

THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY

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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 5, 1998

## SEVEN FAITHFUL MEN

The number of those in Jerusalem who believed on Jesus continued to grow. There were Jewish believers from many parts of the world. Some of these were called Grecians because they came from countries where the people spoke Greek. Other believers spoke the Hebrew language and lived in Palestine. These were called Hebrews.

These believers worshiped God together. Their hearts were filled with love for one another. Among them were those who earned just enough to buy food and clothing. Others did not even have enough food. Still others had plenty and enough to spare. Those who had more than they needed shared with those who lacked. Each day food was distributed to the widows and other poor people so no one suffered from hunger.

But then, as the number of the disciples continued to multiply, some began to complain. The Grecians felt their widows were not being cared for properly. They thought the poor and needy among the Hebrews were getting better care.

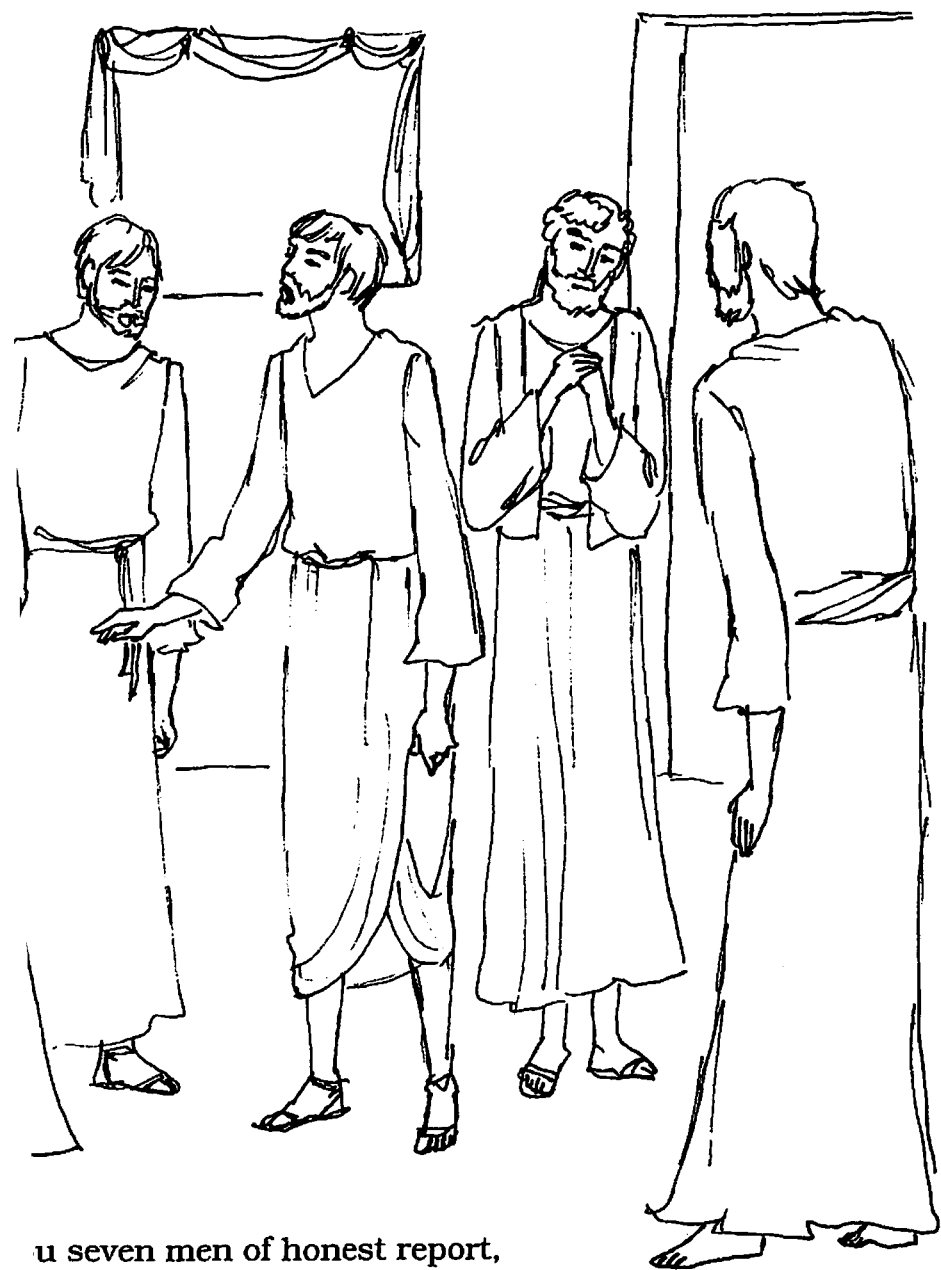
Soon the twelve apostles heard the complaints. They called all the believers together. "It is not right for us to spend all our time taking care of the poor. We must preach the gospel," they told them. "There are faithful men among you who can care for the poor. Choose seven men who are honest, wise and filled with the Holy Ghost. Appoint them over this business. We will give ourselves continually to prayer so we can carry the gospel to the people."

All the people, both Hebrews and Grecians, knew the apostles spoke wisely. They chose seven faithful men to handle the money and care for the poor. The first man they chose was Stephen. Another was Philip. Both these men preached the gospel. Little is known about the other five.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Look ye out among  
full of the Holy C



u seven men of honest report,  
it and wisdom,... Acts 6:3.

## A Visit On Duty

Jerry was in the milk barn with Grandpa and they were rinsing out the milking machine.

"How many cows did we milk tonight?" Jerry asked.

"We ran through 104 head of cattle," replied Grandpa.

"Are you counting the bull, Grandpa?"

"No, but we let him come through to eat."

"He sure has a lot of wives," Jerry said with a chuckle.

Grandpa smiled. "Well, Jerry, animals are under a different law than we are. He may be here today and gone tomorrow if I decide to sell him. He isn't committed to any one of these cows."

Jerry was quiet a moment, then said, "Yes, and all he has to look forward to at the end of his life is to become hamburger on someone's grill."

Both of them laughed, then Grandpa said, "Every time we look at the differences between mankind and animals we always see the advantages man has over all the other creatures. God planned it that way in the beginning when He made Adam in His image and told him to have rule over all creation."

Nothing was said for awhile because Grandpa turned on the loud milking machine to clean it. Grandpa kept his equipment clean not only so the health inspector would give him a good score but also because he did not like to taste sour milk.

Up on a ladder, Grandpa removed the top lid and scooped out a gallon of milk for the family to drink.

"Grandpa," said Jerry, "some-day I want to have a dairy like this. I like working with cows and I like to drink milk. Then I could drink as much milk as I like."

"That is a benefit in having a dairy," said Grandpa, "but you know there is a lot of work involved."

"Oh, I'm learning about all the work while I help you, Grandpa. Dad says every job has work to it but it helps when you do work that you like to do and get paid for it."

"That is true," agreed Grandpa. "And there is some work we do and never get a dime for it. Learn to do work for others as unto Lord. His rewards will bless your soul."

"Jerry, when we have devotions tonight, remind me to read I Timothy, the third chapter. This chapter talks about being a good, faithful man. If you want to take care of a dairy, you must have a strong character."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who worshiped God together?
2. What were their hearts filled with?
3. What did those do who had more than they needed?
4. Who was food distributed to?
5. Who heard the complaints?
6. How many men did they choose to care for the poor?
7. Who was the first man chosen?
8. What other man was chosen?
9. What did both these men do?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 6:1-6.

(Answers: 1. The believers.  
2. Love. 3. Shared with the poor. 4. The widows and poor people. 5. The apostles.  
6. Seven. 7. Stephen. 8. Philip.  
9. They both preached.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 12, 1998

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## STEPHEN

Stephen, Philip and the five other men who were chosen to serve the poor were brought to the apostles. The apostles were thankful to have these faithful men to help in the work. They laid hands on them and asked God to bless their service. God did bless. The Word of God was so effective the number of disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly. A great company of the priests also became believers.

The people especially noticed Stephen. He was full of faith and such power that he did many wonders and miracles among them.

But there were certain Jews who argued with Stephen. They tried to prove that Jesus was not the Christ. God gave Stephen great wisdom. After he spoke about Jesus, his enemies were left without a word to say against his teaching.

This made Stephen's enemies very angry. They could not do anything themselves to stop him so they hired men to go among the Jews and accuse Stephen. They lied to the people telling them, "We have heard Stephen speak against Moses and against God!"


Just as they hoped, the people became stirred up when they heard this accusation. Some even believed the evil report. As soon as the elders and scribes heard it they arrested 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 told the council, "This man never stops saying terrible things about the temple and the Law. We heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the temple and change the customs Moses gave us."

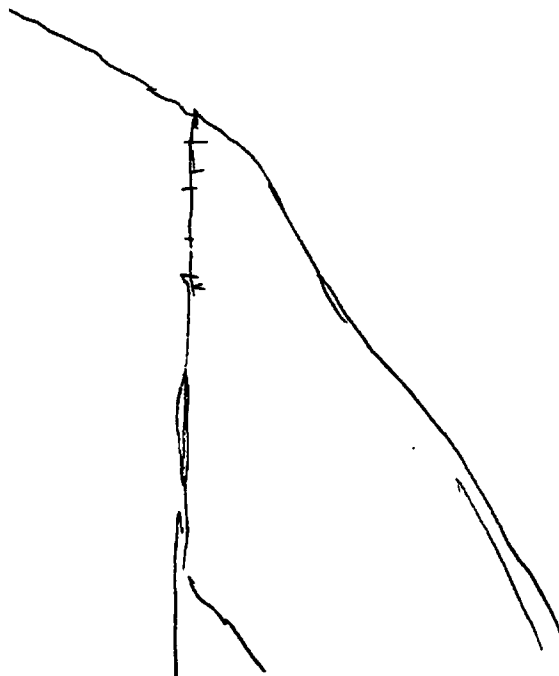
While the false witnesses spoke, the council watched Stephen closely. They saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...And they chose  
Stephen, a man full of  
faith and of the Holy  
Ghost,... Acts 6:5.



## Success And Happiness

It was devotion time at Grandpa and Grandma's house. Jerry sat cross-legged on the floor by Grandpa's footstool as he listened to Grandpa read from the Word of God.

"I am reading from the third chapter of I Timothy. The first part of this chapter would be a good one for you to memorize, Jerry. It lists the qualities of a strong man. Let's go over them and see if we can write a word or two for each quality."

Grandma supplied them with a pencil and piece of paper. Then she watched as the gray head and dark head bent together over the Scriptures. Soon they had their list made:

Blameless, husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, no drunkard, gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy, patient and a good father.

"Wow!" exclaimed Jerry. "That is fourteen heavy rules to obey! I wonder how many men live by these rules every day."

"Not very many," replied Grandpa with a sigh. "Train yourself to be above the average in character. It takes a strong man to control himself. A man with self-control can submit himself to God and serve the Lord well. Do you know, Jerry, what people seek the most here on earth?"

"Money!" replied Jerry. Grandpa smiled. "Why do they want money?"

"To buy the things they want."

"Why do people want things?"

"To be rich and happy."

"Happiness is one of the things people seek for. What else?"

"People fight all the time for power."

"Yes, many people are crushed by power-hungry tyrants. God is the only one who has supreme power over all creation and people. No boss or ruler will hold power over others forever. There always will come a time when a ruler loses his power. Don't waste time struggling for power over others. Gain their respect by these rules and you will have happiness and what?"

"Success!" said Grandma who had been listening.

"You are right, dear," Grandpa said to her with a smile. "Happiness and success go hand in hand."

Jerry was looking over the list again. "Right now I can obey all of these rules but two," he said thoughtfully. "I don't have a wife and I'm not a father."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who were chosen to serve the poor?
2. What did the apostles do to them?
3. How did God bless?
4. Who did wonders and miracles?
5. What did certain Jews try to prove?
6. What did they hire men to do?
7. Who arrested Stephen?
8. Who also came to the council meeting?
9. How did Stephen's face look?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 6:7-15.

(Answers: 1. Stephen, Philip and five other men. 2. Laid hands on them and asked God to bless their work. 3. Many more became believers. 4. Stephen. 5. That Jesus was not the Christ. 6. To accuse Stephen. 7. The elders and scribes. 8. Those who were hired. 9. Like an angel's.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## STEPHEN'S TESTIMONY AND DEATH

Even though Stephen's face shone like an angel's, the council proceeded with his trial. After hearing the false accusations of Stephen's enemies, the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?"

Bravely Stephen stood up to answer him. Beginning with Abraham he told his accusers the story they all knew so well. He told of God's mercy to Israel in sending Joseph to Egypt so they would have food during the awful famine. When the wicked king of Egypt made slaves of the Israelites God sent Moses to deliver His people out of the bondage.

Stephen reminded the people how Israel rebelled against God and disobeyed His laws time and again. The words made the rulers very angry. Stephen could see the anger in their eyes, but he had more to tell them. Turning to the rulers he said, "You stiffnecked people, you resist the Holy Spirit just as your fathers did! They persecuted the prophets, killing those who foretold the coming of Jesus. And now you have betrayed and murdered Jesus Christ, Himself!"

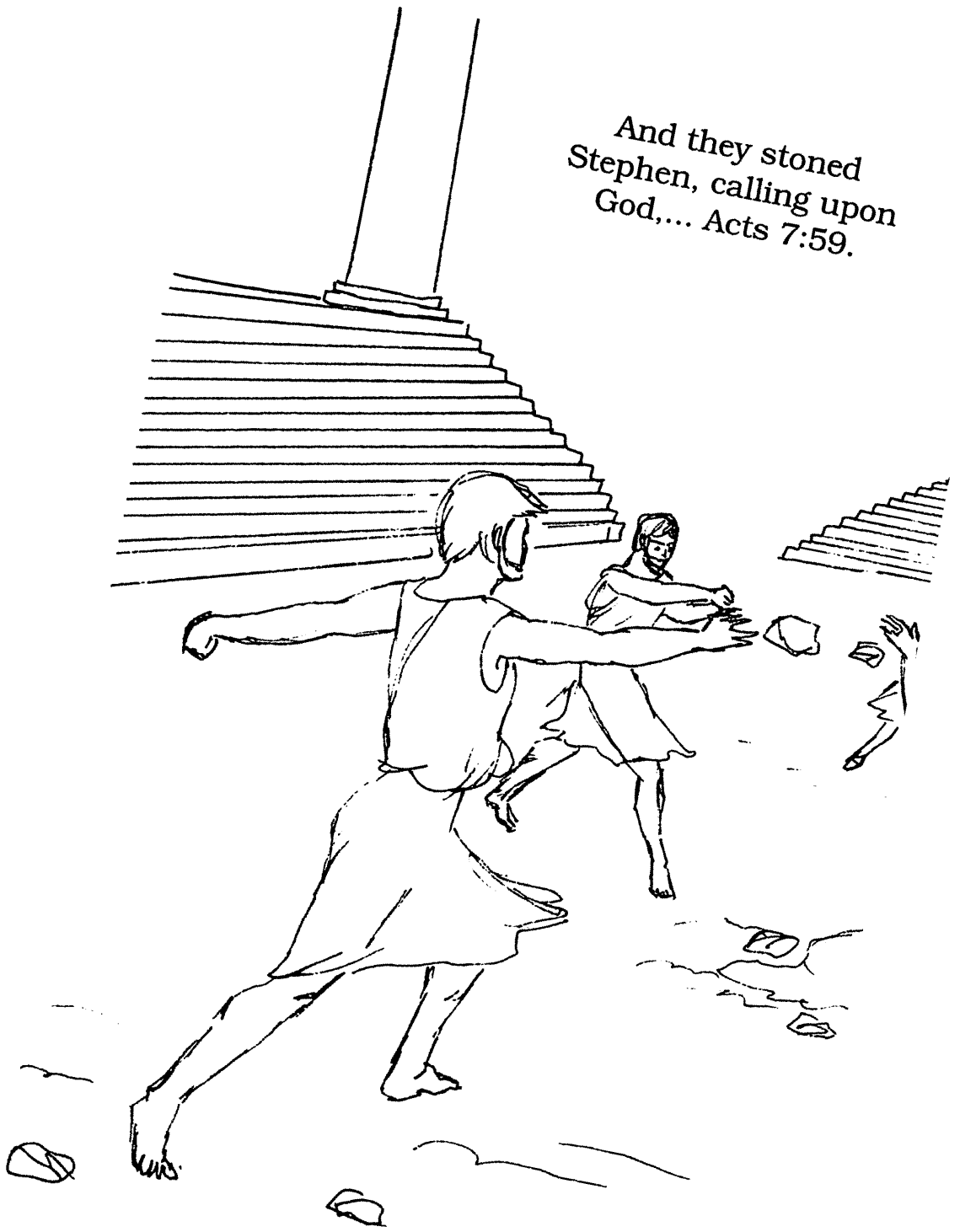
When they heard these things, the people were cut to the heart. They were furious that Stephen dared accuse them of doing wrong. Stephen knew his life was in danger but he was not afraid. The Holy Spirit was with him, giving him wisdom, courage and power.

As the mob raged, Stephen looked up into heaven. There he saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. He was so strengthened and encouraged by the sight, he couldn't help exclaiming, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God!"

Hearing this, the mob cried out loudly and stopped their ears so they would not have to hear Stephen say another word. Rushing at him they dragged him outside the city gates where they stoned him. Even then Stephen's courage did not fail. "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" he cried. Then, kneeling down he prayed, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." Saying this he died. Stephen was the first to be killed for preaching about Jesus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And they stoned  
Stephen, calling upon  
God,... Acts 7:59.





