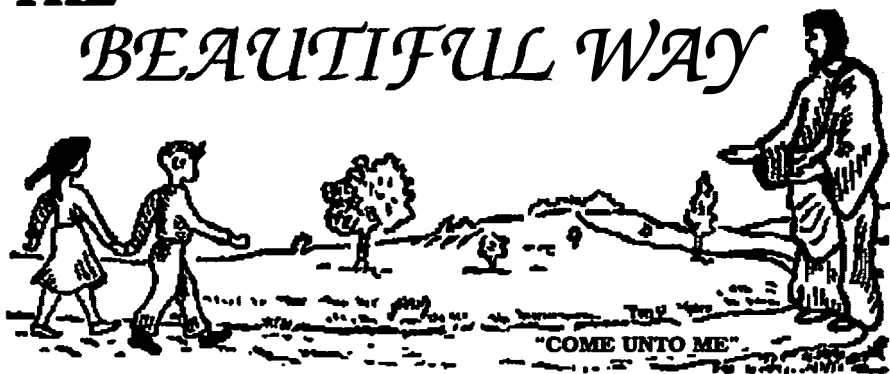


# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 July 6, 2008

## CONQUERING BY LOVE AND COURAGE

Mary Slessor, missionary to the cannibals of Africa became known as the White Queen of Calabar. She was indeed a queen—a queen ruling in love over savages in Africa.

Her work was well described when someone wrote, "In a land of death, she brought a message of life. To souls in deepest sorrow, she brought a message of comfort and hope. To people dwelling in the habitations of cruelty, she spoke of love and kindness."

This was a wild time for the missionary. Hardly a day went by without a serious crisis. Mary knew that she could not expect to change the lives of these savages immediately, but she could not merely stand back and watch these people do wrong! She got little rest and her health was bad. But she was always there when she was needed. Two incidents out of many will illustrate how she defied dangers and conquered cannibals with nothing but love and courage.

Whenever Mary heard of any trouble, she rushed to the scene. Usually two tribes would be ready to go to war. They passed around liquor, danced, and yelled threats at the other side. They were in war paint, and their spears and shields glimmered in the sun. The skulls and scalps of earlier

victims waved from poles.

Then, just as the two sides were about to rush together, they saw a small, seemingly calm woman standing on a log between them.

"Out of the way, Ma. We fight!" She ignored the shouting warrior.

"Out of the way. You die, too, white Ma. Move on!"

"Shoot if you dare!" she called back.

When the two sides came to remove her, Mary knew that she had won. She would scold them as children, plead with them to show mercy, or suggest they move to the shade of a tree to talk. Mary knitted while they talked, and she got a lot of knitting done. After hours of talking the men were calmer and too tired to fight. They went home without bloodshed.

News of trouble might come too late for Mary to get there in time. If this happened, she would go to her table, pull out a fine piece of parchment, and quickly make big marks all over it. She then sealed this with wax and tied it with a great red ribbon. A runner sped this important document to where the fight was about to begin. Mary's scribbles were nothing but nonsense, but none of the Okoyong could read! The warriors would spend the day puzzling over the important piece of paper sent by the "white Ma." They would still be..



## 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: Peter learned that when Jesus commanded to go to all nations He meant that the gospel should be preached to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.**

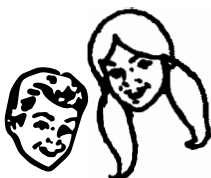
### Questions:

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 . . .

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

He was praying one day 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 seashore. 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 about them both. 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 kinfolk 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 those who listened to him 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 was for people of every nation.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

studying the document when Mary arrived in person to settle the dispute.

After a time, Mary realized that as long as the Okoyong had nothing else to do, they would get drunk, and that always led to fighting. "Perhaps," she thought, "if they knew there was something better, this would stop."

Mary showed the chiefs her nicest possessions: some cloth, a teapot, and an old sewing machine. The Okoyong liked what they saw. "You can have nicer things than this if you take the palm oil and yams to the traders," she told them.

"These things you have—very nice," said one chief. "But it is no good. Traders afraid to come here. No good for us to go to them. River gods kill us."

"I will go with you. You will be safe."  
"No. Too much bad."

Mary told of the wonderful things down the river. Finally they agreed to go and loaded a canoe. The chiefs and warriors shook with fear as they set off towards Duke Town and Old Town.

King Eyo hosted a great feast for the visiting chiefs. He showed them the good things they could have if they gave up their old ways. He told them that the God of the "white Ma" was the true God. Eyo was kind to the poor, backward Okoyong chiefs. Before they left he gave them each presents, including some fine cloth. The Okoyong could hardly believe their good fortune.

As a result of these meetings, the Okoyong region was opened to outsiders. Mary had done what traders, soldiers, and diplomats had been unable to do for four hundred years. There was now a reason for honest work. This experience was a turning point in the life of the Okoyong people.

In time, many of the Okoyong accepted the gospel. Free of their pagan fears and drunkenness, they could now understand God's love for

them. The idols disappeared from the villages and in their place small churches were built. A court system was established to settle disputes and Mary was made the first judge.

Civilization came more quickly to the Okoyong than it did along the coastal regions. For hundreds of years the white traders along the coast had tried to force the natives to change. It was not until the gospel changed the people's hearts that real progress was made.

On Sundays, Mary travelled around the neighbouring villages on foot, ringing a bell, and waited for people to gather. If they didn't, she would go in and find them. Then she would bring them to a meeting area, lay out a tablecloth, open the Bible and preach. Her first sermon in this way was on John 5:1-24 "He that hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not be condemned but pass from death to life."

She brought a message of life and hope to a people dominated by death.

Afterwards, people would ask her to visit their sick. She was also asked to act as a mediator in disputes. She was known as the 'White Ma'. A Foreign Missions Board report written around this time said of Mary, "Her labours are manifold, but she sustains them cheerfully. She enjoys the unreserved friendship and confidence of the people and has much influence over them."

The End

**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. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 July 13, 2008

## GRANNY

Granny was old, possibly 100 years old—maybe older. It seemed that no one knew her history nor her family, if she had one. She had lived near Johannesburg in a little mud hut ever since the old folks of the village could remember. She was not senile; she had been a half-wit as long as any villager had known her. They said she never took a bath. Some said she never even washed her face nor her hands.

Within her hut was a medley of odors; for this reason no one could stand to enter. She had but one room with no windows nor openings except the one low door. The room was always dark. Even a dog's kennel would have been more inviting.

She had no furniture of any kind, so lay on the earthen floor. At night she covered herself with an old blanket, so filthy it was stiff. During the day she sat on the floor. To cook her food, she made a small bonfire in the middle of the floor. Smoke filled the room.

She often went hungry, until Bro. Buchler moved to Johannesburg. He kept her supplied with groceries. Although Mr. Buchler believed in Jesus, he didn't have much understanding about Jesus' power to deliver from sinful habits. Therefore occasionally he added a box of snuff to Granny's basket of food because she had the habit of using snuff before he met her. He also thought that her weak mind would keep her from understanding that it was displeasing Jesus

to use tobacco in any form.

One very cold night Granny rolled herself very close to the remaining embers of her little fire. During the night her blanket caught fire. Feeling warm and cozy, the poor old woman slept even better. She didn't realize the danger until she was engulfed in flames. She ran outside to save her hut. It being on the edge of town, there were no close neighbors. Poor Granny ran wildly about, burning her arms as well as her body by beating the flames with her bare hands.

Finally she fell down from exhaustion. Before morning she had recovered consciousness and crawled back into her little hut. There she lay for days before anyone happened to discover her. She refused help. In spite of filth and neglect, to the surprise of everyone who knew her, she recovered. But the burns had left her almost helpless. She could only creep about a little, and that on all fours. She could not crawl as a child crawls. But on her back, she propelled herself with her feet and elbows. She was merely a mass of filthy humanity, and so crisped by the fire, one could hardly tell whether she was a human or an animal.

Mr. Buchler prayed for Granny although he thought she was not responsible to God for her sins. He always saw that she had food to eat and wood for her fire. Often when he came to her hut he would speak about Jesus to her.

One day after he had taken her some groceries, he returned to his



## 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. Peter was so confident of this that he was able to sleep soundly though he faced almost certain death the next morning!**

### Questions:

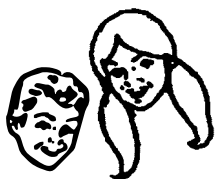
1. What did Herod do to James?
2. Why did he arrest Peter?
3. How did Herod make sure that Peter could not escape?
4. What did the church do while Peter was in prison?
5. Where was Peter sleeping?
6. Who smote Peter on the side?
7. What happened to the chains when Peter stood up?
8. What did Peter think 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. To please the Jews Herod began to make trouble for the believers. First he had James, the brother of John, arrested. Later he ordered that he be 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. When the officers came to bring them to trial the next morning they found the prison door locked and soldiers standing guard. But when they went 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 this was surely a vision, 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 to rescue him!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

beautiful home and announced to his family that Granny had gotten saved. No one believed it, but Mr. Buchler constantly affirmed that it was so. Granny had found peace with God.

"How could one so lacking in intelligence comprehend the way of salvation?" his son Johannas asked. "Why waste time talking to her, or praying with her," he scoffed.

Johannas was one of Mr. Buchler's younger sons. He was well-educated and a very sophisticated young man. He spent a lot of time making fun of the idea of Granny becoming a Christian. It was not long after this, however, that Johannas became convicted and repented. He was a different man. Instead of going with his friends to the worldly amusements, he spent more time at home.

One beautiful Sunday afternoon he wanted to spend the afternoon out, but he didn't know where to go or what to do. He didn't like to visit his old friends, because they thought he was silly for getting saved. He didn't want to ride around town, for there were many temptations to sin. What would he do?

"Go visit Granny," something said to him. That was the last thing he wanted to do, but the thought of visiting Granny just wouldn't leave. Finally he asked his sisters if they would walk with him out to the country to visit poor old Granny. They went.

They arrived at the hut. The sickening odor caused them to step back and not enter. As they looked in from outside where the odor could be tolerated, they saw Granny lying on her back on the dirt floor, her soft dark eyes looking out from a face scarred into inhuman form. They sat down and sang some songs to her. Although the face was too drawn from the burn to smile, they could see her eyes were gleaming. After they had sung, Johannas decided to read to her from the Bible. He opened the Book at random and began reading. He thought it mattered little where he read as she could not understand.

He was reading a description of the appearance of Jesus, as John wrote in the book of Revelation, when Granny said, "Wait a minute! I know that Man! He is the One who comes to see me every night."

Johannas and his sisters were astonished. Again Granny repeated what she had just said. She then told how He looked. Her description was exactly the same as that in the Scriptures, which John had not yet finished reading. She talked for a good while about her visits with Christ.

As they were walking home, Johannas said, "I thought we would encourage Granny, but she has been an inspiration to us."

The children told their father and their friends about Granny's visits from Christ. Soon, the whole town heard it and several went to her hut to see for themselves if it were true. They came away convinced that Jesus had visited Granny.

When Bro. Buchler carried her the next basket of groceries, she said, "You need not bring me any more snuff."

"Why?" he asked.

"That Man who comes to see me every night told me that if I wanted to please Him, I must not use any more snuff."

"So Granny does understand God standards," he thought. He remembered the many years she had lived in darkness because he failed to show her the way to be saved. "Why did I underestimate God's power to reveal light to even a half-wit?" he questioned sadly.

—(Told to Julia A. Shelhamer by Johannas, who is now a pastor in Johannesburg.)

**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. 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. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 July 20, 2008

## LEAD US LIKE A SHEPHERD

Ma was clanking around the campfire when Sally stumbled out of the covered wagon into the bright sun. She could hear in the distance a moaning and groaning—Pa was praying like he always did in the morning.

"What's for breakfast, Ma?" Sally inspected the gathering of pots and pans on the coals.

"Paint," Ma shoved a bucket and brush into her hands. "Pa wants that sign on the wagon spruced up before we arrive in Cedarville this morning. Tell your sisters to get up and then we'll have some hotcakes."

Sally squinted at the lettering on the side of the wagon. "You Have a Saviour?" sprawled in faded white letters. She dipped her brush into the paint.

Before noon they rolled into town. A stern face stared out of the drug-store window as the dingy wagon creaked past. Two ruffled, laced and curled young women on the boardwalk snickered and pointed.

"Do you think these folks'll come to the meetin', Pa?" Sally leaned up to whisper.

"Everybody needs the Gospel of Christ," Pa gave the reins another calm flick.

Cowboys, lounging on the saloon porch, spat into the dust and nudged each other as the droopy horses trudged past.

"Clem," Ma said in a hushed voice, "It doesn't look like they have a single decent person in this town."

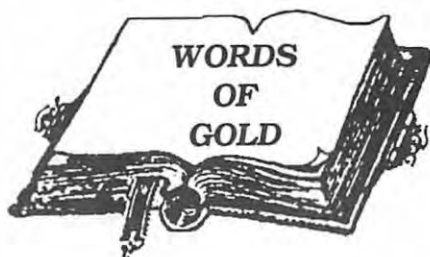
"Well, then it's about time they got some," Pa said cheerfully as he halted the horses in front of the blacksmith's shop. He swung down to tie up. "I'll go check it out. You just wait here a bit." He strode off down the street.

After a moment the blacksmith's door darkened and the blacksmith appeared, hammer in hand. He looked the wagon and Ma and Sally over silently. Ma drew her shawl closer about her and gave a weak smile. He shrugged and went back inside. A few minutes later the ragged cloth of the window curtain lifted a crack and a small wrinkled face appeared. But that was all.

Pa came back with a grin on his face. "Well, there's a Hall down the street that won't be used for gambling 'til tomorrow. So we can use that for the meeting. It only costs a dollar a night."

"Clem," Ma cautioned, "Where are we going to get a dollar?"

"Don't worry, Eliza," he said calmly. "The Lord will provide. The blacksmith accepted my pocket watch as down payment."



## 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 hear-ken, 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 examined the keepers, and commanded that

they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

**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: Those in earnest prayer for Peter could not believe it when God answered their prayers in such a miraculous way!**

### 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 praying 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, everyone 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.

It felt good 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! Jeremiah wrote, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee!" Jeremiah 32:17

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

Ma bit her lip.

"Now you and the children go on down and straighten it up while I canvass the town."

Sally took the feather duster and stirred up some dust while Rose, Marie and Anne picked up beer bottles. Ma swept up the cigar butts, and then they shoved the tables out of the way and arranged the chairs. There was no pulpit, but some chairs served as an altar. They stacked their three song books on the altar and returned to the wagon for lunch.

As the sun started to set at 6:00 they gathered in the Hall and Pa stood up to lead them. They sang "Hallelujah, What A Saviour" and "I Will Sing Of My Redeemer" but no one came. So they sang "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" and "A Wonderful Saviour Is Jesus My Lord." But still no one came.

Finally Pa said, "Let's pray." So they knelt down and he shook the walls with his prayer for God to touch the hearts of the sinners in this town and show them their need for God. Pa was very long-winded and he prayed for half an hour. Ann fell asleep, fell off the bench and bumped her lip. They finally rose to sing again. But Pa started to preach, and she fell sound asleep the second time. And still nobody had come. Finally they got up to sing their last song: "Saviour Like A Shepherd Lead Us."

They sang the whole thing and Pa was about to dismiss when a shuffling in the doorway caused them to turn. An old man, with the same wrinkled face that had peered out the blacksmith window, tottered down the aisle and knelt before the altar. Ma and the girls sang on softly while Pa stooped beside the man. The prayer was rather short but the man got up with a smile.

"Praise the Lord," he said, "I've been in this town for sixty years. I've done just about every wicked thing

you can imagine. Now I'm getting old and I thought there was no hope for me. I heard there was a meetin' but I didn't have courage to come in so I just sat outside. But when I heard those words, it was like angels speakin' right to me: "Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be..." his voice cracked. "I knew that was me. And praise the Lord, He had mercy!"

Well, nobody else came and Pa never got his watch back. But what they remembered most about that town was that song and the one precious lamb the Shepherd found and led back to His fold.

—Sis. Joanna Booher

### *Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

*Savior, like a Shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast brought us, Thine we are.*

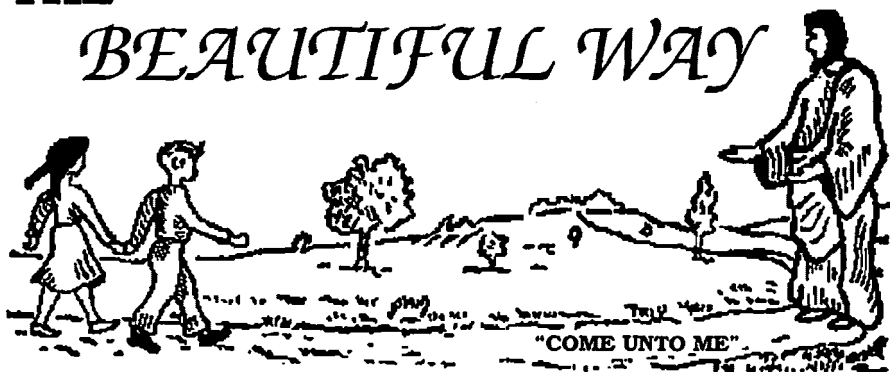
*We are thine, do Thou befriend us,  
Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,  
Seek us when we go astray:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Hear, O hear us, when we pray.*

*Early let us seek Thy favor,  
Early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
—Hymns For The Young, 1835.  
Attributed to Dorothy A. Thrupp  
(1779-1847)*

**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. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 July 27, 2008

## THE CONTEST

"Hey, guys, look here!"

Rex, Homer and John, gathering nuts on the ridge back of John's house, looked up to see Nathan racing up the hill. He was waving a big sheet of paper.

"Hey, look here, guys!" he cried again excitedly, almost pushing the piece of paper into John's eye. "A hobby contest—and the first prize is a trip to Chicago with the hobby editor of the newspaper."

"Say what? Here, let me see." Rex took the paper and looked it over. "Hum-m-m! Not bad. The newspaper is putting on the contest for boys ages ten to fourteen."

"Yippee, that let's us all in," Nathan cried eagerly. "I knew I was making that model airplane for something."

"Are you sure it's finished?" Rex asked. "It says here that they will not accept anything that is not complete."

"It needs the propellers yet, but that won't take long. And maybe I'll make another one—something special," Nathan replied.

"John, your toothpick models will come in right handy," Homer said. "Now, those book ends I started to carve are only half done. I'll sure have to hurry."

"Let's go get to work right now," Rex suggested.

Day after day the boys worked hard. Then one rainy afternoon Nathan rounded up Homer and Rex and they all went over to John's house.

"You'll find him upstairs, boys,"

John's mother told them. "He's getting his model ready for the contest. It won't be long now, will it?"

"It sure won't," Nathan replied, taking the steps two at a time.

The boys found John surrounded by toothpick models. He was working on a huge model of the Eiffel Tower.

"Well, that surprises me," Nathan said. "I thought you'd enter one of those bridges up there. They look pretty snazzy to me."

John grinned. "I've always wanted to make a model of the Eiffel Tower, and I thought I'd take a try at it for the contest."

"Well, it's a humdinger all right. How long have you been working on it?"

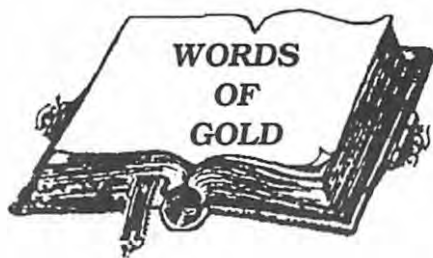
"Oh, about thirty hours, I guess. I figure it will take about five more to finish it," John replied.

"You ought to come with us now," Rex suggested. "All work and no play makes John a dull boy, you know. Aren't there some more nuts up on the ridge?"

"Let's go see," John said, getting up carefully lest he disturb his tower. Up on the ridge John saw some nuts in the top of a tree and climbed up to shake them loose. But as he was coming down he missed one of the lower limbs and landed on the ground on his elbow.

"What a way to get down!" Nathan laughed. But when he saw the look of pain on John's face he ran to him.

"Feels like it's broken," John said,



## **BARNABAS AND SAUL IN ANTIOCH**

### **Acts 11:19-30**

**19** Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

**20** And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

**21** And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

**22** Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

**23** Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

**24** For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

**25** Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

**26** And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

**27** And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

**28** And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the

spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

**29** Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

**30** Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

### **Acts 12:24-25**

**24** But the word of God grew and multiplied.

**25** And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

**The Message: When persecution scattered the believers from Jerusalem, they preached the gospel wherever they went. God turned their trouble into a blessing for many.**

### **Questions:**

1. At first the believers who left Jerusalem because of the persecution preached to only whom?
2. Whose hand was with them?
3. How many believed?
4. Who was sent to Antioch?
5. What did he exhort the believers to do?
6. What kind of man was Barnabas?
7. Who did Barnabas look for in Tarsus?
8. Where were the disciples first called Christians?
9. Who prophesied that there would be a great dearth?

### **Verse to Memorize**

... he ... exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Acts 11:23

# Let's



# Talk . . .

As persecution increased in Jerusalem, more and more people who believed in Jesus moved away. Some went beyond the borders of Palestine into foreign lands. A great number went to Damascus. Others continued until they reached Antioch, the beautiful capital of Syria, three hundred miles north of Jerusalem.

But wherever they went, these believers told about Jesus. At first they told the good news to the Jews only but people of other nationalities began to inquire when they saw the joy and peace the believers enjoyed. Soon they preached to Jews and Gentiles alike and many that heard believed and turned to the Lord.

When the church at Jerusalem heard about the believers at Antioch, they sent Barnabas to visit them. It took him several days to get to Antioch. As soon as he reached the city he hurried to meet the believers. As they came together he could not help being impressed with the great number of Gentiles who now believed in Jesus. What a great change this made in their lives! Barnabas was glad for what he saw and encouraged them to always stay true to the Lord and serve Him with all their hearts.

The believers brought their friends and neighbors to hear Barnabas preach, and many more people were won to the Lord. The church at Antioch was growing so fast that Barnabas needed more help. He remembered that God had called Saul to preach to the Gentiles. Saul was now in his hometown of Tarsus, which was not far from Antioch. Barnabas decided

he would go find Saul.

It had been years since Saul and Barnabas had seen each other and they were glad to meet again. Saul listened attentively as Barnabas told him about the great work that had begun in Antioch. The more he heard the more sure he was that this was a door God was opening for him. He agreed to leave at once.

For a year Saul worked with Barnabas at Antioch. He spoke with deep conviction and earnestness and the Lord made his preaching and teaching successful. It was not long before more believers lived in Antioch than in Jerusalem because the church in Antioch had peace.

People began to notice a sharp contrast between themselves and the believers. They were kind even when someone did them wrong and never returned the evil. It seemed that Christ was always the main theme of their teaching, their preaching and their conversation. Soon the people had a name for these peculiar people. It was in Antioch that the believers were first called 'Christians,' which means to be like Christ.

Prophets from Jerusalem came to visit the church at Antioch. They said God had shown them that there was to be a great famine throughout all the lands.

After some time a great famine did come. Word reached the church at Antioch that the believers in Judea were hungry and in need. At once the Christians at Antioch proposed to help. Each man gave as large an offering as he could. Then the church chose Barnabas and Saul to take this offering to the saints at Jerusalem.

When the two got ready to go back to Antioch, Barnabas and Saul invited John Mark to go with them. He accepted at once and later became a fervent gospel worker.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

trying hard to keep back the tears. "I'd better go."

John's arm was broken. He wouldn't be able to finish his tower model in time for the contest. But he just laughed about it when the boys came to see him. "Guess one of my bridges will have to do," he said. "But I pinned my hopes on the tower."

As the boys walked home, Nathan said, "I think I can help John with that tower."

"Help him! What do you mean?" Rex cried.

"I've been doing some toothpick modeling myself on the side. I think I could finish John's tower for him so he could enter it. There's nothing in the rules against helping each other."

"You know as well as we do that if John's tower gets to the hobby contest we're all dead ducks. He'd be stepping on the train to Chicago instead of you. Let him enter one of his bridges," Rex said.

"Well, I think—" Nathan began.

"Yeah, I know what you think—that because you're a Christian you should help John. Boy, you take your religion too seriously."

"I think it's important to do what the Bible says," Nathan said.

"Just where in the Bible does it say that you should help John finish his tower?" Rex demanded. "Well..."

"See. You don't know," Rex taunted.

"Yes, I do. It says that we are to do unto others as we would like for them to do unto us. If the model airplane I wanted to enter wasn't finished and I had broken my arm I'd be glad if someone would help me."

"Okay, if that's the way you feel," Rex grunted. "Run along and get your good deed done."

Under John's watchful eye Nathan completed the tower and it was entered into the contest.

On the day of the judging all four boys were there to see who had won. Sure enough, John's three and one-half foot Eiffel Tower won first prize.

"I don't get it," Rex growled to Homer

as they walked home together. "How can Nathan be so...? He acted as happy that John won as if he had won."

Homer was silent for a minute. Then he said, "Maybe it's because he has something we don't. I wonder how we could get it? I'd like to be like him. I think he's happier than we are."

