They had never heard about Jesus and His resurrection. They thought Paul was talking about some strange, new god.

Soon he had so many wanting to hear what he had to say they asked him to speak on Mar's hill. This was the place where important matters were discussed.

As Paul looked over the crowd of

wise men and curious listeners he longed to present the gospel to them in a way they could understand. I'm sure he prayed for wisdom to know how to reach these people.

"You men of Athens," Paul began, "I see that you are too superstitious. As I was walking through the city, I saw your many altars to different gods. I even saw one whose inscription read, 'To the Unknown God'. You ignorantly worship this God and He is the God about whom I preach to you.

"This God made the world and everything in it. He is the Lord of heaven and earth. He does not live in temples made by men, neither is He worshiped by anything men make. It is He who gives us our life and breath.

"This God is not far from every one of us. He wants people of every nation to seek Him and worship Him. He is not like gold or silver or stone that man shapes into an idol. He is the true God. Now that you know about the true God, He commands you to repent of your sins. The day is coming when He will call all men to judgment." Then Paul told them about how God had raised Jesus from the dead.

Many of the wise men laughed when they heard about the resurrection. Others asked him to come back another time and tell them more. But there were several who believed Paul's words. Among them was a man named Dionysius, an important man in Athens, and a woman named Damaris. These and a few others believed in the true God and Jesus and His resurrection. They gladly turned from their idols and were saved.

Like Paul, Gladys Aylward looked for opportunities to tell everyone she met about Jesus. She was willing to endure any hardship if it gave her a chance to help someone know about Him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

ferred herself to this group of earnest, loving young Christians and, with their prayers and blessings ringing in her ears, she set off a few days later.

The countryside was beautiful and for the first few days her leisurely journey was very pleasant. She could talk with those she met but she knew that before long it would be difficult to understand the language of those around her.

As she went farther into the northwest she managed each morning to get someone to escort her as her guide from his village to the next until she came to Tsin Tsui. She stayed a night or two there with friendly Christian people. But when she asked about the road ahead everyone advised her to turn back. "You cannot go further," they declared, "this is the end. Further on there is nothing."

"But the world doesn't just end like that," Gladys argued. "I must go on. It is what I have come for."

The villagers shook their heads sadly. They were sure by now that she must be a little strange. Then, seeing she was fully determined to go forward, a Chinese doctor offered to accompany her for five days. His name was Dr. Huang, and he had always been curious as to what lay outside his immediate district.

Dr. Huang was a Christian, though maybe up to that time not very deeply taught. But he could read and, as they traveled, they talked and sometimes argued. When Gladys could not convince him, she handed him her Bible and he could read the passage in question for himself.

The five days lengthened to nine. They went on and on, speaking to everyone they met. Not one of them had heard of Jesus Christ, the Son of the God in heaven.

On the tenth day they came out onto a mountainside and that night

had to stay in a filthy hut. The next day they plodded on all day but did not meet a living soul or see the slightest sign of human habitation anywhere.

By mid afternoon Gladys was becoming troubled. Where were they going to sleep? Where would they get any food? She stared around and then burst out, "Dr. Huang, we are going to put down our bundles and pray."

They threw their bundles on the ground and knelt down. "Dear God," she began, "have mercy on us. You can see what a plight we are in. Give us food and shelter for the night." Gladys' whole prayer was taken up by her own wants, her own immediate requirements.

Then very calmly Dr. Huang began to pray. "O God, send us the one You want us to tell about Jesus. We have witnessed to no one today, but You have sent us here for some special purpose. Show us where to find the man You intend to bless."

Gladys felt humbled and ashamed. While she had been so concerned with her own comfort, this man was concerned only with His Father's business. After a few moments she said, "Shall we sing a chorus?" They sat down and began to sing. In the clear, mountain air their voices must have carried a great distance.

Suddenly Dr. Huang jumped to his feet. "There is our man!" he cried. And before Gladys could stop him, he had dashed off.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. To Athens. 2. Idolatry. 3. Jesus and the resurrection. 4. A strange god. 5. On Mars' hill. 6. TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. 7. God. 8. Temples. 9. Live, Move, Being.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Oct. 30, 2005

## The God Who Loves

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward sat alone after Dr. Huang had suddenly dashed off at the sight of a man. She felt very small and frail in this lonely, barren country. Finally, she saw two little specks on the mountain side. It was Dr. Huang with the man. As he drew nearer, he kept shouting, "Come on up; I have found our man." But Gladys sat right where she was. She could see no sense in scrambling up that steep, rocky hillside.

Eventually Dr. Huang reached her and said, "God obviously means for us to go up, so come along."

"But what about our bundles?"

"Leave them. There is no one here to steal them."

Half carried and half pushed, Gladys scrambled up and found, leaning against a rock, a Tibetan lama priest. She stared from him to Dr. Huang. She knew that lamas were supposed to have nothing to do with women. She knew also that outwardly they appeared to be holy men, but inwardly many of them were bad, immoral, ignorant and superstitious.

"Did you tell him I was a woman?" Gladys demanded of Dr. Huang.

"Yes, but he invited you to come to spend the night in the lamasery."

She hesitated. What were they getting themselves into? Why should Tibetan priests invite her into their sacred buildings?

"There is nowhere else for us to go," Dr. Huang pointed out.

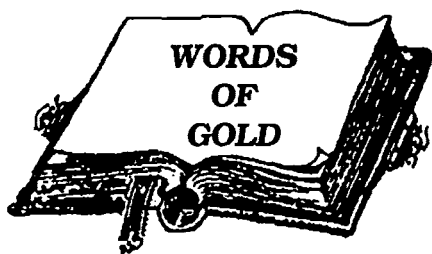
Suddenly the man spoke and, although his accent was strange, Gladys could understand what he said.

"We have waited long for you to tell us about the God who loves."

At these words Gladys' heart jumped. Without another word, they followed their guide up the path. When they reached the lamasery, Gladys caught her breath at the beauty of the scene. The side of the mountain which they had climbed was barren, yellow and rocky. But on this side, because there was water, the mountain was covered in rich green grass and lovely flowering vines. At the top stood the lamasery, imposing and stately.

As they approached, her fears returned. The huge gate closed as they went in, and she thought, "We are in, but will we ever get out again?"

A party of lamas greeted them almost reverently and escorted her to a small room. Then men padded backward and forward, bringing everything they could think of for her comfort—tiger rugs, cushions, water for washing, and dish after dish of daintily prepared food. It seemed like a dream! After their strenuous climb, Gladys



## God Is Love

**1 John 4:8-21**

**8** He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

**9** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

**10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

**12** No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

**13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

**14** And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

**15** Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

**16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

**17** Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

**18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that

feareth is not made perfect in love.

**19** We love him, because he first loved us.

**20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

**21** And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

**John 3:16**

**16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Romans 5:8**

**8** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**The Message: God is love. When He lives in our heart we, too, love everyone.**

### Questions:

1. If you do not love you do not know \_\_\_\_.
2. God is \_\_\_\_.
3. How did God manifest His love to us?
4. Because He loved us we ought to love \_\_\_\_.
5. When we love one another, Who lives in us?
6. The Father sent His Son to be the \_\_\_\_ of the world.
7. What casts out fear?
8. Why do we love God?
9. Anyone that loves God must also love whom?

### Verse to Memorize

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

**John 3:16.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Probably the first verse you learned was, "God is love." When we hear something so often it is easy to just take it for granted. We don't really stop to consider what we're saying or the great meaning of the words. Yet this is a message powerful enough to change the life of everyone who accepts it!

Gladys Aylward and Dr. Huang wanted to tell everyone they met this wonderful message. Their lives were rich and happy because the God of love lived in their hearts. All around them they saw misery and sadness. The people worshipped many gods. They sacrificed their precious food to these idols. But these gods had no power to help them—they were merely statues made by men.

The lamas God led Gladys and Dr. Huang to were very strict in the way they lived. They had left their homes and families to live together and serve their god and devote their entire life to worship him. Yet when they heard about a God who loves it was strange news to them. Their god and all those they knew of could not love or help their worshippers—they couldn't hear, speak or care a thing about the poor ignorant people who brought sacrifices.

It was the message of John 3:16 which many of us know by heart that drew them to want to know more. Most of us can quickly recite, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We know the words so well we hardly have to think about what we are say-

ing. Yet, to these hungry hearts each word brought wonder and hope.

"We have waited long for you to tell us about the God who loves," they explained when Gladys was afraid to go with them. Then as the men came in pairs to hear more they always asked the same question, "Will you explain how and why He died? Will you explain how it is He could love me?"

These men never questioned that God was the Creator of the world, they never doubted the fact of the virgin birth and they did not consider any of the miracles incredible. To them it was the wonder of God's love which obsessed them. The story of Christ's death on Calvary filled their minds with awe and reverence.

We have heard the truth of this story many times but have we ever thought about the power it brings? If God did not love us we would have no peace here on earth and no hope of ever living with Him in heaven. If Jesus had not been willing to come and die on the cross at Calvary we could have no power to break out of the awful bondage of sin and selfishness. The devil would be our dreadful master and we would have no hope of escaping his cruelty.

But Jesus did come. God did make a way so we could be free from sin. He forgives everyone who will repent then He cleans our heart, fills it with His love, peace and joy and then comes to live right in our heart! Such love is beyond our ability to understand. We must open our heart then we will experience its power and wonder!

What are you doing with the offer of salvation, the greatest gift you can ever receive? To reject God and His great love leaves you at the mercy of the devil who has no mercy or love for you. His only purpose is to destroy you in hell at last! But if you accept salvation it will fill your life with all the good that the God of love has prepared for you. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

felt very weary. She had just decided she would lie down to rest when two men knocked at the door and politely requested her to accompany them. She was joined by Dr. Huang and they were escorted through one courtyard after another until they came to a very large one. In this were five hundred hassocks made of coconut leaves arranged in a rough semicircle. On each of these hassocks sat a lama with his hands piously crossed and his head bent.

