

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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A CHINESE BOY OF TWELVE

Young people need to realize that God still hears the voice of the boys and girls. (Genesis 21:17.) The following true story is related with the earnest desire that prayer may be their heritage, their very life; and that answered prayer may be their daily experience.

Some time ago, a Chinese boy of twelve years of age, named Ma-Na-Si, a boarder in the mission school at Chefoo, went home for the holidays. He is the son of a native pastor.

While standing on the doorstep of his father's house he saw a horseman galloping towards him. The man—a heathen—was greatly excited. He eagerly enquired for the "Jesus-man"—the pastor. The boy told him that his father was away from home.

The poor man was much distressed, and hurriedly explained the cause of his visit. He had been sent from a heathen village some miles away to fetch the "holy man" to cast a devil out of the daughter-in-law of a heathen friend. He poured out his sad story of his young woman, torn by devils, raving and reviling, pulling out her hair, clawing her face, tearing her clothes, smashing up furniture, and dashing away dishes of food. He told of her spirit of sacrilege, and outrageous impiety, and brazen blasphemy and how these outbursts were followed by

foaming at the mouth, and great exhaustion, both physical and mental.

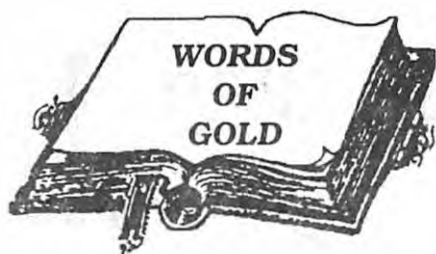
"But my father is not at home," the boy kept reiterating.

At length the frenzied man seemed to understand. Suddenly he fell on his knees, and, stretching out his hands in desperation, cried, "You, too, are a Jesus-man; will you come?"

Think of it—a boy of twelve being called to cast out a devil! Yes, but even a lad, when fully yielded to his Savior, is not fearful of being used by that Savior. There was but one moment of surprise, and a moment of hesitation, and then the boy put himself wholly at his Master's disposal. Like little Samuel of old he was willing to obey God in all things. He accepted the earnest entreaty as a call from God.

The heathen stranger sprang into the saddle, and, swinging the Christian boy up behind him, he galloped away. Ma-Na-Si began to think over things. He had accepted an invitation to cast out a devil in the name of Christ Jesus. But was he worthy to be used of God in this way? Was his heart pure and his faith strong? As they galloped along he carefully searched his own heart for sin to be confessed and repented of.

Then he prayed for guidance what to say and how to act, and tried to recall Bible instances of demoniacal possession and how they were dealt with. He then simply and humbly cast



THE GIFTS OF GOD

John 4:10

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Psalm 127:2

2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Psalm 136:25

25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Ecclesiastes 2:26

26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy . . .

Isaiah 40:29-31

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Psalm 103:2-5

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Message: David said he would get up at midnight to thank the Lord—there just wasn't enough time in the day to thank Him enough!

Questions:

1. What kind of water did Jesus say God would give?
2. Peter told the people to repent and be baptized that they could receive what gift?
3. The gift of God is _____ life.
4. Where does every good and perfect gift come from?
5. He giveth His beloved _____.
6. What three things does God give to a man that is good in His sight?
7. What does He give to the faint?
8. They that wait upon the Lord will renew their _____.
9. We should bless the Lord and not forget all His _____.

Verse to Memorize

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.

Psalm 68:19

Let's



Talk . . .

God expresses His great love for us through the many blessings and gifts He gives us every day. Every breath we breathe, every moment we live is a gift from Him. As David said, He loads us with benefits daily! When God gives a gift it is perfect and good; it will always enrich our lives and draw us closer to Him.

Sleep is a precious gift God gives to those He loves. He made us and knows our bodies need sleep. When you wake up refreshed each morning you should lift your heart to God in thanksgiving for such a wonderful gift. It is easy to take these blessings for granted until we suffer the loss of them.

Wisdom—the ability to learn and obtain knowledge how to conduct our lives safely and successfully—comes from God. It is His mercy when we realize that we need His wisdom. Then He tells us to just ask and He will give us all we need; He won't even scold us for being so foolish!

Joy and peace come when our heart is in tune with God, when He is living in us and directing our life. We face life confidently knowing He is our Guide and Protector. When the devil comes like a roaring lion he has to back off when he sees we are in God's care. We may lose courage sometime because there is trouble everywhere we look. But God promises to give power to the faint!

Jesus calmly told Peter to put up his sword when he tried to keep Jesus from being taken by the soldiers in the Garden. We must learn, like Peter, to rely on God's strength instead of our own. The Bible says

that those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. Then they can soar over trouble like an eagle. We draw our strength from God; He will never lose His power.

God gave the dearest, most priceless gift He had when He sent Jesus to earth to save us from our sins. He knew the suffering and agony it would cost His only Son whom He loved. Yet this was what it would cost to break the power of the devil and release us from his control. God loved us so much He gave His Son to save us!

Jesus' one purpose was to show us the love and good will of God, our Father. He went about doing good, healing the sick and helping the poor, yet this was not His ultimate goal. He wanted us to have eternal life; He wanted us to live in heaven with Him forever. Our eternal life cost Him His natural life; we could live only if He died!

Jesus sat on the side of a well one day while the disciples went into a city to buy food for lunch. Soon a woman came to draw water. She was surprised when Jesus spoke to her. Obviously He was a Jew. She knew that Jews hated her people, the Samaritans.

When she questioned why He asked her for a drink He told her about the wonderful gift God wanted to give her—living water. At first she thought He meant literal water. She was ready to accept the gift at once. It would be wonderful to never have to come draw water out of this well again!

But Jesus spoke of something much more wonderful—eternal life. She and many others in her town accepted this gift. When they repented and accepted Jesus as their Savior He was like an artesian well that never runs dry. He flooded their hearts with joy, peace, and power to live above sin. Their lives were wonderfully changed by this great gift from God!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

himself upon the God of power and of mercy, asking His help for the glory of the Lord Jesus.

On arrival at the house they found that some of the members of the family were by main force holding down the tortured woman upon the bed. Although she had not been told that a messenger had gone for the native pastor, yet as soon as she heard footsteps in the court outside she cried, "All of you get out of my way quickly, so that I can escape. I must flee! A 'Jesus-man' is coming. I cannot endure him. His name is Ma-Na-Si."

Ma-Na-Si entered the room, and after a ceremonial bow knelt down and began to pray. Then he sang a Christian hymn to the praise of the Lord Jesus. Then, in the name of the Risen Lord, glorified and omnipotent, he commanded the demon to come out of the woman. At once she was calm, though prostrate with weakness. From that day she was perfectly whole.

She was amazed when they told her that she had uttered the name of the Christian boy, for she had never heard of it or read of it before, for the whole of that village was heathen. But that day was truly a "beginning of days" to those people. From then on the Word of the Lord had free course and was glorified.

—Taken from
"The Kneeling Christian"

THE OLD FORTUNE TELLER

Aunt Jenny was in a tight corner. A few weeks before, at a meeting in a slum post in London, she had been converted. Then, of course, no more fortune telling for her! But here she was, a lonely little woman, seventy years old, and although the gift of God is free, it costs money to keep living on earth! The butcher doesn't give meat in exchange for texts—and what about the rent?

The position was this. The landlord wanted \$5.00, and unless Aunt Jenny could pay, out she must go! She had \$2.00 towards it, but even if she could have sold her few bits of furniture they would hardly have brought in the extra money. She was still wondering what to do when one morning two men knocked at her door.

Unless she could produce the cash, they had orders to put her and her furniture into the street.

There stood Aunt Jenny faced with the difficulty. Must she go? Was there no hope for her? . . . "Take it to the Lord in prayer!" . . . What was that? A strain from a hymn they had been singing the other night at service. "Take it to the Lord in prayer." Take rent—and furniture—and...? Well, why not?

"Could you please wait while I pray?" she asked the two men.

"All right, Ma," was the not unkind but slightly amused reply.

And so Aunt Jenny knelt down; this lonely little slum woman was daring to call the great God her Father and to ask Him if He would help her to pay the rent!

But the doorbell was evidently sympathetic, for it suddenly said a very loud "Amen!"

Aunt Jenny went to see who was there. It was the postman with a letter. It was a very kind letter from a lady who had heard of her conversion. The lady said she was enclosing a money order. It wasn't a big one, but perhaps Aunt Jenny could use it. Perhaps! Could she!

Do you know the value of the money order? I expect you can guess. It was exactly \$3.00!

And although it was an order on the post office, nothing will ever convince Aunt Jenny that it didn't come from heaven! —Selected

<p>Answers: 1. Living water. 2. The Holy Ghost. 3. Eternal. 4. From God. 5. Sleep. 6. Wisdom, knowledge and joy. 7. Power. 8. Strength. 9. Benefits.</p>

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

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THE LIFELINE

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's pastor slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit and, before he gave his sermon for the evening, briefly introduced a guest minister who was in the service that evening. In the introduction, the pastor told the congregation that the guest minister was one of his dearest childhood friends and that he wanted him to have a few moments to greet the church and share whatever he felt would be appropriate for the service.

With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit and began to speak, "A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific Coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright and the three were swept into the ocean as the boat capsized."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. The aged minister continued with his story.

"Grabbing a rescue line, the father

had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy he would throw the other end of the lifeline. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves.

"As the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!' he threw out the lifeline to his son's friend. By the time the father had pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beneath the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

By this time, the two teenagers were sitting up straight in the pew, anxiously waiting for the next words to come out of the old minister's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son to save the son's friend."

"How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us. Our heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son that we could be saved. I urge you to accept His offer to rescue you and take a hold of the lifeline He



OUR GUIDE

John 16:13

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

Romans 8:14

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

Acts 10:9-10, 19-20

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

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

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

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

Acts 16:9-10, 16-30

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

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

16 . . . a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

17 . . . and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God . . .

18 . . . But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her . . .

19 . . . her masters . . . caught Paul and Silas . . .

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

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

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

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

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake . . .

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.
Psalm 32:8

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

On through the dark rainy night the army filed along the treacherous path. When the sun shone the next

morning they were safely on the other side of the mountain.

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

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

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

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

One day an angel of the Lord told Philip to go to a specific road. There he met the man from Ethiopia. He was reading aloud the words of Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of Jesus. The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. When he heard what he was reading, Philip asked if he understood it.

"How can I understand if I have no one to teach me?" the Ethiopian answered. He asked Philip to get into the chariot and explain the scriptures to him.

Philip was glad to teach him about Jesus. The man believed and asked to be baptized. When they came up out of the water the Spirit caught Philip away. The man never saw him again but he went on his way rejoicing that he had found Jesus!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

is throwing out to you in this service." With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room.

The pastor again walked slowly to the pulpit and delivered a brief sermon with an invitation at the end. However, no one responded to the appeal.

Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely started one of the boys, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his only son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face, he once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me. You see—I was that father and your pastor is my son's friend."

—Chicken Soup True Story

A CRY OF HELP

My minister-father believed that God walked beside you day by day, lending you a hand whenever you needed it. He shared this faith with his four children. I remember one summer night about nine o'clock when we were all returning from a day's outing in the family jalopy.

Suddenly a car with glaring headlights swerved around the bend, side-swiping our car. My father, blinded by the headlights, veered off the road, crashed through a fence and came to a sudden stop. Our car was leaning precariously toward the right.

"Don't anyone move," Dad warned. "We don't know what's below us. Just sit still until someone comes to help. God is with us."

We scarcely dared breathe. We were even afraid to call for help. Dad said the noise might make the car lean still further.

My baby sister slept in mother's lap. Time dragged on. Cars whizzed by us on the highway. Nobody stopped even though our headlights were on.

When my little brother began to whimper, Dad said quietly, "Just hang on. Help will come. All of you pray."

Soon the baby woke up and started to scream. Mother couldn't quiet her. We heard a car drive by slowly, slam on its brakes and stop. Our ears strained as a car door opened and then footsteps approached.

"Great guns," a man exclaimed when he saw all of us in the car. "I'll go get help. There's a garage nearby." The tone of his voice frightened me as he added, "Don't anyone move!"

He disappeared but soon returned with another man and a tow truck. In no time at all we were safely back on the road.

"You're lucky to be alive. There's a river about thirty feet below that fence you crashed through," the garage man explained. "One little move in the wrong direction and you all would have been pitched right into it."

"If your windows hadn't been open," said our benefactor, "I never would have heard that baby and figured something was wrong."

"The Lord was with us," said my father.

That night, and for many nights, our family prayers were words of gratitude to God for watching over us.

—Karin Asbrand

HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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AND GOD DID!

All day long the sun had thrown his javelins of fire on a village in Inland China. It seemed as though one's very breath would be stifled.

In one of the houses of that village, a baby boy of two years of age, apparently sick unto death, lay in a room close and humid. His eyes were half open; his lips almost black; the little head, tossing restlessly to and fro, was hot and throbbing; the whole body limp. For three days he had been utterly unconscious of his surroundings. The father and mother had watched with breaking hearts the little life flickering out. Three other children had been taken from them; this was the only one left. What a lovely baby he was: plump, round, full of fun, smiling his winsome baby smile up into their faces. But an evil spirit had entered their darling, as he had entered the other three, threatening to snuff out his little life as he had snuffed out the lives of the others.

The native doctor had given him some vile concoction, which had only made him worse. He had muttered incantations over him, and had even heated the cruel iron to place on the tender flesh to burn out the evil spirit. The mother had cried out in protest at this last, so the baby was spared that horror.

She and the father sat beside the little one, dry-eyed and mute with grief. Suddenly a neighbor rushed in crying, "The 'Jesus Man' is here and is coming to see you now.

For the first time in days the light of hope flashed in that mother's face. "Perhaps the 'Jesus Man' can cure our baby!" Just then the sound of many voices reached her ear, and the next moment the 'Jesus Man' accompanied by a crowd of people entered the room.

This medical missionary, from a city three days' journey away, had visited their people a year before. He had cured many, relieved suffering and had preached to them the "unsearchable riches of Christ." On this occasion he was hailed with joy all along the route, and besieged by poor Chinese in all stages of disease. Some one told him of Lee Ban and the trouble in his home, and the doctor at once said, "I will go and see what can be done."

Gently he spoke to the sorrowing parents. "Oh, 'Jesus Man,' you can make our baby well," cried the little mother clasping her hands in anguish. "If we only had some ice to apply we might save him," said the missionary, half to himself. But they were three days' journey from the city, the only place where ice could be obtained. The



TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Acts 12:11-23

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he 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: Even those in earnest prayer could not believe that Peter could be knocking at the gate!

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize
 For with God nothing
 shall be impossible.
 Luke 1:37

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

Peter approached the gate and knocked. Finally a young girl named Rhoda came and asked "Who is there?"

To her amazement a voice answered, "It is Peter. Let me in."

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

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

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

"It must be his angel," someone decided.

Meanwhile Peter stood at the gate still knocking. At last someone went to see who really was there. They were astonished to see Peter himself

standing there! Clustering around him 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.

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

baby would be dead before they could make the trip there and return.

"But when you were here before, you said your God could do anything," said the mother.

"Yes," answered the missionary, "I did say that." He was doing what he could to ease the suffering child.

"Then He can send us ice," she insisted. "Ask Him for it, O 'Jesus Man' and He will send it quick, and my baby will live."

The missionary was startled; indeed, he was utterly dumbfounded! How could he pray for ice when it seemed impossible to expect an answer? Almost in a daze, he joined the parents on their knees. He opened his lips to pray. The words came haltingly at first, for what would these trusting ones say when no answer came? And how could an answer possibly come?

Nevertheless, he prayed; as he proceeded a strange feeling of ecstasy and exultation entered his soul. He forgot everything, except that he was pleading with his Heavenly Father—not only for the life of the little child, but that the on-looking Chinese who knew not the true God might see the faith of the parents honored. As they rose from their knees there was an inexpressible look of peace on the face of the mother.

Fifteen minutes elapsed, and suddenly it grew dark! Increasingly so, until it seemed like night! The superstitious Chinese cried upon their gods for deliverance from this terror which the "Jesus Man" had brought upon them by his prayer.

Then the storm broke in indescribable fury. It sounded as though thousands of pebbles were falling from the sky. The fear of the Chinese increased, but upon the missionary's face came a look of joy. He hurried from the house to find the street covered with hailstones! Truly,

*"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm."*

The missionary rushed back into the house crying, "Give me a large dish! God has sent ice from the sky!"

They gathered up the ice; the missionary applied ice-packs. Gradually the fever left the little body; the restless tossing and moaning ceased. The child was restored to health!

Not for forty years had a hail-storm visited that part of China; it came just in time to honor the faith of that Chinese mother.

*"Wrestling prayers can wonders do,
Bring relief in deepest straits;
Prayer can force a passage through
Iron bars and brazen gates."*

"Expect above all that you ask or think,"
—Pilgrim Tract Society

GOD'S LIGHTS

Are you afraid at night? One time a girl asked her mother if the moon was God's light.

"Yes," her mother answered.

"Will God ever blow out His light and go to sleep?" she wanted to know next. And her mother said, "No, God's lights never go out, for God never sleeps. Even when we cannot see His lights, they are shining just the same.

"Well, then while God's awake I'm not afraid," was the girl's answer.

Are you ever tempted to be afraid? It will help you to remember that God is always awake and that He has said, "Certainly I will be with thee." Exodus 3:12.

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



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 July 26, 2009

THE MAN THAT DIED FOR ME

One day I heard of a man who lived over the hills, who was dying of consumption. Those who knew him said, "He is so vile no one can stand it to stay with him."

The pity of it all haunted me and I tried for several days to get someone to go see him. Then a voice seemed to say, "Why don't you go yourself? Here's missionary work, if you want it."

At last I went over the hills to the little mud cabin of one room. The door stood open, and in a corner, on some straw and blankets, I found the dying man. Sin had left awful marks on his face and, if I had not heard that he could not move, I should have retreated. As my shadow fell over the floor, he looked up and greeted me with a dreadful oath. I stepped forward a little, and there came another oath. "Don't speak so, my friend," I said, "I ain't your friend. I ain't got any friends," he said. "Well, I am yours, and..." but the oaths came thickly, as he said: "You ain't my friend. I never had any friends, and I don't want any."

I went away discouraged, but the next day I went back again—and then every day for two weeks, but he did not show the gratitude of a dog. Finally I

said: "I am not going anymore."

That night I could not sleep. I got up and went away by myself to pray. I fell on my face literally, as I cried: "Oh, Christ, give me a glimpse of the worth of a human soul!"

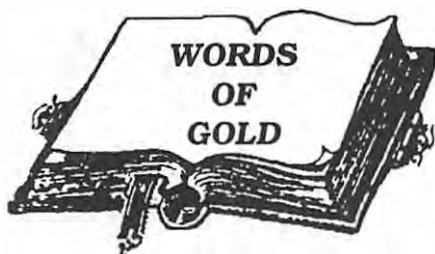
The next morning I left my work and hurried over the hills, not to see "that vile wretch," but to win a soul. As I passed on, a neighbor came out of her cabin, and said: "I'll go over the hills with you, I guess." I did not want her, and tried to dissuade her from coming, but she curtly remarked, "I'm going with you, I guess." It was to be another lesson to me; for God could plan better than I. She had her little girl with her, and as we reached the cabin, she said: "I'll wait out here."

While I was changing the basin of water and towel for him, things which I had done every day, and which he had used, but never thanked me for, the clear laugh of the little girl rang out upon the air like a bird note. "What's that?" said the man eagerly.

"It's a little girl outside who is waiting for me."

"Would you mind letting her come in?" said he in a different tone from any I had heard before.

Stepping to the door, I beckoned to her, and then taking her by the hand, said, "Come in and see sick man, Mamie." She shrank back as she



JESUS, SON OF THE LIVING GOD

Matthew 16:13-17

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

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

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

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

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

John 6:66-69

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

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

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

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

Galatians 2:20

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

1 John 4:15

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

2 Corinthians 6:16

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

Colossians 3:1, 3-4

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

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

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

The Message: True joy and power come from Jesus, the Son of the living God, living and ruling in our hearts.

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

Paul described this life by saying ". . . I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the

Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." To know that Jesus actually lives in your heart gives you power to say, "No!" to the devil when he tempts you to sin or be selfish. You can boldly tell him, "Jesus lives in me!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We can draw great strength and comfort from knowing that Jesus is with us no matter what situation we find ourselves in. Even in dangerous and threatening places we can be confident and calm. How wonderful to know "Christ lives in me!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

saw his face, saying, "I'm 'fraid," but I assured her with. "Poor sick man, he can't get up, he wants to see you."

She looked like an angel; her bright face framed in golden curls, and her eyes tender and pitiful. In her hand she held the flowers she had picked off the purple sage, and bending toward him, she said: "I sorry for 'ou, sick man. Will 'ou have a posy?"

He laid his great bony hand beyond the flowers on the plump hand of the child, and the great tears came to his eyes, as he said: "I had a little girl once, and she died. Her name was Mamie. She cared for me. Nobody else did. Guess I'd been different if she'd lived. I've hated everybody since she died."

I could have shouted with joy, because I instantly realized that the long lost key to the man's heart had been found and entrusted to my care. What a blessed story I had to tell that hour, and I had been so close to Calvary that night that I could tell it in earnest! The poor face grew pale as I talked, and the man threw up his arms as though his agony was mastering him. Two or three times he gasped as though losing breath. Then, clutching me, he said: "What's that, woman, you said t'other day 'bout talking to somebody out o' sight?"