## Living To Tell The Story

(A true story.)

In the little town of Bantargebang, Indonesia, a man named Fritz Manampiring was pastoring a small congregation of Christians. Since this church is the only one in a Muslim neighborhood, Fritz received threats on his life.

On November 27, 1997, a group of Muslims surrounded his little chapel and started throwing rocks at the ones entering the door to worship the Lord.

A policeman approached Fritz and said, "Pastor, please hold no service here today. This is what the Muslim leaders want. They have become mad!"

Trying to keep peace, Fritz told his congregation to go back home and they could worship the Lord at their homes that day. Then Fritz tried to reason with the leader of the Muslim mob.

Suddenly the Muslim mob exploded into an angry mass, grabbing any nearby Christians and beating them. Fritz's wife was dragged, beaten and kicked until the security officer stopped the mob. Fritz and his wife were taken to a military office for their safety but they could not live there.

Soon Fritz and his wife were back at the chapel, living in a back room of the building. On December 12th, a larger mob surrounded the chapel, chanting, "Attack! Attack!" This time the police did not come to Fritz's rescue.

It did not take long for the mob to enter the church. They destroyed everything in sight. They cut off the electricity, leaving the rooms in darkness. Before Fritz and his wife could escape, a club came across his wife's head. Fritz was beaten, burned with

cigarettes and rolled in the broken glass from the church windows.

Fritz went unconscious and when he awoke he was lying on a heap of wood from the chapel. He was choking on smoke as flames circled around him. Fritz prayed, "Lord, I give my soul and spirit to You."

Fritz doesn't remember how it happened, but he found himself being lifted from the blaze. He was spared from the fire, but the mob stoned him and left him for dead. Later some of his congregation came and took him to their home. His jaw had been smashed, nerves in his eyes were damaged beyond repair and he suffered from a concussion. Yet Fritz still prays and sings to his Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for Christians in Muslim countries that the Lord will protect them as they witness for Him.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Whose face shone like an angel's?
2. What did the high priest ask him?
3. What did Stephen remind them of?
4. Who became very angry?
5. Who did Stephen say they betrayed and murdered?
6. What did the Holy Spirit give Stephen?
7. Who did he see standing on the right hand of God?
8. What was Stephen's last prayer?
9. Who was the first to be killed for preaching about Jesus?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 7:52-60.

(Answers: 1. Stephen's. 2. "Are these things so?" 3. That Israel had rebelled against God. 4. The rulers. 5. Jesus. 6. Wisdom, courage and power. 7. Jesus. 8. "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." 9. Stephen.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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**Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 26, 1998**

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## **SAUL AND PHILIP**

Like Jesus, Stephen died begging God to forgive those who caused his death. When Stephen's friends heard he had been stoned, they took his body and buried it lovingly. Then they mourned greatly for this young man who had given his life for the sake of the gospel.

After Stephen's death, the church at Jerusalem was greatly persecuted. To escape the awful trouble, believers began scattering to other regions of Judaea and Samaria. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem in spite of the persecution.

Saul, a young Pharisee, stood watching as the mob stoned Stephen. His heart was not touched when Stephen begged God to forgive his murderers. Saul did not believe in Jesus. He felt Stephen deserved to die because he had dared to preach about Him.

After this Saul did all he could to destroy the church in Jerusalem. Determined to rid the city of every believer, Saul went from house to house in search of them. Those he found were thrown into prison.

But God was watching over His church. Those who scattered from Jerusalem went everywhere preaching about Jesus. Instead of the church being destroyed, it increased as more people heard the gospel.

Philip, one of the seven faithful men chosen along with Stephen, also left Jerusalem. He went down to the city of Samaria and there preached to the people about Jesus. The people gladly listened to the wonderful message. God also gave Philip power to work miracles. The people were convinced that the words he spoke were true when they saw the wonderful works he did.

The gospel brought great joy to this city. Unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them. Those who had palsies and those who were crippled were healed. How glad the people were that the gospel had come to them!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

As for Saul, he made  
havoc of the church,...  
Acts 8:3.





## Telling The Gospel

(A true story.)

Pedaling his bicycle over a rough, dirt road, To Dinh Trung was going to visit the K'Ho tribe in Vietnam. Tucked in his shirt pocket were a few pages from a New Testament. He was going to share the gospel with this other tribe though it was illegal to do.

Trung's heart was happy and he was singing a song when suddenly two policemen on bicycles stopped his bicycle.

"Where are you going?" they asked Trung.

Before he could answer, they pulled him off his bicycle and began to beat him with clubs. They took his bicycle away from him and called him bad names. Then he was taken to prison and kept there six months without having a chance to speak for himself.

Trung's wife and three small children did not have any food until a visiting American was told about them. Since then food has been given to Trung's family as they wait for their father's release.

Many Christians wrote to the Vietnamese government and asked for To Dinh Trung to be released from prison. "He can be set free if he will obey the laws and not talk about Jesus Christ," said the authorities.

Trung replied, "I will tell the good news of Jesus Christ wherever I go."

Because Trung was not willing to stop preaching, he has stayed in prison. Little do the authorities know that Trung is spreading the gospel in prison. He is telling anyone who will listen that Jesus can

save from sin and has made a place for believers to go after death.

Any day Trung could be called out and put to death for preaching the gospel. He is not discouraged. He says that is what he is living for—to go home to be with Jesus.

If you would like to draw an encouraging picture for him, here is his address:

To Dinh Trung; Binh Lap-Binh Son; Quang Ngai; Vietnam.

Please pray for his wife and children that they will be protected from the government who would like to take the children from Christian parents. The Lord has answered prayer for them before and they are asking for His help again.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was like Jesus?
2. What happened to the church at Jerusalem after Stephen's death?
3. Why did the believers scatter to other regions?
4. Who stayed in Jerusalem?
5. Who stood watching as the mob stoned Stephen?
6. What happened to the believers he found?
7. What did the believers do who scattered from Jerusalem?
8. Who was Philip?
9. What brought great joy to the city where Philip preached?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 8:1-9.

(Answers: 1. Stephen. 2. It was greatly persecuted. 3. To escape the awful trouble. 4. The apostles. 5. Saul. 6. They were thrown into prison. 7. They went everywhere preaching the gospel. 8. One of the seven chosen with Stephen. 9. The gospel.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 2, 1998

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## SIMON THE SORCERER

Philip brought great joy to Samaria when he preached the gospel there. Living in Samaria was a man named Simon who was a sorcerer, or a magician.

For many years Simon had kept the people believing that he was some great person. He could do tricks and perform magic that they did not understand. All the people took note of Simon, saying, "This man is the great power of God!"

When Philip came the people believed the gospel. Many were baptized. Even Simon believed and was baptized. After this he followed Philip everywhere he went. He watched him heal the sick and make the lame walk. Simon knew he could not do these things.

News reached the apostles in Jerusalem that many Samaritans had accepted Jesus as their Savior. The apostles sent Peter and John to help. As soon as Peter and John arrived, they went to find Philip and the new believers. Peter and John then laid their hands on the new believers and prayed. These people, too, received the Holy Spirit.

Simon was amazed. He wished he had the kind of power Peter and John had. He offered the apostles money, saying, "Give me this power also. I want to be able to give the Holy Spirit to whomever I lay hands on."

Peter was shocked. "Thy money perish with you, because you think the gift of God can be bought with money!" he exclaimed. "Your heart is not right in the sight of God. You must repent and pray to God. Perhaps He will forgive you for this wicked thought."

Simon was afraid. He begged Peter, "Pray to the Lord for me that none of these things will happen."

After the apostles finished their work in Samaria, they returned to Jerusalem. Through each village they passed, they preached to all who would listen. All the way to Jerusalem, more believers were added to God's church.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Thy money perish with thee, because thou has thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Acts 8:20.





## A Deceiving Game

(A true story.)

A few years ago in North Korea a young girl sat in a classroom with other students under a Communist teacher.

"Today we are going to play a special game," said the teacher. All the students cheered because they were tired of lessons. "Listen to me," continued the teacher. She lowered her voice to an important whisper. "Your parents may have hidden in your home a special book that they read after you have gone to bed."

Then the teacher told them to look for this book, but not to say anything about the book to their parents. After their parents were asleep the children were told to get the book and bring it to the teacher the next day. Every child who brought this special black covered book to school would receive a surprise.

Eagerly, this little girl hurried home to look for her parents' book. Yes, they had one! She was an obedient girl and did just as she was told, never telling her parents that she took their special book.

At the school the next day, fourteen children brought the teacher their parents' Bibles. These children were lined up in front of the class and a bright red scarf was placed around their necks. All the students clapped as the teacher paraded them around the room.

That evening the little girl rushed home to tell her Mommy and Daddy about the honor she had received at school. Her mother wasn't in the house so she ran to the barn, but her mother wasn't there either. She went into her house and sat on a chair waiting for her father to come home from work. Hours passed and she

fell asleep, waking often in hopes that her parents were home.

The next day police officers came to her door and told her she was now in the government's care. She was placed in a home with other children and never saw her parents again.

That girl is forty years older now and she still grieves about the time she gave away the family Bible. She wishes she had talked to her parents about the game. They would have known that the teacher would keep the Bible and report them to the communist government of North Korea.

If someone ever says to you, "Don't tell your parents about this," take warning. Your parents need to know about it, so be honest with your parents. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who kept the people believing he was some great person?
2. What could he do that the people did not understand?
3. Who did the people say was the great power of God?
4. Who followed Philip everywhere he went?
5. Who came to help Philip?
6. What happened when they laid their hands on the believers and prayed?
7. Who was amazed?
8. Why did he offer the apostles money?
9. What did Peter tell him he must do?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 8:9-25.

(Answers: 1. Simon. 2. Tricks and magic. 3. Simon. 4. Simon. 5. Peter and John. 6. They received the Holy Spirit. 7. Simon. 8. He thought he could buy the gift of God. 9. Repent and pray for forgiveness.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 9, 1998

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## LED BY THE SPIRIT

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. "Get up and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza," the angel instructed. Philip was quick to obey.

Philip was not the only traveler on the road that day. He soon saw a royal chariot. It was also headed south, toward Ethiopia. The man riding in the chariot was the head of the queen's treasury. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God.

The Ethiopian did not notice Philip. He was lost in thought as he studied the scroll in his hands. It was the Book of Isaiah. This man longed to know more about God. But as he read on and on, many questions filled his mind. There was so much he could not understand!

Again Philip was told just what to do. "Go near the chariot," God's Spirit told him.

As Philip ran beside the chariot, he could hear the Ethiopian reading from the Book of Isaiah. Finally he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"How can I understand when I have no one to guide me?" the Ethiopian answered. He begged Philip to ride along with him and explain the scripture he had just read.

Philip began at the very verses he was reading and preached to him about Jesus. The Ethiopian had never heard about Jesus. He listened eagerly, believing every word Philip spoke. He was learning the very thing he had longed to understand!

When they came to a place where there was water the Ethiopian said, "See, here is water. What keeps me from being baptized?"

"If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized," Philip answered.

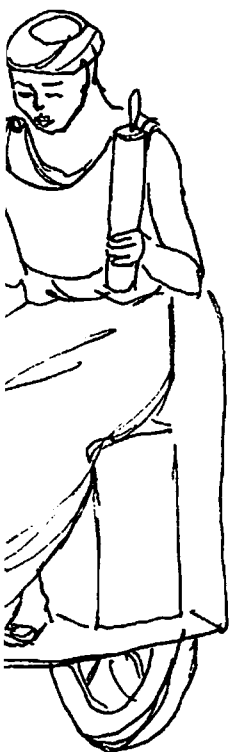
"I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!" the Ethiopian declared.

Then, commanding the servant to stop the chariot, the Ethiopian was baptized. When they came up out of the water the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away. The man did not see him again, but he went on his way rejoicing because he had found Jesus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



Then the Spirit said unto  
Philip, Go near, and join  
thyself to this chariot.  
Acts 8:29.



## Led To The Forest

As a Christian missionary, Tom White went to a hidden village in the country of Bangladesh. This small village is surrounded by Buddhists who don't know the true, living God. Encamped in this village is a training center that is teaching Muslim converts about Jesus Christ. They are studying the Word of God so that they can teach others about His saving grace and home in heaven.

By word of mouth, news spread quickly that a missionary was at the village. Soon a crowd had gathered around Tom as he quietly talked to the Christian teacher. In respectful awe, the children touched his clothes. They were dressed in simple clothes, often too big for their slender bodies. Tom hugged as many of them as he could.

A young mother proudly showed Tom her newborn baby and he blessed it for the Lord's service. The women cooking in open pots outside their huts graciously offered to share a meal with Tom. So he ate with the men, talked with them about their needs and they prayed together.

The country about the village is beautiful. Colorful flowers grow in the lush green forest where crystal clear streams water magnificent trees. Singing birds nest in the branches, adding a note of grandeur to the forest, home of many wild animals.

The beauty of the country is overwhelming though the poor villagers live in grass huts on dirt floors. They do not have much earthly possessions but they are not sad about this. The villagers singing often blended with the singing of the birds as together they praised their Creator.

An old woman was introduced to Tom. He was told that she was over 100 years old. As he looked upon her wrinkled face, that spoke of a lifetime of hardship, he saw the most beautiful thing of all his visit. He saw what God sees—a quiet, humble, peaceful spirit in this elder woman.

"Would you pray for me?" he asked the woman.

She nodded her head, reached out a hand to touch his shoulder, bowed her head and began to pray. Tom felt like he was very close to the Lord as her soft voice spoke with God.

When Tom left to come back to America, he felt he was a richer man. He had given the people clothes, food and Bibles but they had blessed him with their prayers and faithful lives.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who spoke to Philip?
2. Who was riding in the royal chariot?
3. Where had he been?
4. What was the man reading?
5. Who told Philip just what to do?
6. What did Philip ask the man?
7. What did the Ethiopian beg Philip to do?
8. When they saw water, what did the Ethiopian want?
9. Why did the Ethiopian go his way rejoicing?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 8:26-39.

(Answers: 1. The angel of the Lord. 2. The head of the queen's treasury. 3. To Jerusalem to worship God. 4. The Book of Isaiah. 5. God's Spirit. 6. "Do you understand what you are reading?" 7. To ride along and explain the Scriptures to him. 8. To be baptized. 9. He had found Jesus.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 16, 1998

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## THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

Saul was only a boy when he came to Jerusalem to study the Jewish religion. He became a very strict Pharisee when he was older. He believed in the Law of Moses. It seemed to him that Jesus and His followers dishonored the Law. His great love for the Law made him hate anyone who did not honor it. He was determined to destroy those who believed in Jesus.

While Saul was doing all he could to capture Jesus' followers in Jerusalem, he heard that there were also believers in Damascus. Determined to stop this new religion before it spread further, Saul rushed to the high priest for permission to go there and search for followers of Jesus. Saul planned to either kill them or bring them back as prisoners.

The high priest wrote letters to the rulers of the synagogues in Damascus. He told them why Saul was coming and commanded them to help Saul find the believers in their city.

So Saul, taking a few men with him, started at once for Damascus. Others were hurrying toward Damascus, also. These messengers wanted to warn the believers that Saul was on his way to arrest them.

When Saul and the men finally were in sight of Damascus, it was noon. Suddenly a great light from heaven shone round about them. Saul fell to the ground. The men thought it thundered but Saul heard a voice from heaven call out, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting Me?"

Saul was terrified. He cried out, "Who are You, Lord?"

"I am Jesus of Nazareth, Whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to oppose Me."

Remembering how cruel he had been to Jesus' followers, Saul now saw how wrong he had been. Fearfully he asked, "Lord, what will You have me to do?"

"Get up and go into the city," the Lord answered. "There you will be told what to do."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Saul, Saul,  
persecutest thou  
Acts 9:4



r  
e?



## Light the Way

(A true story.)

Arietta sat on the edge of the dirty cot in the small jail cell. The floor was planks of wood and a row of windows ran along the top of the wall. In the center of the ceiling a single light bulb shone down on the three women in the cell. Arietta covered her eyes from the light.

She was so ashamed of her life as an alcoholic! That light seemed to expose the blackness of her heart. How did she get into such an awful, dark pit? Was there any way out? With her eyes shut, Arietta leaned her head against the wall as the old woman across the cell coughed loudly. Arietta thought, "That woman needs help or she will die. Oh, Lord, I need help—I'm dying too!"

Then her life came before her. Bernie, her husband, had given her the first drink of alcohol. She had been a bookkeeper and he was a policeman, but during the weekends they went to parties and got drunk. Bernie would hurt Arietta and when she tried to run away, he would threaten her.

They had one daughter named Mary. Arietta wanted a better life for Mary so she would take Mary to church on Sundays. One night in church, Jesus seemed to walk into the chapel. In a vision Arietta saw Jesus touch different one's shoulder and then He touched hers.

"After all I have done, could Jesus still have His hand on me?" Tears filled Arietta's eyes.

She wanted Mary to have a better home than what they were giving her, so she put Mary into a children's home. Then Arietta left her husband. She began drinking more than ever but the alcohol did not ease the pain

in her heart. It only left her with a headache and a hollow life.

In the jail cell, Arietta blinked at the bright light shining on her ugliness. How she longed to erase the sinful marks in her life! Right then she knelt on the hard floor beside that filthy cot, and she began to plead with God for salvation from her sins. All through the night she prayed and by morning peace came into her heart.