They were taken to two empty hassocks in the center, and sat down. "What on earth are we expected to do?" Gladys wondered nervously.

Dr. Huang said, "Now we will begin. You sing."

"But what shall I sing?"

"Anything."

So in a very trembling voice she sang in Chinese the American chorus, "Glorious Freedom."

A deathly silence followed. Then Dr. Huang began to talk. He told them about the Baby who was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Then he told them of the Savior who died on Calvary.

"Now sing again," he said. So Gladys sang, then she talked. She sang again and then he talked. She sang again and then she talked.

Still the five hundred lamas sat immobile on their hassocks. Gladys and Dr. Huang could not see their faces. Why did they not speak or make a move to end this meeting which looked as if it might go on all night? Gladys wondered.

She was on the verge of collapse, so finally she said in a low voice, "I will fall off this hassock in a minute."

"Then we will finish," Dr. Huang replied. And rising, they sailed out of the great hall.

Later they discovered that as guests they must be the first to move. Politeness demanded that their audience sat still as long as they sat!

Again she started to go to bed but was disturbed by a knock on the door.

Two priests stood outside. "Woman, are you too tired to tell us more?" they asked humbly.

"Are you allowed to come into my room?"

"Yes, if there are two of us."

They came in, they listened intently and they went away. A few minutes later two more came, and so it went on all night. They always asked the same question, "Will you explain how and why He died? Will you explain how it is He could love me?"

These men never questioned that God was the Creator of the world, they never doubted the fact of the virgin birth and they did not consider any of the miracles incredible. To them it was the wonder of God's love which obsessed them. The story of Christ's death on Calvary filled their minds with awe and reverence.

The next morning, when the priests were gathered in their temple, Dr. Huang and Gladys had the opportunity of comparing notes. She found that the same thing had happened in his room. Here, indeed, were men thirsting for the old, old story of God's wonderful plan of salvation.

They decided they would stay a little longer. They stayed a week and all that time, whenever the men were free from their duties, they came and asked for more.

At last they decided they must leave the following day, so they announced that, for the last night, they would gladly talk to those who wanted to visit them. That evening Gladys received a summons to go before the head lama whom they had not seen so far. Dr. Huang was not invited; she was to go alone.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. God. 2. Love. 3. He sent His Son into the world. 4. One another. 5. God. 6. Savior. 7. Perfect love. 8. Because He first loved us. 9. His brother.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Nov. 6, 2005

## The Power Of A Tract

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward and Dr. Huang announced they would be leaving the lamasery the next day. That evening Gladys received a summons to go before the head lama. She had not seen him before.

The ordinary lamas were a kind of Chinese border race, but she imagined the head of such a large lamasery would surely be a true Tibetan and she wondered how they would overcome the language difficulty.

Gladys found a fine looking man, seated on a beautiful cushion, with servants attending him. To her amazement he addressed her in the pure Mandarin Chinese of Peking, which she understood perfectly.

They discussed various things, then greatly daring, she asked, "Why did you let me—a foreign woman—come into your lamasery? Why did you allow me to speak to your priests?"

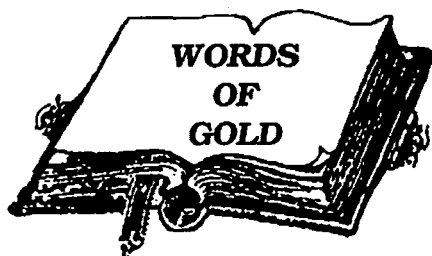
"It is a long story. Out on our mountainside grows a licorice herb which my lamas collect and sell in

the cities. One year the men, who had taken the herb harvest down on the mules, were passing through a village when they saw a man waving a paper while he called out, 'Who wants one? Salvation, free and for nothing. He who believes gets salvation and lives forever. If you want to learn more of this, come to the gospel hall.' "

The lamas, utterly astounded at such a doctrine, took the tract and brought it back to the lamasery. Gladys was then shown the tract, now worn and in pieces, stuck on the wall. It was a perfectly ordinary tract, simply quoting John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

That was all, but from it they had learned that somewhere there was a "God who loved." Everybody read it and reread it or had it read to them.

The head lama continued the story after Gladys had read that important scrap of paper. "The next year, when our men took the herb down to the cities, they were



## The Power Of The Gospel

### Matthew 9:35-38

**35** And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

**36** But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

**37** Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

**38** Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

### Luke 4:16-21

**16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

**17** And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

**18** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

**19** To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**20** And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat

down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

**21** And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

### Romans 1:15-16

**15** So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

**16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**The Message: Hundreds of years before Jesus' birth Isaiah prophesied that He would come to preach the gospel to the poor.**

### Questions:

1. Where did Jesus go to teach and preach the gospel?
2. What did He do for those who were sick and diseased?
3. Why did Jesus feel sorry for the multitudes?
4. What did He say we should pray for?
5. Where had Jesus been brought up?
6. As His custom was, He went into the \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sabbath day.
7. What did he say after He sat down?
8. Paul said he was ready to preach to those at \_\_\_\_\_ also.
9. The gospel is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ unto salvation.

### Verse to Memorize

**And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**  
**Mark 16:15.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Paul was mocked, beaten and his life was in constant danger because he dared preach that Jesus rose from the dead to save the people from their sins. In spite of this he declared boldly that he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because he knew it was the power of God. He had experienced the miraculous power of the gospel on the road to Damascus. That day he was suddenly, unexpectedly, miraculously changed from a cruel persecutor to a loyal, loving follower of Christ!

Paul knew this gospel would exert the same power in the heart and life of any man, woman or child who would accept its message. Peter boldly preached this message in Acts 2:38 on the day of Pentecost. He instructed the people, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Three thousand people gladly accepted Jesus as their Savior that one day. They were given new and eternal life through the power of the gospel!

When the lamas read John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," the words had a powerful effect on them. They wanted desperately to know this God who loved. They treasured the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and believed everything they said. So, when they read Jesus' command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel," they were sure His followers would obey. All they had to do was wait and someone would surely

come to tell them more about this wonderful God.

They waited three years, then the two lamas heard Gladys and Dr. Huang singing that day. They knew the singers could tell them about God because, they said, "Only people who know God will sing!" Gladys was amazed at the lamas' interest and eagerness for the gospel. It seemed like a coincidence that they should sing in this desolate place and be heard. But it did not happen by chance; God was working to bring the power of the gospel to these 500 men.

Jesus told the people a story about the man who planted seeds. He said the Word of God is like these seeds. Those who tell others the good news of salvation are planting this seed. Jesus explained that some seeds naturally fall on rocks, among thorns or other places that are not broken up. These seeds cannot take root. If they sprout at all they soon wither up and die.

The rocks, thorns and hard places are like men's hearts. Some are too busy to accept the gospel. Some will not believe the good news. They harden their hearts and will not allow it to change their lives. But the seed that falls in the field the man has prepared will take root and sprout. Soon there will be a healthy plant that can produce food and more seeds. A good and honest heart is like the prepared field. These people accept the gospel and let it take root in their heart. Its power changes their life, making it a blessing.

Have you accepted the wonderful gift of salvation so the power of God can work in your life? The Bible tells us: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." I Corinthians 2:9

God has a wonderful plan for your life. You will never regret letting the power of the gospel work it out in you!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

told to find out where 'The God who loved' lived, but for five years they could learn nothing more.

"Then the man who had first received the tract vowed he would not come back until he learned more about this God. They went on and on until they came to Len Chow. There they saw an important-looking man on the street and asked their usual question, 'Can you tell us where the God who loves lives?'

" 'Oh, yes,' he said. 'Go down that street and you will come to a large gateway with three signs over it —*Faith, Hope, Charity.*' Go in there; they will tell you about God.'

"Jubilantly they approached the small China Inland Mission station and asked the same question of the Chinese evangelist. He told them all he could, then gave them each a copy of the Gospels.

"Eagerly they hurried back to the lamasery and we read the accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We believed all that it contained though there was much we could not understand. But one verse seemed of special importance. Christ had said, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel,' so obviously one day someone would come to tell us more about this wonderful God. All we had to do was to wait and, when God sent a messenger, to be ready to receive him. For another three years we waited. Then two lamas, out on the hillside gathering sticks, heard someone singing. 'Those are the messengers we are waiting for,' they said. Only people who know God will sing.'

"While one went back to tell the rest of us to prepare for the long-expected guests, the other came down to meet you on the hillside."

That was why everything was done for their comfort, why they gladly clambered down and brought up their bundles, why they received them with hungry hearts.

They did not ask these men if they were saved; Gladys did not know if they came out from the lamasery. She had preached His gospel in this place that God had appointed. She left the rest to Him and the work of the Holy Spirit.

No lamasery stands on that beautiful hillside now, for the Communists destroyed it and drove away all its inmates. Gladys often wondered what happened to those five hundred lamas. She had no doubt that many of them believed, trusted and received salvation. God had prepared the soil; she and Dr. Huang were proud to be used as His messengers. Only in eternity will they ever learn the result of one of the strangest weeks she had ever spent.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. To the cities and villages. 2. He healed them. 3. They were like sheep without a shepherd. 4. More laborers. 5. Nazareth. 6. Synagogue. 7. "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." 8. Rome. 9. Power, God.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Nov. 13, 2005

## Mr. Shan

(Continued from last week.)

After leaving the lamasery there was no other course open to Gladys Aylward but to turn back. Dr. Huang had volunteered to travel five days. They had already been away seventeen and he had a wife and children at home. She could not go on alone in such a desolate, uninhabited country, so they returned to Tsin Tsui, witnessing to everyone they met on the road. From there she made her way back to Fenghsien to tell the students how wonderfully God had answered their prayers.

