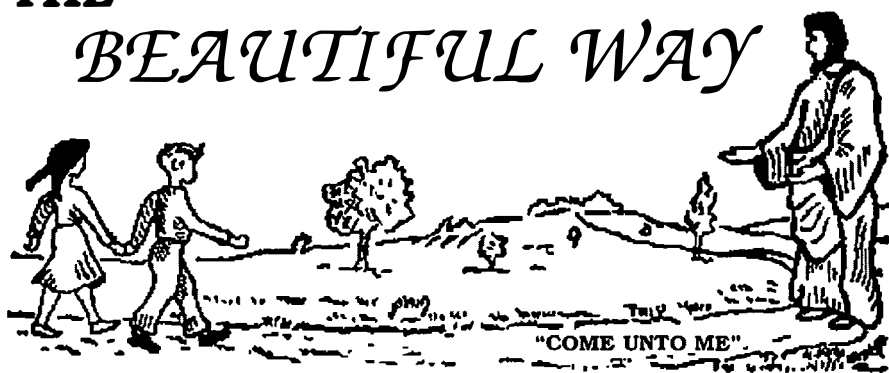


THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 June 6, 2011

LOVE COVERETH

Fred Bates wanted to be a Christian. The pastor had called on two occasions to speak with Fred concerning his soul. Each time Fred had shown deep interest but had failed to take the deciding step. Every Sunday evening he was in church and listened attentively. Once more the minister was calling at the Bates' home and this time at Fred's own request.

"Mr. MacArthur," Fred began, "there is one thing that stands in my way of accepting Jesus Christ as my Saviour. It has been there all the time, but not until the last few days have I been able to bring myself to the place where I could tell you what it is.

"Fifteen years ago," Fred continued, "I was working for a certain firm. I was only 17 at the time. I liked my work, and everything went well for about six weeks, when one day I noticed that the men with whom I worked seemed to avoid me and would stand in groups talking amongst themselves. About two o'clock I was told I was wanted in the office. I found that not only the president wished to see me, but there were five other men present. The president was standing with his hand on the open safe door.

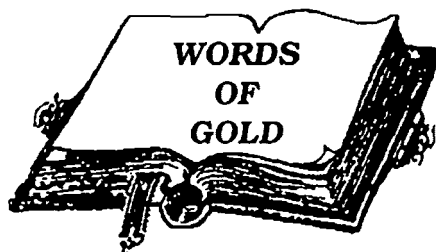
"He said, 'Mr. Bates, I'm sorry for you, but if you will confess and return

what you have taken, I'll drop the matter at once.' I was dumfounded.

"'Confess?' I said. 'What shall I confess? I have taken nothing, nor have I, to the best of my knowledge, done anything that requires a confession.'

"The president looked in surprise at me and was about to speak when the manager of the firm stepped to the center of the floor and addressing the president said, 'It's no use wasting time on him. He's evidently an old hand at the game.' A few words more were exchanged among the men, and though I pleaded with them to tell me of what I was accused, they refused to answer my question. After being given another opportunity to confess and being unable to give them any satisfaction, I was placed in a patrol car and taken to the city jail. There I was charged with larceny, but the details were not told me.

"How I suffered that night in jail, God only knows! The next day I was given a hearing and then it was that I discovered that \$2,600.00 had been stolen from the safe in the office, and that I was accused of the theft. A detective had discovered that the money had been taken from the safe the day before I was arrested. The only people in the office at that time were the president, the manager, the office



PETER'S GREAT CHANGE

John 13:37-38

37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

**Acts 2:4, 14, 22-23,
32-33, 37-38, 41**

4. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

14 . . . Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

22 . . . Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

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.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

The Message: Jesus said they would receive power after the Holy Ghost came upon them. Peter was proof of this!

Questions:

1. What did Peter say he would do for Jesus' sake?
2. What did Jesus answer him?
3. What did the people do after they were filled with the Holy Ghost?
4. Who stood up and preached to the people?
5. Who did God raise up (from the dead)?
6. What did the listeners ask Peter and the other apostles?
7. What did Peter tell them to do?
8. What gift would they receive?
9. How many gladly accepted the truth and were baptized?

Verse to Memorize

But ye shall receive power,
after that the Holy Ghost is
come upon you: and ye shall
be witnesses unto me . . .

Acts 1:8

Let's



Talk . . .

Peter was a natural leader. When a question was asked or a decision needed to be made among the disciples, Peter was usually the spokesman. Jesus asked the disciples who they believed He was. It was Peter who boldly answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

But fear gripped Peter when he saw the soldiers and mob that had come to arrest Jesus. He grabbed his sword and came so close to cutting a man's head off that he did cut off his ear. As they led Jesus away, Peter feared he too would be arrested. Yet he must see what would become of Him so he followed, staying far enough behind that no one would see him.

Then, when a mere girl asked him if he was one of Jesus' disciples, this big bold fisherman was afraid. "I am not!" he declared. Two others asked the same question and each time Peter denied he even knew Jesus. Then he heard the cock crow and he remembered what Jesus told him. He rushed out and cried bitterly, realizing what he had done.

But after Jesus returned to Heaven, there was a great change in Peter! Jesus told them they would receive power after they received the Holy Ghost. That power was immediately evident in Peter. Again he was spokesman for the group. When some mocked saying the one hundred twenty were speaking in other languages because they were drunk, Peter boldly stood up where everyone could see him. With a loud voice he announced, "Men of Jerusalem and all Judea, we are not drunk as you

suppose. We have received a great blessing from God. The prophet Joel said, 'In those days I will pour out my Spirit on my servants and on my handmaidens and they shall preach.' God has given us this Holy Spirit as He promised. This is what you are seeing and hearing today."

So Peter spoke as the Holy Spirit gave him the words to say. The multitude listened intently as he told them about Jesus, the many signs and wonders He worked and how God allowed Him to be delivered into the hands of His wicked enemies. He spoke of Jesus' crucifixion, assuring them that God had raised Him from the dead.

The words touched the hearts of the audience. They knew Peter spoke the truth. They felt so condemned they cried out, "What shall we do?" Peter instructed them to repent and be baptized. Then they too could receive the greatest blessing of all—the gift of the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit made Peter a solid courageous apostle for Jesus. As we study his life we will see what great miracles and wonders the Holy Spirit worked through him. But best of all, he could now live a steady, consistent holy life just as Jesus did.

This good news is also for us! The Holy Spirit will make a steady Christian out of anyone who will receive Him into their heart and obey His leading. You may sometimes do things you know Jesus does not approve of even though you want to please Him. You repent but then find you are not strong enough to resist temptation the next time it comes. Jesus has provided something much better for you! Just surrender your whole life to Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to come into your heart. As you yield to the Holy Spirit, He will guide you every moment and give you power to say, "No!" to the tempter.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

girl, and me. I had been summoned to answer a telephone call only to find the party had not waited. While I was there the president had been called to the shipping department with the manager. It was evident, they thought, that I had taken the money. The manager, accompanied by a detective, had gone to my boarding house, had searched my room in my absence, and had discovered the money bag under my mattress, but no money was found. They searched my room for letter telling of my past, but found none. It was evident to me that the few letters I had received from a friend of mine in my home town had been previously destroyed. They said I had succeeded very well in hiding my trail!

"I need not tell you about the days I awaited trial. Suffice it to say that I was found guilty by the court and sentenced to hard labor in the state penitentiary for a term of not less than five years. I was dazed. I could neither eat nor sleep. The injustice of the whole matter almost drove me mad. It was only when I was threatened with solitary confinement that I came to myself and realized that it would be better for me to make the best of my plight.

"Five years later I once more became a free man. I had mapped out my program while in jail. I had sworn that I would find the man who stole the money and placed the blame on me and that his life would pay for his crime. My heart was bitter. In a short time I discovered that the manager of the firm for which I had worked had resigned his position shortly before my release and that two months previous to his resignation the office safe had been entered at night and a large sum of money stolen.

"This confirmed my conviction that the manager was the thief in both

instances. At once I began a search for him. I found he had deserted his wife and gone to Mexico where I went in search of him. He was a gambler, and it was no easy matter to find the places where he stayed; but once I got on his trail, I found plenty of men who had seen him and who had been fleeced of all their money.

"After two years of futile searching I tired of my task, came north to St. Louis, and found employment. Stopping in front of a window display one evening on my way to my room, I felt, rather than saw, a man stop back of me and look at the display. Then a voice that I recognized at once said, "That's some display, isn't it?" Without a moment's hesitation I turned and leaped at the man's throat, and then everything turned black. He had slugged me. I woke up in the hospital two days later, and when I was able to return to my room I found that he had not only taken my purse with over a hundred dollars that I had saved, but by means of an address on a letter in my pocket he had gone to my room and had stolen my clothes and traveling bag. These I recovered from a pawn shop a few days later with the aid of the police. But the man had succeeded in getting away safely.

"Once more I took to the trail and this time with something more deadly than my fists. I trailed him for over a year from one city to another, but always arrived too late."

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. Lay down his life. 2. He would deny Him three times before the cock crowed. 3. Began to speak in other tongues (languages). 4. Peter. 5. Jesus. 6. "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 7. Repent and be baptized. 8. The Holy Ghost. 9. Three thousand.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Juniors USPS549-000) Part 11 June 12, 2011

LOVE COVERETH

(Continued)

Fred Bates is telling a minister how he had served five years in prison for a crime he did not commit. When he was released he vowed to find the man who committed the crime and blamed him. He had hunted him for years, determined to get revenge.

"I finally gave up the hunt, settled down and established a home of my own. I am happy, but I cannot forget the past, and my heart longs for revenge whenever I think of that man. I wonder sometimes if one who hates as I hate and longs for revenge as I long for it can ever be saved. I know that if that man should enter this room this moment I would kill him. I cannot feel otherwise."

Fred had finished his story and both men sat for a moment in silence.

"I presume if I had gone through such an experience as you have just told me that I would feel much the same as you do," the minister said. "But Fred, have you ever stopped to think that Jesus Christ suffered, too, for crimes He had never committed? If you will accept Him as your Saviour He will change your heart. 'Love covereth a multitude of sins,' and once that love of God fills a man's heart and life, his hatred gives way to love."

"I believe you," responded Fred, "but it is just what I don't want. It

seems I am not willing to give up the desire to have revenge."

The minister leaned towards Fred. "What would you do if you were to meet this man who had caused you so much suffering?"

"I'd kill him," answered Fred with a flash of anger.

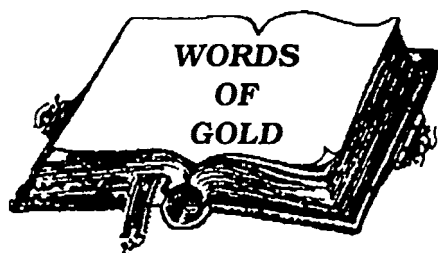
"Then what?"

"I presume that I'd be arrested and tried for the crime and possibly die in the electric chair."

"And what about your wife and son? What about your soul?" the minister continued. "Can't you see you'd lose everything by such an act—your dear wife, your only son, your home, your soul, your joy, peace, everything! And what would you gain? Here you are in your own home with a loving wife and a darling child. The best years of your life are yet before you. But you would sell it all for the sake of revenge. Fred, is it worth it?"

Suddenly the front door opened, and little feet were heard coming through the hall. A childish voice called, "Daddy! Daddy!" Both men heard it and tears came to the eyes of both. Fred leaped to his feet and cried out in anguish of soul. "No, no! It isn't worth it," and sobbing, dropped to his knees on the floor.

Six months later a man knocked at the Bates' door and asked for a cup of coffee.



THE LAME MAN

Acts 3:1-12, 16

1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple:

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none: but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the

people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

The Message: Peter and John had something far better than silver or gold to give the lame man.

Questions:

1. Where were Peter and John going?
2. What was the name of the gate where they laid the lame man?
3. How long had the man been lame?
4. Why did they carry him to the temple every day?
5. What did the lame man do when he saw Peter and John?
6. What did Peter say he did not have?
7. In whose name did Peter command him to rise and walk?
8. When Peter took him by the hand and lifted him up, what happened?
9. What did all the people see the lame man doing?

Verse to Memorize

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. Acts 3:6

Let's



Talk . . .

It started as just another dreary day for the lame man. It would be the same routine as the day before and the many days before that one. He waited patiently knowing someone would come soon to carry him to the temple where he would sit by the wayside and ask alms of anyone going into the temple.

From the day that he was born—over forty years ago now—he had never taken a step or even stood on his feet! His ankles and feet had never grown strong like the other children's.

How vividly he remembered sitting where he could watch as the children laughed and ran and played nearby. If only he could be like them!

Then, as he grew older, he saw other boys his age working hard, lifting and carrying loads to help about the home. All he could do was sit and watch. He knew he was a burden to his family and it made his heart ache. What a joy it would be to have strong legs; to work hard and make life easier for his dear parents!

Since he could not work the only way he could get a little money for food was by begging. Each morning his family or friends would carry him to a gate of the temple that was called "Beautiful." This had been the daily routine for so many years that the people expected to see him there. Each evening he would be carried back to his home.

Then one day Peter and John were going into the temple to pray. They saw the beggar sitting on the ground. He held out his cup and asked for alms as he did from everyone who walked by.

Suddenly Peter felt powerfully drawn to this beggar. He realized that God wanted to do something very special for him.

Looking at him intently Peter said, "I have no silver or gold. But I do have something to give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!"

As he spoke Peter reached out and took the man by the hand and lifted him up. Instantly his feet and ankles were made strong. He leaped to his feet and began to walk. He went into the temple with Peter and John, walking and leaping and praising God.

This made such a commotion that the people looked to see what was happening. They could not believe their eyes—it was the lame beggar who always sat at the Beautiful gate of the temple. But he wasn't lame anymore! In fact he kept jumping for sheer joy of being able to walk and stand.

More and more people gathered, amazed and wondering at what they were witnessing. The lame man held Peter and John as if he could not let them go. These two strangers had given him what he had dreamed of all his life—he could walk! As the crowd grew, Peter spoke to the people telling them it was Jesus who had healed the man. It was not by any power of their own.

When we know Jesus and have Him living in our heart we have a greater treasure than all the diamonds, silver, gold or other riches of earth! God wants to work through us just as He did through Peter. He will use us to be a blessing to everyone we contact.

Perhaps you have hard conditions in your life. Trust in Jesus. Then you can face each new day expectantly. His mercies are new every morning! (Lamentations 3:23)

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Have him come in and eat breakfast with us," Fred called to his wife.

A moment later the stooped form of a poorly clad figure entered the kitchen, rubbing his hands in an effort to warm them. And Fred recognized the man for whom he had sought in vain for years. To all appearances the man had not recognized Fred. For a moment Fred's hands were clenched, and then they relaxed.

Following the morning meal Fred led in the morning family devotions. As they arose from their knees Fred turned towards the man and said, "I don't presume you remember me, Mr. Murly?" For a moment the man stared at Fred, and then the changed expression upon his face made an answer unnecessary. The man at once became uneasy, and Fred, noticing it, said, "Have no fear, Murly. I'll not harm you. Sit down." Reluctantly the man obeyed, while Fred took a chair and sat opposite him.

"Mr. Murly," Fred began, "I am a Christian only six months and you can be thankful that I am. Had you appeared here six months ago as you have this morning, I would probably have taken your life without a moment's hesitation. But God has planned it otherwise, and I am glad for both of us that He did so."

Then he told the man of Christ, and pleaded with him to accept Jesus as his Saviour from sin.

"'Tis no use, Mr. Bates," the man replied. "I am a hardened criminal and there's no hope for a man like me. I've committed so many crimes in my time that if I were to live for a hundred years I could not serve enough years to atone. I'm sorry I sinned against you as I did and, for some reason or other, since I came in here I regret the sinful life I have lived. But I'm getting old. Disease has laid its hands upon me because of my sins, and my days are few. I

shall have to finish as I began."

Fred pleaded with the man to accept Christ, but the man insisted that there was no hope for him. Assured of Fred's forgiveness, the man left the house, but not before Fred once more prayed for him and placed in his hands several bills that would help him to find food and shelter at night.

Two months later a letter came.

"Dear Mr. Bates: After leaving you two months ago I became more and more disgusted with my life and longed for the change of which you spoke to me. One night I staggered into a mission, and although I didn't believe He'd do it, Jesus Christ pardoned and accepted me. Oh, the joy of that moment! But oh, the regret of my life!

"After that, I decided to tell the authorities of my past life, with the result that I have been committed to prison for life. I have also written to the firm and have told everything so as to clear your name. Since I came here I have broken down completely in health and the doctor says it is only a matter of a few weeks at the most. But I wanted to let you know that your kindness to me after the terrible crime I committed against you is responsible for my change of heart. But for you, I would now be sinking into hell. God bless you! How I wish I had always lived a clean, upright life. Oh, believe me, 'the way of the transgressor is hard,' and apart from Jesus Christ there is no real joy in life.

Good-bye.

Murly."

—S. Paul Weaver

—Adapted from tract published
by Faith Publishing House

Answers: 1. Into the temple. 2. Beautiful. 3. From birth. 4. To ask for alms. 5. Asked for alms. 6. Silver and gold. 7. In the name of Jesus Christ. 8. His feet and ankle bones received strength. 9. Walking and praising God.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 June 19, 2011

THE INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY ALTAR

Night was settling down. The evening shadows were filling the land. The drowsy twitter of the birds sounded from the trees on the academy campus next to our home.

A rap came at the front door. Mother answered the call. A man, with a pail in his hand, stood in the shadows.

"Please, ma'am, could you give a poor man a bite to eat?" he asked.

"Why—yes, I think so," and she stood with a puzzled look on her face. "That voice sounds familiar, who can it be?" she thought.

In that moment of hesitation, the man stepped from the shadows and exclaimed: "Mother, do you not know me?"

"Oh, Arthur," she cried. "I knew that voice though you tried to change it. Still there was something familiar in its tones. Come in! Come in!" and she gave him a welcoming kiss.

"Who was it?" you ask.

It was my oldest brother. He was an engineer on the Big Four railroad. The end of his division was just fourteen miles away. He had taken the electric car down to our village to spend the night with us. I had been away busy in the Lord's work for two or three years. How glad we were to

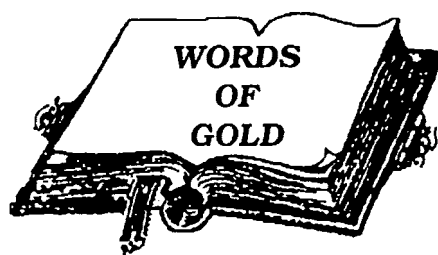
have brother home for a little visit!

Visiting around the supper table and after supper, recalling childhood days and young manhood and womanhood days, the evening seemed to go on wings. We saw Father look at the clock, then he said:

"Olive, bring the Bible, we must read and get ready for bed. Arthur will have to get away early in the morning. He needs a good rest."

I do not remember the Bible reading that evening. What I do distinctly remember was our kneeling in prayer. Father prayed, Mother prayed, then I, being the oldest of the children, prayed. Arthur was next in years. It was his turn to pray. For long he had wandered away from Father's house in the ways of sin. We knelt in silence, no one else offered to pray. It was Arthur's turn. Presently a sob broke the silence and he began: "O Lord, Thou knowest I have wandered far away from Thee. My heart has become as hard as the iron rails over which my engine runs. Please forgive me tonight, dear Lord. Take me back into the fold."

We all were holding on in faith and prayer. When he had finished his prayer with thanksgiving for salvation, the four younger children prayed. What a time of rejoicing we had, knowing brother Arthur had come back to Father's house! We were almost too happy to sleep.



PETER AND JOHN IN PRISON

Acts 4: 1, 3, 7-10, 13-14, 18-19, 21, 23, 31

1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day:

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said . . .

9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole:

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken

unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

The Message: When Jesus lives in our hearts others will know it!

Questions:

1. What did the chief priests and others do to Peter and John?
2. What did they ask the apostles?
3. With whom was Peter filled?
4. By Whose name was the lame man healed?
5. What kind of men were Peter and John?
6. What did they command them not to do?
7. What did they do before they let them go?
8. What did they tell their own company?
9. What happened when they had prayed?

Verse to Memorize

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

Let's



Talk . . .

As the lame man who had been healed clung to Peter and John all the people ran together to them. Everybody knew this poor man. They had seen him begging at the Temple gate for years—since he was a boy. For more than forty years he had been lame. Yet here he was walking and leaping about in the most amazing way. What a miracle!

When a great crowd had gathered Peter saw another opportunity to tell about Jesus. "Men of Israel," he cried in a voice that could be heard above the hubbub. "why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?" Then he pleaded with the people to repent of their sins and give their hearts to Jesus.

As he spoke, more and more people joined the crowd, until almost everybody in the Temple was there. Many of the priests came to listen too, and they were very displeased. These disciples of Jesus were claiming that He had been raised from the dead! This teaching must be stopped at once!

They called the Temple guard who forced his way through the crowd and arrested both Peter and John and led them away to prison. But he was too late. The people had heard the message. As they went to their homes that night many more decided that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Next morning there was a big meeting of the Temple leaders. Annas and Caiaphas were there, the very ones who had condemned Jesus to death.

Presently Peter and John were called before them. "By what power, or by what name, did you do this?" asked the high priest.

Without a trace of fear Peter replied, "By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified, Whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man is standing before you well. And there is salvation in no one else," he added, "for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

As Peter told about Jesus he spoke so boldly that the priests and rulers were astonished. They couldn't understand how a poor, uneducated fisherman could speak like this. Nor could they deny that there had been a great miracle. Not only was the man who had been healed known to every one of them, but here he stood near the two apostles, ready to speak up for them if he needed to!

The chief priests and rulers did not know what to do so they sent Peter and John out while they discussed the matter. Finally the prisoners were led back in. They commanded them that they must not teach in the name of Jesus, but Peter and John would not promise to obey their order.

They said, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right for us to obey you rather than God. We cannot keep from telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard."

Before letting the two go the rulers threatened to punish them severely if they were caught teaching in Jesus' name.

At once Peter and John went to their friends and told them what had happened. As they prayed for God to give them boldness to preach about Jesus the place where they met was shaken. Again the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke the word of God boldly.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Back through the years the family worship period had been a regular part of our day. Each child was taught to pray at the family altar as soon as he learned how to formulate a petition. That blessed habit of family prayer with each member taking part was, no doubt, what caused dear brother Arthur to pray his way back to God at our family altar that evening. It was his turn to pray. He could not let it go by.