After Arietta left that cell, she enrolled in an alcohol recovery program. She got a job as an office manager. Faithfully, she attended church. With friends she goes to bars to pick up anyone who wants help out of alcoholism. Arietta wasted 45 years in sin but the last 30 plus years have been in service to the Lord. Jesus still lights the way out of sin.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Saul come to Jerusalem when he was a boy?
2. What did he become when he was older?
3. Why did Saul hate Jesus' followers?
4. Who gave Saul permission to go to Damascus?
5. What was he planning to do there?
6. Why did other messengers rush to Damascus?
7. What shone from heaven?
8. Who called to Saul out of heaven?
9. Who saw how wrong he had been?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 9:1-6.

(Answers: 1. To study the law. 2. A strict Pharisee. 3. He thought they dishonored the law. 4. The high priest. 5. Kill or capture the believers. 6. To warn the believers. 7. A great light. 8. Jesus. 9. Saul.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 23, 1998

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## SAUL MEETS ANANIAS

After being struck down by the great light, Saul finally got to his feet. He must go on to Damascus as Jesus commanded. He tried to look around but all was darkness. He knew his eyes were open, yet he could see nothing! The great light had blinded his eyes. The men with him had to lead Saul into the city. For three days Saul could not see, neither did he eat nor drink.

There was a certain disciple of Jesus at Damascus, named Ananias. The Lord appeared to Ananias in a vision and told him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight. At the house of Judas ask for a man called Saul, of Tarsus, for this man is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him so he will receive his sight."

"Lord, I have heard many tell what this man did in Jerusalem!" Ananias protested. "He persecutes those who believe. Now he has authority from the chief priests to capture all who believe in You here."

But the Lord said again, "Go, do as I have commanded. Saul is a chosen servant of mine to carry my name to the Gentiles and even to the kings of the earth, as well as to the Jews. I will show him that he must suffer great things for my sake."

Now Ananias was no longer afraid to obey because he believed God's words. At the house of Judas he found blind Saul. Putting his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me so you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit!"

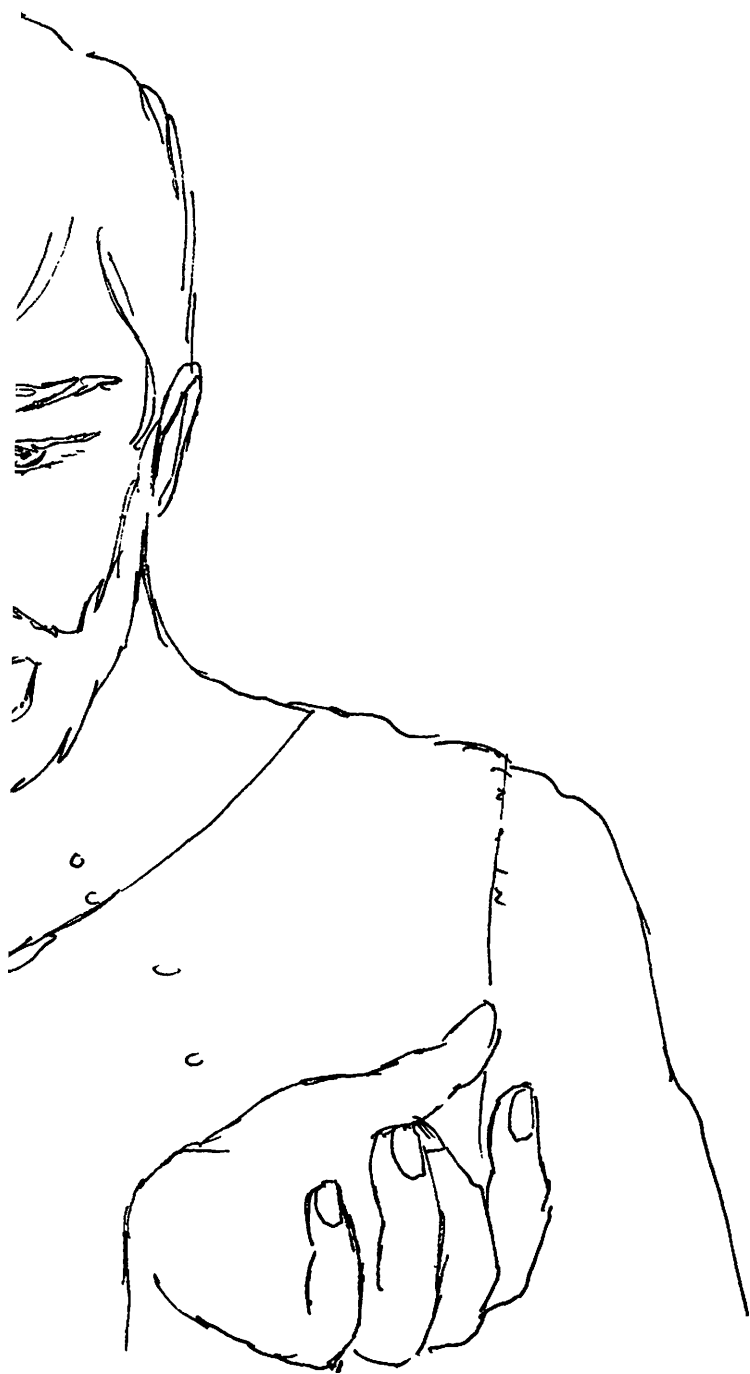
Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's blinded eyes. Now he could see clearly! He was so eager to please God he was baptized at once. Now his heart was filled with love instead of hatred.

After eating, Saul felt stronger. He was eager to find Jesus' followers, not to harm them but to learn more about Jesus. From the very first he spent time in the synagogue, preaching that Christ truly is the Son of God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And immediately  
there fell from his  
eyes as it had been  
scales:... Acts 9:18.





## Back With Friends

(Based on a true story.)

Jojo was a tall, red-gold Salukis hound with a long nose, hanging ears and shy eyes. Her slender body and graceful legs were made for swift running. Anita, Jojo's owner loved her shiny fur and soft, fluffy tail.

Anita and Jojo were close friends, sharing the same bedroom at night. Then Anita's health began to fail—she was told she had a brain tumor and was given a short time to live. Friends came and went from Anita's house as they cared for her. Jojo stayed by her bedside, understanding that something was terribly wrong with her mistress.

When Anita passed away, Jojo went to be with someone who lived 250 miles away from her old home. Jojo missed Anita. She would not eat and her brown eyes looked sad.

Anita had a neighbor who also liked Salukis hounds. Together they had walked their dogs and the dogs had become friends. One day this neighbor, Linda, heard a woman talking about a shaggy, skinny dog roaming the neighborhood.

"What color is this dog?" Linda asked.

"Oh, a dirty red," replied the woman. "I would call the dog catcher about it, but I don't know where it is staying."

"Tell me where you saw it—maybe I could catch it," said Linda. She had a suspicious feeling that she knew this dog.

Linda and a friend drove to the street where the dog had been seen. They parked by the curb and waited. Darkness began to descend and they were ready to leave when suddenly they saw a red shadow slip from under a porch. Quietly, with drooping head, it went around a corner.

"That's Jojo!" exclaimed Linda as she climbed out of the car. Frightened by the shutting car door, the hound ducked back under the porch.

Linda got down on her hands and knees by the porch and called, "Jojo," but the dog did not come out. Her friend brought a collar and leash. "You will probably have to go under the house to get the dog," said her friend.

Linda wrinkled her nose. What if there were spiders, scorpions or snakes under there? She called softly to Jojo but the dog was too afraid to come. Then Linda remembered Jojo's faithfulness to Anita so she began to scoot under the house with the collar and leash in hand. Jojo licked her hand as she put the collar around the hound's neck.

That night Jojo had a bath, good food and Anita's friend to sleep nearby. Jojo had come home to friends.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did Saul see when he stood up?
2. What had blinded him?
3. How long was he without sight?
4. Who was Ananias?
5. Who appeared to him in a vision?
6. What was he told to do?
7. Why was Ananias afraid?
8. What happened when Ananias put his hand on Saul?
9. Why was Saul eager to find Jesus' followers?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 9:8-20.

(Answers: 1. Nothing. 2. The great light from heaven. 3. Three days. 4. Jesus' disciple. 5. God. 6. To go to Saul and pray for him. 7. He had heard how Saul persecuted the believers. 8. Immediately he received sight. 9. To learn more about Jesus.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 30, 1998

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## SAUL'S ESCAPE

The Jews of Damascus were amazed to find Saul worshipping with the disciples of Jesus. They were even more surprised when he stood up before all the people in the synagogue and preached boldly about Jesus.

The Jews shook their heads in disbelief and asked, "Is this the man who put in prison and even killed many people in Jerusalem because they believed that Jesus is the Christ? Didn't we hear that he was coming to Damascus to arrest believers and take them back to the high priest in Jerusalem?"

Everyone could see that Saul had changed completely. Jesus had come into his heart. He grew stronger and bolder, proving to the Jews that Jesus truly was Christ. Even the Jewish teachers, who did not believe in Jesus, could not prove that Saul was wrong. Many Jews who listened became believers of Jesus.

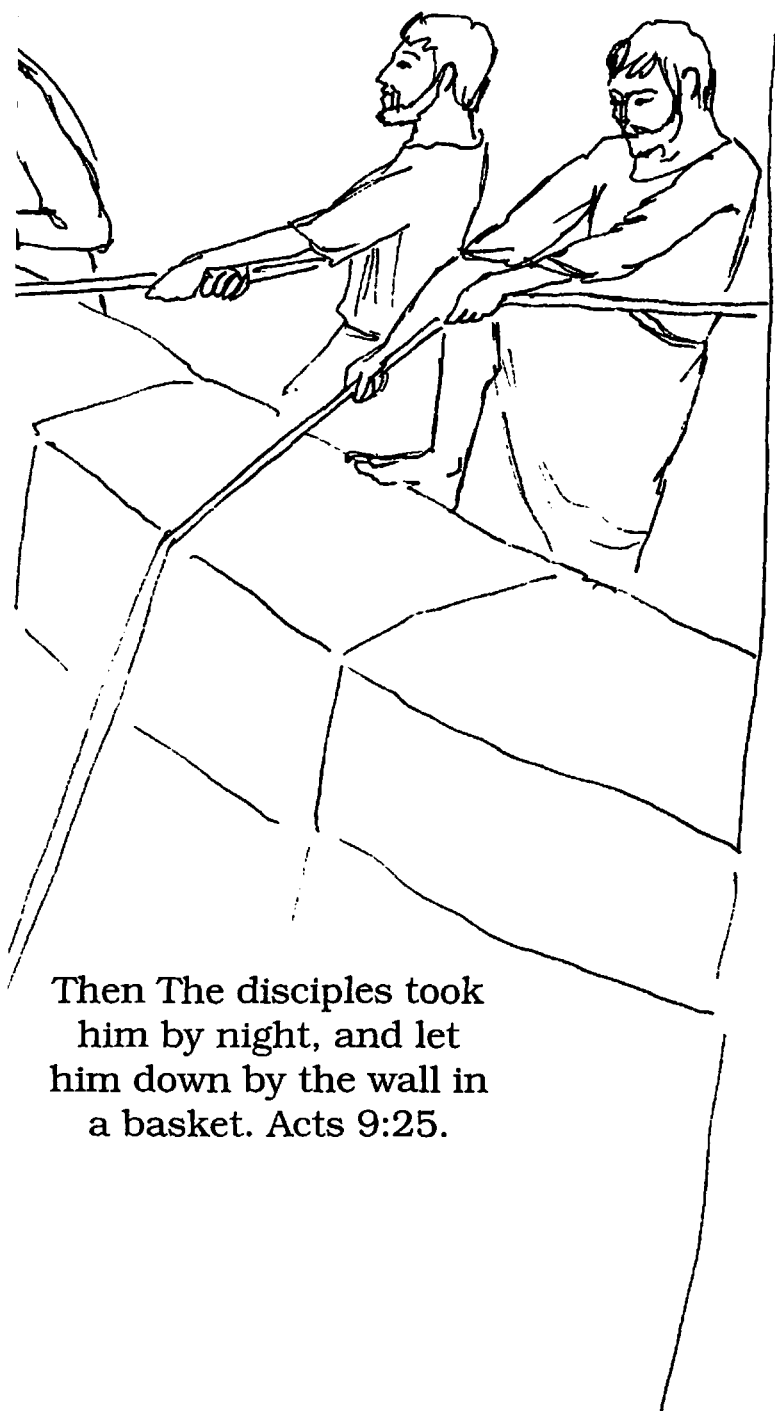
This made the Jewish rulers so angry that they planned to kill Saul. At each gate of the city they placed guards with orders to kill Saul if he tried to leave. They were determined to get rid of him!

Saul heard of their plot to kill him. Others of Jesus' disciples hid Saul until night came. Then they took him to a building on top of the city wall. There they had a large basket with long ropes attached. Bravely, Saul stepped into the basket. Whispering their good-byes, Saul's friends lowered him carefully to the ground outside the city walls.

This time Saul had escaped. But now where could he go? The chief priests, scribes and Pharisees in Jerusalem were now his enemies. Yet Saul longed to go to Jerusalem to tell the believers there how the love of Jesus had changed his heart and life. With this in mind, he started for Jerusalem.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





Then The disciples took  
him by night, and let  
him down by the wall in  
a basket. Acts 9:25.

## Wrong Guy

(A true story.)

Steve was walking to school one morning in a little town in Rhode Island when a car pulled up to the curb beside him. Three big guys with ski masks jumped out. One grabbed Steve around the chest and put his arms behind his back. Then the men threw Steve in the car and drove off.

With his head shoved down in the back seat, Steve felt a blindfold slip over his eyes. "Don't move or you're dead meat!" growled a voice in his ear. Steve couldn't move—his hands were tied tightly behind him and he was pushed down on the car floor where he could hardly breathe.

After traveling several hours in this miserable way, the car finally stopped. The men climbed out and yanked Steve out of the car and pushed him into a big, empty building. All this time the men threatened Steve who was silently praying for his life.

One of the men threw Steve against a wall and held a gun to his head. "When the boss comes in, we're going to do you in," chuckled the man.

Steve felt the men become tense when the boss stepped into the building. He was blindfolded, pushed against the wall, inwardly praying to the Lord.

The boss came over to look at Steve then he began to swear. "You've got the wrong guy!" he said to the three men. He was very angry and yelled at the men. "What shall we do with the kid?" asked one of the men.

"Has he seen ya?" asked the boss.

"Nope, been blindfolded all this time."

"Then set him loose!" bellowed the boss.

Steve was again thrown into the car, driven to a street corner, and pushed out. He laid on the curb, trying to calm his nerves, when a policeman walked by him.

"What happened, boy?" asked the policeman as he helped Steve take off the blindfold and untie his hands. In a very shaky voice Steve explained what had happened and he asked where he was.

"You're in New York City, boy," said the policeman. "Let me take you to a mission shelter where they can help you get home."

Steve called his parents from the mission. They were so happy to know he was okay. The next morning he rode a big bus back home. The Lord surely heard his prayers that day.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What amazed the Jews of Damascus?
2. Who stood up boldly and preached about Jesus?
3. What could everyone see?
4. Who had come into his heart?
5. What happened to many who listened to Saul?
6. Who were placed at each city gate?
7. What were they ordered to do?
8. How did Saul escape?
9. Where did Saul go?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 9:20-25.

(Answers: 1. To find Saul worshipping with the disciples of Jesus. 2. Saul. 3. Saul had changed completely. 4. Jesus. 5. They became believers of Jesus. 6. Guards. 7. To kill Saul. 8. In a basket over the wall at night. 9. To Jerusalem.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 6, 1998

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## KIND BARNABAS

It had been a long time since Saul left Jerusalem. Now he was anxious to return. He knew there were yet faithful followers of Jesus there and he wanted to tell them that he, too, was now a believer. As soon as Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to meet with them.

But the disciples of Jesus did not welcome Saul. They were afraid of him. This might only be a trick to capture them! They well remembered how badly he treated other believers. He even caused some to be killed. Saul was no doubt disappointed when they did not want to have anything to do with him.

Barnabas, a kindhearted disciple, was convinced that Saul was a true believer. He took Saul to the apostles and told them what had happened to him on the road to Damascus. He told them how the Lord had spoken to him and how he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus.

After this the church in Jerusalem accepted Saul gladly. They could see that God had changed their enemy into a true friend. Saul stayed in Jerusalem for some time, meeting with the believers. He even taught in the very synagogues where he had once seized followers of Jesus. Now he boldly taught others about Jesus, the Christ.