—Selected

### *Deeds of Kindness*

*Suppose the little Cowslip  
Should hang its golden cup  
And say, "I'm such a little flower  
I'd better not grow up!"  
How many weary travelers  
Would miss its fragrant smell,  
How many a little child would grieve  
To lose it from the dell!*

*Suppose the glistening dewdrop  
Upon the grass should say,  
"What can a little dewdrop do?  
I'd better roll away!"  
The blade on which it rested,  
Before the day was done  
Without a drop to moisten it,  
Would wither in the sun.*

*Suppose the little breezes,  
Upon a summer's day,  
Should think themselves too small to cool  
The traveler on his way.  
Who would not miss the smallest  
And the softest ones that blow,  
And think they made a great mistake  
If they were acting so?*

*How many deeds of kindness  
A little child can do,  
Although it has but little strength  
And little wisdom too  
It wants a loving spirit  
Much more than strength to prove  
How many things a child can do  
For others by its love.*

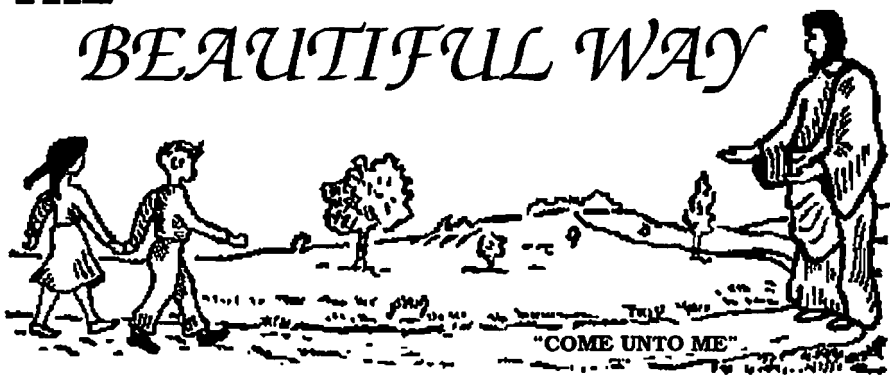
—Selected

**Answers:** 1. The Jews. 2. The Lord's. 3. A great number. 4. Barnabas. 5. To purpose in their hearts to always stay true to God. 6. A good man full of the Holy Ghost and faith. 7. Saul. 8. In Antioch. 9. Agabus.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Aug. 3, 2008

## MIRACLE ON 25<sup>th</sup> STREET

Jim hated to ride the city bus but his dad had forbidden him to take the family car in this neighborhood, and had warned him to keep a constant lookout for muggers. He stepped off the bus at 25<sup>th</sup> and Elm. Glancing quickly around him, he headed south on 25<sup>th</sup>. The area was every bit as gruesome as his dad had said.

He hurried on, watching the house numbers, 1486, 1488, 1490. There it was, a massive concrete building, its corners chipped away by years of wear. Graffiti in red, black and green adorned the cement fence around the complex.

"Apartment number 16-C must be on the top floor," Jim mumbled to himself, as he swished past a bunch of boys sharing a cigarette. Jim looked straight ahead and acted like he knew where he was going; that is what his dad had told him to do. From the corner of his eye, he saw the number 16-C.

Trembling, he prayed, "Lord, give me courage." Then he knocked on the door. The door swung open and Jim was face to face with a huge, wild-looking young man.

"What brought you here?" he demanded.

"I'm Jim Estan," Jim said, "I visit the sick and read to them. I was told that someone here might enjoy a visitor."

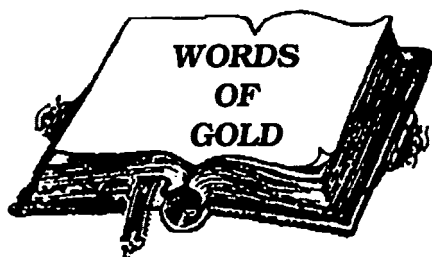
"Ma and me have no use fer folks like you," he said, cursing Jim. "And if ye don't head fer the street, I'll pitch you right over that railing to help ye on your way."

Jim turned immediately to obey, but as he stepped away, he heard a woman pleading. "Buck, Buck, let him in. Maybe he's got the book that tells about the blood."

Instantly Jim knew he must see the woman. Fearlessly he pushed himself past the big wild guy and into the dark filthy room. On a sagging couch lay a hollow-eyed woman. "Does your book tell about the blood?" she asked as Jim stepped close.

"It does," he said. "It tells about Jesus, who loved people so much He gave His blood to save them from sin."

"That's what I want to hear about!" she exclaimed. As she began coughing, Jim found a rickety chair, tested its strength and sat down. When she finally stopped coughing she explained. "I have been a bad woman. I was born to cursing parents, cursed my way through life and have raised a cursing boy. No one knows how bad I've been nor how much I'm suffering, partly because of my wickedness.



## THE FIRST MISSIONARIES

### Acts 13:1-12

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus:

7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

**The Message: As Jesus promised, the Holy Ghost was faithful to direct His followers in spreading the gospel.**

### Questions:

1. Who spoke to the followers of Jesus as they fasted?
2. Who did He say should be separated for a special work?
3. What did they do before they sent these two away?
4. Who also ministered with Saul and Barnabas?
5. The deputy, Sergius Paulus was what kind of man?
6. Why had the deputy called for Barnabas and Saul?
7. Why did the sorcerer withstand Barnabas and Saul?
8. What happened after Saul (Paul) told him he would be blind?
9. What happened when the deputy saw this?

### Verse to Memorize

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Acts 13:2

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The church at Antioch continued to prosper. It grew so large that it took several teachers to minister to the people. These teachers often met with Barnabas and Saul to pray for the work of the church.

One day as they fasted and prayed the presence of God was felt in a very special way. The Holy Spirit spoke plainly telling them, "Set Barnabas and Saul apart for the special work to which I have called them." They all understood that God wanted Barnabas and Saul to go and preach the good news of Jesus' love to others.

This was a new venture and though the church at Antioch hated to see Barnabas and Saul leave they knew God had a special work for them. After a time of prayer and fasting the leaders laid their hands on the two and sent them on their first missionary trip. John Mark went with them.

The first stopping place was at the island of Cyprus. As soon as they had found a place to stay they went first to one synagogue, then to another, telling the story of Jesus to the Jewish leaders. Then they traveled on across the island until they came to the city of Paphos on the west coast.

Sergius Paulus had been sent by Rome to govern the island and made his home in Paphos, the capitol city.

When the governor heard about Barnabas and Saul he sent for them hoping to hear the new doctrine they taught. Saul spoke boldly telling how Jesus had come to save the people from their sins.

But a sorcerer named Bar-Jesus who was also called Elymas, began to dispute the truth. Saul could see that the devil was using Elymas to keep the truth from the governor.

The Holy Spirit directed Saul to warn him, "You child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness, will you always oppose the ways of the Lord? And now the hand of the Lord is upon you and you will be blind for awhile."

From that moment the man could see nothing and had to ask for someone to lead him about by the hand. The governor looked on in amazement. He knew he had seen the mighty hand of God bring judgment against this rebellious man and he was convinced this was the true God.

The governor believed and was numbered with the Christians. This greatly encouraged the missionaries. God had honored their ministry already and given them the leading man of the island.

As Saul continued to work among the Gentiles he was called Paul, the Roman form of his name. "Saul" was a Jewish name and somehow stood for all he had been as a Jew and Pharisee. "Paul" stood for the new man and his new work. From this time to the very end of his life he used this Roman name in signing all his letters.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

One morning I passed a church and went in. At first I just enjoyed the singing. But when the man started preaching, I began looking around. Then is when I saw all the saintly looking people and felt so ashamed that I hurried out. But I did hear the preacher say something about a blood that cleans from sin."

She was out of breath, so stopped talking. Then Jim said, "Would you like for me to read to you about that blood?"

"Oh, yes, yes, don't you see I'm dying," she almost screamed, "and I have so many sins. I'm afraid to die and face God's judgment. Is there any hope?"

"There sure is," Jim assured her. Then opening the Bible he had taken from his pocket, he read, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.' This is true, for God said it, and God cannot lie."

"But what must I do?" she asked, sobbing.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

"I do believe," she said, "But I have been so bad."

"God says, 'Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,' and 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'"

Presently Jim remembered the wild man who had met him at the door, and recalled his Dad's warning to keep a sharp eye for muggers. Hearing a strange noise, he turned quickly and saw the big man crying as he hurried out of the room.

"Read more," the sick woman begged. Jim read to her the story of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and resur-

rection. "What love He had for us sinners," she cried.

Then he read, "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you."

"You see, my sins have been forgiven, and your's can be, too."

"But you are a good young man, you haven't lived bad like me," she protested.

"You need not fear the judgment," Jim said. "Jesus paid the price for your sins."

"Yes, yes," she cried, "I am sorry for my sins and believe God has forgiven them. How happy I am that you came to read with me. Will you please come again?"

"I will come tomorrow after school," Jim promised. She smiled. Jim thought he noticed a smile on Buck's face as he peeked from behind the bedroom door.

Jim flew down the stairs and to the bus stop, forgetting all about muggers and sluggers that surrounded him.

Every day after school Jim visited 1490 S. 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Sometimes Buck opened the door before he knocked. Sometimes he was waiting on the balcony.

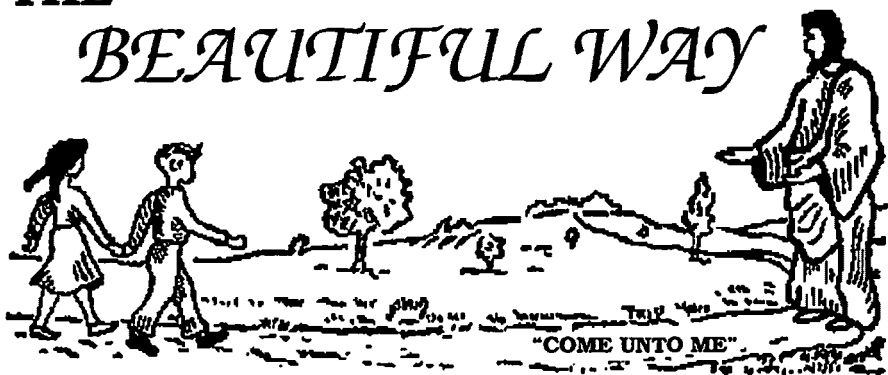
Six weeks later at his mother's funeral, Buck said to Jim, "I want to do what you are doing. Jesus did so much for me and Ma that I want to spend the rest of my life helping others to know Him."

—Charlotte Huskey

**Answers:** 1. The Holy Ghost. 2. Barnabas and Saul. 3. They fasted and prayed and laid hands on them. 4. John. 5. A prudent man. 6. He wanted to hear the word of God. 7. He did not want the deputy to believe on Jesus. 8. He could not see. 9. He believed.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Aug. 10, 2008

## STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN

Patrick tore open the envelope and read the letter: *Come home, quickly! The doctor says Marie will not live. —Mother.*

Patrick took the next boat up the Shannon to Carrick. He would walk the five kilometers on to his home village. While Patrick was on the boat, Marie lay in bed, growing weaker each day and more and more fearful of what would happen to her after death.

"Mother," she said, "It's a dreadful thing to die and be soon in the fire of purgatory!"

"It surely is, my darling," Mother said, as she gazed with tearful eyes upon her failing child. "Oh, that I could die instead! But you have confessed to the priest."

"I have confessed every sin I could remember. What if I have forgotten one?"

"The sacrament of penance and the anointing with the holy oil at the last will take care of that. Trust the priest, Darling, and say the prayers to the Virgin he bade you. That will bring peace to your heart."

"Oh, it is so dark. I want to know where I am going. I want to know more than the priest would tell me. I want to be happy like Cathleen was when she died."

"Your cousin was a heretic. She had no sacrament, no holy oil, no masses, she died in her sins."

"But she said, so peacefully just before she died, 'Though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; Thy rod and thy staff comfort me.' I have no rod or staff to comfort me. I fear the fires of purgatory. Cathleen did not believe in purgatory."

"Hush now, Marie; go to sleep. Forget Cathleen and trust in the blessed Virgin."

"I'll try; but I can't help thinking there must be a way to go straight to Heaven. I wish I could remember all Cathleen said about it."

"We can't go straight to Heaven, we go the way the church directs."

"But it's such a hard way! I fear some may not get out of the fires of purgatory. What if I don't?"

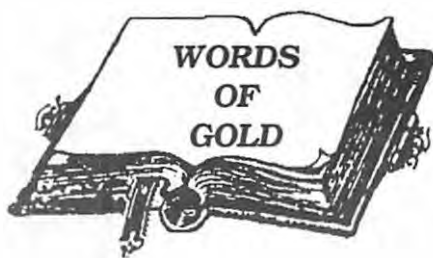
"I'll be paying for mass to be prayed for you. Don't distrust them, Darling. Just quit thinking about it all."

"Why here's Patrick now. He'll help you through these dark hours." After the usual formal Irish greeting, Mother stepped out to report to her mother on Marie's condition and that Patrick had come.

Patrick sat down by his sister's bed with a heavy heart and spoke softly. "How are you? I hope my coming will make you better. I've come a long way."

"I..., I..., am afraid of what will happen to me after I die. I wish I could die happy like Cathleen. I can't believe her soul is in hell just because—"

"Because she believed in Jesus?" exclaimed Patrick. "No, Marie, no. That's the reason she died happy."



## **MISTAKEN FOR GODS!**

### **Acts 14:8-15**

**8** And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

**9** The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

**10** Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

**11** And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

**12** And they called Barnabas, Jupiter: and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

**13** Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

**14** Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

**15** And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

### **Acts 14:18-22**

**18** And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

**19** And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

**20** Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

**21** And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch.

**22** Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith . . .

**The Message: Idol worship makes men say and do foolish things. God gives power and a sound mind to those who know and worship Him.**

### **Questions:**

1. What was wrong with the man at Lystra?
2. Who did he hear speak?
3. What did Paul say to him?
4. What did the lame man do?
5. What did the people say when they saw what Paul had done?
6. Who did they call Jupiter?
7. Why did the priests bring oxen and garlands?
8. What did they do to Paul?
9. Why did they drag him out of the city?

### **Verse to Memorize**

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark left Paphos and sailed to a place called Perga in Asia Minor. It was a hard trip and they were constantly surrounded by many dangers. At times they were tired, hungry and cold. Young John Mark decided to return to Jerusalem at this time but Paul and Barnabas went on together preaching God's word from one city to the next until they came to Lystra.

The people of Lystra listened attentively to the disciples as they preached about Christ. Many were won from their idolatry and were numbered with the Christians.

One day while Paul was speaking to a crowd and telling them about the true and living God, he saw a lame man listening intently. This man had been crippled from his birth and had never walked. Something in the sermon touched the man's heart and Paul could see that the Spirit of God was speaking to him. Suddenly Paul looked directly at the crippled man and with a loud voice said, "Stand upright on your feet!" In a moment the lame man was on his feet, leaping and walking.

The crowd gasped in amazement. They had witnessed a miracle. "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men!" they shouted.

The news spread through the city and mobs gathered to stare at the disciples. They felt their gods, Jupiter and Mercury, had come. Who else could perform such a miracle? They called Barnabas, Jupiter. Since Paul was the chief speaker they felt he must be Mercury.

Soon the priests of the temple of Jupiter came bringing oxen and garlands to the disciples. Men and women ran through the streets telling others that the gods had come down to them. A great crowd gathered at the gate, led by the priests, to offer sacrifice to these gods.

When Paul and Barnabas realized that the people were worshipping them, they were appalled. They tore their garments as a sign of great anguish and ran among the people shouting. Suddenly the crowd became silent—they must hear what the gods were saying!

"Sirs, why are you doing these things? We also are men of like passions as you, and preach unto you that you should turn from these idols and serve the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein!" they told the people. With all that, they were scarcely able to persuade the people that they should not sacrifice to them.

Finally the crowd scattered. Many still wondered just how the miracle had happened. The priests led the oxen back to their stalls in the temple. The excitement turned to disappointment. Those who had been loudest in their praise of Paul and Barnabas now began to find fault with them.

Unfortunately some travelers arrived from Antioch and Iconium. Catching sight of the two missionaries they began to say they were frauds and imposters. This was all it took to turn the crowd once more into a howling mob. Now instead of wanting to worship Paul and Barnabas, the people wanted to kill them.

Barnabas escaped but they caught Paul and stoned him. Supposing him to be dead, they dragged him out of the city gate and left. But as some of the believers gathered around him Paul opened his eyes, stood up and went right back into Lystra!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Jesus comforted her with His love and pardon. Do you think she needed the priest's help?"

Marie stared at her brother. "Sure thing, brother, you've turned into a heretic, too!"

"Never mind; I don't like nicknames; but I have been reading the Bible. It's full of words to sinners that would melt your heart."

"How did you get one? Does the priest know?"

"I sure didn't stop to tell him. I just read and read. Some things are so good—they went quickly to my heart. I wouldn't stop reading it now if I were burned for it."

"What have you read about purgatory in the Bible?"

"Just as much as you see in that empty platter—nothing at all; and I've searched from one end to the other. Marie, it's not part of God's creation."

"Where is purgatory then?"

"Relax, there's none. You shall go straight to Heaven at once, if you do only one thing."

"What is it, Patrick? I will do anything."

"Listen, I'll read you some of the beautiful words."

The young Irishman drew his Bible from his pocket and read, "He was wounded for our transgressions [our sins]. He was bruised for our iniquities..." Isaiah 53:5. 'Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the LORD, for He will abundantly pardon.' Isaiah 55:7. Now, Marie, is it abundant pardon if a person must suffer torments in purgatory to be purged from sin?"

"Don't we have to go through purgatory to be sanctified?"

"No. Jesus said, 'For where remission of these [sins] is, there is no more offering for sin.' (Hebrews 10:16-18.) Jesus already suffered for our sins on the cross. We need not suffer, my dear. Mother need not pay for masses. When Jesus prayed for His people, He said not one word about going through

purgatory. Marie, it is Christ's BLOOD that sanctifies us."

"But, now, what's the thing I'm to do. Patrick, you said if I'd do one thing."

"It's just this. You must believe these things. Do it now and you will have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. 'For being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.' Oh, Marie, can you find it in your heart to trust what God says? It's faith you must get, and not masses. The sacrifice is made, the BLOOD is shed that must wash away all your sins; so what you should do is believe in Christ alone."

"Faith, faith—what is it?"

"It's just believing heartily that what He says is true even before you get what you've been promised. And then, Marie, if indeed you must leave us..." he paused and choked back tears. "If you cannot stay longer here, you will pass without fear through the valley of death."

"Oh, Patrick, this is like taking thorns one by one from my deathbed: and I do think I'll be able to believe it all. But what will the priest say? Perhaps he will say I am a heretic, Patrick." She shuddered at the thought.

"He'll just be doing harm to himself. Never fear. Be true and hold fast to the Lord Jesus and His words, and you need not fear what men can do."

"Sure thing, Patrick—this way is a blessing to comfort us all, whether living or dying. I only wish this sweet story was told everywhere."

"It's God's Word not mine," Patrick said, "And there's another verse that says, 'Happy is that people whose God is the Lord.'"

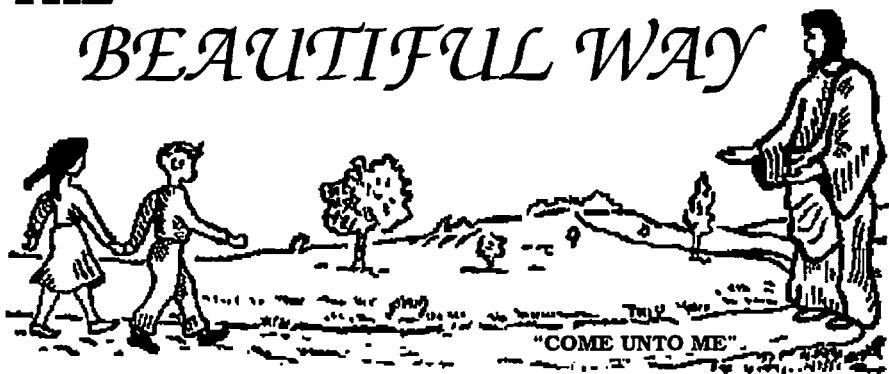
—Adapted by Charlotte Huskey

**Answers:** 1. Hewas crippled. 2. Paul. 3. "Stand up on your feet!" 4. He leaped and walked. 5. "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. 6. Barnabas. 7. To offer sacrifice to Barnabas and Paul. 8. Stoned him. 9. They thought he was dead



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Aug. 17, 2008

## I BEFORE E

"So you're to have a test in spelling tomorrow?" asked Grandpa with a teasing pull at Carla's black curl. "Well, if you make 100% on it, I'll give you a dollar."

Carla laughed. If she failed to make 100% on that spelling test, it would be the first in a long time. She got an "A" in spelling on her report card every month. She ran for her spelling book and began studying. Wow! A whole dollar was a lot of money.

"What will you buy with a dollar?" Grandpa asked.

Carla kept on studying.

"Pay attention to your Grandpa," Mother whispered. "He won't be here long."

"Okay," Carla promised, but kept on studying.

Grandpa looked at Carla and made himself more comfortable in the big chair by the window. Presently he asked, "Whose puppy is this out here?"

"Carla," Mother whispered again. "Grandpa spoke to you."

Carla got up obediently and went to Grandpa's side.

"It's my puppy and he's really smart," she said.

"You must show me what tricks he can do," suggested Grandpa.

"I'll do that tomorrow after school," promised Carla as she ran back to her speller.

Just before bedtime Grandpa asked, "Want to hear a story, Carla?"

"Oh, Grandpa, I love your stories, but tonight I must study." She meant to study the next morning, too, but she didn't get up when Mother called and then it was too late.

"Good-bye," said Grandpa. "I'll have that dollar ready for you. I hope you do what it takes to get it."

"I'll try," Carla answered, smiling.

As the teacher was giving the words that morning, Carla spelled each one easily. She wrote them in nice plain letters like her daddy had said so anybody could read them. He had told her he wished some of the businessmen he knew would write half as well as she did. Carla always laughed when he said that.

There were twenty words in the test. Fifteen had been given out, and Carla was sure she had written each one correctly.

"Believe," called out Miss Mitchell.

It was at this point that Carla became flustered. "B-e-l-i-e-v-e," she spelled the word silently in her mind. "Is that right? No. Let's see, 'B-e-l-e-i-v-e.' Now—yes, that is right." She began writing the word.

Then she heard Billy from across the aisle faintly saying, "I before E." Of course, of course! Carla knew that old spelling rule in rhyme:

I before E,  
Except after C,  
Or when sounded like A,  
As in neighbor and weigh.



## THE CALL TO MACEDONIA

### Acts 16:9-19

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, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia. . .

12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

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, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

16 And it came to pass, 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, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers.

**The Message: The disciples were careful to follow where the Spirit led them. Their prompt obedience took them to those whose hearts the Spirit had prepared to hear the truth.**

### Questions:

1. What appeared to Paul in the night?
2. Where was Paul asked to go?
3. To what chief city did they go?
4. Where did they go for prayer on the sabbath?
5. What woman did they meet there?
6. What did she beg the disciples to do?
7. Who met them as they went to prayer?
8. What did she do day after day?
9. What did Paul do to the spirit of divination?

### Verse to Memorize

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils. . .

Mark 16:17

# Let's



## Talk . . .

After some time Paul and Barnabas decided to return to Asia Minor. They wanted to revisit the churches that had been established on their first trip. They wanted to know how these saints were getting along. They knew that the new converts needed all the encouragement that they could get.

Barnabas suggested that they take John Mark along as they had before. But Paul refused because he had deserted them on the last trip. So Barnabas took Mark and boarded a ship destined for Cyprus while Paul chose Silas to travel with him.

They did not stay long in each place. Their mission now was not to establish new congregations. That had already been done and Paul was overjoyed to see how the church in each city had grown since his first visit. He was greatly encouraged.

After visiting these churches, Paul and Silas wanted to go where the Gospel had never been preached before. They decided to go to Bithynia but God let them know that they were not to go there. So, Paul and Silas talked things over, and then decided to go to Asia, preaching along the way. But the Spirit of God spoke to them very plainly saying they should not preach in Asia. Now they were perplexed and wondered just where God would finally lead them. They traveled through Mysia but were not given an opportunity to preach there. Coming to the port of Troas, Paul and Silas lingered there wondering where the Lord might want them to go.

Day after day Paul and Silas waited. Then one night as Paul was sleeping,

God spoke to him in a vision. In it he saw a man from Macedonia who begged him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Paul and Silas were soon on their way to Philippi, a chief city of Macedonia.

It was their custom to go to the synagogue in each city but there was no synagogue here because so few Jews lived there. Those who did live there met each Sabbath day for prayer outside the city on the bank of a river. The group was small, consisting mostly of women. The disciples sat down and spoke with these women.

Among the group was Lydia. Her heart was touched by the Gospel and she gladly accepted Jesus as her Savior. She was baptized and all her household followed her example. Then she insisted that Paul and Silas stay at her home.

All seemed to be going well when they unexpectedly ran into trouble. There was a poor slave girl who was possessed of an evil spirit. She could tell fortunes, and people came to her and she would tell them what would happen in the future. Her master made much money by charging those who came to her.

This girl perceived that Paul and Silas were sent of the Lord. Day after day she would follow them through the streets shouting to those who passed by, "These men are the servants of the most high God!"

One day Paul turned to her as she followed and commanded in the name of the Lord Jesus that the evil spirit come out of her. The girl stood still, astonished that she was at last free of the imposition of the devil. How free and happy she felt!