"It's praying. I tell God what I want."

"Pray now, pray quick: Tell Him I want my little gal again. Tell Him anything you want to!"

I took the hands of the child and placed them on the trembling hands of the man. Then dropping on my knees with the child in front of me, I bade her pray for the man who had lost his little Mamie and wanted to see her again. This was Mamie's prayer:

"Dear Jesus, this man is sick. He has lost his little girl, and he feels bad about it. I'se so sorry for him, and he's so sorry, too. Won't you help him, and show him where to find his little girl? Do, please. Amen."

Heaven seemed to open before us. There stood One with the print of the nails in His hand and the wound in His side.

Mamie slipped away soon, but the man kept saying, "Tell Him more 'bout it; tell Him everything—but oh! you don't know." Then he poured out such a torrent of confession that I could not have borne it but for One Who was close to us in that hour.

By and by the sick man grasped the STRONG HANDS. It was the third day when the poor, tired soul turned from everything to Him the Mighty to save, to the One Whom he spoke of as "the Man that died for me."

He lived on for weeks, as if God would show how real was the change. One morning the door was closed, and I found two men sitting silently by a board stretched across two stools. They turned back the sheet from the dead, and I looked on the face, which seemed to have come back nearer to the "image of God."

"I wish you could have seen him when he went," they said. "Do tell me about it." "Well, all at once he brightened up 'bout midnight, and smilin' said. 'I'm goin' boys. Tell her I'm goin' to see Mamie. Tell her I'm going to see the Man that died for me.' and he was gone."

—Adapted from a tract by
Pilgrim Tract Society

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Aug. 2, 2009

THEY TOOK ME IN

"Who is she?"

"Couldn't say. She is a stranger here, I think."

"Yes, she lives in that little house by the bridge, you know, girls, that tiny bit of a house covered with that white rose."

"Where we always got lots of flowers to decorate with because no one ever lived there. Why, the house is almost tumbled down. How can anyone live there?"

"No one would if they were not very poor. Of course you can tell by the girl's clothes that she is poor."

"Come on, girls, never mind talking about her," said one of the number impatiently. "What difference does it make to us who she is? We will be late," and the troop of merry girls passed on down the street.

Meantime the subject of this conversation was hurrying in another direction, her eyes blinded by the quick tears that had sprung unbidden to them when the wistful glance she had cast at the girls had been met with only those of cold curiosity.

"It is hard to be so alone," she murmured, "but I must not let mamma know."

The girls went on their way, unconscious of the wistful look, or unthinking that they had been in any way unkind.

Nellie Ross had noticed, however, and she was thoughtful all the afternoon. How must it feel, she wondered, to be alone among strangers. As they were returning home toward night, she whispered to her particular friend:

"Do you know, Mabel, I cannot help thinking of that girl we met this morning."

"What girl?" asked Mabel Willis, with a slightly puzzled air.

"Why, the one that Margaret said lived in the little cottage, you know."

"O yes. What about her?"

"Why she looked at us so wistfully, and I never see her with anyone; she must be lonely."

"Well?"

"You know what the Bible says," Nellie said slowly: "I was a stranger and ye took Me not in.' This girl is a stranger and don't you think we might apply that?"

"Just what are you thinking of, Nellie?"

"I was thinking that we might call on her and ask her to join our Sunday school class, and that might open the way."

Mabel laughed. "You always were a regular missionary, Nellie; but I hardly believe I care to go with you," with a shrug of her shoulders.

Nellie was disappointed, but she said no more for she had learned the uselessness of arguing with Mabel, so she determined to make her call alone.



PEACE

Psalm 29:11

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

Psalm 55:18

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

Psalm 55:18

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

Psalm 119:165

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

Isaiah 26:3

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

Isaiah 32:17

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

Isaiah 48:18

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

Mark 4:35-41

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

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

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

forest. After a full hour of searching, Ernie was found sleeping peacefully beside the gate of another farm. Oscar lay beside him, faithfully guarding him. —(Adapted from a true story)

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

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

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

The secret of having peace is in having a close companionship with Christ. You can have peace in the midst of the storm if you have Christ. He is the shelter from the tempest. If we have learned to always let Him guide our life, we have mastered the secret of having the "peace which passeth all understanding."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Nellie felt a little timid as she presented herself at the tiny home the next afternoon. The girl herself answered her rap, and invited her into the wee living room. In an easy chair at one side of the fireplace reclined a delicate, sweet-faced woman.

"My name is Nellie Ross, and I have noticed you and thought you were a stranger here," began Nellie in the winning way that had always won her many friends, "and so I thought I would call and ask you to join our Sunday school class. We have such good times, and Mrs. Allen, our teacher, is so interesting."

"I would like to go," the girl faltered; "but they are all such strangers to me, and"

"That will not matter," declared Nellie. "I will come for you and introduce you to the rest of the girls."

"I thank you, my dear," said the woman, before the girl could answer again. "I am sure Edna will be glad to go. It has been rather a trying time for her, I fear, since we came here, although she has never complained, for fear it might worry me."

"She was always a regular attendant at Sunday school at home. But my health failed and I thought a winter here might save my life."

"My husband could not come with me, for he must work at home to get money to pay our expenses, so Edna gave up her school and everything to come with me. We are compelled to live very cheaply, you see, but I am getting better, and I think I shall be quite well, if only Edna can be contented here," she said with a fond glance at her daughter.

"Of course, I shall be contented, Mamma," replied Edna.

"I'm sure she will like the Sunday school very much," said Nellie, earnestly, "and I will come for her tomorrow."

She did so, and Edna went with her, although she felt a little shy, but the warm welcome given her by Mrs. Allen, and the friendliness of the girls

soon made her feel at home. It was not long until the school joined in singing the last song, that she so far forgot herself as to join in the singing. The girls were astonished. She sang alto beautifully.

"Really," cried one of them as soon as they were dismissed, "you must join our singing group, will you? We sing for shut-ins and need an alto so badly."

From that time on, Edna had no time for loneliness, for she was one of the girls, and her mother smiled and grew better.

—Selected

ONE RAT

In England one little rat caused a dike to collapse. The rodent burrowed through the embankment of a canal. Soon water began seeping through. Slowly but surely, the original trickle became a sizeable stream. Soon one bank collapsed and a 40-foot break-through let the water pour out in torrents. Three million gallons of water escaped and the canal was drained for seven miles.

As a result more than a million fish were swept away and a twenty-foot gorge was channeled through a nearby field. It took sixty men with bulldozers three weeks to shift thirty thousand tons of soil and repair the damages.

Just as one tiny rat caused this tremendous damage, so can one individual like you start a chain reaction that will either harm or benefit everyone. While it is true that "one sinner destroyeth much good" (Ecclesiastes 9: 18), it is also true that through a faithful life you may cause many to be saved. We may never fully know the far-reaching good that results from a seemingly insignificant prayer, word or deed. But God knows and that is what counts.

—Selected

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Aug. 9, 2009

LIVING THE GOSPEL

A friend recently sent me a booklet issued by the South Africa General Mission that caught fire in my heart tremendously. It contained a very simple story. A General of the British Army told the story. He was on service in India during the time of the mutiny there. He had in his regiment a little bugler twelve or thirteen years of age, a very frail little fellow. His mother, I think, had been a Scripture reader; his father a brave man. The father died in action, and the mother drooped and died shortly after, and their boy was left alone in the regiment. He was a very saint, who cared more for the prayer-meeting than for the camp games. He had a rough time of it, because he was made the butt of the coarse jests of the crowd of soldiers. But he went along his way quietly, living his Master's life.

The General said, in telling the story: "We had gone away some miles from the scene of action for rifle practice. It was a bad bit of country, swampy, unhealthy, and I did not want to take the boy along. He was so delicate. But the surgeon said: 'Let the boy go. The men drive him a hard life, but his presence makes it so much easier to handle them. He has enormous influence. Let him go.'"

"All right," I agreed, "we'll let him go."

"It was a very ticklish time in the regiment. They had a lot of rough men. There was a good deal of insubordination which could not be traced down to the perpetrators. One night the practice targets were thrown down, and so damaged that the practice had to be set aside for several days. That was very serious, and so the General gave orders to find out who had done the mischief. He intended to make an example of the culprits.

"They traced the wrong-doing to a certain tent in which this boy was, a tent that contained some of the worst men of the regiment. They had a court-martial. It was very clear that somebody in that tent was guilty of this wrong-doing. The commander said: 'Now, we know this squad of men contains the guilty man, and if the guilty one will step out like a man the rest will go free.'

"But nobody came so he said: 'If one of you men will step out and take your punishment, ten strokes of the cat, the rest of the squad will go untouched.'

"Again he waited. Nobody came. Of course, they would all have to be whipped with the cat if the one man did not step out. Then, as he waited, the little bugler boy stepped



SERVING THE LIVING GOD

Daniel 6:16-27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them

into the den of lions . . . and the lions . . . brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

25 Then king Darius wrote . . .

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

. . . Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.
Daniel 6:16

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paul was writing to you and me when he said, "You are the temple of the living God!" (2 Corinthians 6:16.) It is important that we know and always remember this. Because He is the living God He will never die; He is the same now as He was in Daniel's time. You can be certain that if you give your life to God as Daniel did and serve Him faithfully He will never fail you!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

out from the little bunch of men. He was about fourteen by this time, Willie Holt was his name, but he was very small for his age.

"He said: 'Colonel, you have given your word that if any man of this squad will step out and take the ten strokes of the cat the rest will go free. I take you at your word. I will take the ten strokes of the cat.'

"A look of disgust came into the officer's face, and he said: 'You men know that boy is not guilty. Are you not man enough to come out, the guilty one, and take your punishment, and not let that lad take it?'

"But there was no reply, and the boy quietly said: 'Colonel, your word is given.'

"And, sick at heart, the order was given for the boy to be tied up for the lashes. He was stripped to his waist, and tied up, and the whipping began. One stroke, the second, the third; the boy made no cry. Then, as the fourth stroke came down on that back, just a moan burst from the lad's lips that his brave heart could not hold in.

"At that, Jim Sykes, the worst man in the regiment, the black sheep, came bounding out. 'Stop, Colonel! I should be there. That boy is not guilty. I am. Tie me up; let me take the stroke!'

"But the boy, his face white and tense with pain, smiled, and said: 'No, Jim, the Colonel's word has been given. I have taken the punishment. You are free.' Then he fainted.

"They carried him off to the hospital and the next day the Colonel went down to see how the boy was getting along. He stepped unnoticed into the room where the boy's cot was and this was what he saw: the boy lying there, pillows up, very frail, very weak, and on the floor, on his knees by the boy's side, this Jim Sykes, the blackguard of the

regiment. He was saying: 'Oh, Willie, why did you do it? What made you do it?'

"Smilingly the boy answered: 'Ah, Jim, I wanted you to know this. I did it that you might know that this is what Christ did for you; only He did so much more. I suffered for one sin, but He suffered for all our sins. He bore our stripes for all our sins, and He loves you, Jim.'

"'Oh,' Jim said, 'not the likes of me. I am a bad one.'

"'Ah!' the boy was saying, 'He loves you, Jim. Trust Him. He did what I did, but so much more.' And then the boy fainted. In a few days he passed away. But Jim Sykes was utterly changed."

And as the General told the story it was plain that he, too, had been changed.

The boy lived the message. We must live the message! Your lips may tell the whole story, but if your life does not, your message drops in its power to the level of your life. Only as you and I follow Jesus through a commonplace life, only as we follow Him are we giving them the message. It must be lived.

Oh! Master, burn out of our hearts this shrinking from sacrifice and this selfishness. Help us to follow Thee in the crowd, even though it means a Calvary in us. Help us to follow You. Then there will be power; then there will be a great crowd of men coming a-running to the Christ whom they find in us. Oh! Jesus, Master, help us to live Thee!

—Quiet Talks with Workers
by S.D. Gordon

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Aug. 16, 2009

ALL FOR GOD'S GLORY

Sarah's face was usually one of the happiest in her Sunday school but today the smile did not come so easily as usual. Sarah was just eleven years old but she loved the Lord and tried to keep happy for Him and to make others happy. Sometimes it was hard; for Sarah's family was poor, and the children could not always have just the things they wanted.

Sarah was fond of pretty clothes, especially pretty coats. When the wind blew hard, and the air was cold, she thought that pretty warm coats seemed to laugh at the cold weather and cause those who wore them to laugh, too. Sarah had never had a brand new coat or a very pretty one for herself. Some winters she had worn her sister Jane's old coats; once she had had only a big, heavy sweater; at other times she had worn coats given her by her friends.

Since she loved the Lord, she knew that it was He who took care of her and sent her what she needed—coats as much as everything else. She felt selfish to pray for an especially pretty coat for herself when some people had no coats at all. But how she hoped that some winter the Lord would send her a warm, beautiful new one!

On this Sunday, Sarah was in Sunday school and was trying to look happy, but away down inside she felt sad. She had somehow believed that this winter the Lord would send her the kind of coat that she had wanted for so long. However, when the cold days came, she had only an old coat which Jane had outgrown after wearing it two winters. Sarah wouldn't let a shabby coat keep her from going to Sunday school, so she went on, wearing the much-mended, faded brown coat. She felt as if everyone were looking at her and thinking how ugly her coat was.

She thought so much about her coat that she heard scarcely a word of her Sunday school lesson. During the preaching service which followed, her mind was still on the coat until the preacher announced his text: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever, ye do, do all to the glory of God."

"I wish," thought Sarah, "that that verse meant everything that I do—even wearing old coats." As the preacher continued his sermon, she suddenly realized that he was talking about everything that people do—wearing clothes or anything else. Then suddenly she had a happy idea. "I can wear this coat for God's glory," she thought. "I prayed for a coat, and He sent this to me, so I can wear it



EVEN UNTO DEATH

Acts 6:8-15:1-2, 54-57, 59-60

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue. . . . disputing with Stephen.

10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

11 Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council.

13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Acts 7:1-2, 54-57, 59-60

1 Then said the high priest, Are these things so?

2 And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken . . .

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into

heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Message: The love of God, and his faith in the Gospel, enabled Stephen to stay true to God even while he was being stoned.

Questions:

1. Stephen was full of _____ and _____.
2. What did he do among the people?
3. What did his enemies say he had spoken against Moses and God?
4. What kind of witnesses did they set up?
5. What did Stephen's face look like?
6. Stephen was full of the _____.
7. What did he see when he looked up to heaven?
8. What did they do to Stephen?
9. What was his last prayer?

Verse to Memorize

For this God is our God for ever
and ever: he will be our guide
even unto death.

Psalm 48:14

Let's



Talk . . .

Stephen loved God intensely. His entire life was devoted to His service. When he accepted the Holy Spirit into his life he was filled with faith and power so that the Lord worked many miracles through him. The people wondered at such great power as he worked among them doing good to everyone he met.

As the people wondered at the power of God shown through his life, Stephen preached to them about Jesus. He told them they too could have power over sin, power to do good instead of evil. This angered the religious leaders. They argued with Stephen and tried to prove that Jesus was not the Christ. But God gave Stephen such wisdom in explaining about Jesus that the leaders were proved wrong. This convinced more of the people who became believers.

The leaders could not refute the truth of Stephen's words. Seeing that more and more believed in Jesus through his preaching they determined to stop him another way. They hired men to go among the people and accuse Stephen. Wherever these men went, they lied, "We have heard Stephen speak against Moses and against God."

This upset some of the people. With this encouragement the leaders seized Stephen and brought him before the council. Here the men who had been hired witnessed more lies against him. But Stephen spoke even more convincingly, proving that Jesus was Christ and that they had killed the Son of God.

The men were so furious they stopped their ears then rushed at

him, seized him and dragged him outside the city gate. Here they stoned Stephen as he prayed that God would forgive them for their awful sin.

Satan is just as determined today to get us to deny the Lord. But he has changed his tactics. When people choose death in order to stay true to God it demonstrates the power of such faith and God's faithfulness to keep them strong and true. Many have been convinced of the truth because they saw the power of evil overcome by good even at the cost of the believer's life.

Now the devil is using more subtle means of destroying faith and belief in Jesus' power to save. He doesn't mind if everyone has a Bible—just so they don't read it. He isn't trying to shut down churches and make it illegal to worship God—he has invented ways to entertain the people so they don't have time nor interest for church. He doesn't use the media to denounce God, he just fills it with things that appeal to the flesh. Sports, film stars, wealth and amusements are all far more important to most people than God.

Gladys Aylward had been a missionary in China for many years. One day a young Chinese man told Gladys that they must pray for England. She was surprised but when she picked up a newspaper she began to understand. Every item of reported news from England, every picture, was concerned with a film star, a sportsman, or a horse race. Not one mention of God! England had forgotten what was all-important—the realization that God mattered in the life of a nation no less than in that of an individual.

From that time Gladys knew that she must go back to the land of her birth. She must return to do what she could to dispel the spiritual lethargy that had overtaken so many. She must testify to the great faith of the Chinese church. She must let people know what great things God had done for her!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

just because it is the coat my Father gave me, and I am glad that He did. It keeps me warm enough to come to His house, whether it is pretty or not."

For several weeks Sarah remembered this and wore the old coat quite cheerfully. Then one Sunday she noticed that her Sunday school teacher looked and looked at her a great many times. Then Sarah's thoughts about the coat started again. "I'm sure she thinks this coat is horrid," she thought, "and wonders why I don't wear a better one. Since I have to wear this old coat, I do wish that other folks could not see how it looks."

After church her teacher came to her and said, "Sarah, dear, I have been watching you and my daughter Belle together, and I believe that you are just a bit smaller than Belle. Aren't you? If you have time tomorrow, I wish you would come down to my house for a moment. I have something to show you."

When she entered the teacher's home the next day, Sarah saw a beautiful dark red coat, brand new, lying on a chair. "How pretty it is! I hope some day I can have one almost that nice," Sarah said to herself.

Much to her astonishment, when her teacher entered the room she slipped the beautiful coat on Sarah. "There! It's a perfect fit," she said. "Belle's aunt sent it to her; but since Belle has one nice coat, and this is too small for her anyway, I would like for you to have it. Do you think you could use it?"

Sarah thanked her many times and hurried home with the new coat. "Mother, Mother," she cried, when she entered the house, "just see the beautiful, new coat that the Lord sent me! I tried to wear the old one for His glory, and I am going to try harder

than ever to live for Him each minute while I wear this new one."

—Selected

AN HONEST BOY

A man stood at the corner of a vacant city lot one day, watching the boys in a race. One was a street boy and the other a vigorous school boy. They were about the same age and weight, and very well matched. When they came to the corner lot, however, the school boy stopped short, while his companion took the short cut across the lot instead of going around the square. The watching man was interested.

"Why did you stop the race so soon, my boy?" he asked. "It seemed to me you were a step or two ahead just as you quit."

The boy lifted an honest face and said, "Don't you see that sign?" pointing to "Trespassing Forbidden" on a small plainly written board. "I'm not a law-breaker."

"Who owns this lot?" the man asked, very much interested.

"Oh, Mr.—. He is in California for the winter."

"And this is Maine! Why, how could he know?"

"Maybe he couldn't, but I would know," was the simple answer.

Later this man sent this very boy, then eighteen years old, on an errand of trust and much importance to them both. "I picked him out," he explained, "because I never knew him to do wrong even when it seemed he might not be found out. He is honest to himself."

—Selected

Answers: 1. Faith and power. 2. Great wonders and miracles. 3. Blasphemy. 4. False. 5. An angel's. 6. Holy Ghost. 7. The glory of God and Jesus. 8. Stoned him. 9. "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Aug. 23, 2009

CALICO CASH

Stephen Bailey sighed as he followed his sister Nancy to the chicken house. He hoped that they would find many eggs and that his mother would make good butter today.

Eggs and butter were important in 1851. They were used for trading at the store. Cash was scarce, almost unknown. Only the richest people, such as Silas King, had any money. Folks traded for what they needed. Eggs and butter were used like money. At the store Mr. Trotter accepted nothing else but trade for the necessities of the settlers. Eggs and butter and money—for them one could buy sugar, candles, molasses, Bibles, and calico.

Stephen pushed the straw aside in the chicken house, hunting for the precious eggs. He kept thinking of the bright new calico Mr. Trotter had received last week.

Thoughts of the calico brought to mind the barn raising. It was next week and what a wonderful day it would be! All the men of the settlement would gather to help build a new barn for Farmer Scott. The womenfolk would bring food and do their part.

"I just have to get calico for Mother somehow," Stephen declared. "She won't go to the barn raising if she has to wear that old patched dress."

"I know," Nancy nodded. "It's patched right on top of the patches. A barn raising, Stephen—oh, I hope we can go!"

Stephen shooed a squawking hen to one side. They needed many eggs to trade for other things at Mr. Trotter's store today.

"Mother works so hard," said Stephen. "Life here isn't like at our old home in Pennsylvania. Mother misses her friends and kinfolk from back there. If she could go to the barn raising, she would get acquainted and make new friends."

The eggs were collected now. There were not enough for calico. Stephen counted up. Mother had said they were out of groceries. Eggs brought three cents a dozen in trade.

Then they needed molasses, which cost sixteen cents a quart. Two and a half pounds of Mom's good butter were needed to pay for that. Still they must get candles at sixteen cents and bacon at eight cents a pound. Stephen only hoped they had enough eggs and butter to get everything.

"Morning, Mr. King," Nancy and Stephen spied the wealthy man as they crossed the yard. "Fine day."