Some time later she was forced to go to a town of which she knew nothing at all. All she had to wear was a ragged gown she had been given and she felt utterly disappointed and puzzled. Why had God sent her to this strange city with no money? It was a huge city filled with students. What was there for her here? she wondered.

She was taken in by a Chinese doctor and his wife and treated with great kindness. One day she was sitting in a room in their house when she overheard two men behind her talking about some place in the city where there were people who had never heard of Jesus Christ.

Completely forgetting her manners, she burst out, "Surely, sirs, you must be mistaken. There are churches all over the city; there are meetings everywhere; there are hundreds of Christians."

"Madame, you must be a stranger to our city."

"I have been here only two days."

"We were talking of the prison."

"Is there a prison here?"

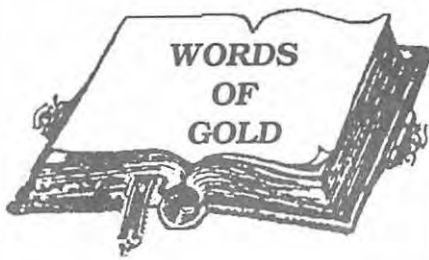
"Why, the second biggest prison in China is here, and no one has ever been in there to tell the poor wretches of Jesus Christ."

She talked further with them but was not particularly disturbed. After all, prison work had nothing to do with her. She had always preached in the villages and small towns—that was her work.

But for the next few days she had no peace. God told her very definitely that whether she liked it or not those men in the prison were her business. Every one of them had a soul for which Christ died, and she had come to China to proclaim that gospel wherever God led her.

At the end of the week she sought an interview with the governor. He was exceedingly polite, but so patronizing that she became increasingly nervous.

"What can I do for you, Madame?" he asked, looking at her coldly.



## The Prisoner Of The Lord

## Acts 23:10-21

**10** And...the chief captain,...commanded the soldiers to go down,...and to bring him into the castle.

**11** And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

**12** And...certain of the Jews... bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

**13** And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.

**14** And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said,...

**15** Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you tomorrow, as though ye would inquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

**16** And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he...told Paul.

17 Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain:...

**18** So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

**19** Then the chief captain...asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

**20** And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul tomorrow into the council, as though they would inquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

**21** But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

**The Message: Paul knew his life was in God's hands. He was in prison because God willed it so.**

### Questions:

1. What did the chief captain command the soldiers to do?
2. Whostood byPaulthenext night?
3. Where else must he bear witness for the Lord?
4. What did some of the Jews do?
5. What were they determined to do?
6. How many were part of the conspiracy?
7. Who heard about their intentions?
8. Who did he tell?
9. Who did the centurion take the young man to?

### Verse to Memorize

**I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.**

**Ephesians 4:1.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Both Mr. Shan and Paul were prisoners. Mr. Shan was arrested because he had committed horrible crimes. Paul was arrested because he preached to the people, telling them the good news of salvation. Mr. Shan was bitter and hateful because of the evil in his heart but even in prison Paul's heart was joyful and free. He had given his life completely to God. Wherever God sent him, he would be content and happy.

Paul's desire was to be in Jerusalem to keep the feast of the Passover. Along the way he visited as many of the churches as possible to encourage the believers. He did not have time to go to Ephesus, so the leaders from that congregation came to the seacoast to meet him.

"You know," Paul told them, "how I have worked and lived among you. I have taught you publicly and in your homes. I have testified to both the Jews and the Greeks. I feel that I must go to Jerusalem now. I do not know what will happen there, but the Holy Spirit has witnessed that bonds and afflictions await me.

"But this does not make me afraid. It does not matter how long I live. The one thing that is important is that I finish the work God has given me with joy. I must fulfill the ministry that the Lord Jesus has given me and testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

"I know that this is the last time that I will see you but I will pray for you. Take good care of the church of God over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers."

Then they all knelt in the sand and Paul prayed with them. Then they threw their arms around Paul and wept. They accompanied him to the ship with heavy hearts because he had said he would

never see them again.

Paul and those with him also stopped at Caesarea. Here they stayed at Philip's house. While he was there a prophet named Agabus came from Jerusalem. He took off Paul's belt and tied it around his own hands and feet. Then he said, "The Holy Ghost says, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owns this belt. They will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" When they heard these words all Paul's friends begged him not to go to Jerusalem.

But Paul said boldly, "Why do you weep and break my heart? I am ready, not only to be bound but to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus!"

They saw he was sure God wanted him to go to Jerusalem; they could not change his mind. "May the Lord's will be done," they said submissively.

So, as our lesson tells us, Paul was arrested in Jerusalem. The Jews who hated him for teaching that Jesus came to save all people, Gentiles as well as Jews, caused a great stir among the people. The mob seized Paul and beat him. His life was spared because the Roman captain rescued him. He was taken to prison until they could find what crime he had committed.

The Lord appeared to Paul the next night saying, "Be of good cheer, Paul. As you have testified of me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also at Rome." Paul was strengthened and greatly encouraged. God was with him, even in prison.

In prison Paul wrote many letters instructing and encouraging the believers. They are a large part of our New Testament and their words are just as powerful and helpful today. As a prisoner, Paul testified to kings and men in authority. Many heard the truth of the gospel while he testified in his own defense. His enemies hoped that the spread of the gospel would be stopped because Paul was in prison. Instead, Paul was protected from them while he continued to preach by word and by letter.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Would you allow me to come into your prison and preach about Jesus Christ to your prisoners?"

"You wish to come into the prison itself?"

"Yes."

"And what do you intend to do if I allow you to talk to the men?"

"I intend to alter your prison!"

"Madame, I have been governor for five years, and I have not altered it in the slightest degree."

"But I have Jesus Christ. It is He who can bring about the alteration."

She got her pass and was escorted into the great prison courtyard. Rows and rows of horrible, dirty, cruel-faced, degraded men were lined up, with jailers at the end of each row. They were shouting, laughing and jeering.

Gladys was so small that a kind of little mound had to be built up for her to stand on. She talked to them; she told them stories; then they trotted off. Day after day she stood on that little mound. Each time her heart hammered wildly but the knowledge of the terrible, desperate need of these men drove her on.

Night after night she prayed for hours for them. Often when she should have been sleeping she was out on the hillside with a Christian leper, walking and praying. Besides going into the prison she was also visiting the leper camp. She knew it was the prayers of the Christian lepers which strengthened her during those first terrible weeks in the prison.

At last one prisoner was converted, then another, until there were five who would come and take their place beside her and testify to the change God had brought about in their lives. This was wonderful but the prison certainly wasn't altered and there were thousands still mocking at God's Word.

One day she had finished talking and was going out feeling hurt, tired and longing to get away from the awful stench of unclean humanity when the gate opened and four men were dragged in. They were chained together and were thrown violently on the ground by their guards who stood over them with guns. Her first thought was, *Get out of this as fast as you can!*

She hurried toward the gate when a voice said, "Gladys Aylward, I died for these just as I did for you."

She turned back to the guard. "Will you allow me to speak to these men?"

Roughly, and in impolite language, the guard refused. She walked slowly around the courtyard, praying, then she asked again.

This time she received a curse for her answer and the guard shouted, "Throw this pestering woman out." She was put firmly out by the gateman. A few days later she learned that all four men were murderers. Three were already dead; only one, Mr. Shan, was still alive. Mr. Shan was young, handsome and arrogant, but there was something about him she felt to be utterly evil. He looked at her in a horribly offensive fashion and said unrepeatable things. She disliked him intensely but she prayed for him and got her friends to pray for him. One day Gladys tried to speak to him but with an oath he turned and spit in her face. She felt like she almost hated him!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Bring Paul into the castle. 2. The Lord. 3. In Rome. 4. Bound themselves under a curse. 5. Kill Paul. 6. More than forty. 7. Paul's sister's son. 8. Paul. 9. The chief captain.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Nov. 20, 2005

## Mr. Shan's Conversion

(Continued from last week.)

The months went by and now others were helping Gladys Aylward with her work in prison. More prisoners had been converted and there were forty in a class preparing for baptism. But still the blessing had not swept through the prison and changed it to any noticeable degree. Those in the leper colony continued to pray fervently for the prisoners to be saved.

One day, after she had finished speaking, the men formed into their lines to return to their cells. They always had to move at a trot and not one could speak while moving. Gladys stood watching them pass, her heart aching for them. By now she knew most of these men. She knew why they were in this place and, though not allowed to speak, she could smile and nod.

Way down the line she saw the man she disliked so much—Mr. Shan, the man who seemed harder to move than the prison walls themselves. Very clearly a voice said, "Speak to that man!"

"Oh, no," Gladys replied. "He despises me! He actually spit on me. Besides, the law of the prison states I must not speak to him while the line is moving."

"Nevertheless, you must speak to him."

What was she to do? A cold sweat broke over her. He was almost up to her. She was so agitated that she leaned forward and let her hand fall on his shoulder while she burst out, "Oh, Mr. Shan, aren't you miserable?" Of all the stupid remarks, she thought immediately.

With a horrible curse he threw off her hand. "What is it to do with you if I am miserable?"

"Because I am so happy."

"Of course you are. Doesn't the door open for you whenever you want to go out?"

"Ah, that isn't the reason. It is because Jesus Christ died for me." Mr. Shan passed on, and Gladys realized the awful thing she had done. One of China's greatest unwritten laws is that no woman touches a man in public. She left that prison depressed and ashamed. Before those men she had defiled herself and with such a man as Mr. Shan!