Her masters, however, were furious! These Jews had destroyed their means of livelihood. Seizing Paul and Silas they dragged and pushed them through the streets toward the marketplace.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

She wrote the word quickly. Miss Mitchell had already called another word. Carla wrote it and the other three. The test was over. The monitor took up the papers. Carla was sure she would get 100%. The bell rang for recess and the children filed out.

But Carla couldn't play. She stood by herself and was glad when the bell rang to go back into the school building.

The day wore on. Finally Miss Mitchell handed back the spelling test papers. Carla quickly looked at hers: 100%. Her face flushed hotter and hotter. She lay her head on the desk and began to cry. She just couldn't help it.

"Why, Carla, what is the matter?" asked Miss Mitchell.

"I made...I made...a 100%," gulped Carla.

"You usually do. I would have been surprised if you had missed a word."

"But...but I would...I would have...if I hadn't heard Billy."

Squatting beside Carla's desk, Miss Mitchell said kindly, "Tell me about it."

Carla explained, "I was writing the word wrong when I heard Billy whispering to himself, 'I before E.' Then I spelled it right. I...I didn't really earn a 100%, did I?"

"Not really if you spelled the word right only because you heard Billy saying the rule," Miss Mitchell said slowly. "But I'll say this," she said, standing to her feet so all the room could hear, "Carla has earned a 100% in honesty. I'm so proud of her. She refused to keep a perfect grade that didn't belong to her." Miss Mitchell changed Carla's grade to 95%.

Carla swallowed hard. She would not get the dollar.

That evening, while Carla stood beside Grandpa in his chair, she told him why she did not get a 100% on the spelling test. Grandpa's arm tightened around her as she finished and Mother smiled in approval.

"Well, now, do you know what I'm going to do?" he said. "I have to leave this weekend, but I'm going to give this dollar to your mother. You'll be having another test soon. If you make 100% on your next spelling test, this dollar will be yours."

Carla threw her arms around Grandpa's neck. She was going to study, but not so hard that she would have no time to be nice to Grandpa if he happened to be there.

—Adapted by Charlotte Huskey

### A HIDDEN TREASURE

Old Joel was a Christian who hid his money between the pages of his Bible. He thought the money would be safe there.

One night some robbers broke into his house. They hunted all over for his money. They emptied his drawers, they ransacked his cupboards, they lifted up his carpets, they looked behind the pictures. But they didn't find any money. They never thought of looking in the Bible which was laying in plain sight on the living room table.

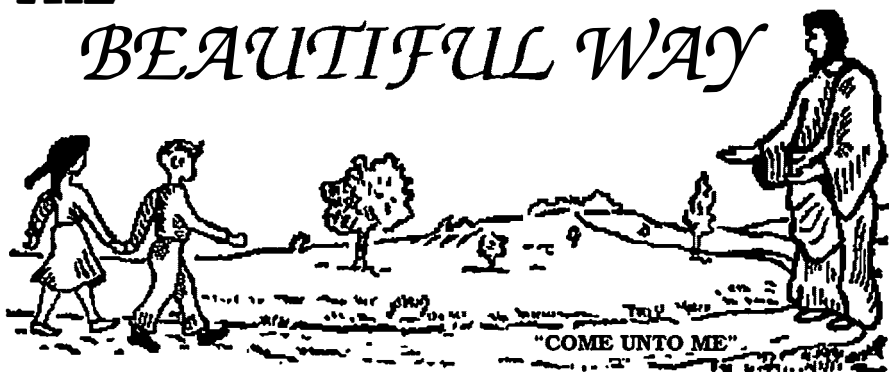
There are many treasures found in the Bible. We may all find some of these treasures. It is full of precious ones. The very best treasure found in the Bible is the plan of salvation. By following it, one can escape going to hell.

We must love and read the Scriptures daily. Reading a precious promise of God is like finding a new treasure. The Word is able to make you wise unto salvation, which will lead you to that everlasting heavenly home. That will be the grandest treasure that anyone can find. —Selected

**Answers:** 1. A vision. 2. To Macedonia. 3. Philippi. 4. Out of the city by a river side. 5. Lydia. 6. To stay at her house. 7. A girl possessed with a spirit of divination. 8. Cried after the disciples as she followed them. 9. Commanded it to come out in the name of Jesus Christ.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Aug. 24, 2008

## ANN'S SURPRISES

Ann Claybourn was listening to her father talking on the phone. "What? He's earned a lot of money? Maybe he'll help me get that car I've wanted so long," Ann said to herself. "I know he can afford it now."

To her surprise, her father readily consented and the following day they bought her new car.

"I'll keep it new and beautiful," Ann promised, "and drive very carefully."

Not long afterwards her father said, "I must go to a banker's association meeting and Mother is going with me. I talked with your Aunt Lana today and she'll be glad to have you. She said your Cousin Janice has been wanting you to visit her. Why don't you drive into the city and stay with her while we are gone?"

Ann started to refuse, for Janice's family were not Christians. And too, she hated to miss church. But on second thought she did not want to stay alone and she had not become close friends to any girl at church. So she said, "All right."

Janice's head bobbed merrily as she talked, "Sure glad you came, Ann. We'll have great times together."

Ann soon discovered the "great times" Janice planned were going to

dances, movies and nightclubs. How could she tactfully tell Janice she didn't want to go?

All through the night and the next day, while Janice was at work, she wondered what she should say. That evening Janice told her about a movie they'd be seeing. Ann said, "I know you think I will be missing a lot of fun but I don't want to go. I know you don't understand, but if you would take Jesus into your heart you would."

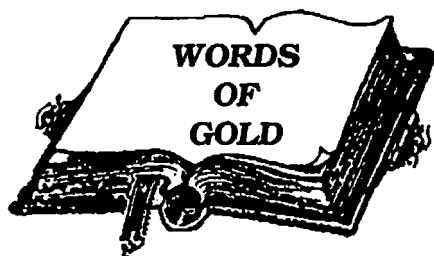
"Being a Christian may be all right for some, but I don't want it," replied Janice, as she twisted a blonde curl. "Listen, I'll make a bargain with you. If you'll go with me to Club Paramount tomorrow night I'll go with you to church on Sunday night."

It seemed like a fair offer and at first Ann thought it might get Janice interested in church. But how could she take Jesus with her into a night club? "Janice, do you think Jesus would go to a club for fun?"

"No."

"I can't go anywhere without Jesus. And you wouldn't think I was a good Christian if I went, would you?"

Janice looked at Ann and smiled. "Maybe you are right. I believe if a person is going to be religious he shouldn't do a half-way job of it. But I hope you'll excuse me this one night.



## **SINGING IN JAIL**

**Acts 16: 19-20, 22-34**

**19** And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

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

**22** . . . 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:

**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: and the prisoners heard them.

**26** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

**27** And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

**28** But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

**29** Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

**30** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

**31** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

**32** And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

**33** And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

**34** And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

**The Message: When we do the will of God we can rejoice even in trouble, knowing that He has allowed it and is with us.**

### **Questions:**

1. What did the magistrates do to Paul and Silas?
2. Who did they charge to keep the disciples safely?
3. What did he do to accomplish this?
4. What did the prisoners hear at midnight?
5. How were all the doors opened and everyone's bands loosed?
6. Why was the keeper of the prison going to kill himself?
7. How did Paul prevent him from doing this?
8. What did the keeper ask the disciples?

### **Verse to Memorize**

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. Acts 16:25

# Let's



## Talk . . .

An angry mob pushed and dragged Paul and Silas along the city streets. As they shoved them in front of the magistrates they shouted, "These men are Jews who are causing great trouble in our city!"

Without any trial or further questions the magistrates tore off the disciples' clothes and then commanded that they be beaten. As they cringed with pain, the blows fell on their bare backs until they were bruised and bleeding.

Paul and Silas were then led to the prison and handed over to the jailer. Special orders to keep these prisoners secure made the jailer extra cautious. He led them into the inner dungeon then fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight the other prisoners heard strange sounds. They were used to hearing moaning and curses, but someone was singing! While they were still trying to make out the words, they suddenly heard a low rumbling sound that grew louder and louder. The ground began to tremble and soon the floor buckled and heaved. Then part of the ceiling fell with a crash and the doors were wrenched from their hinges. The stocks broke loose as the walls crumbled. The very foundations of the great dungeon were broken up!

The jailer woke up with the shock and leaping from his bed wondered if any of his prisoners had escaped. His first glance confirmed his worst fears—the doors were wide open or torn from their hinges. He quickly

pulled his sword from its sheath. It was better to end it all now rather than face a trial and public execution later.

In the glow of torchlight Paul saw him put his sword to his throat. A voice out of the darkness startled the jailer. "Don't harm yourself," the voice said loud and clear. "We are all here."

Trembling, the jailer reached for his torch and sprang into the dungeon where he fell at Paul and Silas' feet greatly shaken. Bringing them out of the ruins of the prison he exclaimed, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Gladly Paul told him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, and all your family."

Taking them to his home where his wife and children were, the jailer washed the disciples' bloody backs. That night Paul talked to them all about Jesus. Before the day dawned a whole family had become Christians and was baptized one by one.

Returning to the jailer's home, a good meal was prepared and served to Paul and Silas. Together they rejoiced knowing that their sins were forgiven. They marveled at God's great love. He had caused a terrible earthquake and because of it they heard the good news of Jesus and salvation!

At daybreak the magistrates sent messengers telling the jailer to free Paul and Silas. Quickly he gave this message to the two disciples knowing they would be glad.

But Paul's response was not as he expected. "They have beaten us publicly even though we were not condemned of any crime," Paul said boldly. "We are Romans, yet we were thrown into prison without a trial. Now do they want us to leave secretly? No! Let them come themselves and release us."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

My friends will be terribly disappointed if I don't go."

"That's okay," said Ann. "I saw a mission down the street where I'd like to go tomorrow night."

"But there's something else," continued Janice, "I told my friends you would be taking us in your new car."

"You can take it," said Ann, forgetting about the promise that she would take good care of her new car.

Janice was not home when Ann returned. Her Uncle Ed and Aunt Lana were, so she visited awhile with them before going to bed.

At two o'clock in the morning Ann was awakened by her Aunt Lana sobbing. "Oh, Ann, Janice has been in a car wreck. She's in the hospital. We are going at once. Do you want to go?"

"Yes, yes," Ann said. She jumped out of bed and dressed. Immediately Ann remembered her promise to take good care of her car. All the way to the hospital, she wondered how badly Janice and her car were hurt.

Janice was conscious and talked to them, however her arm and three of her ribs had been broken—besides cuts and bruises on her head and body. A train had hit her car. "Not much hope for it," Ann thought, "but thank the Lord Janice was not killed." Two of her friends were killed instantly. Three others were in critical condition. The hospital seemed to be full of parents. They were crying, cursing and wanting to know who was driving and if they were drunk.

During the next few days, Ann visited the hospital regularly. Not once did she complain about her car. As they talked day after day, Ann sensed that Janice realized sin had caused the wreck. She talked earnestly to Janice about the Savior.

After Janice came home, Ann stayed another week to talk more about Christ. Before Ann's parents

came for her, Janice had given her heart to God.

On the way home, Mother had much to say about their trip. That evening at the dinner table Father had another surprise for Ann. "At the meeting I met Dale Hartley, my old college chum. We've kept in contact through the years, and he is awesome! Well, I had a long talk with him and he too, has become a Christian. Considering the great change it has caused in his life, and what he's done in his community, I'm convinced that a religion like he and you have is better than the formal kind."

"Then you and Mother might be going with me to the little church on Eighth Street?"

"I think we will. And we'll be getting you another car as soon as the insurance money comes in," Father said.

—Adapted by Charlotte Huskey

## HOW SHE KNEW

A poor Italian lady was asked how she knew the Bible was the Word of God. At first she became confused and could not answer. But suddenly she turned to her inquirer and asked, "How do you know there is a sun in the sky?"

"I feel its warmth and I see its light," was the reply.

"Just so!" cried the poor woman joyfully. "That is how I know that the Bible is from God, for it warms my heart and lightens my soul."

**Answers:** 1. Tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten. 2. The jailor. 3. He threw them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 4. Paul and Silas praying and singing praises to God. 5. By a great earthquake. 6. He supposed all the prisoners had escaped. 7. He called out, "Do not harm yourself. We are all here!" 8. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Aug. 31, 2008

## A NARROW ESCAPE

Tom thought he had the matter about his soul all taken care of. "I'll do like old Mrs. Sliphouse," he said. "She was saved a few hours before she died. I'll be a good boy, at least when I want to be, but when I feel like being mean to pay someone back, I'll see that they get their pay! Sometimes I may go to a party and get a little drunk, or do some other things that Christians should not do. But that won't cause my soul to be lost, for I will repent when I'm about to die."

He raised his eyes and looked at the birds that flew overhead. "Yes, I'll be free like the birds, until just before I die, then I will repent and confess Jesus as my Saviour. Why should I be burdened with the strict, careful rules of a Christian, when I can go to Heaven the easy way? God is a merciful God, and when I cry for mercy at the end of my life, He will hear me." The matter was settled; Tom went on his way.

Years passed. Tom grew up and joined the army. He was sent to a country across the ocean. He found many interesting things to do, some of which were very godless. What he had not realized, when he made the decision to do what he wanted to do instead of living by Christian rules, is that the pleasures of sin never satisfy. After he did sinful things, he became

hungry to do other sinful things.

Some of the pleasures he enjoyed were not sinful. One day he went hunting with friends in the jungle. A tropical storm blew in, and the hunters were drenched before finding shelter. Tom became thoroughly chilled during the long hike out of the jungle. By the time he reached the army quarters, he was burning hot with fever and seriously ill. He was hospitalized.

One day as the army doctor stood at Tom's bedside, Tom noticed he was looking very serious. "Is...my condition...that...bad?" Tom asked gasping for breath.

"Pretty bad," the doctor answered.

"You're my...friend,...tell me...the truth." Tom paused to gain more strength. "Am I...I...going to...to...die?"

"I can't tell you that!" the doctor answered. "Only God knows. But I think I can give you a better answer in another hour or two."

"Please,...tell...me something!"

Tom begged, as he clutched the doctor's arm.

"Tom, I don't want to scare you. But you are my friend, and I do want you to know the truth. Your condition must show marked improvements within the next hour or you may not see tomorrow. If there is anything you would like done I will send you a special aid. Shall I send one?"



## MARS HILL

**Acts 17:16, 19-20, 22-25, 28-32**

**16** Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

**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.

**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 any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

**28** For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

**29** Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

**30** And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

**31** Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

**32** And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

**The Message: Paul was anxious to introduce everyone to the true God.**

### Questions:

1. Where was Paul?
2. Why was his heart stirred?
3. Where did Paul preach to the people?
4. What was written on one of the altars?
5. What did he tell them God made?
6. In whom do we live and move and have our being?
7. How should we know that God is not like images that men make?
8. What does God command all men to do?
9. While some mocked, what did others do when they heard of the resurrection of the dead?

### Verse to Memorize

Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. Acts 17:29

# Let's



# Talk . . .

The believers knew Paul and Silas were in great danger, especially Paul. A band of zealous Israelites from Thessalonica had launched an attack specifically aimed at Paul because they considered him to be the leader of the believers. Fearing that he would be the victim of another vicious assault, they had Paul set sail at once for Athens.

Silas felt reasonably safe, so he stayed on in Thessalonica. It was agreed that Silas would join Paul in Athens as soon as his work was done.

So his friends left Paul alone in Athens, one of the most beautiful cities of the world. The people here were well educated. There were many temples and works of art. Along every street and in every square could be seen statues and altars—shrines built for the worship of many gods. Paul marveled as he read the inscriptions and admired the beauty of the statuary, much of it done in marble by some of the greatest workmen. But his heart was stirred with pity as he thought of the blindness of the Athenian people.

Here the people worshiped heaven gods, and there were idols everywhere. He was grieved by the blindness of these educated people. He felt sad because the people did not know the true God of Heaven.

On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue to preach the Gospel to his own countrymen first. It seemed no one was interested in hearing about the great salvation Jesus had provided through His cruel death.

Discouraged, Paul left the synagogue and began to preach in the streets and at the marketplaces where the crowds gathered.

Occasionally sincere people would ask him questions about the Gospel. As he taught them, a curious crowd would gather to listen. It was hard for them to understand about Jesus and His resurrection. They thought that Paul spoke about a strange god from another land. Many of them loved to argue and spent the whole day going from one philosopher to another in an attempt to hear some new doctrine that could become popular in Athens for a season.

The great men of Athens heard about Paul and wanted to meet him and hear what he had to say. These men took Paul to a hill that overlooked Athens. This place was called Mars' Hill. It was one of the most sacred spots in all Athens. Here, the great men of Athens met to make important decisions. Around Paul gathered artists, poets and the wise men of Athens, all interested in hearing something new.

Paul begged God for wisdom as he said, "You men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are too superstitious. As I passed by and watched your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.' This is the God that I declare unto you!"

He had the full attention of the audience at once. They leaned forward to catch every word he spoke as he continued, "God made the world and everything in it. Since He is Lord of Heaven and earth, He does not live in temples of stone that men make."

Then as he went on to tell them about Jesus, the wise men shook their heads doubtfully. Others mocked, but some said, "We would like to hear more about this!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Tom thought just a moment, then he remembered that he planned to get saved just before he died. "I...I...want to...to...be...left alone," he told the doctor.

After the doctor left the room, Tom looked at his watch. "One more hour and I shall know if I will be in a casket tomorrow," he said within himself. "Now is the time when I must call on God for mercy."

He looked up at the ceiling, and out of the window. He lay still, watching the clouds drift by, all the while trying to think how he would ask God to save him. He tried to collect his thoughts. He looked at his watch. Fifteen minutes had passed already!

His thoughts were running wild! He thought of his mother, his father, his sisters and brothers, all his family— aunts, uncles, cousins—and his friends across the ocean. What were they doing? How would they feel when they heard of his death. He could picture them crying. What should be his last words to all of them? He looked at his watch again. Only twenty minutes left!

Distress filled his heart! He tried to think of words to form his cry for mercy. It was useless! In horror he realized that he was too ill and excited to concentrate his thoughts on prayer.

What! Only three minutes left? With a struggle he managed to get on his knees, and began to repeat, "Our Father, which art in —" He could get no further! The burning fever kept him from remembering the next word. Too weak to stay on his knees, he fell flat on the bed.

"Too late to cry for mercy," was his last thought.

The next thing Tom knew, the doctor was standing over him, "You are better," he said.

After recovering, he was sent home. The excitement of seeing his family and friends again caused Tom to for-

get about his narrow escape with death. One day, however, a cousin invited him to a mission service.

"Christ came into the world to save sinners," the preacher read from I Timothy 1:15. Like a flash Tom saw himself again in the hospital bed. He remembered the struggle to get to his knees, and how he couldn't cry for mercy, nor remember the Lord's prayer.

"I know I cannot call for mercy just before dying," he said to himself, "I must get saved today if I am to be saved."

"Now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation," the preacher read.

"I believe that today is the day for me to be saved," Tom told the preacher when he went to the altar. "I know that a person must be saved when God calls. People cannot get saved just anytime they want to."

—Selected

A little girl sat at the table alternately stirring and sipping her drink. Presently, with tears of disappointment in her eyes, she exclaimed, "Mother, it won't come sweet!" Then the mother realized that she had forgotten to put in the sugar. This done, the sugar itself did the rest.

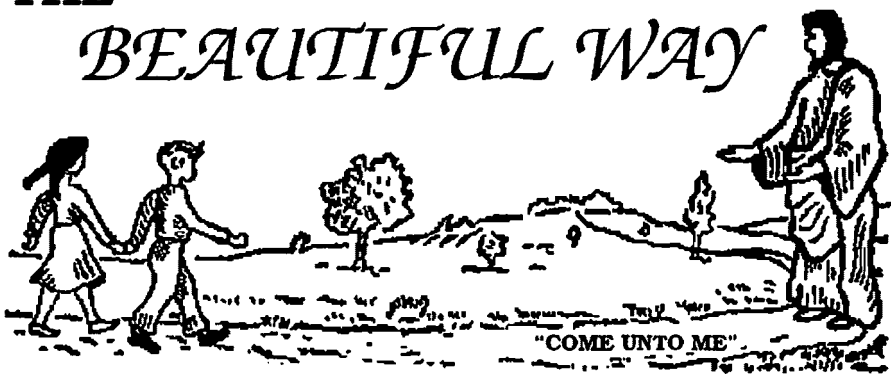
No amount of stirring or trying can make our lives sweet; but when we let the Lord Jesus enter and take possession of our hearts, He makes them pure and lovely. Sweetness of life is only possible as He who is the sweetness dwells within.

—Selected

**Answers:** 1. At Athens. 2. He saw that the entire city worshiped idols. 3. On Mar's hill. 4. TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. 5. The world and everything in it. 6. In God. 7. Because we are made in His image. 8. Repent. 9. They said they wanted to hear more about this

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Sept. 7, 2008

## OVER THE FALLS

(A true story)

It was a beautiful day on July 9, 1960. James Hunnicut came to visit our family. Rodger, my seven-year-old brother and I wanted to go boating. James had a small boat with a 7 horsepower outboard motor, so Dad said we could go with him. "Be sure to wear your life jackets," he told us.

We took the life jackets. Rodger put his on and I took mine in my hand, putting it on as soon as I was in the boat, then taking it off as soon as I was out of Dad's sight. We entered the river's calm water five miles above Niagara Falls.

I was seventeen years old and knew nothing about boating. James, however, was forty and an experienced fisherman, a trusted family friend, and none of us were in the least bit worried. We let the boat float along on the smooth water for a long time. We talked and laughed during the time and little noticed that the boat was drifting into unsafe water.

Rodger noticed a large building on the bank and asked, "James, what is that building?"

That is the Ontario Hydro control dam," James answered. Then he added, "We've gone farther than I realized. Maybe we better turn around

and head back up the river. We covered those miles mighty fast!"

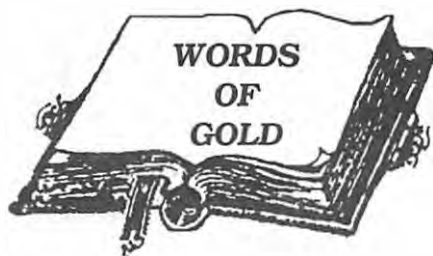
He turned the boat around and gave it all the power! "Rum, rum, rum," went the engine. I was prepared for the boat to lunge forward, but it seemed to be barely moving. "What's wrong?" I asked.

"This current seems a little stronger than I expected," he answered, with a puzzled look on his face. "Don't be afraid, though; we'll be all right. We'll take off in a minute."

Minutes passed, and we could tell by the things on the shore that our boat was steadily moving downstream. "Give it more gas!" I called above the roar of the accelerated motor.

He did, but instead of leaping forward as I thought it would, the boat only whirled around and kept on heading for the swirling rapids.

James seized the oars and fought with all his might to bring us to the shore. Try as he might, we were getting nearer to the rapids! Then, amid the rocks, the motor sheared a pin and was useless! By then I had on my life jacket—Rodger had been wearing his all the time. The roar of the water falling over the cliff could be heard in the distance. The swirling churning of the water on the rocks as it carried us downward was like the open mouth of a man-eating shark ready



## THE TENTMAKERS

**Acts 18:1-5; 8-11; 18-19, 24-26**

1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; . . .

3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

5. . . and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house: and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision. Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

18 And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; . .

19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

**The Message: Although Paul was an educated man and a mighty preacher yet he was willing to work for his own living when it was necessary.**

### Questions:

1. Where did Paul go after he left Athens?
2. Who did he meet there?
3. What was their occupation?
4. What did Paul testify to the Jews every Sabbath?
5. Who believed on the Lord with all his house?
6. Who spoke to Paul one night by a vision?
7. What did He tell Paul?
8. How long did Paul stay in Corinth?
9. Who was "mighty in the scriptures?"

### Verse to Memorize

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

# Let's



# Talk . . .

Paul left Athens and went to Corinth, the capital of Achaia. While he waited for Timothy and Silas to come to him he looked for a job. Paul was raised up to be a strict Pharisee and had Gamaliel, the best teacher in Jerusalem, for his instructor. It was the custom of the Jews to teach all their children some trade by which they could earn a living. So, along with his religious training and education, Paul learned to be a tentmaker.

Walking along the streets of Corinth, he found the workshop of a tentmaker and went in. The owner's name was Aquila. He was a Jewish refugee who was forced to leave Rome when the Emperor Claudius Caesar banished all Jews from that city. Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, had established their tent making business in Corinth only a few weeks before Paul walked into their shop.

Aquila was glad to have extra help and because Paul was a Jew, Priscilla let him have a place to stay in their home. After some days together, Aquila grew to like Paul and to admire his skill in his work. He could listen hour after hour as Paul told of the wonderful experiences he had passed through and how God had brought him safely over many rough places, even delivering him from prison!

It was amazing to Aquila and his wife that this man sitting in their workshop had once been a rabbi who bitterly persecuted the followers of

Jesus. The more they learned about him the more they admired his courage and dedication to God. As they worked they talked about the power of the Gospel and all that Jesus accomplished through His life and death. The Lord definitely led Paul to this wonderful couple. Years later he referred to them as "my helpers in Christ Jesus."