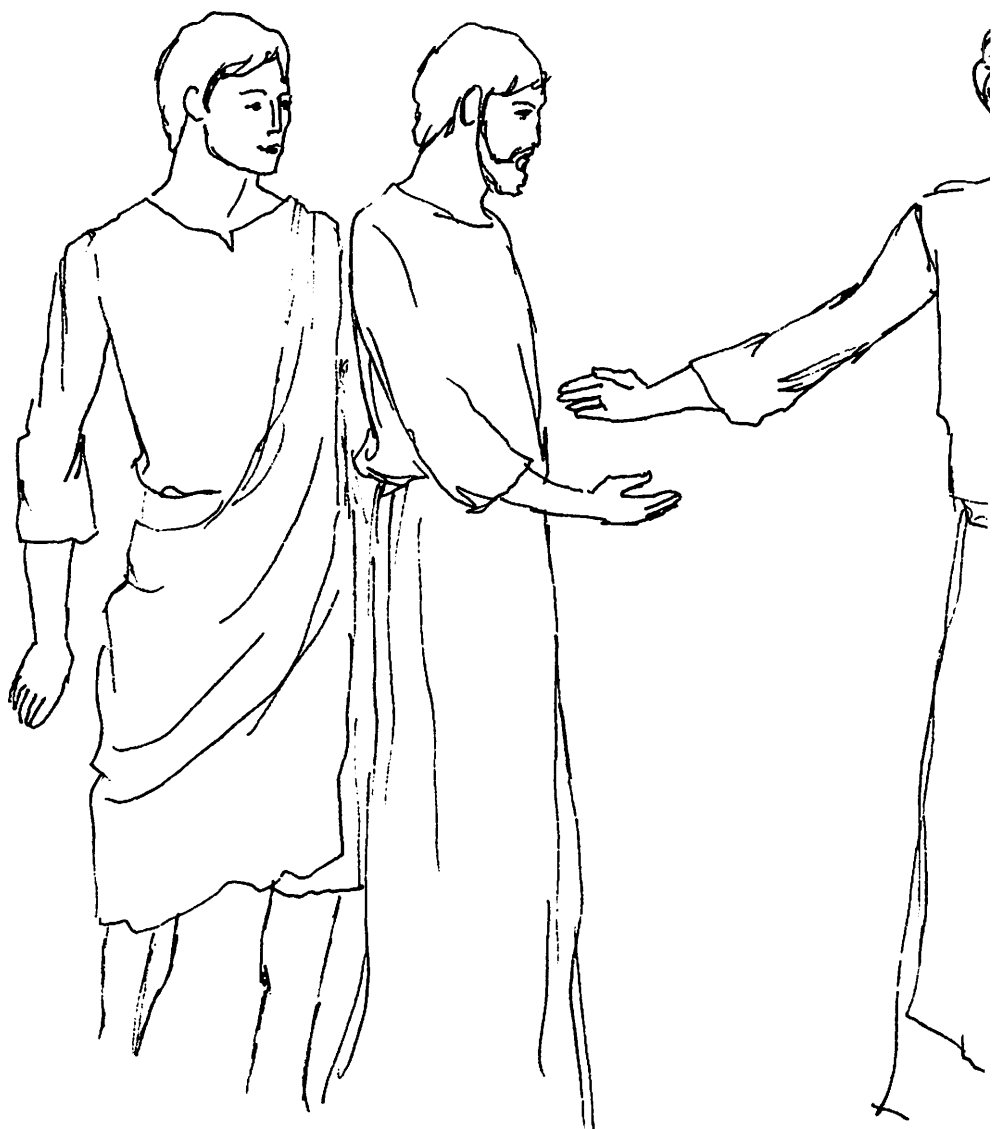
Of course the chief priests and rulers heard that Saul was in Jerusalem. They were furious that he would return and dare to speak in the name of Jesus. At once they began to plan how to kill him.

When the apostles found out that Saul's life was in danger, they took him to the city of Caesarea on the seacoast. There they put him on a ship going to Tarsus, the city where he was born.

After Saul left Jerusalem, there was no more persecution. The church continued to grow with the number of believers multiplying in every city and village where the gospel story was told.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

But Barnabas took him, and  
brought him to the apostles,...  
Acts 9:27.





## Closed Doors, Open Hearts

(A true story.)

In Holguin, Cuba, just as the sun is beginning to rise, Pastor Ariel Quinones, his wife and baby daughter mount bicycles and make their daily trip to Maceo. The baby holds on tightly as her father dodges potholes in the road. Why are they making this trip?

About a year ago, Pastor Quinones' church building was closed by the communistic government, led by Fidel Castro. He was told to stop preaching or he would be arrested. This young pastor loves the Lord and he wants others to know about Jesus Christ.

Castro's men shut the chapel doors but they cannot shut the people's hearts from receiving the gospel. Pastor Quinones rides his bike to a secret meeting place where his congregation comes to hear the Word of God read. Many of them do not have a Bible because the Cuban government destroys any Bible they find.

These meetings are declared illegal by wicked Fidel Castro. He wants the people to worship him and trust in his human power. He tells the American government that he does not hurt Christians, but that is a lie. Last year Castro closed down over 100 church buildings, arrested pastors and burned Bibles. He is not a friend to Christians like he says.

Pastor Quinones and his wife, Lidia, willingly ride their bicycles 20 kilometers each morning to encourage other Christians. He loves to tell about Jesus Christ who died for his sins. He encourages everyone to look up, for heaven is waiting for those who are faithful unto the end.

One Cuban woman wrote, "We are the children of God, and a precious child in His eyes. We live because He lives. Our island is small and surrounded by the sea with a hot climate. Our church services are in a small location with many mosquitoes. We sweat a lot in worship by praising God and killing mosquitoes. We don't have fans. With all of this, the fire and joy of the Holy Spirit is not quenched."

Let us pray for these courageous men and women who meet to worship God in secret. Anytime their meeting could be interrupted by the police. Pastor Quinones could be arrested and then his baby daughter would not see her father for many months. He is willing to take that risk—are you willing to share the gospel with your friends?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. To what city was Saul anxious to return?
2. Why did the disciples of Jesus not welcome Saul?
3. Who was kindhearted?
4. What did he tell about Saul?
5. What did the church at Jerusalem do after this?
6. Who heard that Saul was in Jerusalem?
7. Why were they furious?
8. What did they plan to do?
9. When did the persecution stop?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 9:26-31.

(Answers: 1. Jerusalem. 2. They were afraid of him. 3. Barnabas. 4. What happened to him on the road to Damascus. 5. Gladly accepted Saul. 6. The chief priests and rulers. 7. That he would dare to speak in the name of Jesus. 8. Kill Saul. 9. After Saul left Jerusalem.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 13, 1998

## AENEAS AND DORCAS

Since the believers scattered from Jerusalem, there were many disciples in the cities and villages throughout the land. These saints were faithful to meet to worship the Lord. The apostles went from city to city. At each place they met with the disciples, preaching to them and encouraging them to serve the Lord.

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

Peter's heart was touched. Looking in pity at the poor man, he spoke to him. "Aeneas," he said kindly, "Jesus Christ makes you well! Get up and make your bed."

Peter's words surprised him, yet Aeneas believed. Immediately he got up. Strength filled his body and he knew he was perfectly well.

Soon everyone in Lydda heard that Aeneas had been healed of palsy. Many people came to see him and Peter. When they heard the gospel, they believed and turned to the Lord.

While Peter was still in Lydda, a woman named Dorcas became very ill. She grew worse, and in a short time she was dead.

Dorcas had spent all her time caring for the sick, the poor and the needy. Her friends were filled with sorrow at her death. They believed Peter could help them so they sent for him to come at once.

When Peter arrived they took him to the room where they laid Dorcas' body. Many friends stood weeping and showing Peter the clothes that Dorcas had made while she was alive.

Peter asked everyone to leave the room. Then he kneeled down and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Dorcas, get up!"

Dorcas opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. Peter gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called her friends back into the room. They were overjoyed to see Dorcas alive. News of this miracle spread quickly and many more believed in the Lord. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And it was known  
throughout all Joppa;  
and many believed in  
the Lord. Acts 9:42.





## A Visit to Heaven

(A true account.)

Lillian held her two-year-old daughter close to her breast and silently prayed, "Dear Lord, please let me live to see my Ruby grow up into a young woman."

The mother was seriously ill and her doctors could not do much more for her. She was saved but it hurt to think of leaving Ruby alone with her husband. As Lillian buried her face into Ruby's sweet-smelling hair, she sighed, "Oh Lord, Your will be done. Do as You think best."

Soon after this Lillian became very ill and her husband rushed her to the hospital where the doctors and nurses worked to keep her alive.

Lillian felt her soul and spirit leave her body as she rose above her hospital bed. She could see her husband shaking with sobs and the doctor put his hand on her husband's shoulder and say, "I'm so sorry; she is gone."

As Lillian ascended into a warm light, an angel met her. With the angel was a young man that Lillian knew. "Why, Tom," she said, "I didn't know you were already here."

He answered, "I didn't know you were here either."

"I have just come," she told Tom. "So have I," he replied.

Suddenly the angel said to Lillian, "But you are going back to earth for awhile."

For a moment Lillian was disappointed, for she had already seen that heaven was the most beautiful, peaceful, wondrous place—far beyond anything she had ever dreamed it to be.

Then she remembered her husband and little girl. Lillian sighed and said to the angel, "All right, I guess I should go back to them."

Lillian awoke in the hospital bed and opened her eyes. Her husband cried out with joy and amazement for the doctors and nurses had already stopped trying to save her life. He bent down, kissed her cheek and took her hand in his.

About that time her husband was called to the telephone. It was Tom's father. He was crying. "I have bad news," he told Lillian's husband. "My son Tom has just been killed in a car accident."

In time Lillian was able to tell Tom's family about her heavenly visit. She lived to see Ruby grow up, marry and have children of her own.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who went from city to city to encourage the saints?
2. Where did Peter go?
3. How long had Aeneas been in bed?
4. Who made Aeneas well?
5. Who became very ill and died?
6. What had she spent all her time doing?
7. Who did her friends send for?
8. What did Peter do after everyone left the room?
9. What happened when Peter told Dorcas to get up?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 9:32-42.

(Answers: 1. The apostles. 2. To Lydda. 3. Eight years. 4. Jesus. 5. Dorcas. 6. Caring for the sick, the poor and the needy. 7. Peter. 8. He knelt down and prayed. 9. She opened her eyes.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 20, 1998

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## PETER'S VISION

Cornelius was a captain in the Roman army. Although he was a Gentile, Cornelius worshiped the true God and taught his household to do the same. Every day Cornelius prayed earnestly to God. One afternoon, while he was praying, an angel came and said, "Cornelius."

When he looked up and saw the angel, he was afraid. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

"God has heard your prayers and seen your good works," the angel said comfortingly. "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."

As soon as the angel left, Cornelius called two of his servants and one of his soldiers who served the Lord and told them what the angel had said. He asked them to go to Joppa to find Peter.

It was about noon the next day before they reached Joppa. Meanwhile Peter fell asleep while waiting for dinner. In his sleep he saw a vision of a great sheet let down from the sky. In it were several kinds of animals. A voice said, "Get up, Peter! Kill and eat."

Peter saw some of the animals were those that Moses had forbidden them to eat. These were called "common" or "unclean." He answered, "No, Lord, I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

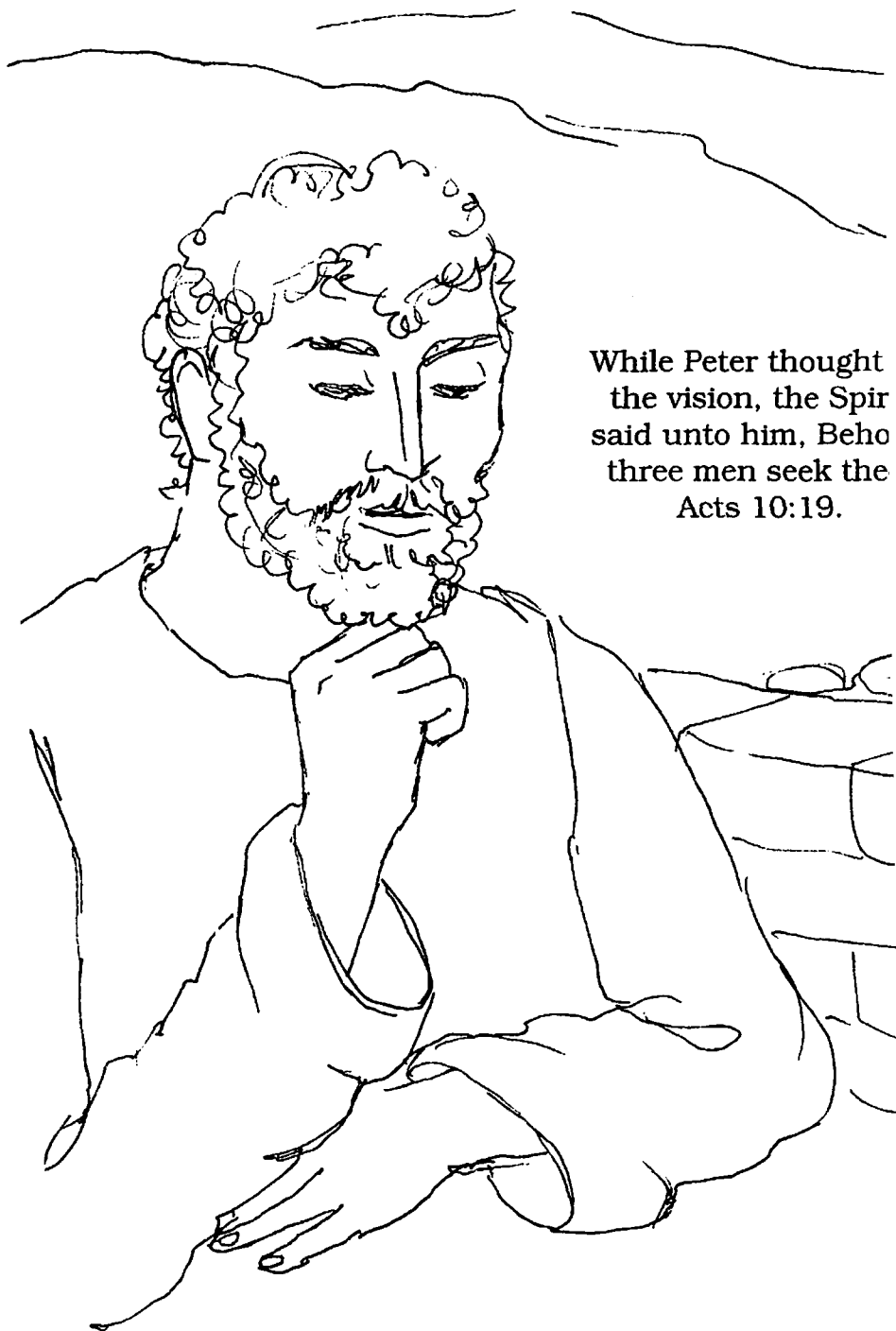
"What God has made clean do not call common!" the voice answered.

This happened three times before Peter woke up. While he was wondering what it could mean, the Spirit of God told him, "Three men are looking for you. Get up and go with them because I have sent them."

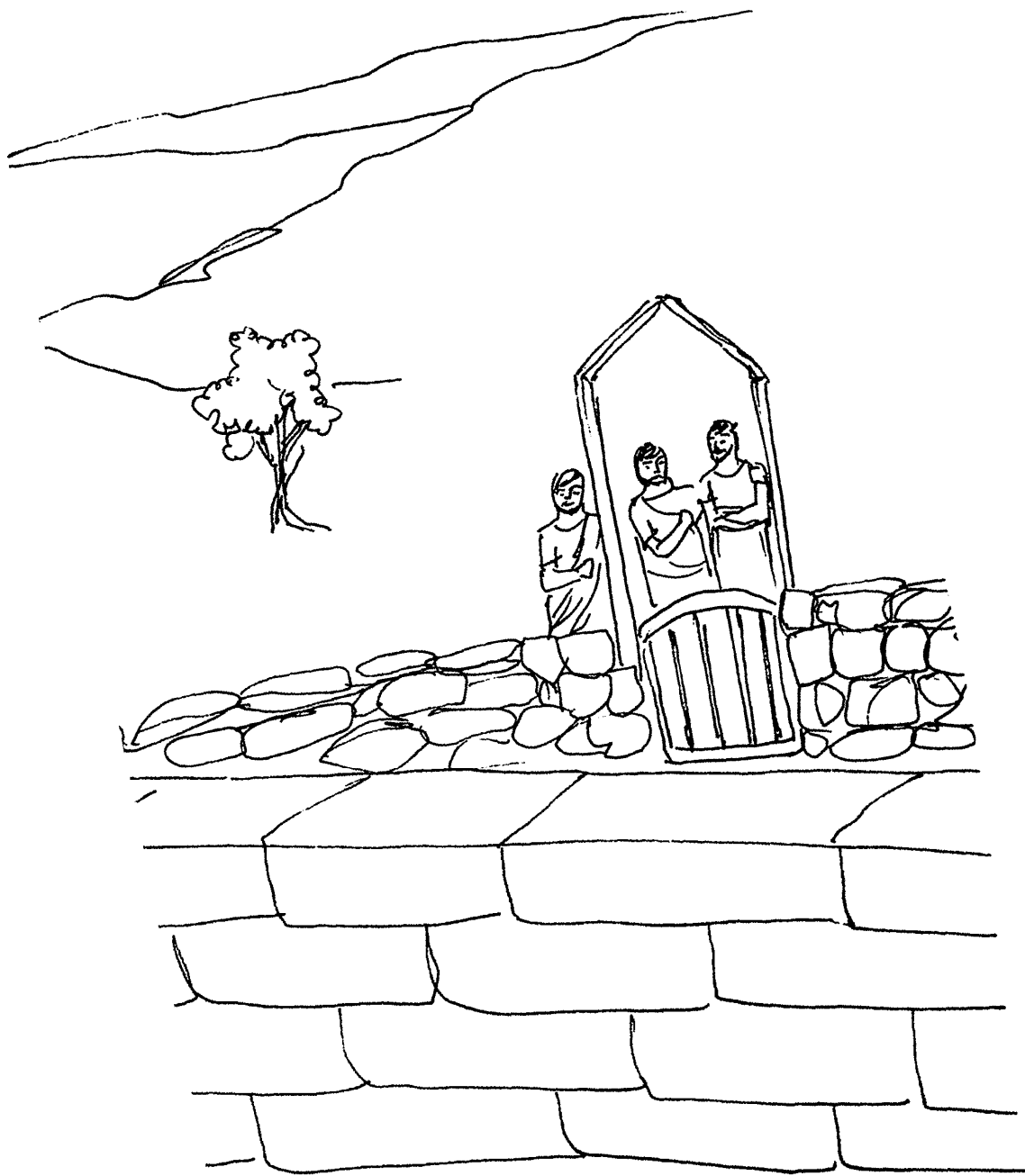
When Peter reached the gate there were the three men Cornelius had sent. "I am the man you are looking for," he told them. The three told Peter about their master and how the angel had commanded him to send for Peter.