"Fine day, indeed." Silas King could afford to be jovial. His only discomfort was the weight of his money purse. Yet he was a just and kindly man.



OBEDIENCE

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

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

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

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

Joshua 23:14-16

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

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

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

Joshua 24:24

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

Ephesians 6:1-3

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

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

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

Colossians 3:20

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

Hebrews 13:17

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

Proverbs 30:17

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

Obey them that have the rule over you . . . Hebrews 13:17

Let's



Talk . . .

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

Disobedience is dangerous, as the following story shows:

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

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

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

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

"But Mother will never know," said Willie. "She thought the ice was thawing. She won't care when she knows it isn't. You may do as you like, Anna, but I'm going to slide across right now!"

When Anna saw her brother starting across the pond, she followed.

But they had gone only a little way when the ice began to crack and then to give way under them!

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Stopped by for a cup of water from your spring, Stephen."

"Sure, I'll get it for you, sir." Stephen put down the eggs and turned to the spring. The water bubbled fresh and cool from the ground.

As Stephen dipped the water, he heard the plop of something dropping at his feet. Silas King was kneeling beside him. The man was taking pleasure in watching the clear, sparkling water.

"You've dropped your money purse, sir." Nancy picked it up and handed it to the big man as Stephen gave him the brimming tin cup.

"Now I do thank you kindly," chuckled Mr. King. "That purse is getting so heavy that it never stays in place."

"Take care you don't lose it," Stephen cautioned.

"Well, I must get along." The man wiped his lips with his big hand. "We'll all be at the barn raising, I've no doubt."

"Nancy and I have to go to Mr. Trotter's now," Stephen skirted the question of the barn raising.

"I'm going by there myself," said Mr. King, "but I haven't time to wait. Good day to you both."

Taking up the bucket once more, Stephen followed Nancy to the cabin. He wondered how Mother's butter had turned out and whether they would get five or six cents a pound for it.

"Now, Son, here's the list of things needed." Mother pushed aside her tattered Bible as she slid the paper towards him. "Here's the butter, five pounds of it. Carry the eggs careful like. If you can't get everything, we'll do without the bacon till next week."

"All right, Mother, I'll do the best I can," Stephen nodded reassuringly. He transferred this morning's eggs to the big weekly bucket.

"Mother, are you going to the barn raising over at Farmer Scott's next week? Everybody else is going, Mother. Maybe you could make some butter cookies to take along. They're as good as any of the hams the other ladies bring."

"Don't be counting on it," Mrs. Bailey said with a sigh. "Like as not, with everything so high, we won't have butter for ourselves. Now you go along. We'll talk barn raising when the time comes. But I don't think we'll go."

"We'll be back soon, Mother," said Stephen.

Father was off working five miles away. Having to walk back and forth, he didn't get home until late. Stephen didn't like to leave his mother alone for long. She was lonely enough as it was.

If only she had a brand-new Bible to read! If she weren't worried that the pages would fall apart, as in her old Bible, she would feel better.

Stephen and Nancy walked along the narrow dirt road, the boy whistling as he went off. Off in an oak tree, a redbird kept them company and Stephen felt better again. He almost would have skipped as Nancy was doing if the eggs hadn't been so breakable. As it was, he kept his eyes open for rocks in the road. To stumble would be a disaster indeed.

Because he had his eyes on the road, Stephen saw the purse. He would have taken it for a stone and passed over it if he had not recognized it instantly. It was Silas King's money purse, filled to bursting with silver.

To be Continued

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Aug. 30, 2009

CALICO CASH

(Continued from last week)

Stephen's heart beat with excitement. "Look, Nancy! Mr. King's purse."

He set down the butter crock and the big bucket of eggs. Then he picked up the purse, but he did not open it. He had to return it, of course. To an honest boy like Stephen, there was nothing else to do.

"It's along walk to Mr. King's place," he said, handing the purse to Nancy as he took up the butter and eggs once more. "Mother will worry that we don't get back so soon. But Mr. King will worry, too, when he finds his money purse gone. We'll hurry."

The two entered Mr. Trotter's store. They had resolved to say nothing about finding the purse. The excited talk would delay them that much longer. The people there would want to know every detail. This was news. Stephen had placed the purse inside his shirt.

He was glad he could get the bacon. Mr. Trotter gave him six cents a pound for the butter. Everything was going well today. Maybe Mother would even consent to go to the barn raising.

"I'll ask her right when I tell about the six-cent butter," he told Nancy as they left the store with the trade goods in the egg bucket.

Stephen was so full of thoughts of the barn raising that he almost forgot

to take another look at the calico there by the door. That blue, with the light blue flowers to match Mother's eyes, that was the piece he wanted for her. But fifteen cents a yard! Seventy-five cents were needed to get enough for a dress. Nancy took a last, longing look at it before Stephen hurried her out and along the road to Mr. King's farm.

Halfway there, they spied Mr. King coming slowly toward them. He was peering this way and that.

"I found it, sir," Stephen waved the money purse reassuringly. "It was in the road near our place."

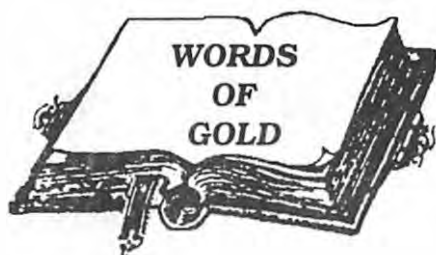
"Well, good boy," the man nodded approvingly. "Bringing it to me, were you?"

"Of course."

Stephen looked his neighbor in the eyes with a proud and honest glance. The man knew he didn't have to count the money or question anything about it.

"You're a good boy, Stephen," Mr. King said firmly, "the kind of man we're going to need in this growing country of ours. I know you don't ask any reward for returning my money, but I want you to have this, anyhow."

Mr. King hurried off, after dropping a coin into Stephen's hand. The girl stared at it unbelievably. A silver dollar! The first money Stephen had ever had. Why, here were Mother's Bible and her calico. Here was Farmer Scott's barn raising!



GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!

Numbers 11:18-23, 31

18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

19 Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days;

20 But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?

21 And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month.

22 Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?

23 And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD's hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.

31 And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round

about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

Luke 11:9-10

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Isaiah 65:24

24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

The Message: God, our Heavenly Father, loves to answer our prayers.

Questions:

1. What did God tell the people that they would eat?
2. What did the people say when they wept in the ears of the Lord?
3. How long would they eat?
4. How many footmen were there?
5. Who thought this was impossible?
6. What did he think the Lord would have to do to feed so many?
7. What did the wind bring from the sea?
8. Ask, and it shall be _____; _____ and ye shall find; _____ and it shall be opened.
9. God said, "Before they call, _____."

Verse to Memorize

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

John 14:14

Let's



Talk . . .

God worked many miracles for the children of Israel in order to deliver them from slavery to the Egyptians. They should never have doubted His love or His power!

Someone estimated that it would take about 1500 tons of food each day to feed that multitude of people, besides the vast amount of water to satisfy their thirst each day. Yet God accomplished all this for them, even though their journey lasted forty years!

Some of the people began to weep and complain because they had no meat. God heard their cry and miraculously gave them meat.

Even Moses could not believe that God could provide enough meat for the thousands of Israelites in the desert for a whole month. But God commanded the wind and it blew in enough quails to feed the multitude.

Prayer is a powerful and wonderful gift from God. He always hears us when we pray and He loves to have us talk to Him. Think of the most wonderful, loving father who loves to protect and provide for his children and you begin to get a glimpse of your Heavenly Father.

Even the best earthly father sometimes is too busy or tired to listen every time we come with our little problems or desires. But God loves to have us pour out our hearts to Him and tell Him every detail of

what is bothering us. Day or night and as often as you choose you can pray to Him and He will hear. In the most urgent and extreme need and danger He is there just in time.

Several years ago my brother, Dale Doolittle, and I were driving to West Virginia for the camp meeting there. We had driven all night and still had many miles ahead of us. Dale had been driving for some time so I knew he was very tired. To help keep him awake I was looking down to choose one of Bro. Leslie Busbee's story tapes to listen to. When I looked up I saw that the cars ahead had merged into one lane and were stopped. On the left side was a concrete wall and in the right lane there were workers. We did not have time to stop at the speed we were traveling!

Dale saw the situation about the same time and braked as hard as he could. I said, "Lord, help!" but it seemed a crash was inevitable. Then, just as we screeched closer, the driver of the car that was stopped ahead of us pulled a bit to the right. By hugging close to the concrete wall Dale came to a stop about a half car length beyond the other car's back bumper but without hitting either the car or the concrete.

It was a miracle! I couldn't help exclaiming, "He did it!" I was certain there was no way to avoid a terrible collision yet God did it in answer to that short little prayer!

Prayer is a powerful privilege God has given us. Ask the Lord to teach you how to pray. Live a life of obedience to God and He will gladly answer your prayers.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Stephen and Nancy hurried back to Mr. Trotter's store. Now they could tell the story of finding the purse. "I'll have . . ."

Stephen looked about the store happily. His eyes stopped on some fresh, new Bibles, which had just come in.

"I'll have one of those twenty-five cent Bibles for Mother and five yards of that blue calico."

At last the two finished telling about the money purse. As Nancy hugged the new purchases, Stephen took up the bucket, and they left the store. As they hurried along the road, Stephen whistled in time to a redbird's call.

Life in this new wilderness wasn't so bad after all—when the hens laid well and the butter was rich, when the family had molasses for morning mush and candles for evening dusk. Yes, they would remain here and build a new frontier, ever widening it into a strong and wonderful America.

—Selected

HOW TO BE A MISSIONARY

"And what do you want to be when you grow up?" asked Miss Carson of her Sunday-school class.

"I want to be a nurse," said Jeanie.

"I want to teach piano," said Mary.

"When I grow up," said Jimmy, "I want to be a fireman."

"I know a lot about farming already," said Danny, "so when I grow up I am going to be a farmer, and have cows and chickens by the hundreds."

"What do you want to be, Edna?" asked Miss Carson.

"I guess I want to be a teacher, because I can't think of anything I'd rather be, right now."

"And you, Timothy?" asked the teacher.

Timothy took a long time to decide. At last he said, "I'm going to be a missionary when I grow up. I'll go to China, or to Africa, maybe."

"These are all very good ideas," said Miss Carson. "We need more Christian nurses, firemen, farmers, teachers, and so on. We also need men and women to go to other countries to tell the people about Jesus."

"But did you notice what Timothy said? He said, 'When I grow up.' I'm going to tell you something that you, perhaps, have not thought about. It's good news for all of us, because it is something important we can be while we are growing up."

"Is it monitors at school?" asked Jimmy, who was in the first grade, and liked being a monitor.

"No, it's something even more important than that," Miss Carson continued. "It's being missionaries right now!"

"You mean to preach, and everything?" asked Timothy, greatly surprised.

"No, I mean to live for Jesus," explained the teacher. "To let everyone know by what we do and say that we love Him. We can be missionaries by bringing friends to Sunday school and church, and by taking Sunday-school papers to someone who is sick and cannot go to Sunday school."

"And by helping Mother with the dishes?" interrupted Jeanie eagerly. "And by sitting still in church," Jimmy added quickly.

Miss Carson smiled. "I see you have the right idea. Let us close by praying that God will help us be missionaries for Him, right now and every day."

—Selected

Answers: 1. Flesh. 2. "Who will give us flesh to eat?" 3. A whole month. 4. Six hundred thousand. 5. Moses. 6. Kill all the flocks and herds or gather all the fish of the sea. 7. Quails. 8. Given you; seek; knock 9. "I will answer."

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Sept. 6, 2009

THE MINER'S CHILD

Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.
Psalms 73:24

It was Saturday evening. A number of men and women left the work-shops for their homes. It was quitting time for the miners, also, who were pursuing their humble calling in one of England's shafts. They left their dark working place and hastened to their homes.

"On Monday we will receive a new worker," was the talk among them. "We will see what kind of a fellow he is."

Monday came, and so did the worker. But the miners made big eyes, and about their mouths played unpleasant smiles, as they glanced at him.

He was a man of middle life, of strong, powerful build, and with a calm bright countenance. He led his daughter by the hand—a child of six or seven years, with black hair and cheerful eyes.

She did not shrink, and exchanged the miner's greeting with her father; on the contrary she looked confidently upon the sooty workmen, and did not think of fear. But the miners grinned and said, "What do you want with the child? Do you expect her to help break coal?"

"I will tell you," said the man in a mild, solemn voice. "She is the only one

left to me, and I am used to having her with me; besides, she will not bother you." His wife had died.

Then the men went their way, and none ventured to say anything more. He took Sarah by the arm and led her into the mine. He found a lump of coal in a safe place for her to sit on, and he began the day's work in God's name.

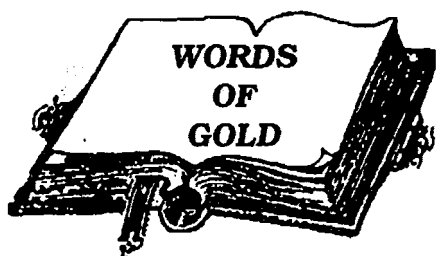
The child was not a stranger to the underground. She gazed about at the black, glossy walls of coal which the Father's good hand had piled here, that His children might have whereby to warm themselves in cold weather. She tripped around, looked at the tools, and then began to talk, asking the miners various questions.

When evening came and the tone of the bell for prayer resounded feebly through the mine, Sarah listened a moment, then she folded her little hands and in clear, childish voice began to sing:

*Abide with us, Lord Jesus!
Thy grace sustain our hearts,
That Satan may not harm us
With his malignant arts.*

*Abide, and let Thy blessing,
Lord, rest on us always,
All needful strength and graces
Grant thou us day by day.*

It was a solemn moment. Was it, perhaps, the first time that a sacred



SPREADING THE GOSPEL

Acts 17:15-28

15 And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens . . .

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

17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews . . .

18 Then certain philosophers . . . encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

19 And they took him . . . saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?

20 For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

21 (For all the Athenians, and strangers which were there, spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.)

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being . . .

The Message: Jesus lived in Paul's heart and directed his life. Paul wanted everyone else to know about Jesus and the one true God.

Questions:

1. Where did they bring Paul?
2. What was the city wholly given to?
3. What did Paul preach to them?
4. Who did the people think Jesus was?
5. Where did Paul stand to speak to the people?
6. What was the inscription on one of their altars?
7. Whom did the world and everything in it?
8. He does not dwell in _____ made with hands.
9. In Him we _____, and _____ and have our _____.

Verse to Memorize

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

Acts 17:24

Let's



Talk . . .

Those who truly know Jesus and His power to change lives long to tell others who need Him. Many missionaries have risked their lives and some have died to take the Gospel to those who have never heard about Jesus and His power to save.

When Paul was struck blind on his way to Damascus, the Lord sent Ananias to pray for his sight to be restored. The Lord told Ananias that He had chosen Paul to tell the Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel about Jesus. So from the beginning Paul understood what God had called him to do. He spent the rest of his life preaching the Gospel everywhere he had the opportunity.

While Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy he toured the city. Everywhere he went he saw idols. He was amazed at how many different gods these people worshiped. There was even an altar to the Unknown God!

Paul found a Jewish synagogue and went there to speak to the Jews about Jesus. He met with anyone who wished to speak to him in the marketplace. He used every opportunity to preach Christ to the people. Some listeners were sincere but many were just curious. They had never heard about Jesus and His resurrection. They thought Paul was talking about some strange new god.

Soon he had so many wanting to hear what he had to say they asked him to speak on Mar's Hill. This was the place where important matters were discussed.

As Paul looked over the crowd of wise men and curious listeners he longed to present the Gospel to them in a way they could understand. I'm sure he prayed for wisdom to know how to reach these people.

"You men of Athens," Paul began, "I see that you are too superstitious. As I was walking through the city I saw your many altars to different gods. I even saw one whose inscription read, 'To the Unknown God.' You ignorantly worship this God and He is the God I know and serve.

"This God made the world and everything in it. He is the Lord of Heaven and earth. He does not live in temples made by men, neither is He worshiped by anything men make. It is He who gives us our life and breath.

"This God is not far from everyone of us. He wants people of every nation to seek Him and worship Him. He is not like gold or silver or stone that man shapes into an idol. He is the true God. Now that you know about the true God, He commands you to repent of your sins. The day is coming when He will call all men to judgment." Then Paul told them about how God had raised Jesus from the dead.

Many of the wise men laughed when they heard about the resurrection. Others asked him to come back another time and tell them more. But there were several who believed Paul's words. Among them was a man named Dionysius, an important man in Athens, and a woman named Damaris. These and a few others believed in the true God and Jesus and His resurrection. They gladly turned from their idols and were saved.

Paul looked for opportunities to tell everyone he met about Jesus. He was willing to endure any hardship if it gave him a chance to help someone know about Him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

song had echoed through the mine? The men were perplexed, and the hammering ceased. The Lord Jesus passed through the dark region, and blessing and grace went forth from Him.

After that evening there was no more laughing at Sarah. No, she became dearer to the miners, and when she was absent they asked, "Where is our child?" They knew, also, how to make her happy. One would bring a shining stone, another a picture, another something else for Sarah, and when she would place her little hand in their black palms, and sincerely thank them, the old miners would laugh heartily, and go to work in good cheer.

There was something strange about the father, too. Everybody was glad to work in his company. "He don't swear," said one of the miners to another, one day, "and yet he gets along all right. He works from morning till night, and is never out of humor! He gets tired limbs as well as we, and besides, has no one to help him."

The men looked upon the father and child with a sort of reverence, and it seemed lighter in the dark mine when they were present.

Thus matters went on for some years. Then came a day of sorrow. However, faith says: "Shall there be evil in the city, and the Lord hath not done it?" Amos 3:6

Sarah was at home, preparing supper for her beloved father. At the same time, the father having come upon some errand was descending again, when the rope broke and he fell to the bottom of the shaft. He died immediately. The Lord had called him, and his day of rest had come.

But Sarah? Father dead! Mother dead! The men laid the dead body upon a bier and slowly bore it up the hill to the dwelling. Sarah saw them coming and wondered what they were carrying that seemed so heavy. Joyfully she ran out and asked, "Is Father coming?"

One of the men said, "Yes," another, "No," and a third, "Not yet." The fourth, an old miner, looked a moment at the sweet child, then broke into tears, took her in his arms, and carried her into the house. Then he said, "Trust in God, Sarah; your father is dead, but we will all be a father to you."

The child looked a moment at the man to see if he was really in earnest. Then she began to weep, and the old man wept with her.

She loved no one in all the world as she loved her father. Thus far, in her short life, she had been one in heart and soul with him. She had been joyful in her father and her God. But God was not yet dead.

"May I see my father?" asked Sarah. The miner led her out to the bier upon which reposed the remains of her father, covered with a cloth. The men stepped back when Sarah came. It seemed like a sacred spot to them. They left the child alone with her God and her dead father. Sarah knelt down. Her trembling hands can not lift the cloth—she must first fold them in prayer.

For the moment, however, the heart could find no words of prayer. Sarah's tears and the wailing of her soul came before the Lord, and did not return empty. She received strength and received words also. Out of the depths of her heart she prayed; Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done—Thy will be done! She finished the Lord's Prayer, and then arose, lifted the cloth and looked upon the beloved face. It was pale and cold, and had no loving look for her, nor one cheering word.

To be continued.

Answers: 1. To Athens. 2. Idolatry. 3. Jesus and the resurrection. 4. A strange god. 5. On Mars' hill. 6. TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. 7. God. 8. Temples. 9. Live, move, being.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Sept. 13, 2009

THE MINER'S CHILD

(Continued from last week)

Sarah embraced the dear form with both arms; then for a moment her heart seemed to cease beating. She became unconscious. The old miner hastened forward and carried the pale faced child into the house, and placed her upon a bed, thinking she was dead.

But she was not dead. She awakened soon, but only to realize anew her sorrow. But the Lord heals those who are of a broken heart, and binds up their wounds. And thus did he for Sarah.

The old miner did not leave her bedside, and as soon as her eyes were unburdened of their tears, took her to his home and adopted her as his child.

From that time, Sarah had again both father and mother. At the side of the old miner, accompanied by all the workmen of the shaft, she followed the coffin of the father, and cast the last flowers of autumn into the grave.

As during her father's life time, so also now, Sarah went along to the shaft. The miners would not have it otherwise. She was a common treasure—the child of each one.

When she entered for the first time after the sad occurrence, all the hammering ceased. Tenderly and even reverently they surrounded the child

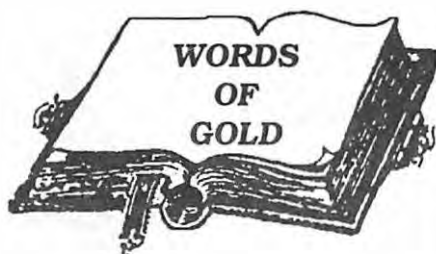
and offered her the right hand. She greeted all of them, and had a grateful look and word for each.

They soon noticed that her heart was comforted and supported from on high. Sarah was not disconsolate like the world that has no hope. She was full of faith, and therefore consoled and joyful even in her mourning garbs and of cheerful countenance in spite of her tears. And when grief and loneliness would darken her heart, she sought the place where her father used to work, there to kneel and pray for a quiet, submissive heart.

All this made a deep impression upon the usually rough miners. If formerly, in her happy days, Sarah was dear to them, she was far more so now, in her affliction. A strange power spoke out of the child. They had regard to their words. The dear Lord was taking up His abode in the dark mine, but as yet the men knew it not.