Paul was glad when Silas and Timothy finally joined him in Corinth. He was led by the Spirit to speak more boldly in the synagogue declaring to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

But when the Jews withstood him and raised great opposition, blaspheming the name of Jesus, he turned from them with the warning that their blood would be upon their own heads. "From henceforth," he told them, "I will go unto the Gentiles!"

However, there were some Jews who believed. He had the great joy of winning Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, to Christ. It was encouraging to see him come with his wife and children to be baptized publicly as a sign to his friends that he had surrendered his life to Jesus.

Then the Lord appeared to Paul to further encourage him. One night a vision of the Lord appeared to him. "Be not afraid," the Lord said, "but speak, and hold not thy peace. For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee. For I have much people in this city."

Paul diligently obeyed the Lord. For a year and a half he preached the gospel in Corinth to all that would listen. Many believers were added to the church.

Finally Paul decided to return to Jerusalem. When he got ready to sail, Aquila and Priscilla went with him as far as Ephesus. There they proved a blessing to the believers.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

to devour us. On we raced, faster and faster, each moment getting nearer to the drop off. We were near enough that anxious tourists were calling for us to stop! Others waved us toward the shore. How glad we would have been to come to shore!

Now the roar of the mighty cataract pounded our ear drums. "We're going to die!" Rodger screamed. Trembling all over, I tried to calm him, when suddenly the boat capsized and threw us all into the water.

The last thing I heard from Rodger and James was Rodger screaming and James saying, "Don't be afraid! I'll hold you."

I looked up to find my little brother, just in time to see them both going swiftly on toward their certain death. I was swimming with all my might toward the shore of Goat Island, my life jacket keeping me afloat. The strength with which I was steadily being pushed toward the shore was unnatural. Although I was a good swimmer, I was no match for the wild current against which I was combating. Within a few feet of the shore the current seemed stronger or else my strength was failing. I began losing ground; then I would gain again, but never quite enough to touch land. The people stood as if frozen, seeing my death as a sure thing. I was so close to the shore!

Finally, a brave man stepped across the safety rail and locking his feet around the rail post, stretched himself out on the water. I forged ahead with all my strength. Stretching with all my might, my hand touched his! I managed to grasp a firm grip onto his thumb. Then another man risked his life also by climbing over the rail and reaching to help the man struggling to pull me out.

I came to shore only fifteen feet from the brink of an awful chasm. Unrescued, the water would have

taken me 162 feet to my death on the rocks below.

Moments later, my little brother went over the Falls, plunging 180 feet in torrents of water. His body shot clear of the rocks and the abyss below. He was spotted by some tourists going for a sight-seeing ride on an excursion boat called "The Maid of the Mist."

"Look! Something's in the water!" a man called in excitement.

"It's a small boy," the boat captain shouted. He radioed in for help. "There is a small boy at the bottom of the Falls, and he's alive!"

The boat started toward Rodger. As he floated past them going downstream, they threw him a life line. He missed at first and the current rushed him on. They raced the boat motor and threw another. Rodger missed it, also. He began to cry as the surging, boiling torrent tossed him from one place to another. The third time the life line went out to him, he seized it securely in his hand.

Apart from a few scrapes and bruises, neither Rodger nor I was hurt. We were taken to a hospital, examined, and released in a few hours.

Four days later, James Hunnicut's body was found floating in the river. Surely it was only the mercy of God that spared our lives. The life jackets no doubt, helped in some ways. James had no life jacket. He died.

We're all being carried along irresistibly in the great stream of time. Without a doubt, what helped save Rodger's life was his life jacket. That life jacket may well serve as a picture of Christ.

—Selected

**Answers:** 1. To Corinth. 2. Aquila and Priscilla. 3. They were tentmakers. 4. That Jesus was Christ. 5. Crispus. 6. The Lord. 7. "Be not afraid." 8. One year and six months. 9. Apollos.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Sept. 14, 2008

## CHARLIE'S NEW SONG

It was several years ago, yet the scene is all before me now and the events are as fresh in my memory as if they had happened yesterday. I sat by the fireside with my widowed mother, waiting for the homecoming of my only brother. He was a student in a medical college and was expected home that night for his usual Christmas visit. There were no railways in our town, so Charlie had to come on the bus. It would take him the greater part of the day to make the journey.

I was looking forward to his homecoming with great delight, and had a long list of "events" written down for the following days. Tomorrow included supper and a dance. Since the death of our father, my mother had allowed us to do very much what we liked. Of course, Charlie and I took full advantage of her liberality. I went into fun things in grand style.

The hours passed by, and still there was no Charlie. It was late in the afternoon. I fretted and feared that my plans for tomorrow evening might be upset. "What if he should not come? That would spoil the whole thing," I was saying to Mom for the tenth time.

Just then the horn sounded and amidst clouds of dust, the big red and white bus rolled into the village. I could see Charlie among the crowd of

passengers. I clapped my hands in glee as I saw him pick up his travel bags and start for our house. In a few minutes he stood in the old parlor where we had spent so many happy days together as children. He was taller and thinner, but the old happy smile dimpled his cheeks, and I never felt so proud of my brother as I did that evening.

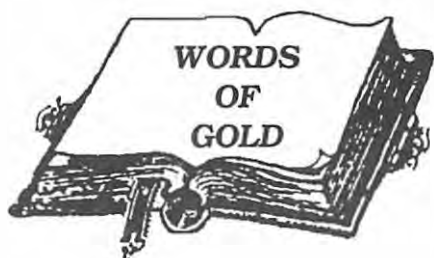
I was so eager to inform him of all my plans that I accompanied him to his room and began at once to tell him who was invited and what was to be the program for the following day. He listened to my story patiently, but without showing the interest I had expected. When I finished, he gave a pleasant laugh, threw his arms around my neck, and, kissing me affectionately said: "Debbie dear, I hope you won't be offended if I tell you that these things are no longer any enjoyment for me. I have something incredibly better."

I looked at him in amazement. "You're joking," I said.

"No," he answered.

"Why, no one enjoys a dance more than you!"

He saw I was puzzled, so, drawing me to his side, he said: "Don't be alarmed, Debbie. I've not turned monk, but I have taken Christ as my Lord and Master. He is more to me now than all these follies used to be.



## SEVEN SONS OF SCEVA

### Acts 19:1-17

1 . . . Paul . . . came to Ephesus; and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months . . .

9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits

the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them . . . so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 . . . and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

**The Message: There is a sovereign power in the name of Jesus. It could not be imitated by these lying exorcists. The name of Jesus must never be used lightly!**

### Questions:

1. What did Paul ask the disciples at Ephesus?
2. Who baptized with the baptism of repentance?
3. In Whose name were these disciples baptized?
4. What happened when Paul laid his hands on them?
5. What did the exorcists say to the evil spirit?
6. What did the evil spirit answer?
7. What did the man with the evil spirit do to the seven?
8. What did the seven do?
9. Whose name was magnified?

### Verse to Memorize

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.  
Exodus 20:7

# Let's



## Talk . . .

When Paul arrived in Ephesus he was happy to find so many that believed in Jesus. He asked them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?"

"We did not even know there was a Holy Spirit," the people answered. When they heard that they must be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, they were glad to obey. Paul then laid his hands on these twelve believers and prayed. The Holy Spirit came on them, enabling them to speak in different languages so they could witness to others also.

For three months Paul boldly preached in the synagogue in Ephesus that Jesus was the Son of God. But many were not willing to believe in Jesus and change their wicked lives. And they were determined that others would not believe either. They said many evil things against Paul, Jesus and the way of salvation.

These enemies were so disruptive that Paul saw it would be best to teach the people somewhere else. So, leaving the synagogue, he took the believers to a school nearby. Here he taught them every day for two years. Under his teaching, the church in Ephesus flourished and grew until the Gospel of Christ Jesus became known throughout the entire city and the country round about. Many believed in Jesus and were baptized.

For hundreds of years Ephesus had been the site of the beautiful temple of Diana.

In the center of this great temple was a secret chamber that contained

the wooden figure of a woman, black with age. This was Diana, the goddess of the Ephesians. The story had been passed from generation to generation that this idol had fallen down from the sky! The idol was hideous to look at but it was kept hidden out of sight behind a great curtain. And millions of people actually believed the idol had come from Heaven and worshipped it!

While Paul taught in this town of idol worship, he worked miracles in the name of Jesus. He healed many that were sick. Some were too sick to be brought to Paul so their friends brought handkerchiefs and aprons for Paul to touch. Then they took these back and prayerfully laid these on those who were sick, and the sick were made well! God gave Paul authority to do these things to show the people that His mighty power was greater than the magic of Diana or her followers.

The people were amazed at God's great power. Many wished they could also do such wonders. One day seven brothers who were magicians watched as Paul healed the sick and cast out evil spirits. They quickly learned the words he used. At the first opportunity they tried to imitate him. When they found a man with an evil spirit they said, "We command you to come out in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches."

But the power of God was not in their words, and instead of the evil spirit leaving it spoke, saying, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"

Then, with the superhuman strength of the devil, the possessed man jumped on the seven magicians and tore their clothes from their backs, bruising and beating all seven of them in his fury! The terrified men ran out of the house to escape with their lives.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

But come on, Mother will be waiting. I'll tell you all about it later."

That night, by the fireside, Charlie told Mother and me he had been saved while listening to Brownlow North's preaching in Edinburgh and how he had longed to get back home to tell his old friends the story of redeeming love.

"What shall we do about tomorrow?" asked Mother. "There are about twenty invited."

Charlie laughed heartily, and said, "Let them come, by all means, Mother. I'll be happy to see them."

Quite a crowd gathered in our home the following night. After supper, someone asked Charlie to entertain them with a song. He was a splendid singer and usually sang for our company. After a moment's pause, Charlie rose, and in a voice of thrilling sweetness, sang:

*I've found a Friend, oh such a Friend!  
He loved me ere I knew Him!  
He drew me with the cords of love  
And thus He bound me to Him  
And 'round my heart still closely twine  
Those ties which naught can sever,  
For I am His, and He is mine,  
Forever and forever.*

A look of astonishment settled on the faces of our guests as the words fell on their ears. Every eye was fixed on Charlie. Tears were in the eyes of most of them. As Charlie reached the last stanza, his voice increased in power and in sweetness as he sang:

*I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend!  
So kind, and true, and tender;  
So wise a Counsellor and Guide,  
So mighty a Defender!  
From Him who loves me now so well.  
What power my soul can sever?  
Shall life, or death, or earth, or hell?  
No—I am His forever.*

Some of the guests rose and left without saying a word, but the greater part remained. Then Charlie, in his hearty, winning manner told the

simple story of his conversion, ending with, "You won't be angry with me for telling you, will you? The truth is, I couldn't keep it in. My heart is so full. I thought the least I could do was to tell you of my new found treasure."

Charlie beamed all the while he was speaking. At the end of his simple testimony of the saving power of Christ, he said, "Honestly, friends, I'm happier today than I've ever been. This salvation is the best thing I have ever found. I've learned a lot of things in medical school, but nothing compares to this. Why don't each of you accept this free gift of God? His beloved Son wants to be your Savior. You too, can have this happiness for time and eternity."

That night our dance was turned into a revival meeting. Five guests were saved. Charlie spoke in the school house on Sunday evening to a crowded congregation, and several others were won to Christ. A great gathering followed and among those who were saved and who sang Charlie's new song, were Mother and me.

Part of those saved have gone to Heaven. Others of us are still on earth, singing of Jesus. Were Charlie by my side as I write, he would join me in saying to all who read my story what he said on that night long ago: "Accept the gift of God, His own beloved Son, to be your Savior." Then your song shall ever be:

"How marvelous, how wonderful. Is my Savior's love for me!"

—Selected

**Answers:** 1. "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" 2. John. 3. In the name of the Lord Jesus. 4. They received the Holy Ghost. 5. "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth". 6. "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" 7. Leaped on them. 8. Ran out of the house naked and wounded. 9. Jesus.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Sept. 21, 2008

## ACROSS NIAGARA FALLS ON A TIGHTROPE

Charles Blondin, the famous French acrobat and the world's greatest tightrope walker, performed the amazing feat of crossing Niagara Falls on a rope, carrying a man on his back.

His first trip he made alone in the year 1859. One hundred thousand people went nearly frantic as he pranced and ran, turned somersaults, walked backward, sat down, lay down, walked with baskets on his feet and even walked with stilts. When he landed safely on the other shore, the great crowds were weak with anxiety for his safety.

The next year he came back to do it again. Special trains were run from Toronto, Canada, and Buffalo, New York carrying the huge crowd that gathered to witness the breathtaking spectacle. Among them was the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII.

With a 40-pound pole to balance him, Blondin darted back and forth across the river like a playful monkey. He walked across pushing a wheelbarrow, ate his lunch at mid-stream and cooked himself an omelet on a small griddle he carried with him. Finally amid the cheers of the thousands of lookers, he set foot on the American shore.

Then waving his hand in thanks, he shouted, "I don't want to go back to the other side by myself. I want to carry a man on my back. Who will volunteer?"

There were no volunteers. It is said he asked Edward the prince. Edward didn't question Blondin's ability, but he wouldn't dare take the risk.

At last he asked his manager, Henry Colcord, from Chicago, "Do you believe I can carry you across?"

"Yes," he replied.

"Then will you trust me?"

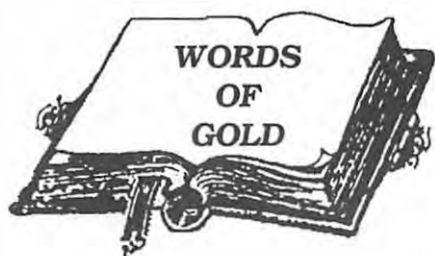
"I will."

"All right. Let's start."

With Colcord on his shoulders, piggy-back fashion, off they went, Colcord shaking in his boots. Foot by foot and inch by inch they moved along. They reached the center of the river. Below them churned the deep dark swirling waters of death, as if waiting for their prey.

So far all was well. But as they neared the Canadian side one of the guy lines had been severed and the rope was swaying fearfully. Blondin was nearly exhausted. He told Colcord to dismount while he took a rest. Colcord obeyed, somehow holding on to Blondin's hips. The crowd, all tense, held their breath.

"Henry," said Blondin, "You are



## THE GODDESS DIANA

**Acts 19:19, 23-29; 34-41**

**19** Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

**23** And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

**24** For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

**25** Whom he called together . . . and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

**26** . . . this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

**27** So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised . . .

**28** And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

**29** And the whole city was filled with confusion:

**34** . . . all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out. Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

**35** And when the town clerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, . . .

**36** Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.

**37** For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

**38** Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another.

**39** But if ye inquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly.

**40** For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar . . .

**41** And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

**The Message: The devil tried to turn the people away from the Gospel through ignorance and confusion.**

### Questions:

1. What did the people burn?
2. How much were they worth?
3. Who was Demetrius?
4. How did he earn his living?
5. What was Paul telling the people?
6. What did the people cry out?
7. What filled the whole city?
8. How long did the people continue to cry out?
9. How did the town clerk stop the confusion?

### Verse to Memorize

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.  
Isaiah 42:8

# Let's



## Talk . . .

When the seven sons of Sceva tried to cast the devil out of a man, using the name of Jesus, the possessed man jumped on them and gave them a severe beating. News of this spread like wildfire throughout Ephesus. Some had seen it with their own eyes. Even those who merely heard about the incident gained a greater respect for the power of Jesus and praised God.

This incident made the people realize that the magicians really had no power. They merely fooled the people through trickery. Many of these people had practiced magic themselves. Great throngs of the former wonderworkers confessed their wrong and turned away from their superstitions. They brought their books of magic and heaped them high and set the huge pile on fire.

This was a mighty demonstration of their changed hearts, which were now filled with new power since they believed on Christ. The books they burned were worth about ten thousand dollars!

The Gospel continued to spread through all the towns and villages near Ephesus and throughout Asia. So many confessed their sins and turned away from idolatry that the tradesmen who sold silver images of Diana began to feel the loss in their business.

They were greatly alarmed and called a meeting. Demetrius was the chief spokesman. He told them, "You men know we make a lot of money by our work. But Paul has turned many

people away from Diana, not only here in Ephesus but also throughout the province of Asia. He says there are no gods that are made with hands. Soon we will have no business left. Not only that, but people will no longer come to worship at the temple of Diana."

These words excited and angered the silversmiths. At once they began shouting, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" As they went through the streets shouting these words other people joined in the shout. No one but the silversmiths knew what this was all about. The city was filled with confusion.

The silversmiths dragged two of Paul's faithful friends into the great open theater. When Paul heard what had happened he wanted to go to rescue the two, but his friends would not let him. They were afraid the people would tear Paul to pieces if they could lay their hands on him.

Though they didn't even know why they were there the people in the theater kept shouting, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," for two hours! They only knew that somehow the power of Diana had been questioned and they must cry out in her defense.

Finally one of the city officials stood up before the people and motioned for them to be quiet. He said, "Men of Ephesus, people everywhere know we worship the goddess Diana. So you ought to be quiet.

"You have brought these men here who have not robbed any temples or even spoken evil about our goddess. If the silversmiths want to bring charges against these men let them take it to court. All of you are in danger of being arrested for breaking the peace." With those words the city official dismissed the people and sent them home.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

now Blondin. Be a part of me. If I sway, sway with me. Do not try to balance or it will be the end of us."

Colcord climbed back on Blondin's back. The rope was swaying wildly. Blondin's teeth were set, for this was his closest call. Then he started to run. How he kept his balance no one could understand. But he made it. At last with Colcord on his back he stepped safely on the Canadian shore, while the crowd went wild with excitement. But that was Blondin's last trip across the mighty Niagara.

Well, dear friends, Charles Blondin has long gone. "The paths of glory lead but to the grave." Whether he crossed the deep dark mighty river of death and is landed safely on the heavenly shore, eternity alone will reveal. Gone too is his friend, Colcord, and all the great crowds that witnessed his death-defying feat.

One thing is sure, no man can safely cross the waters of death alone.

But there is One who crossed that deep dark river. Jesus went down under those mighty waters of God's judgment against man's sin and gave His life that He might land every believer safe on the peaceful shore. We deserved to die, but He took our place in death. When that fearful judgment against sin had spent itself, Jesus rose from the dead—the mighty Conqueror of satan, death and the grave.

Since then He has borne countless thousands of souls across the river of death to that peaceful happy shore. He wants to take you over too, dear reader, if you will get saved.

Prince Edward thought Blondin could carry him across Niagara. all right, but he didn't have the faith to trust him. Do you believe Jesus can save you? Are you willing to trust yourself to those everlasting arms of love that will never let you go?

May God give you the faith to commit the safe-keeping of your soul to Him, who has said, "... They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. John 10:28-29.

—Selected

### Could I Trust The Bridge?

When I was in the mountains once. I wanted to cross a deep gorge. There was a slender rope bridge stretched across from one mountain to another; over a thousand feet below was a river. I knew that if I fell from that great height I should certainly be killed. The question was, Could I trust myself to that rope bridge?

I stood there and watched several other people go across. I saw that even heavier men than I went safely over. At last I believed that that bridge would sustain my weight. Finally I believed it enough to trust myself to it and went safely across.

This illustrates what it is to believe Jesus. It is beautifully expressed in the little hymn:

*Jesus, I will trust Thee,  
Trust Thee with my soul;  
Weary, worn and helpless,  
Thou canst make me whole.  
There is none in Heaven,  
Nor on earth like Thee;  
Thou hast died for sinners,  
Therefore, Lord, for me.*

—Selected

**Answers:** 1. Their books about magic. 2. Fifty thousand pieces of silver. 3. A silversmith. 4. He made silver shrines for Diana. 5. The gods made with hands are not gods. 6. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." 7. Confusion. 8. For two hours. 9. He dismissed the assembly.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Sept. 28, 2008

## I BELIEVE GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

In the province of Hunan, China, there lived a little Chinese boy named Ho Long. Ho attended a village children's meeting and there learned to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ, the "Friend of little children."

Ho's home was a sad one. His father used to spend night after night away in the village, gambling and drinking, so that his poor mother was very miserable and often cried.

One night she was sitting up as usual, waiting for her husband to come home, and her heart was so heavy with dark hopelessness that she sat and sobbed as if her heart would break.

"What shall I do?" she cried. "What shall I do?"

At last little Ho could stand it no more. "Why don't you pray to the Lord Jesus?" he suggested.

"I don't know how to pray," sobbed the poor woman.

"I'll teach you, Mother," said the little boy, sitting up.

"But your God wouldn't listen to me, and He can't do anything for your father," replied his mother in a hopeless voice.

Ho climbed out of bed and knelt beside his mother. "Let's pray, Mother," he coaxed. "The Lord Jesus can change Father. He changes people's hearts."

"I don't know what to say. I can't pray," said Mother.

"I'll say it first, and you say it after me, Mother," said little Ho.

So in the shadowy darkness, the little fellow taught his mother to pray, sentence by sentence. She hardly believed there could be any answer to that prayer, but little 8-year-old Ho had no doubts about the matter. Had he not been praying for some months now that the Lord Jesus would change his father's heart, and bring peace and happiness into that little home?

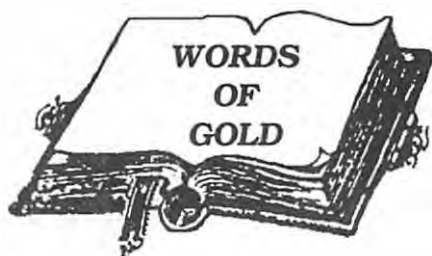
Night after night, when the father was gambling and drinking away his earnings, Ho and his mother prayed together, and she seemed to get comfort from their prayers.

A few months later, the Gospel tent came to their village. Out of curiosity Ho's father began to attend the meetings. Before long he was convicted of sin. At last the time came when he was saved by the power of God.

Now there was no more gambling and drinking, and soon Ho Long's home was the happy place he had dreamed of. Together he and his father and mother thanked God for hearing and answering their prayers.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17.

—Selected



### **THE BOY WHO SLEPT IN CHURCH**

**Acts 20:7, 9-12, 18-19;  
22-25, 36-38**

**7** And upon the first day of the week . . . Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

**9** And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

**10** And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

**11** When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

**12** And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

**18** And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons.

**19** Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

**22** And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

**23** Save that the Holy Ghost witness-

eth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

**24** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**25** And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

**36** And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

**37** And they all wept sore . . .

**38** Sorrowing most of all . . . that they should see his face no more.

**The Message: Paul knew his life would soon be taken away. He could face death fearlessly because he had served the Lord faithfully.**

#### **Questions:**

1. Who was the preacher?
2. How long did he preach?
3. Where was Eutychus sitting?
4. Why did he fall out the window?
5. How far did he fall?
6. What did Paul do?
7. How was everyone comforted?
8. What did the Holy Ghost witness about Paul?
9. Why were the people so sorrowful?

#### **Verse to Memorize**

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Paul was on his way to Jerusalem. It was the first day of the week so the believers met together in Troas to break bread in memory of the last supper Jesus ate with His disciples before He was crucified. Paul knew he would never see these dear people again and he had so much to tell them. Hour after hour Paul preached to them, answering their questions and strengthening their faith.

Many hanging lamps burned in the room so they could have plenty of light. But this also made the crowded room hot and stuffy. So the open window looked like the best seat in the room to one youngman. Now we don't know how many people dozed during that long, long service but we do know that this young man, Eutychus, went so sound asleep that he slumped down and fell out of the window!

Paul's sermon was suddenly interrupted as a terrifying cry pierced the air followed by a sickening thud as Eutychus hit the ground three stories down. Men rushed down the stairs to see what had become of Eutychus. Everyone was awake now as the word was passed from one to another, "Eutychus fell out of the window and he's dead!"

A lantern held high in someone's hand showed where the body lay and a crowd quickly gathered around it. Nobody could see much in the dim light.

Then Paul pressed his way through the crowd until he came to Eutychus. Falling on the young man he embraced him just as Elisha had embraced the dead son of the

Shunammite woman many years before. And the power of God brought back Eutychus' life just as the Shunammite's son was raised from the dead! Rising to his feet Paul told the sorrowing people, "Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him."

You might think that this would have brought the meeting to a close. But, no! After a little break Paul continued to talk to the people. When the sun came up Paul was still preaching and the people were still listening. This was their great opportunity and they did not want to miss a word.

Paul's next farewell meeting was with the leaders from Ephesus who had come to the seacoast to meet him. They remembered the three years he had lived and preached among them and they loved him dearly. The meeting was joyous, yet there was a feeling that this was a final farewell.

Last words are always solemn and important, especially when spoken by one such as Paul. He urged them to stand fast and be strong whatever might come to discourage them in the future.

He said, "You know 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, but it is hard to tell what will happen there.

"In my heart I think chains and suffering wait for me, but this does not make me afraid. It does not matter how long I live just so I finish with joy the work the Lord Jesus has given me.

"I know I shall see you no more but I will pray for you. Take good care of the church of God over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers."

Together they knelt and prayed. They threw their arms around Paul and wept because they realized this was probably the last time they would ever see him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

## "CAN YOU TELL ME THE WAY TO HEAVEN?"

One morning we were holding the line in a trench when we came in for unusually heavy shelling. Presently there was a black cloud as a shell burst and pieces of shrapnel came whizzing past us. Poor Bert S. fell like a log. Jim, who was 6 ft. 3 in. tall, and another young man jumped down and picked him up; but they saw at a glance it was a hopeless case. There was not a nursing station near, so Tiny Jim and some other fellows got hold of some empty sandbags and an old coat, and laid Bert on them in the bottom of the trench.