Are you keeping the family altar intact? It may mean the salvation of your loved ones. Yea, and of many others too.

"Don't forget to pray!"

—Olive E. Bean, Gospel Herald

NOBODY'S SON

A young father had gone from his western prairie home to a distant town on business. He was detained overnight so could not return home to his little family. As he laid down to sleep he prayed for God's protection over his young wife and baby who were alone at home.

At that very moment his wife was tucking the baby into its little crib. As she did so, she suddenly looked up and noticed a man's foot showing from below a heavy drape! She turned pale. Terror filled her heart! But then, as she glanced around the room her eyes lighted on a plaque on the wall. On it was written, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." Psalms 103:13. These words comforted and calmed her. She was sure that God saw her danger and God would care for her and her little one.

She knelt down by the crib and prayed. In a low voice she asked that sinners might be led to Christ, and that those who were meditating crime might repent and be saved. She prayed for God to care over herself and her

babes, claiming His power and promise to save. She then calmly sat down, a look of peace settling on her face.

With a sudden movement the robber swept the drape aside and stood right in front of her. In a low husky voice he told her he had heard her prayer for protection and that her prayer was already answered. He would not harm her. "My mother prayed for me too," he told her. "But now she is dead and I am a wanderer for whom no one cares. O! lady pray for me as long as you live. Pray for 'Nobody's son,'" and he hurried out. Years later this same woman was listening to a preacher tell the story of his conversion. A large company listened as he told of the young mother's prayer that had first awakened him. She realized then that her prayers had been answered. This was the robber that she had prayed for so long! Now here he was, telling others of the great salvation offered to all who will take Jesus as their own Saviour.

It was a joy to them to meet! He thanked her for her prayers and told her that he was no longer "Nobody's son" but a child of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

What honor to God and blessing to the robber flowed from this dear woman's faith! By FAITH in Christ we become God's children and then we trust our loving Father to care for us all along our pathway down here. He never, never disappoints faith. Have you proved this?

"Have faith in God." Mark 11:22.

—Bible Talks For Young and Old

Answers: 1. Put them in hold (prison). 2. "By what power have you done this?" 3. The Holy Ghost. 4. By the name of Jesus Christ. 5. Ignorant and unlearned. 6. To teach in the name of Jesus. 7. Threatened them. 8. What the chief priests had said to them. 9. The place was shaken.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 June 26, 2011

SEVEN MEN WENT SINGING

One of the strangest experiences in my life is connected with war, says Nordenberg, an eminent engineer in Finland.

I offered my services to the government and was appointed to be an officer in General Mannerheim's army. It was a terrible time. We besieged the town. It had been taken by the Red Army and we retook it. A number of Red prisoners were under my guard. Seven of them were to be shot at dawn on Monday. I shall never forget the preceding Sunday. The seven doomed men were kept in the basement of the town hall. In the passage, my men stood at attention with their rifles.

The atmosphere was filled with hatred. My soldiers were drunk with victory and taunted their prisoners, who swore as much as they could and beat the walls with their bleeding fists. Others called for their wives and children who were far away.

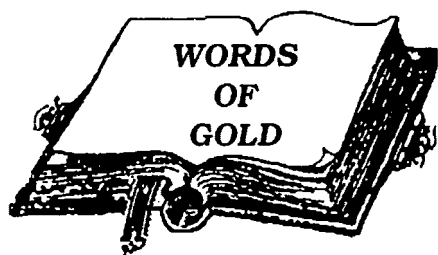
Then something happened. One of the men doomed to death began to sing! "He is mad," was everybody's first thought. But I had noticed this man, Koskinen, had not raved and cursed like the others. Quietly he had sat on his bench, a picture of utter despair. Nobody said anything to him—each was carrying his burden in his own way and Koskinen sang, rather waveringly

at first, then his voice grew stronger and died out, and became natural and free. All the prisoners turned and looked at the singer who sang,

*"Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
'Hark, 'tis the voice of angels,
Borne in a song to me
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea!"*

Over and over again Koskinen sang that verse and when he finished, everyone was quiet for a few minutes until a wild-looking individual broke out with, "Where did you get that, you fool? Are you trying to make us religious?"

Koskinen looked at his comrades and his eyes filled with tears. Then he asked quietly, "Comrades, will you listen to me for a minute? You asked me where I got this song: it was from some Gospel workers. I heard it three weeks ago. At first I also laughed at this song, but it got me. It is cowardly to hide your beliefs. The God my mother believed in has now become my God also. I cannot tell you how it happened, but I know that it happened. I lay awake last night and suddenly I felt that I had to find the Saviour and hide in Him. Then I prayed—like the thief on the cross—that Christ would forgive me and cleanse my sinful soul



THE GREAT ESCAPE

Acts 5:12, 15-23, 25-29

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people: . . .

15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

16 There came also a multitude . . . bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him . . .

18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came . . . and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

25 Then came one and told them,

saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,

28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name...?

29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

The Message: God is able to miraculously deliver those who are doing His work.

Questions:

1. What were worked by the apostles' hands?
2. Who did they bring into the streets?
3. What did they hope might overshadow some of them?
4. How many of them were healed?
5. After their arrest where were the apostles taken?
6. Who came and opened the prison doors?
7. What did he tell the apostles to do?
8. Where did the officers find the apostles?
9. Who should we obey?

Verse to Memorize

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said,
We ought to obey God
rather than men.
Acts 5:29

Let's



Talk . . .

The threats of the chief priest and rulers did not keep the disciples from preaching about Jesus. Meeting with other believers they prayed God to give them more boldness to preach the Gospel and more power to work miracles. God answered prayer in a mighty way. The apostles were filled with the power of God. Each day more believers were added to the church until it numbered many thousands.

The people were much impressed by the miracles that the apostles did in the name of Jesus. They brought their sick and laid them in the streets where Peter walked. God gave him such power that even his shadow passing over them made the sick people well. The sick were brought from many cities and towns round about as well as from Jerusalem. And God worked so mightily that every one that came was healed! It was just like the days when Jesus had been there!

The priests and rulers were alarmed when they saw the multitudes coming to be healed and hear about Jesus. Somehow they must stop these men! Once more they had them arrested and put in the common prison.

Night came and the rulers went home to rest. They thought their worries were over since the apostles were behind bars. But while the rulers slept, an angel opened the iron doors of the prison and brought the apostles out. Then the angel told them, "Go back to the Temple and teach the people all the words of life."

Everything was quiet as they stepped into the street in the cool night air. They went to their homes. Early in the morning they went to the Temple to teach the people, as the angel said. They went on witnessing for Jesus just as though nothing had happened.

Now the priests knew nothing about the apostles' great escape. They sent officers to bring them from prison. But the officers returned alone! "We found the keepers standing guard outside the locked doors," they said, "but when we went in, we could find no one."

They wondered what this could mean! While they were trying to find out what had happened, someone came from the temple with more news. The man said, "The men you put in prison are in the temple teaching the people."

Now what could the Jewish rulers do? The people would stone them if they tried to seize the apostles in the Temple. Finally the rulers ordered their officers to take the apostles quietly and bring them to the council room.

When the apostles were brought in, the rulers asked angrily, "Didn't we strictly order you not to teach about Jesus? Then why do you continue to fill this city with your teaching? Why have you told the people that we are guilty of Jesus' death?"

Peter and the other apostles stood up boldly and answered, "We should obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up this Jesus whom you killed. And God has made this same Jesus a Prince and a Savior, to give forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

When the rulers heard this, they were furious. They planned how they could kill the apostles.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

and make me ready to stand before Him whom I shall meet soon.

"It was a strange night," continued Koskinen. "There were times when everything seemed to shine around me. Verses from the Bible and from song books came to my mind. They brought a message of the crucified Saviour and the blood that cleanses from sin and of the home He has prepared for us. I thanked Him, accepted it, and since then this verse has been sounding inside me. It was God's answer to my prayer. I could no longer keep it to myself! Within a few hours I shall be with the Lord, saved by His grace."

Koskinen's face shone as by an inward light. His comrades sat there quietly. He himself stood there transfixed. My soldiers were listening to what this Red revolutionary had to say.

"You are right, Koskinen," said one of his comrades at last. "if only I knew that there is mercy for me, too! But I have reviled God and trampled on all that is holy. Now I realize that there is a hell and that is the proper place for me."

He sank to the ground with despair depicted on his face. "Pray for me, Koskinen," he groaned. "Tomorrow I shall die and my soul will be in the hands of the devil."

And there these two Red soldiers went down on their knees and prayed for each other. It was no long prayer, but it opened Heaven to both, and we who listened to it forgot our hatred. It melted in the light from Heaven, for here two men who were soon to die sought reconciliation with God. A door leading into the invisible stood ajar and we were entranced by the sight.

Let me tell you shortly that by the time it was four o'clock all Koskinen's comrades had followed his example and begun to pray. The change in the

atmosphere was indescribable. Some of them sat on the floor, others talked of spiritual things.

The night had almost gone and day was dawning. No one had had a moment's sleep. "Sing the song once more for us, Koskinen," said one of them. And you should have heard them sing! Not only that song, but verses and choruses long forgotten came forth from their memories as buds in the sunshine. The soldiers on guard united their voices with them.

The town clock struck six. How I wished I could have begged for grace for these men, but I knew it was impossible.

Between two rows of soldiers they marched out to execution. One of them asked to be allowed once more to sing Koskinen's song. Permission was granted. Then they asked to die with uncovered faces—and with hands raised to Heaven they sang.

"Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on His gentle breast."

When the last lines had died out, the lieutenant gave word, "Fire!" and the seven Red soldiers had fought their last fight. We inclined our heads in silent prayer.

What had happened in the hearts of the others I do not know; but so far as I was concerned I was a new man from that hour. I had met Christ in one of His disciples and I had seen enough to realize that I too, could be His.

Dear reader, repent, believe, and trust God. Go singing into Heaven also.

—Adapted from a tract published by Faith Publishing House

Answers: 1. Signs and wonders. 2. The sick. 3. Peter's shadow. 4. Everyone. 5. To prison. 6. An angel. 7. Go to the temple and teach the people. 8. In the temple teaching the people. 9. God.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 July 3, 2011

JOHN G. PATON MISSIONARY TO THE CANNIBALS

There are real heroes of history who were spiritual giants. In addition to those recorded in the Bible there are many others that, through a life fully consecrated to God, were used by Him to defy death and demons and overcame powerful enemies. Through their faithfulness God was able to prove His mighty power and overthrow the powers of darkness and evil. They trusted God to fulfill His promises and He never failed them. One such man was John G. Paton.

John G. Paton was born in Scotland on May 24, 1824. He was the oldest of eleven children. When still less than twelve years of age he started learning his father's trade of making stockings. He worked from six in the morning till ten at night with an hour off at dinnertime and half an hour off for breakfast and again at supper. These spare moments he devoutly spent studying every day. Even at that young age he had given his life to God and purposed to become a missionary or a minister of the Gospel.

Operating a stocking frame was hard work for a boy so young but Paton himself said that what he learned making stockings was not wasted. The

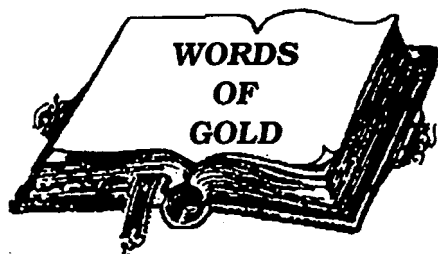
skill of using tools and of watching and keeping the machinery in order was of great value to him when he was on the foreign mission field.

Paton was blessed to have a godly father. From him he learned to love and trust God while he was still very young. When he was older he told how his father, James Paton, would go into his "prayer closet" three times a day. When he came out his face seemed to shine.

Family worship was a special time for Paton. His father would gather the family around him and read the Bible. Then they would kneel in prayer asking for God's protection and thanking Him for His many blessings. He wrote, "As we rose from our knees, I used to look at the light on my Father's face and wish I were like him in spirit."

Paton's mother also taught the children the power of a godly life. There was a time when the family, along with all their neighbors, was in deep need. The potato crop had failed and the other crops were poor. They had no food and no money to buy from others.

Their father had gone off with stockings to sell in a distant town. He planned to return by the next evening with money and supplies. But meanwhile there was no food. Their mother did not want to let any



THE FIRST MARTYR

Acts 6:5, 8-10; 12-15

5 . . . and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost . . .

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.

12 And they stirred up the people . . . 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 7:2, 54-60

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,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

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: Stephen died praying God to forgive his murderers. Paul was saved in answer to this prayer.

Questions:

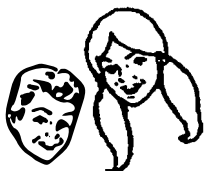
1. Who was full of faith and the Holy Ghost?
2. What kind of works did he do among the people?
3. Why were those who disputed with him not able to resist his reasoning?
4. What kind of witnesses accused Stephen?
5. What did Stephen's face look like?
6. How were the listeners affected after Stephen's speech?
7. Who did Stephen see when he looked up to Heaven?
8. How did they kill Stephen?
9. Where did the murderers lay their clothes?

Verse to Memorize

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.

Acts 7:60

Let's



Talk . . .

As the church grew rapidly the apostles were faced with the problem of taking care of the many widows. Calling the multitude of disciples together they explained, "It is not right for us to leave the Word of God and serve tables. Choose seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, which we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and preaching the Word."

The first man they chose was Stephen. Another was Philip. Both these men were preachers of the Gospel. Little is known about the other five. After prayer the apostles laid their hands on the seven, asking God's blessing upon their work.

Everywhere throughout Jerusalem people talked about Stephen. Because he was full of faith and power he did many wonders and miracles. Then certain religious leaders argued with Stephen about his teachings. They tried to prove that Jesus was not the Christ. But God gave Stephen such wisdom to speak about Jesus that the leaders were left without a word to say.

They were enraged by Stephen's convincing proof that Jesus was indeed the Christ. Since they could not stop his teachings by disputing them, they hired men to go among the Jews and accuse Stephen. Wherever these men went, they lied, "We have heard Stephen speak against Moses and against God!"

The people were upset by these words; some believed they were true.

As soon as the rulers and scribes heard it, they seized Stephen and brought him before the council.

The men who had been hired to tell lies about Stephen came to the council meeting too. They were called on to tell what they knew about Stephen. They said, "This man never stops saying terrible things about the temple and the Law. We have heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the temple and change the customs that Moses gave us."

While the false witnesses spoke, the council watched Stephen closely. They were amazed at his countenance—he looked like an angel! Yet they continued to tell lies about him.

Bravely Stephen stood up and faced his accusers, telling them the familiar story of their people, beginning with Abraham. He reminded them that their fathers had also disobeyed God's laws.

Enraged by his words, the leaders were furious that Stephen would dare accuse them of doing wrong. To give him courage to face his enemies, God let him see into Heaven. Looking up, Stephen said, "I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."

At once the rulers cried out loudly. They held their hands over their ears so they would not have to hear another word Stephen said. Suddenly they rushed at him, seized him, and dragged him outside the city gate and stoned him. His murderers laid their clothes at a young man's feet whose name was Saul.

As the rocks beat him mercilessly, Stephen called upon God, saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then kneeling down, he cried with a loud voice, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

one know or ask anyone for help. She insisted that the children go on to bed, assuring them that she had told God everything and that He would send them plenty in the morning.

And she was not disappointed. The next day a present came from her father who knew nothing of their need. God had impressed him to send a "love-offering" to his daughter and it came just in the nick of time. It was a bag of new potatoes, flour, and homemade cheese. Their need was well supplied!

When his mother saw the children's surprise at such an answer to her prayers she took them around her knees and thanked God for His goodness. Then she said to them: "O my children, love your Heavenly Father, tell Him in faith and prayer all your needs, and He will supply your wants so far as it shall be for your good and His glory."

So it was not some minister or evangelist or Sunday school teacher, but his own parents who led Paton to God. Most importantly they taught him the reality of the text, "Lo, I am with you alway" by their own lives. Through his whole life and career Paton relied on that one promise. He proved its power and validity to the utmost.

Paton was still young when the Lord said to him, "Go across the seas as the messenger of My love," adding the precious promise "Lo, I am with you." Christ was leading him into a wider sphere of work and training, and he was determined to follow.

It was hard to leave the happy home but finally the day came that he must leave. It was about forty miles to the place where he would take a train to Glasgow. He could not afford to travel by stagecoach so he walked that forty miles. All his possessions were tied up in a large handkerchief but he did not think of himself as

poor. He had his Bible and he knew that his Lord was with him.

His father walked with him the first six miles. Paton never forgot his father's words of counsel mingled with tears that he gave as they walked along. At length they both lapsed into silence. The father carried his hat in his hand, praying silently while hot tears flowed freely. When they reached the appointed parting place, they clasped hands and the father said with deep emotion, "God bless you, my son! Your father's God prosper you and keep you from all evil!" Unable to say more, his lips kept moving in silent prayer. In tears they embraced then turned to go their separate ways.

Continuing down the road past a curve, Paton climbed the dyke for one last look at his dear father. His father had also climbed the dyke, hoping for one more glimpse of his boy. The old father's eyes were so dim they could not see his son so he climbed down and started for home, his head still bared and his heart offering up fervent supplications.

"I watched through blinding tears," Paton said in his autobiography, "till his form faded from my gaze; and then, hastening on my way, vowed deeply and oft, by the help of God, to live and act so as never to grieve or dishonor such a father and mother as He had given me." Even years later when Paton was tempted to do wrong just the thought of his godly father served as a guardian angel to keep him from evil.

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. Stephen. 2. Great wonders and miracles. 3. He spoke by the Spirit with great wisdom. 4. False witnesses. 5. An angel's. 6. They were cut to the heart. 7. Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 8. By stoning him. 9. At Saul's feet.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 July 10, 2011

JOHN G. PATON CALLED TO BE A MISSIONARY

Continued

It was hard for John Paton to leave his home and family but he felt that God was calling him to work for Him. This meant that he needed special training, especially if he was called to go as a missionary to some foreign field.

So he left his home to study in Glasgow. Along with his studies during the following years he was also very busy distributing tracts, teaching school, and working as a city missionary in a degraded section of Glasgow. He realized that simply going to a foreign land would not turn him into a missionary. To be a missionary means, above all else, to be a soul-winner.

Paton was constantly seeking to win the lost around him. Among those he led to Christ from the slums of Glasgow were eight boys who later became ministers.

Young Paton kept hearing about the plight of the perishing heathen in the South Seas. For two years the church had been advertising for a missionary to go to the New Hebrides to join the missionary who was working in that needy field. He felt a deep desire to offer himself for that work and felt God was leading that way so

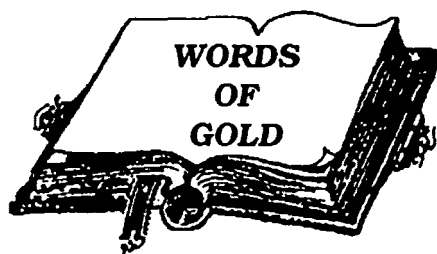
he made it the supreme subject of his daily meditation and prayer.

The Lord kept impressing him, "Since no one better qualified has volunteered, rise and offer yourself!" He had an almost overpowering impulse to answer aloud, "Here am I, send me." But he was dreadfully afraid that he might be mistaking his mere human emotions for the will of God. He resolved to make it a subject of close deliberation and prayer for a few days longer—he must be very sure that God would be with him if he accepted such a dangerous mission!

Paton realized that his experience and studies had specially qualified him in some ways for the foreign field. Carefully considering all the facts he was finally convinced that it was indeed the voice from God encouraging him to go as missionary to help with the work in the New Hebrides Islands.

When Paton offered himself to go, Dr. Bates, secretary of the Heathen Missions Committee, cried for joy. He went back to his room with a lighter heart than he had enjoyed for some time. He said, "There is nothing so clears the vision, and lifts up the life, as a decision to move forward in what you know to be entirely the will of the Lord."

When he saw his friend, Joseph Copeland, he told him, "I have offered myself as a Missionary for the New Hebrides."



GOD'S GIFT CANNOT BE BOUGHT

**Acts 8:4-6; 8-10; 12-15;
18, 20, 22, 24**

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

The Message: The gift of the Holy Spirit is worth more than all the wealth of the world. It cannot be purchased with money.

Questions:

1. Who went to the city of Samaria?
2. What did he do there?
3. Who had bewitched the people?
4. What did the people say about him?
5. After he was baptized Simon continued with _____.
6. Simon wondered when he saw the _____ and _____ that were done.
7. Who did the apostles of Jerusalem send to Samaria?
8. What did Simon offer for the power to give the Holy Ghost as the apostles did?
9. Peter said, "Thy _____ perish with thee."

Verse to Memorize

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee . . .
Acts 3:6

Let's



Talk . . .

After Stephen was stoned the followers of Jesus were mistreated and even tormented in Jerusalem. Saul himself went from house to house searching for believers. He caused many to go to prison and others were even killed. Jerusalem was no longer a safe place for those who believed in Jesus. Except for the apostles, all the believers left Jerusalem and went to live in other towns and cities. They hoped to find safety outside Jerusalem.

When Philip left Jerusalem he went to Samaria. There he preached about Jesus and the wonderful plan of salvation. Philip was one of the seven chosen, along with Stephen, to care for the poor. He, like other believers who left Jerusalem, told about Jesus everywhere they went. So instead of stamping out the Gospel the persecutions in Jerusalem caused it to spread rapidly in all directions.

The Samaritans listened eagerly as Philip told them about Jesus. They had never heard the Gospel story before. When they saw Philip work miracles in the name of Jesus, they were amazed at the great power God had given him. Many men and women believed in Jesus Christ and were baptized.

There was a man named Simon who lived in Samaria. He was a magician and deceived the people by the tricks he performed. They were convinced that he was some great one, saying, "This man is the great power of God!"

When Simon heard about Philip

he came to see him and hear what he had to say. He watched in amazement as he saw the miracles and signs that God worked through Philip. He knew this was a greater power than what he had. Simon, too, believed and was baptized. He followed Philip everywhere he went watching the wonderful works he did.

The apostles in Jerusalem soon heard that many Samaritans had accepted Jesus as their Savior after hearing the Gospel from Philip. They sent Peter and John to help. As soon as Peter and John met the new believers they laid their hands on them and prayed that God would give them the Holy Spirit. They too received the great gift of God's spirit in their hearts.