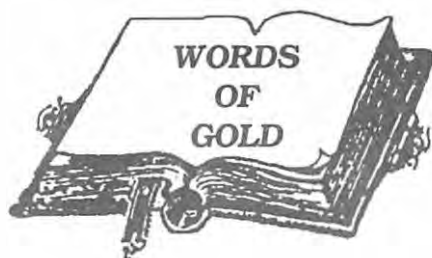
Mr. Shan followed the line and sat on a stone in an inner courtyard, his head bowed in his hands. A few moments later, Dhu Cor, the first man who had been converted in the prison, saw him sitting there. "Are you going to be ill?" he asked, staring at him closely.

"Did you see what she did?"

"What?"

"She touched me."

"No. That is a lie!"



## Always On Call

### Psalm 34:1-19, 22

**1** I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**2** My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

**3** O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

**4** I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

**5** They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

**6** This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

**7** The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

**8** O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

**9** O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

**10** The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

**11** Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

**12** What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

**13** Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

**2**

**14** Depart from evil, and do good: seek peace, and pursue it.

**15** The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

**16** The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

**17** The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

**18** The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart: and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

**19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

**22** The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

**Message: My great Physician is always on call!**

### Questions:

1. Who should we bless at all times?
2. What should be continually in our mouth?
3. Who will be glad when we boast in the Lord?
4. What happened when the Psalmist sought the Lord?
5. Who did the Lord save out of all his troubles?
6. Who encampeth round those who fear the Lord?
7. O \_\_\_\_\_ and see that the Lord is good.
8. What do the young lions suffer?
9. Who is near those that have a broken heart?

### Verse to Memorize

**This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.**

**Psalm 34:6.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

I remember reading about the Pilgrims. They landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on December 26, 1620. They tried to build rough shelters to protect themselves but the bitter winter cold and illness took its toll. By the end of winter half the colonists had died.

Then the Pilgrims met Squanto who had learned to speak English from the English traders. He acted as guide and interpreter and with his help the colonists learned to plant corn, catch fish and hunt. He helped them identify edible plants and gather fruit and nuts from the forests. The Pilgrims realized the Indians had saved their lives. They were so thankful that they invited the Indians to celebrate their first harvest in 1621, an event now celebrated as Thanksgiving Day.

We live in a land of plenty. It's easy to take our many blessings for granted and forget just how thankful we should be.

I want to tell you something that I am thankful for: I was reading a paper telling about two doctors who wanted to try a different plan. They advertised, "For \$20,000/year we will make house calls and be on call night or day. For this price we promise to stay as long as the patient needs us." They were sure their plan would appeal to people, because for only \$20,000 they could have the security of knowing that their doctor was available any time they called him.

Well, first of all, I don't have the money for such service. But most importantly—I have something much

better than that! Since I took God as my great Physician I have 24 hour service because He is with me all the time! Another good thing, this Physician made my body and He knows exactly what it needs.

Besides being my Physician God performs many other services. He is the best lawyer there ever was. Not only can He defend me from my enemies but He can turn them into friends where they will be at peace with me.

Since He always knows everything, God is also a wonderful teacher. He tells me that if I need wisdom He will give it to me liberally and won't scold me for being so ignorant.

Since God is by my side all the time there are many fringe benefits. Just a few mornings ago I got ambitious and decided to mow the grass across the street. Since I can't walk, I put my wheelchair next to the mower, slid onto the mower seat and got started.

I did real well for awhile. But I forgot about a hole in the yard until the front wheel hit it. I was able to bounce back out of it but the rear wheel went in, killing the mower. So, there I sat, tilted sideways, realizing how unwise I had been.

Different cars came by but I didn't know the people and didn't know how to wave them down. Next came our mailman. I knew him, but he just waved and kept on going. God knew I needed help and He sent him back. After he had gone a little ways I saw his brake lights and reverse lights come on. He came back and asked, "Dale, are you having trouble?" Pretty soon he had me going again.

These are just a few of the great benefits I enjoy because I love and serve God. But the greatest blessing is that after a happy life here I will someday have a home in heaven.

—Bro. Dale Doolittle

"It is no lie. She put her hand on my shoulder."

"I cannot believe it."

Another prisoner who had been listening joined in. "What he says is true. She did touch him."

"She touched me as if she loved me!" Mr. Shan gasped.

"Perhaps she does love you," Dhu Cor replied.

"What, a clean woman like her love me, a murderer, who has cursed her and spit on her?"

"Yes, I believe she could because she believes that God loves you no matter what you have done."

Through this Mr. Shan was converted. It was not because of a great sermon, but because years before in London God had taken a girl and asked her to give Him her hands, her feet, her whole body for His use. That day God had touched Mr. Shan through that poor human instrument.

Mr. Shan's conversion began the real revival in that prison. Men spent hours listening to the Word of God. They spent hours on their knees. They had baptisms which lasted three days. Testimonies, especially that of Mr. Shan, were printed in the prison press, and before long calls came in from other prisons to come and do the same as had been done here.

The governor himself, convinced by the alteration in even the most hardened criminals, was converted and proclaimed in no uncertain fashion that what he had been unable to do in five years, the power of the glorious gospel of salvation had accomplished in one!

While Gladys was working at the leper colony and the prison she heard that the Methodist Church was advertising for an evangelist who could deal with the great crowds of refugees who were pouring into the city. Most of these, like Gladys, came from the north.

She applied for this job, but stipulated that she must still be allowed to carry on her work in the prison and leper camp. This was agreed, and she went to live in a room at the back of the church.

During all these months one or two of her children were usually with her, but only the older ones who could look after themselves. She was glad of their companionship, and it was good to feel that she had some sort of family life.

The war had just ended, and most of the missionaries had gone home or were still in concentration camps. The need was so great, but the workers so few! There seemed to be a spiritual lethargy about this church, to which she was now attached, which weighed on her heavily. The building itself was neglected and in a filthy condition. It was a large church with a huge gallery and one day she determined to go up there to see what it contained. She found that, like the temple in Nehemiah's day, it had been used as a storeroom. It was full of old junk and everywhere there was rubbish, dirt and cobwebs.

As she stood looking over the balcony, feeling discouraged and depressed, the sun suddenly came in at the dusty window. A shaft of golden light struck the cross on the communion table, and as she looked she saw the Lord stand there looking up at her.

As she gazed, He spoke. "Prepare this place for Me, for I intend to bless."

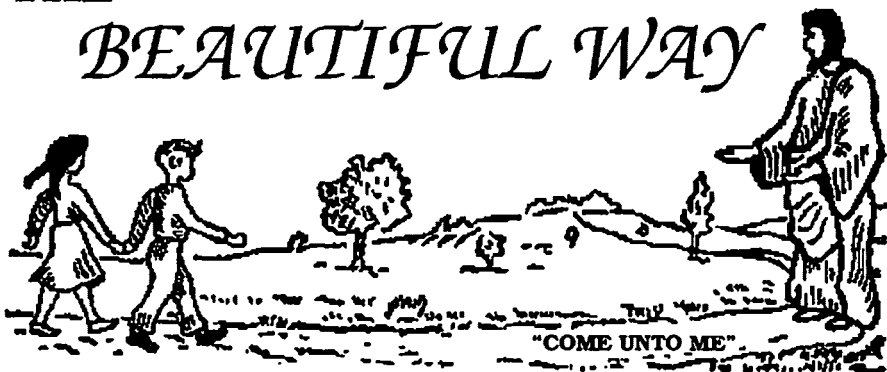
Leaning further forward, she said, "O Lord, how long?" "Forty days" came back the reply, and gradually the vision faded.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. His praise. 3. The humble. 4. The Lord heard him and delivered him from all his fears. 5. This poor man. 6. The angel of the Lord. 7. Taste. 8. Hunger. 9. The Lord.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Nov. 27, 2005

## The Glorious Blessing

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward knelt down, her heart throbbing with reverence and awe. The Lord had just appeared to her telling her to prepare for a blessing. She truly believed that in forty days the blessing would come just as the Lord told her. But before that there was much work to do. The rubbish, dirt and cobwebs must be cleaned from the chapel. Much prayer was needed to prepare the hearts of the people. She resolved that every day she would wash and clean as much of the church as she could, and when she had cleaned it she would pray in that part, dedicating it to the Lord's service.

For some time Gladys had not been well. Some Christian friends had arranged that she should go away with them for a rest and vacation. She began cleaning and praying in the chapel but told no one of either the vision or her resolve.

As the time drew near for the proposed vacation, she was disturbed. Only a few of the forty days had passed; how could she disobey her Lord's commands and neglect the work to go on vacation? She decided to tell her Chinese pastor, Christian

Shang, about the vision and her purpose. He did not ridicule her story but immediately agreed to join her in the task.

Next Gladys went to see the friends with whom she was to go on vacation. They had completely forgotten the arrangement and their promise. They felt most embarrassed and were deeply apologetic. Gladys almost shouted "Hallelujah!" The Lord had worked out her problem. She could stay on until the blessing came.

As Christian Shang and Gladys were working in the church one day, Gordon, one of her adopted sons, came to look for her. He, too, joined in the scrubbing and praying. A few days later the treasurer of the church, Chen Tsung, found them, and last, a converted bandit joined their "work party." So now five people spent every available minute washing, cleaning and praying. By the end of the forty days the church was spotless and they had prayed in every part of it. But they knew that if they were to have a blessing they must work outside too. They decided they would have special gospel campaigns. During the following months they were wonderfully blessed.