Back on the firing step they got, but had not been there long, when Jim was startled by a voice behind him saying, "Can you tell me the way to Heaven?"

Tiny Jim jumped down again beside Bert and said, "The way to Heaven? I am sorry, I don't know the way, I'll ask the other fellows and find out if they know."

He returned to the firing step, walked along to the first man and asked him, he did not know; so he went further and asked the next man, but he did not know either. Tiny Jim then went over to the firing bay and asked the fourth, but he was no better than the rest of us. From there on each man relayed the question to the man next to him. Down the line went the story of what had happened, and the question went from man to man until No. 16 was reached. Not one of the sixteen could tell the way to Heaven.

The story was passed on to No. 17: "Bert is dying and wants to know the way to Heaven. Can you tell him the way?"

"Yes, I know the way to Heaven, but I cannot go along the trench. I dare not leave my station." Thrusting his hand into his pocket he pulled out a little khaki Testament. Quickly, he turned its pages and said, "Look here,

this is the way to Heaven—that verse marked around with pencil (John 3:16). I'll turn the leaves back there; you put your thumb on that verse. Tell him that is the way to Heaven."

Quickly the message and the Testament passed back from man to man until it reached Tiny Jim. He dropped beside Bert, who lay there so still. He touched his shoulder; slowly Bert opened his eyes.

"I've got it, Bert, old chum," said Tiny Jim. "Here is the way to Heaven: '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.'"

Poor Bert's eyes were wide open now, he was drinking in every word. What a scene it was—Tiny Jim kneeling on the bottom of the trench, his great hand holding the little Testament, the tears running down his cheeks, reading again and again those life-giving Words in Bert's ears!

"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.

A look of peace came over Bert's face as he kept gasping out "whosoever." Then after lying quiet for a while, his face lit up with satisfaction, and with one last gasp he said, "whosoever," and was gone, gone from the battlefield to be with Christ!

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life....," John 14:6, and "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved..." John 10:9.

—Selected

**Answers:** 1. Paul. 2. Until midnight. 3. In a window. 4. He went to sleep. 5. From the third loft. 6. Fell on him and embraced him. 7. The young man came back to life. 8. That he would have bonds and afflictions. 9. They would not see Paul again.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Oct. 5, 2008

## DEMETRIO'S CONVERSION

Demetrio was a sergeant in the Bolivian Army during the Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay. As a soldier, Demetrio was a man of courage but he was also a thoroughly ungodly fellow and he and his friends spent much of their spare time dancing and drinking.

One day the Bolivian troops were ordered to fix bayonets and storm a Paraguayan fort. A fierce battle ensued and Demetrio fell, badly wounded with six bullets in his body. Taken out of action to a field hospital behind the lines, he was given blood transfusions which saved his life.

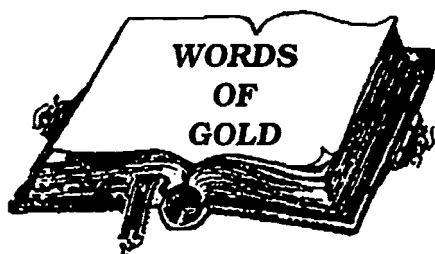
From there he was sent to the main hospital in Potosi, the capital, and thanks to the care of the surgeons who attended him, after considerable time he was able to walk again.

The doors of the hospital were heavily guarded, but one night, Demetrio, along with some other wounded soldiers, weary of confinement, climbed over the walls, bent on a night's pleasure. They passed the hours in barrooms and other places of wickedness. Then returning to the hospital drunk, they were severely scolded by the doctor for their bad behavior.

A little later, desiring a change from hospital life, the men again escaped over the walls. But this time Demetrio refused to accompany his mates in their visits to barrooms and dance halls. He preferred on this occasion to be quiet and alone.

Walking slowly down Junin street, he was surprised to hear singing, and stopped to listen. He found himself outside a building with a sign over the door, "Local Evangelico" (Gospel Hall.) It wasn't the singing that attracted his attention so much as the words he heard, "Busca a Dios" that is, "Seek God." Demetrio had never heard such words, nor had he ever read a Book called the Bible; never had he read a tract, so he stepped inside the door to listen. A gentleman requested him to take a seat, but he refused.

After the singing, a man stood up, opened a book, and began to speak. He spoke of the judgment of God and stressed the fact that there was only one way to escape this judgment; that was by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, who came from Heaven and who died on the cross of Calvary to save lost sinners. He went on to say that we were all lost sinners and that if we refused to accept Christ as our Saviour, we would not escape the judgment of God, but eternal punishment would be our sentence.



## A RIOT IN THE TEMPLE!

### Acts 21:26-36

**26** Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

**27** And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

**28** Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.

**29** (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

**30** And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

**31** And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

**32** Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.

**33** Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him

to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

**34** And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle.

**35** And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

**36** For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.

**The Message: Those who rejected Jesus hated Paul for preaching that He was the Savior sent from God.**

### Questions:

1. Where was Paul when the Jews of Asia saw him?
2. What did they do after they pulled Paul out of the temple?
3. What did they intend to do to Paul?
4. Who rescued Paul?
5. What did the Jews do when they saw the chief captain and soldiers?
6. What did the chief captain do when he came to Paul?
7. Where did the chief captain command Paul to be taken?
8. Why did the soldiers carry Paul?
9. What did the people who followed cry out?

### Verse to Memorize

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. John 15:20

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The day after Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he went to the elders of the church to tell them about his work. He told how God had worked through him among the Gentiles.

The elders glorified God. Then they said, "You see, brother, many thousands of Jews believe in and still keep the Law of Moses. They think that you tell the Jews in other countries to pay no attention to the Law of Moses. What shall we do? The people will find out you are here."

Finally the elders decided that Paul should prove to the Jewish believers that he honored the Law of Moses. For this reason Paul went to the temple and performed the ceremony of cleansing as Moses had commanded.

About a week later a group of Jews from Asia were also gathered to listen to one of the rabbis as he taught about the law. Suddenly one of them tugged at his friend's sleeve and asked, "Isn't that the Christian leader, Paul, over there? What can he be doing in the temple?"

The little group turned quickly to identify the man they had opposed bitterly when he preached Christ in their synagogue. They remembered very well how this man's preaching had upset the synagogue and divided their Jewish families. He had spoken against their national worship and their customs. This is the man they had run out of town, and here he was in the temple!

Someone remembered that he had seen Paul in Jerusalem with Trophimus the Ephesian. Without proof they decided that Paul had profaned the holy place by bringing a Gentile into the temple.

Jumping to their feet they rushed toward Paul crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man that teaches men everywhere against the people, the law and the temple."

Men came running from all directions. The crowd grew and rumors flew thick and fast. Even outside the temple the news spread that a traitor to Israel had been caught and was to be put to death. The streets were soon full of people running to the temple to see the excitement.

In the temple, the surging mob had grabbed Paul and was beating him with sticks and fists. They dragged him out of the temple and shut the doors behind them, preparing to kill him.

But someone ran to the Roman captain and reported the trouble to him. The captain took soldiers and hurried to find out what was happening. When he got through the crowd, he saw Paul. Supposing him to be some great criminal he commanded that Paul be bound with two heavy chains. Then he asked the crowd, "Who is he and what has he done?"

Some cried one thing and some another. The captain could not make sense of the confusion so he gestured to his men to surround Paul and bring him into the castle. Seeing that he was being taken away, the crowd grew more bold. The shouting and jeering increased. The mob pressed so close to the prisoner that the soldiers had to lift Paul off his feet and literally carry him to the steps of the castle. The mob followed close behind shouting, "Away with him!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

The speaker, who was a missionary, said he had seen so many soldiers who were afraid to die because they were sinners. Demetrio thought to himself, "Well, I'm not afraid of death! Why be afraid? Had he not been a soldier, a proud fighter, wounded, but still not afraid of death?"

Still the thought lingered in his mind concerning what the speaker had said: "You cannot escape the judgment of God unless you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

That night Demetrio went home to his parents at 9:15 p.m., and told them what he had heard. Never had he done such a thing as that before, and then he returned to the hospital. That was on a Wednesday night. There was another meeting on Friday night and Demetrio was present. The people sang another hymn, "Paz con Dios busque janarla," that is, "Peace with God, I sought to gain." This peace Demetrio did not have, but he desired it, so after the meeting he went to the speaker and talked to him. He told Demetrio again: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. He has made peace for us through the blood He gave at Calvary." Demetrio suddenly understood that the Lord Jesus had been seeking him. He got down on his knees, and asked God to save him; He did.

The next day all noticed the great change in his behavior. The doctors remarked that if he continued as he was doing, he would be well again. They even changed his medication, ordered him a new suit, and informed the hospital director to allow Demetrio to attend the Gospel meetings.

He got to know the missionary who had led him to Christ and looked up to him as his spiritual father and guide in his earthly pilgrimage. That was 40 years ago and Demetrio has gone on faithfully ever since.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17. —Selected

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## GOD SENT A HEN

A good Christian man named Merlin was one of the Huguenot preachers in France when there burst out a great storm of persecution. All the preachers had to hide lest they be taken away and killed. Mr. Merlin hid in a hayloft where none of his enemies thought of looking for him.

However, the trouble was that his friends did not know where he had hidden, and he was in danger of starving in his place of refuge. Now what do you think it was that came to his help?

To his wonder and thankfulness, a hen came and laid an egg beside him. Surely it was God who sent one of His little creatures to minister to one of His loved servants. She came for several days in succession and every time, she left an egg. In this way the life of the poor, hunted man was preserved until the danger was past.

"This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles . . . O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." Psalm 34:6, 8.

—Selected

**Answers:** 1. In the temple. 2. They shut the doors. 3. Kill him. 4. The chief captain. 5. Quit beating Paul. 6. Commanded him to be bound with chains and demanded who he was and what he had done. 7. Into the castle. 8. To protect him from the violence of the people. 9. "Away with him!"



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Oct. 12, 2008

## "TWICE MINE!"

"Say, Mister, your catcher has just got my dog," exclaimed Jim to the pound keeper. The boy was almost out of breath from running. "And he's a good dog," he added.

Even as he spoke the dog catcher arrived, and they heard the rear door of the pound open. Soon they saw several dogs being shoved into the pen.

"That's him!" cried Jim. "That one over in the corner."

"Well," said the keeper, "I expect the trouble is he hasn't a license or something."

Poor Jim hung his head and confessed that it was so.

"He'll have to have one before we can let him out of here," said the keeper.

"How much does one cost?" asked Jim, as he fingered two quarters in his pocket.

"Four dollars and fifty cents," replied the keeper.

"Any work I could do around here, so I could earn the money?" asked Jim hopefully.

"No, I'm afraid not, son. You might try the food store on the corner."

That afternoon Jim reappeared at the pound and handed the keeper \$4.50. Moments later the gate to the dog pen opened, and a joyful pup, wiggling and twisting all over and barking with excitement, was in Jim's arms.

On the way home Jim paused, and taking his pup in his arms, he said.

"Pup, you're twice mine now! You were mine the day Dad gave you to me; but then I lost you, and I've had to buy you back. So you're twice mine now!"

And so it is with all of us. The Lord Jesus, our Creator, made us and gave us life in this world. But we were lost through the fall when Adam and Eve sinned. He had to come to redeem us—to buy us back, and this He did at the cost of His own precious blood on the cross, for He loved us so. If we have trusted Him as our Saviour, then we are saved.

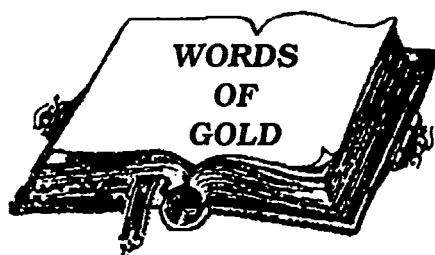
Dear young friends, can you say, "I am twice His, for He has redeemed me?"

—Selected

## TEDDY'S LIFEGUARD

(A true story)

Rover was a small Fox Terrier. He lived in the house with his master, Teddy. One day Teddy's father came home from work for awhile. He parked his big truck in the driveway and went into the house. While he was in the house, Teddy came out the front door and played on the driveway with his skateboard. When he was very close behind the truck, the skateboard slipped from under him. He fell on his back, hitting his head so hard that it knocked him out. Rover barked at his master, but Teddy did not answer. He stood over him and licked his face, but Teddy did not push him away.



## THE SERMON ON THE STAIRS

**Acts 21:40; 22:3-7, 10, 14, 18, 21-23**

**40** . . . Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them...

**3** I am verily a man which am a Jew . . . brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, . . . and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

**4** And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

**5** As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

**6** And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.

**7** And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

**10** And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

**14** And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

**18** And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

**21** And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

**22** And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.

**23** . . . they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,

**The Message: By the amazing grace of God, Paul, the persecutor, was instantly changed into one who gladly suffered great persecution for his Lord.**

### Questions:

1. Where was Paul standing?
2. Of what nationality was Paul?
3. How did he persecute the believers?
4. Saul got letters of permission to go to what city?
5. He intended to bring those who were bound to what city?
6. What time of day did Saul see the bright light?
7. What did the voice say to Saul?
8. To whom did the Lord say Paul would be sent?
9. What did his audience say when they heard where the Lord sent Paul?

### Verse to Memorize

For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Acts 9:16

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The soldiers were afraid that the angry mob would tear Paul to pieces so they surrounded him and finally picked him up and carried him on their shoulders to the stairs of the castle.

When they reached the safety of the castle stairs Paul turned to the captain who had saved his life. "May I say something to you?" he asked respectfully.

"Can you speak Greek?" the captain asked.

When he found that he both understood and spoke Greek, he asked, "Aren't you that Egyptian who made an uproar and led four thousand men who were murderers into the desert?"

This Egyptian, whose name is not known, pretended to be a prophet. He told his followers that the walls of Jerusalem would fall down before them if they would assist him in making an attack on the city. He gathered four thousand men and marched toward Jerusalem getting as far as the Mount of Olives. But Felix, the Roman governor, made a surprise attack on them with a large Roman army. The mob quickly scattered; four hundred were killed and two hundred taken prisoners.

The Egyptian himself, with some of his most faithful friends, escaped. He had never been captured or heard of after that. With the people causing such uproar, the chief captain thought Paul must be this Egyptian or some other great criminal.

But Paul assured the captain saying, "I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus. I beg you; let me speak to the people."

With the captain's permission, Paul motioned to the people that he would like to speak. When the mob was quiet he began speaking to them in Hebrew. The Jews loved their native language so they listened closely.

Paul began by telling them about himself. "I am a Jew born in Tarsus, but I was brought up here in Jerusalem. Gamaliel taught me the strictness of the Law. I was just as eager to follow God's way as you are. For a time I even persecuted the believers, binding them, putting them in prison, and having some killed. The high priest and the rulers know this to be true, for they gave me letters of permission to arrest the believers who had fled to Damascus.

"On the way to Damascus a great light from Heaven shone around me. As I fell to the ground I heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' Then I answered, 'Who are you?' And the voice said, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you persecute.' Those who were with me saw the light, but they did not hear the words.

"The Lord told me to wait at Damascus until He showed me what I was to do. I could not see, but my friends led me into the city. There Ananias came to me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive you sight,' and my eyes were opened. Ananias said that I was chosen to be a witness of Jesus Christ to all men of what I had seen and heard. Then he baptized me in the name of the Lord.

"When the Jews at Jerusalem wanted to kill me for believing in Jesus, the Lord told me, 'Depart, for I will send you to the Gentiles.'"

When the people heard Paul mention the Gentiles, they would listen no more. They shouted, "Away with this fellow from the earth. He is not fit to live." The mob threw their coats down and threw dust into the air in their mad frenzy. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Rover knew something was wrong with Teddy, so he went to the front door and barked to call Teddy's mother. She did not come. He went to the back door and barked. No one came. Rover ran back and forth from the doors to Teddy, barking all the while, but no one came out to help Teddy.

After awhile, Teddy's daddy did come out, and without seeing Teddy, he got into his truck. Rover ran to the truck door and barked and barked, but Teddy's daddy paid no attention to Rover. He started up the truck. Rover jumped at the truck door and barked louder than ever, then he ran to the back of the truck and stood over Teddy.

"Get out of the way! Get out of the way!" Daddy shouted, when he saw Rover's head in his rear-view mirror, but Rover stood his ground, barking and growling at the big truck that was coming back at him. "Get out of the way!" he shouted again. Rover would not get out of the way.

Teddy's sister who was upstairs heard all the barking and came to the window just in time to see Teddy lying flat on the driveway. Rover stood over him growling and barking at the big truck which was slowly backing up toward them. She was so frightened she could not move. "O, God!" she cried, "Please help Daddy to stop." Just then the big truck stopped! She ran downstairs.

Daddy got out to chase Rover away and there brave little Rover stood over Teddy, just inches away from the wheels of the big truck.

Animals have no soul yet they show loyalty and kindness to people they love. How much more should people who are created in the image of God do good for others.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

## SAVED FROM LIONS

Perisi was a little African girl. She had come to the Bible classes, and there heard the sweet story of Jesus

and His love in dying for sinners everywhere. Perisi believed that He died for her, and she trusted Him as her Saviour.

Her mother, however, was not at all pleased, and beat the little girl for going to the Bible school. She turned her over to the witch doctor, thinking he would make her afraid and cause her to give up her new religion. But Perisi did not cease to love her Saviour, and to memorize Bible verses, and sing the sweet Christian hymns she had learned.

At last her mother took her into the forest and tied her to a tree. She hoped the lions would come and frighten her belief in Jesus out of her. When her mother left, she said, "You are a worthless girl to me—good-bye, for the lions shall have you."

Throughout the long, black night little Perisi remained there and prayed. He who has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee," watched over her all night long.

The next morning at dawn, a Christian boy found her still tied to the tree. There were lions' tracks all around, but little Perisi was unharmed. She saw the eyes of the great beasts shine in the darkness, but not one of them had come within fifteen feet of her. Perisi remembered how God had shut the lions' mouths and delivered Daniel, and she prayed that He would deliver her also. All her fear had gone.

Perisi never forgot that night, and many, many times did she thank her Saviour that she could experience His love and care for her in such a remarkable way. —Selected

**Answers:** 1. On the stairs. 2. He was a Jew. 3. He bound them and put them in prison. 4. Damascus. 5. Jerusalem. 6. About noon. 7. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" 8. To the Gentiles. 9. "Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live."

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 Oct. 19, 2008

## THE SCARLET SASH

"They are coming! The robbers from the hills! They have outnumbered the police and driven them away! What shall we do?"

The cry ran from lip to lip in a great city in northwest China. The bandits were on their way to ransack the town. The armed officers had fled before them, and the town was at their mercy.

Suddenly there arose a cry: "To the foreigner's house! The mission compound is large. There we shall be safe!"

So the English missionary found, to his amazement, the doors of his compound besieged by a terrified crowd—men, women and children by the hundreds were clamoring to be admitted to the shelter of the mission. Mr. Shirley, the missionary, could do nothing except pray. God knew, and God could preserve them even now with danger and death advancing so near.

The bandits' leader soon learned where the people had gone. After looting the village of all that he and his men wanted, he started hunting the missionary. "The foreigner! Show me where he lives!" he shouted to all. No one dared tell him, for their mother, or child, or uncle or father was hidden in the compound.

Mr. Shirley knew only too well what kind of fate was likely to be in store

for him and the people he was protecting. But he made no attempt to hide or escape. Calm and fearless, he went outside. Closing the gate behind him to protect the frightened villagers, he waited for the bandit. His heart raced, and he prayed silently all the while.

"Where is the foreigner?" demanded the bandit chief as he galloped up the street.

"Here! I am he!" The missionary called. He hoped this would keep the bandit from hurting the man he had just stopped and asked. He stood waiting. What terrible fate was to be his, he did not know.

How surprised he was when the robber chief stopped and looked carefully at him. Then the chief came forward smiling—and held out a friendly hand.

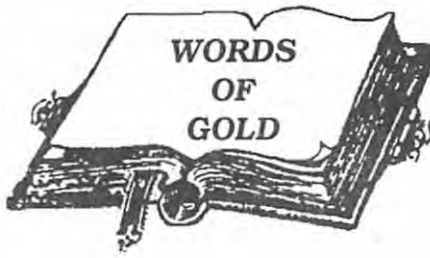
"You are the foreigner?"

"Yes."

"No harm shall come to you," said the bandit. "Once I was ill, and one of your foreign doctors saved my life. So now your life shall be spared. Here, take this!" he said, as he untied his scarlet sash from his neck and handed it to Mr. Shirley.

Mr. Shirley hesitated to accept the scarf.

"Take it! Take it," he demanded. "Tie it to the gate of your compound. None of my gang will dare harm you or anyone else within your gates. They know the sign of my scarlet sash."



## PAUL'S NEPHEW

**Acts 23:11-22**

**11** And the night following the Lord stood by him (Paul), 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 when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

**14** And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

**15** . . . signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow . . . 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: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

**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 wouldst

bring down Paul to morrow 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.

**22** So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

**The Message: The Lord told Paul he would witness for Him at Rome. God fulfilled His word in spite of the vow of forty men to kill him before he could leave Jerusalem.**

### Questions:

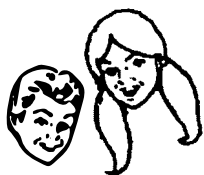
1. Who stood by Paul one night?
2. Where did He say Paul would bear witness for Him?
3. What was the curse that the Jews bound themselves with?
4. Who did they tell about the curse?
5. What did they intend to do when the chief captain brought Paul?
6. Who heard they were lying in wait for Paul?
7. Who did Paul send him to?
8. How many men were lying in wait for Paul?
9. What did the chief captain tell the young man?

### Verse to Memorize

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.

Acts 23:11

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The second night after his capture, Paul lay on the hard floor of the castle. Suddenly he saw the Lord standing by him. "Be of good courage, Paul," the Lord told him. "Just as you have spoken boldly for me in Jerusalem, you are to speak boldly for me in Rome also."

These words encouraged Paul. He did not know how this promise would be fulfilled but he was assured God would take him to Rome. He had wanted to visit Rome for a long time; now this was to be granted. God was not through with him yet!

Paul's enemies were not satisfied to have him in prison. They wanted him killed. So over forty of them vowed that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. They hurried to tell the chief priest and rulers about their plan.

"We have bound ourselves under a great curse," they told them. "We will eat nothing until we have killed Paul. We want you to help us. Tomorrow ask the chief captain to bring him to you as if you wanted to question him. Then as soon as he comes we will be ready to kill him!"

That same day a young man hurried to the castle and asked to see Paul. Since he was a relative, the guards led him to Paul's cell. It was a pleasant surprise when Paul looked up and saw his nephew, his sister's son, standing there.

"Uncle Paul," the young man said excitedly, "there is a plot among the Jews to kill you! I overheard it so

have come to warn you. Tomorrow the chief priests plan to ask the chief captain to bring you to the council again, saying that they want to ask you certain questions. But a band of over forty men will be lying in wait. As soon as the guards turn you over to the temple authorities they will kill you."

Paul asked a centurion to take the young man to the chief captain because he had something to tell him. So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, "Paul the prisoner asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to say to you."

Kindly the chief captain took Paul's nephew by the hand and led him to a place where they could talk privately. "What do you have to tell me?" he asked.

Encouraged by the captain's kindness, Paul's nephew said, "The Jews have agreed that tomorrow they will ask you to bring Paul down to the council as if they wanted to question him about something."

"But do not do it because more than forty of them have bound themselves with an oath saying that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed Paul. They will soon come and ask you to promise to do as they ask."

The chief captain looked very grave as he listened. "Make sure that you do not tell anyone what you have just told me!" he warned the young man.

Paul's life was in great danger. This was apparent to the chief captain. He must get him out of Jerusalem. He decided to send his prisoner to Felix, the governor of Caesarea. That was the Roman capital of Judea and the danger of riot would not be so great in this distant city with a strong Roman garrison. He would send Paul away that very night!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

The chief left. His robber band pursued their way through the city, robbing and looting everywhere. But none came near the mission; it was safe!—protected by the robber's sash.

The missionaries and their Chinese guests, sheltered behind that scarf tied on the gate, opened their Bibles and read of others who were saved by a scarlet line. Rahab was saved by hanging a red cord in her window when Joshua and his men came to destroy Jericho, for she had let down the men by a cord from a window on the city wall, and the messengers escaped back to Joshua's camp. Later Rahab and her family were saved when she obeyed their order and tied the red cord in her window. To Rahab it was a signal of protection.

To us it is also a picture of protection from the devil and his tricks. A scarlet line runs through all the Word of God. It tells of Jesus, who on the cross of Calvary put away sin so that man's guilt—that is like scarlet, and red like crimson—can be washed as white as snow.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18.

The crowd of Chinese women and children were safe behind the gate where hung the scarlet sash, because Mr. Shirley had risked his life to talk with the robber chief. We read that "...Jesus also, that He might sanctify (cleanse) the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 13:12. Jesus came out of His home in Heaven and met the devil's power and the judgment of God against sin. He did this when He sacrificed His life on the cross for all those who trust Him as their Saviour.