Simon's heart was not honest before God. He did not see that the Holy Spirit was a gift from God to enable men to live a righteous life. He saw it as an opportunity to make money. So he offered the apostles money, saying, "Give me this power so that whoever I lay my hands on will receive the Holy Spirit."

Peter was angry that anyone would try to buy the Holy Spirit. He told Simon, "May your money perish with you if you think God's gifts can be bought. You do not have any part in this Gospel because your heart is not right with God. Repent of your sins and pray for God's forgiveness; there is still sin in you heart!"

Peter's words frightened Simon. He begged Peter, "Pray to the Lord for me that none of these things happen to me."

After the apostles had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem. They preached the Gospel to everyone who would listen as they passed through each village. In all the cities around Jerusalem more believers were added to the kingdom of God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

After a long and silent meditation, in which he seemed lost in far-wandering thoughts, his friend answered, "If they will accept of me, I am also resolved to go!"

This seemed too good to be true! Quickly they sat down together and wrote a letter stating that he was also willing to go to New Hebrides as a missionary.

Next morning Dr. Bates called on them early. After a long conversation, he commended them and their future work to the Lord God in fervent prayer. Then, at a meeting of the Foreign Missions Committee held immediately after this, they were both formally accepted, on condition that they successfully passed the usual examinations required of candidates for the Ministry.

Almost everyone else, however, thought it was very foolish for promising young men to go to live among the cruel and uncivilized natives of the islands of the South Pacific. One old man exclaimed, "The cannibals! You will be eaten by cannibals!"

"Mr. Dixon," John Paton answered boldly, "you are advanced in years now and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms. I confess to you that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether my body is eaten by cannibals or by worms."

On April 2, 1858 John Paton married Mary Ann Robson. Only 14 days later, accompanied by Mr. Joseph Copeland, they both said farewell to their home in Scotland and set sail for the South Pacific in spite of the news that the previous missionaries had been murdered and eaten by cannibals. In Paton's heart a song kept singing that included the precious words, "Lo, I am with you all the way."

"I committed my future to the Lord God of my father," he says, "assured

that in my very heart I was anxious to serve Him and to follow the blessed Saviour."

The new missionaries first landed on the island of Tanna in the southern part of the New Hebrides, on November 5, 1858 and built a small house at Port Resolution. In those days this was a purely cannibal island. Surrounded by painted savages whose lives were ruled by superstitions and the cruelties of heathenism at its worst, Patton's faith in his text was severely tried. But God had promised to always be with him—even on this island.

Soon after landing they saw scores of armed men rushing by in great excitement. They had feathers in their twisted hair and their faces were painted in the most grotesque manner. The discharge of muskets in the bush near by and the horrible yells of the savages soon made it clear that they were engaged in deadly, bloody fighting. The next day the missionaries were informed that five men had been killed, cooked, and eaten by the victorious party!

These Tannese natives worshiped hosts of stone idols and sacred charms. Their worship was altogether a service of fear. Not knowing the true God Who is love, they were constantly trying to appease some evil spirit. They felt they must do this in order to prevent calamity or else to get revenge on some enemy. They also offered frequent gifts to their sacred men, wizards, and witches, believing that these men were able to remove sickness or to cause it.

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. Philip. 2. Preached Christ to the people. 3. Simon. 4. "This man is the great power of God." 5. Philip. 6. Miracles and signs. 7. Peter and John. 8. Money. 9. Money.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 July 17, 2011

DANGER AND SORROW

Continued

John Paton's heart was filled with both horror and pity as he saw the awful darkness and evil in these heathen people he hoped to teach about Jesus. Sometimes he was almost driven to despair. Had he done the right thing to give up the work in Glasgow that he loved so much and the people that were so dear to him to consecrate his life to these degraded creatures? He sometimes wondered if it was possible to teach them right and wrong, to Christianize or even to civilize them!

He was soon reminded, however, that he had not undertaken this work on his own. God had directed him and he had the vast resources of God's power with him. Later he wrote, "We were conscious that our Lord Jesus was near us and that through Him we were made strong for any assignment that He had given or might give."

This renewed his strength and courage. He began to tell the natives plainly of their wickedness. He faithfully pointed them to the Lamb of God who is able to save from sin. In every possible way he showed them the contrast between their evil ways and the Christian way of living.

Whenever two parties were about

to go to war, he would run in between them and call upon them to stop. How was he enabled to face such dangers among these savages who thought nothing of killing a man? He explains, "My faith enabled me to grasp and realize the promise, 'Lo, I am with you alway.' In Jesus I felt invulnerable. These were the moments when I felt my Saviour to be most truly and sensibly near, inspiring and empowering me."

One morning when Paton went out at daybreak he found that armed men surrounded his house. These warriors were muttering fiercely that they had come to kill him at once!

These natives had one strange habit. They always made a speech before taking action. So the savage warriors would not kill Paton until their chief had made the following speech: "Missi (this was their name for missionary), we love the ways and practices of our fathers, which you and other missionaries oppose. We killed the last foreigner that lived in Tanna before you came here. We murdered the Aneityumese teachers and burned down their houses. Now we are determined to kill you, because you are changing our customs and we hate the Jehovah worship."

"Seeing that I was entirely in their hands," says Paton, "I knelt down



ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

Acts 9:1-6, 8-11, 13, 15-18

1 And Saul . . . went unto the high priest.

2 And desired of him letters . . . that if he found any of this way . . . he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed . . . suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest . . .

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

8 And Saul arose from the earth: and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias: and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and . . . inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how

much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

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

17 And Ananias . . . said, Brother Saul, the Lord . . . hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

18 And immediately . . . he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

The Message: Saul was changed from a murderous opponent of the truth into Paul, an apostle of the gospel, by God's mighty power to save!

Questions:

1. Who did Saul go to?
2. Why did he desire letters from him?
3. What happened as he journeyed?
4. When he fell to the ground, what did the voice ask?
5. Who was speaking to Saul?
6. How long was Saul blind?
7. Who prayed for Saul to receive his sight?
8. God said Saul was a _____ vessel to bear His name before the Gentiles.
9. What did Saul do as soon as he received his sight?

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 . . .

Paul, who is introduced as Saul in the Scriptures, was born in Tarsus. As a boy he left his home and went to Jerusalem to study the Law of Moses under Gamaliel, a great teacher. Then, when Saul was older he became a strict Pharisee.

At that time more and more people in Jerusalem believed that Jesus was the Son of God. They did not keep the strict commandments of the Law, as interpreted by the Pharisees. Saul was shocked. He felt that the followers of Jesus were disobeying the Law of God. He must stop them from spreading such a Gospel!

In Jerusalem Saul mistreated many believers by having them arrested. Some were even put to death for their loyalty to Jesus. While Stephen, the first martyr, was being stoned to death Saul stood watching with satisfaction. Life became so miserable for them in Jerusalem that many believers fled to other cities for safety. Wherever they went they taught the people about Jesus.

This infuriated Saul. When he heard that there were believers in Damascus he went to the high priest for letters of permission to go to that city and search for followers of Jesus. He planned to kill them or bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners.

So with the letters authorizing him to arrest any who believed in Jesus, Saul started towards Damascus with a few friends. It was about noon and they were so near the city that they could see the great wall surrounding Damascus. Suddenly a brilliant light brighter than the sun shone round

about them. Saul fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked fearfully.

"I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting," He answered.

Saul asked, "What do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord instructed him to go on to Damascus. There he would be told what he must do.

Meanwhile the men with him stood speechless, wondering what the voice and brilliant light could mean. When Saul got up he opened his eyes but he could not see anything. He was blind!

Three days passed and still Saul could not see. He sat alone in his darkness. He was so troubled he could not eat or drink anything.

Then God instructed Ananias, a believer who lived in Damascus to go to the house of Judas and ask for a man called Saul of Tarsus. "He is praying," God told him "and he has seen a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he will receive his sight!"

Ananias was shocked. Every believer knew and feared this man, Saul! "Lord," Ananias protested, "the chief priest has sent him here to capture all who believe in You." But God told him that Saul was a chosen vessel and that He had a great work for him to do.

When Ananias obeyed and prayed for him, Saul's sight returned. He repented of his sins, accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized. He gave his life so completely to God He was able to use him in many wonderful ways to spread the Gospel.

Have you put your life in God's hands? He has a grand purpose and plan for you, just as He did for Paul. You will never regret letting God work out His plan in your life!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

and gave myself away body and soul to the Lord Jesus, for what seemed the last time on earth." The savages grew strangely quiet when they saw him kneel in prayer. When he got up off his knees he told them again about Jesus' great love for them. Then they turned and walked away, muttering that he would yet be killed if he did not leave the island at once!

Several days later, while a large number of natives were assembled, a man rushed furiously at Paton with his axe and attempted to take his life. The next day a fierce-looking chief followed him around for four hours, frequently pointing his loaded musket at him as if to shoot. Paton quietly went on with his work silently praying for God's protection. What was the secret of his great courage? It was his faith in the promise of God's presence!

He tells us: "Life in such circumstances led me to cling very near to the Lord Jesus. With my trembling hand clasped in the hand once nailed on Calvary, and now swaying the scepter of the universe, calmness and peace abode in my soul. Trials and hairbreadth escapes strengthened my faith and seemed only to nerve me for more to follow. Without that abiding consciousness of the presence and power of my dear Lord and Saviour, nothing else in all the world could have preserved me from losing my reason and perishing miserably. His words, 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world,' became very real to me and I felt His supporting power. I had my nearest and dearest glimpses of the face and smile of my blessed Lord in those dread moments when musket, club, or spear was being leveled at my life."

When he and Mrs. Paton landed on Tanna they both were healthy and

full of enthusiasm, as they anticipated a happy life together teaching the poor savages about the love of God. Three months later when a little son was born to them it seemed that their joy was complete. But the happiness soon faded.

For two days or so both the mother and child seemed to do well. But then his wife was struck down with fever. She suffered with this about two weeks and then died suddenly. Paton was shocked and numb with grief and loneliness. When, only seventeen days later, his dear baby boy died, it seemed more than he could bear. The grief-stricken missionary had to dig a grave with his own hands for both his young wife and his baby boy.

"Let those," Paton wrote later, "who have ever passed through similar darkness, as of midnight, feel for me. I was stunned, and my reason seemed almost to give way. I built a wall of coral round the grave and covered the top with beautiful white coral, broken small as gravel; that spot became my sacred and much-frequented shrine during all the years that, amidst difficulties, dangers, and deaths, I labored for the salvation of these savage islanders."

"I was never altogether forsaken," he added. "The ever-merciful Lord sustained me to lay the precious dust of my loved ones in the same quiet grave. But for Jesus, and the fellowship He vouchsafed me there, I must have gone mad and died beside that lonely grave!"

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. The high priest. 2. So if he found any believers he could bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3. A light from heaven shined around him. 4. "Why are you persecuting Me?" 5. Jesus. 6. Three days. 7. Ananias. 8. Chosen. 9. Arose and was baptized.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 July 24, 2011

DIVINE PROTECTION

Continued

John Paton continued his work among the savages in spite of his awful grief from losing his wife and infant son. At times his work looked hopeless—these people seemed to love their evil ways!

On New Year's Day, 1861, the missionaries to Tanna realized their lives were in danger. Hundreds of the natives had become sick with a deadly type of measles. The missionaries had worked all day taking supplies, food, and water to the sick. But in spite of their kindness they realized the superstitious natives believed that they were the cause of their trouble.

Most of the natives who took care of themselves as the missionaries instructed recovered. But many of them preferred to try their own methods. A great number of them, burning with fever, plunged into the ocean trying to get relief. The result was almost instant death. Others dug holes in the earth the length of their bodies and several feet deep. When they lay down in the deep holes the cool earth felt good to their fevered bodies. Hundreds of them died there, literally in their own graves. They were buried where they lay.

That evening the missionaries knelt in the mission house in fervent prayer. After reconsecrating their lives

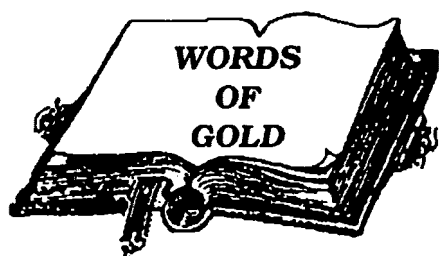
to Christ they pleaded for the salvation of the cannibals among whom they lived. Solemnly they begged God for His protection. They knew that fierce savages armed with clubs, killing-stones and muskets might be surrounding the house even then. The natives believed that the missionaries and their God had brought this disease, hurricanes, and other troubles on them. They vowed that they would kill and eat them!

After prayer a younger missionary stepped out of the door to go to his own house close by. Instantly he was attacked and fell to the ground screaming, "Look out! They are trying to kill us!"

Rushing to the door John Paton shouted at the savages, "Jehovah God sees you and will punish you for trying to murder His servants." Two black men swung their deadly clubs, barely missing him. Then the band of savages ran away.

The younger missionary was not injured badly but the shock of the attack affected him so that night after night he could not sleep. He was so afraid that he would be killed and eaten by the savages that his mind gave way under the strain. In three weeks he was dead!

John G. Paton had already survived many such attacks on his life.



SAUL ESCAPES IN A BASKET

Acts 9:19-31

19 . . . Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

24 But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he

had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

28 And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

29 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

30 Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

The Message: When Paul gave his life to serve God the unbelievers wanted to destroy him, just as they had tried to destroy Jesus.

Questions:

1. What did Saul do in the synagogues?
2. What did he preach?
3. How did his listeners react?
4. What did he prove to the Jews?
5. When the Jews took counsel, what did they decide to do?
6. What did they do to prevent Saul's escape?
7. How did he escape?
8. Where did Saul go next?
9. Who befriended Saul when others feared to?

Verse to Memorize

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;
Philippians 1:29

Let's



Talk . . .

The Jews of Damascus were amazed when they found Saul worshipping with the disciples of Jesus. They thought that he would rid Damascus of all believers. Instead he became one of them!

They were even more astonished when they saw him stand up before all the people in the synagogue and boldly preach that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God! The people listened and asked one another, "Isn't this the man who imprisoned and even killed many people in Jerusalem because they believed that Jesus was the Christ? Didn't we hear that he was coming to Damascus to arrest the believers and take them back to the high priest in Jerusalem?"

After some time Saul told the Christians of Damascus goodbye and disappeared into Arabia to be alone with God. He felt a deep need to know the truth for himself and be so thoroughly convinced that he could teach it to others with authority. Later Saul could write, "I have received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you." (I Corinthians 11:23.)

There, out in the desert, shut off from the noise and confusion of life Saul let God free him from a lifetime of wrong thoughts and the bondage of Jewish law and tradition. As he restudied the Scriptures and meditated on the great doctrines, they became real and clear to him. Now he saw clearly that Jesus of Nazareth, Whom he had once despised, was indeed the Messiah! He learned the blessedness of talking with God as with a dear Friend. He learned

the voice and will of God. His only purpose in life then was to always live in God's favor.

Now he longed to teach others, to establish churches and to strengthen them. He had killed others in his ignorance of Christ. Now with Christ in his heart he would offer his life in exchange. He would gladly face death for Jesus' sake. He felt calm and strengthened as he left the desert of Arabia to return to Damascus.

Once more in Damascus he preached in the synagogues with boldness and conviction. Even the Jewish teachers who did not believe in Jesus could not prove that Saul's teaching was wrong. Many of the Jews who listened came to believe in Jesus.

This enraged the Jewish rulers. Meeting in a secret council they made plans to kill Saul. They placed guards at each city gate with orders to kill him if he tried to leave the city. At any cost they must get rid of this traitor!

Saul soon heard about their plans. Believers urged him to run for his life. So, waiting for the dark of night, they took him to a building on top of the city wall. There they secured a strong rope to a large basket. Saul climbed into the basket and his friends slowly lowered him to the ground outside the city. This time he made his escape!

With a strong desire to tell how Jesus had changed his heart and life Saul headed for Jerusalem. As soon as he reached the city he went to find the apostles and believers. But they remembered all too well his persecutions. They were afraid of him!

Finally Saul found a friend in kindhearted Barnabas. Barnabas took him to the apostles and told them all that had happened to Saul on the road to Damascus, how that the Lord had spoken to him and changed his life completely. After this the church received Saul gladly.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

He was able to survive many more because he lived in the presence of his Lord. He knew he had nothing to fear because God was with him. He was convinced that nothing could destroy him until his work was accomplished and the Lord was through with him.

In the year 1862 a new crisis arose. Hundreds of frenzied natives vowed that they would kill the missionary without delay. Nowar, a friendly chief, urged him to run for his life. It was dark so the chief told him to run to a large chestnut tree. Paton took his advice, climbing the tree and hiding high up among the leafy branches. From his perch he could see and hear the savages below beating the bushes in their frantic search for him.

Later Paton wrote about this terrifying experience: "I heard the frequent discharging of muskets and the yells of the savages. Yet I sat there on one of the branches, safe in the arms of Jesus! Never, in all my sorrows, did my Lord draw nearer to me and speak more soothingly to my soul. Alone, yet not alone! Had I been a stranger to Jesus and to prayer, my reason would verily have given way, but my comfort and joy sprang from the promise, '*Lo, I am with you always.*'"

In writing about this experience Paton asked his readers, "If you were alone, all, all alone, in the midnight, in the bush, so very close to death, do you have a Friend who will not fail you then?" He had such a Friend and he proved that in His Presence there is divine protection as great as his need.

The savages of Aneityum had readily accepted Christianity. Many of them had become missionaries to the other islands to spread the Gospel. They were true witnesses and suffered much for Christ's sake—some were even killed. Several of these Aneityumese Christians were helping

Paton in his efforts to evangelize the Tannese.

One day he received information that he and his Aneityumese teachers were destined to be the victims of a feast that the natives were planning. When they looked out of the window they saw a band of armed killers coming. They were cut off from all human hope but they knew where to go for help. They fell on their knees in prayer.

For many hours they heard the savages tramping around the house, threatening to break in or set the place on fire. As they prayed, their hearts were quieted with the assurance that He who was for them was greater than all their foes. Paton says: "Our safety lay in our appeal to the blessed Lord who had placed us there, to whom *all power had been given in Heaven and on earth.* This is strength, this is peace—to have sweet communion with Him. I can wish my readers nothing more precious than that."

It was the scripture found in Matthew 28:18-20 that again brought needed strength and comfort in the face of impossible odds. It told him: "*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go, therefore ... and lo, I am with you.*" He accepted the promise as a message from God and proved that it was true.

The Hand that reassured the missionary restrained the enemy! Finally the killers disappeared back into the forest. God had preserved the lives of His missionaries.

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. Preached. 2. That Christ is the Son of God. 3. They were amazed. 4. That Jesus was Christ. 5. Kill Saul. 6. Watched the gates day and night. 7. At night the disciples let him down over the wall in a basket. 8. To Jerusalem. 9. Barnabas.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 July 31, 2011

DIVINE DELIVERANCE

Continued

John Paton, missionary to the South Sea Islands, kept several milk goats near the mission house. One day he heard an unusual bleating among the goats, as if they were being killed or tortured. He rushed out to their pen. Instantly he was surrounded by a band of armed men who sprang from the bush. He had fallen into their trap!

Each man carried a heavy club. Lifting them threateningly they said, "You have escaped from us many times but now we are going to kill you!"

Paton knew there was no hope of escape. Lifting his hands and eyes toward Heaven, he committed himself and the situation to his Lord. As he prayed he felt the Divine Presence of God overshadowing him. His heart was filled with a tender reassurance that all was well. The cannibals seemed to sense God's presence also—silently they slipped away one after another!

"Thus," affirms the missionary, "Jesus restrained them once again. His promise is a reality. He is with His servants, to support and bless them, even unto the end of the world!"

On another occasion when Paton

was preaching in one of the villages three sacred men stood up. They declared to the people that they could kill the missionary by witchcraft. All they would need was any piece of fruit or food that he had taken a bite off!

Paton accepted the challenge. He resolved, with his Lord's help, to strike a blow at the tremendous evil power of these witchdoctors. First he took a bite out of three plums. Then he handed one of them to each of the sacred men.

The natives were amazed at his action and expected to see him fall over dead any moment while the sorcerers went through their rituals and chants. They rolled the three plums up in leaves, muttering and gesturing wildly. Then they kindled a sacred fire and burned them.

"Stir up your gods to help you," urged Paton. "I am not killed. In fact I am perfectly well."

Finally the witchdoctors said that they would call all the sacred men together and that they would kill Missi (their name for missionary) before the next Sabbath. Paton told the people he would meet them at that same place the next Sabbath morning.

The next Sabbath morning he was there, in perfect health. He told the people, "Now you must admit that



TABITHA

Acts 9: 32-43

32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and makethy bed. And he arose immediately.

35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed: and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa: and many believed in the Lord.

43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

Luke 9:2

2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

The Message: God worked mighty miracles through Peter.

Questions:

1. Who came to Lydda to visit the saints?
2. How long had Aeneas been confined to bed?
3. What was wrong with him?
4. Where did Tabitha live?
5. What happened to her?
6. Who did the men send for?
7. Who stood by weeping?
8. What happened when Peter told Tabitha to get up?
9. What did Jesus send His disciples to do?

Verse to Memorize

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. Luke 9:2

Let's



Talk . . .

In cities and villages throughout the land there were many disciples or saints who met to worship the Lord. The apostles went from city to city. At each place they met with the disciples, preached to them, and encouraged them to serve the Lord.

On one trip Peter came to Lydda, a city near the Great Sea, to visit with the saints. Here he saw a man named Aeneas who was sick with palsy. For eight years Aeneas had not been able to leave his bed.

Peter looked at the poor man with pity. Then he said, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ makes you well! Get up and make your bed."

In glad surprise Aeneas heard these words. Because he believed he was healed he tried to get up. At once strength filled his body and he was perfectly well!

Throughout the city and round about, it was told how Aeneas had been healed. Many people came to see Peter and hear him preach the Gospel, and many turned to the Lord.

In the city of Joppa was another company of believers. Among them was a woman named Tabitha who was also called Dorcas. This wonderful woman was always thinking of new ways to show kindness and help others. The Bible says she was "full of good works" meaning that she spent all her time caring for the sick, the poor, and the needy. No wonder she was loved dearly! No wonder that the whole church was so grieved when she suddenly got sick and died. They wondered how they could get along without her!

It was the custom in those days to bury a dead person right away, but the people of Joppa couldn't bear to part with their beloved Tabitha. Lovingly they washed and dressed her, then laid her in an upper room.