Sarah tried to help the miners in every way she could. She knit, patched, and sewed for them, and was happy when she could do just what they wanted without first telling them.

She wanted to take her father's Bible with her to the shaft, and at certain times to read it. The most of the workmen could not read. One day Sarah said, "May I read to you out of my father's Bible?"



THE LIVING GOD AMONG YOU

Joshua 3:7-10, 13, 17

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joshua 4:1-3, 6-7

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

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting King . . .
Jeremiah 10:10

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

God had another purpose for His miraculous guidance of Israel

through the Jordan. They entered hostile territory when they crossed that river. The river blocked their retreat—they must face the enemy! They were in an unknown region, giving them a distinct disadvantage in warfare with the inhabitants of the land.

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

One after another drew near and listened to God's holy Word coming from the mouth of a child. It soon came to pass that the miners gathered around Sarah every evening at an appointed time, when by the light of a lamp she would read them a chapter from the Bible. Those were holy, blessed times in which the Lord Jesus descended into the shaft of their hearts, and with much patience and long suffering sought and found, amidst the stones and rubbish, a place for Himself. Yes, God be praised, He did not descend in vain. There was no more swearing heard, and there was a change, a great change, in the mine as well as in their hearts.

When the sooty men sat so quietly and attentively around the child, and heard the Word of God, of course, one could not know what was going on in their hearts. But the Word fell upon well prepared ground and worked in secret until it brought precious fruit to light.

Four years had passed. There was not an oath heard now at the place formerly covered with darkness and the shadow of death. The day's work was begun and closed in God's name. There was no more drinking. One miner after another sought the house of God instead of the tavern. After the six day's work their souls were refreshed with the sweet Gospel and lost in the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God. With a joyful heart, and not as formerly with dispute and wrangle, the work was resumed on Monday morning. They had prayed for the blessing of the Lord—for His preservation and favor, and all went well with them. The rays of the eternal Christ reached now even into

the womb of the earth, transforming and consecrating the work of the six days.

Sarah beheld what the Lord had brought about with heartfelt joy and gratitude, and continued to do that which God had given her to do.

It was Sunday evening. Sarah sat in the arbor with her foster-father, reading to him about the raising of the daughter of Jairus. When she came to the place where the Lord Jesus said, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise," Sarah gazed at the old man with an earnest expression and said, "I believe the Lord Jesus Christ will soon speak thus to me." As she said this her face flushed into a deep red and she looked like a flower from the rose-beds of heaven. Surprised and frightened, the miner looked up and said, "What do you mean, dear child?"

"I believe the Lord Jesus will soon say to me, 'Arise, Sarah, and come to me in Heaven.'"

The foster-father understood the damsel's words and they pierced his heart like a sharp knife. He seized her hand, and looking earnestly at her, saw what he had long tried not to see, that her life was fading away. It was so. Sarah did not live long after that—her day's work was done. After a short sickness, she hastened to her reward.

"Greet the miners," she said in a feeble tone. "I thank all of you." Then she closed her eyes and entered upon her eternal rest.

—Pleasant Hours

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Sept. 20, 2009

MARY JONES' BIBLE

The narrative which follows has been carefully founded upon facts obtained from the most trustworthy material—written and verbal—at the disposal of the writer of a little book first published in 1882.

In the year 1792, nearly a hundred years ago, the night shadows had fallen around the little village of Llanfihangel. The season was late autumn, and a cold wind was moaning and sighing among the trees.

In pleasant contrast to the night with its threatening gloom, a warm light shone through the windows of one of the cottages that formed the village. The light was caused by the blaze of a fire of dried driftwood on the stone hearth, while in a rude wooden stand a rushlight burned, throwing its somewhat uncertain brightness upon a loom where sat a weaver at work. Standing in the centre of the room was a middle-aged woman, dressed in a cloak and the tall conical Welsh hat worn by many of the peasants to this day.

"I am sorry you cannot go, Jacob," said she. "You'll be missed at the meeting. But the same Lord Almighty who gives us the meetings for the good of our souls, sent you that wheezing of

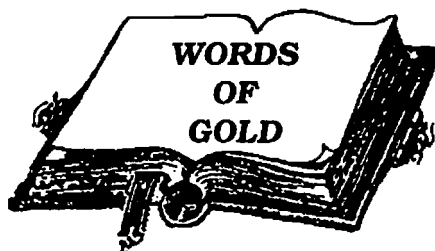
the chest, for the trying of your body and spirit, and we must needs have patience till He sees fit to take it away again.

Yes, wife, and I'm thankful that I needn't sit idle, but can still ply my trade," replied Jacob Jones. "There's many a deal worse off. But what are you waiting for, Molly? You'll be late for the exercises; it must be gone six o'clock."

"I'm waiting for that child, and she's gone for the lantern," responded Mary Jones, whom her husband generally called Molly, to distinguish her from their daughter who was also Mary.

Jacob smiled. "The lantern! Yes," said he; "you'll need it this dark night. 'Twas a good thought of yours, wife, to let Mary take it regular as you do, for the child wouldn't be allowed to attend those meetings otherwise. And she does seem so eager after everything of the kind."

"Yes, she knows already pretty nearly all that you and I can teach her of the Bible, as we learnt it, don't she, Jacob? She's only eight now, but I remember when she was but a wee child she would sit on your knee for hours on a Sunday, and hear tell, of Abraham and Joseph, and David and Daniel. There never was a girl like our Mary for Bible stories, or any stories, for the matter of that; bless her! But



ARMIES OF THE LIVING GOD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

I Samuel 17:47

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

face Goliath. Quickly the king sent for him.

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

here she is! You've been a long time getting that lantern, child, and we must hurry or we shall be late."

Little Mary raised a pair of bright dark eyes to her mother's face. "Yes, mother," she replied, "I was long because I ran to borrow neighbor Williams's lantern."

"There's a moon," said Mrs. Jones, "and I could have done without a lantern."

"Yes, but then you know, mother, I should have had to stay at home," responded Mary, "and I do so love to go."

"You needn't tell me that, child," laughed Molly. "Then come along, Mary; good-bye, Jacob."

"Good-bye, father dear! I wish you could come too!" cried Mary, running back to give Jacob a last kiss.

"Go your way, child, and mind you remember all you can to tell old father when you come home." Then the cottage door opened, and Mary and her mother sallied out into the cold windy night.

The moon had disappeared now behind a thick dark cloud, and little Mary's borrowed lantern was very acceptable. Carefully she held it, so that the light fell upon the way they had to traverse, a way which would have been difficult, if not dangerous, without its friendly aid.

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path," said Mrs. Jones, as she took her little daughter's hand in hers.

"Yes, mother, I was just thinking of that," replied the child. "I wish I knew ever so many verses like this one."

"How glad I should be if your father and I could teach you more; but it's years since we learned, and we've got no Bible, and our memories are not as good as they used to be," sighed the mother.

A walk of some length, and over a rough road, brought them at last to the little meeting-house where the church members belonging to the Methodist body were in the habit of attending.

They were rather late, and the exercises had begun, but kind farmer Evans made room for them on his bench, and found for Mrs. Jones the place in the psalm-book from which the little company had been singing. Mary was the only child there, but the church members who met there from time to time had come to look upon this little girl as one of their number, and welcomed her accordingly.

When the meeting was over, Mary relit her lantern for the walk home. As they walked she asked, "Why haven't we a Bible of our own, mother?"

"Because Bibles are scarce, child, and we're too poor to pay the price of one. A weaver's is an honest trade, Mary, but we don't get rich by it, and we think ourselves happy if we can keep the wolf from the door, and have clothes to cover us. Those who are trusting the Saviour for their pardon and peace, and for eternal life at last, can wait patiently for a fuller knowledge of His Word and will."

"I suppose you can wait, mother, because you've waited so long that you're used to it," replied the child; "but it's harder for me. Every time I hear something read out of the Bible, I long to hear more, and when I can read it will be harder still."

(to be continued)

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Sept. 27, 2009

MARY JONES' BIBLE

(Continued from last week)

In the homes of the poor, where the time of the elder members of the family is precious, they being the breadwinners of the household, the little ones learn to be useful very early. Such was the case in the family of Jacob Jones. Jacob and Molly were engaged in weaving the woolen cloth, so much of which used to be made in Wales. Thus many of the household duties devolved upon Mary; and at an age when children of richer parents are amusing themselves with their dolls or picture-books, our little maid was sweeping, and dusting, and scrubbing, and digging and weeding. It was Mary who fed the few hens, and looked for their eggs, so often laid in queer, wrong places, rather than in the nest.

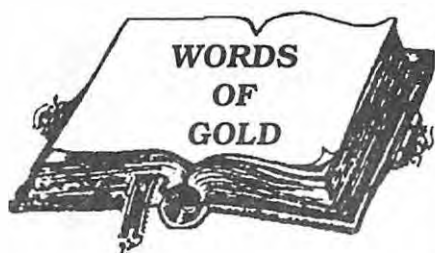
It was Mary who took care of the hive, and who never feared the bees; and it was Mary again, who, when more active duties were done, would draw a low stool towards the hearth in winter or outside the cottage door in summer, and try to make or mend her own little simple garments, singing to herself the while in Welsh a verse or two of the old-fashioned metrical version of the Psalms, or repeating texts which she had picked up and retained in her quick, eager little brain.

One afternoon, when Jacob and his wife were seated at their looms, and Mary was sewing a patch into an almost worn-out garment of her own, a little tap at the door was followed by the entrance of Mrs. Evans, the good farmer's wife, a kind, motherly woman, who was looked up to and beloved by many of the villagers.

"Good day to you, neighbors!" she said, cheerily, her comely face all aglow. "Jacob, how is your chest feeling? Bad, I'm afraid, as I haven't seen you out of late. Molly, you're looking hearty as usual, and my little Mary, too-Toddles, as I used to call you when you were not much more than a baby. Don't I remember you then! A mere baby as I said, and yet you'd keep a deal stiller than any mouse if your father there would make up a story you could understand, more particular if it was out of the Bible.

"She's as fond of anything of that sort now as she was then," said Jacob Jones, pausing in his work; "or rather she's fonder than ever, ma'am. I only wish we were able to give her a bit of schooling. It seems hard, for the child is willing enough, and it's high time she was learning something. Why, Mrs. Evans, she can't read yet, and she's eight years old!"

Mary looked up, her face flushing, her eyes filled with tears. "Oh! If I only could learn!" she cried, eagerly. "I'm



REPROACHING THE LIVING GOD

Isaiah 37:4-20

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

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

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

8 So Rabshakeh returned . . .

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

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

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

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

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

15 And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying,

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

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

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

The Message: Those who dishonor God will be punished!

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:31

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

such a big girl, and it's so dreadful not to know how to read. If I could, I would read all the lovely stories myself, and not trouble any one to tell them."

"You forget, Mary, we've no Bible," said Molly Jones, "and we can't afford to buy one either, so dear and scarce they are."

"Yes," replied Mrs. Evans, "it's a great want in our country; my husband was telling me only the other day that the scarcity of Welsh Bibles is getting to be spoken of everywhere. Even those who can afford to pay for them get them with difficulty and only by bespeaking them; and poor people can't get them at all. But we hope the Society for Christian Knowledge in London may print some more soon; it won't be before they're wanted."

"But with all this talk, Mrs. Jones," continued the farmer's wife, "I am forgetting my errand in coming here, and that was to ask if you'd any new-laid eggs. I've a large order sent me, and our hens are laying badly, so that I can't make up the number. I've been collecting a few here and there, but I haven't enough yet."

"Mary knows more about the hens and eggs than I do," said Molly, looking at her little daughter, who had not put a stitch into her patch while the talk about Bibles had been going on.

But now the child started half guiltily from her low seat, saying, "I'll get what we have to show you, Mrs. Evans."

Presently she came in with a little basket containing about a dozen eggs. The farmer's wife put them into her bag, then patting Mary's pink cheeks rose to take her leave, after paying for the eggs.

"And remember this, little maid," she said, kindly, when after saying good-bye to Jacob and Molly, she was taking leave of Mary at the door.

"Remember this, my dear little girl; as soon as you know how to read (if by that time you still have no Bible) you shall come to the farm when you like, and read and study ours - that is, if you can manage to get so far."

"It's only two miles, that's nothing!" said sturdy Mary, with a glance down at her strong little bare feet. "I'd walk further than that for such a pleasure, ma'am." Then she added with a less joyful ring in her voice, "At least I would, if ever I did learn to read."

"Never mind, little woman! The likes of you wasn't made to sit in the dark always," replied Mrs. Evans in her cheery, comfortable tones. "The Lord made the want, and He'll satisfy it; be very sure of that. Good-bye, and God bless you, my child!" and good Mrs. Evans, with a parting nod to the weaver and his wife, and another to Mary, went out.

Mary stood at the door and watched their visitor till she was out of sight. Then, before she closed it, she clasped her small brown hands against her breast, and her thoughts formed themselves into a prayer something like this; "Dear Lord, who didst teach and bless even the poorest, please let me learn, and not grow up in darkness."

Then she shut the door resolutely in her childish heart that if God heard and answered her prayer, and she learned to read His Word, she would do what she could, all her life long, to help others as she herself had been helped.

(to be continued)

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Oct. 4, 2009

MARY JONES' BIBLE

(Continued from last week)

Two years passed after Mrs. Evans's visit. One evening Jacob Jones came home from a village two miles away. He had been away the greater part of the day, yet he did not seem tired. His eye was bright, and his lips wore a smile as he entered the cottage and sat down in his accustomed place.

Mary, whose observant eye rarely failed to note the least change in her father's face and manner, sprang towards him, and stood before him, regarding his bright face searchingly. "What is it, father?" she asked. "Something pleasant has happened, or you wouldn't look like that!"

"What a sharp little girl it is!" replied Jacob fondly, drawing the child nearer and seating her upon his knee. "What a very sharp little woman to find out that her old dad has something to tell!"

"And is it something that concerns me, Father?" asked Mary.

"It is something that concerns you most of all, my chick."

"What can it be?" murmured Mary, with a quick, impatient little sigh.

"What is it, Father?" asked Mrs. Jones, "we both want to know."

"Well," replied Jacob, "what would you say, Molly dear, to our little daughter here becoming quite

a learned woman, perhaps knowing how to read and write and cipher, and all a deal better than her parents ever did before her?"

"Oh, Father!" Mary exclaimed.

"Yes, child, there is a school to be opened and a master is chosen already; and as my little Mary thinks nought of a two miles' walk, she shall go, and learn all she can."

"Now I shall learn to read the Bible!" Then a thought struck Mary, and a shadow came across the happy face as she said, "But, Mother, perhaps you won't be able to spare me?"

"Spare you? Yes, I will, child, though I can't deny as how it will be difficult for me to do without my little right hand and help. But for your good, my girl, I would do harder things than that."

"Dear, good mother!" cried Mary, putting an arm about Molly's neck and kissing her. "But I don't want you to work too hard and tire yourself. I'll get up an hour or two earlier, and do all I can before I start for school." Then as the child sat down again to her work, her heart, in its joyfulness, sent up a song of thanksgiving to the Lord who had heard her prayer, and opened the way for her to learn, that she might not grow up in darkness.

"And how soon is the school to open, Jacob?" asked his wife.

"In about three weeks, I believe," answered Jacob. "And now, Mary my



STRANGE MESSAGES

Acts 10:1-16

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius . . .

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.

7 . . . Cornelius. . . called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

8 And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

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

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

11 And saw heaven opened, and a

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

12 Wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

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

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

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

16 This was done thrice . . .

The Message: Both Cornelius and Peter received visions from God directing them what to do. Both obeyed God.

Questions:

1. Where did Cornelius live?
2. How did Cornelius prove that he was a devout man?
3. How did God speak to Cornelius?
4. What did He tell him to do?
5. Why had Peter gone up on the housetop?
6. What was in the great sheet he saw?
7. What did the voice tell him to do?
8. When Peter refused to eat what did the voice tell him?
9. How many times was the sheet let down from heaven?

Verse to Memorize

Whether it be good, or whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God . . .

Jeremiah 42:6

Let's



Talk . . .

Through the ages of time, God has spoken to men in many different ways. In our lesson today He spoke to both Cornelius and Peter through visions. In the Bible, God sometimes used visions to guide and instruct His servants. Visions are similar to dreams; the difference between a dream and a vision is that dreams occur only during sleep, while visions can happen while a person is awake.

The supernatural power of God had an angel speak to Cornelius, telling him to send for Peter to come and teach him. The angel told Cornelius that Peter was staying with a friend, Simon, who was a tanner and lived beside the sea in the city of Joppa. Very clear directions, weren't they?

Many years before, the disobedient prophet, Jonah, had come to Joppa. He did not come seeking to obey God's message as Cornelius' servants did. God told him to go preach to the Gentile people of Nineveh but he did not want to. He thought the people of Nineveh deserved to be destroyed. He did not want to preach to them so they would repent. So, instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah went to Joppa where he boarded a ship headed away from Nineveh. But God had His eye right on Jonah. He could not escape. Remember how Jonah was thrown into the sea and how much he suffered until he was finally willing to obey and go to Nineveh?

Another outstanding thing happened in Joppa. Just a few days before Cornelius' men came to ask Peter to go with them, other men had

come begging him to come with them. Tabitha, also known as Dorcas, had died. The people were shocked and deeply grieved. When they learned that Peter was not far away they sent for him to come. Peter prayed for Dorcas and God brought her back to life. News of this miracle quickly spread throughout Joppa. Because of this healing many people believed in the Lord.

After Dorcas was healed, Peter decided to stay in Joppa to be with the brethren there. He stayed in the home of a disciple who was a tanner. Tanners were people not very highly respected. They were considered dirty and spiritually low by the Jewish people, because the Jews touched only certain animals which they called clean. A tanner handled the skins of the unclean animals as well as the clean ones, for the hides of all animals were valuable for making leather. This tanner, Simon, was one of Jesus' disciples. He made the Apostle Peter welcome to stay in his home.

As Cornelius' servants and his soldier came near the tanner's house a strange thing happened to Peter. He became very hungry while he was resting on the flat roof of Simon's house. Suddenly there appeared a huge sheet let down by its four corners from the sky. In the sheet were all kinds of birds, reptiles and four-footed, unclean animals. Then a voice urged him to kill an animal and eat it. "No! No!" he said, "I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

The voice answered, "What God has cleansed, that call not thou common." The vision appeared three times, then went away.

God was preparing Peter's mind to receive the servant's of Cornelius who were of a race of people that the Jews called unclean.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

girl, if you can bring yourself to think of such a thing as supper, after what I've been telling you, suppose you get some ready, for I haven't broke my fast since noon."

The following three weeks passed more slowly for little Mary Jones than any three months she could remember before. But they came to an end at last, and Mary began to go to school, thus commencing a new era in her life.

Fairly hungering and thirsting after knowledge, the child found her lessons only pleasure. Her eagerness was so great that she was almost always at the top of her class; in an incredibly short time she began to read and write.

Nor did Mary neglect her home duties. She rose early, and did her work before breakfast; and after her return from school in the afternoon she again helped her mother, only reserving for herself time enough to prepare her lessons for the next day.

At school she was a general favorite, always willing to help others whenever she could. One morning a little girl was crying sadly when she reached the school-house. She said that on the way there, a big dog had snatched her lunch and so she should have to go hungry all day.

Some of the scholars laughed at the child for her carelessness, and some called her a coward, for not running after the dog and getting back her dinner; but Mary stole up to the little one's side, and whispered something in her ear, dried the wet eyes, and kissed the flushed cheeks, and presently the child was smiling and happy again.

But when dinner-time came, Mary and the little girl sat close together in a corner, where Mary shared more than half of her lunch with the smaller child.

Not long after the commencement of the dayschool, a Sunday school also was opened, and the very first Sunday that children were taught there, Mary was there with bright eyes and eager face, showing the keen interest she felt, and her great desire to learn.

That evening, after service in the little meeting-house, as Mrs. Evans was just going to get into her pony-cart to drive home, she felt a light touch on her arm, while a sweet voice she knew said, "Please, ma'am, might I speak to you a moment?"

"Surely, my child," replied the good woman, turning to little Mary, "what have you got to say to me?"

"Two years ago, please ma'am, you were so kind as to promise that when I'd learned to read I should come to the farm and read your Bible."

"I did, I remember it well," answered Mrs. Evans. "Well, child, do you know how to read?"

"Yes, ma'am," responded Mary, "and now I've joined the Sunday school, and shall have Bible lessons to prepare, and if you'd be so kind as to let me come up to the farm one day in the week, perhaps Saturday, when I've a half-holiday, I could never thank you enough."

"There's no need for thanks, little woman, come and welcome! I shall expect you next Saturday; and may the Lord make His Word a great blessing to you!"

Mrs. Evans held Mary's hand one moment with a cordial pressure; then she got into her cart, and the pony started off quickly towards home.

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. In Caesarea. 2. He feared God, gave much alms and prayed. 3. An angel appeared to him in a vision. 4. To send for Peter. 5. To pray. 6. All manner of animals, birds and creeping things. 7. Rise, kill, and eat. 8. "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." 9. Three times.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Oct. 11, 2009

MARY JONES' BIBLE

(Continued from last week)

At first Mary was shy as she called at the Evans' farm, but her shyness did not last long. Mrs. Evans greeted her with a hearty welcome and a motherly kiss. "Get warm, dear," said Mrs. Evans, "and then you shall go to the parlor, and study the Bible."