About this time they had a request from the Youth for Christ organization to hold a campaign. They



## The Gifts Of God

**John 4:10**

**10** Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

**Acts 2:38**

**38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Romans 6:23**

**23** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**James 1:17**

**17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**Psalms 127:2**

**2** It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

**Psalms 136:25**

**25** Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.

**Ecclesiastes 2:26**

**26** For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy:...

**Isaiah 40:29-31**

**29** He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

**30** Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

**31** But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

**Psalms 103:2-5**

**2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

**3** Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

**4** Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

**5** Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**The Message: God has given us so many wonderful gifts we should thank Him all the time. David said he would get up at midnight to thank the Lord—there just wasn't enough time in the day to thank Him enough!**

**Questions:**

1. What kind of water did Jesus say God would give?
2. Peter told the people to repent and be baptized that they could receive what gift?
3. The gift of God is \_\_\_\_\_ life.
4. Where does every good and perfect gift come from?
5. He giveth His beloved \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What three things does God give to a man that is good in His sight?
7. What does He give to the faint?
8. They that wait upon the Lord will renew their \_\_\_\_\_.
9. We should bless the Lord and not forget all His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Verse to Memorize**

**Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.**

**Psalms 68:19.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

God expresses His great love for us through the many blessings and gifts He gives us every day. Every breath we breathe, every moment we live, is a gift from Him. As David said, 'He loads us with benefits daily!' When God gives a gift it is perfect and good; it will always enrich our lives and draw us closer to Him.

Sleep is a precious gift God gives to those He loves. He made us and knows our bodies need sleep. When you wake up refreshed each morning you should lift your heart to God in thanksgiving for such a wonderful gift. It is easy to take these blessings for granted until we suffer the loss of them. Then we realize how dependent we are on each of God's gifts.

Wisdom, the ability to learn and obtain knowledge, how to conduct our lives safely and efficiently, comes from God. It is His mercy when we realize that we need His wisdom. Then He tells us to just ask and He will give us all we need; and He won't even scold us for being so foolish!

Joy and peace come when our heart is in tune with God, when He is living in us and directing our life. We face life confidently knowing He is our Guide and Protector. When the devil comes like a roaring lion he has to back off when he sees we are in God's care. We may lose courage sometime because there is trouble everywhere we look. God promises to give power to the faint!

Peter drew his sword and sprang into action when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. But Jesus calmly told him to put up his sword and then He healed the injured soldier. We must

learn, like Peter, to rely on God's strength instead of our own. The Bible says that those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. Then they can soar over trouble like an eagle. We draw our strength from God; He will never lose His power.

God gave the dearest, most priceless gift He had when He sent Jesus to earth to save us from our sins. He knew the suffering and agony it would cost His only Son whom He loved. Yet this was what it would cost to break the power of the devil and release us from his power. God loved us so much He gave His Son to save us!

Jesus' one purpose was to show us the love and goodwill of God, our Father. He went about doing good, healing the sick and helping the poor. He made people's lives better and happier, yet this was not His ultimate goal. He wanted us to have eternal life; He wanted us to live in heaven with Him forever. Our eternal life cost Him His natural life; we could live only if He died!

While the disciples went into a city to buy food for lunch, Jesus sat on the side of a well. Soon a woman came to draw water. She was surprised when Jesus spoke to her. Obviously He was a Jew. She knew that Jews hated her people, the Samaritans.

When she questioned why He asked her for a drink He told her about the wonderful gift God wanted to give her—living water. At first she thought He meant literal water. She was ready to accept the gift at once. It would be wonderful to never have to come draw water out of this well again!

But Jesus spoke of something much more wonderful—eternal life. She and many others in her town accepted this gift. When they repented and accepted Jesus as their Savior He was like an artesian well that never runs dry. He flooded their hearts with joy, peace, and power to live above sin. Their lives were wonderfully changed by this great gift from God!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

would pay all expenses if they could supply the workers. By now there was a band of keen converts who gladly did whatever was necessary, and they had a church fit to be used. Bob Pearce, an American, was the evangelist, and Dr. Andrew Gilh, the interpreter. Because the ground had been prepared by incessant, earnest prayer, the blessing swept through the city. Hundreds were truly converted, including many university students.

For several months they continued in glorious blessing. It almost seemed that they had gone back to the early church, but later they realized that God was strengthening and preparing them for the terrible days that were to lie ahead for all of them, young and old alike.

The Communist party took complete control of the university and to each of the five hundred students was handed a long form on which was a series of questions to be answered truthfully. Gladys managed to get hold of one of these forms and, because she wanted to understand just what they involved, she tried to fill it in. Some of the questions were awkward, some seemingly irrelevant and utterly ridiculous, such as "Do you know what your grandmother died of? How many children did your uncle have? How much money did your grandfather have when he died?"

There was no mention of religion, no mention of a political party; but right at the end, when one was tired and confused, came the all-important question: "What position are you in? If for the government, put a circle, if against, put an X."

This was the question which meant either compliance with all that the authorities decreed or future unpleasantness. If one put an X it would mean he would be outside the party;

he would have no job, he would be poor, he would be an outcast.

Almost all of those five hundred students had started their education in Christian schools. If they had been ill, they had gone to Christian hospitals because all that was good in health and education had come to the isolated districts of China through the missions. Also, many had been converted during the recent campaigns.

When the five hundred forms were counted, three hundred had put circles, two hundred had put an X! The Communists looked grave. They called together the three hundred who had signed agreement with those in power and told them that there was work for them to do. They could use whatever methods they liked—except that of actually taking life—to force those two hundred into line.

For the next month the most horrible forms of teasing, petty cruelty and unpleasant irritations went on. Then the forms were handed out again. But to the utter amazement of the authorities, there were fewer circles and more X's! How had this happened? They began to make urgent inquiries and they learned that every morning the Christian students had held prayer meetings.

In the university the lectures began at nine o'clock. All the students lived on the campus, and at eight they went to breakfast. But at seven the Christians had gathered in groups for prayer and Bible reading in order to gain strength for the day of testing they knew lay before them.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Living water. 2. The Holy Ghost. 3. Eternal. 4. From God. 5. Sleep. 6. Wisdom, knowledge and joy. 7. Power. 8. Strength. 9. Benefits.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Dec. 4, 2005

## Even Unto Death

(Continued from last week.)

The Communists told the other students to use whatever methods they chose to force the Christian students to give up their faith. But the persecutions only made more reject communism and give their hearts to Christ!

When the Communists investigated they learned that every morning the Christians held prayer meetings. They got up early so they could read the Bible together and pray for strength to face the day of testing that they knew lay ahead of them.

When the non-Christians discovered this, they broke up the group. So the Christians gathered at six o'clock. Again their opponents discovered them. So they rose even earlier and met at five o'clock. So it went on, until by the end of the month some of the Christians were getting hardly any sleep.

The authorities took immediate action. "We'll stop all this congregating together. We'll put an end to all this prayer and Bible reading," they announced.

Each Christian was isolated and put under the guard of ten red-hot Communists for three months. Their every movement was watched. Night and day they were talked at, jeered, and indoctrinated.

The other Christians watched these poor isolated Christians getting paler,

thinner and more haggard. There was no way of contacting them; they trembled to think of what might become of them. They were young in years and many of them only babes in the Christian faith. All they could do was pray for them that their faith would not fail.

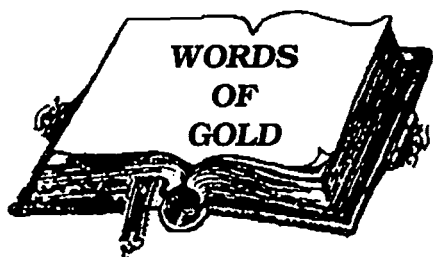
At the end of the three months everyone was forced to appear in the market square. Under a huge squad of Communist police they saw the two hundred students marched into the square. In a witness box stood a man with a list of names. He called out the first name on his list.

A girl of seventeen stepped forward. She was refined and beautiful. Obviously she had been brought up in one of those lovely courtyards that belonged to the wealthy of Peking before the war. She had been sent here for safety—now she stood before her accusers!

"What position are you standing in now?" bellowed the voice of the man in the box.

The girl walked to the little platform. She faltered a little and they thought she was going to fall. Why put this slim, frail slip of a girl up first? they questioned. Poor child, how can she stand?

Then her voice rang out, suddenly clear and strong. "Sir, when I went for my three months' indoctrination I thought Jesus Christ was real. I



## Even Unto Death

### Acts 6:8-15

**8** And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

**9** Then there arose certain of the synagogue,...disputing with Stephen.

**10** And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

**11** Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

**12** And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

**13** And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

**14** For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

**15** And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

### Acts 7:1-2, 54-57, 59-60

**1** Then said the high priest, Are these things so?

**2** And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken;...

**54** When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they

gnashed on him with their teeth.

**55** But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

**56** And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

**57** Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

**59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

**60** And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**The Message: The love of God and his faith in the gospel sustained Stephen even unto death.**

### Questions:

1. Stephen was full of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.
2. What did he do among the people?
3. What did his enemies say he had spoken against Moses and God?
4. What kind of witnesses did they set up?
5. What did Stephen's face look like?
6. Stephen was full of the \_\_\_\_.
7. What did he see when he looked up to heaven?
8. What did they do to Stephen?
9. What was his last prayer?

### Verse to Memorize

**For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.**

**Psalms 48:14.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Stephen loved God intensely. His entire life was devoted to His service. When he accepted the Holy Spirit into his life he was filled with faith and power so that the Lord worked many miracles through him. The people wondered at such great power as he worked among them doing good to everyone he met.

As the people wondered at the power of God shown through his life, Stephen preached to them about Jesus. He told them they too could have power over sin, power to do good instead of evil. This angered the religious leaders. They argued with Stephen and tried to prove that Jesus was not the Christ. But God gave Stephen such wisdom in explaining about Jesus that the leaders were proved wrong. This convinced more of the people who became believers.

The leaders could not refute the truth of Stephen's words. Seeing that more and more believed in Jesus through his preaching, they determined to stop him another way. They hired men to go among the people and accuse Stephen. Wherever these men went, they lied, "We have heard Stephen speak against Moses and against God."

This upset some of the people. With this encouragement the leaders seized Stephen and brought him before the council. Here the men who had been hired witnessed more lies against him. But Stephen spoke even more convincingly, proving that Jesus was Christ and that they had killed the Son of God.