Somebody said, "If only Peter were here!"

Then someone remembered hearing that Peter was at Lydda which was just a few miles away. They had heard how he healed Aeneas there. Immediately they sent men to find Peter. When they found him they told him about Tabitha and begged him to come at once. He agreed so they hurried back to Joppa as fast as they could.

Peter came into the room where the body of Tabitha was lying. The room was full of weeping widows whom Tabitha had helped during her lifetime. They showed Peter coats and other garments she had made for them.

Peter knew what Jesus would have done in a time like this. He knew how Jesus was touched with the sorrow of others. Gently he asked them all to leave the room. Then he knelt beside the bed and prayed. As he rose from his knees he turned toward the body and said, "Tabitha, arise!"

The woman opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. How surprised she was to see Peter standing by her! Then she saw him hold out his hand to help her get up; she took his hand and stood on her feet.

Joyfully, Peter called the saints and widows who had been waiting anxiously outside and presented Tabitha to them, very much alive! They could hardly believe their eyes. What a wonderful miracle and gift from God!

News of this miracle spread throughout all Joppa very quickly. Many people came to see and hear Peter and many believed in the Lord. For a long time Peter stayed in Joppa at the home of Simon, the tanner.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

your gods have no power over me and that I am protected by the true and living God. He is the only God who can hear and answer prayer. He loves all human beings, despite their great wickedness, and He sent His dear Son, Jesus, to save all who will believe from sin.

Paton was shocked to hear that the natives had killed a missionary and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were serving on another island. When the Tannese heard this, they shouted to one another: "Our love to these brave men. They have killed their Missi (missionary) and his wife while we only talk about it."

Several native teachers from another island worked with Paton to bring the Gospel to the savages of Tanna. But after one of them was murdered they decided to return to their own island. Only one stayed. This was Abraham. This brave man had once been a bloodthirsty savage but now he was a true hero of the Cross. In spite of the danger and almost certain death he decided he would stay with Paton!

And soon they were in grave danger. As hundreds of furious cannibals shouted for their death, the two knelt in prayer. "O Lord," Abraham prayed, "make us two strong for Thee and Thy cause, and if they kill us, let us die together in Thy good work, like Thy servants, Missi Gordon the man and Missi Gordon the woman."

The savages encircled them in a deadly ring and kept urging each other to strike the first blow or fire the first shot. Presently a killing-stone, thrown with great force, grazed Abraham's cheek. The dear old saint looked toward Heaven and said, "Missi, I was nearly away to Jesus."

"In that awful hour," writes Paton, "I saw Christ's own words, as if carved in letters of fire upon the clouds of heaven: 'Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.'"

As he stood praying, he saw the Lord Jesus hovering close by, watching the scene. An assurance came to him, as if a voice from Heaven had spoken. He knew that not a musket would be fired, not a club would strike, not a spear thrown, no arrow shot nor killing-stone would be thrown unless Jesus Christ permitted it. He rules over all—even the savages of the South Seas!

Somehow the savages were prevented from killing them. It was a miracle and an evident proof of the protecting presence of his Lord. Paton wrote, "If any reader wonders how they were restrained, much more would I, unless I believed that the same Hand that restrained the lions from touching Daniel held back these savages from hurting me."

On several occasions when ships came into port Paton was urged to sail away to safety. In each instance he refused, hoping that he might yet win the Tannese for Christ. But, finally, when the mission house was broken into and everything he had was either stolen or destroyed, he realized that if he stayed longer he would likely be killed and eaten by the cannibals or else die from slow starvation.

(To be continued)

Answers: 1. Peter. 2. Eight years. 3. He was sick with palsy. 4. In Joppa. 5. She got sick and died. 6. Peter. 7. The widows. 8. She opened her eyes and sat up. 9. To preach and to heal the sick.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Aug. 7, 2011

DIVINE PROVISION

Continued

Leaving Tanna for awhile, Paton made his way across the island. It was a treacherous trip but finally he reached the mission station occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Mathieson.

He was completely worn out and soon fell into a deep sleep. About 10 o'clock his faithful little dog, Clutha, jumped on him and woke him up. Looking out, he saw that savages surrounded the house. Some had blazing torches; the rest were armed with various weapons.

In horror he watched them set fire to the church close by and then to the reed fence that connected the church and the mission house. In a few minutes the mission house, too, would be in flames! Meanwhile the infuriated men waited. They knew the missionaries would try to escape. As soon as they came out they would kill them!

Humanly speaking, the situation was hopeless. Kneeling in prayer, the missionaries committed themselves to the Lord Jesus. Then, in a desperate move, Paton opened the door and rushed outside to cut the reed fence. Instantly he was surrounded by a company of savages with raised clubs shouting, "Kill him! Kill him!"

"They yelled in rage," says Paton,

"but the invisible Lord restrained them and delivered me. I stood invulnerable beneath His invisible shield."

Just at that moment a rushing, roaring sound came from the south. An awful tornado of wind and rain was coming fast! If it had come from the north, the flames from the church would have quickly reached and burned the mission house. Instead, the wind blew the flames away from the house and soon a torrent of rain was falling. The natives were terror stricken! They ran away, shouting: "This is Jehovah's rain! Their God is fighting for them and helping them."

Their fright was short-lived, however. Early the next morning, they returned, determined to kill the missionaries this time. They came closer and closer, shrieking wildly.

There seemed no hope for escape. Then suddenly the shrieks turned to cries of, "Sail O! Sail O!" The missionaries were afraid to believe their ears. But it was true: a ship was sailing into the harbor just when all hope seemed lost!

The missionaries were soon rescued and taken to Aneityum. "In joy we united our praises," says Paton. "Truly our precious Jesus has all power. Often since have I wept over His love and mercy in that deliverance."



UNCLEAN ANIMALS

Acts 10:1-3, 5, 7-20

1 There was a . . . man. . . called Cornelius. . .

2 A devout man, and one that feared God. . .

3 He saw in a vision. . . an angel of God coming to him and saying. . .

5 . . . Send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

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

8 And . . . sent them to Joppa.

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

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

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

12 Wherein were all manner of 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: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

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

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

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

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

The Message: God used the vision of unclean animals to convince Peter that salvation was for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

After Tabitha was brought back to life Peter stayed on in Joppa for many days. He made his home with a man named Simon who was a tanner. It was here in his home that Peter had a very strange vision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The voice then answered, "What

God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Jesus claimed, "All power is given unto Me" and promised, "Lo, I am with you." John Paton's life and miraculous experiences proved the truth of this wonderful promise!

Paton intended to work on his translation of the Bible in Tannese while in Aneityum and then to return to Tanna as soon as possible. But after consultation with the other missionaries, he agreed to go first to Australia, then to Scotland, to arouse greater interest in the work of the New Hebrides. He hoped to recruit new missionaries and especially to raise a large sum of money for the building and upkeep of a sailing ship. This would be a great help to the missionaries in their work of evangelizing the Islands.

Paton remembered the time in his childhood when the potato crop failed and the other crops were poor. The Paton family, like other peasants, was in great want. They ran out of both food and money while his father was away on a business trip. The trusting mother took the matter to the Lord in prayer and assured the children that He would supply their needs in the morning.

Sure enough, a basket of food arrived from an unexpected source the very next day. Gathering the children around her, the mother said, "My dear children, love your Heavenly Father. Tell Him in faith and prayer all your needs, and He will surely supply them, so far as it shall be for your good and His glory."

Besides this experience in his childhood Paton knew the Lord had been with him during his days in Tanna. He had guided, protected, and miraculously delivered him with a mighty hand. He was confident that God would also supply the material needs of the Mission. And he was not disappointed. The gifts of money poured in after the people heard Paton's thrilling account of his experiences and the great need of the work.

While in Scotland, Paton was married to Margaret Whitecross. Together they sailed back to the South Seas. They reached Aneityum in August, 1866.

Mr. and Mrs. Paton established a new Mission station on Aniwa, the nearest island to Tanna. By God's help they would lead the Aniwas to Christ while waiting for the day when they could return to Tanna. They built a house for themselves and two houses for orphan children. Later a church, a printing house, and other buildings were erected.

But the Aniwas were just as brutal and uncivilized as the Tannese. They were cannibals with the same superstitions and mentality. They often stole the missionaries' belongings and tried to kill them many times.

One day while Paton was working quite a distance from home his axe slipped and cut his ankle severely. He begged some of the native men to carry him to his hut. They demanded that he pay them something before they would help so he gave several fishhooks to one of the men. This man took him a short distance, put him down and ran away. Paton begged a second man for help but he refused until he was paid. When Paton gave him some fishhooks he carried him only a few steps then put him down and ran away. This happened several times before he finally got back to his home. Meanwhile, the wound bled profusely and Paton suffered intensely.

(To be continued)

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Aug. 14, 2011

GOD'S POWER TO TRANSFORM

Continued

One day while John Paton was serving as missionary on the island of Aniwa he needed some tools from his hut. He wrote a note on a piece of wood and handed it to a chief, named Namakei, asking him to take the piece of wood to Mrs. Paton.

"But what do you want?" the old chief asked.

"The wood will tell her," Paton replied.

Namakei thought this was some strange sort of joke but he did as Paton asked. He was amazed when Mrs. Paton sent just what her husband wanted.

The missionary took advantage of this opportunity to tell him about the Bible, through which he could hear God "speak" to him. The old chief seemed to understand.

This made Namakei wish to have the Word of God printed in his own language. He did everything he could to help Paton with the translation and was a great help. Meanwhile he saw that he needed to learn to read. When the first section of the Bible was finally printed, he asked eagerly: "Missi, can it speak? Does it speak my language?"

"Yes, it does."

"O Missi, make it speak to me!"

Paton read a few verses to him.

and the chief exclaimed joyfully, "It does speak! It speaks my own words! Please give it to me." After pressing it to his heart, he handed it back disappointedly saying, "Missi, it will not speak to me!"

Paton explained that he must first learn to read, and then he could make the book speak. Noticing that the chief's sight was poor, he found a pair of glasses to fit him and Namakei cried with glee, "I have gotten back the sight I had when I was a boy. O Missi, make the book speak to me now!"

Namakei studied hard. As soon as he could read, he would say to the people: "Come and I will let you hear how God's book speaks our own Aniwan words. Listen to these beautiful words, telling why the Missi came to live among us wretched people and of his Friend Jesus who always goes with him, to make him strong in all his work."

Somewhat haltingly he read the words: "Go and make disciples of all nations. And lo, I am with you alway." So little by little the savages learned that the missionary was not alone. They could see by his life that God was working through John Paton. And now God's precious promise could be read in their own language!

Paton wrote, "Among the heathens every true convert becomes at once a missionary. The changed life, shining



CORNELIUS

Acts 10:1-6; 21-28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited

for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

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

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

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

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

The Message: Peter learned that Jesus' commandment to go to all nations meant that the Gospel should be preached to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews.

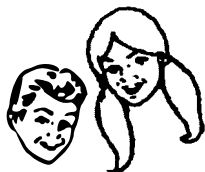
Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
Acts 10:34

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

So when the men from Cornelius knocked at Simon's gate Peter was already expecting them. Three men stood there inquiring for him, just as the Spirit had said. "I am Simon Peter," he told them. "What do you want?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

out amid the surrounding darkness, is a gospel in largest capitals which all can read."

Namakei turned out to be an excellent exhibit of "the new creature in Christ". Water was very scarce on the island of Aniwa. The little water that was available caused terrible disease because it was not fresh. So Paton decided to dig a well. When he told Namakei, the old chief thought the Missi had lost his mind.

But Paton was determined. He worked hard for many days in spite of the severe heat. The well caved in one night but he cleared it out again.

Namakei tried to persuade him to stop this mad and stupid project. He informed him that water comes only from the sky. If he should strike water by digging in the ground he would surely drop through into the sea and be eaten by sharks! Paton listened to his reasoning but kept right on digging.

Eventually he came out of "Jehovah's well" with a jug full of water. Namakei hesitantly took the jug, tasted the water, and then cried: "Rain! It is rain! The world is turned upside down since Jehovah came to Aniwa!" Cautiously he and the others peered into the well to see "Jehovah's rain" springing up below.

"Is this well just for you and your family?" they asked.

"No, all of you may come and drink as much as you need." Paton assured them.

Namakei asked Paton, "Missi, may I help you in the service next Sabbath? I'd like to preach a sermon on the well." Paton readily agreed.

A large crowd was at church the next Sabbath because they had heard that their chief, Namakei, would be the preacher. He delivered a powerful and eloquent message, closing as follows: "Friends of Aniwa, something here in my heart tells me that the invisible God does exist and that I shall see Him some

day when the heaps of dust are removed which now blind my old eyes, just as we saw the water that had so long been invisible, when the dirt and the coral were removed in making the well. From this day, my people, I must worship the God who has opened for us the well. Let every man who thinks as I do go now and fetch the gods of Aniwa, that they may be destroyed. Let us stand up for Jehovah God who sent His Son Jesus to die for us and to bring us to Heaven."

After this message many followed their chief's example. They turned from their heathen idols to serve the true God.

After many requests, Namakei finally got permission to go to Aneityum with Paton to attend the yearly meeting of the missionaries. He was now very old and feeble. At the meeting he was delighted to hear that people from various islands were accepting the Gospel and turning from their heathen ways. "Missi," he said, "I am lifting up my head like a tree. I am growing tall with joy."

After a few days on Aneityum the old chief became sick as he was resting under the shade of a Banyan tree. "O Missi," he whispered, "I am near to die! Tell my people to go on pleasing Jesus. O Missi, let me hear your words rising up in prayer. My dear Missi, I will meet you again in the home of Jesus."

So he died victoriously. Under the transforming power of the living Lord this chief who had once been a cannibal became a new person!

(To be continued)

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

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Aug. 21, 2011

FAITHFUL UNTIL THE END

Continued

John Paton knew that God was with him in his effort to bring the Gospel to the savages on the islands of New Hebrides. He was fearless in facing the dark forces of evil because he knew God's power was greater still!

Six of Paton's ten children were born while they continued in their missionary work on the island of Aniwa. Four of these died in early childhood or in infancy.

While Paton learned the language and reduced it to writing, his wife worked with the native women. She taught a class of about fifty women and girls who became experts at sewing, singing and plaiting hats, and reading. Their lives were busy training teachers, translating the Scriptures, ministering to the sick and dying, besides holding worship services every Lord's Day.

After enduring many years of hardships and dangers, Paton's efforts began to produce results. One after another accepted the Lord as their Savior until the entire island of Aniwa professed Christianity. In 1899 he saw his Aniwa New Testament printed. And there were missionaries on twenty-five of the thirty islands of the New Hebrides!

Paton felt it was worth all the hardships and sorrow just to see one life changed from the dark ways of heathens to the joyful happy life of a Christian! Naswai was one whose life was transformed. He was the teacher of the school in his village and a happy Christian.

On day some visitors came to see for themselves what the Gospel had accomplished on Aniwa. After showing them the mission and its school, Naswai told them, "When you return tell your people how we of Aniwa have been changed. As heathens, we quarreled, killed, and ate each other. We had no peace, no joy, in heart or house or land. Now Jehovah has changed all our black hearts and we live as brethren, in peace and happiness."

Namakei, the old chief who led his people to the Lord, had a daughter named Litsi. The missionaries had taught Litsi from the time she was a small child and she became a noble example of Christian womanhood. Since she was the daughter of the most important chief on the island she was called "the Queen of Aniwa." In time she married a man named Mungaw. One night Mungaw was shot and killed by Nasi, a chief from Tanna.

Some time after this Litsi went to Tanna. But she did not go to get revenge. She went to tell the very



RELEASED BY AN ANGEL!

Acts 12:1-11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true

which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

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

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

The Message: God can deliver from the most impossible situation. Peter was so confident of this that he was able to sleep soundly though he faced almost certain death the next morning!

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize
... there is no other God
that can deliver after this
sort. Daniel 3:29

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

to a soldier on each side of him. He could not possibly escape!

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

people whose chief had killed her husband about the love of Christ! Other Christians from Aniwa joined her to help spread the Gospel.

So even though Paton was driven away from Tanna, the prayer he prayed so often at that sacred spot where he buried his wife and baby was being answered. He said: "Whenever Tanna turns to the Lord and is won for Christ, men will find the memory of that spot still green. It was there that I claimed for God the land in which I had buried my dead with faith and hope."

What faith? What hope? Faith in the promise! Hope in the text! "Lo, I am with you alway." Assured of that sweet and abiding Presence, Paton knew that mighty transformations would take place—that savages would become saints and murderers would become missionaries!

Tanna was finally reached by the mighty power of the Gospel and claimed for Christ. It was some of Paton's converts on Aniwa who accomplished this. God did not forget the blood of martyrs that was shed on the Island of Tanna. Through the Gospel He caused good to triumph over evil. The naked, murderous, brutal slaves of satan were set free to serve God joyfully and sing His praises!

Paton challenged the atheists and infidels to visit this island. He knew they would have to know there was a God when they saw the changed lives of these native people. They were not only civilized by the Gospel but truly converted like the Thessalonians who 'turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God' (I Thessalonians 1:9).

It was a happy day when Paton himself revisited Tanna. Old Nowar, the friendly chief, was overjoyed to see him and Mrs. Paton, and urged them to come back to the island to live. He promised them food and protection

though he realized that what he had to offer was both inadequate and unnecessary. He knew the missionaries had God as their Protector! He remembered many times that Paton was saved from certain death.

Telling of this visit Paton wrote, "Then he led us to that chestnut tree in the branches of which I had sheltered during that lonely and memorable night when all hope of earthly deliverance had perished, and said to Mrs. Paton with a manifest touch of genuine emotion, 'The God who protected Missi in the tree will always protect you!'"

John G. Paton was a true hero of faith, sent by God. Even savage eyes could see that the unfailing Presence of his omnipotent Lord was with him.

We salute such noble soldiers of the Cross. They leave us a challenge to trust in the unchangeable and faithful God. His son, F. H. Paton, wrote: "In his private conversation and in his public addresses, my father was constantly quoting the words, Lo, I am with you alway, as the inspiration of his quietness and confidence in time of danger, and of his hope in the face of human impossibilities. So much was this realized by his family that we decided to inscribe that text on his tomb in the Boroondara Cemetery. It seemed to all of us to sum up the essential element in his faith and the supreme source of his courage and endurance."

—John Paton passed away in Australia, January 28, 1907 at the age of 83.

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Aug. 28, 2011

MARY SLESSOR MISSIONARY TO AFRICA

Mary Slessor was one of the most amazing missionary women ever. Her life seemed like one great adventure with God. From her earliest memories Mary longed to be a missionary in Africa. As a child, her mother taught her about Calabar, the deadly coast of Nigeria, known as "the white man's grave." Like other Scottish children, Mary donated her precious pennies to help the mission work.

Mary's father, Robert Slessor, was an alcoholic. He would spend his money for liquor then come home ready to abuse anyone who got in his way. The mother protected the children as best she could but they soon learned to stay out of his sight until he fell into a drunken sleep. This caused much suffering. Finally Mary's mother had to go to work to try to support the family.

At the age of only eleven Mary, too, went to work as a common mill hand, preparing jute and flax for the weavers. Because she was just a little girl the long hours of work left her exhausted. Yet in the evenings she attended school. She learned reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, sewing, knitting, and a little music. If she was too tired to follow the arithmetic

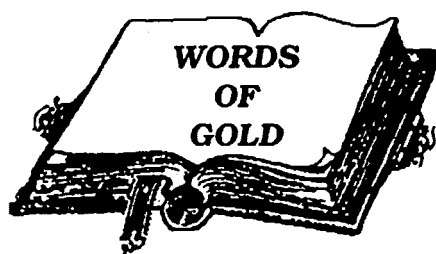
problems, the teacher punished her by making her stand during class.

The Slessor family lived in a rough and rundown area. In winter it would be dark when she left school. It was dangerous as she dodged drunks and thieves walking home alone to do her chores and face her father. And facing her father was not something to look forward to!

Mary described herself as a tomboy who loved to run barefoot, jump, and climb trees. But one day an old widow gathered Mary and some friends around her hearth. Pointing to the fire blazing in it, she warned them that unless they repented and believed in Christ, their souls would burn in the fire of hell forever and ever!

The words went like arrows to Mary's heart; she could not get the vision of eternal torment out of her mind. Finally she decided that it would be best for her to make her peace with God. She "repented and believed." She would sometimes say that it was hell-fire that drove her to the Lord. But once she found the Lord she found Him to be full of love and tenderness and mercy.

Mary enjoyed reading the Bible. She read it as a message addressed to her personally. She found it contained important news that was of great personal interest to her. It made



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

Questions:

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

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

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It must be his angel," someone decided.

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

at the same time.

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

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

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

But God had intervened. The prayers of the saints were answered in a way far beyond what they had imagined or dared hope! Jeremiah wrote, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee!" Jeremiah 32:17

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

God very real to her; One who was actually close to her at all times. He was overflowing with love and compassion and ready to listen to her, to heal and guide and strengthen her. It was wonderful! She diligently read her Bible to learn all God had to tell her so she could always do His will.

Mary loved the story of Christ most of all. It was His love, so strong, so tender, so pitiful, that won her heart and devotion and filled her with happiness and peace that suffused her inner life like sunshine. In return she loved Him with intense love. She felt that she could not do enough for One who had done so much for her. As the years passed she surrendered herself more and more to His influence. Her great love for Christ made her ready to do anything she could for Him, no matter how humble or difficult it might be. It was this passion of love and gratitude, this abandonment of self, this longing for service that made Mary a successful soul winner in Africa.

After she became a Christian, Mary tried to help children whose lives were as bleak as her own. She held Bible classes to tell them of the Friend she had found in Christ Jesus. She took her classes of boys into the countryside for picnics where they raced and played games.

Some toughs did not want to hear what Mary had to say. They jeered and slung mud at her. On one particular occasion, a gang of teenage boys got hold of her and forced her to stand still while one of them swung a piece of sharp metal on the end of a length of string around his head, gradually letting out the string so that the metal whizzed closer and closer to her face. He said "Tell me you'll go home and forget this foolishness, and I'll let you go."

Mary said, "Do what you want, but

you'll not get me to give up my Bible teaching!" The boy kept swinging the string and asked her if she was ready to give up. Mary kept silent. The metal cut across her forehead and blood flowed down her face but she didn't take her eyes off the boy who stopped swinging the string and dropped the weight.