Then, taking her into the parlor, she said, "There's no need to tell you to be careful of our Bible and to turn over the leaves gently, Mary, I'm sure," said Mrs. Evans; "you would do that anyway, I know." She then went away, leaving Mary alone with a Bible for the first time in her life.

When Mary opened the book it opened to the fifth chapter of John, where her eyes caught these words, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify of Me."

"I will! I will!" she cried, feeling as if the words were spoken directly to her by some Divine voice. "I will search and learn all I can. Oh, if I had but a Bible of my own!"

When Mary had finished studying the Scripture lesson, she said good-bye to her kind friends, and set off for home, her mind full of the one great longing, out of which a resolution was slowly shaping itself.

It was formed at last. "I must have a Bible of my own!" she said aloud,

in the earnestness of her purpose. "I must have one, if I save up for it for ten years!" and by the time this was settled in her mind the child had reached her home.

Christmas had come, and with it some holidays for Mary and the other scholars. She determined to commence carrying out her plan of earning something towards the purchase of a Bible. Without neglecting her home duties, she managed to undertake little jobs of work, for which the neighbors were glad to give her a trifle. Every halfpenny or farthing was put into a rough little money-box which Jacob made for the purpose. It was a joy to her when she could drop in a few coins, longing for the time when she would have enough to buy a Bible.

It was about this time that good Mrs. Evans, knowing the child's earnest wish, and wanting to encourage and help her, made her the present of a fine cock and two hens. "Now, my child, you can sell your eggs, for these will be your very own to do what you like with, and you can put the money to any use you please. I think I know what you'll do with it," added Mrs. Evans, with a smile.

But the first piece of silver that Mary had the satisfaction of dropping into her box was earned before she had any eggs to sell, and in quite a different way from the sums which she had hitherto



SALVATION

It is a gift of God:

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:18

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

It is for everyone:

Acts 10:43

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 10:13

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Titus 2:11

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, It cometh only through Jesus:

Acts 4:12

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved.

Romans 5:6

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Hebrews 5:9

9 And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him:

Hebrews 9:28

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

It is available today:

II Corinthians 6:2

2 (... behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation.)

The Message: Salvation is a gift that God gives every man who will repent and ask with faith to receive it.

Questions:

1. By _____ are ye saved through _____.
2. According to Romans 6:23, what is the gift of God?
3. What must a person do to be saved?
4. To whom is salvation available?
5. In whom is salvation found?
6. Who is the author of our salvation?
7. For whom did Christ die?
8. When is the accepted time to be saved?

Verse to Memorize

For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6:23

Let's



Talk . . .

Salvation is a free gift of God. Good things we do cannot earn this gift. The persons who have salvation have it because they met certain conditions and believed God would save them, and He did.

The story is told of a very rich man who wanted to help the poor in the city where he lived. He had an announcement put in the local newspaper which stated that on a certain day he would pay the bills of everyone who would bring them to his home anytime between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on that day.

Many people read the notice. Neighbors and friends discussed it across their fences and over the telephone. "Do you really believe he will?" they asked one another.

"I think he will!" exclaimed an optimistic old man.

"It's just a joke to make a fool of us," another man said. Some agreed with him. Others, a little hopeful yet fearful, thought they would try and see if it were true. Others, filled with pride, said they wouldn't be humiliated in such a way.

For a whole week the rich man's offer was the talk of the town. When the day finally came, the town was in an uproar. The question was still in everyone's mind, "Is this true, or is it not?"

Some men did not go to their jobs. They would go and get their bills paid! But as they thought about it and wondered what their friends would think, some decided not to go. Fear of being tricked and embarrassed kept others from going. Many, however, ventured to collect their bills and go

to the rich man's house.

One old man, with bills in his hand and his wife by his side, started towards the rich man's home. From a distance they saw many, many people around the house. "Oh, we are so slow," said the wife. "There are many ahead of us. We will probably not get in before 4 o'clock. Or, if we do get in, there will not be enough money left to pay all our bills."

"Nay, nay, my good wife," scolded the old man, "He has said he will do it, and so I believe he will."

They stopped under a tree growing at the edge of the beautiful yard to wait their turn to enter. After waiting a good while and seeing no one enter nor come from the house, the old couple tottered up the walk leading to the mansion.

A hundred or more fearful, proud, poverty-stricken people watched as they whispered to one another. How surprised they were when the door was opened and a servant asked the old man and his wife in.

All the rest of the day the people walked back and forth in front of the house waiting for the old couple to come out and tell them if the announcement was true or not. Only servants could be seen going and coming from a side entrance of the house.

Five minutes after four, the couple emerged from the house with smiles on their faces. Receipts of their bills were marked, "PAID IN FULL!"

The angry mob cried, "Why didn't you come out and tell us?"

"We were not allowed to," the old man said gravely, "lest our own bills would not be paid. The rich man wanted you to believe his word."

The old couple received a free gift, but they had to believe the rich man's word and obey his commands. That is the way it is with salvation. Whoever receives the free gift of salvation must believe that God will give it. To keep it, they must obey God's commandments. —Sis. Charlotte Huskey

received. She was walking one evening along the road when her foot struck against some object lying in the road; and, stooping to pick it up, she found it was a large leather purse. Wondering whose it could be, the child went on, until, while still within half a mile from home, she met a man walking slowly, and evidently searching for something. He looked up as Mary approached, and she recognized him as Farmer Greaves, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Evans.

"Ah! Good evening, Mary Jones," said he; "I've had such a loss! Coming home from market I dropped my purse, and—"

"I've just found a purse, sir," said Mary, "is this it?"

"Yes, indeed, my dear, that is mine, and I'm very much obliged to you." As he spoke, he took out a sixpence and handed it to Mary, who took it with very heartfelt thanks. She ran home as quickly as possible to drop her silver treasure safely into the box.

But the Christmas holidays were soon over, and then it was difficult for Mary to keep up with all her duties. Sometimes weeks passed without her having time to earn a penny towards the purchase of the sacred treasure.

Sometimes, too, she was rather late in reaching home on the Saturday evenings, and now and again Molly was uneasy about her. It was on one of these occasions that Molly and Jacob Jones were sitting and waiting for their daughter. The old clock had already struck eight. She had never been so late as this before.

"Our Mary ought to be home, Jacob," said Molly.

"Don't be fretting yourself, Molly," replied Jacob, pausing in his work. "Mary's out on a good errand, and He who put the love of good things in her heart will take care of her."

Just then Mary lifted the latch and entered the cottage. "Well, child, what have you learned today?" questioned Jacob. "Have you studied your lesson for the Sunday school?"

"Ay, father, that I have, and a beautiful lesson it was," responded the child. "It was the lesson and Mr. Evans together that kept me so late."

"We've been right down uneasy about you!"

"You needn't have been so, mother dear," replied the little girl. "God knew what I was about, and He would not let any harm come to me. Oh, Father, the more I read about Him the more I want to know, and I shall never rest until I've a Bible of my own. But today I've brought home a big bit of the farmer's Bible with me."

"What do you mean, Mary? How could you do such a thing?" questioned Molly in amazement.

"Only in my head, Mother dear," replied the child. "It's the seventh chapter of Matthew. Our Sunday lesson was from the first verse to the end of the twelfth verse. But it was so easy and so beautiful, that I went on till I'd learned the whole chapter. And just as I had finished, Mr. Evans asked me if I understood it all; and when I said there were some bits that puzzled me, he was so kind and explained them. If you like, Mother and Father, I'll repeat you the chapter." So Mary repeated the whole chapter without a single mistake.

"Mark my words, wife," said Jacob when Mary had gone to bed, "that child will do a work for the Lord before she dies!"

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. Grace, Faith. 2. Eternal life. 3. Believe in Jesus, call on Him, repent and confess to God and men. 4. To all people. 5. In Jesus. 6. Jesus Christ. 7. For everyone. 8. Today!

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 Oct. 18, 2009

MARY JONES' BIBLE

(Continued from last week)

"O Mother! O Father! Only think! Mrs. Evans has just paid me for that work I did for her, and it is more than I expected and now I find I have enough to buy a Bible!"

Mary had just come from the farmhouse, and now as she bounded in with the joyful news, Jacob stopped his loom, and held out both hands. "Is it really so, Mary? After six years' saving! Nay then, God be thanked, child, who first put the wish into your heart, and then gave you patience to wait and work to get the thing you wanted. Bless you, my little maid," and Jacob laid a hand solemnly upon his daughter's head, adding in a lower tone, "and she shall be blest!"

"But tell me, Father dear," said Mary, "where am I to buy the Bible? There are no Bibles to be had here."

"I cannot tell you, Mary, but our preacher, William Huw, will know," replied Jacob; "you will do well to go to him tomorrow, and ask how you're to get the book."

Mary accordingly went the next day to William Huw, and asked the question so all-important to her. But he replied that not a copy could be obtained nearer than of Mr. Charles of Bala; and he added that he feared

lest all the Bibles received by Mr. Charles from London had been sold or promised months ago.

This was discouraging news, and Mary went home, cast down indeed, but not in despair. There was still, she reflected, a chance that one copy of the Scriptures yet remained in Mr. Charles's possession; and if so, that Bible should be hers.

The long distance (over twenty-five miles) the unknown road, the far-famed, but to her, strange minister, who was to grant her the boon she craved—all this, if it a little frightened her, did not for one moment threaten to change her purpose.

Even Jacob and Molly, who at first, on account of the distance, objected to her walking to Bala for the purchase of her Bible, ceased to oppose their will to hers; "For," said good Jacob to his wife, "if it's the Lord answering our prayers and leading the child, as we prayed He might, it would ill become us to go against His wisdom."

The next morning, a fresh, breezy day in spring, in the year 1800, Mary rose almost as soon as it was light, and washed and dressed with unusual care. Her one pair of shoes—far too precious a possession to be worn on a twenty-five mile walk—Mary placed in her bag, intending to put them on as soon as she reached the town.



GOD YEARNS FOR THE LOST

Luke 15:11-24

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had

compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

The Message: Those who waste their "substance" in riotous living are wasting their lives.

Questions:

1. What did the boy ask of his father?
2. What did the son do after he received his part?
3. How did he waste his substance?
4. What are husks?
5. Did the boy become humble and what did he do?
6. Who was the Father watching for?
7. How was he treated when he got home?
8. Does God long for us to come home?

Verse to Memorize

For the Son of man is come
to seek and to save that
which was lost.
Luke 19:10

Let's



Talk . . .

The parable in our lesson today teaches us the great love of the heavenly father in seeking the salvation of souls. The two sons in our lesson needed God. Let us see the great need of the one who stayed at home. He was a selfish boy and guilty of ingratitude. He needed the love of his father as well as did the one who went away.

The father gave the sons some of their share of the money that would fall to them when the father was gone. He did not give all because he was still in possession of the estate when the youngest son returned.

It probably took the youngest son some days to turn the cattle, etc. that he received into cash, but he gathered together all that he had and went far from home and there he wasted his money.

What can a person waste in riotous living? He had money and there are those in the world who will be your friend if you have something to hand out. Notice how many at school or at other places are around you with a smile on their faces if you are giving out a treat. As soon as it is gone, who stays with you? Those who stay are your true friends.

This boy, no doubt, lost his character, his reputation and maybe his health. Smoking, drinking, gambling, telling dirty stories, lewdness, fornication, hatred and many other things came into his life and heart. The devil is never satisfied until he takes a person down so low that he feels there is no hope for him. This poor boy was finally broke, with no friends, and sought a job. He was sent out into

the fields to feed the swine.

The husks mentioned in our lesson are the fruit of the carob tree. It produces pods, shaped like a horn, varying in length from six to ten inches and about a finger's breadth or rather more; it is dark brown, glossy, filled with seeds and has a sweetish taste. It is used for food by the poor, and for feeding swine in Syria and Egypt. (Smith's Dictionary)

Probably the boy was to climb the trees and shake down the pods for the hogs to eat. God talked to him out there alone. That is the time God can often speak to people, when they get to the end of their way. He wants them to do as the prodigal and make a decision to turn to the Lord with all of their hearts. God is waiting with outstretched arms for them to come. He will bless them and welcome them home.

He will forgive them of their sins and make them pure and clean again. He will put the white robes of salvation on them. They were "dead in trespasses and sins" but are made alive in God. They were lost but are found. There is joy among the angels when one sinner repents. The saints rejoice, but most of all, the person who is saved is made happy.

—Aunt Marie Miles
February 19, 1967

There Is No Depth

There is no depth of sin and woe
Which cannot pardoned be
If in contrition deep we go
By faith to Calvary.

There is no path that leads astray
From which we cannot turn;
There is no night but what the day
Can light for those who yearn.

With welcome arms the Father still
Awaits His wayward child:
Through mercy in His gracious will,
The lost are reconciled.

—Leslie Busbee

Early as was the hour, Molly and Jacob were both up to give Mary her breakfast of hot milk and bread, and have family prayer, offering a special petition for God's blessing on their child's undertaking, and for His protection and care during her journey. This fortified and comforted Mary, and, kissing her parents, she went out into the dawn of that lovely day—a day which lived in her remembrance till the last hour of her long and useful life.

She set out at a good pace, not too quick, for that would have wearied her ere a quarter of her journey could be accomplished, but an even, steady walk, her bare brown feet treading lightly but firmly along the road.

Never before had everything about her looked to Mary as it looked on that memorable morning. About the middle of the day Mary stopped to rest and to eat some food, which her mother had provided for her. She half reclined, protected from the sun by the tender green of the spring foliage, and cooling her hot dusty feet in the soft damp grass that spread like a velvet carpet all over the hollow.

Ere long too she spied a little stream where she drank, and washed her face and hands and feet, and was refreshed. Half an hour's quiet rested her thoroughly, then she jumped up, slung her bag over her shoulder again, and continued her journey.

Once a kind cottager, as she passed, gave her a drink of butter-milk, and a farmer's little daughter, as Mary neared her destination, offered her a share of the supper she was eating as she sat in the porch in the cool of the evening; but these were all the adventures or incidents in Mary's journey till she got to Bala.

On arriving there, she followed out the instructions that had been given her by William Huw, and went to the

house of David Edwards, a much respected preacher at Bala.

This good man received her most kindly, questioned her as to her motive in coming so far, but ended by telling her that owing to Mr. Charles's early and regular habits (one secret of the large amount of work which he accomplished), it was now too late in the day to see him.

"But," added the kind old man, seeing his young visitor's disappointment, "you shall sleep here tonight, and we will go to Mr. Charles's as soon as I see light in his study window tomorrow morning, so that you may accomplish your errand in good time, and be able to reach home before night."

With grateful thanks Mary accepted the hospitality offered her, and after a simple supper, she was shown into the little prophet's chamber where she was to sleep.

There, after repeating a chapter of the Bible, and offering an earnest prayer, she lay down, her mind and body alike resting, her faith sure that her journey would not be in vain, but that He who had led her safely thus far, would give her her heart's desire.

And the curtains of night fell softly about the good preacher's humble dwelling, shadowing the sleepers there; and the rest of those sleepers was sweet, and their safety assured, for watching over them was the God of the night and the day—the God whom they loved and trusted, and underneath them were the Everlasting Arms.

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. His share of the inheritance. 2. Went to a far country. 3. In riotous living. 4. The fruit of the carob tree. 5. Yes. He was willing to become a servant. 6. His youngest son. 7. He was welcomed with honor. 8. Yes.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Oct. 25, 2009

MARY JONES' BIBLE

(Continued from last week)

Mary's deep, dreamless sleep was not broken until her host knocked at her door at early dawning. "Wake up, Mary Jones, my child! Mr. Charles is an early riser, and will soon be at work. The dawn is breaking; get up, dear!"

Mary started up, rubbing her eyes. The time had really come, then, and in a few minutes she would know what was to be the result of her long waiting.

Her heart beat quicker as she washed and dressed, but her excitement calmed when she sat down for a minute or two on the side of her bed, and repeated the 23rd Psalm. The sweet words of the royal singer were the first that occurred to her, and now, as she murmured, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," she felt as though she were of a truth being watched over and cared for by a loving Shepherd, and being led by Him.

She was soon ready, and David Edwards and his guest proceeded together to Mr. Charles's house. "There's a light in his study," said the good old preacher. "Our apostle is at his desk already. There are not many like him, Mary; always at work for the Master. The world would be

better had we more such men."

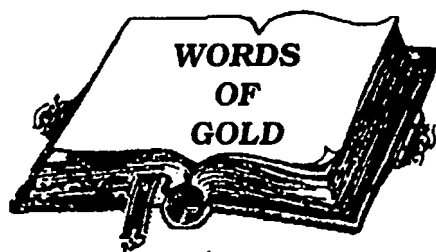
Mary did not reply, but she listened intently as David Edwards knocked at the door. There was no answer, only the tread of a foot across the floor above, and the next moment the door opened, and Mr. Charles himself stood before them.

"Good morning, friend Edwards! And what brings you here so early? Come in, do," said the genial, hearty voice. Then, as David Edwards entered, Mr. Charles noticed the little figure behind him in the doorway.

Mary's courage was fast ebbing away, and she felt shy and frightened. A few words of explanation passed between the old preacher and Mr. Charles; then Mary was invited to enter the study.

"Now, my child," said Mr. Charles, "don't be afraid, but tell me all about yourself, where you live, and what your name is, and what you want."

At this Mary took courage and answered all Mr. Charles's questions, her voice strengthening as her courage returned. She told him all about her home and her parents, her longing when quite a child for a Bible of her own, then of the long years during which she had saved up her little earnings towards the purchase of a Bible—the sum being now complete.



A NEW HEART!

Jeremiah 24:7

7 And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

II Corinthians 5:17

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

Ephesians 4:23-32

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good,

that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

The Message: When we repent of our sins and give our hearts to God He will give us a new heart and make us a new person!

Questions:

1. "I will give them a ____ to know me."
2. "They shall be my _____, and I shall be their ____."
3. What kind of heart did God say He would take away?
4. What would God put within them to cause them to obey Him?
5. "If any man be in Christ, he is a _____."
6. What are we to put on?
7. "Neither give place to the _____."
8. How are we to treat one another?

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

In Deuteronomy 5:29 God says, "O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!" His desire had always been to have a people who loved and obeyed Him. He wanted to teach them how to escape the evil in the world so that they and their children could live happy lives.

The law that God gave Moses taught what the people were to do but it could not give them power to obey those laws. Sin had entered into their hearts through Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden.

God knew that the only way man would be able to keep His laws and love Him supremely would be to have a brand new heart free from sin. John 3:16 tells us that God loved us so much He sent Jesus to save us from our sins, give us a new heart and even put His Spirit within us. This empowers us to live as Jesus did, always doing the things that please God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

A NEW HEART

A certain prisoner, most cunning and brutal, was singularly repulsive even in comparison with other prisoners. He had been known for his daring and for the utter absence of all feeling when committing acts of violence. The chaplain had spoken to him several times but had not succeeded even in getting an answer. The

man was sullenly set against all instruction.

At last he expressed a desire for a certain book, but as it was not in the library the chaplain pointed to the Bible which was placed in his cell, saying, "Did you ever read that Book?"

He gave no answer but looked at the good man as if he would kill him. The question was kindly repeated, with the assurance that he would find it well worth reading.

"Mister," said the convict, "you would not ask me such a question if you knew who I am. What have I to do with a book of that sort?"

The chaplain answered, "I know all about you and that's why I think the Bible is the book for you."

"It would dome no good," he cried. "I am past all feeling." Doubling up his fist, he struck the iron door of the cell and said, "My heart is as hard as that iron; there is nothing in any book that will ever touch me."

"Well," said the chaplain, "you want a new heart. Did you ever read the covenant of grace?"

To which the man answered sullenly by inquiring what he meant by such talk. His friend replied, "Listen to these words: 'A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you' " (Ezekiel 36:26).

The words struck the man with amazement. He asked to have the passage found for him in the Bible. He read the words again and again; and when the chaplain came back to him the next day, the wild beast was tamed.

"Oh, sir," he said, "I never dreamed of such a promise! I never believed it possible that God would speak in such a way to men. If He gives me a new heart, it will be a miracle of mercy; and yet I think He is going to work that miracle upon me, for the very hope of a new nature is beginning to touch me as I never was touched before."

—Selected

Then Mr. Charles examined her as to her Scripture knowledge, and was delighted with the girl's intelligent replies, which showed how earnestly and thoroughly she had studied the Book she loved so well.

"But how, my child," said he, "did you get to know the Bible as you do, when you did not own one for yourself?"

Then Mary told him of the visits to the farmhouse, and how, through the kindness of the farmer and his wife, she had been able to study her Sunday school lessons, and commit portions of Scripture to memory.

As she informed Mr. Charles of all that had taken place, he began to realize how brave, patient, earnest, and hopeful she had been through all these years of waiting. Knowing how far she had now come to obtain possession of the coveted treasure, his bright face became overshadowed, and, turning to David Edwards, he said, sadly, "I am indeed grieved that this dear girl should have come all the way from Llanfihangel to buy a Bible, and that I should be unable to supply her with one."

"The consignment of Welsh Bibles that I received from London last year was all sold out months ago, excepting a few copies which I have kept for friends whom I must not disappoint. Unfortunately the Society which has hitherto supplied Wales with the Scriptures declines to print any more, and where to get Welsh Bibles to satisfy our country's need I know not."