Peter told the men, "Stay with me tonight, and I will go back to Caesarea with you in the morning."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



While Peter thought  
the vision, the Spir  
said unto him, Beho  
three men seek the  
Acts 10:19.



## Precious In His Sight

In the country of Ukraine it is bitterly cold in the wintertime. Heating is a big problem because there is not any natural gas available and wood is also scarce. Warm clothing and blankets are the main sources of warmth for most of the people.

The Ukrainian government is communistic and factory production is very poor. They do not adequately supply the needs for the citizens living in their country and the people are not allowed to work for themselves to supply these needs.

Every year these people suffer from the cold. Many elderly people and children actually freeze to death.

Recently, in the last few years, Christian Americans have been shipping overcoats for these dear people. Over 50,000 coats have been given and sent overseas. These heavy coats are greatly appreciated by men and women, young and old. Some of these coats may save the lives of their owners.

Ukraine is a cold, northern country, but Sudan is a warm, southern country in Africa. The people in Sudan do not need coats but they need simple clothing, soap, clean water, food and other basic things. Their government is Muslim and they kill Christians. Thousands of men, women and children have suffered and died because they love Jesus.

When news reached Christians in America that fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord were suffering in Sudan, life packs were made to ship overseas to them. Water, food, clothing and other needs were given to help these courageous Christians.

In the communist country of Vietnam, it is illegal to tell someone about Jesus Christ. The government does not want the people to worship

together. Anyone who gathers with others to pray and sing about the Lord can be arrested and put in jail for a lifetime.

Christians in America have heard about the arresting of pastors and how they are kept away from others so they cannot spread the gospel. Soon Christians from other countries were writing letters to the Vietnamese government demanding that the pastors be set free. Five thousand plus letters have been sent to this government asking that they set pastors free.

Thousands of concerned Christians living in freedom have helped persecuted brothers and sisters in the Lord. Just as the song says, "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world," so we need to show our love by helping those who need us.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Cornelius?
2. Who did he worship?
3. What did he do every day?
4. Who came to him one afternoon?
5. Who was Cornelius to send for?
6. What did Peter see while he waited for dinner?
7. What was in the sheet let down from heaven?
8. How many times did this happen?
9. Who told Peter three men were looking for him?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 10:1-22.

(Answers: 1. A captain in the Roman army. 2. The true God. 3. Prayed earnestly to God. 4. An angel. 5. Peter. 6. A vision. 7. Animals. 8. Three times. 9. The Spirit of God.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 27, 1998

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## PETER AND CORNELIUS

Early the next morning Peter, with six Jewish believers, started for Caesarea with Cornelius' three servants. When they reached Cornelius' house, it was already full of people waiting to see Peter and hear what he had to say.

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 started among their people in the past. But suddenly Peter understood why God had shown him the vision of the animals. God had already cleansed the hearts of these people. Although they were Gentiles, he was not to consider them "common" or "unclean."

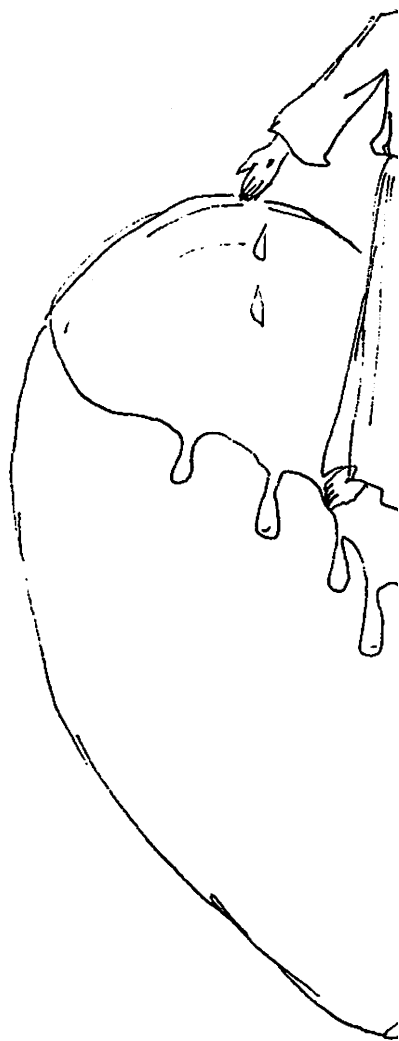
When Cornelius saw Peter, he fell at his feet to worship him. Peter lifted him up and said, "Stand on your feet. I am a man like you."

Cornelius led Peter into the crowded room where the relatives and friends were waiting. "You know it is against the Jewish law for a Jew to keep company with anyone from another nation. But God has shown me I should not call any man common or unclean. For that reason I have come to you. Now I see that God accepts any people who fear Him and do what is right, no matter what nation they are of."

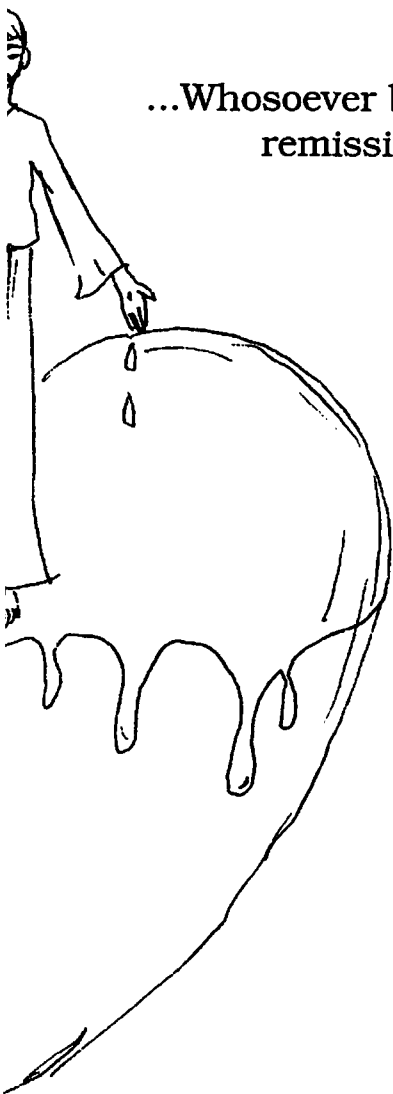
Peter then told Cornelius and the people about Jesus, who died to save people from their sins. He explained that whoever believed in the name of Jesus would be saved. As he spoke God gave the Holy Spirit to these Gentiles who listened.

Peter and the Jews with him were amazed that God would give the Holy Spirit to Gentiles too. They thought salvation was just for the Jews. Now they understood that God was willing to save all nations.

"Can anyone forbid these Gentiles to be baptized since they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" Peter asked. Then all of them were baptized as Jesus had commanded. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Whosoever believeth in him shall receive  
remission of sins. Acts 10:43.



## Pray With Me

(A true story.)

One day Sis. Laura Haviland was walking to a store when she met an old friend.

"Hello, Sis. White, how are you doing?" she greeted her.

"Hello, Sis. Haviland. I feel fine myself but my son is sick and dying of tuberculosis. Would you be so kind as to come and visit him? Maybe he would let you read the Word of God and pray with him. He needs salvation so much!"

"Yes, I will come right away," said Sis. Haviland. Soon she was at the White's house, a Bible in her hand. Sis. White and her daughter hugged Sis. Haviland and quietly they prayed for Harvey that he would get saved.

Harvey was weak and not able to talk much. He turned his head on his pillow as Sis. Haviland entered his room. She took his warm hand in hers. "I see you are very low and weak. I do not wish to worry you with talking. Would it be too much if I should read a few of the words from our Lord and Saviour?"

"Oh, no, I'd like to hear it."

So she read a few verses out of the fourteenth chapter of John. "Do you mind if I pray?" she asked Harvey.

"I would like for you to pray," he responded.

After prayer, Sis. Haviland arose to leave. Harvey reached out his hand and took hold of her hand. "Please come and visit me tomorrow," he pleaded with tears in his eyes.

"Yes, I will," she promised.

The next day as Sis. Haviland entered Harvey's sick room he cried out weakly for God to have mercy upon his lost soul. Sis. Haviland prayed with him and Harvey prayed a simple prayer of his own. She read some more from the Word of God. Then she left.

Early the next morning Harvey's sister came for Sis. Haviland. "Harvey

wants to see you quick," she told Sis. Haviland, who quickly prepared to go.

By Harvey's bedside, she saw he had a joyful look on his face. Though still weak, he was excited. "Oh, Sis. Haviland!" he exclaimed, "God has brought me out of darkness this morning about the break of day. Oh, hallelujah! He shed His blood for poor me! Oh, how I wish I had strength to tell everyone that I am happier in one minute that I ever was in all my life put together."

The three women rejoiced with him. Later he lifted up his hands with a smile and said, "They have come for me." He went with the angels to be with Jesus forever.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. How many Jewish believers went to Cornelius' house with Peter?
2. What were the people in Cornelius' house waiting for?
3. Who had never gone to the home of a Gentile?
4. Why did Jews refuse to be friends with Gentiles?
5. What did Cornelius do when he met Peter?
6. Who did Peter tell them about?
7. What happened while the people listened?
8. Why were Peter and the Jews amazed?
9. Who commanded that believers be baptized?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 10:23-48.

(1. Answers: 1. Six. 2. To see and hear Peter. 3. Peter. 4. This was how idol worship started among their people in the past. 5. He fell at his feet. 6. Jesus. 7. God gave them the Holy Spirit. 8. They thought salvation was only for the Jews. 9. Jesus.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 4, 1998

## GOD'S GIFT TO THE GENTILES

The apostles and brethren in Jerusalem soon heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. They were surprised that Peter would even go into the home of a Gentile, much less preach to them.

Some were especially displeased. As soon as Peter reached Jerusalem, they accused him. "You went in to men that were uncircumcised and even ate with them!" Peter admitted that this was true.

Then Peter explained just what made him go to the Gentiles. He told them, "I was in Joppa praying. I saw a vision in which something like a great sheet was let down from heaven by its four corners. It came so near I could see there were fourfooted beasts, wild beasts, creeping things and fowls of the air in this great sheet.

"Then I heard a Voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' Immediately I answered, 'Not so, Lord! I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.' 'Do not call anything common that God has made clean,' the Voice answered.

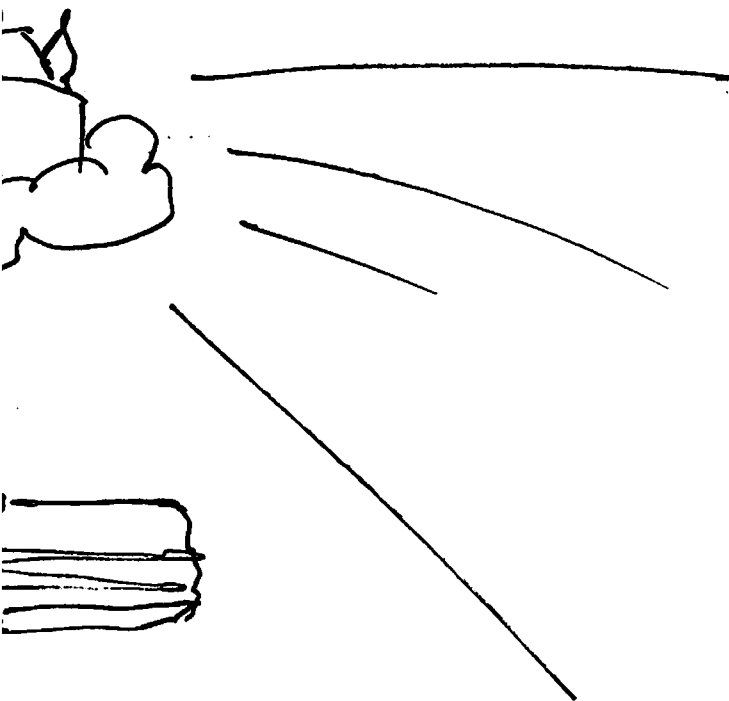
"This was done three times. As I wondered what it could mean, three men came saying they were sent to take me to Caesarea. When the Spirit told me to go with them, I took six men and followed the men to Cornelius' house.

"There Cornelius told me how he had seen an angel who told him to send for me. The angel said I would tell him how he and all his house should be saved. Hearing this I began to speak. Immediately the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as it did on us at the beginning. I remembered then that Jesus told us that all who believed on Him would be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then Peter asked, "Since God gave them His Spirit as He did us, who was I that I should withstand God?"

Peter's accusers could only glorify God saying, "Then God has given the great gift of salvation to the Gentiles also!" —Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...Then hath God also to  
the Gentiles granted  
repentance unto life.  
Acts 11:18.



## Give For Good

Mother was busy fixing supper when Randy came into the kitchen.

"Mama, Jerry lied to me," he said.

"Don't accuse someone of lying until you understand their side," Mother replied, as she turned to look at her youngest son.

"Well, Jerry said I could have his yellow bulldozer and now he says he never gave it to me and he took it out of the sandbox where I was playing. That's lying!"

"Are you sure he GAVE the bulldozer to you or did he just LOAN it to you? There is a difference, you know."

"He said I could have it because he was too old to play with it anymore." Randy rubbed a sandy fist over his eyes, and Mother put her arm on his shoulder.

"Randy, go and clean up at the sink and get ready for supper. When Jerry comes inside, I will ask him about the bulldozer. Don't you say anything to him or I will punish you for accusing. Understand?"

Randy nodded as he went to the sink. He was quiet when Jerry and Linda came inside to wash their hands. Then Daddy came home and everyone sat down at the supper table to eat.

After Daddy thanked the Lord for the food, Mother smiled at all her family. "This is the best part of the day," she said. "I love to have my family together, happy and content. We never want any bad feelings to come between us because we are family and friends."

Randy smiled back at Mother who gave him a special nod because he had obeyed and was quiet about the bulldozer. If Randy had not obeyed and had blamed Jerry, there would have been a bad argument and not such a peaceful suppertime.

After supper Mother took Jerry aside. "Jerry, what did you tell Randy about the bulldozer? Did you GIVE it to him or did you LOAN it to him?"

"At first, I gave it to him. Then I decided I wanted it, so I took it back. But really I don't play with it anymore—I guess I should let him have it, if he will take care of it. He hasn't been hollering at me about it."

"Make up your mind, Jerry, then stay with your decision. If you let him it, then don't take it away from him later. That isn't honest."

When Jerry gave the bulldozer to Randy, he told Randy he could have it for his own. Randy thanked Jerry.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who had also received the word of the Lord?
2. What had Peter done that surprised those at Jerusalem?
3. What was Peter doing when he saw a vision?
4. Where did the great sheet come from?
5. What were in the sheet?
6. How many times did Peter see this vision?
7. Who told Peter to go with the three men?
8. Who told Cornelius to send for Peter?
9. What great gift did God give the Gentiles?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 11:1-18.

(Answers: 1. The Gentiles. 2. He went into the home of a Gentile. 3. Praying. 4. Heaven. 5. All kinds of animals, insects and birds. 6. Three times. 7. The Spirit. 8. An angel. 9. Salvation.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 11, 1998

## THE GOOD NEWS SPREADS

The saints in Jerusalem suffered much persecution after Stephen was stoned to death. To escape the danger, many fled to other cities and nearby countries. Wherever they went they told about Jesus. They were careful to preach to the Jews only, believing salvation was for them alone.

Some of the believers fled to the large city of Antioch and preached to the Jews living there. The hand of the Lord was on them and the gospel was well received. A great number believed the good news and turned to the Lord.

The church at Jerusalem heard about the many new believers in Antioch. They sent a man named Barnabas to help them. Barnabas was a good man who was full of the Holy Spirit and faith. As soon as he reached the city, he met with the believers. He was happy to see the great number of believers. Even more were added to the Lord through his efforts.

The church at Antioch was growing fast. Barnabas needed more helpers. He knew Saul would be a great help in the work. When he found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year the two preached the gospel there and encouraged the believers. The followers of Christ were called Christians first here in Antioch because they acted like Christ.

Prophets from Jerusalem came to visit the church at Antioch. One, named Agabus, told the church how the Spirit had shown him there would be a great famine throughout the whole country. In time this came to pass. Then, when the church at Antioch heard the believers in Judea were hungry, they wanted to help. Each one gave as much as they could and sent the money to the saints in Jerusalem by Barnabas and Saul. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell





And the hand of the  
Lord was with them:  
and a great number  
believed, and turned  
unto the Lord. Acts  
11:21.



## Getting Acquainted

Jerry came into the laundry room where Mother was ironing. "Our new neighbors are moving in across the street," he told her. "There is a boy about my age and a girl like Linda's size. I wonder what their names are."

"I hope they are well-behaved children," replied Mother. "We can get acquainted with them today and see if they need any help. I have only one more shirt to iron."

Soon Mother, Jerry, Linda and Randy were walking across the street to visit with the newcomers. The mother of the family saw them coming and she came to meet them.