She said "Now you've had your fun, won't you come in and see what this is all about?" Confused by her reaction, the gang of boys followed her in and later that day gave their lives to Jesus. Years later, that same boy, now a man, sent Mary a framed photo of himself with his wife and family, telling her that her classes were the turning point in his life. Mary proudly hung that picture on the wall of her mud hut in Africa.

Another boy, a bully, used to stand outside the hall with a whip in hand driving the young fellows into "Mary Slessor's meeting," but refusing to go in himself. One day Mary faced him. "If we changed places what would happen?" she asked.

"I would get this whip across my back," he replied.

She turned her back. "I'll bear it for you if you'll go in," she said.

"Would you really bear that for me?" he asked.

"Yes, and far more—go on, I mean it."

Instead he threw down the whip and followed her in to the meeting. That very day he gave himself to Christ.

(To be continued)

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Sept. 4, 2011

AFRICA AT LAST!

Continued

Mary Slessor knew that working for God in Africa would be much harder than her work among the rough boys at the mission. The poor people of Africa were frequently described by such words as: "bloody," "savage," "cruel," "cannibals," "murderers." Certainly this was not the kind of people you would naturally choose to work with!

But, Mary reasoned, such were we when God sent His Son to save us. Jesus looked down from Heaven and saw the awful wickedness, yet He was willing to leave His beautiful home and come down to work among such evil men.

Mary would never hesitate to do anything that she thought her Master would do. Instead she welcomed the hardest tasks, and considered it an honor and privilege to do them to please Him.

Mary knew from reading her New Testament that Christ meant for His disciples to spread His Gospel throughout the whole world. She knew, too, that this was a command to every one who loved Him. So with the assurance that this was what God wanted her to do she quietly pursued her dream of becoming a missionary. She told no one but patiently prepared for the coming change. In the factory she took charge of two 60-

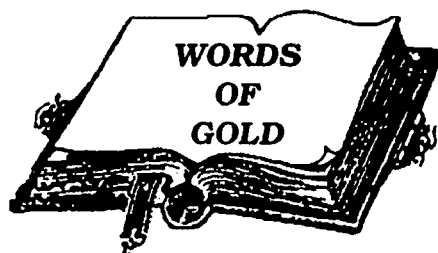
inch looms. This was hard work for a young woman, but she needed the money. She felt it was worth all her effort in order to reach her goal.

Early in 1874 the news of David Livingstone's death created a wave of enthusiasm for missionary work. When the call for workers for Africa came, Mary was inspired into action. She told her mother of her hopes and plans. Her mother gave her glad consent even though she knew she might never see her beloved daughter again. She would gladly make any sacrifice for the Gospel to be taken to those who had never heard of Jesus.

Eventually Mary asked the Presbyterian Church to send her to Calabar. In 1875, her answer came in the mail. "Dear Miss Slessor, I take great pleasure in informing you that the Board of Foreign Missions accepts your offer to serve as a missionary, and you have been appointed teacher to Calabar." Mary, now twenty-seven years old, read the words joyfully.

Through the years she had given her hard earned wages to help support the family. Would her family be able to make it without her income from the factory? She reviewed the situation and decided that her sisters could now make it without her support.

In December the Board asked her to come to Edinburgh. There she



BARNABAS AND SAUL IN ANTIOCH

Acts 11:19-30

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 And there stood up one of them

named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

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

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

Acts 12:24-25

24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Acts 11:23

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

far from Antioch. Barnabas decided he would go find Saul.

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

would receive special preparation for the mission field at their expense. The night before she left Dundee, in March 1876, she tearfully told a friend, "Good-bye." Then she added passionately, "Pray for me!"

Mary was a total stranger in Edinburgh but she made friends quickly. Some of the other students asked why she would go to a place so dangerous that it was known as 'the white man's grave.' Her ready reply was that since it was a post of danger, it was therefore also a post of honor. Since few would volunteer to serve there this is where she wished to go, because the Master needed her there.

When Mary had any leisure time from her studies she helped at the mission. Her one desire was to always be busy for the Lord. Finally the Committee was satisfied that Mary was ready for the mission field and decided to send her to Calabar at once.

Mary was now twenty-eight years old. She was mature in mind and strong in body. Timidly, yet with high hopes and unshakeable faith in God she faced the fulfillment of her lifelong dream—she was going to Africa as a missionary!

Two of her friends went with her as far as to Liverpool. Then, on August 5, 1876, she sailed from Liverpool on the steamer Ethiopia. Seeing a large number of casks of whiskey being loaded on the same ship, she exclaimed ruefully: "Scores of casks of rum and only one missionary!" Mary's father had been a drunkard so she knew the suffering caused by whiskey. This made her more determined to tell the natives that they could escape a drunkard's life and have the peaceful Kingdom of God living in their hearts!

When she arrived in Calabar Mary quickly learned about cruel gods carved of wood and stone. The natives sacrificed humans to these gods. A person suspected of doing

wrong might be forced to eat poison beans, or boiling oil might be poured over him. The gods were supposed to protect the innocent from harm, but of course they didn't. Every one tested by these methods was "guilty."

These savages enslaved and branded each other. Slaves were expendable, and when a chief died, dozens were killed. Other evils included throwing unwanted babies into the bush to be nibbled by insects or gobbled by leopards. Twins were believed to be a great evil. One had the devil as its father, said the natives, but since no one knew which one, both were buried alive or thrown into the forest. Their mother was driven away to die. The tribes fought and danced and got drunk. Sometimes they ate one another. Everyone lived in fear.

Mary could see why this was known as the White Man's Grave. Only a fool could come here without being afraid. The land just a few miles from shore was still unexplored. Killer elephants and lions, swarms of insects, witch doctors, and cannibals lived there. To enter that land would surely mean death!

Had she committed herself to an impossible work? What could one frail, timid woman do, confronted by such a frightful situation? Overwhelmed and depressed, she knelt and prayed, "Lord, the task is impossible for me but not for Thee. Lead the way and I will follow."

Rising, she said courageously, "Why should I fear? I am on a Royal Mission. I am in the service of the King of kings."

(To be continued)

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Sept. 11, 2011

CONQUERING CANNIBALS

Continued

Mary Slessor was the only woman aboard the steamer that carried her to her mission field in Africa. A small boat from the mission came alongside the steamer and took her to shore.

It was immediately obvious to Mary that this strange, wild land was far different from her home in Scotland. She saw huge, hideous alligators sunning on the mud banks and swimming in the streams. She saw some of the natives who had been captured. They were kept in pens until the slave-ships arrived to take them far away from their homeland. Those who survived the treacherous journey would be sold as slaves.

Mary's first assignment was to Duke Town. Here the missionaries had built a school, hospital, orphanage, and chapel. On any Sunday there were several hundred natives in services. It was encouraging to see the effect of the Gospel on these natives as they stopped some of their heathen practices.

Mary was anxious to work directly with the natives so she made up her mind to learn their language as quickly as possible. Soon she spoke their language so well that the natives admitted that she could speak it better than they could. Now Mary could go among the people without a translator. She was warned that it was dangerous to travel alone, but she found that she could get

to know the people better this way.

Sometimes at night Mary would lie awake on a dirt floor in some coastal village. "Oh Lord," she prayed, "I thank Thee that I can bring these people Thy Word. But Lord, there are other villages back in the jungle where no white man has gone. They need Jesus, too. Help me reach them!" Then, whenever she had an opportunity, she would ask another missionary or a native if she could go to these villages. The answer was always the same: "No. You would be killed. They cannot be reached."

Her worst enemy was the tropical disease that hit her so suddenly. Many times it looked like she would surely die. It would have been easy to just give up and leave this unhealthy mission field and go back home to the cool mists of Scotland. But Mary had come for a purpose; she was determined to reach as many as she could and teach them about Jesus.

But when she caught malaria she became extremely sick. As soon as she was able to travel she was sent back to Scotland for a yearlong furlough to get her strength back. When she did return Mary was overjoyed to find that she had been posted further upstream in a place called Old Town and could live in her very own mud hut. Her first view of the place was of a human skull swinging from a pole in front of the town meeting house!



THE FIRST MISSIONARIES

Acts 13:1-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 And said, O full of all subtilty and

all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Acts 13:2

Let's



Talk . . .

The church at Antioch continued to prosper. It grew so large that it took several teachers to minister to the people. These teachers often met with Barnabas and Saul to pray for the work of the church. One day as they fasted and prayed the presence of God was felt in a very special way. The Holy Spirit spoke plainly telling them, "Set Barnabas and Saul apart for the special work to which I have called them." They all understood that God wanted Barnabas and Saul to go and preach the good news of Jesus' love to others.

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

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

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

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

But a sorcerer named Bar-Jesus, who was also called Elymas, began to dispute the truth. Saul could see that the devil was using Elymas to keep the truth from the governor. The Holy Spirit directed Saul to warn him, "You child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness, will you always oppose the ways of the Lord? And now the hand of the Lord is upon you and you will be blind for awhile."

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Mary gradually won the trust of the local people by fearlessly living with them, speaking their own language, treating their sicknesses, teaching the children and giving advice and care to anyone who asked.

One morning she found a newborn baby on her doorstep. She suspected that it was either unwanted or one of a twin. Over time she raised many babies. She wove baskets for each of them. She would then hang these from the ceiling. Attached to each one was a length of string. At night, if she heard one of them crying she would pull the string and rock the baby back to sleep. Throughout her mission life she received and cared for hundreds of babies. Most of them died, but she cared for them and loved them, and tried to show the people that every life is important.

Mary soon became known throughout the area for her wise, fair counsel. There was a Christian chief, King Eyo Honesty the Sixth, who often asked Mary for advice in dealing with white men. She, in turn, asked him for help in working with the natives.

Mary wanted to leave the coast and live in the interior, in the midst of the head-hunters and cannibals. When one of the men missionaries went into this district to seek permission to settle, he was captured and narrowly escaped with his life. Nevertheless, Mary determined to go. "I must go forward and onward," she declared. King Eyo tried to discourage her but she was determined. She had already started going alone to villages on foot, singing loudly so as not to startle the leopards, lions, snakes and hippopotamion the way. By now she had a reputation among the natives. They called her the 'White Ma' whose head was on fire because of her red hair.

King Eyo offered her the use of his best royal canoe and paddlers to take her to the village of Ekenge. The parting words from her friends in Old Town were "Be careful. Don't trust

them. If they kill you we promise to avenge your murder!"

On the third of August 1888, she stepped into the canoe with five native orphans, children she had rescued from death. The oldest child was a boy of eleven, the youngest a baby in her arms. It was a miserable day because it rained all day long! Night had already fallen when the canoe was pulled up in the riverbank and it was still a four-mile walk through the forest to Ekenge!

Mary took the baby in her arms and bravely struck out along the forest path. The children were terrified! They knew deadly snakes, leopards and other vicious animals lurked all around them in the dark. She had to urge them to follow her.

It was understood that the men would follow her with the bundles of food and clothing. Soaking wet, hungry and exhausted, Mary and the children waited for the loads to arrive. After awhile news reached her that the men were tired and had gone to sleep in the boat! Although she was exhausted she was forced to go back the way she had come, this time barefoot because she had pulled off her boots to rub her swollen feet and could not get them back on. When she got back to the canoe it was too far out on the river to reach from the bank, so she had to jump into the crocodile-infested river to get to it, wake the men and persuade them to bring the boxes to the village! Thoroughly exhausted, Mary again retraced the four miles through the forest and brought them all on to Ekenge by midnight.

(To be continued)

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



"COME UNTO ME"

Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Sept. 18, 2011

ON TO OKOYONG!

Continued

Mary Slessor was deeply burdened for the remote Okoyong tribe that had never heard the Gospel. How could she bring the love of Christ to these people as well? She knew God was leading her there. Mary was willing to trust God to show her how to win these savage people to Christ.

At last, in June 1888, she quietly announced that she would go upriver alone and find a place to settle. "You will die. You will die," her friends told her. They wept at the prospect of her leaving. Nobody expected Mary to survive for long.

The farther they went, the more her twenty paddlers wanted to turn back. They feared the Okoyong. But the Lord was with the group, and they arrived safely. The Lord had also prepared the heart of the chief of the first village they found.

The chief liked Mary's brave spirit and gave her permission to stay in the village. She soon made herself quite at home among the people. With her own hands she helped build a mud-walled house. It seems unbelievable but Mary walked barefoot, lived on native food, drank unfiltered water, slept on the ground, and did many other things that would have quickly brought death to any ordinary person.

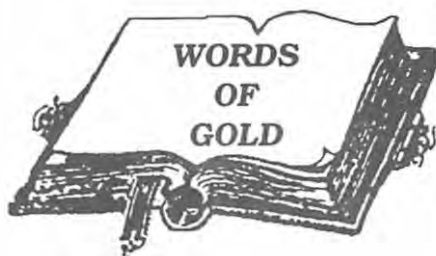
She trusted God to protect her and He did!

This area was far more wicked than any Mary had seen. The people respected only vengeance and cruelty. To a people who did not know what love was, Mary brought the love of Christ.

In the first few days she was there, one of the local boys was put on trial by the tribe. He was charged with deserting the ancient customs because he helped Mary clean and arrange her hut rather than go on a raiding party to a neighbouring village. As a punishment, boiling oil was poured over his hands and arms. Mary was not able to stop it but she angrily challenged the chief. He finally agreed to let her take the boy and care for him.

On another occasion, Mary challenged a warrior who was about to carry out a similar punishment on a woman. He danced around her carrying a ladle full of boiling oil. Mary stepped forward to intervene and instead he began to dance towards her. They got closer and closer until their faces were almost touching. The whole tribe was watching and waiting for the warrior to pour the oil over Mary. But she didn't flinch.

Suddenly the warrior cried out in disgust, threw down the ladle and stepped back. The crowd gasped. A white woman had challenged local customs and won! The tribe was in



MISTAKEN FOR GODS!

Acts 14:8-15, 18-22

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Message: Idol worship makes men act and do foolishly. God gives power and a sound mind to those who know and worship Him.

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

II Timothy 1:7

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

shock for days. They understood from this that the God of the white woman was stronger than their tribal gods. Bystanding up to the spiritual powers in courage and faith, Mary was able to give them the Gospel, and many received it.

Meanwhile in a village far from where Mary lived a chief was ill. His people waited in dread because they knew that if he died many of them would be killed, to be his attendants in the spirit world.

A woman from another village happened to be there. She told the chief's wives, "Through the forest at Ekenge there lives a white Ma who by her magic can cast out the demons who are killing your chief. She saved my own child. Why don't you send for her?"

The very lives of the chief's wives depended on the chief getting well. They quickly told the chief about the strange white woman. "Send for her at once," he ordered.

When the messengers finally reached Mary's house she was ready to go with them. She knew that it would be a long dangerous journey but she also knew that if the chief died many other people would die also.

When the local chief heard about the messengers, he warned her, "There are warriors out in the woods and you will be killed. You must not go."

So all through the night she lay awake, wondering if she should go on such a journey with so many risks and only a possibility of saving the sick chief's life. Early in the morning she knelt, praying that she might know the will of God in the matter. Assured in her heart that her Lord would accompany her, she set out at dawn.

After more than eight hours of walking, she staggered into the house of the sick chief. She was wet, exhausted, hungry and aching all over from fever. Mary did not lie down

for even a moment's rest but went immediately to the chief who lay unconscious on a mat on the mud floor. She did what she could for him and prayerfully watched him.

To everyone's amazement the chief regained consciousness the next day and was able to eat! Some days later he was quite well and all the people laughed and sang for joy, knowing that no one would be killed.

They gathered around Mary in gratitude and wonder, asking about her magic powers. She told them, "I have come to you because I love and worship Jesus Christ, the Great Physician and Saviour, the Son of the Father God who made all things. I want you to know this Father and to receive the eternal life which Jesus offers to all those with contrite and believing hearts. To know Jesus means to love Him, and with His love in our hearts we love everybody. Eternal life means peace and joy in this world and a wonderful home in the next world. My heart longs for you to believe in Jesus, to walk in His paths, and to know the blessings of eternal life through Him."

As the years passed by Mary became known as "the white Ma". Her name was known far and wide. They knew that she was good and brave and kind, but they thought she had very strange ideas. Many of them, however, began to realize that her brave and loving spirit came from the great God of whom she spoke so much.

(To be continued)

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 3 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Sept. 25, 2011

DEFYING DANGER!

Continued

One morning while Mary Slessor was sitting on her verandah she was startled by a sound from the jungle that surrounded her hut. She listened carefully then quietly took off in the direction of the sound, just as an animal would hurry to find it's young.

Following the sound she came to a young man who was badly injured. A log had fallen on him, paralyzing him. A Scots carpenter, working at a new house for Mary heard the cry too and followed the sound. Together they carried him back to his village.

Mary would not leave her patient. She gave him the best care she could but after two weeks he died.

As their custom was, the chief came in and viewed the dead body. Then he shouted his verdict, "Sorcerers have killed him! Bring the witch doctor!" When the witch doctor came he decided that a certain village was guilty of the young man's death. They must be punished! Immediately warriors went to this village where they captured a dozen or so of men and women.

Mary was shocked to see these innocent people brought in as prisoners loaded with chains. They would be killed, one by one. Mary could not stand the thought of this!

Finally Mary had an idea of how she might change the people's views about death. She would honor the young man's corpse! She dressed it in bright colors and fine clothes and placed it right in the middle of the people. She did every thing she could think of to show respect to the young man.

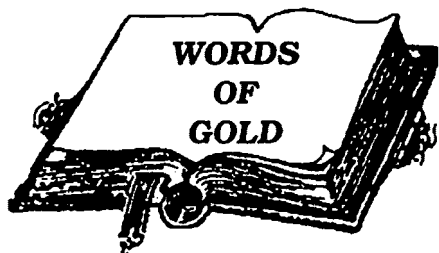
But the people seemed to not even notice as they continued their dancing and drinking. Meanwhile the prisoners were starving while for days the awful drunken party went on.

Mary and the brave Scots builder did not leave the scene at the same time. One or the other kept watch both day and night hoping for some way to save the doomed prisoners.

And day after day Mary pled and pled for the lives of these prisoners. "If only once this custom can be broken through," she thought, "there will be hope of stopping it."

Then, at last, one woman was chosen and led out to drink the poison cup. Watching her chance, Mary rushed to the prisoner and grabbed her! Quickly she dragged her away out of the circle and into her own house. She was safe there. Even the chief honored Mary's home as a sanctuary. The white 'Ma' could not be touched!

Slowly, by twos and threes, the prisoners were released after days of strained watching and pleading. Last



THE CALL TO MACEDONIA

Acts 16:9-19

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

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

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

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

13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

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

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

16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Mark 16:17

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

of all the rescued woman was allowed to slip out alone into the forest. Thus the white 'Ma' had her way.

Not long after this Mary was able to prevent another death penalty. One after another of those she had saved came to her secretly to thank her for her teachings of mercy. It touched her deeply to see the gratitude of these poor fear-ridden people!

One day Mary received a secret message saying that, in a district far away, a man of one village had wounded the chief of another village. Because of this the warriors of both villages were holding a council of war.

"I must go and stop it, else much blood will be spilt and many will be killed," said Mary Slessor.

"No, you cannot," replied her friends at Ekenge. "You have been ill and can scarcely walk. There are wild beasts lurking in the woods. The warriors are out and will kill you in the dark, not knowing who you are."

"I must go," she said and quickly made ready. Accompanied by two men with lanterns she set out through the darkness. At midnight she came to a certain village and asked the chief to provide her with a drummer so that people might know by hearing the drum that a protected person was traveling.

The chief was surly. "You are going to a warlike people," he said. "You are likely to get killed on the way. Anyhow, they would not listen to what a woman says."

Mary took this as a challenge. "When you think of the woman's power," she said to the chief, "you forget the power of the woman's God. I shall go on."

Turning, she disappeared into the darkness. The villagers thought she must be mad to defy their chief who had the power to kill her. She might be killed at any moment in the forest

by ferocious leopards or by savages infuriated by anger and by drink.

At dawn she came to the place where a large company of warriors were preparing to assault a village. She was too weary to walk, but her attendants shouted, "Run, Ma, Run!" She heard wild yells and the roll of war drums.

Running as fast as she could, she caught up with the maddened warriors and demanded that they desist from fighting. Stunned by her courage, they hesitated, while she walked boldly toward a regiment of fierce savages standing in the village ready to fight. Drawing near she called out, "I have come to help you settle this matter peaceably and justly. There is no need to shed many lives."

Just then, to her amazement, an old chief stepped toward her and knelt down at her feet! "Ma," he said, "we are glad you came. We admit that one of our drunken young men wounded the chief over there. It was an act in which the rest of us had no part. We are glad for you to speak with our enemy and help make peace."

Looking into the man's face, she saw to her joy that this was the very chief who was about to die several years before. It was a long, dangerous journey through the forest in the rain to nurse him back to health. She was so glad that she had gone! Now she could be a peacemaker between the two parties of wild savages. If she had not come many would have been killed.

(To be continued)

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Oct. 2, 2011

CONQUERING BY LOVE AND COURAGE

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

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

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

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

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

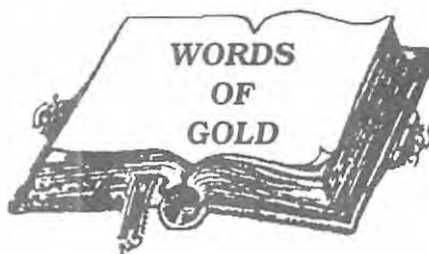
"Out of the way, Ma. We fight!" She ignored the shouting warrior.

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

"Shoot if you dare!" she called back.

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

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



SINGING IN JAIL

Acts 16:19, 20, 22-34

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

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

22 ...and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat *them*.

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

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

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

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

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

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

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and

fell down before Paul and Silas,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

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

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

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

"I will go with you. You will be safe."

"No. Too much bad."

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

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

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

In time, many of the Okoyong accepted the gospel. Free of their pagan fears and drunkenness, they could now understand God's love for them. The idols disappeared from the villages and in their place small

churches were built. A court system was established to settle disputes, and Mary was made the first judge.

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

On Sundays, Mary travelled around the neighboring villages on foot, ringing a bell, and waited for people to gather. If they didn't, she would go in and find them. Then she would bring them to a meeting area, lay out a tablecloth, open the Bible and preach. Her first sermon in this way was on John 5:1-24 "He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life."

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

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

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Oct. 9, 2011

IN THE SHADOW

In 1967 while taking a class in photography at the University of Cincinnati, I became acquainted with a young man named Charles Murray who also was a student at the school and training for the summer Olympics of 1968, as a high diver.