Until now, Mary had been looking up into Mr. Charles's face, with her great, dark eyes full of hope and confidence; but as he spoke these words to David Edwards, and she began to understand the full import of his words, the room seemed to her to darken suddenly, and, dropping into the nearest seat, she buried her face in her hands, and sobbed.

It was all over, then, she said to herself—all of no use—the prayers, the longing, the waiting, the working, the saving for six long years, the weary tramp with bare feet, the near prospect of her hopes being fulfilled, all, all in vain!

With his own voice broken and unsteady, Mr. Charles said, "My dear child, I see you must have a Bible, difficult as it is for me to spare you one. It is impossible, yes, simply impossible, to refuse you."

Mr. Charles turned away for a moment to a book-cupboard that stood behind him, and opening it, he drew forth a Bible. Then, laying a hand once more on Mary's head, with the other he placed the Bible in her grasp, and, looking down the while into the earnest, glistening eyes upturned to him, he said, "If you, my dear girl, are glad to receive this Bible, truly glad am I to be able to give it to you. Read it carefully, study it diligently, treasure up the sacred words in your memory, and act up to its teachings."

And then as Mary, quite overcome with delight and thankfulness, began once more to sob, but softly, and with sweet, happy tears, Mr. Charles turned to the old preacher, and said, huskily, "David Edwards, is not such a sight as this enough to melt the hardest heart? A girl, so young, so poor, so intelligent, so familiar with Scripture, compelled to walk all the distance from Llanfihangel to Bala (about fifty miles there and back) to get a Bible! From this day I can never rest until I find out some means of supplying the pressing wants of my country that cries out for the Word of God."

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. Heart. 2. People, God. 3. The stony heart. 4. His spirit. 5. New creature. 6. The new man. 7. Devil. 8. We are to be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Nov. 1, 2009

MARY JONES' BIBLE

(Continued from last week)

Once Mary Jones actually had the prized Bible in her hands she was anxious to be on her way home. Half an hour later, having shared David Edwards's frugal breakfast, she set off on her homeward journey.

The day was somewhat cloudy, but the child did not notice it; her heart was full of sunshine. The wind blew strongly, but a great calm was in her soul, and her young face was so full of happiness that the simple folk she met on the way could not but notice her as she tripped blithely on, her bare feet seeming hardly to press the ground, her eyes shining with deep content, while the bag containing her newly-found treasure was no longer slung across her back, but clasped close to her bosom.

The sun rose and burst through the clouds, glorifying all the landscape; and onward steadily went Mary, her heart, like the lark's song, full of thanksgiving, and her voice breaking out now and again into melody, to which the words of some old hymn or of a well-known and much-loved text set themselves, without an effort on the girl's part.

On, still on, she went, heeding not the length and weariness of the

way; and the afternoon came, and the sun set in the western heavens with a glory that made Mary think of the home prepared above for God's children; that heaven with its walls of jasper, and its gates of pearl, and its streets of gold, and its light that needs neither sun nor moon, but streams from the Life-giving Presence of God Himself.

That evening Jacob and his wife were seated waiting for supper and for Mary. What news would the child bring? How had she sped? Had she received her Bible? These were some of the questions, which the anxious parents asked themselves, listening the while for their daughter's return after the fatigues and possible dangers of her fifty miles' walk.

But the worthy couple was not long kept in suspense. Presently the light step which they knew so well, approached the cottage; the latch was lifted, and Mary entered, weary, foot-sore, dusty and travel-stained indeed, but with happiness dimpling her cheeks and flashing in her eyes. And Jacob held out both arms to his darling, and as he clasped her to his heart, he murmured in the words of the prophet of old, "Is it well with the child?" and Mary, from the depths of a satisfied heart, answered solemnly, but with gladness, "It is well."



THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35-38

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Luke 4:16-21

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Romans 1:15-16

15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The Message: Hundreds of years before Jesus' birth Isaiah prophesied that He would come to preach the Gospel to the poor.

Questions:

1. Where did Jesus go to teach and preach the Gospel?
2. What did He do for those who were sick and diseased?
3. Why did Jesus feel sorry for the multitudes?
4. What did He say we should pray for?
5. Where had Jesus been brought up?
6. As His custom was, He went into the _____ on the Sabbath day.
7. What did he say after He sat down?
8. Paul said he was ready to preach to those at _____ also.
9. The Gospel is the _____ of _____ unto salvation.

Verse to Memorize

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

Let's



Talk . . .

Paul was mocked, beaten and his life was in constant danger because he dared preach that Jesus rose from the dead to save the people from their sins. In spite of this he declared boldly that he was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ because he knew it was the power of God. He had experienced the miraculous power of the Gospel on the road to Damascus. That day he was suddenly, unexpectedly, miraculously changed from a cruel persecutor to a loyal, loving follower of Christ!

Paul knew this Gospel would exert the same power in the heart and life of any man, woman or child who would accept its message. Peter boldly preached this message in Acts 2:38 on the day of Pentecost. He instructed the people, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Three thousand people gladly accepted Jesus as their Savior that one day. They were given new and eternal life through the power of the Gospel!

John Wesley was once attacked by a robber who demanded his money. Mr. Wesley handed it to him, but as the man was going away he called him back and said, "My friend, let me say a word to you. The time may come when you will be very sorry for the kind of life you are now leading. Remember then this passage from the Bible: 'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.'" He said no more, and they parted.

One day many years after, Mr. Wesley was leaving a church where he had been preaching when a man came up to him, and asked him if he remembered being robbed once in a certain place.

"I do," said Mr. Wesley; "I remember it distinctly."

"I was the man that robbed you, sir," said the stranger. "I wish to thank you for the words you spoke to me on that occasion. That sweet verse of Scripture that you quoted then took such hold of my mind that I could never rest till I turned to the Lord from my wicked ways in deep repentance and I became a Christian."

Jesus told the people a story about the man who planted seeds. He said the Word of God is like these seeds. Those who tell others the good news of salvation are planting this seed. Jesus explained that some seeds naturally fall on rocks, among thorns or other places that are not broken up. These seeds cannot take root. If they sprout at all they soon wither up and die.

The rocks, thorns and hard places are like men's hearts. Some are too busy to accept the Gospel. Some will not believe the good news. They harden their hearts and will not allow it to change their lives. But the seed that falls in the field the man has prepared will take root and sprout. Soon there will be a healthy plant that can produce food and more seeds. A good and honest heart is like the prepared field. These people accept the Gospel and let it take root in their heart. Its power changes their life making it a blessing.

Have you accepted the wonderful gift of salvation so the power of God can work in your life?

God has a wonderful plan for your life. You will never regret letting the power of the Gospel work it out in you!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

We sometimes see—and particularly in the case of young people—that great eagerness for the possession of some coveted article is followed by indifference when the treasure is safely in their hands. It was not so, however, with Mary Jones. The Bible for which she had toiled, and waited, and prayed, and wept, became each day more precious to her. The Word of the Lord was indeed nigh unto her; even in her mouth and in her heart.

Chapter after chapter was learned by heart, and the study of the Sunday-school lessons became her greatest privilege and delight. If a question were asked by the teacher, which other girls could not answer, Mary was always appealed to, and was invariably ready with a thoughtful, intelligent reply, while in committing to memory not only chapters, but whole books of the Bible, she was unrivalled both in the school and neighborhood.

Nor was this all. For though to love, and read, and learn the Bible are good things, this is not the sum of what is required by Him who has said "If ye love Me, keep My commandments."

Mary's study of the Word of God did not prevent the more than ever faithful discharge of all her duties. Her mother, who had at one time feared that Mary's desire for book learning, and longing to possess a Bible of her own, might lead her to the neglect of her practical duties, was surprised and delighted to see that, although there was a change indeed in the girl, it was a change for the better.

The holy truths that sank into her heart, were but the precious seed in good ground, which brings forth fruit an hundredfold; and the more entire the consecration of that young heart to the Lord, the sweeter became even

the commonest duties of life, because they were done for Him.

Not very long after Mary's visit to Bala, she had the great pleasure of seeing again the kind friend with whom, in her memory, her beloved Bible would now always be associated. Mr. Charles came to inspect the school where Mary was a student. He found that from her alone all his most difficult questions received replies, and that her intelligence was only surpassed by the childlike humility which is one mark of the true Christian.

We may be very sure that Mr. Charles did not miss this opportunity of saying a few kind words to his young friend; and that Mary in her turn treasured them up, and remembered them through the many years and the various events of her after-life.

Mr. Charles was very impressed with Mary's desire to have a Bible. He spoke to men in London about publishing Bibles in the Welsh language. Fifteen months later the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed to make sure God's Word would be available to all who desired it. Similar Bible societies were later formed in Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Russia, France, Greece and the U.S.A.

Mary never knew how many people were blessed by her sacrifice to have a Bible. God's Word is now a light to many feet and a lamp to the paths of people in many different countries.

—Adapted from *Mary Jones' Bible* by M. E. R.

<p>Answers: 1. To the cities and villages. 2. He healed them. 3. They were like sheep without a shepherd. 4. More laborers. 5. Nazareth. 6. Synagogue. 7. "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." 8. Rome. 9. Power, God.</p>

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Nov. 8, 2009

WATER TANK MESSAGE

(A true story)

Bennett raised his eyes, "Are you listening, God?" he questioned. "I know I promised to do whatever you wanted, but I can hardly read. How could I study the Bible? Have you forgotten, Lord? I lived out in the woods far from a school when I was a boy."

"Could the God that made all the world teach a boy to read?"

"Yes, Lord, if you think I'm worth your time," Bennett answered.

"Well, that's settled. If God teaches me to read, I'll do it." He got up and brushed the dust from his pants and started for the barn. Halfway to the barn, he went back to the place where he often prayed, and carved a heart and the date deep into the bark of the tree. "This is a reminder of the time and place where I gave my whole heart to God, even in my weakness and lack of education. From now on, I'm God's man through and through."

He began trying to read the Bible. Before long, he was able to read very well, and had learned many promises in the Word.

For twenty-three years he had trouble hearing. One day he read a prophecy about Christ in Isaiah 53:5, which says, "With His stripes we are healed." He also read in Luke 4:40, "All they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them."

"Jesus healed all the people when He was on the earth," he mused. "And I read some place else, let's see, where was that? Oh, yes, in Hebrews 13:8, 'Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today, and forever.' Then He can heal me. I'll just ask Him to do it." God did heal Bennett and he was able to hear clearly!

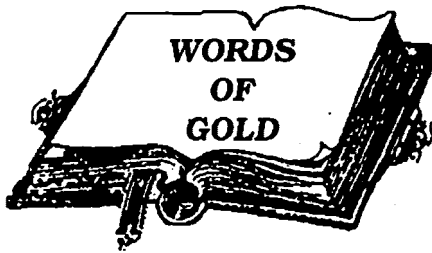
Bennett began preaching once in a while in the nearby church. He also worked hard on his farm trying to make a living for his family. But no rain came that year and his crops dried up. Fall came and also the neighbor from whom he had borrowed money.

"Mr. Bennett," he said. "The drought hit me as well as you. I'll need that money you borrowed before the winter is over."

Bennett was able to get a job in South Dakota cutting timber. In about a month he saved up enough money to send for his family. He also made enough money to send the neighbor all the money he had borrowed.

"Say, honey," he said to his wife, "We're out of debt now and I'd like to get back on the farm again. I have a good job offer from Mr. Cox. He's got a big ranch and raises cattle. He said you could cook for the ranch hands, too. That way we could both be bringing in money."

She agreed so they moved on the Cox's ranch. Soon after that, a Baptist minister asked Bennett if he was a Christian.



GOD'S RULES FOR GIVING

Leviticus 19:10

10 And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger:...

Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 11

7 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Matthew 25:41-43

41 Then shall he say...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

42 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not sick, and in prison, and ye

visited me not.

Ephesians 4:28

28 Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Acts 20:35

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

The Message: Giving makes us more like God. He continually gives us life, breath and all the rich blessings of life.

Questions:

1. What were they not to glean?
2. Why were they to leave the gleanings of their vineyards?
3. Thou shalt not harden thine _____ nor shut thine _____ from thy poor brother.
4. What should we do if a brother comes to us in need?
5. Who will never cease out of the land?
6. How can we give food to Jesus or visit Him in prison?
7. What should the thief do?
8. What did Jesus say about giving?

Verse to Memorize:

... It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

Let's



Talk . . .

Jesus sat down near the temple treasury. The moneyboxes were nearby where the people gave their offerings. Jesus saw rich men give large offerings. Then He saw a poor widow stop to put in two small coins. Together these coins were worth less than a penny.

His disciples were surprised when Jesus turned to them and said, "Truly, I tell you this poor widow has given more than anyone else. Others had plenty to give. She is poor, yet she gave all that she had!"

The poor widow had faith that God would supply her needs. Her love for God compelled her to give, though she had so little. There is a special promise to those who give. In Luke 6:38 Jesus says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Giving to the Lord will never impoverish us. Rather, this is the best investment we can make. Jesus Himself promised a good return on the money we give. He also says our return will be in direct proportion to our giving; the more we give, the more we will receive.

This is also an investment anyone can make. John 6:9 tells us how Jesus fed a multitude of hungry people with a boy's gift. He was only a young boy and he had only five barley loaves and two small fishes in his lunch but he gladly gave them to Jesus. With this gift Jesus fed the multitude and had twelve baskets of leftovers! Never

hesitate to give because it seems so little. With God's blessing it will meet the need.

In his book, "Personal Experiences," Bro. Susag tells of a time he and another minister were in need. He says: "Bro. Ahrendt and I were holding some meetings in the locality between Bertha and Hewitt, Minnesota. We were staying in a log house, just the two of us. We ran out of kerosene, and were also out of money.

Bro. Ahrendt took the can and started to walk to Hewitt—a distance of six or seven miles in the snow, hoping to meet some brethren who would ask him why he was carrying that can, but he met no one. He went to the post office, got the mail and concluded that he would have to go back without kerosene. However, on opening one of the letters a dime dropped out. He immediately went to the store, bought the kerosene and returned home.

"One evening Bro. Ahrendt said to me, 'Brother Susag, I'm hungry for some eggs; let's pray the Lord to send us some eggs.'

I replied, 'How can we expect to get eggs out here? I haven't seen any chickens around here, nor in the bush where I have been.'

'Well,' he said, 'the Lord can bring them from somewhere.'

That evening on our returning from service we found something setting on the table covered with a newspaper. Brother Ahrendt lifted the paper and found a tiny basket with five eggs in it!

I said, 'You get three of them; you prayed and had faith while I only said, amen.'

The one sending only a dime may have been ashamed to send so little. But they sent what they had and it was just what was needed at the time. Comparatively few will be called to go out into active ministry, but we can all have a part in the Gospel work by supporting those who do go, both with prayer and money.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"That I am," Bennett answered.

"What kind of a Christian are you?" he questioned. "I mean what church?"

"The Church of God," Bennett replied. "I believe in all the Bible. I try to do what I think Jesus would do if He were in my place."

"Then you and your family must come to Sunday school with us. We have Sunday school to learn. Perhaps you can teach us something we don't know. We want to know all of God's Word."

The next Sunday Bennett and his family went to Sunday school. After it was over, the superintendent asked, "Have you ever preached?"

"Yes," Bennett answered. "I've preached a few times."

"We would like to have you preach here this coming Sunday."

During the week Bennett and his family prayed for God to give the message which God would give if He were the speaker. God did. The people listened carefully and asked that he preach again in two weeks. Every two weeks on Sunday afternoon Bennett preached to the ranchers and cowboys.

The cowboys from the ranches all around began attending. Some rode as far as 25 miles away from the church. "We've never heard anything like this," they said to each other. "Bennett doesn't talk like those educated preachers who are just reciting what they have learned in a big school." Sunday after Sunday the cowboys came.

One afternoon when Mr. and Mrs. Bennett had their children loaded in the wagon ready to start home, some of the cowboys rode up alongside the wagon and asked, "Couldn't you come and preach in our community? Lots of folks over there haven't gotten to hear this good stuff. Can't you come?"

"Sorry, boys," Bennett answered, "I don't have time. I work for Mr. Cox, and the Bible teaches to work hard and do right by your boss. He hired me six days a week from sun up till sun down. That pretty well fills the day."

"Well, just thought we'd ask. Lots of folks over there would just love to know the truth you preach."

About halfway back to the ranch, Mrs. Bennett said, "I sure felt bad when you told those boys you didn't have time to go preach for them. I think it is time for us to move away from the ranch and go preaching the Gospel."

"Aw Honey," Bennett answered, "you are homesick and want to go back to see your folks. Tell you what, I'll send you back for a visit."

Mrs. Bennett said no more until the next Sunday morning. "I want to read to you Ephesians 6:5-7." She read, "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart as unto Christ; Not with eye service as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

"I suppose this is the Scripture that you feel justifies you in not going to preach for the boys. But I would like to know who your master is. Who are you going to obey from the heart, God or man?"

"This is the best job, I've ever had. The work is so easy and I love to do it. I think if you went home a while and see your folks and maybe went to a camp meeting or two this summer, you would feel differently about it."

All she replied was, "I tell you, Bennett, if you don't get out of here and into God's work, God is going to let something happen to you or me or maybe one of the children."

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. Their vineyard. 2. To feed the poor and the stranger. 3. Heart, hand. 4. Open our hands wide to him. As much as we are able give him what he needs. 5. The poor. 6. By doing these things to those in need or in trouble. 7. Stop stealing, go to work, and give to the poor. 8. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Nov. 15, 2009

PRAYING UNDER A WATER TANK

(Continued from last week)

Bennett hooked the four horses to the wagon. "These two good teams will be able to pull the wagon when the tank is filled with water," he said to his little daughter Minnie. "When it's full, it weighs 6,000 pounds!"

"May I go with you today?" she asked.

"Yes, get your little brother and sister. I'll take all of you."

Minnie climbed into the wagon. Bennett lifted the other children in.

They brought one tank full of water back and emptied it into the cistern. Then they went after the second tank of water.

But as they came to the slope leading into the Cheyenne River, the front wagon wheel slipped into the ditch. Knowing this could cause the tank to fall on him, Bennett tried to jump clear of the wagon but he had tied the brake rope across his lap and both ends were tied to the wagon.

In the next instant the tank crushed down on his back, forcing his head between his feet. Instantly Bennett remembered his wife saying, "Something is going to happen to you or me or one of the children."

"Papa, Papa, what shall I do?" wailed Minnie, picking herself up from the ground. "Get the children away from the

horses," he said, "then run to the house for your mother."

Quickly Minnie seated the children where they could not get hurt. Then she ran all the way to the house. By the time she got there she was so out of breath she could only gasp, "Mama, Mama, Papa, Papa!"

"I knew something terrible would happen," Mrs. Bennett said as she rushed in the direction where Minnie had pointed.

Under the water tank, Bennett was praying, "Oh, God, forgive me for not obeying you. I'm sorry I wouldn't take off work to preach, but now I'll be off work for a long, long time. If I don't die from this, I promise that I will quit my job and preach for those boys."

When Mrs. Bennett arrived, he yelled out, "Honey, I'm sorry I wouldn't listen to you. Please forgive me!" When these words were out of his mouth, Bennett felt like angels came swooping down over him.

"It's a miracle you are still alive—and the children!" she said "You'd all be dead if these horses had run away."

She found a one inch rope and tied it to the wagon then unhitched the horses and hitched them to the back of the wagon to pull it back up the ditch bank. Then she tied the rope around the tank and hitched the four horses to it. Slowly and steadily they lifted the tank about ten inches. But then the rope broke and the tank came crashing down on him again!



OBEDIENCE

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

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

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

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

Joshua 23:14-16

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

15 Therefore ...as all good things are come upon you, which ...God promised you; so shall the Lord bring upon you all evil things....

16 When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD ...which he commanded you....

Joshua 24:24

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

Ephesians 6:1-3

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

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

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

Colossians 3:20

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

Hebrews 13:17

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

Proverbs 30:17

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

The Message: Our happiness and safety depend on our being obedient to our parents, to authorities and to God.

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

God loves children. Because of His great, loving concern, He gives a commandment especially for their welfare and protection. He adds to this commandment a special promise, saying that it is the first commandment with promise. This commandment is: "Children obey your parents." God promises that if we obey this command it will be well with us and He will give us a long life.

A child's most important lesson is to learn obedience. Those who learn to be immediately obedient to parents and those in authority over them, have the necessary foundation for a truly happy and successful life. The younger this lesson is mastered, the better. Obedience to God, our heavenly Father, is easier for those who have already learned to be obedient to their parents.

Obedience to parents is conducive to length of life. Those who are most obedient in early life have the best prospect of living long. Obedient children are saved from the vices and crimes that shorten life. Also, obedience to parents is connected with virtuous habits. It will make a child industrious, temperate and sober; it will lead him to restrain and govern his wild passions; it will lead him to form habits of self-control, which will save him from the snares of sin and temptation all his life.

Now is the time to prepare yourself to be your very best for God and His service. Use your young mind for prayer, reading and memorizing God's Word, and listening as the Gospel is preached. By this you will

develop enduring faith, strength and wisdom. Then God will keep you from the snares of the devil. Then your life will be an honor to your parents and to God, as well as a great blessing to others.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

DO AS YOU ARE TOLD AND SURVIVE

More than 90 people conducted an all-night search for an eight-year-old boy named Dominic. While on a skiing trip with his father, this little boy apparently had ridden a new lift and skied off the run without realizing it. They hoped to find Dominic somewhere on the snowy mountain slope before it was too late.