The men were so furious they stopped their ears then rushed at him, seized him and dragged him outside the city gate. Here they stoned Stephen as he prayed that God would forgive them for their awful sin.

The young students in our story

were cruelly murdered because they would not deny Jesus. The love and power of God kept them strong in their faith through all the lies and torments of their enemies. They met death to receive eternal life rather than deny their Savior and be lost eternally.

Satan is just as determined today to get us to deny the Lord. But he has changed his tactics. When people choose death in order to stay true to God it demonstrates the power of such faith and God's faithfulness to keep them strong and true. Many have been convinced of the truth because they saw the power of evil overcome by good, even at the cost of the believer's life.

Now the devil is using more subtle means of destroying faith and belief in Jesus' power to save. He doesn't mind if everyone has a Bible—just so they don't read it. He isn't trying to shut down churches and make it illegal to worship God—he has invented a way to entertain the people so they have not time nor interest for church. He doesn't use the media to denounce God, he just fills it with things that appeal to the flesh. He makes it seem that sports, film stars, wealth and amusements all are far more important than God.

When Gladys read the newspapers she understood why the young man was so burdened to pray for England. Every item of reported news from England, every picture, was concerned with a film star, a sportsman, or a horse race. Not one mention of God! Doesn't this describe our news, too?

England, seemingly so prosperous while other countries passed through terrible suffering at the hands of Communist domination, had forgotten what was all-important—the realization that God mattered in the life of a nation no less than in that of an individual.

From that time Gladys knew that she must go back to the land of her birth. She must return to do what she could to dispel the spiritual lethargy that had overtaken so many. She must testify to the great faith of the Chinese church. She must let people know what great things God had done for her!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

thought the Bible was true. Now I know Jesus Christ is real, I know this Book is true!"

One after the other of those two hundred names was called out and not one faltered though they knew that they would be made to suffer. Every one of them was beheaded that very day in the marketplace! Before each execution the victim was given one last chance to recant. But even those at the end, who had been forced to watch the terrible butchery of all the others, did not flinch.

"Why," people ask, "did God allow it?" Was it because He loved them so much that He took them before worse terrors and tortures befell them? Theirs, maybe, was the easier death. They went straight to those many mansions their Savior had gone before to prepare for them. They had followed Him even unto death.

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Gladys began to feel that she ought to return to England. It had been twenty years since she left. Long ago she had decided that it was unlikely that she would ever return. She was Chinese now in name, in dress, even, in some ways, in thought. She truly loved her adopted people. She knew she was needed here; it had never occurred to her that England needed evangelists maybe even more than China.

After the great blessing in the Methodist Church and in the prison, the newly converted held many prayer meetings. They felt led to pray for definite things. And if one Christian had a specific need on his heart, he voiced it and they prayed on and on about it.

One day Gladys was attending one of these prayer meetings when a young man stated that he felt very definite and earnest prayer was needed for England. At the end she took this young man aside and asked why he had brought the subject before the Christians.

"Don't you think England needs praying for?" he asked.

"Yes, but not as if it is a heathen land, because, after all, it is a Christian country."

"But are they having blessing and revival?"

"I do not know."

"They can't be," the young man answered emphatically. "If they were, we would know it. England, the land that sent us the gospel, is worshiping other gods!"

"What do you mean?"

"To them sports, film stars, wealth, amusement all are far more important than God."

"But how do you know all this?"

"From the papers. I will bring you some to prove it."

A little later he handed Gladys a bundle of Chinese papers. When she read them she understood the burden of his prayers. Every item of reported news from England, every picture, was concerned with a film star, a sportsman, or a horse race. Not one mention of God! England, seemingly so prosperous while other countries passed through terrible suffering at the hands of Communist domination, had forgotten what was all-important—the realization that God mattered in the life of a nation no less than in that of an individual.

From that time Gladys knew that she must go back to the land of her birth. She must return to do what she could to dispel the spiritual lethargy that had overtaken so many. She must testify to the great faith of the Chinese church. She must let people know what great things God had done for her!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Faith and power. 2. Great wonders and miracles. 3. Blasphemy. 4. False. 5. An angel's. 6. Holy Ghost. 7. The glory of God and Jesus. 8. Stoned him. 9. "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.")

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Dec. 11, 2005

## Back To England

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward knew that it was time for her to go back to the land of her birth. She must return to England to do what she could to dispel the spiritual lethargy that had overtaken so many. She must testify to the great faith of the Chinese church. She must let people know what great things God had done for her! By that time things were getting very dangerous. She knew she was under suspicion. She set off for Shanghai without money or clothes, but she knew of a society that might help her.

It was these Chinese Christians that made it possible for Gladys to return to England. Gladys had gone to China with very little except youthful determination. She came back, middle-aged, with absolutely nothing but the knowledge that God had never failed her. Though she might find many things strange and difficult she was confident that God would continue to work for her in England. She was sure that He would supply all that was necessary and lead her a step at a time.

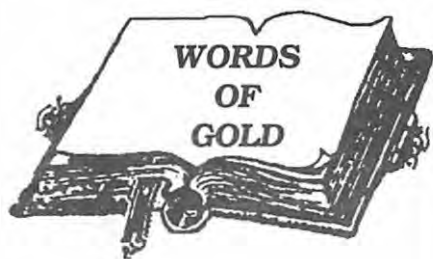
Returning to England, after an absence of over twenty years, Gladys felt almost as foreign as she had felt when she first went to China. She had

taken Chinese nationality years ago, she wore Chinese dress, ate Chinese food and even thought as Chinese people think. England, too, was very different. Now it was a war-scarred country with a carelessness concerning morals that shocked her.

Here in this land with churches or chapels in almost every street, with thousands of ministers, there was a terrible apathy. She had watched hundreds of Chinese Christians, who only a few years ago had been idol worshipers, suffer terrible privations, even torture and death for their faith. Gladys wondered how this so-called Christian land would react if the Communist scourge attacked it.

Even in the churches themselves the Christians appeared lukewarm. The women were dressed in the height of fashion and social events were of much greater importance than the prayer meeting or the spread of the gospel message. It was far harder to reach the hearts of an English congregation than those of the ignorant, heathen Chinese.

Gladys could not go back to China because of Communist persecution, but she often longed for the uncomplicated life she had lived in Yangcheng before war and the powers of evil had swept across her adopted country. Yet she felt God had



## An Angel In The Temple

**Luke 1:5-8; 10-13, 15-23**

**5** There was...a certain priest named Zacharias,...and his wife was Elisabeth.

**6** And they were both righteous before God,...

**7** And they had no child,...and they both were now well stricken in years.

**8** ...While he executed the priest's office before God....

**10** And the...people were praying without at the time of incense.

**11** There appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

**12** And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

**13** But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

**15** For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord,...and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

**16** And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

**17** And he shall go before him...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

**18** And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

**19** And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to...shew thee these glad tidings.

**20** And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

**21** And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

**22** And...he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple:...

**23** ...As soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

**The Message: God sent an angel to the temple to tell Zacharias he would have a very special son.**

### Questions:

1. What was the name of the priest and his wife?
2. Which of them was righteous before God?
3. How many children did they have?
4. Who appeared unto Zacharias?
5. In Whose sight would his son be great?
6. To Whom would the children of Israel be turned?
7. Why didn't Zacharias believe the angel?
8. What was Zacharias' punishment?
9. What did the waiting people perceive?

### Verse to Memorize

**Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me:...**

**Malachi 3:1.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

God is faithful. What He has promised He will perform!

About 400 years before our lesson, God spoke through prophets saying He would send a Messenger before He sent the promised Messiah into the world. This Messenger would prepare the people to accept Jesus as their promised Savior. Zacharias and Elisabeth's son was to be this special Messenger!

For many years Zacharias and Elisabeth's one hope and constant prayer was that God would bless them with a son. Now they were too old to hope for a child.

But nothing is too hard for God. This was the very time He chose to give them their heart's desire. This miracle showed that this child was a special gift from God with a special mission to fulfill.

Zacharias had no clue when he left his home in the hill country of Judah to serve in the temple that something great was about to happen. His duty was to take the censer of burning coals from the great altar twice each day, morning and evening. Then he went into the holy place alone to offer incense upon the golden altar of God.

This time as Zacharias entered the holy place he saw an angel. Zacharias was so afraid that he fell to the ground.

"Don't be afraid," the angel assured him. "I have come to tell you that your prayers have been heard. You and Elisabeth will have a son!" The angel even told him what his son's name was to be.

So, like Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samson and Samuel, John was to be

born to one who had yearned for a child for many years. His birth was a miracle. He was, as his name implied, "a gift of God."

Zacharias was so overwhelmed he could not believe the good news. "How can I know that what you say is true?" he questioned. "I am an old man and my wife, too, is old."

"I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God. He has sent me to tell you this good news. Because you did not believe what I told you and asked for a sign to prove my words were true, you will not be able to speak another word until the child is born." Then the angel disappeared.

When Zacharias finally came out of the temple he could only motion to the people. They wondered why it had taken him so long but he could not explain. They supposed that he had seen a vision.

When Zacharias had finished serving in the temple he returned to his home in the hill country of Judah. He had not been able to say a word since the angel visited him in the holy place. Now Zacharias was sure that the angel's words would come true.

After some months, Elisabeth's neighbors and relatives heard that she would soon have a child. They were amazed. They knew this was a miracle!

When their little son was born, the neighbors and relatives were almost as excited and happy as Zacharias and Elisabeth! When the baby was eight days old it was time to give him a name. Everyone was sure he would be named Zacharias after his father. They were surprised when Elisabeth said, "No, his name is John!"