Are you under the shelter of His blood, dear reader? —Selected

## WHY JIM WAS SAVED

"Are you saved, Jim?" Mrs. Day, the Sunday school teacher asked. "Yes, I'm quite sure that I am," Jim answered.

"How do you know you are saved?"

"Well, I used to think I was all right because Daddy and Mother were saved, but I have found out that everyone has to answer to God for himself, so I have surrendered my heart to Jesus. He is now King over me."

"Then you are ready to stand before God and be judged?" asked Mrs. Day.

"Yes."

"You are not afraid that He will judge you and turn you away into everlasting darkness?"

"Oh, no," Jim answered with a radiant smile, "I know for sure that Jesus is my Saviour. His death on the cross hides all my sins and mistakes from God," he said as he put his chubby hands over his eyes.

"Tell me, Jim, why doesn't the Lord Jesus take us to Heaven as soon as we are saved?"

Jim thought for a minute, "Must be 'cause He wants us to tell others 'bout Him. He wants everyone in the whole wide world to know about His love." Then he stretched his short, little arms as far apart as possible. "And they should also know about the beautiful home He will take us to after we die."

That is right, and the Lord Jesus never turns anyone away. Anyone can come just as they are, and He will receive them. When they repent of their sins, He will save them. No one is too great a sinner for Jesus to save."

"This is a faithful saying,... that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;..." I Timothy 1:15.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

**Answers:** 1. The Lord. 2. At Rome. 3. They would not eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 4. The chief priests and elders. 5. Kill him. 6. Paul's sister's son. 7. The chief captain. 8. More than forty. 9. To tell no one what he had told the chief priest.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Oct. 26, 2008

## KILLED BY A TRAIN

Many people have been almost persuaded to surrender to Christ, but never did. On pages 64 and 65 of *Birth of a Reformation*, D. S. Warner tells about a man who was almost persuaded. We shall call the man Ezekiel Randel.

Mr. Randel had been a friend of the Warner family for as long as Daniel could remember. He had helped Daniel Warner's father and mother move to Ohio. There Mr. Randel had become wealthy. Daniel's father made quite a lot of money too, but he spent most of the money on whiskey. Many times Daniel had heard Mr. Randel joking and making fun of preachers and Christians.

He was now past eighty years old and had most everything he wanted, but he did not give God thanks for anything. There was no place for Christ in his heart, for his whole heart was set on gold—the god of this world.

Daniel Warner had just come home from a meeting in Basswood. Now he was helping with a meeting in Auburn where he grew up. One night he preached from Malachi 3:8. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." Many people present that night were like Ezekiel Randel. They loved money

and had not been giving to the Lord as they should have been.

That night God's Word cut into hearts. Gospel workers, singers and the audience felt like something awful would happen soon. It was like a grave was already dug and someone was being pushed into it. The awesome feeling could not be shaken off.

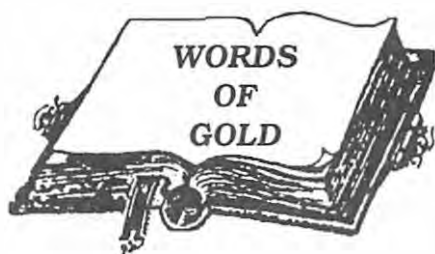
Brother H. Caldwell arose and prophesied, "Before tomorrow's sun shall set someone in this community will suddenly be killed. Please, let us arise and pledge ourselves to pray more fervently for poor sinners to be saved."

They prayed again.

The following evening, after meeting, Warner heard a group talking excitedly. He walked up in time to hear a man saying, "Ezekiel Randel was killed by a train at the Shelby crossing. They say he started out to foreclose on a mortgage and take a widow's farm."

Another added, "And I heard that old Mrs. Randel cautioned him to watch out for the train at the crossing. And his last words to her were, 'I wasn't made to be killed by the cars.'"

"Poor man," Warner said. "He's like the rich man who said, 'Thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said, 'Thou fool! This night thy soul shall be required of thee.' I visited Mr. Randel twice



## ALMOST PERSUADED!

**Acts 24:10, 24-25;**

**10** Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself:

**24** And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

**25** And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

**Acts 25:13-14, 22-23**

**13** And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus.

**14** And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix:

**22** Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself. To morrow, said he, thou shalt hear him.

**23** And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, . . . at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth.

**Acts 26:1, 24-29**

**1** Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself . . .

**24** And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul,

thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

**25** But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

**26** For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him . . .

**27** King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

**28** Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

**29** And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

**The Message: Felix trembled when he heard the Gospel and Agrippa was "almost persuaded," but so far as we know neither ever repented of their sins.**

### Questions:

1. Who beckoned for Paul to speak?
2. Of what nationality was Felix' wife?
3. Concerning what did Paul speak to Felix and Drusilla?
4. What did Felix do as Paul spoke of judgment to come?
5. What did Felix tell Paul?
6. Who told Festus that he would like to hear Paul's testimony?
7. Who told Paul that he was mad?
8. What did Agrippa tell Paul?

### Verse to Memorize

Then Agrippa said unto Paul,  
Almost thou persuadest me  
to be a Christian.

Acts 26:28

# Let's



## Talk . . .

After Paul's nephew told the chief captain about the Jew's plot to kill Paul he sent him to Caesarea that very night. There he was turned over to Felix, the Roman governor.

Since Felix' wife, Drusilla, was Jewish, he knew about the Christians and how the Jews hated them.

Five days later the high priest, Ananias, and the elders of Jerusalem came to accuse him. They brought Tertullus, a skillful lawyer, with them.

At the trial Tertullus was first to speak. He flattered Felix, telling him how thankful they were to have him as their governor. Then, pointing an accusing finger at Paul, his tone changed as he lashed out, "We have found this man Paul to be a terrible troublemaker. We captured him to judge him according to our law but the chief captain came and took him away from us by force."

Turning to those who had hired him with a sweep of his hand, Tertullus asked them if these facts were not so. One by one they nodded their assent.

Now Felix wanted to hear Paul's side of the case. He motioned Paul to speak.

Paul said, "I speak for myself most cheerfully, Honorable Felix, because you have been a judge of this nation for many years." Then he explained that just twelve days before he had come to Jerusalem to bring his offerings and was in the temple when Jews from Asia started the riot. "The real issue," Paul explained, "is my teaching that Christ was resurrected from the dead."

Felix understood. "We will hear you further when the chief captain has come," he said.

A few days after this Felix came with his wife Drusilla and sent for Paul. He wanted to hear more about his faith in Christ. Paul was glad to testify for his Lord. He spoke with such persuasion about righteousness, temperance and the coming judgment that Felix was deeply convicted of his sins. He trembled with fear at his words.

But he didn't repent! Instead Felix shook off conviction, saying, "Go away for now. When I have a more convenient time I will send for you." So far as we know he never found that 'convenient time' and was lost!

After two years Festus replaced Felix as governor. The Jews asked him to bring Paul to Jerusalem for trial, but Paul appealed to Caesar, knowing the Jews would kill him if he went to Jerusalem.

While he waited to be sent to Rome, King Agrippa came to visit Festus and asked to hear Paul's testimony. Gladly Paul told Agrippa how he had been changed when Jesus appeared to him on the way to Damascus. Paul's words were earnest and convincing. Deeply moved, Agrippa said, "Paul, you almost persuade me to be a Christian!"

Paul's heart went out to this poor man who needed to be saved. If only he would yield while God was inviting. 'Almost' was not enough!

Have you ever 'almost' got to the bus in time or to the store before it closed? As you watched the bus leave without you or saw the store manager lock the door for the night it really didn't matter whether you were just one minute too late or an hour. You missed it!

How much worse to neglect salvation and to be lost eternally! The devil is expert at convincing people that there will be a better time to give up their sins and be saved. No doubt millions have been lost who had the best intentions of getting right with God before they died.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

during our meeting last winter and talked about religion.

"He said, 'This thing about being born again causes me to study a great deal. It is completely dark to me. Once I went to hear a great Universalism preacher speak about it, but I received no understanding whatsoever.'

"It is a fulfillment of I John 2:11," Warner added. "Darkness hath blinded his eyes. '...The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...' II Corinthians 4:4.

"He had a large, well-developed brain," Warner said slowly.

"But it was dashed out and strewn along the tracks," another added. "And his body was ripped into pieces."

"His poor soul has gone with all its guilt to the place where another rich man once went and opened his eyes in torment." (Luke 16:19-23.)

"Sad, so sad," they all agreed. Mr. Randel may have been almost persuaded when Daniel Warner spoke with him. But he did not yield to God."

The song, *Almost Persuaded*, written by Philip P. Bliss about the time that Mr. Randel was killed says:

*Almost cannot avail;*

*Almost is but to fail!*

*Sad, sad, that bitter wail,*

*Almost, but lost."*

Don't let this be your cry!

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

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In the early 1870's, Philip Bliss was listening to a sermon in a little church in the east. The preacher closed his appeal with, "He who is almost persuaded is almost saved. But, to be almost saved is to be eternally lost!" These words impressed Bliss so deeply that it led him to write the great hymn, *Almost Persuaded*. Many have been persuaded to be saved through this song.

On December 29, 1876, Philip Bliss and his wife boarded the train

in Pennsylvania. They were traveling to Chicago to help D. L. Moody in a revival. In a blinding snowstorm the train was passing over a trestle bridge that was spanning a river when it collapsed. The first engine reached solid ground on the other side but everything else plummeted 75 feet into the icy water below.

Five minutes after the train fell, fire broke out. Fanned by gale like winds, the wooden coaches were ablaze. Mr. Bliss succeeded in crawling to safety through a window. Finding his wife was pinned under the ironwork of the seats, he returned into the car, and bravely remained at her side, trying to extricate her as the flames took their toll. All that remained was a charred mass. No trace of their bodies was ever discovered. For days it was not known who were among the dead, as there had been no passenger list. It was tabulated that out of 160 passengers there were only 14 survivors. Later official sources said 92 died. In most cases, there was nothing to recover.

Mr. Bliss's trunk reached Chicago safely. When it was opened, it was found that the last song that he had written, before his death, began as follows: "I know not what awaits me. God kindly veils my eyes." He was only thirty-eight years old but, unlike Mr. Randel, he was saved and ready to meet the Lord.

D. L. Moody preached the funeral using the text "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**Answers:** 1. The governor. 2. A Jewess. 3. The faith of Christ. 4. He trembled. 5. "When I have a convenient season I will call for you." 6. Agrippa. 7. Festus. 8. "You almost persuade me to be a Christian."

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Nov. 2, 2008

## FATHER'S LOVE

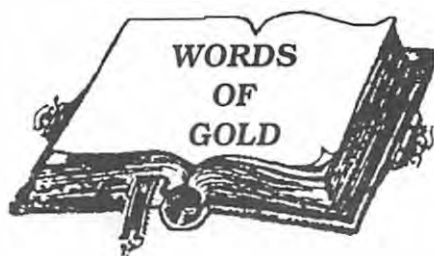
My name is Anthony Hunt. I am a drover, and I live many miles away upon the western prairie. There was not a house in sight when we moved there, my wife and I; and now we haven't many neighbors, though those we have are good men.

One day about ten years ago, I went away from home to sell some fifty head of cattle—fine creatures as ever I saw. I was to buy some groceries and dry goods before I came back, and above all, a doll for our youngest child, Dolly. (She never had a shop doll of her own, only the rag babies her mother made her.) Dolly could talk of nothing else, and went down to the very gate to call after me to "buy a big one."

No one but a parent can understand how my mind was on that toy, and how, when the cattle were sold, the first thing I started off to buy was Dolly's doll. I found a large one, with eyes that would open and shut when you pulled a wire, and had it wrapped up in paper, and tucked it under my arm while I had the parcels put up. It might have been more prudent to have stayed until morning, but I felt anxious to get back, and eager to hear Dolly's prattle about the doll she was so eagerly expecting.

I mounted a steady-going old horse of mine and, pretty well loaded, started for home. Night set in before I was a mile from town, and settled down dark as pitch while I was in the midst of the wildest bit of road I know of. I could have felt my way through, I remembered it so well, and it was almost like doing that when the storm that had been brewing broke, and the rain fell in torrents. I was five, or maybe six miles from home, too. I rode as fast as I could; but suddenly I heard a little cry, like a child's voice. I stopped short and listened. I heard it again; I called, and it answered me. I couldn't see a thing; all was dark as pitch. I got down and felt about in the grass; called again, and again was answered.

Then I began to wonder. I'm not timid; but I was known to be a drover, and to have money about me. I thought it might be a trap to catch me, and there to rob and murder me. I am not superstitious—not very—but how could a real child be out on the prairie on such a night at such an hour? It might be more than human. The bit of coward that hides itself in most men showed itself to me then, and I was half inclined to run away. But once more I heard that piteous cry, and, said I: "If any man's child



## PAUL JOURNEYS TOWARD ROME

**Acts 26:31-32; 27:1-13**

**31** And when they (Agrippa and Festus) were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

**32** Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

**1** And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

**2** And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

**3** And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

**4** And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.

**5** And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.

**6** And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.

**7** And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;

**8** And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens: nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

**9** Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them,

**10** And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.

**11** Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.

**12** And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter: which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south west and north west.

**13** And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosing thence, they sailed close by Crete.

**The Message: Though he went as a prisoner, God had a work for Paul to do at Rome.**

### Questions:

1. What did Agrippa and Festus decide after hearing Paul's defense?
2. Why could they not set him free?
3. It was determined that Paul was to sail to what country?
4. Who was Julius?
5. What courtesy did Julius show Paul?
6. Why were they forced to sail so slowly?
7. Who warned that the trip would be dangerous and with much damage?
8. Who did the centurion believe more than Paul?
9. Why did they decide it was safe to sail?

### Verse to Memorize

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.

Acts 23:11

# Let's



## Talk . . .

"This man has done nothing to deserve death or even imprisonment," King Agrippa and Festus concluded. "He could be set free if he had not appealed to Caesar!"

But Paul knew he had made no mistake in appealing to Caesar. While in Jerusalem, the Lord stood by him the night following his imprisonment and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul. As you have testified of me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness of me in Rome also." This was good news to Paul. He had desired to go to that city for a long time so he could preach the Gospel of Christ there.

Not long after, it was determined that Paul must appear before Caesar, he and other prisoners were delivered into the care of Julius, a Roman centurion. Festus ordered Julius and his soldiers to take the prisoners safely to Rome and deliver them to Caesar. So, finding a ship sailing toward Italy, Julius put the prisoners on board. As the ship left Caesarea, Paul no doubt knew he would never see his beloved homeland again. It was a great comfort to have Luke and Aristarchus sailing with him.

The next day the ship stopped at

Sidon. By this time Paul had won the respect of Julius. He gave him permission to go ashore to visit his friends. Paul, Luke, Aristarchus, and a soldier guard had time for a short visit with the Christians at Sidon. This greatly refreshed them.

The ship docked at Myra, its last stop. Julius found another ship ready to sail for Italy. He had the soldiers and their prisoners board this ship. It set sail and soon they were back in the great Mediterranean Sea.

But sailing was not good. The winds were strong and from the wrong direction so they could only sail slowly for many days. Finally they reached a harbor named Fair Havens on the island of Crete.

Winter was coming on and sailing was already dangerous. Julius was so anxious to get back to Rome, he ignored the danger. Paul told him and the owner of the ship, "Sirs, this will be a dangerous voyage. If you sail now there will be injury and much damage."

Because Fair Havens was not a good place to spend the winter, the owner and Julius ignored Paul's warning. They decide to go farther south before stopping for the winter. When a soft south breeze blew, they figured this was a good sign they could sail. The ship glided out of the harbor and into the broad sea.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

is hereabouts, Anthony Hunt is not the man to let it lie here and die."

I searched again. At last I thought of a hollow under the hill, and groped that way. Sure enough, I found a little dripping thing that moaned and sobbed as I took it in my arms. I called my horse, he came to me, and I mounted and tucked the little soaked thing under my coat as best I could, promising to take it home to mamma.

It seemed tired to death, and soon cried itself to sleep against my bosom. It had slept there over an hour when I saw my own windows. There were lights in them, and I supposed my wife had lit them for my sake; but when I got into the dooryard, I saw something was the matter, and stood still with dead fear of heart five minutes before I could lift the latch. At last I did it, and saw the room full of neighbors, and my wife amid them weeping. When she saw me she hid her face.

"Oh, don't tell him," she cried; "it will kill him."

"What is it, neighbors?" I cried.

And one said: "Nothing now, I hope. What's that in your arms?"

"A poor lost child," said I. "I found it on the road. Take it will you? I've turned faint." And I lifted the sleeping thing, and saw the face of my own child, my little Dolly. **It was my darling, and no other, that I had picked up on the drenched road!**

My little child had wandered out to meet papa and the doll, while her mother was at work, and for her they were lamenting as for one dead.

I thanked God on my knees before them all.

Now I think of it often in the night and wonder how I could bear to live now, if I had not stopped when I heard the cry for help upon the road—The

little baby-cry, hardly louder than a squirrel's chirp.

Is God less pitiful than man? "Like a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him."

—Touching Incidents

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## THE CAUSE OF HIS INTEREST

While traveling down the Ohio River on a steamboat my attention was called to the pilot who was a coarse-looking man. The captain informed me that three weeks ago, as the boat was going through the rapids, the pilot called him to take the helm. He had just seen a boy struggling in the water. He sprang into the boiling waters and saved the boy. I went up to the brave man and spoke to him.

"Do you ever see the boy whom you saved?"

"Yes," he answered, "at every trip he comes down to the boat to see me."

"And how do you feel when you see him?"

"More than I can tell you," he replied. "More intense interest than in any of my own seven at home for whom I have run no such risk."

Thus there is "joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Thus Jesus will regard those whom he has saved with more interest than the angels. —Selected

**Answers:** 1. Paul had done nothing worthy of bonds or of death. 2. Because he had appealed to Caesar. 3. Italy. 4. The centurion in charge of Paul and other prisoners. 5. He gave him liberty to go to his friends and refresh himself. 6. The winds were contrary. 7. Paul. 8. The master and owner of the ship. 9. The south wind blew softly.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Nov. 9, 2008

## LUCY HELPS HER FATHER

### A True Story

Paul staggered through the door, tripped on the leg of the kitchen chair and fell to the floor. He gave the chair such a hard kick that it broke into pieces. Then he cursed the chair and his wife for leaving the chair in his way.

Lucy ran into the bedroom and carefully closed the door. She knew not to lock it. Her father always became very angry when he found her door locked. She crawled under the bed and wriggled her way back against the wall. Here she hoped her father would not find her, for when he was drunk, he beat whoever or whatever got in his path. She could still hear him cursing her good mother.

Moments later she heard him at her door. Her heart began racing, then almost stopped beating. "Lucy, where are you?" he called from the open door. Lucy did not answer. "Gone again? Well, I'll just wait right here for her." He slumped down on the bed.

Lucy lay still as a stone. After awhile, her father fell over on the bed. She waited for him to fall asleep. While she waited, she imagined what it would be like to live in a peaceful home. Mother often said if Daddy would stop drinking, there would be peace. Daddy said his only peace was found in the bottle. Lucy believed what her mother said.

"What can I do to help him?" She thought of different things, most of them her mother had already tried. Then she prayed, "God help my daddy stop coming home drunk." Then an idea popped into her mind! After what seemed to be a day and night of waiting, she heard her father's heavy breathing and knew he was asleep. She crept out.

"Has my daddy always been mean like this?" she whispered to Mother, who was bending over the broken chair, trying to repair it.

"No, Lucy," Mother answered. "He is a good man when he isn't drinking."

"When is that? I've never known him to come home happy."

"One of these days he will come home sober," Mother assured Lucy. "Then you will learn to love your real daddy."

How very much Lucy wanted her daddy to change. Her mother had tried ever so many ways to help him quit drinking, but nothing helped. When Mother said anything about him drinking, he always said, "All the peace I have is when I'm with the boys at the tavern."

All night Lucy thought about her idea to help her father. The next evening she hurried through the village streets. She was determined that her father should not come home drunk again. "I will persuade



## A STORM AT SEA

### Acts 27:14-29

**14** But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

**15** And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive (drift.)

**16** And running under a certain island which is called Claudia, we had much work to come by the boat:

**17** Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.

**18** And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship:

**19** And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

**20** And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

**21** But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

**22** And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

**23** For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

**24** Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God

hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

**25** Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

**26** Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

**27** But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

**28** And sounded, and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.

**29** Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

**The Message: The lives of the wicked are often spared because of the righteous. God spared everyone on the ship for Paul's sake.**

### Questions:

1. What was Euroclydon?
2. Why did they let the ship drift?
3. Why did they lose all hope of being saved?
4. What did Paul tell them they should have done?
5. How many lives would be lost in this storm?
6. What would be lost?
7. Who had stood by Paul that night?
8. How would they be saved, according to Paul?
9. On what night did the shipmen discover they were near land?

### Verse to Memorize

Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Acts 27:24

# Let's



## Talk . . .

A gentle south wind was blowing when the ship carrying Paul toward Rome left the harbor at Fair Havens. They did not aim to go far; only to another port on the same island, called Phenice, to spend the winter there. Against Paul's advice, the captain of the ship set sail. But they had scarcely left the harbor when a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon, swept down on them. They could not turn back. Nor could they make any headway against the hurricane-force wind. The ship was tossed like a cork by the angry waves. It seemed it would be torn to pieces at any minute! The owner of the ship could not help remembering Paul's advice and warning.

Since they could not make it back to shore it was safest to keep as far from it as possible. So, heading out into the open sea, the ship was left to run at random driven by the fierce wind. They did all they could to save the ship. They strengthened it by passing four or five turns of a cable-like rope round the hull or frame. This, they hoped, would enable the ship to resist the violence of the seas. Then they began throwing the cargo overboard. On the third day the tackling of the ship was thrown out. There was nothing else that they could do except wait anxiously for the storm to pass.

Day after day the storm howled around them. They saw neither sun nor stars for many days. This dense darkness made the tempest all the more terrible. When they could see

neither sun nor stars the sailors had nothing to guide them, making their situation even more hazardous. Now all hope of being saved from certain death was gone.

But God was still in control, and right through the storm He had His eye on Paul and those with him. One morning Paul called everyone to him. Above the roar of the storm he told them, "Sirs, if you had listened to me, this would not have happened. But be of good cheer; even though we shall lose the ship, no one will lose his life. Last night an angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve, stood by me saying, 'Fear not, Paul. You must be brought before Caesar. And God has given you all them that are with you.' I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me!"

The angel's message assured Paul that he would come safely to Rome. The rage of the stormiest sea could not prevail against God's purpose. Paul's work was not finished. He must be preserved in this danger, for he was reserved for further service

Paul's words were comforting, but still the storm raged on. Two weeks passed. Then one night, about midnight, the sailors discovered they were nearing land. No one knew where they were, since they had drifted on the waves for many days. They had no idea what latitude they were in, much less how to steer their course. They did not even know whether they were nearing a rocky coast or a sandy beach. Yet God, for Paul's sake, had undertaken to bring them to an island that would prove to be a refuge for them.

Fearing they would be wrecked on a rocky shoreline in the darkness, the sailors threw the anchors overboard and waited anxiously for morning to come.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

him, and he will see how much fun it can be," she told herself. Her father got off work long before it was dark. Thinking she would be gone a short time, Lucy did not tell her mother.

Neither did Mother worry about Lucy for she was a very obedient child, and her best friend lived next door. They usually played near-by. However, when Mother called, "Lucy," and no one answered she began checking on her. Lucy was no where to be found, not next door, nor at her other friend's homes. She checked the neighborhood stores. No Lucy. Someone had seen her going toward the tavern but Mother never dreamed she was going there. Mother feared she had gone to the small lake near the tavern. The lake was searched, but Lucy was not found. Just before the sun began to set the police were notified, and a larger search began.

While the towns people were searching for Lucy, she was standing in the shadows near the tavern waiting for her father. "Why hadn't he come?" Many other men had come and gone into the tavern. Some had come out drunk. Fearing one might harm her, Lucy trembled and huddled against the darkened wall. When they were out of sight, she relaxed a little. Then another came out, and another. Lucy became more and more frightened, but she had to meet her father. Then two men came out fighting. Lucy started to run home, then she stopped. She must see her father, so she ran to hide behind the building. Peering from the corner of the building, she watched the street, still hoping to see her father.

Soon a policeman came to break up the fight. He spotted Lucy. "You fit the description of the little girl the whole town is searching for," he said. "Are you lost?"

"No, I'm not lost," Lucy answered, "I'm waiting for my daddy. He comes

here every night. Then he comes home drunk. I think God told me to meet him here and tell him that God will give him peace, and he won't have to find it in a bottle."

"I don't know what God told you," said the policeman. "But I do know your mother isn't very peaceful right now, 'cause she can't find her little girl. You better come along with me."

"But I must meet my daddy," Lucy protested. "Sir, it's awful when he comes home drunk."

"I'm sure it is. I'll see how I can help you later." Then taking Lucy by the hand he lifted her into his arms and carried her to his car.

By this time, many people had given up the search for the night. Her mother was back at home, praying. Her prayer was interrupted by a knock on the door. Opening the door she cried, "Lucy, Lucy, where have you been?"

"I went to meet Daddy and bring him home happy," Lucy said. "I'm sorry I made you afraid. I was afraid too. But I had to be strong, to save Daddy."