As each hour passed, the search party and the boy's family became more and more concerned. By dawn they still had found no trace of him. Two helicopters joined the search, and within fifteen minutes had spotted ski tracks. A ground team followed the tracks which changed to small footprints. The footprints lead to a tree where they found the boy at last.

"He's in super shape," the area search and rescue coordinator announced to the anxious family and press. "In fact, he's in better shape than we are right now." A hospital spokesman said the boy was in fine condition and was not even admitted.

The rescuer explained why the boy did so well despite spending a night in the freezing elements: His father had enough forethought to warn him what to do if he became lost, and his son had enough trust to do exactly what his father said.

Dominic protected himself from possible frostbite and hypothermia by snuggling up to a tree and covering himself with branches. As a young child, he never would have thought of doing this on his own. He was simply obeying his wise and loving father.

—Selected

Spying a log chain she fastened it to the tank and the horses again pulled the tank off his back. "Get up quick!" she ordered.

But Bennett could not move. Only his right hand and his tongue obeyed when he tried to move them. Mrs. Bennett rushed around the tank and pulled him free. That was the last thing he knew for a while.

She bent over her unconscious husband. "Bring me some water," she ordered Minnie. "I'll wash his face to help him regain consciousness. When she had done this she called the children to gather around and pray for their Papa. While they were praying, another ranch hand came galloping up. "Say, Bennett's in bad shape," he said.

"Yes! Could you please get a wagon and bring the feather mattress to lay him on to carry him back to the house?"

He was soon back with the wagon. They lifted Bennett on to the featherbed and took him back to the house. On the way home he regained consciousness. As soon as he was reasonably comfortable, Mrs. Bennett wrote a letter asking for prayer.

Mr. Cox heard about the accident and came over. "I'll get you a good doctor," he said.

"I always trust the Lord, and He heals me," Bennett answered.

"Sure God heals, but you must do all you can," he insisted.

"No, thanks, I don't need any medicine."

Mr. Cox just shook his head and went back outside. Out in the yard he met Mrs. Bennett. "Your husband is out of his head. He says he doesn't need a doctor, but I know he does, or he's going to die."

"He's not out of his head," she said calmly. "God is our healer."

One after another of the cowboys heard about the accident and came to see if the accident was as bad as they had heard it was. "You'll never get out of that bed," one said. Another said, "You'll never be able to walk again."

Bennett could talk to them. But he could not move. He was turned from side to side by two men pulling on his sheet until he rolled over. For a whole week men came several times a day to help Mrs. Bennett move him. "Still trusting the Lord?" they asked each time.

"I will trust the Lord whether I live or die," Bennett always told them.

One day a religious magazine called *The Gospel Trumpet*, came in the mail. As Bennett read it he exclaimed to his wife, "This tells about a lady who was dead. But in answer to prayer she came back to life! Look, eight people have signed that it is true. If God can raise her from the dead He can raise me up from here!"

"The letter we sent for prayer has had time to reach the brethren. Call the children and we will agree with them in prayer. I am ready to be healed right now."

Mrs. Bennett and the children gathered around the bed and offered the prayer of faith. When they said "Amen," Bennett turned himself for the first time since the accident. He got out of bed and began walking!

"My legs feel like a thousand needles are piercing them," he said.

"But you're walking!" the children cried.

The news of Bennett's healing soon spread all over the country. His decision to move away from the ranch and preach full time reached the ears of Mr. Cox.

Mr. Cox came again to see Bennett. "I can't do without you," he said. "Name any wage you like and I will pay it."

"I will not stay if you give me the whole ranch," Bennett answered. "I learned the same lesson under the tank that Jonah learned in the whale's belly!"

—Rewritten by Charlotte Huskey from *Startling Incidents and Experiences in the Christian Life*.

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Nov. 22, 2009

THANKSGIVING FOR BIBLES

On the edge of the forest in Hanover, Germany, many years ago there lived two God-fearing farmers, name Drewes and Hinz. Grandpa Hinz was nearly 80 years old.

A terrible war was raging in Germany at that time causing much grief and sorrow. However, the Christians persevered in faith, enduring the trial because they loved the Lord. The soldiers plundered and robbed them of their belongings, but they did not complain. Each family had a prized possession—a large Bible. This precious volume was valued above all others, as it is God's voice at all times. The looting soldiers had sought to destroy all the sacred books, but they missed the Bibles and these proved to be a special comfort at that time.

In the evening after supper the family would gather around the crackling fire, and the father would read a portion of Scripture, commenting on it in simple and loving words. He would give thanks for the only begotten Son who died for sinners, and then the whole family sang a hymn together. After this, stories from family adventures would be the subject of lively conversation, so the delighted children especially looked forward to this time of the day. The fireplace became a sacred spot or family altar. While mother sat at her

spinning wheel, father sat in a large upholstered chair which had a secret compartment underneath the seat. It was the hiding place of the large family Bible.

One evening as father Drewes and the family sat around the fire, suddenly Grandpa Hinz knocked at the door and exclaimed excitedly, "Quick neighbor! loose the cattle and let us flee. The troops are on the way!"

All rose up in fear. Quickly a few clothes and some food were gathered together and then everyone hastened toward the nearby forest.

Grandpa Hinz brought up the rear, and as soon as all had disappeared into the woods, he climbed a tree to watch. Soon a heavy column of smoke showed that all their buildings were in flames.

When the soldiers had left, Grandpa Hinz came down from the tree and they all bowed on their knees and thanked God for sparing their lives and their cattle. Yet there were no complaints: "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away." They were strengthened because of Him who never forsakes His own.

They were setting about to erect a shelter when some of them noticed tears rolling down Mr. Drewes cheeks. "Dear ones," he remarked, with trembling voice, "where is our treasure, the Bible? How sad that we forgot it. In our haste we thought only of food



A PSALM OF THANKSGIVING

Psalm 103:1-5, 8-19, 21-22

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction: who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

16 For the wind passeth over it, and

it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children:

18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts: ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

22 Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

The Message: Always be thankful and bless the Lord.

Questions:

1. Whom should all men bless?
2. What should we not forget?
3. Who forgives, heals and redeems?
4. Who satisfieth thy mouth with _____.
5. The Lord is slow to _____.
6. He hath not dealt with us according to our _____.
7. How far has God removed our transgressions?
8. How long is the mercy of God toward those who do His commandments?
9. Whom should we bless?

Verse to Memorize

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits:
Psalms 103:2

Let's



Talk . . .

The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on December 26, 1620. They tried to build rough shelters to protect themselves but the bitter winter cold and illness took their toll. By the end of winter half the colonists had died.

Then the Pilgrims met a native Indian named Squanto who spoke English. He acted as guide and interpreter. With his help the colonists learned to plant corn, catch fish and hunt. He helped them identify edible plants and gather fruit and nuts from the forests. The Pilgrims realized the Indians had saved their lives. They were so thankful that they invited the Indians to celebrate their first harvest in 1621, an event now celebrated as Thanksgiving Day.

We live in a land of plenty. It's easy to take our many blessings for granted and forget just how thankful we should be

Years ago during a famine in Europe, a baker gave a loaf of bread to every child who came to the bakery. Most of the loaves were bread that had not sold in his shop the day before. However, if there were not many loaves left from yesterday's sales, he would give away fresh ones.

At a certain time each morning the bread was put in a wooden barrel by the bakery door. How the children scrambled to get the largest loaf! Sometimes rough boys or girls snatched loaves out of other children's hands. At such times the baker would reprove them, but it seemed to do little good. The loser would then push a

smaller child aside and get the next largest loaf possible.

As he watched the children day after day he noticed that one big girl never pushed or shoved. She stood patiently at the side until the other children each had a loaf. Then she would take whatever was left. Even though the loaf was sometimes very small she always kindly thanked the baker.

One day the baker decided to reward the girl for her good actions. Inside the dough of a very small, ill formed loaf he put some gold coins. After the other children had taken the loaves and gone, the girl lifted the tiny, ill shaped loaf from the bottom of the barrel. She smiled and said, "Thank you."

When the mother cut the loaf and the coins fell out she thought they had fallen into the dough by accident. She sent the girl back to the baker with them. "No," the baker said, "the coins are for you because you were always polite and thankful."

God is very much like the baker. He blesses those who are grateful. He does not always give gold coins, but He does reward. He gives the thankful person many material blessings. He also gives them contentment, happiness and many friends. We cannot always count God's blessing in dollars and cents. Money cannot buy the blessings that God gives to His thankful children.

He forgives our sins and removes them as far as the east is from the west. He heals our diseases. He crowns us with loving kindness and gives us good things to eat. His mercy to us is as high as the heavens. Shouldn't we be thankful for all these blessings?

Let us be thankful all through the year for the many blessings we receive from God!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

and clothing. Perhaps it went up in the flames."

A deep silence followed, for everyone felt the great loss of their precious Books. Then Grandpa Hinz broke the silence saying, "Be comforted, even though our precious Books are gone. Our Lord and Saviour abides the same; we have Him in our hearts, and have His Word in our memories. Each morning and evening I will recite you a chapter until the Lord be pleased to give us a Bible. We shall begin at once."

Without waiting for an answer he began in a clear voice, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want," and quoted the twenty-third chapter of Psalms. Then, raising his voice confidently he repeated, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind," and "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

As he finished, all seemed to be conscious of an inward peace and joy, and in a short time all were sound asleep amid the aroma of the evergreens.

The next morning after a simple breakfast, Grandpa repeated another Psalm, and a chapter from the New Testament. He then closed with a few words of exhortation and encouragement. His prayer made a profound impression on all and hearts were moved by the Spirit's presence. After this it was decided that Mr. Drewes and three others would go and check the remains of their homes.

The men carefully approached the charred walls and smoldering ruins. All was deathly still except the birds who sang as usual. As they drew nearer, they heard groans. They came upon two wounded soldiers and, lo and behold, they were sitting in their beloved upholstered chairs! The enemy had left these wounded ones behind. The poor soldiers expected

nothing but death as a revenge. However, our friends treated them with utmost kindness. They were amazed to be cared for as friends rather than enemies.

When the secret compartments in the chairs were opened, the beloved Bibles were found to be undamaged. What joy, rejoicing, and thanksgiving there was!

They decided to move the wounded men to a nearby farm, but they pleaded to be allowed to remain with their benefactors as they had not long to live. Grandpa Hinz took a special interest in them and made them aware of their soul's need. He showed them the way of salvation and soon they were rejoicing in the knowledge that their sins were forgiven. They were "brands plucked from the burning." Once they had been as "brute beasts," now they were washed clean in the most precious blood of Christ. There was great joy in that forest.

As the dying soldiers saw their end approaching, for the last time they expressed their gratitude, above all for having been led to the Saviour. Then they gave instructions as to how their uniforms were to be opened after their death. After the funeral, according to their directions, several gold pieces were found in their tunics—sufficient to rebuild the homes which were destroyed.

Over the soldiers' graves for many years could be seen this inscription: "Here rests Friedrich Wenzelaus a Bohemian, and Jurischlitz Lansitz. Without their knowledge they saved two Bibles from the flames, and through them found the gift of eternal life." —Selected

Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. All His benefits. 3. The Lord. 4. Good things. 5. Anger. 6. Iniquities. 7. As far as the east is from the west. 8. From everlasting to everlasting. 9. The Lord.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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IN THE GRIP OF AN OCTOPUS

A terrible storm was raging at the mouth of Cape Town Harbor, and anxious watches awaited the arrival of the *S. S. Dunvegan Castle*. Would she gain the harbor in safety? Already she was at the entrance, and was almost in calm water when she collided with the pier. It was evident that great damage had been done, not only to the vessel, but also to the pier; for big blocks of masonry had been dislodged.

When the storm had subsided the amount of damage had to be discovered. Cape Town boasted many brave divers, but none to compare with Palmer—strong, resourceful, and successful. To him fell the work of Inspection. A bulky, ungainly figure he appeared as he stood ready to make the descent, having first assured himself that all was in order. His final instructions were to the man above to be on the look-out for any signal he might make below.

"Look alive, Jack, and whatever you do, keep the signal cord free and in order; my life may depend on that." The sea was calm, and he easily discovered the damage done, as he inspected the huge blocks of fallen concrete.

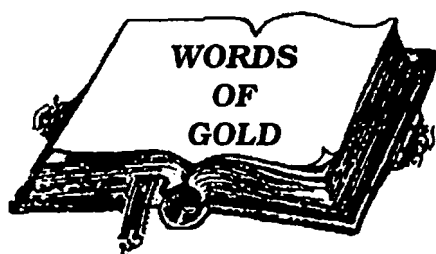
But suddenly something darted out from a crevice in the rocks, and

gripped his arm as in a vice. In a moment of appalling horror, Palmer realized that he was in the grip of an octopus! Even as the horrible certainty came upon him another tentacle was flashed around his leg and yet another around his chest, and he was held in deadly embrace.

He was helpless, held in a vice of iron. What could he do? Absolutely unable to deliver himself, he knew that one chance alone was his, and that was to get help from above! Yes, in his despair, he knew that UP THERE lay his only hope. Help from above, or destruction, that was what it meant. With all the energy of despair he pulled the signal cord. Would Jack "look alive" as he had charged him? Would he heed his despairing signal and give him the only help remaining? If not, only a ghastly death awaited him.

In the torturing suspense that followed, with the diabolical eyes of his tormentor glaring at him, the moment of awful stillness that intervened seemed to him an eternity crammed with horrors.

But thank God; Jack's strong hand was on the lifter, and Palmer, to his infinite relief, found that he was rising. But his enemy was rising with him! There was no loosening of his grip! Oh, that awful clutch, and leaden weight, all about him! Still there was



AN ANGEL'S VISIT

Luke 1:5-8, 10-13, 17-22

5 There was . . . a certain priest named Zacharias . . . and his wife . . . and her name was Elisabeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 And they had no child . . . and they both were now well stricken in years.

8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand

in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

The Message: God sent John to prepare the people for the promised Savior. He was like a signpost pointing to Jesus.

Questions:

1. What kind of people were Zacharias and Elisabeth?
2. What were the people doing while Zacharias was in the temple?
3. What appeared to Zacharias?
4. What did the angel tell Zacharias?
5. Why didn't Zacharias believe the angel's message?
6. What was the angel's name?
7. Why could Zacharias not speak?
8. How long would he be without speech?
9. Why did the people marvel?

Verse to Memorize

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:17

Let's



Talk . . .

The Scriptures tell us that Zacharias and Elisabeth were both righteous before God. They had never done anything spectacular to cause men to honor them but they were strict and punctual in their service to God. God honored that. When He needed someone dependable whom He could trust to bear His special Messenger, He chose them.

Hundreds of years before, God spoke through prophets saying that He would send a Messenger to the world before He sent the Messiah. This Messenger would prepare the people to accept Jesus as their promised Savior. Zacharias and Elisabeth's son was to be this special Messenger!

Zacharias was just an ordinary priest. He lived in a remote village far from the splendor of the beloved temple in Jerusalem. He was old now. All his life he had quietly served the people of his village. Each year when the lots were cast to see which priest should burn the incense in the temple, Zacharias no doubt hoped that he would be chosen.

Incense was burned twice each day in the temple but there were so many priests that some were never chosen. It was very rare for a priest to be chosen more than once in his entire lifetime. But now, in his old age, Zacharias had been chosen to go to the beautiful temple and offer the incense!

Zacharias and Elisabeth had never had a child though their constant prayer for years had been that God would give them a son. Now they were too old. They had given up all hope for a child.

But nothing is impossible for God! He heard all their prayers down through the years. Now He would give them their desire!

So, while Zacharias was offering the incense in the temple God sent an angel to tell him the good news. Of course, Zacharias panicked when he saw an angel standing by the altar!

"Don't be afraid," the angel assured him. "I have come to tell you that your prayers have been heard. You and Elisabeth will have a son!" The angel even told him that his son's name was to be John, which means "a gift of God."

Zacharias could not believe the good news. "How will I know that what you say is true?" he questioned. "I am an old man and my wife, too, is old."

"I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God. He has sent me to tell you this good news. Because you did not believe what I told you and asked for a sign to prove my words true, you will not be able to speak another word until the child is born." Then the angel disappeared.

The people stood in the court of the temple waiting. They wondered why Zacharias stayed in the holy place so long. When he finally did come out he did not speak as they expected. Finally they understood that he could not say a word. He made motions to show them he could not talk. The people realized Zacharias had seen a vision from God while he was ministering in the temple.

When the group of priests of which Zacharias was a part had finished their turn at serving in the temple, Zacharias returned to his home in the hill country of Judah. Part of what the angel had told him had come true—he had not been able to say a word since the angel visited him in the holy place. Now Zacharias believed the rest of the angel's promise would come true. He and Elizabeth would have a son!

—Sis Nelda Sorrell

hope, for help was coming from above. Up, up, he went, the light growing stronger, and the pressure less, till at last the worst suspense was over and the glad light of day shone on his dripping helmet. The surface of the water was reached.

"Man alive! What's up now?" was Jack's remark, as Palmer and his close clinging enemy came into sight.

Knife and axe were used to hack and hew as, bit by bit, the long clinging arms of the octopus, twelve feet long, were cut away. It was no easy matter; for the tentacles were lined with hundreds of tiny suckers. But at last Palmer was a free man. Once, tied and bound, once in the depths, he now stood free and unshackled in God's sunshine.

The face of a black spider, magnified, is said to be the ugliest and most vicious sight in all the realm of Nature's monstrosities; but the octopus has all the horrors of the spider magnified ten thousand times. It has a round body, and on either side are four ribbon-like tentacles. When it travels, these tentacles are closed like an umbrella; but if a victim is sighted, those great leathery arms open and grasp the object so quickly that escape is almost impossible. It secretes itself in the most beautiful rock caverns. Its presence cannot be detected even by a ripple on the surface of the sea. At such times the tentacles feel out in every direction.

The first contact is a gentle brushing of the delicate ends; then the great leathery arm is thrown about the victim. If one is not sufficient, another tentacle encircles. On the underside of these spidery arms, there are two rows of cup-like sucking discs. There are twenty-five in each row, fifty to each tentacle, making four hundred in all. The tubes can be thrust out or withdrawn at will. They can be thrust into the flesh of the victim more than an inch. All these sucking cups can

draw every drop of blood from the man or an animal. They do not eat their prey—they absorb it. The arms are so slick and fibrous that they cannot be cut with a knife. It is nearly impossible to tear away from the octopus; an attempt only ends with a firmer grasp; the monster clings with more determined force. Every effort, every struggle, produces a tightening of the ligatures.

In the octopus we have the best illustration in all nature of the processes of sin. It begins with the innocent, harmless touch; then the vise-like coils of habit, and finally the utter ruin. Once we tamper with the first taste or touch, whether it be appetites, habits, or giving way to the baser passions, the beginning seems harmless but the blood-sucking tentacles soon enfold the victim, then the drawing out process soon takes away character, will-power, and conscience. Just as the victim is helpless within the coils of the octopus, so it is with sin. When these are gone, all that is worth while of the life's finest and best is absorbed.

When the octopus finishes with its victim, only the shadowy skeleton remains. Victims of sin have only a skeleton of manhood left; every god-like emotion absorbed and gone. The octopus first stupefies its victim, and then paralyzes it. Even so, in the paralyzing power of some deadly sin which has its grip on the soul, and from which a man is absolutely unable to free himself, there is nothing for it, but to get **HELP FROM ABOVE**.

—Pilgrim Tract Society

Answers: 1. They were both righteous. 2. Praying. 3. An angel. 4. His wife would have a son. 5. Because he and his wife were old. 6. Gabriel. 7. Because he did not believe the angel's words. 8. Until his son was born. 9. Because Zacharias was in the temple so long.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Dec. 6, 2009

THE RIFLE

Pa never had much compassion for the lazy or those who squandered their means and then never had enough for the necessities. But for those who were genuinely in need, his heart was as big as all outdoors. It was from him that I learned the greatest joy in life comes from giving, not from receiving.

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted so badly that year for Christmas.

We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible. So after supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible. I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read Scriptures. But Pa didn't get the Bible; instead he bundled up and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though, I was too busy wallowing in self-pity.

Soon Pa came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he

said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight."

I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew Pa was not very patient at one dragging one's feet when he'd told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my cap, coat, and mittens. Ma gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what.

Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up the big sled unless we were going to haul a big load. Pa was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy.

When I was on, Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed. "I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me."



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 Messiah, those who feared God still waited expectantly for Him.

One writer speculated that as the time drew near for the birth of Jesus there must have been great excitement among the angels in heaven. They knew that this was the most important event of the ages. The Lord, whom they adored, was about to leave the realms of glory to go and live on one of the smallest planets He had created. To show how much He loved all His creatures—even those who had rebelled against Him—He was going to come to earth as a tiny helpless baby and live as a man among men.

How much the angels understood about this miracle of miracles we do not know, but it must have seemed to them the greatest proof that God is love. They were so touched by this most gracious act that they wanted to tell everybody the wonderful news. How they must have marveled that the people on the earth—except for a very few—did not give a thought to His coming. Nobody was preparing a welcome for Him!

Eagerly they watched as the years of Daniel's prophecy gradually came to a close. Then, at exactly the right time, not a moment too soon, not a moment too late, God called upon Gabriel to fly swiftly to the earth and find a girl called Mary.

The Bible does not tell us just why God chose Mary. But we do know that "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew

himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." No doubt Mary was the best girl He could find in the entire world just then. He had been watching her all her life and knew that her heart was "perfect toward him." He believed He could trust her with this very great honor.