Charles was very patient with me as I would speak to him for hours about Jesus Christ and how He had saved me. Charles was not raised in a home that attended any kind of church, so all that I had to tell him was a fascination to him. He even began to ask questions about forgiveness of sin.

Finally the day came that I put a question to him. I asked if he realized his own need of a Redeemer and if he was ready to trust Christ as his own Savior. I saw his countenance fall and the guilt in his face. But his reply was a strong "No."

In the days that followed he was quiet and often I felt that he was avoiding me, until I got a phone call and it was Charles. He wanted to know where to look in the New Testament for some verses that I had given him about salvation. I gave him the reference to several passages and asked if I could meet with him. He declined my offer and thanked me for the scripture. I could tell that he was greatly

troubled, but I did not know where he was or how to help him.

Because he was training for the Olympic games, Charles had special privileges at the University pool facilities. Some time between 10:30 and 11:00 that evening he decided to go swim and practice a few dives.

It was a clear night in October and the moon was big and bright. The University pool was housed under a ceiling of glass panes so the moon shone brightly across the top of the wall in the pool area.

Charles climbed to the highest platform to take his first dive. At that moment the Spirit of God began to convict him of his sins. All the scripture he had read, all the occasions of witnessing to him about Christ flooded his mind.

He stood on the platform backwards to make his dive, spread his arms to gather his balance, looked up to the wall and saw his own shadow caused by the light of the moon. It was the shape of a cross. He could bear the burden of his sin no longer. His heart broke and he sat down on the platform and asked God to forgive him and save him. He trusted Jesus Christ twenty some feet in the air.

Suddenly, the lights in the pool area came on. The attendant had come in to check the pool. As Charles



MARS HILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to

think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

looked down from his platform he saw an empty pool which had been drained for repairs. He had almost plummeted to his death, but the cross had stopped him from disaster!

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18.

—Mark Renicker

Likewise, the cross can stop you from disaster. The Savior, Jesus Christ—who died for your sins on the cross, was buried, and arose three days later—can save you from the disaster of an eternity without the shelter of His sinless blood. You don't have to face eternity alone. If you are willing to turn from your sins and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ, He can and will save you!

Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Hebrews 4:7.

(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) II Corinthians 6:2.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13.

Call on Jesus today!

IMPLICIT OBEDIENCE

An English farmer was one day at work in his fields when he saw a party of huntsmen riding about his farm. He had one field he was especially anxious they should not ride over, as the horse's hoofs would greatly injure the crop. So he sent one of his boys and told him to shut the gate, and on no account to let anyone go through it.

The boy went and had scarcely

taken his post there, before the huntsmen came up and ordered him to open the gate. He declined to do so, telling them what his orders were, and that he meant to obey them. They threatened him but he did not mind their threats. They offered him money but he refused to receive it.

At last one of them came up to him and said in commanding tones, "My boy, you do not know me. But I am the Duke of Wellington. I am not accustomed to be disobeyed; and now I command you to open the gate that I and my friends may pass through it."

The boy lifted his cap and stood uncovered before the man whom all England delighted to honor, and then answered firmly: "I am sure that the Duke of Wellington would not wish me to disobey orders. I must keep this gate shut; no one can pass through it but by my master's express permission."

The brave old warrior was greatly pleased with this. Then he took off his hat and said, "I honor the man or the boy, who can neither be bribed nor frightened into disobeying his orders. With an army of such soldiers I could conquer not the French only, but the whole world." Then handing the boy a sovereign, he put spurs to his horse and galloped away.

The boy went back to his work shouting out as he did so, "Hurrah! Hurrah; I've done what Napoleon couldn't do, I've kept out the Duke of Wellington." —Bible Models

"...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,..." I Samuel 15:22.

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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THE KANSAS STREAM-LINER

The Kansas streamliner thundered toward them, its whistle warning country crossings. Blake and Zack dropped schoolbooks and waved to the engineer. "Sure wish I could be on it," Blake sighed. "I've never been on a train."

Blake stared after it. At last he added slowly, "Headed for New York. I've never been any place...That's a swell record for a guy eleven years old, isn't it?"

"You really want to ride on a train and live in a city?" Zack asked.

"I didn't say I wanted to live in the city. You just have more chance to do things there."

"Like what?"

"Oh—I dunno. I want to do something that really counts, something to show I'm a Christian. What can I do here?" He threw up his hands and hunched his shoulders.

"You helped me become a Christian," Zack reminded him. "Isn't that a big thing?"

"Oh, that's different. You're easy to talk to."

"Well, how about persuading Michael to swing over to God?"

"That guy?" Blake's eyes narrowed. "Not me. I invited him to church last week. He laughed, you know how he does, and sneered. 'Look who's talk-

ing! No thanks, Parson, I'm taking the Flyer to Wichita Sunday.'" Blake shook his head, "No sir-EE I'm not sticking my neck out any more."

"He won't be in school Monday?"

"Nope, coming back Tuesday, on the streamliner."

As they shuffled along the tracks, Blake's thoughts began nagging him; "You can't take a little sneering to win a fellow to God."

When Blake got home he knelt in his room. "Help me, Lord," he prayed. "I just can't talk to Michael." But God seemed far away.

Rain lashing against his window awoke Blake the following morning. Lightning cut the dark sky. As Blake stared from his window a deafening clap crashed overhead, in unison with a blinding flash. "That was too close for comfort—in your own backyard!" he thought

The three-day storm left a flooded world. Tuesday the great Kansas plains steamed in welcome sunshine as Blake shouldered his books and headed for the rural school. He glanced around for Zack, but his friend was not there. Nor Michael; he should be coming home today on the Flyer.

Blake missed Zack as he walked home. As he jogged along the tracks he glanced back to see them stretching to town like gleaming threads of steel reflecting the sun.



THE TENTMAKERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered

into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

I Corinthians 15:58

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Then, as he rounded the curving bank he stopped—shocked at what he saw. Just ahead he saw that a huge boulder had been loosened by the torrential rains. It had crashed down on the railroad tracks, completely blocking them! Blake glanced up to the enormous gap in the bank where it had been. A scattering of rocks spilled over the ground.

For one terrible minute Blake stood rooted to the spot. Then, as he fully realized the danger, he leaped forward and ran as he had never run before—for home and for help.

He gasped for breath, but he dared not slow down; the train was almost due. Rushing into the kitchen, he screamed, "Dad! Dad! Mom!" His voice echoed back emptily; then he remembered, "It is their day to shop in town." In panic he cried, "Please, please, Lord, what shall I do? It's up to me now, there's nobody else!"

His eyes swept the room. He spotted a large dishtowel hanging on a rack. Snatching it, he raced out the door.

As he flew over the ground he remembered, "Michael is on that train!" He sobbed as he stumbled on.

"Oh, please, Lord, let me get there in time. Give me another chance to win Michael for you."

Finally Blake's legs refused to obey him. Just as they started to buckle the warning whistle of the Flyer sounded across the plain. With one last spurt of determined strength Blake forced himself on. The tracks gleamed ahead.

The train was almost upon him. Frantically Blake beat the towel in the wind. Its whiteness caught the sunlight. "Make them stop, make them stop!" his heart begged.

The train thundered past.

Then—the brakes caught! The wheels screamed in the sudden force of their burning against the hot rails. The coaches clanged as they jarred together.

"Thank you, thank you!" he whispered under his breath.

He felt a bit dazed as he looked at the approaching engineer. "Why did you stop us, boy?" the engineer demanded in a frightful but puzzled voice.

Blake pointed to the circling bank ahead and stammered between gasps, "A rock—as big as your—engine. It's clear over—the tracks!"

The engineer caught his breath, and then whispered hoarsely, "Thank God." The passengers who heard his words echoed, "Thank God!"

From the small crowd a tall boy was coming toward him. It was Michael.

"You saved us." He said in a shaky voice. "Why—I could have been killed!"

The crowd began moving toward the great boulder and Michael walked beside Blake. "I thank you, Blake. You did a great thing."

Blake looked at his schoolmate. "Michael," he said firmly, "I have to tell you something. I learned today that the greatest thing anyone can do isn't stopping a train; it's stopping folks from going the wrong way. If you had been killed where would you be?"

Michael had no answer.

"God saved your life. He wants to save your spirit," Blake added.

For a long minute Michael stared back; then a look of understanding came over his face. He nodded slowly. "You're right, Blake. Show me how!"

Adapted from *Open A Memory*, a book of recitation given at the Christian School Assemblies in Myrtle, Missouri.

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Oct. 23, 2011

A MURDERER'S STORY

Colin tossed about desperately trying to sleep. Colin had been in prison now for two years and still had not got used to it. He missed seeing people; the warders were the only humans he saw because he had no visitors.

He had been convicted for 21 years by Judge Potter, who described him as 'a most evil man.' Colin was 41; he would be 60 before he was released. He used to think about this a lot and he had a chart which he would count down the days to his release.

Colin had never shown any remorse for his crimes. He had been a heavy drinker and a good fighter. That night, high on drugs with pistol in hand, life had no meaning. Eight people lost their lives that night, one of whom was a policeman.

Prison had not caused Colin to change. His mind was only focused on the day he would be 60 and a free man.

After he had been in prison 12 years the governor of the prison arranged for volunteers to visit those prisoners who did not have visitors. No details of crimes were given; it was up to the prisoners to volunteer this if they wanted to.

Colin was so surly and unwilling to talk that the volunteer would soon

move to a more co-operative prisoner. Finally an elderly man volunteered to visit him. He seemed quite happy just to sit in the visitors' room silent. Weeks went by in silence. Colin could not understand why he had not scared off this volunteer and could not understand why he was happy sitting in silence. Even when Colin became abusive, the man still kept silent.

The visits went on and the elderly man patiently took the torrents of abuse. One day he asked Colin, "What are you going to do when you're out of prison?" Colin admitted that he had no idea what he would do. He asked the volunteer what he was looking forward to.

The elderly man smiled and said, "When I die." Colin was shocked and questioned him. He quietly explained that he only wanted to make sure that he was ready to meet his Maker.

"Where are you going when you die? Think about that, Colin, and make your plans," the elderly man advised.

After the volunteer left Colin lay awake thinking, "Who is my Maker, what if I never get out of here?"

The volunteer did not come on the next scheduled visit but sent a small book for Colin. Colin's mind could not



SEVEN SONS OF SCEVA

Acts 19:1-17

- 1 ...Paul...came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,
- 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.
- 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.
- 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.
- 5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.
- 8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months...
- 9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.
- 10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.
- 13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits

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

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

rest; he wanted the elderly volunteer to return. Another volunteer took the man's place, but Colin could not talk. He wanted to talk to the elderly man. He asked the warder to have his normal volunteer back and weeks later he returned.

He looked more elderly and frail. Colin started his barrage of questions. The man answered Colin's questions and explained that Jesus had come to earth and died for Colin so that his sins could be forgiven. He explained that God hated sin and he explained that those people who did not love God and did not keep His commandments would go to burn in hell, and those who loved God and who did what He commanded would go to be with Him in heaven.

"Doyou know, Colin, you are planning a short period of your life, but life goes on forever. As soon as you die, you will go to burn in hell forever unless you repent of your sins and plan your life with God. Please, Colin, while you have life in you repent."

The elderlyman then went on, "My son did not believe in God and was always saying that he would look at Christianity later in life. I warned him that God is angry with those who sin and I pleaded with him to plan his life with God and not with enjoyment. He was a policeman and was shot on duty on December 1st. He lost all chances to plan his life for God. I don't believe my son made it to heaven."

Colin was quiet; the date that had been fixed in his mind all those years jeered at him. He was the person who had killed this man's son! Never before had Colin showed remorse for what he had done. But by hearing this man state that his bullet, yes his bullet, had cut short a life and possibly someone was burning in hell because of him, Colin broke down with tears pouring down his face. He confessed that he was the man that had killed his son

and begged on his knees for forgiveness.

The elderly man was visibly upset and asked Colin to ask God to forgive him. He pleaded with Colin to put his life right and then opened his Bible and read "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3: 16)

Colin did ask God to forgive him and asked God to come into his life. He wrote to all the relatives of those he had killed and begged forgiveness. He removed the release chart and put up a Bible text in its place. He spent his days reading the little book, the Bible, given to him by the elderly volunteer and planned his life for God.

The warders saw an instant change in Colin who was now happy to be punished for his crimes and ashamed of his past. Colin spoke to all he came into contact with, and passed on the advice about planning their lives for Jesus. The elderly volunteer became a constant visitor. He and Colin spent their time preparing themselves for the time when they would meet their Maker.

Are you prepared? Don't put it off until it is too late like the policeman did. Get your Bible, read it and do what it commands. Do it now, while you have time.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6.

—Children's Tracts

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Oct. 30, 2011

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

How would you feel if you bought a \$19,300 diamond for a dollar bill? I think you would feel quite happy. You might be delirious with joy!

FOUND

Mrs. Shirley Martin, whose husband is a postman, bought a dollar box of buttons from a Salvation Army thrift store in Vancouver, B.C. Two weeks later, while going through the box, she found a diamond. Gemologist Hans Reymer appraised the stone at \$19,300. It measured about three-eighths of an inch across! Late one night, while her husband was asleep, Shirley Martin discovered the gem. She went into the bedroom and woke her husband. "Look," she said, "I've found a diamond!" "Oh, you've always got some crazy idea," he said.

There is another Precious Stone—the Pearl of Great Price. You may find Him. There is no cost to you, not even a dollar bill! Jesus said, "If any man thirst (for true riches), let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37.)

However, when you find Him, there may be people, perhaps your own friends or loved ones, who will think you have a crazy idea. But Paul said, "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Timothy 1:7.)

APPRAISED

Shirley Martin took the diamond to twelve different jewelers. One appraised it at forty-nine cents! He told her it was a synthetic diamond made in Sweden and of no value!

"Half the jewelers said it was not a genuine diamond," said Mrs. Martin. "But the others," she continued, "just shook when they held it."

Perhaps half the people who talk about Christ and appraise Him do not accept Him as the Son of God. They will not acknowledge His immaculate conception, His virgin birth, or His resurrection from the dead. But the others, those who do accept Him, tremble with sheer joy as they behold Him. They know He is genuine!

SHINING

Mrs. Martin said, "All the facets of the diamond shone. It was alive! I grew attached to it." Likewise you will grow attached to Christ. There is none like Him. He is beyond comparison! He said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore..." (Revelation 1:18.)

MYSTERIOUS

When Shirley Martin took the diamond to one of the jewelers, the jeweler thought it might be stolen property. He called the police. The city police investigated the find; then



THE GODDESS DIANA

Acts 19:19, 24-29; 34, 35; 37-41

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 And when the town clerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the

Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana,...

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

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were called in. At first the police were suspicious. When they were satisfied that the diamond was not stolen, Mrs. Martin was permitted to keep it. Where it came from is still a mystery!

Paul said, "Behold, I show you a mystery." The whole of the gospel story is a mystery. Who can explain God? His workings? His plan of redemption? His coming again? But the fact remains: the Pearl of Great Price is yours to have and hold. Then one day the mystery will be cleared up. John said, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2.)

What a find! A \$19,300 diamond in a box of old buttons! Yet Christ, the pearl of Great Price, has also been found in many strange places:

A diver was convicted of his sins and accepted Christ as his Saviour while working on the bottom of the ocean.

A workman who fell off a bridge received Christ into his heart while falling through the air. He lived to tell about it and was true to his testimony.

And you, too, may find Christ, the Pearl of Great Price, while going through your button box or while working in the garden. Just sincerely believe and you will find Him! He will find you!

—Selected

GOD'S ATOMIC FORCE

A German lady visited in our home. She had been born in Germany and the doctrines of Anti-Semitism under Hitler had been instilled in her in early youth. She hated the Jews. She said she so despised them she felt she could spit in their faces. They were despicable, intolerable to her. Racial hatred was burning like a fire in her heart, and the people she hated most were the Jews. Then, later, a won-

derful transformation came into her life.

She gave away her jewelry, including her wedding ring, to a mission to the Jews to be turned into currency for Jewish relief work and evangelization. What had brought to pass such a right-about-face, such a drastic change in the heart and life of the woman? Nobody had instructed her. She had not been advised to sell her possessions of jewelry.

Instead of hatred-love! Instead of bitterness-compassion! Instead of unkind and cruel words-words of blessing! What had done it? The gospel of Jesus Christ! Although at the time of her conversion she was living in Canada (a democratic land), there had not been a change in her heart and life until Christ had come to abide. Then, the miracle had taken place—overnight! Instantaneously!

You tell me Christ does not change lives and I present to you our German visitor. Perhaps you question whether or not there is anything to the Christian faith. Show me anything (or anybody) that can change a heart from bitterest hatred to love overnight—love so compelling that the most cherished possessions are freely given to the people once hated—and I will believe. Won't you? The gospel can and does do it! God's atomic force is love!

Paul said, "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 1:16.)

TALL TALES THAT ARE TRUE by Arthur H. Townsend

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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JAKE

Bill was a big, awkward, homely guy. He dressed oddly with ill-fitting clothes. There were several fellows who thought it smart to make fun of him. One day one fellow noticed a small tear in his shirt and gave it a small rip. Another worker in the factory added his bit, and before long there was quite a ribbon dangling. Bill went on about his work and as he passed too near a moving belt the shirt strip was sucked into the machinery. In a split second the sleeve and Bill were in trouble. Alarms were sounded, switches pulled, and tragedy was avoided.

The foreman, however, aware of what had happened, summoned the men and related this story: "In my younger days I worked in a small factory. That's when I first met Mike. He was big and witty, was always making jokes, and playing little pranks. Mike was a leader. Then there was Pete who was a follower. He always went along with Mike. And then there was a man named Jake.

"He was a little older than the rest of us quiet, harmless, apart. He always ate his lunch by himself. He wore the same patched trousers for three years straight. He never entered into the games played at noon, wrestling,

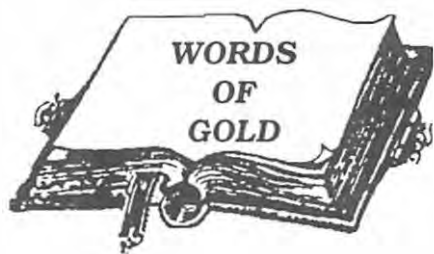
horse shoes and such. He appeared to be indifferent, always sitting quietly alone under a tree instead. Jake was a natural target for practical jokes.

"He might find a live frog in his dinner pail or a dead rodent in his hat. But he always took it in good humor. Then one fall when things were slack, Mike took off a few days to go hunting. Pete went along, of course, and they promised all of us that if they got anything they'd bring us each a piece.

"So we were all quite excited when we heard that they'd returned and that Mike had got a really big buck. We heard more than that. Pete could never keep anything to himself, and it leaked out that they had a real whopper to play on Jake.

"Mike had cut up the critter and had made a nice package for each of us. And, for the laugh, for the joke of it, he had saved the ears, the tail, and the hoofs. It would be so funny when Jake unwrapped them.

"Mike distributed his packages during the noon hour. We each got a nice piece, opened it, and thanked him. The biggest package of all he saved until last. It was for Jake. Pete was all but bursting; and Mike looked very smug. Like always, Jake sat by himself; he was on the far side of the big table. Mike pushed the package



THE BOY WHO SLEPT IN CHURCH

Acts 20:7, 9-12, 18, 19, 22-25, 36, 37, 38

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

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

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

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

37 And they all wept sore...

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy,...

Acts 20:24

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said, "You know how I have worked and lived among you. I have taught you publicly and in your homes. I have testified to both the Jews and the Greeks. I feel that I must go to Jerusalem but it is hard to tell what will happen there.

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

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

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

over to where he could reach it; and we all sat and waited.

"Jake was never one to say much. You might never know that he was around for all the talking he did. In three years he'd never said a hundred words. So we were all quite astounded with what happened next. He took the package firmly in his grip and rose slowly to his feet. He smiled broadly at Mike and it was then we noticed that his eyes were glistening. His Adam's apple bobbed up and down for a moment and then he got control of himself.

"I knew you wouldn't forget me," he said gratefully; I knew you'd come through! You're big and you're playful, but I knew all along that you had a good heart." He swallowed again, and then took in the rest of us.

"I know I haven't seemed too chummy with you men; but I never meant to be rude. You see, I've got nine kids at home and a wife that's been an invalid, bedfast now for four years. She ain't ever going to get any better. And sometimes when she's real bad off, I have to sit up all night to take care of her. And most of my wages have had to go for doctors and medicine. The kids do all they can to help out, but at times it's been hard to keep food in their mouths. Maybe you think it's funny that I go off by myself to eat my dinner. Well, I guess we've been a little ashamed, because I don't always have anything between my sandwich. Or like today maybe there's only a raw turnip in my pail. But I want you to know that this meat really means a lot to me. Maybe more than to anybody here because tonight my kids..." he wiped the tears from his eyes with the back of his hand, "...tonight my kids will have a really..."

He tugged at the string. We'd been watching Jake so intently we hadn't paid much notice to Mike and Pete. But we all noticed them now, because

they both dove at once to try to grab the package. But they were too late. Jake had broken the wrapper and was already surveying his present. He examined each hoof, each ear, and then he held up the tail. It wiggled limply. It should have been so funny, but nobody laughed, nobody at all.

"But the hardest part was when Jake looked up and said "Thank you" while trying to smile. Silently, one by one, each man moved forward carrying his package and quietly placed it in front of Jake for they had suddenly realized how little their own gift had really meant to them...until now..."

This was where the foreman left the story and the men. He didn't need to say anymore; but it was gratifying to notice that as each man ate his lunch that day, they shared part with Bill and one fellow even took off his shirt and gave it to him. When God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work, this is a gift of God.

DELIVERANCE

God could have kept Daniel out of the lions' den. He could have kept Paul and Silas out of jail. He could have kept the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace. But God has never promised to keep us out of hard places. What He has promised is to go with us through every hard place, and to bring us through gloriously!

—Driftwood

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Nov. 13, 2011

VAN'S SCARS

Elizabeth and Harold Hornlet had four children: Van 14, Susan 12, Debbie 11, and Caleb 6. Caleb's round baby face broke into laughter at the simplest joys, or it showed tears over the least bit of teasing. Susan, a bookworm could be found on rainy or sunny days curled up in her bed with a book. Debbie, a ball of energy, cleaned, baked and made crafts for every occasion. When not in school Van worked side by side with his carpenter father. He could complete a job to perfection or run a crew of men in his dad's absence. However, his hot temper and sharp tongue often got him into trouble.