They then asked Zacharias. He called for a writing tablet. When they brought it, he wrote in plain letters, "His name is John." Then all at once Zacharias was able to speak again. He praised God for giving them this wonderful baby boy. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

brought her back for a purpose and before long He opened up many avenues of service. She had requests from Christian groups all over the country to tell her story. This entailed traveling hundreds of miles, which she did not mind, and writing scores of letters which she hated.

She found, too, that there were many Chinese people in England and realized how lonely they must feel in this strange country. She spoke their language and wore their dress and, like them, had to report to the police as an alien. She began to seek them out. There were scores in London and, in time, they formed a small Chinese Christian church. They had a Chinese worker who met the ships as they came from Hong Kong and Singapore and did their best to make the Chinese sailors welcome. Through them she got news of her beloved, unhappy China. Sometimes she even got messages from some of her children that had been smuggled through. And, oh, the joy of knowing that even under Communist domination the seeds that had been sown in their hearts had been uncrushed. Jesus Christ was still their all in all!

In Bristol and Liverpool Gladys found Chinese in great numbers. She had the joy of leading some of them to Christ and witnessing their baptism. She had been asked to visit Ireland several times but had not felt led to accept the invitation. When yet one more request came in, she felt that for some reason the Lord wanted her to visit Belfast.

When the boat docked at Belfast, Gladys noticed a police inspector and two constables come aboard. A few minutes later a steward approached her and asked her to go to the captain's cabin. There she found the police contingent.

"Madame, the inspector has been informed that a foreign alien is on this

ship, but the only person answering to that description is yourself," the captain said half apologetically.

Gladys laughed, then explained that she was English but had been in China as a missionary for over twenty years. Now, driven out by the Communists, she was back in her native land. But, as she had taken on Chinese nationality, she was regarded as an alien.

"Rather an awkward situation," the inspector said, stroking his chin. "What have I to put on the form? A little English lady, dressed in Chinese clothes, coming to speak in a church—nothing we can hold you for in that, is there?"

Gladys laughed again. "I've been in prison in Russia and in China, so I guess an Irish one won't be so bad." The men grinned in friendly fashion, then the inspector said jovially, "Well, as I can't take you to prison, how about allowing us to drive you to where you are staying?"

"I'll be very grateful," she replied with an inward sigh of relief that things had gone so easily.

So Gladys arrived at her host's house in style. As she shook hands with the inspector, he said, "Now, if there is anything at all I can do for you while you are in our city, don't hesitate to let me know."

Gladys thanked him but felt that there was little likelihood that she would need police protection here.

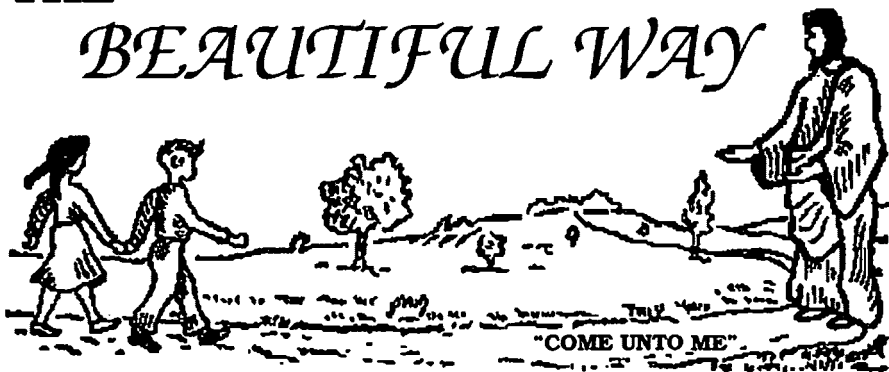
(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Zacharias and Elisabeth. 2. Both. 3. None. 4. An angel of the Lord. 5. The Lord's. 6. The Lord their God. 7. Because he and Elisabeth were old. 8. He was unable to speak. 9. That Zacharias had seen a vision.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Dec. 18, 2005

## Wong Kwai

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward felt that the Lord wanted her to visit Belfast, Ireland. The next day after arriving there she met a Chinese girl on the street. They greeted each other like sisters and talked for a long time. Gladys invited her to the meetings she was having. "Are there any other Chinese in this town?" she asked as they were about to part.

"Yes, three others," she replied. "Can you give me their addresses so that I can visit them?" Gladys asked. She wrote down the information, then added, "There is one more Chinese woman here, but you won't be interested in her as she is in the mental asylum."

They said farewell and Gladys went on her way. At the first opportunity, she decided, she would visit these other people but, of course, the one in the asylum did not concern her.

Returning to her room she knelt to pray but something seemed to hinder her. Then quite clearly a voice said to her, "That woman you heard about is your concern. That is why I brought you to Ireland!"

Gladys went downstairs and asked her host how she could get in

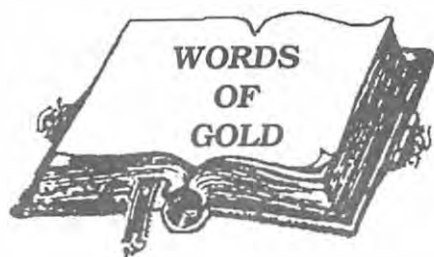
touch with a patient in an asylum. He replied that he had a friend who had access to the place, as he was on its board of managers.

The friend kindly offered to drive her to the asylum the next day and to inform the matron why they were coming. Just before she had left home Gladys had received a package. In it had been a Chinese moon cake. She put it into her bag when they left to visit the asylum.

She was introduced to the matron who handed her over to a nurse. She took her into a room and said she would bring the woman she wished to see. Then she said a strange thing. "Miss Aylward, I believe this woman is as sane as you or I. You will be doing God's work if you can help her."

At that moment a nurse half dragged in one of the saddest specimens of Chinese womanhood Gladys had ever seen—thin, frightened, cringing like a whipped dog. She spoke to her in Chinese, but she did not raise her eyes. She tried to tell her she wanted to help her, but still there was no response.

Then, on impulse, Gladys took the moon cake from her bag and slipped it into her hand. She stared at it, and a queer, strangled gasp came from her lips.



## The Angel Visits Mary

**Luke 1:26-40**

**26** And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth.

**27** To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

**28** And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

**29** And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

**30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

**31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

**32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

**33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

**34** Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

**35** And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall

come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

**36** And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

**37** For with God nothing shall be impossible.

**38** And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

**39** And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

**40** And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

**The Message: God's promise of a Savior was fulfilled. We can always rely on His promises!**

### Questions:

1. Who was sent from God
2. To what city was he sent?
3. To whom was the virgin espoused (engaged)?
4. What was the virgin's name?
5. With Whom had she found favor?
6. What was she to call her Son?
7. How long will His kingdom last?
8. Who else was expecting a son?
9. With Whom is nothing impossible?

### Verse to Memorize

**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**

**Luke 1:37.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Although it had been hundreds of years since God, through His prophets, last mentioned the coming Messiah, those who feared God still waited expectantly for Him.

One writer speculated that as the time drew near for the birth of Jesus there must have been great excitement among the angels in heaven. They knew that this was the most important event of the ages. The Lord, whom they adored, was about to leave the realms of glory to go and live on one of the smallest planets He had created. To show how much He loved all His creatures—even those who had rebelled against Him—He was going to come to earth as a tiny, helpless baby and live as a man among men.

How much the angels understood about this miracle of miracles we do not know, but it must have seemed to them the greatest proof that God is love. They were so touched by this most gracious act that they wanted to tell everybody the wonderful news. How they must have marveled that the people on the earth—except for a very few—did not give a thought to His coming. Nobody was preparing a welcome for Him!

Eagerly they watched as the years of Daniel's prophecy gradually came to a close. Then, at exactly the right time, not a moment too soon, not a moment too late, God called upon Gabriel to fly swiftly to the earth and find a girl called Mary.

The Bible does not tell us just why God chose Mary. But we do know that "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them

whose heart is perfect toward him." No doubt Mary was the best girl He could find in the entire world just then. He had been watching her all her life and knew that her heart was "perfect toward him." He believed He could trust her with this very great honor.

Of course He knew exactly where she was, so when Gabriel went to Nazareth he made no mistake. A moment later he was beside her. "Hail, thou that art highly favoured," he said kindly.

Mary wondered who her visitor might be and what he meant by these strange words. Seeing how frightened she was, Gabriel spoke more gently still. "Fear not, Mary," he said, "for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus."

To Mary this didn't seem possible. Her son to be a king! To sit on David's throne! To reign forever! Oh, no! She must be dreaming. Anyway, it couldn't happen because she wasn't married. She was just betrothed to Joseph, that was all, and she told Gabriel so, in case he didn't know it.

Of course Gabriel knew it, and he was ready with his answer. If Mary were willing, he said, something very wonderful would happen to her; through the power of God she would bear a special Son.

Seeing that Mary still doubted, he told her a secret that must have surprised her very much: "Behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren."

Gabriel must have smiled at her surprise and bewilderment. "With God nothing shall be impossible," he said. Mary bowed her head. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord," she said. "Be it unto me according to thy word."

A moment later Gabriel vanished and Mary was left alone wondering what it all meant. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"A moon cake," she said in Chinese. Then she looked at Gladys, who smiled at her.

"Wong Kwai, I want to help you," she said. "I too am Chinese now. Can you tell me how you got here? Tell me how I can help you."

She stared at Gladys a long time; then from her pocket she pulled a bundle of letters.

"Can you read?" she whispered. Gladys nodded.

"From my son, but I cannot read them," she said in a tragic little voice. Gladys opened one and read it—a simple little letter from a dutiful son begging his mother to tell him where she was and why he had heard nothing from her. Long before she had finished Wong Kwai was trembling, then sobbing in a quiet, hopeless sort of way.

She let her cry for awhile, then said gently, "Now tell me how you got here and I will write to your son for you."