That night her father did come home sober. He never again went to the tavern. Jesus made a new creature out of him, and took away the desire to get drunk. The family went to church together. Not long after her father changed, the policeman who found Lucy was also saved.

Peace found its way into both homes. The Prince of peace began reigning in the men's hearts.

—Charlotte Huskey

**Answers:** 1. A tempestuous wind. 2. They could not bear up into the wind. 3. They had not seen the sun nor stars for many days and there was still a great tempest. 4. Listened to him and stayed in Crete. 5. Not one. 6. The ship. 7. An angel. 8. By being cast onto a certain island. 9. The fourteenth.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Nov. 16, 2008

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## THE CONTRARY WIND

It was still dark when James Stewart's alarm sounded. He jumped out of bed and slipped into the loose cotton muslin breeches and shirt. These were used in most parts of Egypt because they shaded the skin from the harsh sun and at the same time did not prevent one from feeling the occasional breeze that blew.

"I have only three weeks left to visit the villages along the banks of the Nile," James told himself. "According to my map, there are thirty-six. Probably most of these haven't heard the Gospel. Some days I will need to visit two villages if I am to reach each one of these Moslem villages. Every day will count."

Hurriedly he gathered his traveling gear. A suitcase filled with Arabic Bibles, two changes of clothing, a water bottle filled with fresh water, tablets for purifying more water when that was gone, note pad and pens, some dehydrated foods to be eaten if unfriendly store keepers refused to sell to him, and last but not least, a large umbrella for protection from the sun. He took no camera, afraid it would cause trouble with the natives.

At ten o'clock James had made his

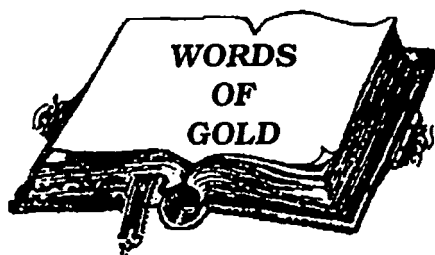
way to the Nile River. He paid his fare on a boat that was going across to a village where he knew some Christians lived. He was sure these Christians needed Bibles and would also be glad to hear the Gospel preached. He hoped they could also direct him to other villages in which he might be allowed to teach and hand out Bibles.

A strong wind was blowing from the direction of the town, but James thought the boat strong enough to buck the storm. The anchor was raised and the boat churned out a ways into the water. Then it stopped moving.

"Every day counts", James muttered to himself as he watched the helpless boat struggling against the wind. "I may never get back to these parts. The war is raging in Europe. I have heard rumors that no Americans are being allowed to enter Egypt. Some that are here are being ordered to leave. If I could only fill these twenty-one days sharing the Gospel with these Moslems, how happy I would be."

But the boat was making no progress. During a calm it went forward a few yards. Then a huge wave, forced by a gust of wind, pushed it back to where it had started.

James couldn't sit still. He went



## **BITTEN BY A VIPER!**

**Acts 28:1-15**

**1** And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

**2** And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

**3** And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

**4** And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

**5** And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

**6** Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

**7** In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously.

**8** And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

**9** So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:

**10** Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they

laded us with such things as were necessary.

**11** And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux.

**12** And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days.

**13** And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli:

**14** Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome.

**15** And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appiiforum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

**The Message: Had it not been for the shipwreck, the inhabitants on the island of Melita would not have heard the Gospel and seen the power of God.**

### **Questions:**

1. To what island did they escape?
2. How did the island people show them kindness?
3. How did Paul help?
4. What fastened itself to his hand?
5. What did the people think about Paul?
6. How did Paul react when he saw it hanging from his hand?
7. What did the people finally decide about Paul?
8. Who was Publius?
9. What did Paul do for Publius' father?

**Verse to Memorize**  
And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.  
Acts 28:5

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The plight of the shipwreck had attracted the natives. They watched anxiously from the shore. As soon as they were near enough many of the natives ran to help the strangers, lighting fires so that they might warm themselves. It was then that the shipwrecked men learned where they were. They had landed on the island of Melita, only sixty miles from Sicily, a Roman possession.

As soon as Paul got to shore, he joined the others in bringing sticks for the fire. With an armful of brushwood, he approached one of the fires and laid his burden in the flames. Suddenly a viper, which had been clinging to the wood, unseen by Paul, was stung by the heat and jumped for safety, fastening itself upon his hand. For a second it clung there, and a cry of fear went up from the horror-stricken onlookers. With one quick motion Paul shook it off, and it dropped back into the fire.

Here was a prisoner, they thought, who had escaped the sea, but the vengeance of the gods had followed him, and his hour had come. They knew the deadly poison of the viper and the speed with which it acts. They expected to see Paul sicken and fall dead in a matter of minutes. With horror in their faces they watched him. Surely he had committed some terrible crime to meet death by so sudden a stroke.

But in Paul's mind there was no such thought. He was not afraid, for he believed God and was confident that he would preach the Gospel in Rome, as he had been promised. The

minutes sped by and Paul prodded the fire, moving closer to it to dry his clothing and warm his body. Closely they watched him; and as each moment passed, their amazement grew even greater. He did not seem pale, nor did he look like a dying man.

One by one the superstitious islanders nodded their heads and concluded that he must be a god in disguise. This, combined with what followed in the next few days, gave Paul an opportunity to preach the Gospel of the one true God, who can protect his servants from every evil.

The islanders took the shipwrecked people to the governor, whose residence was close to the scene of the disaster. His house and outbuildings were large and his heart was larger, so he made provision for them all for three days. Publius, the Roman governor of Melita, had an aged father living in his residence, who was sick with a fever. When Paul heard of this, he asked to see him and receiving permission, he laid his hands on the old man. Lifting his eyes to God in Heaven, the apostle prayed fervently that a miracle would be done and that this man might be healed as a testimony to the power of God and the truth of the Gospel.

The Lord heard that prayer, and the governor's father was made well. Publius heard the good news, and so did many of the sick. By the score they came, hoping that the man Paul might heal them, too. And so for three winter months, while Julius and his prisoners waited until the sea became navigable again, Paul and his friends, Luke and Aristarchus, preached the Gospel of Christ, and God confirmed their words by miracles.

Special honors were given to Paul and his friends. They had won the love and confidence of many people. Those of high degree and low had seen the mighty power of God, and some believed.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

up on the deck. Holding to a railing to steady himself against the wind, he studied the sky for any sign of change. He went to the captain's quarters and chatted with him. This day counted, for he had a great amount of work to do. The captain understood James' intense desire to get to the other side, "I'm sorry," he said "but the wind will not release its grip."

James went to the dining room and visited with an old man who looked very scared. The man was a Moslem. James' message of comfort was rejected. He looked at his watch. It was three minutes after eleven. The wind hadn't died down a bit. Just then the captain announced, "We are returning to shore. Ticket monies will be refunded or the tickets marked to be used at a later time." James' heart sank.

Only twenty days left," he sighed as he walked off the gang plank. Then new thoughts began channeling their way into his distressed brain. Yes, he was God's child. Nothing happened to him that wasn't for good.

With a determined look in his eyes he turned and asked the ticket agent if there was a town nearby. "There is a village on the south side of those huge sand dunes," the agent answered.

Soon after James arrived at the village, he met a man walking toward him. "Please sir," he said, "do you know if there are any Christians living here?"

"Well, folks tell me that Mungo has taken up western ideas. Maybe he is what you call a Christian. He lives over near that tall palm tree." He pointed to a tree on the other side of the village, then he hurried away like James might be dangerous.

James found Mungo. He soon learned that Mungo was a lonely,

hungry Christian. He had no Bible nor other brethren to teach him more of God's ways. Excitedly, James began sharing with him some of the treasures of God's Word. One by one his family gathered to listen.

An hour had passed before James glanced at his watch, but he talked on, realizing that he was gaining the day he thought he had lost.

"How wonderful it must be to have a Bible to read," Mungo said after James had slowed down a bit.

James opened up his back-pack and took out the new Bible. "God has sent you one today," he said, placing it in Mungo's hands.

Tears of gratitude welled in Mungo's eyes. He looked up to heaven and said, "Now I can teach my people about the Savior."

James felt light as a feather as he walked back to the river. "Hum," he mused, "That town wasn't on my map, but God got it covered by sending this wind." Then he noticed that the wind wasn't blowing.

"We've been watching for you. I knew you were very anxious to go, so I waited," the boat captain said when James neared the dock. "We can cross now."

"You will never know how grateful I am to you for waiting," James said.

He found the Christians on the other side of the Nile. He gave them Bibles. They helped him with directions to find many villages that wanted Bibles and where he could preach the Gospel for the next twenty days.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

**Answers:** 1. Melita. 2. They built a fire. 3. By gathering sticks for the fire. 4. A viper. 5. That he must be a murderer. 6. He shook the viper off into the fire. 7. That he was a god. 8. The chief man of the island. 9. He healed him.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Nov. 23, 2008

## TIM'S LAST THANKSGIVING

(A true story.)

With axes over their shoulders, Tim and Raymond were treading through the pine forest in the autumn dawn. Tim was short and humpbacked with long sinewy arms. His black tangled hair and untrimmed beard gave the appearance of a rough character. However he had soft blue eyes and a kind expression. "Ray, ye've got a lot to be thankful fer," Tim said.

"Me?"

"Ye," he answered, ignoring the scorn in Ray's voice. "I don't jest know what's in the years behind ye, nor what brought the like of ye to northern Minnesota three weeks ago, but ye're straight and strong and ye knows books. I'm sure ye've had a chance."

"And what I've done or been in the past is no one's business but mine," Ray answered grumpily. "I'm a free man in a free country." But of late he was wondering if his freedom was worth the price he'd paid for it.

"I feel fer ye when the men's a poking fun at your correct speech and cleanness. It's a shame 'em fellows don't follow your example and clean up themselves."

"Thanks, Tim. It's good to know someone in Haskin's Lumber Camp feels for me. I never realized how vile and mean lumberjacks can be."

"Been kind of protected, I guess?"

"To be sure—a little too much."

The two men walked on in silence. Tim wondered why this tall, educated

man had chosen hard work with the poor and illiterate. Raymond, although he called his dad's religious convictions old superstitions, never cursed or used bad language. He rebuked them for fighting and telling dirty jokes and had earned himself the nickname, "Preacher."

It was Thanksgiving Day. Raymond had dragged himself out of bed, drowsy from a restless night haunted by visions of his home life.

He and Tim were assigned with a group to cut down a pine that towered over the forest. At the moment the monarch of the forest came crashing to the ground, above the noise rang out a cry of terror and pain. Someone had not judged the length of a branch which had swept him from his feet and pinned him to the earth.

It was Tim. His crippled body lay crumpled under a heavy branch. Raymond jumped to his side. "Help me, boys," he shouted. "Lift this tree off him."

Together the men lifted the tree and Raymond pulled Tim free. "Well, I guess it's all over for me, boys," Tim gasped.

A man ran for the stretcher that hung outside the office. They carried Tim to the cook shack and placed him on a rough cot beside the big stove. A lightweight young man was ordered to go for the doctor.

"Why call the doc?" questioned a man. "Tim won't last—"

"Doc won't leave a Thanksgiving dinner to treat a lumber jack," grumbled another. "Besides, it's twenty



## ROME AT LAST!

### Acts 28:16-31

**16** And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

**17** And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and...he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

**18** Who, when they had examined me, would have let me go, because there was no cause of death in me.

**19** But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of.

**20** For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

**21** And they said unto him, We neither received letters out of Judaea concerning thee, neither any of the brethren that came shewed or spake any harm of thee.

**22** But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

**23** And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

**24** And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

**25** And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

**26** Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:

**27** For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

**28** Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

**29** And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

**30** And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

**31** Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

**The Message: God told Paul that he must testify of Him at Rome. Through all the dangers and storm, Paul knew God would take him safely to Rome.**

### Questions:

1. How long did they stay at Syracuse?
2. How long did they stay with the brethren in Puteoli?
3. What caused Paul to thank God and take courage?
4. To whom did the centurion deliver the prisoners?
5. How was Paul treated differently?
6. After three days whom did Paul call together?
7. When the Jews rejected the Gospel, to whom did God send it?
8. How long did Paul live in his own rented home?
9. What did Paul do while he lived in Rome?

### Verse to Memorize

Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.  
Acts 27:25

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The three months on the island of Melita went by quickly. With the first balmy breezes of spring, the masters of the ships in the harbor began calling back their crews and made ready to sail.

Julius was restless to go, and when he made arrangements with the owner of another ship of Alexandria, the soldiers with their prisoners prepared to depart. By this time Paul had many friends and they were sorry to see him leave. In token of their love, they brought gifts and provisions. Then, gathering at the shore, they waved farewell.

The heavy ship was paddled out into the bay and the sails were hoisted. The soft winds blew, and after a day of good sailing with sunny skies above and blue waters about them, they reached the ancient city of Syracuse, nestling on a beautiful gulf of Sicily. For three days Paul and his companions, under Roman guard, visited this great city.

Then it was time to sail on. The ship had the figureheads of the twin brothers, Castor and Pollux on the bow. In ancient mythology these were sons of Zeus. The sailors felt safe because these heavenly twins were said to protect seamen on their voyages.

Paul's feet touched Italian soil first at Puteoli. Julius stayed for a while in that city, and during that time Paul was allowed to see his friends freely. During the seven-day layover, the Christians had opportunity to send word to Rome of Paul's arrival. The believers in Rome were happy to see the man who had spent his life in the service of Christ. Many determined to go out on the highway to meet him and accompany him back to Rome.

When Paul saw the friends from the church at Rome, his heart was moved. He thought of the trial that awaited him and the possible condemnation, but when he saw the love and devotion of these friends for Christ and His servants, he thanked God and took courage.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

miles. He won't be here until tomorrow."

The men stood in silence with heads bowed. Only Tim's heavy breathing and the distant clapping of the horse hooves could be heard.

Presently Tim said, "Ray, Ray can't ye tell me?"

Raymond bent over Tim. "Tell you what?"

"Tell me 'bout God. Will He be angry? Nobody ever told me. Can't you, Ray?"

All eyes were on Raymond. "I can't," he whispered.

"You can't? You can read; haven't you read how's the proper way to meet God?"

Raymond's face was red. Then it turned white and serious. He rushed out the door and into the forest. "Oh, God," Raymond cried, "my friend's dying and I can't lead him to You. Forgive me, God, forgive me for listening to the skeptics and reading New Age junk. Forgive those hateful letters I've written to Dad. I'm glad Mother's not alive to know how far I've strayed from the truth she taught me.

"Oh, Lord, I thought being a Christian was hard. Now I know it's happiness compared to what I've suffered since rejecting it. Instead of finding freedom, I've gotten myself bound by sin and darkness.

"God, please remove the darkness and let Your light come again into my heart that I might give Your Word to my dying friend."

The men were still sitting around Tim that evening when Raymond came from the forest. He walked across the clearing with determined steps and entering the cook shack, went straight to Tim. "I've been with God. Now I can help you," he said, kneeling beside Tim's cot.

"Quick, tell me," Tim whispered.

"God says He loves you. He loved you so much that He gave His only Son, that if you believe in Him you shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

"But I'm a sinner."

"But while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

"He died for me?"

"Yes, and if you confess your sins,

He is faithful and just to forgive your sins...."

Tim prayed, "Oh, Jesus, I don't really know what's sin and what ain't, but I've done lots of things I thought weren't proper. I'm awfully sorry."

When Tim finished, Raymond began. Tears streamed down his uplifted face. Some men took off their caps and others knelt. "Dear Jesus," he said, "Thanks for forgiving my sins. Now my friend is dying. He needs the forgiveness and peace like You have just given to me." Raymond prayed for a long time.

While he prayed Tim grew quiet. Then he said, "It's all right. I'm going to Him. Now Ray, you tell everybody."

"I promise, I'll spend my life telling others."

"Thank ye. And thank ye, God," Tim spoke feebly. It was Tim's last Thanksgiving.

Raymond turned to face the men. "Tim's gone, boys. You heard my promise to Tim. I promised God I'd do this years ago and I'm going to from this day on. Will you all forgive me for the proud attitude I've shown toward you and let me begin by telling you?"

"Yes, we will," one man said. "We'll wish we had heard when we come to where Tim's been today."

"Tomorrow we'll do our respects to Tim and commit him to the earth. Tomorrow night I'll tell you about Jesus."

That night Raymond wrote a long letter to his father. He asked forgiveness and told him of his future plans.

Raymond's father, Mr. Lee, came to help him at Haskin's Lumber Camp. The work continued until seventy men were saved.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

**Answers:** 1. Three days. 2. Seven days. 3. The brethren from Rome who met him. 4. The captain of the guard. 5. He was allowed to live by himself with a soldier to guard him. 6. The chief of the Jews. 7. The Gentiles. 8. Two years. 9. He preached the kingdom of God and taught them about Jesus.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Nov. 30, 2008

## GOD DIDN'T FORGET

(A true story.)

Living through the Great Depression of the 1930's left a permanent mark on Lou Ellen Henry. Her family, like thousands of families all over the United States of America, were left without a steady income. Lou Ellen never forgot the winter of 1935 when it looked like God had forgotten them. By the third week of November there was not a bit of food for the seven children, their parents and an aunt who made her home with them.

Lou Ellen's father, Mr. Henry, had been employed by the local limestone mine. But soon after the beginning of the depression he was laid off with the rest of the workers. They had survived four years by raising a huge garden and Mr. Henry working odd jobs. He hauled hay, mixed cement, shoveled snow, split wood, washed windows and worked with road gangs. If he earned money it was one dollar a day. Often he accepted food or other

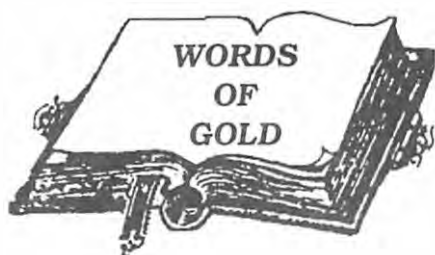
commodities in return for a hard day's work. Hunting and fishing, which had once been his leisure-time sports, were now necessary for survival.

The family usually canned food from the garden to keep for the winter. But the summer of 1935 little rain fell and the garden hardly produced enough for eating. By November their food supply was gone. One day near Thanksgiving Mother made pancakes for breakfast with the last bit of flour and shortening. She ground up the last few apples and made a sauce to serve with the pancakes. Father shouldered his gun and went out to hunt. Noel and William had gone early that morning to the neighbor's pond hoping to bring back fish for breakfast.

Aunt Mary groaned, "There is not a bite of food in this house. I think God has forgotten us."

"And there is no money, either," moaned Lou Ellen. "Why doesn't God take better care of His children?"

"We've had food every day," Mother rebuked. "He promised to



## LEARNING TO COUNT

### Acts 20:23-24

**23** ...The Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

**24** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

### Philippians 3:7-10

**7** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

**8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

**9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

**10** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death:

### James 1:2-4

**2** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

**3** Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

**4** But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

### James 5:10-11

**10** Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

**11** Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord: that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

### II Thessalonians 1:11

**11** Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power.

**The Message:** When we learn to count as God does, we will gladly give up all that the world calls excellent in order to know Christ.

### Questions:

1. What did the Holy Ghost witness to Paul?
2. Why did none of these things move Paul?
3. How did Paul want to finish his course?
4. For whom did Paul suffer the loss of all things?
5. How should we count it when we fall into temptations?
6. What does the trying of our faith work?
7. Who were examples of patience?
8. How do we count those that endure?

**Verse to Memorize**  
But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.  
Philippians 3:7.

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Cuff was a Negro slave who lived in the South before the Civil War. He was a joyful Christian and a faithful servant. His master, needing money, sold him to a young planter who was an infidel. When parting with him the master said, "Cuff will suit you in every respect but one. He will pray and you can't break him of it; but that is his only fault."

"I'll soon whip that out of him," remarked the infidel.

Cuff proved faithful to the new master but he soon got word that he had been praying. He called him and said, "Cuff, you must not pray any more, never let me hear any more about this nonsense."

Cuff replied, "Oh, Master, I love to pray to Jesus, and when I pray I love you and Missus all the more, and can work all the harder for you."

But he was sternly forbidden ever to pray any more under penalty of severe flogging. That evening when the day's work was done, Cuff knelt in prayer. Next morning his master demanded why he had disobeyed him.

"Oh, Master, I have to pray. I can't live without it," said Cuff.

At this the master flew into a terrible rage and applied the lash until his strength was exhausted.

Cuff went away singing in a groaning voice: "My suffering time will soon be o'er, When I shall sigh and weep no more."

He worked faithfully all that day, though in much pain, as the blood oozed out from his back. Meanwhile God was working on the master. By night he was in great distress of mind.

Such was his agony at midnight that he awoke his wife and told her that he was dying.

He asked his wife, "Is there anyone on the plantation that can pray for me? I am afraid that I am going to hell."

"I don't know of anyone," said his wife, "except the slave you punished this morning."

"Do you think he would pray for me?" he anxiously inquired.

"Yes, I think he would," she replied.

"Well send for him quickly."

They went after Cuff and found him on his knees in prayer. He supposed he was to be punished again. He was taken to the master's room where the master, groaning, said, "O Cuff, can you pray for me?"

"Yes, bless the Lord. Master, I've been praying for you all night," and he dropped on his knees. Before daybreak both master and mistress were saved!

Cuff, though a slave, was a master at counting. The joy and strength he got from talking to God in prayer was worth a cruel whipping, if that is what it cost. And it all added up to great profit—both his master and his wife were saved through his faithfulness!

When it came to spiritual things, Paul knew how to count! He did not count his natural life dear; he was determined to have eternal life. He gladly gave up everything of the world and chose Christ, His cross, His reproach and even poverty in exchange for endless salvation through Him.

It is important to know how to count. If we cannot count accurately, we will come up with wrong answers every time. This is as true spiritually as in everyday life. How we count spiritually determines our priorities and the choices we make. If we do not count eternal life more important than all that the world has to offer, we will never obtain it. How we count will determine our eternal destiny!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

supply all our needs according to His riches in glory. I believe Jesus will provide. Let's gather around and pray."

The children bowed in a circle around mother and she prayed. Before she had finished, William and Noel had returned, cold and discouraged, from the pond.

"William, bring the Bible," Mother said. She opened it and read Psalm 37:23-25, 'The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: ...Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.' I believe God will help us," she said. "Let us pray again and thank the Lord for all He has given us and for taking care of us."

While still on their knees praying, a loud knock on the door startled them. Mother arose from her knees and opened the door cautiously.

A nicely dressed man stood there smiling. "Mrs. Henry?" he asked.

"Yes."

"I have a delivery for you. I understand you need it," he said. Then he handed her an envelope and walked away.

Mother closed the door and with trembling hands ripped opened the white envelope. "Fifty dollars!" she shouted. "Oh, William, run! Run after the man. Find out who he is or who sent this, so we'll know who to thank."

William rushed out the door. Ellen followed him and watched as he ran down the hill toward the road. One by one the others went out to look for the man. Mother stood like a statue beside the door, tears streaming down her cheeks.

"That's a lot of money;" Noel gasped.

"Sure is," Aunt Mary agreed. "It'd take more than two months to earn \$50.00 with today's wages.

"That is, if Dad could find work," Ellen added.

Mother was still by the door when William returned. "Mom, there was no man in sight. I looked and looked, and waited thinking he might have gone into the woods for a moment, but he never did appear."

"Must have been an angel sent from God," she said. "Well, children, get cleaned up, we're going to town."

With the \$50.00 they bought flour, oats, rice, beans, shortening, salt, sugar and other staple groceries which lasted all through that winter. In the spring of that same year, 1936, Mr. Henry was called back to work at the limestone mine.

"Seek ye first the kingdom God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

**Answers:** 1. That bonds and afflictions awaited him. 2. Because he was willing to give his life to do God's will. 3. With joy. 4. Christ. 5. All joy. 6. It works patience. 7. The prophets. 8. Happy.



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Dec. 7, 2008

## I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

(Based on a true story.)

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Kate's eyes shone as she smoothed open the next page. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Tap. Tap. The door cracked open and the crisp, white, ruffled cap of the maid appeared.

"Miss Kate, your mother wishes to see you in the drawing room."

"Thank you, Lucy," Kate's head remained bent over the book. "Tell her I'll be down in a minute."

"Excuse me, Miss Kate," Lucy insisted uncomfortably. "She said she wishes to see you immediately."

Kate sighed softly as she closed the Bible. "Very well." She slipped it carefully back into its slot on the bookshelf and grinned at Lucy as she approached. "What important matters of state must she be needing me for this time?"

Lucy smiled.

"Catherine, darling!" Mrs. Hankey rushed over to straighten her daughter's collar. "What have you been doing all this time? Reading a book again, no doubt." Kate's eyes darted up. "Well, no matter," she patted her hair. "Go upstairs and have Elsa put

you into your blue Sunday frock. One of your father's banking partners is coming for dinner tonight. We only have half an hour!" She reached over to pull the bell. "And Catherine," she implored, "Please don't bring up your Bible studies in public."

The Carlsbads arrived in half an hour with their daughter, Lorraine. She and Kate hit it off right away. After dinner the adults settled down for a game of Bridge, but Kate headed for the stairs with Lorraine.

"Mother, Lorraine and I are going up to my room for awhile." Mrs. Hankey shot her a look, but the girls were already gone.

"Can you imagine..." Kate glowed, "God's Son...right there in the same room with us? The most perfect being there ever was and He couldn't even talk yet. He was the promise of redemption in the flesh, and they killed Him—their only hope."