"Why, this is very nice of you to come and meet us," she said. "I like friendly neighbors. My name is Linda Green and my husband over there is John Green."

"Hello, we are the Richards family," Mother said with a smile. "I am Karen. This is Jerry. Here is our Linda. And our youngest is Randy. My husband will be home this evening. His name is Andy."

While the mothers were talking, two children had come to stand near by. "I knew my children would come to meet you," said Mrs. Green. She put her hand on the boy's shoulder. "This is J. R. which stands for Johnny Ray and our daughter is Kathy. It looks like our children are close to the same age."

As it turned out, Jerry was older than the boy and Linda older than the girl. It wasn't long before Jerry was helping J. R. unpack and Linda was helping Kathy. When it was suppertime, Mother invited the new neighbors to eat with them.

"This is so nice!" exclaimed Mrs. Green as she came into Mother's kitchen. "You hardly know us and yet you've invited us into your home. My pans and dishes are still in boxes so I thought we would have to eat at McDonald's again. John will be so

happy to eat a good, home-cooked meal."

Mother had cooked a delicious meal. At the table, Mrs. Green asked Mother about the best stores in town and the men talked about cars. The children enjoyed listening.

When the neighbors were ready to leave, Mrs. Green asked Mother, "What church do you go to?"

"We belong to the Church of God," said Mother. "Would you like to go to church services with us this Sunday? The chapel is about a mile from us."

"John and I will discuss it," said Mrs. Green with a smile. "Your family is so warm and friendly. Thank you for the wonderful meal." Then Mrs. Green hugged Mother. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What happened to the saints in Jerusalem after Stephen was stoned?
2. Why did many believers leave Jerusalem?
3. What did they do wherever they went?
4. Why did they only preach to the Jews?
5. Who was full of the Holy Spirit and faith?
6. Why did Barnabas need more helpers?
7. Who did he know would be a good helper?
8. Where were the believers first called Christians?
9. What did the church at Antioch do when they heard the saints in Judea were hungry?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 11:19-24.

(Answers: 1. They suffered persecution. 2. To escape the danger. 3. They told about Jesus. 4. They believed salvation was for the Jews only. 5. Barnabas. 6. Because the church was growing so fast. 7. Saul. 8. At Antioch. 9. They sent money to help them.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 18, 1998

## WICKED KING HEROD

After Saul became a follower of Jesus the churches had rest throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria. During this time the churches were multiplied. After Saul, the high priests did not persecute the church openly.

Then trouble came from another source. Herod, who was then king over Galilee and Judea, made his home in Jerusalem. King Herod wanted to be popular with the Jews, so he made friends with their chief priests and rulers. He soon found out how much these Jewish rulers hated those who believed that Jesus was the Christ. To please them, Herod began making trouble for the believers.

First he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword. The chief priests and rulers were so pleased by this that Herod decided to do away with Peter also. So, just before the feast of the Passover, Herod had Peter arrested. Peter was then taken to prison. Sixteen soldiers were given orders to guard him day and night.

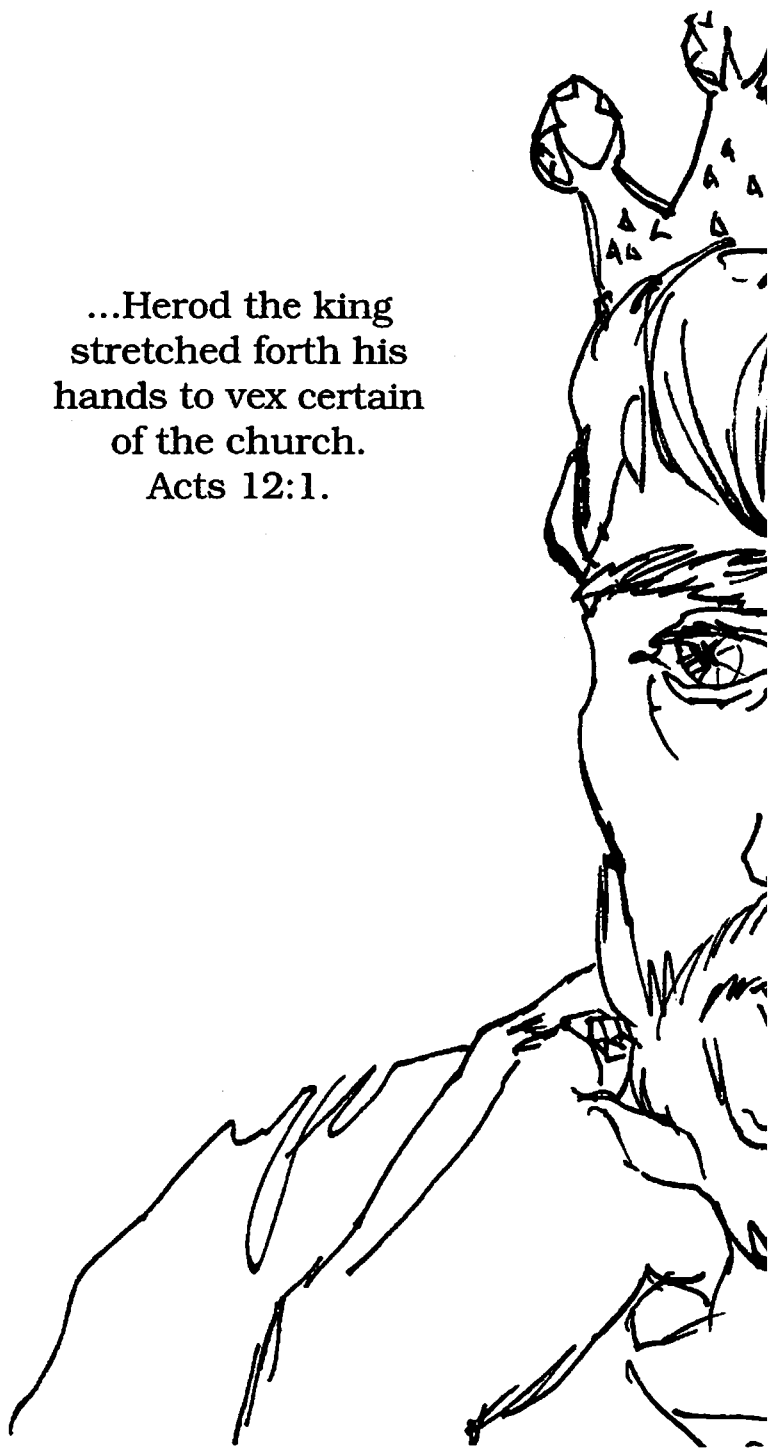
The loss of James was a great tragedy for the church. James was one of the first three disciples that Jesus chose. Several times James, along with Peter and John, was chosen to be with Jesus and see special manifestations of His power. He saw Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop. He was also one of those Jesus chose to be near Him as He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane.

When Peter was arrested, the church was greatly alarmed. They could not spare Peter too! Day after day they met and prayed earnestly for his release. The days passed and still Peter was kept in prison. Knowing Herod intended to kill him right after Passover, the believers met at Mary's home to pray all night. They determined to pray to God for Peter's release day and night without stopping.

It was midnight. Wicked King Herod planned to kill Peter the very next morning. Though he knew this, Peter lay sound asleep between two soldiers. Two chains held him fast. Outside, more soldiers stood guard by the prison doors. There was no way Peter could escape—or so it seemed!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Herod the king  
stretched forth his  
hands to vex certain  
of the church.  
Acts 12:1.





## A Bad Start

"Goodbye, Jerry. I'll be praying for you," said Mother.

"Thanks, Mom." replied Jerry, as he jumped out of their car parked in front of his school. He hurried because the first bell had already rung, and he had only five short minutes to get to class.

As Jerry entered the school his friend, Jason, called to him. "Hey, man, why are you in such a shot-gun hurry? I gotta tell ya something."

"Not right now, Jason. I don't want to be late for Mr. Legend's class. He gives a detention for being tardy."

Jerry kept on walking down the hall and Jason walked beside him.

"So? Who stays after school in detention hall, anyway? I skip 'em. Look, I only want to tell you what some of us guys plan to do today."

By now they were in front of Jerry's locker. "Okay, tell me quick while I walk to class."

Jason lowered his voice to a course whisper. "Some of us guys are tired of eating this school food so we plan to walk to Pizza Hut down the road and eat there."

Jerry shook his head as he shut his locker door. "Are you guys going to get permission? You know it is against the school rules to leave the grounds."

"Yeah, we know that, but we have a good escape plan and no one will miss us. Want to come along?"

"No, Jason. You had better get to your class or you will be late," replied Jerry as he hurried toward his first class.

"You'll be missin' all the fun, plus the pizza!" called Jason over

his shoulder.

Jerry shook his head at the thought. Just as he reached the classroom door, the last bell rang. Mr. Legend was already at his desk checking over the name list. "Jerry, why are you not in your seat?"

"I'm sorry, sir. My mom was a little late in bringing me to school."

"Did you bring a written note from her?"

"No, sir, I didn't think I was late."

Mr. Legend was frowning. "Go to your seat, Jerry, and I will talk with you after class."

Quietly, Jerry obeyed while some of his classmates snickered. They knew Mr. Legend liked to pick on Jerry because Jerry was polite and obedient. In his heart, Jerry began to pray. —Sis. Connie Sorrell  
(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. When did the churches have rest?
2. Who was king over Galilee and Judea?
3. Who did he make friends with?
4. Who did the Jewish rulers hate?
5. Who did Herod kill?
6. What did he do to Peter?
7. How many soldiers guarded him?
8. Why did the believers meet at Mary's home?
9. What was Peter doing at midnight before he was to be killed?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 12:1-6.

(Answers: 1. After Saul became a follower of Jesus. 2. Herod. 3. The chief priests and rulers. 4. Those who believed that Jesus was the Christ. 5. James. 6. He arrested him. 7. Sixteen. 8. To pray all night. 9. He was fast asleep.)



**THE**

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



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**Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 25, 1998**

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## **AN ANGEL VISITS PRISON**

The very night before Herod intended to put him to death, Peter was sound asleep in the prison. Chained by both hands to two soldiers, Peter could not even move without disturbing them. The prison doors were locked and bolted and soldiers stood guard. Herod had done everything in his power to make Peter's escape impossible.

Peter's friends could not persuade Herod to spare his life, so they took their case to God in constant prayer. In prison Peter, too, talked to God about the situation. With no hope of escape he committed himself to God that night, knowing he was in good hands. Then Peter went to sleep.

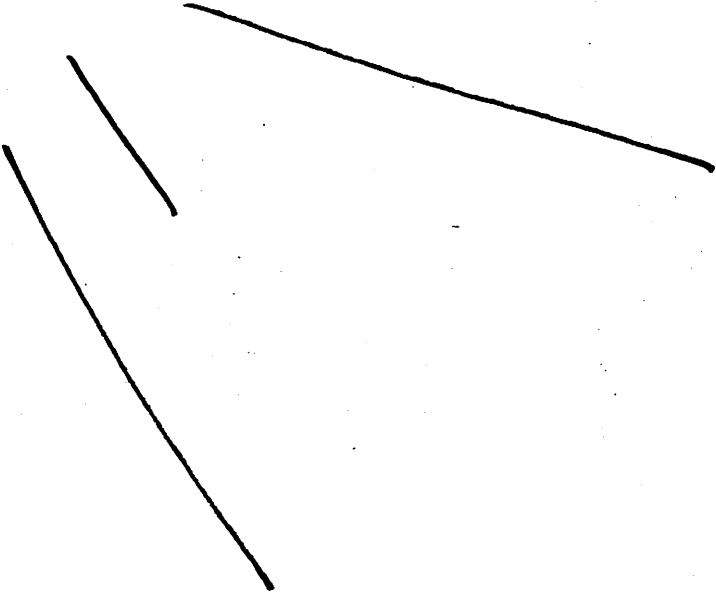
Gates and guards kept human help from reaching Peter but they were no obstacle to the angel of the Lord. Suddenly the angel stood right over Peter. Bright light shined in the dark cell but Peter was so fast asleep that this did not awaken him. Hitting him on the side the angel raised him up, saying, "Get up quickly!" Still half asleep, Peter obeyed. As he stood up, his chains fell right off his hands.

Peter was so drowsy the angel had to tell him what to do. "Get dressed and put on your sandals," he told him. When Peter obeyed, the angel instructed, "Put your coat on and follow me."

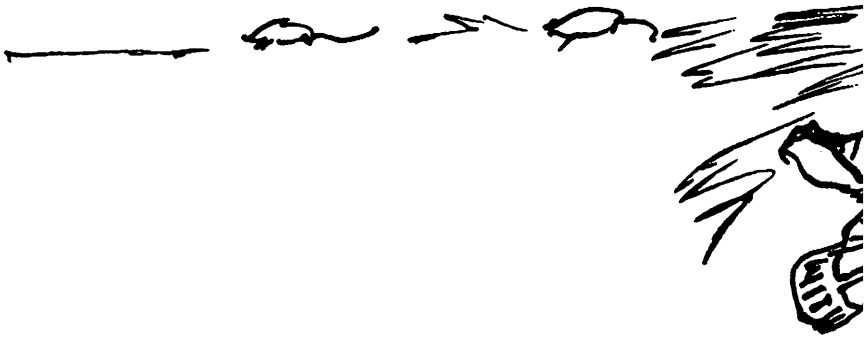
Obediently Peter followed the angel. Stepping over the sleeping soldiers, they walked out of the cell. As they passed one soldier after another, no one tried to stop them. Peter was sure he was dreaming.

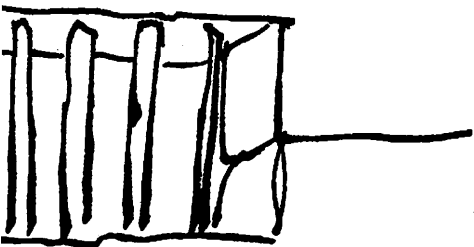
Coming to the great iron gate that led to the city, Peter saw it slowly swing open so they could walk right through! Leaving the prison, Peter followed the angel through one street. Then suddenly the angel disappeared.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And, behold, the angel of the  
Lord came upon him, and a light  
shined in the prison:...Acts 12:7.





## A Scripture to Live By

(Continued from last week.)

During Mr. Legend's lesson Jerry kept worrying about the after-class meeting he would have with Mr. Legend. He had not meant to be late but he had been a tiny bit. Would Mr. Legend be understanding?

Too soon for Jerry, the dismissal bell rang. As students sprang up from their seats to leave, Mr. Legend was calling out the homework assignment. Suddenly, the room was empty except for Mr. Legend and Jerry.

The teacher cleared his throat as Jerry stood by his desk. "You know, Jerry, that I don't like students to be late to my class."

"I know, sir."

"Well, I feel like I need to give you a detention so that you students will understand I mean what I say. If I let you get by, before long half of the class will come dragging in late." As Mr. Legend spoke, he was busy writing out a detention slip for Jerry. "I will hand this in to the principal, who will notify your parents. The detention will be for tomorrow after school. This is all, Jerry. You had better hurry to your next class or you will be late for it."

A lump rose in Jerry's throat as he turned away from Mr. Legend. Angry words fought to escape his tight lips and his eyes blinked away salty tears. He would tell his parents about this unjust detention and he wouldn't take it. Other students had been later than he was and Mr. Legend hadn't punished them.

All morning Jerry had angry thoughts toward Mr. Legend. At lunchtime Jerry didn't feel like eating, so he sat down on a bench in the hallway. Jason and three other boys

came by.

"Hey, Jer, we heard you got a Big 'D' today," said Jason. "Remember what I told ya this morning? Might as well come along with us to Pizza Hut—you already have a detention anyway."

"Yeah, come on," agreed the others.

Jerry shook his head. "No, I don't feel like eating."

"Aw, you aren't worrying about that Big 'D' are you? Just don't go. Half the ones that get detentions don't stay," said Jason.

"Come on; let's go! Our order is ready!" said one of the boys.

"See ya later, Jerry! Have fun!" they retorted as they went out the door.

In his mind, Jerry recalled a scripture, "Be not weary in well-doing...."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Peter sleeping?
2. Who was he chained to?
3. Who could not persuade Herod to spare Peter's life?
4. How did they take their case to God?
5. Who suddenly stood over Peter?
6. How did he wake Peter up?
7. How did Peter get the chains off his hands?
8. What did the soldiers do as they walked past?
9. How did they open the great iron gate?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 12:7-10.

(Answers: 1. In prison. 2. Two soldiers. 3. Peter's friends. 4. In constant prayer. 5. An angel. 6. He hit him on the side and raised him up. 7. They fell off. 8. Nothing. 9. It opened by itself.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Nov. 1, 1998

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## PETER'S ESCAPE

When Peter was safely out of prison, the angel of the Lord disappeared from him. Standing alone in the dark city street it took a few minutes for Peter to realize he was not dreaming. Coming to himself he shook his head in amazement, saying, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent his angel and has delivered me out of the hand of Herod and from those who expected that I would be killed."

Peter knew he was still in great danger as long as he was in Jerusalem. After considering what he should do, Peter decided to go to the house of Mary. He must tell the saints how God had delivered him.

Coming to the door of the gate, Peter knocked loudly. A girl named Rhoda, hearing the knock, went to see who could be there so early in the morning.

"Who is it?" Rhoda asked. When she heard Peter's voice she was so glad she forgot to open the gate. Running to the room where the people were praying, she called out excitedly, "Peter is here! Peter is here!"