So by degrees the story came out. In China she had been hired by an Irish captain and his wife to act as nurse to their two small children and had come home with them. Then they had left her with the children, in the home of the captain's mother, while they went visiting in England. The old grandmother was a bigoted Irish woman who hated all foreigners. She could not speak Chinese and Wong Kwai could not speak English, so before long trouble started.

Wong Kwai said the grandmother used to fly into terrible rages. One day she attacked Wong Kwai, who tried to defend herself. The grandmother immediately sent for the police and declared that this Chinese devil was a raving lunatic and had attacked her. She dare not keep her in the house a moment longer!

Poor Wong Kwai could not understand what was being said, but the sight of the police terrified her. When they took hold of her to take her away, she screamed and kicked in frenzied terror. There was no one to speak for her, no one could understand her, so she was put into the asylum. For months she had stayed there, a lonely, sad, bewildered little creature.

Then Gladys began the struggle to get her released. She scarcely knew how to begin but suddenly remembered the promise of the police inspector to help her.

He was just the one to help in this matter. He even found out that her employer was responsible for her return fare to Hong Kong. This was the only way he had been allowed to bring her from China.

Gladys had to make herself personally responsible for Mrs. Wong's conduct and sign numerous papers but at last she was free. Gladys could take her to her home in England where she would be treated as a human being once more.

And how Wong Kwai blossomed under her care and love! Gladys never preached at her, but Wong Kwai listened to her prayers and loved to hear Gladys read the Bible stories in Chinese. Then one day she came with her face glowing. "Al-weh-deh, there is peace in here, because now Jesus is here," she said, pressing her hand to her breast.

Gladys' heart sang for joy as she looked at her. What a change from the miserable little stray she had first seen!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Gabriel. 2. Nazareth. 3. Joseph. 4. Mary. 5. God. 6. Jesus. 7. It will never end. 8. Elisabeth. 9. God)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## The "Quiet" Christmas

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys did not plan to visit the Chinese woman she heard was in the insane asylum. She was sure there was nothing she could do for her. But when she knelt in prayer God let her know that she was to go to see her. She, Wong Kwai, was the very reason He had sent her to Ireland!

Obediently Gladys inquired for her at the asylum. Wong Kwai was half dragged into the room. She was thin, frightened and cringing like a beaten dog. Finally Gladys won her confidence and she told her how she had been wrongfully committed to the asylum. Gladys thought of her friend, the police inspector, who had offered his services if she ever needed help.

Through his efforts Wong Kwai was finally released after Gladys made herself personally responsible for her conduct. Together they returned to England.

Wong Kwai loved to hear the Bible stories and listen as Gladys prayed. One day, with her face glowing, she told Gladys, "Ai-weh-deh, there is peace in here because now Jesus is here." As she spoke, she pressed her hand to her heart. Gladys could not help noticing the remarkable change from the miserable creature she had been.

A few days later Mrs. Wong returned with another Chinese woman,

Mrs. Cheng, whom she had met on the street. "I must tell her about my Jesus," she said. And as she puttered about in the kitchen Gladys could hear her explaining in her own simple fashion about the wonderful things that Jesus had done for her. A few days before Christmas Mrs. Cheng accepted the Savior, and together those two little women set out to work for their Lord wherever they could meet a fellow countryman.

At that time Gladys was feeling very tired after a long series of meetings. Mrs. Rosemary Brisco, who had provided a home for her had also worked very hard for the cause of China during the meetings. She agreed wholeheartedly when Gladys suggested that they should have a quiet Christmas for once. There would be only Rosemary, Gladys and Wong Kwai.

Wong Kwai laughed when Gladys repeated her suggestion in Chinese. She had come to know her house by now and knew it was seldom quiet.

The next day Rosemary said, "I have been thinking about poor Mrs. Cheng. She's all alone. We could ask her for Christmas day, couldn't we? Our little chicken will stretch to four."

That evening Peter, a Chinese boy who was very shy, came to see Gladys. "What are you doing for Christmas, Peter?" she asked.

"Well, nothing," he replied.

Gladys looked at Rosemary and she



## No Vacancy!

**Luke 2:6-20**

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which

is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

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**The Message: Had the innkeeper known that the Son of God was to be born he would have no doubt found room for Him. Jesus knocks at every heart. Have you given Him a place in your heart?**

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### Questions:

1. With what did Mary wrap her new born baby?
2. Where did she lay Him?
3. Why didn't Joseph get an icer room for them in the inn?
4. What were the shepherds doing in the fields that night?
5. Who came upon them?
6. Who did he say was born in the city of David?
7. What would be the sign that they had found the Baby?
8. Why did the shepherds hurry into Bethlehem?

### Verse to Memorize

**And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.**

**Luke 2:7.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

If the innkeeper had known that the promised Messiah was to be born that night he would surely have found a place for Mary somewhere, even if he had to give up his own room. What a story he would have had to tell for the rest of his life! But in the hurry and bustle of the moment the innkeeper did not think of all this. Instead, he offered his stable.

"The stable!" Joseph sighed. "Is that all you have?"

The stable! All day Mary had longed for a comfortable place to rest. Now there was nothing but a stable! Surely "the Son of the Highest" should not be born in a smelly old stable!

"This way," Joseph directed her gently. "There's some clean straw over here." Peering through the gloom, Mary saw an empty manger, half filled with hay for the cows to eat.

"This will do for the Baby," she said submissively.

A manger! Yes, it would do, even though it seemed to be a strange place for the "Son of the Highest" to lie. He could not have chosen a humbler place for His coming into the world. Perhaps it was because He wanted the humblest and the poorest to know that He loved them and that He was willing to share their lot.

Then, suddenly, it happened. The wonderful baby was born. And they called Him Jesus.

Imagine for a moment that you are there in Bethlehem that night. It is a warm night so you are lying on a bed on the roof of a flat-topped house. The rest of the family is asleep, but

you are awake, looking up at the sky, trying to count the stars.

You think of all the people who have crowded into Bethlehem. Then your mind wanders to what your father has been saying lately about the Messiah's coming. He said the time is nearly up and that He would be born soon right here in Bethlehem!

Suddenly you see a great light in the sky that looks like a brilliant star. It seems to hover just over the inn! Quietly you creep down the stairs and start in that direction. But then you stop. The light seems to have moved over the fields where the shepherds keep their sheep at night.

Following the light you see a group of men standing open-mouthed as a glorious being talks to them. It must be an angel! You hear him saying, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." "He has said that the Messiah is here, that He has just been born!" you think, scarcely believing your own ears.

"And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger," the angel continued.

Suddenly you see a multitude of shining angels, thousands upon thousands of them, all singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Then as suddenly as they came, the angels disappear.

The shepherds talk among themselves excitedly, "Let us now go to Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass."

You follow them as they hurry toward Bethlehem. Entering the dimly lit stable you see Him! There in the manger is the promised Savior. You bow reverently with the shepherds in adoration.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

could read the words "My poor little chicken!" in her eyes, but she nodded her consent.

"Then spend Christmas with us, Peter," Gladys offered. His shy brown eyes lit up as he accepted.

Before he left, Alan, a French boy who had recently been converted arrived. Somehow, before he left, Alan had also been added as one of their guests.

Early the next morning there was a telegram from Jane, the Chinese girl in Ireland who had first told Gladys about Wong Kwai being in the insane asylum. Jane asked if she could come for Christmas and duly arrived the next day.

"My poor little chicken!" Rosemary sighed. "It is getting smaller and smaller!"

Wong Kwai, however, laughed gaily, thrilled at the thought of her first Christmas as a Christian spent among so many of her own country folk. On Christmas Eve the bell rang and Wong Kwai, who loved answering the door, rushed to open it. They heard her voice rise in joyful surprise, and Gladys translated for Rosemary. "She says, 'The boys have come,'" she whispered. "What boys is she talking about?"

Wong Kwai rushed into the room, her face beaming. Behind her stood three smiling Chinese youths. "The boys have come," chanted Wong Kwai. "The boys have come from Hong Kong!"

"The boys" came forward and bowed low to each of them in turn. Then one who seemed to be the leader explained, "There are sixteen in our party. We are all students, boys and girls from Hong Kong. Just before the ship landed one of the passengers explained that tomorrow is Christmas. All the shops will be closed and the colleges will not be open, so we did not know what to do. Then one boy remembered that before we left home a young man had said to him that if he was in difficulty in England go to one of these addresses."

He handed Gladys a piece of paper and she saw that one address was in

Leeds, one in Manchester; the other was her own. "We three came to find you; the rest stayed with the luggage," the leader explained.

"We must see what we can do," Gladys said. She and Rosemary began to plan. It was impossible for them to provide beds, but not far away there was a hostel that might take them in. Gladys went over and found the landlady willing to have them to sleep, but she could not provide food at such short notice.

So the family had swollen with a vengeance, and even the next morning some others were added. Rosemary's poor little chicken was smothered in great bowls of rice. Wong Kwai joyfully spent the day cooking pot after pot of Chinese food.

The quiet Christmas was only a dream. Gladys didn't even taste a piece of chicken because the guests finally numbered twenty-seven. But what did food matter compared with the great happiness that packed that little home that day, and the blessing of God that followed.

Soon after this Mrs. Wong decided that there was work for her at home. "My son does not know about Jesus," she said. "My aunt, who lives up on the hill, has not heard of Him. I must go back and tell them and many others too." So Mrs. Wong left. They all missed her happy, helpful presence.

Weeks later they received a letter from her son together with a beautiful gown for Gladys. He was full of thanks for all they had done for his mother and said she wished him to say that she still had peace and was telling everyone about her wonderful Jesus.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Swaddling clothes. 2. In a manger. 3. There was no room in the inn. 4. Keeping watch over their flocks. 5. An angel. 6. A Savior, Christ the Lord. 7. He would be wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. 8. To see the Baby.)