"But if they hadn't, they wouldn't have been redeemed," Lorraine judged.

"Yes, but I think if the Jews honestly hadn't wanted to kill Him, He could have used someone else," Kate added.

"Girls," Lucy interrupted from the doorway, "The Carlsbads are ready to leave." She closed the door behind herself.

"Pity," Lorraine moaned. "This was so much fun."



## THE PROMISED MESSIAH

### Genesis 3:15

**15** And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

### Deuteronomy 18:15

**15** The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me: unto him ye shall hearken.

### Numbers 24:15, 17

**15** ...Balaam the son of Beor hath said.. .

**17** I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel....

### Isaiah 7:14

**14** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

### Jeremiah 23:5-6

**5** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

**6** In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called. THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

### Daniel 9:25

**25** Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of

the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

### Micah 5:2

**2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

**The Message: After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Savior Who would break the deadly power of sin.**

### Questions:

1. In Deuteronomy, what kind of prophet did Moses say God would raise up?
2. Who is speaking in our text from Numbers?
3. What did he say would come out of Jacob?
4. What did Isaiah say the Savior would be called?
5. Which prophet said His name would be called THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS?
6. Which prophet said it would be seven weeks from the commandment to restore Jerusalem until the Messiah?
7. What town did the prophet Micah say would be the place of the Savior's birth?

### Verse to Memorize

For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a son is given: and the  
government shall be upon his  
shoulder: and his name shall  
be called Wonderful, Counselor,  
The mighty God, The everlasting  
Father, The Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6

# Let's



## Talk . . .

God was grieved when Adam and Eve disobeyed Him and ate the fruit He had told them to not touch. Because of their disobedience God told them that they must leave their beautiful home in the Garden of Eden. He said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

This meant that some day a Child, or grandchild, or great grandchild of Eve's would "bruise," or crush the head of the wicked serpent and undo all the evil he had done. Someday a wonderful Baby would be born who would break the power of satan and regain all that man had lost because of sin.

Eve may have thought that she would be the mother of this Baby, but she was mistaken. However, the promise was passed down through the years. In this way the hope of a coming Saviour and Deliverer was kept alive from century to century.

Moses certainly knew about the promise. He told the children of Israel that the Lord would raise up a Prophet like him. He told them they must accept Him and live as He directed them.

Balaam knew about it too, for instead of cursing Israel, as Balak wanted him to, he prophesied that Someone was coming who would be both a Light and a King. This reminded the people of God's promise and made them wonder even more when the promised Child would come.

The prophet Isaiah was more definite. He told them what the sign would be of the Child's coming and

even what His name would be. He renewed their hopes with the joyful words, "Unto us a child is born." This renewed confirmation of God's promise caused many that had lost hope to hope again.

Then the prophet Micah revealed the very place where the Child was to be born. He would be born in Bethlehem! The news spread like wildfire. All eyes turned expectantly toward Bethlehem.

But nothing happened. And as the years rolled by, Micah's prophecy was forgotten. The few who remembered it thought he must have been mistaken.

Then, after the Jews had been taken away into captivity and everybody was discouraged, another prophet brought thrilling news about the Baby. Daniel proclaimed that the angel Gabriel had told him the exact time when the great Deliverer would appear.

Gabriel, he said, had told him that "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks. This was the most definite word yet. Sixty-nine weeks! "That's no time at all," people said. "He'll be here in less than two years!" But others said the weeks must be "prophetic weeks," with each day reckoned as a year. They were right. And this meant the world had to wait almost another 500 years. That is a long, long time, and as the years passed, Daniel's words were forgotten and people came to think that the wonderful Baby would never come.

Then, when many had given up hope altogether, something happened. The angel Gabriel came again, this time not to a prophet but to a girl named Mary. He brought great news from Heaven!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"I'd love to do it again," Kate agreed. "Maybe we could have a Bible study with Elizabeth and Susan!" she exclaimed. "They've been wanting to also!"

"But where?" Lorraine questioned.

"We could have it here...except ...Mother," Kate faltered, then set her jaw. "Well, I'll ask."

"Absolutely not," Mrs. Hankey drew herself up to her full five foot six inch height. "It would be scandalous!" She raised her hands in horror. "We'd be the talk of the town!"

"Papa, please," Kate addressed her father who sat reading in the corner armchair.

"Charles," Mrs. Hankey warned. "Do not contradict me on this. She will ruin her reputation and ours as well!"

"But why?" Kate pleaded. "What's wrong with a Bible study?"

Mrs. Hankey folded her hands majestically. "Young ladies do not study the Bible," she ruled. "They're too young for it. They might get wrong ideas."

"Now, I don't know about that," Mr. Hankey disagreed. "Kate's got a very good head on her shoulders." He adjusted his reading glasses and turned a page. "I think it'd be good," he declared and continued reading.

Mrs. Hankey closed her gaping mouth. She smoothed her shirt front. "Very well, Catherine," she finally managed. "Do as you wish."

Kate beamed.

For months afterward the library hummed with voices as Sarah, Lorraine, Kate and Elizabeth discussed the Scriptures. Kate even started Bible studies with other girls in her neighborhood.

"Guess what, Papa!" Eighteen-year old Kate bounced into the room. "I have been made an offer to teach a Bible class in London!"

"That's wonderful," Mr. Hankey rose with a smile to take her hands.

"What is it, darling?" Mrs. Hankey entered the room with her embroidery.

"She's going to teach in London," Mr. Hankey explained.

"Lovely, dear," Mrs. Hankey dropped gracefully onto the sofa. "And what will you be teaching?"

Kate set her chin. "A Bible class for factory girls."

"Factory girls!" Mrs. Hankey laid her hand to her head. "Charles, please," she beseeched, "Talk some sense into her. She'll ruin all her matrimonial chances! She almost did at her coming out—getting into a discussion with Mr. Clark."

Mr. Hankey exchanged an understanding smile with Kate as he took his wife's hand. "Go pack your bags, dear," he said.

This was the beginning of a life work for Kate. After this class she went on to start other Bible classes for factory girls. In her early thirties, however, she came down with a serious illness.

"No more teaching," the doctor ordered sternly as he closed his black bag. "I want complete bed rest for twelve months."

Kate gave her best hound dog face. "No exceptions," he said with a gruff smile.

But Kate couldn't stop telling the story. Even when she couldn't teach it she was thinking about it. Two months into her illness she wrote "Tell Me the Old Old Story" and ten months later she wrote "I Love to Tell the Story."

As soon as she was well she was out teaching again. When she got too old to teach regularly she started a prison ministry. All her life she continued to tell the story of Jesus.

—Joanna Booher

**Answers:** 1. One like himself. 2. Balaam. 3. A Star. 4. Immanuel. 5. Jeremiah. 6. Daniel. 7. Bethlehem.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Dec. 14, 2008

## FATIMAH

"Mother, must I take the horrible medicine?" questioned Fatimah.

"Yes, you must. I paid a great price for it. Our whole family has sacrificed to buy it for you, and you do not appreciate it? The medicine will make you well. Then you can carry the water and help me with the work around the house. Must you always be sick and a burden to us?"

"But I have been taking it a long time now and I am no better. Mother, I have heard that the Christians have a place for sick people to stay until they are well. Could I go there?"

"Oh no, Fatimah, you may not go. The Christians will poison your mind and make you hate the Mohammedan."

"I would never hate my people," Fatimah assured her mother. "I would only go to get healed."

"How horrid to think of going to the Christians, but you are no good laying in bed all the time. I will ask your father."

For many days Fatimah's father would not consent. When Fatimah got no better and kept begging to go, one day he said to her, "I cannot take you to the Christians. It is against our religion to go to them for anything."

Sick, weak Fatimah dragged down the road to the town where the Christians lived. She was tormented by many

fears because of all her friends and family had said about the Christians.

When she finally reached the mission she was afraid to go inside. It was a big, shiny building, where many sick people stayed. Fatimah had never seen anything so clean. A kind speaking lady came out and spoke softly to her. The loving words made Fatimah feel happy, but when the woman patted her arm she pulled away in fear that she might be tied up and punished. After a long time she followed the nurse inside where she was given a bed in which to sleep.

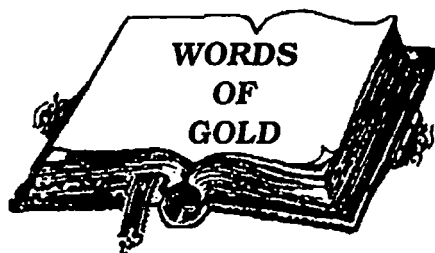
She was not so afraid in the morning. She bravely ate her breakfast. No one spoke harshly to her nor expected her to carry the water or hunt for sticks to burn. She was amazed at the love. "Why do you love me?" she asked the nurse.

"It is because the love of Jesus is in my heart," the nurse answered.

"My people say the Christians hate Mohammedans, but you seem to love me."

"The love of God causes us to love everyone, even our enemies. God loves all people, too. He loves them so much that He sent His only Son down from Heaven to die on a cross so that all who believe in Him might some day go to Heaven also."

Fatimah had never heard such beautiful words. She loved them! But



## 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 favour?
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 Savior, 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. 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. She was to have a son who would be a king to sit on David's throne and reign forever? It just couldn't be! 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 was 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

when the Bible teacher came around to give the daily Gospel message, Fatimah would bury her head under her blankets, determined to obey her father and not listen to the Bible.

God caused the woman's voice to pierce through the blankets and fall clearly into Fatimah's ears. She liked the words. "Could this message be so bad as her people had said?" she questioned. She could not keep from hearing the Bible being read, so before long, she was sitting up in bed and drinking it all in.

A few days later she asked the nurse, "Is what I am hearing true or is it a fairy tale? Is there really a Saviour even for Egyptian girls and women?"

"Yes, it is true," answered the nurse. "I am an Egyptian and I know Him as my personal Saviour and Friend."

"Then I want Him to be my Saviour, too. How did you get Him to be yours?"

"You must believe that Jesus took your place in death; that His death on the cross makes you free from sin."

Fatimah thought awhile. For a long time she had been afraid to die, because she thought her sins would make God angry and that He would punish her. Could it really be true that Jesus would cover her sins so God would not see them? It sounded too good to be true. Then she thought about the Mohammedan religion. It did not make people loving, nor did it make her happy when she obeyed its rules, and it gave no promise of Heaven.

"Yes, Jesus," she said softly, "I do accept you as my Saviour. I do believe you will cover my sins." What joy and peace filled her heart.

Within a few days, Fatimah was well and telling other patients in her room how great she felt since confessing that Jesus was her Saviour.

She decided to stay at the mission and become a nurse but when her

parents found out she was well they forced her to come home. They knew she had become a Christian and set to work at once to discourage her. They locked her in a room and gave her only a tiny ration each day to eat. Every few days they would ask if she was ready to give up Christianity. When she would say "no," they would beat her.

"How could she love it so much?" they questioned. Then one day they discovered she had a Bible. They tore the Bible from her and burned it. Fatimah felt like dying when she saw her Bible being burned. However, in her haste to hide it one day she had torn a page out. This page she still had tucked away in a hole in the mattress.

When everyone was away she would read it. What words of comfort! "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?... When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."

Day after day she quietly and patiently bore her sufferings. All the while she prayed for her family, and God was working in the hearts of her mother, her sisters and her brother.

The time came when they, too, decided that the Christian message was good—not poison as they had thought years ago. They too believed in Jesus and committed their lives to Him. Then she and her sisters all became nurses so they could help others as Fatimah had been helped.

When people came to visit the mission, they found Fatimah and her sisters telling that there is a wonderful Saviour for all who will put their trust in Him. —Sis. Charlotte Huskey

<b>Answers:</b> 1. Gabriel. 2. Nazareth. 3. Joseph. 4. Mary. 5. God. 6. Jesus. 7. It will never end. 8. Elisabeth. 9. God.
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# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Dec. 21, 2008

## CHRISTMAS IN PRISON

Sergeant E. L. Allen lived in Tracy, California. He worked at the California Adjustment Center, which housed 1,400 criminals. He and six correctional officers under his command were responsible for 65 of the worst inmates in the prison. Fifty of these men were known killers, that is they had killed at least one person (some had killed several times) or they had tried their best to do so.

When these kinds of men are locked up in small cells, they become very angry, extremely depressed, or hopeless. Most of them have no visitors, nor receive mail. For many, no one cares if they are ever out of prison. Many of them just live for today and tomorrow, today and tomorrow, with no better time to hope for. They become fighting mad at the least annoyance, and regardless of the precautions taken to keep everything away from them which could be made into a weapon, they sometimes manage to make crude weapons—a knife from a strip of steel torn from a metal grill, a dagger from a piece of bedspring. One of the officers had been stabbed five times, another slashed twice.

It was almost Christmas time and Sgt. Allen knew these men could not be with their families. Most of them knew nothing of the whereabouts of

their families. They would not receive a present, a Christmas dinner, nor even a card. He was a Christian man and thought they needed something special on Christmas, but rules of the prison forbade grouping more than six of these inmates together at any time. The day room of the prison, where the more trusted inmates occasionally gathered, would hold 25 prisoners. Could he get permission from his supervisors to divide these 66 inmates into three groups and let them visit together on Christmas in the day room? Could he get his six men to help with such a dangerous task?

First, he went to his supervisors, and to his surprise, they gave the green light! That is, if he would have tear gas available in case of an outbreak of violence.

Now would his men agree to help? He called them together and told them he wanted to have a Christmas party for the inmates which would consist of a real Christmas dinner, dessert, punch, a small gift for each one, and a time of relaxation. The officers agreed to help. They even gave of their own money to buy gifts and to pay for a catering service to bring the dinner. One said he would arrange singing groups of the prisoners. Another volunteered to decorate the room. All the others agreed to help in whatever way they could.



## GOOD NEWS!

### 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 firstborn 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.

**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?**

### Questions:

1. With what did Mary wrap her new-born baby?
2. Where did she lay Him?
3. Why didn't Joseph get a nice 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 the angel said unto them,  
Fear not: for, behold, I bring  
you good tidings of great joy,  
which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10

# Let's



## Talk . . .

It was almost time for Jesus to be born. Joseph and Mary waited anxiously. Then Joseph came in with disturbing news. The Roman emperor had decreed that everyone must be taxed. No one dared disobey his command. Everyone must go to his own city to be taxed!

Joseph and Mary were both of the family of David so they were required to go to Bethlehem. From Nazareth they started toward the south. The road led through Samaria and over the Judean hills to Jerusalem. From Jerusalem they went farther south until they came to Bethlehem.

When they finally reached Bethlehem, it was already crowded with people. There were no more vacancies—no place could be found for new arrivals.

The journey from Nazareth had been long and hard. Mary must have a place to rest! Hopefully Joseph inquired at the inn, but the innkeeper told him he had no more rooms. Then, seeing Mary's condition he offered to let them stay with the animals in the stable of the inn.

"The stable!" Joseph sighed. "Is that all you have?" How could he break the news to poor Mary? All day she 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.

That night Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths called swaddling clothes and gently laid Him in the manger.

Meanwhile shepherds were watching their flocks that night near Bethlehem. Suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them! A bright light shined through the darkness. The shepherds trembled with fear, wondering why the angel had come.

Then the angel spoke. "Fear not," he said, "for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

This was wonderful news! Suddenly there were many angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Then the angels returned to Heaven, and the light faded into the silent darkness of the night.

The shepherds were anxious to see this wonderful Child. "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has told us through the angels," they said. So they left their flocks and hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable they found Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. They knelt down before the manger and worshiped the little Babe whom the angels had said had come to save them from their sins.

Then the shepherds told Mary and Joseph how an angel of the Lord appeared to them out in the fields and told them about Jesus' birth. On the way back to their flocks they told everyone they met about the angels' visit and the Savior's birth.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

The weeks that followed were filled with enthusiasm from both inmates and officers. The long, boring hours of the day were spent practicing Christmas hymns and songs, as Mexicans, Blacks, and Whites formed singing groups.

The day finally came. All handcuffs were locked in the security room. Cells of twenty-two prisoners were unlocked at the same time. At first the men acted afraid to come out, as if it might be a trick. Then, one by one, they filed down the hall to the day room. As they came into the decorated room, each one was handed a real Christmas dinner, served on a tray. Each man was handed a gift wrapped present of a new T-shirt. All were stiff and quiet until the first singing group sang Silent Night, and then everyone joined in. After that, friendly chatter was heard all around the room. Many more Christmas carols were sung, also other popular Christmas songs.

Two hours later, the first group was taken back and locked in their cells, and the cells of 22 more inmates were unlocked and they were taken into the room. They were treated just like the first, only each received a gift-wrapped pair of socks. They ate, sang, and visited together. When their time was up, the third group was brought in to enjoy Christmas.

Sgt. Allen watched carefully as the three groups of 22 killers each mingled freely together. Only once did he become suspicious of violence—that was when he noticed a very dangerous criminal walking towards a guard that he had recently stabbed. Mr. Allen hurried to that end of the room to aid the officer if anything happened, but to his amazement he heard the inmate saying, "This is the

first time in my whole life that anyone has given me a Christmas gift. I can't repay you, but if you could find some kind of special power to forgive me for stabbing you, I will never take up a weapon against you or anyone else the rest of my life."

Finally the long, successful day ended. Sgt. Allen and his six officers stayed overtime to get things cleaned up and back in their places, and also to enjoy the fresh, new atmosphere that the Christmas party had created. Singing could be heard down the hall of that wing of the prison instead of the usual cursing and arguing. The singing continued late into the night.

"I was so happy God had answered my prayers," Sgt. Allen told his wife that night. "We had no trouble of any kind with the men. Instead of trouble, I was handed a note which all 64 inmates had signed. I'll read it to you: 'We no you had gas out side but you did not need it—some of us praid and you had god as a corecaional officer—have a good crismas.'"

The dangerous men were again locked in their cells. They were still in prison, but for some the Christmas dinner had set their spirits free—free to hope, free to believe that God was still alive, and that He heard their prayers.

—(Rewritten by Sis. Charlotte Huskey from "The Day Christmas Broke Into Prison," by Sgt. E. L. Allen, published in the December Guideposts, 1972)

**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.

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Dec. 28, 2008

## THE CHILDREN'S SONG

"Come," the king demanded of his most trusted captain.

"Yes, your highest," said Captain Walters as he bowed to his knees before the king.

"You must go now to Heather Town and kill all the Bible folks," ordered the king in his gruffest voice. "They will not worship in our beautiful churches. Pope Paul III will kick me off my throne if I do not get rid of them or get them back into his church. I've ordered them back many times, but they will not come. They will pay for their disobedience."

"At your command," Captain Walters said, and left the throne room to make preparation.

Heather Town was nestled among the hills on which grew many purple and white heather bushes. Most of the town's people were Bible believing folks. They heard that the king was planning to kill all who refused the holy sacrament of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Small children were not allowed to take the sacrament, so it was thought that the king would not harm them. It was planned that when the time came, the adults would hide and the children would stay in the

town and care for the animals. They were instructed to not tell where their parents had gone.

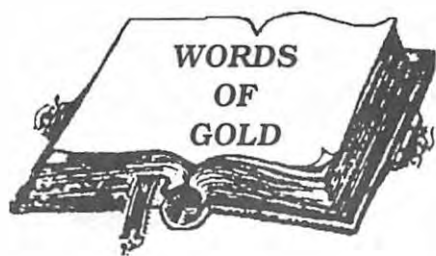
"The king's soldiers are on their way," a messenger cried one day as he rode into Heather Town. Mothers sent their sons to the fields to warn their fathers. All precious items were hidden in the most secretive places. Then, taking their babies and older children, the parents ran to hide in caves among the mountains.

That afternoon Captain Walters and his soldiers paraded proudly into Heather Town. They dismounted their horses and knocked on doors, but no one answered. Then, crash! bang! The doors were broken down! Not a person was found in the town. The children had scattered like frightened chicks to hide under the heather bushes around the village. Captain Walters was angry! He trembled with fear of what the king might do to him if he could not find the men.

"How did they know we were coming? How have they escaped so soon?" he questioned.

"Go find them!" he shouted gruffly to his men.

Away the soldiers galloped, through the town, over the heather covered hills, searching everywhere.



## WISE MEN SEEK JESUS

**Matthew 2:1-5, 7-13**

1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

7 Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

**The Message: Men who are truly wise still seek Jesus.**

### Questions:

1. Who was king when Jesus was born?
2. What did the wise men ask Herod?
3. What did Herod demand of the high priests and scribes?
4. What did Herod ask the wise men to do?
5. What went before the wise men as they left the king?
6. What did God show the wise men in a dream?
7. What gifts did the wise men bring?
8. What did God tell Joseph to do?

### Verse to Memorize

Seek ye the LORD while he  
may be found, call ye upon him  
while he is near.  
Isaiah 55:6

# Let's



## Talk . . .

When the children of Israel were carried away as captives into enemy territory some of them took portions of the Bible with them. These books of prophecy told about the coming of a promised Savior. One prophecy said, "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel...." Numbers 24: 17.

There were wise men living far to the east of Judea who had studied some of these prophecies of Jesus. They understood He would soon come, so when they saw the bright new star they thought it must be the sign that the new king of the Jews had been born. These men feared God and wanted to see the Child who was to be the Savior of the world.

They set off at once to find Him. When they arrived in Jerusalem they went straight to the palace thinking that surely that is where they would find the new king.

King Herod was troubled when he saw these strangers riding into his city. He cared nothing about prophecies and therefore knew nothing about the coming of a new king. The strangers asked him, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" They explained, "We have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him."

The king turned to the scribes and high priests for the answer, but they knew very little more than King Herod did about where Christ should be born. He demanded them to find the answer and tell him. So they

began searching the old books that contained such prophecies. Finally they found where Micah prophesied that the new Governor would be born in Bethlehem. They informed the king to look for Him in Bethlehem.

Secretly Herod called the wise men and asked them just when they had seen this strange star. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search diligently for the young child. When you have found Him, come back and bring me word so that I may come and worship Him also."

As they left Jerusalem, the wise men were overjoyed to see the same bright star that first appeared to them. It seemed to be leading them and they were glad to follow.

At Bethlehem the star stood still over the place where Jesus was. At last they had found the promised Savior! When they went into the house they saw baby Jesus and Mary. Falling to their knees they worshiped Him. Then opening their treasures, they presented Him with rich gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In a dream God instructed the wise men that they must not go back to Herod. He knew Herod was intent on killing Jesus for fear that He would take his kingdom away and become king in his stead. The wise men were obedient; they returned to their home by another road and did not return to Jerusalem.

Herod waited a long time for the wise men to return from Bethlehem but they never came. Now Herod was angry! He sent his soldiers to kill every child in Bethlehem and the surrounding country that was two years old or younger! He was determined to be rid of this new King.

But God knew his evil intentions. He had already warned Joseph to leave Bethlehem and take Mary and the Child to Egypt where they would be safe.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Soon a soldier came back with a small girl. Then another came with a trembling boy riding behind him. Another came with two little boys clinging to each other. The search continued, but no one was found except children.

"Where is your father? Where is your mother?" each child was asked. Not one of the thirty-six children would tell where their parents had gone.

"Then you will die in place of your parents," the captain shouted roughly to the frightened children.

No one answered the Captain. Nothing could be heard except the prancing and snorting of the horses, the soft crying of the children, and the scuffling of little feet as they huddled closer together.

"On your mark. Aim!" he shouted to his men. Immediately the long musket guns were pointed right at the children. Some children screamed. Others were too frightened to make a noise. "Closer!" the captain shouted.

The soldiers moved nearer until the long gun barrels were nearly in the children's faces. Captain Walters shouted again, "Now will you tell where your parents are hiding?"

No answer.

"You rebels," he shouted, "then you will all be shot. Kneel down in rows, and cover your eyes with handkerchiefs," he demanded.

Many children in Scotland wore handkerchiefs around their necks, so at once the soldiers began making the children cover their eyes with their handkerchiefs.

Christa looked up at the soldier nearest her and asked, "May I hold my little brother's hand? We could die better that way." Then she took her little brother's hand. "Don't cry, Alex," she said.

"Will it be hard?" the soldier heard Alex ask Christa.

When all was ready the captain ordered, "FIRE." The muskets went off with a terrible BANG! Some of the children fell to the ground.

After the smoke had cleared, Captain Walters shouted. "Get up, you are not dead. Only powder was in our guns." It was to frighten the children into telling. "Now if you do not tell, we will really kill you."

Not one child would tell.

"Then you will die!" he roared. "Say your prayers before we shoot."

One of the little boys said, "We don't know how to say prayers."

Quickly another added, "But please, Sir, we could sing a song." Without waiting for an answer, he stood up and began singing:

*"The Lord's my Shepherd,  
I'll not want;*

*He makes me down to lie.  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by."*

One by one the other children joined in the singing.

Captain Walters trembled. He looked at his soldiers; fear shown in every eye. "March," he ordered softly to his lead man. One by one the others followed. As they disappeared over the hills the children's voices could be heard singing:

*"Yea, though I walk  
in death's dark vale,  
Yet I will fear no ill,"*

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

**Answers:** 1. Herod. 2. "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" 3. To tell him where Christ was born. 4. To find Jesus then let Herod know where He was. 5. The star. 6. To not return to Herod. 7. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. 8. To take Jesus and His mother to Egypt.