"You're going to kill someone if you don't control your temper. Think what could happen," Mr. Hornlet told Van when he threw his hammer.

"You're too thoughtless. Think how your words sound. Think how others feel when you speak so harshly," Mrs. Hornlet scolded. They spanked. They grounded. Van didn't change.

One day, Mr. Hornlet said, "I'm going to drive a nail into the tree in the back yard every time you hurt someone. Maybe that will help you to see how careless you are."

The following day Van shouted at Caleb, "You look like a jack-o-lantern, your round face and missing teeth. I don't want to see you again."

"I can't help if I have no teeth," Caleb wailed.

Dad drove a nail in the tree.

At the table he yelled, "Sounds like I'm eating beside a pig. Slop, slop, slurp, goes little piggy Caleb."

Dad drove another nail in the tree.

Dinner was ready and Van was hungry but Debbie's craft materials were scattered all over the table. "Such a mess!" he stormed. Then scooping up a great handful he wadded them up and threw them in the trash.

"You've ruined the cards for the children in the hospital," Debbie cried.

That evening Dad drove another nail in the tree.

The tree was filling quickly with nails as the days went by.

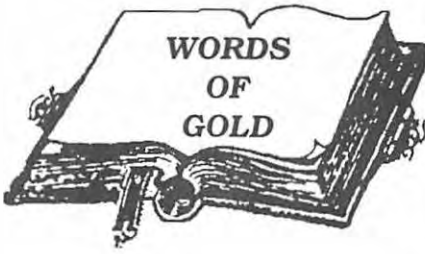
One day Van was teasing Susan about reading so much. "Stop before you hurt her," Mother warned.

"Give me my book," Susan pleaded.

"Here, Caleb," Van called and pitched the book to him. Caleb missed it. The heavy book hit the lamp. The lamp toppled against a vase of flowers. Both fell and broke against each other. The vase had red food coloring in the water to tint the white rose petals. The red water poured over the new library book.

"It's your fault," Van stormed at Caleb. "You can pay for it." Caleb ran to his room, crying.

That night Dad drove four nails in the tree; one for Mother's lamp and



A RIOT IN THE TEMPLE!

Acts 21:26-36

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

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

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

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

Someone remembered that he had

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

vase, one for the book and one each for Caleb and Susan.

All Van's Saturday earnings went to pay for the ruined book. A worker accidentally stepped on Van's hand. In blind anger Van threw down his hammer. It flew against the wall breaking three of the four windows leaning there. "You'll work several more Saturdays to pay for those," Mr. Hornlet said.

Another nail in the tree.

When the neighbor boys learned why the nails were in the tree they began calling Van, Vampire. Almost every day one would ask, "Got any more nails in the tree, Vampire?"

Van lashed at them.

More nails and more nails.

Mr. Hornlet realized that Van was helpless to overcome his angry habits. He took Van to the river and while they fished, they talked. "The tree is pretty loaded."

"I know, but I can't do anything about it. I try to control my temper. What's a guy gonna do? Anyway, everyone thinks I'm bad, guess I just as well be bad and live up to my new name."

"There's a way out, Son. Remember 'The Lion and the Mouse' fable? The lion was caught in a trap. He thought there was no way out. But a little mouse did a very simple thing and the lion went free. (She chewed the rope that held the trap.) A very simple act will set you free."

"What is it, Dad?"

"Jesus came to open the prison doors and set the captives free. He will set you free, if you will confess your sin and trust Him to change you."

"But, Dad, that's being a coward. I should be able to control my own actions."

"You can with God's help. Tell you what, I'll start pulling out a nail every time I catch you saying or doing

something nice for those you have offended."

"Really, Dad? Some day there will be no nails in the tree?"

"That's right!!"

"I'm gonna try."

"What's the first step?"

"Hum m m m Oh, yes, ask God to come into my heart and change it."

"Yes, Jesus said what's in your heart affects what you say."

Van reeled in his line, closed his eyes and asked Jesus to make him a different guy.

The following day, Dad pulled three nails out. Van helped Caleb do his homework, he washed dishes for Debbie so she could make new cards for the sick children and he praised his mother for the good dinner.

Although there were some days when Dad had to drive in a nail, more nails were coming out. Finally the day came when Van watched Dad remove the last nail from the tree.

"Ah, Dad," he said. "The tree's a mess. Will it always be that way?"

"The tree will always be scarred."

So it is, when we hurt others it leaves a scar both on us and on the person we hurt. They may forgive and we may overcome our bad habit as Van did but only God can remove the scars. Some bad habit scars are almost impossible to be removed. Think of this when you are tempted to sin.

By Charlotte Huskey adapted from *Nails in the Post* by M.F. Cowdery

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Nov. 20, 2011

THANKSGIVING

For Christians, Thanksgiving means much more than just turkey and football. Most of us know that this holiday began when the Pilgrims invited their Indian neighbors to dinner to thank God for His provisions. But there really is much more to the story.

The Atlantic crossing in the fall of 1620 had been an extremely difficult journey for the Pilgrims. For two months, 102 people were wedged into the cargo space of the boat, which only had about five-and-a-half feet of headroom. No one was allowed above deck because of the terrible storms. This was a long dangerous trip, but only one person died during the voyage.

The Pilgrims comforted themselves by singing the Psalms, but this "noise" irritated one of the ship's paid crewmembers. He told the Pilgrims he was looking forward to throwing some of their corpses overboard after they succumbed to the illnesses that were routine on such voyages. But as it turned out, this crewmember himself was the only person on the voyage who died and was thrown overboard. God providentially protected His people. A little-known fact about the Mayflower is that this ship normally carried a cargo of wine. The

wine spillage from previous voyages had soaked the beams in the cargo area where the Pilgrims were, acting as a disinfectant to prevent the spread of disease.

During one terrible storm, the main beam of the mast cracked. Death was certain if this beam could not be repaired. At that moment, the whole Pilgrim adventure could very easily have ended on the bottom of the Atlantic. But, providentially, one of the Pilgrims had brought along a large iron screw for a printing press. That screw was used to repair the beam, saving the ship and all on board.

After sixty-six days at sea, land was sighted off what is now Cape Cod, Massachusetts. But that was not where the Pilgrims wanted to be. They had intended to establish their new colony in the northern parts of Virginia (which then extended to the Hudson River in modern-day New York,) but two factors interrupted their plans. The winds had blown them off course, but they also learned that some other Englishmen who wanted to settle in the same northern part of Virginia had bribed the crew to land them somewhere else.

Once again God was in charge and the Pilgrims were right where God wanted them to be. Had they actually landed near the Hudson River, they would have most certainly been



THE SERMON ON THE STAIRS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou

shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

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

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

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

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

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

Questions:

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

Verse to Memorize

For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9:16

Let's



Talk . . .

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

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

"Can you speak Greek?" the captain asked.

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

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

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

But Paul assured the captain saying, "I am a man which am a Jew

of Tarsus. I beg you; let me speak to the people."

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

attacked by hostile Indians. Instead, there were no Indians on Cape Cod when the Pilgrims made landfall there.

Many years before some local Indians had captured a Frenchman on a fishing expedition in that region. Just as he was about to be killed, the Frenchman told the Indians that God would be angry with them, would destroy them all, and would replace them with another nation. The Indians boastfully told him that his God could never kill them. However, those Indians nearly all died of the plague a year or two before the Pilgrims arrived. When the Pilgrims landed in that same region, the land had already been cleared and the fields had already been cultivated by the Indians.

Despite this provision of safety from the Indians, the Pilgrims barely survived their first winter on the Cape. Only four families escaped without burying at least one family member. But God was still faithful. In the spring of 1621, He sent Squanto to them, an Indian who could speak their own language and who offered to teach them how to survive in this strange new land.

Squanto was one of the few Indians from that area who had not died of the plague. As a young man he had been captured and taken to England as a slave. During that time he mastered the English language. Later he was set free and returned to his native territory shortly before the Pilgrims arrived. Probably the most important thing Squanto taught the Pilgrims was how to plant the Indians' winter staple crop—corn.

The Pilgrims thanked God for this wonderful helper. They gladly shared with Squanto the most valuable treasure they had brought with them from

England—the Gospel. Squanto died within a year or two after coming to the aid of the Pilgrims, but before his death he asked them to pray for him that he might go to be with their God in Heaven.

Other Indians who Squanto had introduced to the Pilgrims were also impressed with their God. During the summer of 1621, when it appeared the year's corn harvest would not survive a severe drought, the Pilgrims called for a day of fasting and prayer. By the end of the day, it was raining. The rain saved the corn, which miraculously sprang back to life. One of the Indians who observed this miracle remarked that their God must be a very great God because when the Indians pow-wowed for rain, it always rained so hard that the corn stalks were broken down. But they noticed that the Pilgrims' God had sent a very gentle rain that did not damage the corn harvest.

It was that same miraculous corn harvest that provided the grain for the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving meal with their Indian friends and helpers. Today, many of our public school children are taught that we celebrate Thanksgiving because the Pilgrims were thanking their Indian neighbors for helping them. But the evidence of history shows that on that first Thanksgiving Day the thanks of both Pilgrims and Indians went to God for His great goodness toward them all. —Selected

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

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Nov. 27, 2011

THE BEST GIFT

"Harvest Festival is coming soon," exclaimed Rachel to Sarah. "What are you going to give?"

"I can't tell."

"I've been working on mine a long time."

"Me, too."

Jon shuddered every time he heard the students talking about the Harvest Festival. He was an orphan who slept in a widow's shed and shared her meager supply of food. She had persuaded the Christian school to accept Jon and insisted he go every day. Unlike the other children who dressed in fine clothing, Jon went barefoot and in old clothes.

When Harvest Festival day arrived Jon wanted to skip school. But how could he? The widow might get angry and send him away. She always found out when he missed school, and always knew when he was pretending sick.

On Harvest Day, every student carried a sack. Rachel and Sarah's sacks were so large they could hardly handle them. One was round; the other oblong. Jon wondered what could be in the sacks. Jon sneaked sadly into the schoolroom and pretended to be looking at a book while the other children chattered excitedly.

When the bell rang the students placed their sacks under their desks and scrambled into their seats.

Mr. Groom, the teacher started the class with prayer, as he did every day. But today his prayer was much longer. As he prayed he stressed how important it was to give a gift to God. Jon squeezed back a tear.

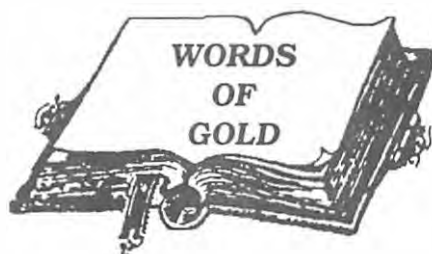
Other students finished their lessons quickly but Jon could hardly keep his mind on his. And then the bell rang announcing the Harvest Festival.

Students from all the rooms filed into the church sanctuary and sat in groups according to their class. Jon was glad his class sat close to the front. He could see what was happening.

Large baskets of red and yellow roses, mixed with white carnations, and bluebells stood at each end of a low wooden bench. On the bench was a shiny silver plate. Jon gazed in wonder; he had never been in such a beautiful building.

The pastor, a gentle faced old man, led the children singing "The Harvest Song" after which he said a long prayer thanking God for the bountiful harvest. Then he said, "We have brought gifts for God to show we love Him and are thankful. The older students will present their gifts first."

The older students' teacher stood and called a name. Jon slid to the front of his seat and watched. A student walked forward and placed a sack of pears in the large shiny plate on the



PAUL'S NEPHEW

Acts 23:11-22

11 And the night following the Lord stood by him (Paul), and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

12 And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

14 And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

15 ...signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow...and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

16 And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he...told Paul.

17. Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

18 So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

19 Then the chief captain...asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

20 And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would inquire

somewhat of him more perfectly.

21 But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

22 So the chief captain *then* let the young man depart, and charged him, *See thou* tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

The Message: The Lord told Paul he would witness for Him at Rome. God fulfilled His word in spite of the vow of forty men to kill him before he could leave Jerusalem.

Questions:

1. Who stood by Paul one night?
2. Where did He say Paul would bear witness for Him?
3. What was the curse that the Jews bound themselves with?
4. Who did they tell about the curse?
5. What did they intend to do when the chief captain brought Paul?
6. Who heard they were lying in wait for Paul?
7. Who did Paul send him to?
8. How many men were lying in wait for Paul?
9. What did the chief captain tell the young man?

Verse to Memorize

And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Acts 23:11

Let's



Talk . . .

The second night after his capture Paul lay on the hard floor of the castle. Suddenly he saw the Lord standing by him. "Be of good courage, Paul," the Lord told him. "Just as you have spoken boldly for me in Jerusalem, you are to speak boldly for me in Rome also."

These words encouraged Paul. He did not know how this promise would be fulfilled but he was assured God would take him to Rome. He had wanted to visit Rome for a long time; now this was to be granted. God was not through with him yet!

Paul's enemies were not satisfied to have him in prison. They wanted him killed. So over forty of them vowed that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. They hurried to tell the chief priest and rulers about their plan.

"We have bound ourselves under a great curse," they told them. "We will eat nothing until we have killed Paul. We want you to help us. Tomorrow ask the chief captain to bring him to you as if you wanted to question him. Then as soon as he comes we will be ready to kill him!"

That same day a young man hurried to the castle and asked to see Paul. Since he was a relative the guards led him to Paul's cell. It was a pleasant surprise when Paul looked up and saw his nephew, his sister's son, standing there.

"Uncle Paul," the young man said excitedly, "there is a plot among the Jews to kill you! I overheard it so

have come to warn you. Tomorrow the chief priests plan to ask the chief captain to bring you to the council again, saying that they want to ask you certain questions. But the band of over forty men will be lying in wait. As soon as the guards turn you over to the temple authorities they will kill you."

Paul asked a centurion to take the young man to the chief captain because he had something to tell him. So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, "Paul the prisoner asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to say to you."

Kindly the chief captain took Paul's nephew by the hand and led him to a place where they could talk privately. "What do you have to tell me?" he asked.

Encouraged by the captain's kindness, Paul's nephew said, "The Jews have agreed that tomorrow they will ask you to bring Paul down to the council as if they wanted to question him about something."

"But do not do it because more than forty of them have bound themselves with an oath saying that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed Paul. They will soon come and ask you to promise to do as they ask"

The chief captain looked very grave as he listened. "Make sure that you do not tell anyone what you have just told me!" he warned the young man.

Paul's life was in great danger. This was apparent to the chief captain. He must get him out of Jerusalem. He decided to send his prisoner to Felix, the governor of Caesarea. That was the Roman capital of Judea and the danger of riot would not be so great in this distant city with a strong Roman garrison. He would send Paul away that very night. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

altar. All the other students clapped. Then the pastor took the pears from the plate and placed them beside the bench. The student returned to his seat and the teacher called another student.

Jon's heart grew heavier and heavier as each student went forward and laid a gift in the large silver plate.

The pile grew as each student presented his gift. There were big, little and middle sized bags of rice; black, brown and white beans, dried corn, a bunch of bananas, pink pears, brown potatoes, red yams, green and yellow squash, and large orange pumpkins.

Now Mr. Groom was calling names from his class. Sarah went up carrying a large orange pumpkin. "I grew it myself," she proudly told Mr. Groom. Jon's heart raced. He slipped way down in his seat.

Then came Rachel carrying a striped watermelon. M-m-m, it looked so good!

Jon began to cry. He just couldn't help it. "Oh, God," he prayed. "I have no gift to take up. Could you make Mr. Groom not call me? But I love you, Jesus, it's just..."

Then God seemed to whisper in his ear, "My son, just give yourself. That is the gift I want from you today."

"What? I have a gift? Yes, I will," he mumbled.

Sarah put her finger to her lips telling him to be quiet. Jon just smiled back at her.

When his name was called, he slipped out of his seat and walked down the aisle to the altar. He reached for the shiny silver plate and placed it on the floor. Then he stepped into the silver plate with his bare feet. The other students snickered. Some had to cover their mouths to keep from laughing aloud. But Jon looked seriously into the eyes of the pastor for a moment. Then he stepped out of the plate placed it back on the altar and

returned to his seat. No one clapped until the pastor began clapping.

After the service the pastor took Jon aside and asked him why he had done such a strange thing.

"I also wanted to give a gift to show Jesus that I am thankful, but I have nothing, so I gave Him myself. Don't you think that is a good gift?"

"Of course it is. It is the best gift of all."

Jon looked at the mountain of food beside the altar. There was Sarah's pumpkin and Rachel's watermelon. Was his gift better than all the food? It was more food than he had ever seen.

"I must be very important," he said to himself. Charlotte Huskey

HONORING GOD

Charlie was going home with his uncle. All night they were on a boat that was furnished with tiny beds on each side of the cabin, called berths. When it was time to go to bed, his uncle said: "Hurry and jump into your berth."

"May I first kneel and ask God to care for us?" asked Charlie.

"We'll be taken care of," said his uncle.

"Yes, but Mother always told me not to ever take anything without first asking for it."

Charlie's uncle had nothing to say to that, so Charlie knelt down, just as he did at his bed at home, and asked God to care for them through the night. That was honoring God. It took courage, but Charlie set a good example.

Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. At Rome. 3. They neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 4. The chief priests and elders. 5. Kill him. 6. Paul's sister's son. 7. The chief captain. 8. More than forty. 9. To tell no one what he had told the chief priest.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Dec. 4, 2011

A THRILLING STORY FROM ALASKA

I went to Alaska in 1897 to the Copper River country on a grub stake. As I was sledding my personal effects, grub and mining outfit, my eyesight began to fail. I had noticed that my eyes were not good about two weeks before.

Finally I came across a deserted cabin. I stopped in this cabin and let the crowd go by, as they expected to find plenty of gold. What hardships men will undergo to find the gold which perisheth!

With my bedimmed eyes, I thought it wise to rest a few days in hopes that my eyesight would improve. But to my surprise and dismay, my eyes kept getting worse, and after 30 days my sight was gone, and there was no apparent reason why I was blind.

My eyes were not inflamed, neither did they pain me. My sad affliction led me to think and wonder about what would become of me. I was alone, had little fuel, and I did not expect anyone to come to the cabin. Deep snow had covered every trail, and there I was, shut out from the world, alone, and blind. There was nothing left for me to do but to remain, eat up my provisions, lie in my cot and keep from freezing. I just waited to

see what would turn up.

A panorama of my past life went before me. I was compelled to think, and I also discovered that I was cornered; there seemed to be no way out. I did not believe I would ever see again. I felt that if I could only die and never be found, it would be a relief. Twice in my life before I had been given up to die but this was worse; I wanted to die and could not. I was yet well in body, except that I was poor, old, and blind.

I had a wife and one son in Denver who were depending on me. I had made one last effort to make another stake, and had failed. All hope had fled; the cabin was not in sight; I did not think it possible for anyone to come my way; there was no smoke to lead one to my cabin door; I was completely lost to all the world. Oh, the horrors of being lost. To be lost in this world is frightful, but oh, to be lost in the world to come—FOREVER!

In this loneliness, this lostness, I began to feel the need of God and of a Saviour. My mother's sweet face came up before me, and I remembered her prayers with vivid imagination, although she had been dead 40 years. She was a woman of faith, and always believed that God answered prayer. I remembered how she used to pray in the barn way back on the hay where



ALMOST PERSUADED!

Acts 24:10, 24, 25; 25:13, 14, 22, 23; 26:1, 24-29

10 Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself:

24 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

13 And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus.

14 And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix:

22 Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself. Tomorrow, said he, thou shalt hear him.

23 And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice,...at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth.

1 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself...

24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him:...

27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

The Message: Felix trembled when he heard the gospel and Agrippa was "almost persuaded" but so far as we know neither ever repented of their sins.

Questions:

1. Who beckoned for Paul to speak?
2. Of what nationality was Felix' wife?
3. Concerning what did Paul speak to Felix and Drusilla?
4. What did Felix do as Paul spoke of judgment to come?
5. What did Felix tell Paul?
6. Who told Festus that he would like to hear Paul's testimony?
7. Who told Paul that he was mad?
8. What did Agrippa tell Paul?

Verse to Memorize

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. Acts 26:28

Let's



Talk . . .

After Paul's nephew told the chief captain about the Jew's plot to kill Paul he sent him to Caesarea that very night. There he was turned over to Felix, the Roman governor.

Since Felix' wife, Drusilla, was Jewish he knew about the Christians and how the Jews hated them.

Five days later the high priest, Ananias, and the elders of Jerusalem came to accuse him. They brought Tertullus, a skillful lawyer, with them.

At the trial Tertullus was first to speak. He flattered Felix, telling him how thankful they were to have him as their governor. Then, pointing an accusing finger at Paul, his tone changed as he lashed out, "We have found this man Paul to be a terrible troublemaker. We captured him to judge him according to our law but the chief captain came and took him away from us by force."

Turning to those who had hired him with a sweep of his hand, Tertullus asked them if these facts were not so. One by one they nodded their assent.

Now Felix wanted to hear Paul's side of the case. He motioned for Paul to speak.

Paul said, "I speak for myself most cheerfully, Honorable Felix, because you have been a judge of this nation for many years." Then he explained that just twelve days before he had come to Jerusalem to bring his offerings and was in the temple when Jews from Asia started the riot. "The real issue," Paul explained, "is my teaching that Christ was resurrected from the dead."

Felix understood. "We will hear

you further when the chief captain has come," he said.

A few days after this Felix came with his wife Drusilla and sent for Paul. He wanted to hear more about his faith in Christ. Paul was glad to testify for his Lord. He spoke with such persuasion about righteousness, temperance and the coming judgment that Felix was deeply convicted of his sins. He trembled with fear at his words.

But he didn't repent! Instead Felix shook off conviction, saying, "Go away for now. When I have a more convenient time I will send for you." So far as we know he never found that 'convenient time' and was lost!

After two years Festus replaced Felix as governor. The Jews asked him to bring Paul to Jerusalem for trial but Paul appealed to Caesar, knowing the Jews would kill him if he went to Jerusalem.

While he waited to be sent to Rome, King Agrippa came to visit Festus and asked to hear Paul's testimony. Gladly Paul told Agrippa how he had been changed when Jesus appeared to him on the way to Damascus. Paul's words were earnest and convincing. Deeply moved, Agrippa said, "Paul, you almost persuade me to be a Christian!"