"You must be mad!" the people answered. They knew Peter was in prison guarded by many soldiers.

But Rhoda insisted. She knew it was Peter's voice she had heard at the gate. "It must be his angel," they decided.

All this time Peter stood outside the gate, knocking. Finally they opened the gate. To their great surprise there stood Peter! They were filled with wonder and joy.

When Peter went in to the house, he had to motion for them to be quiet. Knowing that soldiers could be looking for him even then, Peter quietly related what had happened. The people listened intently as he told them how the angel brought him out of prison.

Knowing he must hurry out of the city before daylight, Peter told the saints goodbye instructing them to tell others about his miraculous escape. Then Peter left Jerusalem and went to another place.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Now I know of a surety,  
that the Lord hath sent his  
angel, and hath delivered  
me... Acts 12:11.



## Reaping The Rewards

(Continued from last week.)

After school Jerry got into Mother's car. "How did your day go, Jerry?" she asked.

"Okay, I guess," said Jerry with a sigh.

"I had a very good day," said Linda. While she chattered, Jerry quietly looked out the window. Mother kept glancing at Jerry as she drove, and he was sure she had already received the call from his principal about his detention. After they were home awhile, Mother called Jerry to her. His heart pounded and he was ready to defend himself.

"Jerry, what is troubling you?" asked Mother, as she put her arm around his shoulders. He looked up at her in surprise. "Didn't you get a call from my principal today?" Mother shook her head. Then the story spilled out as Jerry told about Jason asking him to go to Pizza Hut without permission and how he was barely late to class and given a detention. Mother listened with an understanding ear.

"Well, Jerry," she said with a deep breath. "We haven't heard from your principal about this. When your father comes home from work, you can tell him what you've told me."

Later, Jerry's dad did listen to his story. "Jerry, you were smart not to go with Jason and the other boys to Pizza Hut. As for your lateness and detention, I think we will wait until the principal calls. That is the proper procedure. Don't worry about it, son. If you do have to stay thirty minutes after school one day, your mother can come later to pick you up. Let's make sure you get to school earlier in the morning."

Dad's words comforted Jerry. The next morning he was at school earlier. His first hour teacher, Mr. Legend, never said a word to Jerry about the detention, neither did the principal call his parents. Finally, Mr. Legend told Jerry he hadn't turned in the detention slip because Jerry wasn't late again.

It was three days before Jerry was able to tell Jason how he was excused from the detention. Jason and his friends missed three days of school. They were suspended for leaving the school grounds without permission during lunch hour.

Jason told Jerry that it wasn't so bad missing school, but his dad made him clean out the garage and rake all the leaves on the lawn while he was out of school.

Jerry chuckled. "Jason, you reaped nothing but leaves for disobeying," he said.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell  
(The End.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who disappeared from Peter?
2. What did Peter finally realize?
3. Where did Peter decide to go?
4. Who heard Peter knocking?
5. Why didn't she open the gate?
6. What did she tell those who were praying?
7. Did the people believe her?
8. Who did they say it must be?
9. Why did Peter hurry away before daylight?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 12:11-17.

(Answers: 1. The angel. 2. That he was not dreaming. 3. To Mary's house. 4. Rhoda. 5. She was too excited. 6. "Peter is here!" 7. No. 8. Peter's angel. 9. He was in danger in Jerusalem.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 8, 1998

## HEROD'S DEATH

As soon as it was day there was great excitement in the prison. The soldiers were still standing guard but their prisoner had disappeared. They could not imagine what had become of Peter.

When Herod sent for Peter, the guards could only tell him that they could not find Peter. Even the two soldiers Peter was chained to could not explain. They only knew he had vanished.

Herod searched everywhere in Jerusalem for Peter but could not find him. He questioned each soldier, trying to find out what had happened to his prisoner. Finally, Herod angrily ordered that every one of the soldiers must die because they had let Peter escape from prison. Then seeing he could not please the Jews by killing Peter, Herod left Jerusalem and went to Caesarea.

Now Herod was very much displeased with the people of Tyre and Sidon. The cities depended on the king's country for food. Herod could easily cut off their food supply and cause them much hardship. In an attempt to make peace, the people of Tyre and Sidon first made Herod's chief officer, Blastus, their friend. He then spoke to the king in favor of Tyre and Sidon. Finally, Herod agreed to speak to them on a set day.

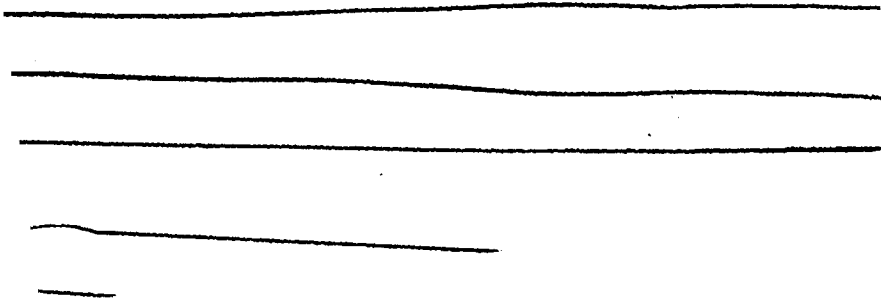
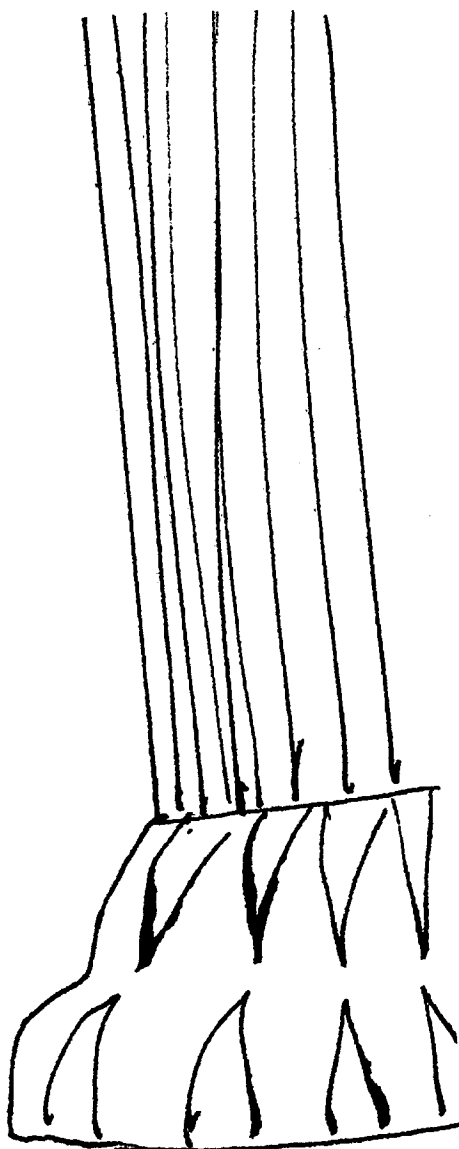
When the day arrived, Herod put on his royal clothes. His robe was woven with silver which shone brightly. Herod took his seat upon his throne. Looking down over the people, he made a speech to them. As he finished speaking, the people gave a shout, saying, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man!"

Herod accepted the people's praise. He was proud to be thought of as a god. But God was highly displeased. Immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he did not give God the glory. Worms began to eat his body and he died. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...The angel of the Lc  
gave not God th



mote him, because he  
ry:... Acts 12:23.



## Take My Silver And My Gold

(A true story.)

All his life Mr. Bee fought for power and money. He did become successful as a businessman and was powerful in the city in which he lived. Any person looking at his wealth could say that Mr. Bee had accomplished his lifelong goal.

He had plenty of money and people obeyed him when he spoke. However, Mr. Bee was not satisfied nor was he a happy man to live with. He just felt like an empty water glass that needed to be filled. He felt restless most of the time.

When Mr. Bee was living his last years, he realized he had missed the most important thing in life. He had not sought Jesus Christ for salvation.

As he became older and more feeble, he tried to "buy" his way into the kingdom of God. He gave money to help the poor. He donated money to public needs and to missionary work. Yet he did not feel happy inside.

Then Mr. Bee became very sick and the doctor told him there was nothing more he could do to help Mr. Bee get better. "You need to write out your will," said the doctor. "Let it be known what you want done with your house, land, and all your wealth."

"Oh, give it all to the church!" cried Mr. Bee. "I can't take any of it with me, and I need the Lord's mercy on my soul."

"Then you need to call for the pastor and talk to him," replied the doctor, as he left the broken, dying man.

The pastor came to visit Mr. Bee. "I don't want to talk about my money and the things that I have," said Mr. Bee. "I want to know how to meet God in peace."

So the pastor explained the simple plan of salvation by the Word of God. Mr. Bee began to call for the blood of Jesus to wash away his sins. In tears the two men wept and prayed until the Lord answered, took away his sins, and gave him rest to his soul.

"Oh, what a foolish life I have lived!" exclaimed Mr. Bee. "I wasted my life gaining earthly wealth, when I should have been laying up treasures in heaven. Take all my money and use my wealth to spread this wonderful salvation to lost souls. Everyone should know about the blood of Jesus that washes away sin."

In a few days Mr. Bee died, rejoicing in the Lord. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where was there great excitement?
2. Who had disappeared?
3. Who searched everywhere for Peter?
4. What happened to the soldiers who guarded Peter?
5. Where did Herod go from Jerusalem?
6. Who was displeased with Tyre and Sidon?
7. Why did they make friends of Herod's chief officer?
8. What did the people shout?
9. Why did the angel of the Lord smite Herod?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 12:18-23.

(Answers: 1. In the prison. 2. Peter, their prisoner. 3. Herod. 4. Herod ordered that they must die. 5. To Caesarea. 6. Herod. 7. They wanted to make peace with Herod. 8. "It is the voice of a god and not of a man!" 9. Because he did not give God the glory.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 15, 1998

## SAUL AND BARNABAS BECOME MISSIONARIES

The word of God grew and multiplied, just as seeds sown in good ground. At Antioch the church grew so large that it took several teachers to minister to the people. These workers met often to fast and pray. One day while they were together the Holy Spirit said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to do."

So, when they had fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them away. On this first missionary trip they took John Mark, Barnabas' nephew, with them.

The first stopping place was the island of Cyprus. In the cities of Salamis and Paphos they went into the synagogues of the Jews and preached about Jesus. At Paphos the Roman governor, Sergius Paulus, sent for them. He was a wise and honest man who wanted to hear the word of God. When the two missionaries came, the governor listened eagerly to the words they spoke.

With the governor was a magician named Elymas. Elymas did not want Sergius Paulus to become a Christian. He withstood Barnabas and Saul, trying to keep the governor from hearing the gospel.

Then Saul, (who from this time on was called Paul) being filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at the magician. "You enemy of all righteousness, will you never stop trying to oppose the way of the Lord?" Paul asked sternly. "Because you have tried to turn people away from the Lord, you will be blind for a time."

Immediately a mist and darkness settled over Elymas' eyes. Groping about, he begged others to lead him by the hand. Sergius Paulus was astonished when he saw this. At once he believed in the power of God and in Jesus, His Son.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid th  
on them, they sent them away. Acts 13:3.



lands



## **Walking Bibles Past The Guards**

(A true story.)

Mihai waited patiently in line at the Romanian border checkpoint. Soon it would be his turn for the security guards to search his Volkswagen van. He knew the Romanian government did not allow Bibles and Christian literature into that country, but he also knew the people there were hungry for the Word of God.

A courageous man living in Germany, Mihai wanted to share the gospel with his family and friends in Romania. He wanted them to know Jesus Christ saves the soul from sin and heals the body. They needed God's Word written in German so they could read for themselves, believe, and have faith in God's Son.

Mihai's van inched forward as it neared the checkpoint. He bowed his head over the steering wheel and prayed in his heart. "Lord Jesus, please help me through this checkpoint. Let me get these Bibles across the border and into the hands of those eagerly waiting for them. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen."

Tap-tap-tap! A guard was at the van window. Mihai opened the door and climbed out of his van as is required. Two guards quietly began to search Mihai's belongings in the back of the van. They looked under seats, tapped side panels, checked the map compartment, and did everything else they usually do.

Finally they were finished. One of the guards waved for Mihai to take his van across the border.

As Mihai climbed back into his van, he silently praised the Lord for His enduring mercy. In a few hours Mihai was knocking on the door of a Romanian pastor.

The pastor was so happy to see Mihai. "Come in! We have been looking for you to come. Did you bring the needed Word of God?"

"Yes, praise the Lord!" exclaimed Mihai. "Let me go to your bedroom and I will get them for you."

In the privacy of the pastor's bedroom, Mihai took the treasured Bibles from his pants. He did not have any legs. They had been amputated from the hips down. Mihai learned to walk on metal legs. He also learned to stuff Bibles, just right, into each hollow leg so that he could get as many as he could into each metal leg. The border guards had never found his hiding place.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What grew and multiplied?
2. Why did it take several teachers to minister to the church at Antioch?
3. What did these workers often do when they met?
4. Who did the Holy Spirit call?
5. Who went with them on their first missionary trip?
6. Who did the Roman governor send for?
7. Who did not want the governor to become a Christian?
8. What was Saul called after this?
9. What happened to Elymas after Paul said he would be blind for awhile?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 12:24-13:12.

(Answers: 1. The word of God.  
2. Because it grew so large.  
3. They fasted and prayed.  
4. Barnabas and Saul. 5. John Mark. 6. Barnabas and Saul.  
7. Elymas. 8. Paul. 9. A mist and darkness settled over his eyes and he could not see.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 22, 1998

## PAUL PREACHES IN THE SYNAGOGUE

From Paphos where Elymas was struck blind, Paul and Barnabas took a ship for Perga. Here John Mark left them to go back to his home in Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas went on to another city called Antioch. Here they found a Jewish synagogue and went in on the Sabbath to worship with the Jews.

It was customary to read the law and the prophets each Sabbath. The rulers of the synagogue recognized that Paul and Barnabas were strangers. They sent word to them saying, "You men and brethren, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, speak to them."

Paul gladly accepted the opportunity to tell these people about Jesus. Paul stood up so all could see and hear him clearly. Motioning with his hand, he said, "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen to me." Then Paul reminded them how God chose the Israelites to be His people. Repeating the history of the Jewish people, he told of God's dealings with them down through the years.

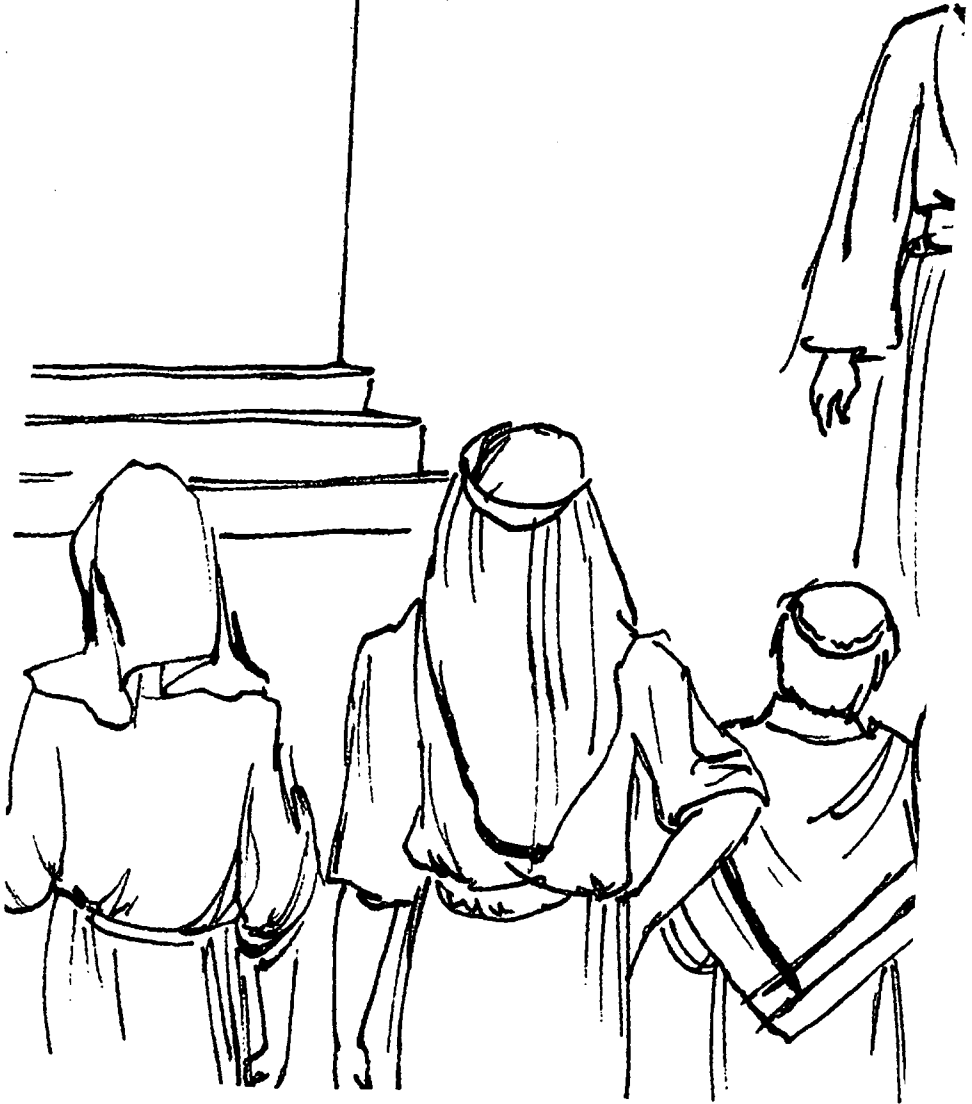
The Jews knew their history well. They had been taught the law carefully since they were very young and knew Paul's words were true. Then, after telling them about John the Baptist, he proved that Jesus was the promised Savior. He explained that Jesus' unjust trial and death actually fulfilled what the prophets wrote about Him.