Of course He knew exactly where she was so when Gabriel went to Nazareth he made no mistake. A moment later he was beside her. "Hail, thou that art highly favoured," he said kindly.

Mary wondered who her visitor might be and what he meant by these strange words. Seeing how frightened she was, Gabriel spoke more gently still. "Fear not, Mary," he said, "for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus."

To Mary this didn't seem possible. Her son to be a king! To sit on David's throne! To reign forever! Oh, no! She must be dreaming. Anyway, it couldn't happen, because she wasn't married. She was just betrothed to Joseph, that was all, and she told Gabriel so, in case he didn't know it.

Of course Gabriel knew it, and he was ready with his answer. If Mary were willing, he said, something very wonderful would happen to her; through the power of God she would bear a special Son.

Seeing that Mary still doubted, he told her a secret that must have surprised her very much: "Behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren."

Gabriel must have smiled at her surprise and bewilderment. "With God nothing shall be impossible," he said.

Mary bowed her head. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord," she said. "Be it unto me according to thy word." A moment later Gabriel vanished and Mary was left alone wondering what it all meant. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on, but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high sideboards on.

When we had exchanged the sideboards Pa went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood—the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he doing? Finally I said something. "Pa," I asked, "what are you doing?"

"You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked.

The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight. Sure, I'd been by, but so what?

"Yeah," I said. "Why?"

"I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt."

That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him.

We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Finally, Pa called a halt to our loading, then we went to the smoke house and Pa took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled and wait. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack of something in his left hand. "What's in the little sack?" I asked.

"Shoes. They're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunny sacks wrapped

around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Pa was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us. It shouldn't have been our concern.

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible, and then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?"

"Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt. Could we come in for a bit?"

Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp.

(To be continued)

<p>Answers: 1. Gabriel. 2. Nazareth. 3. Joseph. 4. Mary. 5. God. 6. Jesus. 7. It will never end. 8. Elisabeth. 9. God.</p>

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Dec. 13, 2009

THE RIFLE

(Continued from last week)

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible, and then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?"

"Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt. Could we come in for a bit?"

Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp.

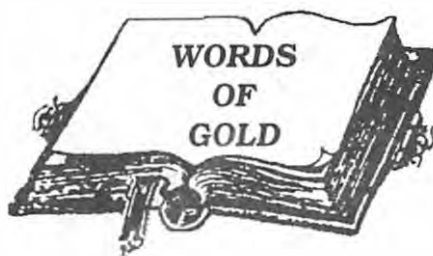
"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children—sturdy shoes, the best; shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She looked up at Pa like

she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

"We brought a load of wood too, Ma'am," Pa said, then he turned to me and said, "Matt, go bring enough in to last for awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up."

I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and, much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three children huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks and so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak. My heart swelled within me and a joy filled my soul that I'd never known before. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The children started giggling when Pa handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord Himself has sent you. The children and I have been praying that



A BABY NAMED JOHN

Luke 1:57-80

57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

59 And it came to pass, that . . . they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marveled all.

64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

65 And fear came on all that dwelt roundabout them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judea.

66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he hath visited and redeemed his people.

72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways:

77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.

78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel.

THE MESSAGE: God sent John as His special messenger to prepare the people for Jesus' coming.

Questions:

1. Who was John's mother?
2. What did the neighbors name John?
3. How did Zacharias let them know his name was to be John?
4. What happened as soon as he let them know this?
5. What came upon the people when they heard about this?
6. What question did they ask one another?
7. Whose hand was with John?
8. What was Zacharias filled with?
9. What did he do?

Verse to Memorize

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
Matthew 3:3

Let's



Talk . . .

In a little home in the hill country of Judah there was great rejoicing. A son had been born to Zacharias and Elizabeth, just as God had promised. The neighbors and relatives were almost as happy about the baby as Zacharias and Elizabeth were.

According to the Jewish custom babies were named when they were eight days old. On the eighth day neighbors and relatives came. They advised, "Call him Zacharias after his father."

How surprised they were to hear Elizabeth say, "No, do not call him Zacharias; his name is John."

"Why do you want to call him John?" they asked. "You have no relatives by that name." Because Zacharias had been speechless since the day the angel spoke to him in the temple, they made motions to ask him what he wanted his son named.

Zacharias understood what they wanted. He motioned for a writing tablet. When they brought it, he wrote in plain letters for all to read, "His name is John."

"How strange!" the people thought. Then all at once Zacharias was able to speak again. He praised God for giving them this wonderful baby.

News of the baby's birth spread throughout the hill country, and people often talked about him. "What kind of child will he be?" they wondered. They had heard how the angel told Zacharias that the child would be born. And the people talked about how Zacharias had been unable to speak from the time he saw

the angel until the baby was named John. Surely all these things were very strange.

Zacharias was filled with wisdom from God, and he told his neighbors and friends about his little son. Zacharias praised the Lord. To the little baby he said, "You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Highest, for you will go before the Lord and prepare his ways. You will teach the people of salvation by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God."

And Zacharias said many other things about John. Later his words came true, for the Spirit of God had put these words in his heart. As long as Zacharias lived, he cared for his son. How proud he was to see the boy grow tall and strong! As John grew he liked best to be out of doors.

When John was about thirty years old, he left his home and went throughout the hill country of Judea. He preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Instead of going to the cities to preach God's message, John stayed in the country near the river Jordan.

People came from every part of the land to hear him speak. For more than four hundred years no great prophet had arisen to speak God's words to the people. No wonder they were eager to hear John!

When the people gathered to hear this strange desert preacher, they saw a man dressed in rough clothing made of camel's hair. About his waist was a leather girdle. Because he spent all his time preaching in the country, his food was dried locusts and wild honey.

Many who heard John's preaching repented of their sins. Some found fault, but all were impressed. News of this strange preacher spread to the farthest corners of the land.

—Egermeirer's Bible Story Book

he would send one of his angels to spare us."

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Ma and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it.

Pa insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the children in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their pa, and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt, here, hasn't been little for quite a spell." I was the youngest. My two older brothers and two older sisters were all married and had moved away.

Widow Jensen nodded and said, "Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, 'May the Lord bless you,' I know for certain that He will."

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but we didn't have quite enough. Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square.

"Your ma and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that. But on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks and I knew what I had to do. So, Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand."

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Pa had done it. Just then the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children. For the rest of my life, whenever I saw any of the Jensens, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside Pa that night. Pa had given me much more than a rifle that night; he had given me the best Christmas of my life.

—By Rian B. Anderson

Answers: 1. Elisabeth. 2. Zacharias. 3. He wrote it down. 4. His mouth was opened and he could speak. 5. Fear. 6. "What manner of child shall this be?" 7. The Lord's. 8. The Holy Spirit. 9. He prophesied.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Dec. 20, 2009

A CHRISTMAS WELCOME HOME

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish."

The train was crowded, and the only seat left was beside a young lad who looked to be no more than fifteen years of age. The minister set his handbag down and sat beside the boy. Desiring to be pleasant, he made some commonplace remarks about the fact that everyone was hurrying home for Christmas, but the lad did not answer, he had been crying. Puzzled, the minister ceased his attempts at conversation and waited for the boy to speak.

It was going to be a white Christmas all right. Great flakes of snow were coming down, and the window was almost covered. He thought of the long ride ahead of him and wondered how far the boy had to go.

"Excuse me, son. I do not know about your troubles, and you do not have to tell me unless you want to—but, I am a preacher, and I might be able to help you with your problem."

The boy looked at the minister for a moment, and then said, "I want to tell you—I have got to tell someone."

"All right, then—let's hear it."

The boy laid his head back and looked out the window as he began. "I guess I do not deserve much

Christmas, but I cannot help wanting it. I have been away from home four months now. I got fed up with school and all the chores I had to do. Nothing ever happens in our town. Dad has a store, and farms on the side. We keep two cows, too. I got tired of milking them in the winter mornings before daylight and then coming home from school to feed and water them all over again. All the older fellows were getting jobs.

"One day I ran away from home. I did not think much about how bad it was, or how I would get along after I got to where I was going. I just went—hopped a freight train that went through town early in the morning, and by night I was in St. Louis. I had never seen as big a place as that, and I was scared. I had some money with me, but it did not last long. I guess grown folks can tell how old a boy is no matter how big he looks. They told me to go back home—but you see, that was the trouble. I felt my parents would be angry with me, and even if they were not, I hated to go sneaking back like a whipped dog. I got awful lonesome, especially at night. I went home with another boy, but it was not like my home.

Finally, I wrote Dad. I did not give him an address, but I told him I would be on this train today. If they wanted me, I would stop; if they didn't want me, I would keep on going. I guess it



BORN THIS DAY A SAVIOR

Luke 2: 7-20

7 And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger: because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the

Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The Message: Be sure to keep Christ in your Christmas.

QUESTIONS :

1. Why were the shepherds spending the night in the field?
2. What made them 'sore afraid'?
3. Who was born in the city of David?
4. When the angels went away, where did the shepherds go?
5. Who did they find there?
6. After they had seen baby Jesus what did they tell the people?
7. What kind of a world would we live in if Jesus had not come?
8. What is more important to you, Jesus or your gifts?

Memory Verse

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11.

Let's



Talk . . .

I am sure that all of you look forward to Christmas. When I was a little girl my folks were poor, but they usually had some fruit or candy for us and sometimes little gifts. And we always enjoyed the sacks with candy, fruit, and nuts that the Sunday school gave us.

We loved to sing the Christmas carols at school. We were taught that we should love the great Gift, which was God's Son, who came to this world as a little baby. God gave a Gift first, and that is why we give and receive gifts.

Boys and girls don't ever forget why we have Christmas. I know that many of your neighbors seem to have forgotten. They mostly think of decorating a tree, getting gifts, and having a big time on that day. But I feel that it would be very, very wrong for you and me to think of Christmas in that way.

If Jesus had not been born there would be no Sunday school for you to go to. Jesus brought love and kindness to the world. There are places in the world today where they do not know about Jesus. Instead people go to witch doctors who often make them do terrible things. These witch doctors have power to have people tortured or even killed because they think they have been the cause of trouble in the tribe. Some mothers throw their babies into the river for the crocodiles to eat. It is a dark, cruel place to live where Jesus is not known. Today, you want to thank God that America knows about Jesus.

But we need to pray that our nation will not forget about Jesus. It is sad to see how many people do not love or serve Jesus. Our nation will

have great troubles, even more than they have today, because so many do not love Jesus and accept the peace and good will that He brought to the world. You can do your part by loving Jesus with all your heart:

—Aunt Marie (Taken from December 25, 1966 Beautiful Way)

Years ago there was a Christmas card titled, "If Christ had not come." The card showed a minister who had fallen asleep in his study on Christmas morning. As he slept he dreamed that Jesus had never come to the world.

In his dream he found himself looking through his home, but there were no little stockings in the chimney corner, no Christmas bells or wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save. He walked out on the street, but there was no church with its spire pointing to Heaven. He came back and sat down in his library, but every book about the Savior had disappeared.

The doorbell rang and a messenger asked him to visit a poor dying mother. He hurried to her bedside, sat down and said, "I have something here that will comfort you." He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, but it ended at Malachi, and there was no Gospel and no promise of hope and salvation! He could only bow his head and weep with her in bitter despair. Suddenly he woke with a start, and a great shout of joy and praise burst from his lips as he heard the choir singing in the church close by: "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels, O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord."

Let us be glad and rejoice today, because "He has come." And let us remember the annunciation of the angel, "...Behold 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11.

—Adapted from *Streams in the Desert*, December 25.

was a foolish thing to do, but I just could not stand to think of getting a letter from him telling me he did not want me back, and I did not want him to come after me. I figured out this way, so it would be easier on us all. But now I'm scared!"

The preacher looked at his young companion and knew that he meant it. "What are you afraid of, son?" he asked.

"I am afraid they won't want me."

"But how will you know?"

He rubbed his fist on the steamy pane until a small portion was clear. It was growing dark now, and the snow was falling fast, but the few houses stood out as if etched against a soft, fuzzy sky.

"Just a little farther," he said in a low voice, and then he hid his eyes. "I can't look," he said, desperately, "I can't!"

"What is it you're looking for? Some sign to let you know if they are expecting you?"

"Yes, that's it," came the muffled reply, "I told Dad if he wanted me back, to tie a white rag in the old apple tree in the front yard. It is near the railroad, and we can see it plainly. We're just about there now, but, I just can't look!"

He was crying now; the minister's eyes were misty. Leaning over he put an arm around the youngster and patted his shoulder. "I'll be your eyes—I'll be your eyes—I'll tell you when I see it."

"But I'm afraid you won't see it," he sobbed. "I'm afraid they won't tie the rag there; I'm afraid they don't want me any more."

Suddenly the hoarse note of the train whistle broke in upon them and the boy sat up. "We are almost there," he cried. "You look, and see—I can't."

The train was slowing to a stop as it came around a long curve. The

minister strained his eyes to peer through the falling snow. He must not fail. But he need not have worried for a half-blind man could have seen THAT tree.

Laughing and crying, the minister pulled the lad up to the window. "Look there," he said, "the apple tree is all bloomed out!"

And sure enough it was, for upon its bare branches, not one, but at least fifty white rags gaily fluttered in the brisk wind like victory banners of forgiving love.

Such is the spirit of Christmas, and such is the welcome and unbounded forgiveness of our heavenly Father when the penitent sin-sick wanderer returns to the Father's house.

—Selected

JESUS IS ABLE

The "Princess Alice" was an excursion steamer sailing on the Thames River. It sprang a leak and began to rapidly sink. Seven hundred persons went down to a watery grave.

A man who had a boat began to rescue the drowning ones. He loaded his boat so that he dare not take on any more. But around in the water were struggling men, women and children who looked toward him and cried, "Oh, save me, save me!"

In agony of his heart he threw up his hands and cried, "Oh God! That I had a bigger boat!" His heart was big enough to save all, but his boat was too small.

It is not so with Jesus. He is able to save all who will come to Him.

—Selected

Answers: 1. To keep watch over their flocks. 2. The angel of the Lord appeared to them. 3. Jesus. 4. To Bethlehem. 5. Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. 6. Everything the angel told them about Jesus. 7. Answers will vary. 8. Jesus!

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Dec. 27, 2009

ARRESTED BUT VICTORIOUS

(A true happening in 1992.)

Magdangal waved good-bye to his wife in the airport in Manila. He would come home and spend Christmas with his family. Good jobs were hard to find in Manila. His family needed a good income, so he had been working in Saudi Arabia for ten years. He was executive secretary to the Minister of Defense and Civil Aviation. Magdangal loved the Lord with all his heart, but he thought himself nothing more than an ordinary Christian filled with the Holy Spirit. True, he did witness occasionally to men he met, and he had Bible study, worship and fellowship with other Christians in his home.

This was against the law in Saudi Arabia. Sometimes concerned friends said to him, "You should be more careful. You might get arrested for teaching the Gospel! And being arrested for a religious violation spells torment," they would add.

One evening when the Christians gathered for Bible study one brother said, "I heard just yesterday that the muttawa (Saudi religious police) is planning to raid one of our meetings. You'll be in for serious trouble if they do, for this is your house."

The group had special prayer that night. After prayer Magdangal said, "The Lord seemed to ask me while praying, 'How far will you trust me? Will you not

allow me the freedom to truly protect you?' I think we should continue our worship services."

To keep quiet about a secret meeting in Saudi is hard for people who love money. It has been reported that the Saudi police offer a great amount of money (like \$8,000) for information leading to the arrest of an expatriate Christian. This temptation soon overcame one man and he told about the meetings.

Nineteen Saudi religious policemen gathered outside Magdangal's home one evening. One knocked on the door. No one dared open the door until they heard a voice call, "My friend, my friend. There has been an accident and your car has been hit."

As soon as Magdangal opened the door, all nineteen burst in and started ransacking his home. "Where are your warrants?" demanded Magdangal. "We are protected by law unless you have a warrant."

"We are the religious police," they answered while they pushed and shoved the believers out of their way. Two policemen found joy in smashing the piano to pieces. Others opened every cupboard and every drawer, taking everything out and loading it into their cars.

After four hours of harassment Magdangal was arrested. "We have been searching for you for over a year," a policeman told him as they rode to the holding station. He was told by the



GOD PROTECTS HIS SON

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 privily 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: Just as God protected Jesus, He will protect those who obey Him.

Questions:

- 1.** Who was king when Jesus was born?
- 2.** What did the wise men ask Herod?
- 3.** What did Herod command of the high priests and scribes?
- 4.** What did Herod ask the wise men to do?
- 5.** Did Herod say he wanted to worship the new king?
- 6.** What did God show the wise men in a dream?
- 7.** Did the wise men obey God?
- 8.** What did God tell Joseph to do?
- 9.** Did Joseph's obedience save Jesus from death?

Verse to Memorize

... If ye do return unto the
LORD with all your hearts ...
and serve him only ...
he will deliver you ...
I Samuel 7:3.

Let's



Talk . . .

Many years before Jesus was born, the Jewish people rejected the laws of God. They worshipped idols. A few times they even sacrificed their children to these idols. Prophets and wise men warned them of the danger to come if they did not stop these evil practices. The people did not change.

Enemy armies marched into the land of Israel and took the people captive. They burned the cities, stole their livestock and their crops. The people they captured were herded like livestock over mountains and plains until they reached the conquerors' country. Here they were put to work as slaves.

There were a few of these Jews who remembered the laws of God and obeyed them while living in the foreign country. The three Hebrew children, who did not bow to the golden idol, and Daniel, were among those who honored God and obeyed His laws. In this way the laws of God spread into many nations. I am sure, as they visited with their neighbors, the captive Jews sometimes mentioned God's promise of a king who would come to deliver them.

It also seems that some of the Jews had taken along some books of prophecy. These books are portions of the Bible. Prophecies about Christ were in these books.

One 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."

Some Bible historians believe the three wise men had heard some

prophecies of Jesus. When they saw the bright new star they thought it must mean that the new king of the Jews had been born.

At once they set off to find Him. When they arrived in Jerusalem they went straight to the palace. Now King Herod cared nothing about prophecies and therefore knew nothing about a new king. The scribes and high priests knew very little more than King Herod did but they had the old books. Searching them they found the prophecy in Micah which said the new Governor would be born in Bethlehem. They informed the king to look for Him in Bethlehem.

So Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem with orders to return and tell him where the child was. At Bethlehem the star stood still over the place where Jesus was. At last they had found the promised Savior. Falling to their knees they worshiped Him. Then opening their treasures, they presented Him with rich gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

To protect Jesus, God instructed the Wise Men in a dream that they must not go back to Herod. So they returned to their home by another road.

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!

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.

Remember how God also protected the three Hebrew children from the king's fiery furnace and Daniel from the lions? Obey God and you can trust Him to protect you, too!

—Charlotte Huskey

officials at the station that he was the country's leading public enemy.

He was crammed in a 9 x 15 foot cell with twenty-five other prisoners and later placed in a cell without lighting or windows. On the second day he was taken out and tortured for more than three hours. He was beaten on his hands, feet, back and face. "This is nothing compared to what you will receive tomorrow," they warned, as they locked him up again. The bruises on the parts of his body which he could see were swollen and purple.

After the second torture session, he was questioned about some religious literature found in his room. "Do you believe this?" Lt. Hanad asked.

"Yes, I do," he answered.

"You are no ordinary Christian," Hanad answered.

Later when asked if he had anything to say Magdangal answered, "God has allowed this. I am not angry. I have asked God to forgive you and I believe . . ."

"Shut-up!" Lt. Hanad snarled. He then ordered Magdangal to be taken back to his cell.

That night Magdangal prayed about two hours. He was able, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to thank God for allowing him to suffer for Christ. After the long prayer, he slept soundly.

He awoke the next morning feeling very good. He looked at his arms, legs and feet. "They are normal!" he cried excitedly. "There isn't any dried blood either, and I know my wounds bled."

Magdangal was charged with building a church, praying and teaching the Bible to other Christians. He was soon taken to Malaz Prison where other prisoners were warned to stay away from this very dangerous Christian.

During the month, Magdangal was joined by his friend, Renato Posedio. They were both sentenced to die on

Christmas day. "Lord, we are willing to die for you," they prayed.

When his wife in Manila learned about his execution, she appealed to the Philippine government for help. They, together with the U.S. Congress, brought pressure on the Saudis to release him.

On December 22, Magdangal's wife visited him at the prison. She said, "God has shown me that you and Renato will be released before midnight tomorrow."

Magdangal wanted to believe it, but found it hard to rebuke fears. Their fears increased when they heard their execution announced on a fellow prisoner's radio.

The day was long. At 10:00 p.m. Magdangal and Renato met for an hour of prayer. They hoped the prison wall would shake and the doors open as they did for the Apostles, but when they opened their eyes the giant pillars where prisoners received lashings were securely in place.

A few minutes later at 11:15 p.m. a police officer walked up and said, "Both of you are free to go." A half hour later they were back at the holding station where they were first taken. The next day they were taken to the airport and put on a plane for Manila, where their families later joined them.

"I thought I would be home for Christmas," Magdangal said holding his wife tightly, "but during the past month I have wondered if I were going to this home or my heavenly home!"

(From an article in Open Doors, News Brief, August, 1993.)

—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 and let him know where Jesus was. 5. Yes. 6. To not return to Herod. 7. Yes. 8. To take Jesus and His mother to Egypt. 9. Yes.