Paul's heart went out to this poor man who needed to be saved. If only he would yield while God was inviting. 'Almost' was not enough!

Have you ever 'almost' got to the bus in time or to the store before it closed? As you watched the bus leave without you or saw the store manager lock the door for the night it really didn't matter whether you were just one minute too late or an hour. You missed it!

How much worse to neglect salvation and to be lost eternally! The devil is expert at convincing people that there will be a better time to give up their sins and be saved. No doubt millions have been lost who had the best intentions of getting right with God before they died.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

we could not see her. She was the only one in the family who prayed. How I wished that I could believe as she did! I then began to think about praying myself. That was about all that was left for me to do, except to starve and die. I asked God to help me, to send someone to deliver me. I prayed all day and all night, until I went to sleep. I felt better when I was praying. But no answer came. I continued to pray for three days and three nights constantly, except when I would sleep a little. There was no answer, so I became discouraged.

Finally my eyes were turned upon myself. I knew that I was a sinner. I tried to think of something else, but my mind would revert to my own wretched condition, and involuntarily I would begin to pray again. I was cut off from all earthly assistance; I could only call upon God. My past life stalked before me like a ghost: the years of unbelief, and doubt, and sin. Perhaps this was why God did not answer my prayer. I began to think that I was completely cut off from God. Memory was active. "Am I lost from God? Why pray more? I am a lost man, and God will not hear me." I felt that all hope was gone.

Finally, I began to repent of my past life. I saw that I had made an awful mistake; my feelings overcame me for a time. What a sad hour that was to me! But hope, like the rays of the sun, came to my rescue again. I said to myself, "I will not give up: I will pray again." I determined to ask God to answer so that I might know that He heard me. If He would do so, I would believe on Him the rest of my life.

My sight came to me in the twinkling of an eye!

I could see as well as ever. It was sudden, so sudden that it fairly surprised me. I was not looking for such an answer. I was entirely overcome, and for a time I forgot everything. Oh, I exclaimed, God has heard and answered my prayer! This is the most wonderful thing I have ever heard of. God must be here, and it seemed that I could feel His very presence. Yes, yes, God is surely here, for, He has given me my sight; there is no mistake about it; I am sure that I was blind, but now I can see. Oh, this is wonderful! If I had only known about this wonderful God, I would have served Him all the days of my life.

I began to get happy. I shouted as loud as I could: "Glory to God!" I danced around that old cabin and praised God. I got the door open, got out and on top of the hard snow. The sun was shining. The whole woods seemed alive; the treetops were clapping their hands, and everything seemed to be praising God. My spiritual eyes had been opened; I was looking upon a new world. While nature seemed to dance, glisten and sparkle, the blessing in my own soul was more wonderful. I was filled with the glory of God—such peace, such ecstasy, is simply beyond language to describe. The impression made upon my mind is indelible. My whole life was changed in a moment." Old things had passed away; behold, all things had become new." (II Corinthians 5:17.)

—S. M. Rugg

Answers: 1. The governor. 2. A Jewess. 3. The faith of Christ. 4. He trembled. 5. "When I have a convenient season I will call for you." 6. Agrippa. 7. Festus. 8. "You almost persuade me to be a Christian."

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Dec. 11, 2011

THE WINTER MORNING GUEST

One winter morning in 1931, I came down to breakfast and found the table empty.

It was cold outside. The worst blizzard on record had paralyzed the city. The snow had drifted up two stories high against our house, blackening the windows.

Gently Dad told me our fuel and food supplies were exhausted.

"So what are we going to eat?" I asked.

"We'll have our devotions first, John Edmund," he said, in a voice that told me I should not ask questions.

My father was a pastor. As a Christian he'd been chased out of his Syrian homeland. He arrived as a teenager in the United States with no money and barely a word of English, nothing but his vocation to preach. He knew hardship of a kind few see today. Yet my parents consistently gave away at least 10 percent of their income, and no one but God ever knew when we were in financial need.

That morning, Dad read the scriptures as usual, and afterwards we knelt for prayer. He prayed earnestly for the family, for our relatives and friends, for those he called the "mis-

sionaries of the cross" and those in the city who'd endured the blizzard without adequate shelter.

Then he prayed something like this: "Lord, Thou knowest we have no more coal to burn. If it can please Thee, send us some fuel. If not, Thy will be done, we thank Thee for warm clothes and bed covers, which will keep us comfortable, even without the fire. Also, Thou knowest we have no food except milk for Baby Thomas. If it can please Thee..."

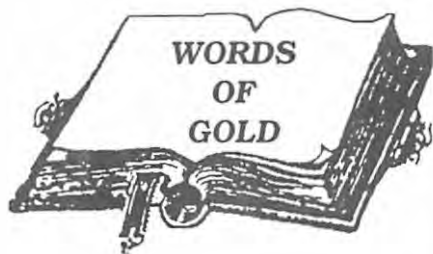
For someone facing bitter cold and hunger, he was remarkably calm. Nothing deflected him from completing the family devotions, not even the clamor we now heard beyond the muffling wall of snow.

Finally someone pounded on the door. The visitor had cleared the snow off the windowpane, and we saw his face peering in.

"Your door's iced up," he yelled. "I can't open it."

The devotions over, Dad jumped up. He pulled; the man pushed. When the door suddenly gave, an avalanche of snow fell into the entrance hall. I didn't recognize the man, and I don't think Dad did either because he said politely, "Can I help you?"

The man explained he was a farmer who'd heard Dad preach in Allegan three years earlier.



THE PROMISED MESSIAH

Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Deuteronomy 18:15

15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.

Numbers 24:15, 17

15 ...Balaam the son of Beor hath said,...

17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel....

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Jeremiah 23:5, 6

5. Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Daniel 9:25

25 Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Je-

rusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Micah 5:2

2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

The Message: After Adam and Eve sinned God promised to send a Savior Who would break the deadly power of sin.

Questions:

1. In Deuteronomy, what kind of prophet did Moses say God would raise up?
2. Who is speaking in our text from Numbers?
3. What did he say would come out of Jacob?
4. What did Isaiah say the Savior would be called?
5. Which prophet said His name would be called THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS?
6. Which prophet said it would be seven weeks from the commandment to restore Jerusalem to the Messiah?
7. What town did the prophet Micah say would be the place of the Savior's birth?

Verse to Memorize

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given; and the
government shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name shall
be called Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, The everlast-
ing Father, The Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

Let's



Talk . . .

God was grieved when Adam and Eve disobeyed Him and ate the fruit He had told them to not touch. Because of their disobedience God told them that they must leave their beautiful home in the Garden of Eden. He said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

This meant that some day a Child, or grandchild, or great grandchild of Eve's would "bruise," or crush the head of the wicked serpent and undo all the evil he had done. Someday a wonderful Baby would be born who would break the power of Satan and regain all that man had lost because of sin.

Eve may have thought that she would be the mother of this Baby, but she was mistaken. However, the promise was passed down through the years. In this way the hope of a coming Saviour and Deliverer was kept alive from century to century.

Moses certainly knew about the promise. He told the children of Israel that the Lord would raise up a Prophet like him. He told them they must accept Him and live as He directed them.

Balaam knew about it too, for instead of cursing Israel, as Balak wanted him to, he prophesied that Someone was coming who would be both a Light and a King. This reminded the people of God's promise and made them wonder even more when the promised Child would come.

The prophet Isaiah was more

definite. He told them what the sign would be of the Child's coming and even what His name would be. He renewed their hopes with the joyful words, "Unto us a child is born." This renewed confirmation of God's promise caused many that had lost hope to hope again.

Then the prophet Micah revealed the very place where the Child was to be born. He would be born in Bethlehem! The news spread like wildfire. All eyes turned expectantly toward Bethlehem.

But nothing happened. And as the years rolled by, Micah's prophecy was forgotten. The few who remembered it thought he must have been mistaken.

Then, after the Jews had been taken away into captivity and everybody was discouraged, another prophet brought thrilling news about the Baby. Daniel proclaimed that the angel Gabriel had told him the exact time when the great Deliverer would appear.

Gabriel, he said, had told him that "...from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:..." This was the most definite word yet sixty-nine weeks! "That's no time at all," people said. "He'll be here in less than two years!" But others said the weeks must be "prophetic weeks," with each day reckoned as a year. They were right. And this meant the world had to wait almost another 500 years. That is a long, long time, and as the years passed, Daniel's words were forgotten and people came to think that the wonderful Baby would never come.

Then, when many had given up hope altogether, something happened. The angel Gabriel came again, this time not to a prophet but to a girl named Mary. He brought great news from heaven! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"I awakened at four o' clock this morning," he said, "and I couldn't get you out of my mind. The truck was stuck in the garage, so I harnessed the horses to the sleigh and came over."

"Well, please come in," my father said. On any other occasion, he'd have added, "and have some breakfast with us." But, of course, today there was no breakfast.

The man thanked him. And then, to our astonishment, he plucked a large box off the sleigh. More than sixty years later, I can see that box as clear as yesterday. It contained milk, eggs, butter, pork chops, grain, homemade bread and a host of other things. When the farmer had delivered the box, he went back out and got a cord of wood. Finally, after a very hearty breakfast, he insisted Dad take a ten-dollar bill.

Almost every day Dad reminded us that "God is the Provider." And my experience throughout adult life has confirmed it. "I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor their children begging bread." (Psalm 37:25) The Bible said it. But Dad and Mom showed me it was true.

Written by John Edmund Haggai

WHO STOPPED THE TRAIN?

Years ago, while in Boston, Mass., Miss Margaret C. received word that her mother was dying in Nova Scotia, about fifty miles from Halifax. She started at once and took a through train for Halifax—the first she could get.

She asked the conductor if he would stop the train for her when they reached her destination. He refused positively. He said his orders were to go through to Halifax and he certainly should obey them.

"Well," she replied significantly, "there is a higher power superintending this train." So she ceased pleading with him, and looked to the Lord to stop that train so as to let her come

to her dear mother's side before she passed away.

About midnight the train began to slow up. The conductor came to her and said, "Here you are, just where you wanted to stop. There is a freight train on the track, and we have to wait. But we are not accustomed to stop here and there is no one at the station. You will be obliged to alight entirely alone, and it is not safe for you to stop here at this time of the night."

But as she got off the train she met her brother at the steps. Although he knew that train did not stop, and did not know she was on it, he had been obliged by some irresistible impression to get up and dress to go to that train.

While he was dressing his wife awakened and asked him why he was going to meet that train. "You know," she urged, "that train does not stop here."

"Yes, I know it, but I cannot sleep. I feel as if I must go, and I am going."

He harnessed his horses, drove to the station and brought his sister home in time to see her mother and minister to her before she died.

Now who stopped that train? He who knows the end from the beginning, and who foresaw the consequence of the careless act of someone connected with that road, moved his child to take the one train that could bring her to her mother's bedside, and sent her brother to meet her at the desired time. While sufficient faith can remove mountains, the mountains are not moved needlessly; and sometimes it would seem that God impels his children to ask for things that are already on the way.

—The Christian

Answers: 1. One like himself. 2. Balaam. 3. A Star. 4. Immanuel. 5. Jeremiah. 6. Daniel. 7. Bethlehem.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 61, No. 4 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Dec. 18, 2011

I KNEW YOU WOULD COME

A True story

By Elizabeth King English

Herman and I locked our general store and dragged ourselves home. It was 11:00 p.m., Christmas Eve of 1949. We were dog tired. We had sold almost all of our toys; and all of the layaways, except one package, had been picked up.

Usually we kept the store open until everything had been claimed. We wouldn't have woken up happy on Christmas knowing that some child's gift was still on the layaway shelf. But the person who had put a dollar down on that package never returned.

Early Christmas morning we and our twelve-year old son, Tom, opened gifts. But I'll tell you, there was something humdrum about this Christmas. Tom was growing up; I missed his childish exuberance of past years.

As soon as breakfast was over Tom left to visit his friend next door. Herman mumbled, "I'm going back to sleep. There's nothing left to stay up for." So there I was alone, feeling let down.

And then it began; a strange, persistent urge. It seemed to be telling me to go to the store. I looked at the

sleet and icy sidewalk outside. That's crazy, I said to myself. I tried dismissing the urge, but it wouldn't leave me alone. In fact, it was getting stronger. Finally, I couldn't stand it any longer, and I got dressed.

Outside, the wind cut right through me and the sleet stung my cheeks. I groped my way to the store, slipping and sliding. In front stood two boys, one about nine, and the other six. What in the world?

"See, I told you she would come!" the older boy said jubilantly. The younger one's face was wet with tears, but when he saw me, his sobbing stopped.

"What are you two doing out here?" I scolded, hurrying them into the store. "You should be at home on a day like this!" They were poorly dressed. They had no hats or gloves, and their shoes barely held together. I rubbed their icy hands, and got them up close to the heater.

"We've been waiting for you," replied the older boy. "My little brother Jimmy didn't get any Christmas." He touched Jimmy's shoulder. "We want to buy some skates. That's what he wants. We have these three dollars," he said, pulling the bills from his pocket.

I looked at the money. I looked at their expectant faces. And then I looked around the store. "I'm sorry," I



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 God's promises!

Questions:

1. Who was sent from God?
2. To what city was he sent?
3. To whom was the virgin espoused (engaged)?
4. What was the virgin's name?
5. With Whom had she found favour?
6. What was she to call her Son?
7. How long will His kingdom last?
8. Who else was expecting a son?
9. With Whom is nothing impossible?

Verse to Memorize

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

Let's



Talk . . .

Although it had been hundreds of years since God, through His prophets last mentioned the coming Savior, those who feared God still waited expectantly for Him.

One writer speculated that as the time drew near for the birth of Jesus there must have been great excitement among the angels in heaven. They knew that this was the most important event of the ages. The Lord, whom they adored, was about to leave the realms of glory to go and live on one of the smallest planets He had created. To show how much He loved all His creatures—even those who had rebelled against Him—He was going to come to earth as a tiny helpless baby and live as a man among men.

How much the angels understood about this miracle of miracles we do not know, but it must have seemed to them the greatest proof that God is love. They were so touched by this most gracious act that they wanted to tell everybody the wonderful news. They must have marveled that the people on the earth—except for a very few—did not give a thought to His coming. Nobody was preparing a welcome for Him!

Eagerly they watched as the years of Daniel's prophecy gradually came to a close. Then, at exactly the right time, not a moment too soon, not a moment too late, God called upon Gabriel to fly swiftly to the earth and find a girl called Mary.

The Bible does not tell us just why God chose Mary. But we do know that "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show 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 to have a son who would be a king to sit on David's throne and reign forever? It just couldn't be! She must be dreaming. Anyway, it couldn't happen, because she wasn't married. She was just betrothed to Joseph, that was all. And she told Gabriel so, in case he didn't know it.

Of course Gabriel knew it, and he was ready with his answer. If Mary 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

said, "but we have no—" Then my eye caught sight of the layaway shelf with its lone package. "Wait a minute," I told the boys. I walked over, picked up the package, unwrapped it and, miracle of miracles, there was a pair of skates!

Jimmy reached for them. Lord, let them be his size. And miracle added upon miracle, they were his size.

The older boy presented the dollars to me. "No," I told him, "I want you to have these skates, and I want you to use your money to get some gloves." The boys just blinked at first. Then their eyes became like saucers, and their grins stretched wide when they understood I was giving them the skates. What I saw in Jimmy's eyes was a blessing. It was pure joy, and it was beautiful. My spirits rose.

We walked out together, and as I locked the door, I turned to the older brother and said, "How did you know I would come?"

I wasn't prepared for his reply. His gaze was steady, and he answered me softly. "I asked Jesus to send you." The tingles in my spine weren't from the cold. God had planned this. As we waved good-by I turned home to a brighter Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE COLD

When the snow lies deep in the North and the cold of forty and fifty below strikes through to the bone, a roaring fire is most comfortable and welcome. Yet there are always men who are duty-bound to venture forth on the coldest days and nights. Victor Clarke, was a man who was in this position.

Christmas season was nearing and Mr. Clarke, with a young Indian as his companion, left the comforts of Fort Babine and journeyed to Hazelton for supplies. Mr. Clarke obtained his supplies and then began the homeward trek.

The day before Christmas, before they could reach their destination, a heavy snow began to fall. A stinging wind cut their face. The newly fallen snow clogged on their snowshoes and impeded their progress. The driving wind whipped their faces and chilled them to the bone. Yet Mr. Clarke and his Indian companion were determined to reach the comforts of Fort Babine before night.

Then Mr. Clarke turned to his Indian companion and said, "How much farther is it to Fort Babine?"

The Indian, after pausing for a moment, replied, "Ten miles."

Reluctantly, Mr. Clarke decided to camp beneath a clump of trees. There they passed Christmas Eve huddled near their campfire, hungry and cold. They were glad to see the dawn begin to appear, ushering in another day—December 25th—Christmas Day!

"Look!" Mr. Clarke pointed with his finger. They stood amazed!

They had camped during the hours of darkness, within a few hundred yards of the comforts of Fort Babine. They had camped just outside the door and they did not know it!

My reader, are you camping just outside the door of the hope, peace, and rest that are to be found in Christ?

Although there was no room for Him in the inn of Bethlehem, He desires to give you a place of shelter in His great heart of love and understanding. Camp no longer in sin's dark night—with the cold atmosphere of the world chilling you to the bone—just outside the door of salvation! Jesus is calling you.

TALL TALES THAT ARE TRUE by
Arthur H. Townsend

<p>Answers: 1. Gabriel. 2. Nazareth. 3. Joseph. 4. Mary. 5. God. 6. Jesus. 7. It will never end. 8. Elisabeth. 9. God</p>
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THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



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THE GEESE IN THE STORM

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays, like Christmas. His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a Christmas Eve service in the farm community in which they lived. She asked him to come, but he refused.

"That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!"

So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening.

Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. Then another thump. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese.

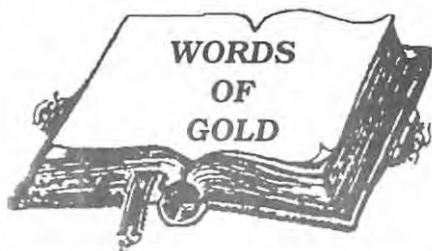
Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them.

The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them and they moved further away.

He went into the house and came with some bread, broke it up, and made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.

Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go



GOOD NEWS!

Luke 2:6-20

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath

made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

The Message: Had the innkeeper known that the Son of God was to be born he would have no doubt found room for Him. Jesus knocks at every heart. Have you given Him a place in your heart?

Questions:

1. With what did Mary wrap her new-born baby?
2. Where did she lay Him?
3. Why didn't Joseph get a nice room for them in the inn?
4. What were the shepherds doing in the fields that night?
5. Who came upon them?
6. Who did he say was born in the city of David?
7. What would be the sign that they had found the Baby?
8. Why did the shepherds hurry into Bethlehem?

Verse to Memorize

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10

Let's



Talk . . .

It was almost time for Jesus to be born. Joseph and Mary waited anxiously. Then Joseph came in with disturbing news. The Roman emperor had decreed that everyone must be taxed. No one dared disobey his command. Everyone must go to his own city to be taxed!

Joseph and Mary were both of the family of David so they were required to go to Bethlehem. From Nazareth they started toward the south. The road led through Samaria and over the Judean hills to Jerusalem. From Jerusalem they went farther south until they came to Bethlehem.

When they finally reached Bethlehem, it was already crowded with people. There were no more vacancies—no place could be found for new arrivals.

The journey from Nazareth had been long and hard. Mary must have a place to rest! Joseph hopefully inquired at the inn but the innkeeper told him he had no more rooms. Then, seeing Mary's condition he offered to let them stay with the animals in the stable of the inn.

"The stable!" Joseph sighed. "Is that all you have?" How could he break the news to poor Mary? All day she had longed for a comfortable place to rest. Now there was nothing but a stable! Surely "the Son of the Highest" should not be born in a smelly old stable!

"This way," Joseph directed her gently. "There's some clean straw over here."

Peering through the gloom, Mary saw an empty manger, half filled with hay for the cows to eat. "This will do for the Baby," she said submissively.

That night Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths called swaddling clothes and gently laid Him in the manger.

Meanwhile shepherds were watching their flocks that night near Bethlehem. Suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them! A bright light shined through the darkness. The shepherds trembled with fear, wondering why the angel had come. Then the angel spoke. "Fear not," he said, "for I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

This was wonderful news! Suddenly there were many angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Then the angels returned to heaven, and the light faded into the silent darkness of the night.

The shepherds were anxious to see this wonderful Child. "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has told us through the angels," they said. So they left their flocks and hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable they found Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. They kneeled down before the manger and worshiped the little Babe who the angels had said had come to save them from their sins.

Then the shepherds told Mary and Joseph how an angel of the Lord appeared to them out in the fields and told them about Jesus' birth. On the way back to their flocks they told everyone they met about the angel's visit and the Savior's birth.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

into the barn where they would be warm and safe. Why don't they follow me?" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?"

He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud.

Then he had an idea. He went into the barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese. He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn—and one by one the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese—blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas, he realized.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and he pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood what Christmas was all about; why Christ had come.

Years of doubt and disbelief vanished like the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer: "Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm!"

THE LITTLE GIRL'S PENNY

Over seventy years ago a little girl who knew and loved the Lord Jesus,

longed to spread His Name among those who did not know Him. She gave a Christian missionary a penny to help to spread the Gospel among the Burmese, to whom this man was going with the Word of life. That penny was all that the dear child could give; it was given from her heart.

The missionary remembered the child's penny while in that far-off land and he invested it in the Name of the Lord by purchasing a Gospel tract with it. That tract was given to a young Burmese chief and followed by prayer. He could not read it but his desire to know the meaning of the words became so strong that he traveled two hundred and fifty miles to get someone to read it to him.

God spoke to the heart of this young chief through the words as he heard them read. He believed the Gospel and was converted to God. Then he returned to his people and began to tell them what the Lord had done for his soul.

He invited missionaries to come and preach to his people and many heard the Word, received the Saviour, and became true and devoted followers of the Lord Jesus.

All this sprang from the little girl's penny, given for Jesus' sake, with the desire to spread His Gospel among the lost.

How great a fire this little spark kindled! How vast the growth from this tiny seed! —Selected

Answers: 1. Swaddling clothes. 2. In a manger. 3. There was no room in the inn. 4. Keeping watch over their flocks. 5. An angel. 6. A Saviour, Christ the Lord. 7. He would be wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. 8. To see the Baby.