But the message did not end there. Paul assured them that God raised Jesus from the dead. This could be proven by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem who were with Him many days. "And we declare to you good news," Paul continued. "The promise which God made to our fathers has been fulfilled when He raised Jesus from the grave. Be it known to you that through Jesus you may have forgiveness of sins."

Paul encouraged them to accept Jesus as their Savior. He also warned them if they rejected Christ, then the destruction foretold by the prophets would come upon them.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Then Paul stood up, and...s:  
that fear God, give au



Men of Israel, and ye  
ce. Acts 13:16.



## Bread Upon The Water

(A true story.)

A big gray ship with little stars and waves painted on its side slowly moved into a port on the north coast of Holland. Soon Chinese sailors were busy anchoring and tying heavy ropes to the dock. An officer in a blue coat, clean-pressed trousers and a small cap was standing on shore directing his seamen.

Jan, a Dutchman with a Chinese Bible in his hand, quietly stepped beside the active officer. Without looking at Jan, the officer asked, "Yes? Why have you come?"

Without saying a word, Jan showed him the Chinese Bible. Silently, the officer grabbed it, stuffed it in his shirt, ran to a gravel digger and tossed the Bible into the giant scoop of the digger. Then he walked back to Jan.

"You must not come on the ship. The captain will not allow it," he told Jan. Turning back to his work he calmly added, "Wait with it all in your car and I will send the sailors to you."

Jan nodded his head and turned away. He sat in his car under a tree and watched the dock activity. As night began to close in around him, Jan began to think the Chinese officer wasn't true to his word.

Preparing to leave, Jan was packing the Chinese gospel literature and Bibles when he saw a line of Chinese sailors descending their gangplank. They were walking toward Jan's car! Breathing a prayer of thanks, Jan rolled down his car window and began to hand out Chinese Christian tracts and Chinese Bibles.

Eagerly these rough men in blue sailor suits took these treasures and tucked them into their shirts. In broken English they thanked Jan, then quietly slipped out of sight into the shadows of the night. Thirty-five sailors passed by before the Chinese officer came to thank Jan. He had fished out the Bible he had thrown into the gravel digger.

With a bow, the officer told Jan that was all the men. Then he led them back to their anchored ship. Praising God for His goodness, Jan drove away with a lighter load than he had come with.

Let us pray that these Chinese sailors will understand and believe the Word of God. Jesus died for their sins and He wants them to make heaven their home also.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was struck blind?
2. Where did John Mark go?
3. What was read each Sabbath in the synagogue?
4. Who were the strangers?
5. Who preached to the people?
6. Who did God choose to be His people?
7. Who was the promised Savior?
8. Who raised Jesus from the dead?
9. What did Paul encourage them to do?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 13:13-41.

(Answers: 1. Elymas. 2. Back home to Jerusalem. 3. The law and the prophets. 4. Paul and Barnabas. 5. Paul. 6. The Israelites. 7. Jesus. 8. God. 9. To accept Jesus as their Savior.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 6, 1998

## THE LAME MAN AT LYSTRA

Even in Iconium the unbelieving Jews stirred up trouble. Together the Jews and Gentiles planned to get rid of Paul and Barnabas. When the missionaries heard that the people planned to stone them, they left Iconium and went to Lystra.

At Lystra, Paul and Barnabas found many who worshiped idols. They had never heard about the true God. The missionaries were glad to preach to these people and tell them how they could be saved from their awful sins.

Listening to them intently was a man who had never walked. He had been a cripple from birth. Paul noticed him and realized that the man had faith to be healed. In a loud voice Paul called out to him, "Stand up on your feet!" Immediately the man jumped up and walked.

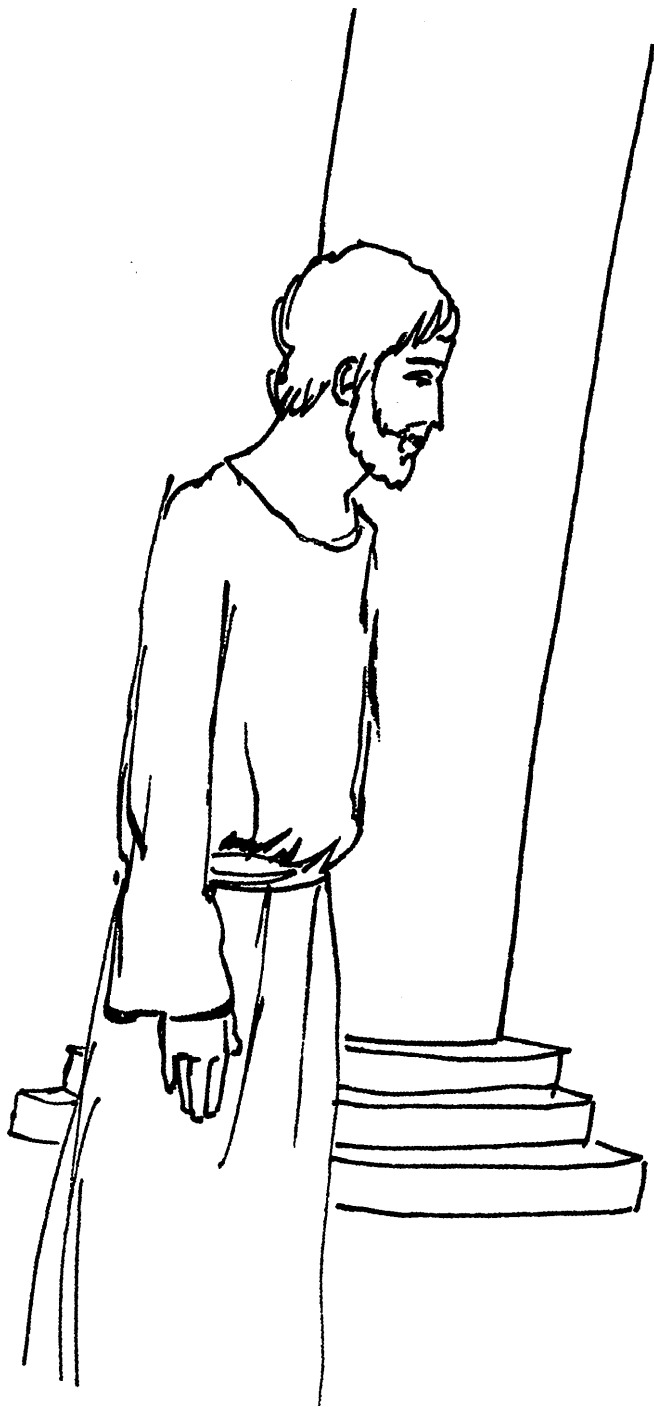
The people were amazed. They had never seen anything like this before. In great wonder they crowded around the missionaries, talking excitedly to one another in their own language. Paul and Barnabas could not understand that they were saying, "The gods have come down to us in the form of men!"

Soon Paul and Barnabas saw the heathen priest leading oxen to sacrifice and bringing wreaths of flowers. They realized then that these idol worshipers thought they were gods. Because of this they were preparing to offer sacrifices to them. Since Paul did the preaching, they thought he must be their god, Mercury, and Barnabas must be Jupiter.

Tearing their clothes, Paul and Barnabas rushed among the people and cried out, "Sirs, why are you doing this? We are men like you. We preach to you that you should turn away from idols and serve the living God. He made the heaven, the earth, the sea and all things. He gives us rain from heaven and causes our food to grow plentifully."

It was all Paul and Barnabas could do to keep the people from offering sacrifices to them.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



he leaped and walked.  
Acts 14:10.



## A Double Benefit

(A true story.)

In 1926 a new Faith Publishing House was being built at 920 West Mansur in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The foundation was laid at 22 feet wide and 72 feet long. That would take a lot of cement to cover such a large area. Money was needed for such a big project.

Bro. Fred Pruitt was praying that the Lord would supply the money so that the cement foundation could be poured. This had to be done before the rest of the building could be started.

At this time, a friend named Bro. Simon Stormquist decided to visit Bro. Fred Pruitt. Bro. Stormquist lived in the state of Missouri. As he drove to Oklahoma, he stopped in Girard, Kansas, to visit a friend.

This friend had a father who had been sick for a long time. He wasn't able to see very well and had to have help everywhere he went.

Bro. Stormquist told his friends about the healing power of Jesus and that the saints have faith to claim healing. The sick man, Mr. Palmer, said he wanted to visit someone who could pray a healing prayer for him. So Bro. Stormquist brought Mr. Palmer and his son to visit Bro. Fred Pruitt.

When Bro. Pruitt learned of Mr. Palmer's need for healing, he asked Mr. Palmer if he was saved. The man believed in God and the saving grace of Jesus, but he was not saved.

"I believe you need to repent of your sins and have peace with God before we anoint you and pray for healing," said Bro. Pruitt.

Soon Mr. Palmer was saved from his sins and ready to receive healing

from the Lord. He was anointed with oil and when prayer was offered, God sent His power down to heal his body. "God has healed me!" Bro. Palmer exclaimed.

The next day, Bro. Palmer was up early and walked to town by himself, rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord.

Bro. Palmer's son, who was a concrete contractor, said to Bro. Pruitt, "We will take Father home and come back and put in the foundation for you."

The young man did just that which was a great blessing to Bro. Pruitt because the young man insisted on giving his labor without pay. The Lord is good to those who trust in Him and love one another.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who stirred up trouble?
2. Who planned to get rid of Paul and Barnabas?
3. Where did they go when they left Iconium?
4. What did the people at Lystra worship?
5. Who was listening intently?
6. What did Paul realize?
7. What happened when Paul told him to stand on his feet?
8. What did the heathen think Paul and Barnabas were?
9. What did they want to offer to them?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 14:8-18.

(Answers: 1. The unbelieving Jews. 2. The Jews and Gentiles. 3. To Lystra. 4. Idols. 5. A man who had never walked. 6. That he had faith to be healed. 7. He jumped up and walked. 8. Gods. 9. Sacrifices.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 13, 1998

## PAUL IS STONED

It was all Paul and Barnabas could do to keep the people of Lystra from offering sacrifices to them. The people knew only idol worship. They listened to the gospel message but it seemed most of them could not understand about the one true God. However, a few did understand. They received the gospel gladly.

Word reached Iconium that Paul and Barnabas were preaching about Christ in Lystra. At once the unbelievers in Iconium sent men to Lystra to make trouble. The people were so stirred up by the lies that were told that they caught Paul and stoned him until they thought he was dead. Then they dragged his bleeding body outside the city and returned to their homes.

The believers stood over Paul in fear and sorrow. But, as they watched, they saw him move. Paul was not really dead! Soon he was able to get up. Miraculously Paul got up and walked back into Lystra with the others.

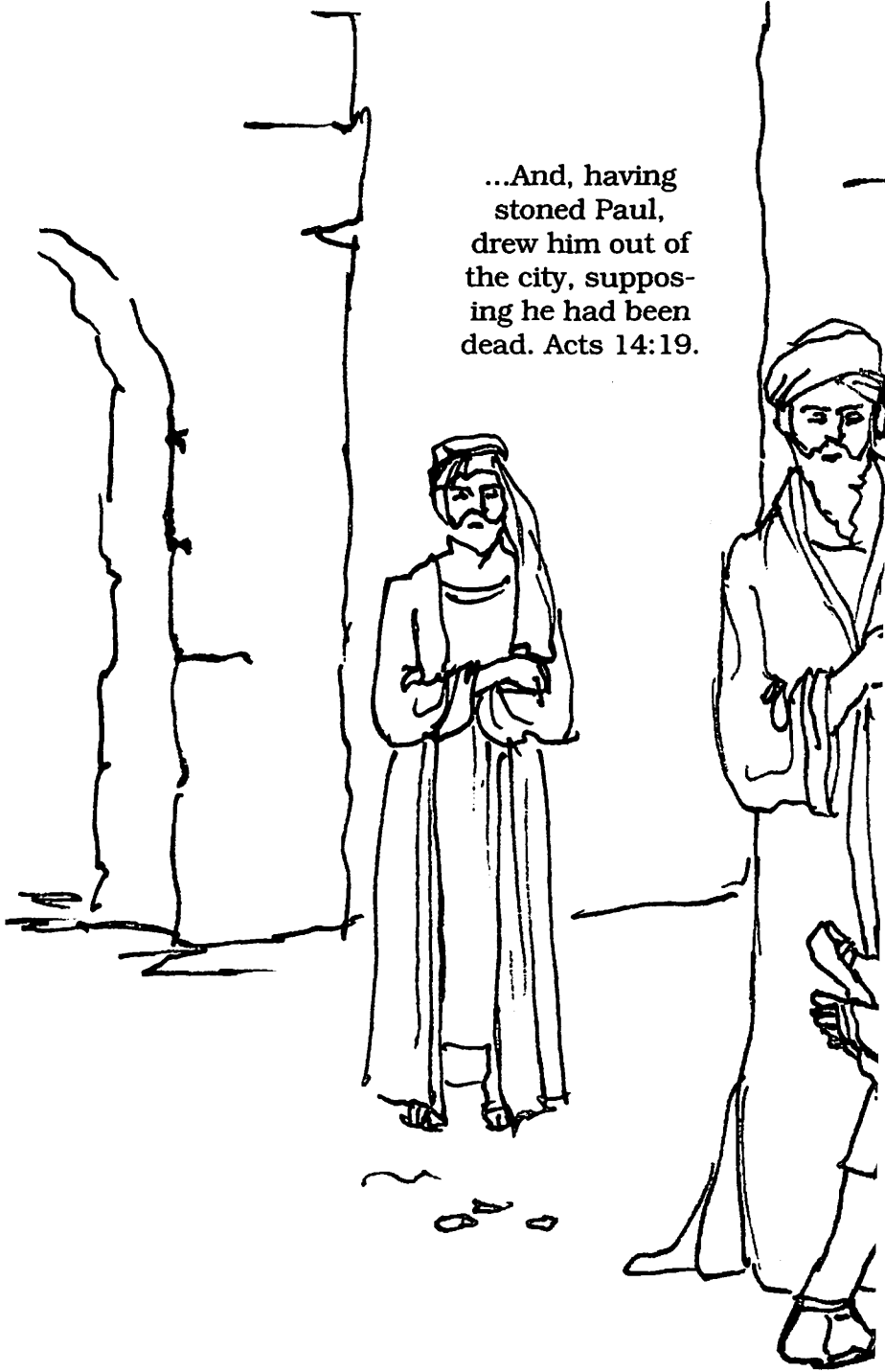
The next day Paul and Barnabas went on to Derbe where they preached the gospel courageously. Here many people turned to the Lord and were saved.

After preaching in Derbe the missionaries bravely returned to the cities of Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. In each place they encouraged the believers to continue in the faith. They told them they must be willing to suffer for the gospel. Barnabas and Paul ordained elders in every church. After they fasted and prayed they asked God to bless and prosper each one.

At last they reached Antioch in Syria and the church that had sent them out. When all the church had gathered, Paul and Barnabas told them all that God had done through them on their missionary journey.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...And, having  
stoned Paul,  
drew him out of  
the city, suppos-  
ing he had been  
dead. Acts 14:19.





## Obey God First

(A true story.)

Because Bro. Trofim Dimitrov was preaching about the saving power of Jesus Christ, he was put in the Belen prison in the country of Bulgaria.

"Do not pray to your God or tell others about Him," the Bulgarian authorities told Bro. Trofim. "If you disobey this command, you will be punished. Do you understand?"

Bro. Trofim nodded. He understood the command, but he could not obey such a law. He remembered what Peter and John had said to the high priest when they were commanded to not speak about Jesus. Peter and John said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29.)

Soon the other prisoners in Bro. Trofim's cell knew that he was different. He prayed at morning, noon and night. He did not fight and curse like the other men. Even in that cruel place, he had a kind, gentle spirit.

After a few weeks, the inmates said to Brother Trofim, "Tell us why you are so good?"

"My goodness is not of my own," said Bro. Trofim. "The saving blood of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, took away my sins. Now I don't feel badly."

The prisoners listened carefully to Bro. Trofim as he told them about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some believed, but some were afraid to believe.

Before long the government authorities heard that Bro. Trofim was "preaching and praying" in prison. They were furious! Bro. Trofim was taken out of his cell, beaten and tortured, yet he would not deny Jesus Christ.

"Throw him to the hungry dogs!" commanded the top official.

Bloody and naked, Bro. Trofim was led to a pit in the ground which held hungry, man-eating dogs. In his heart Bro. Trofim prayed for his enemies just as Jesus had done while on the cross.

With sneers, the prison guards threw Bro. Trofim into the deep pit, but the guards grew silent when they heard the dogs' growling become whining. In a panic, the dogs ran from Bro. Trofim and tried to jump the walls of the pit.

An angel of the Lord had descended into the pit with Bro. Trofim—he was saved from the dogs and later raised from the pit. The government officials threatened him again, but they were afraid to harm him.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What was the only worship the people of Lystra knew?
2. What could most of them not understand?
3. What word reached Iconium?
4. Why did the unbelievers send men to Lystra?
5. What did they do after they caught Paul?
6. Where did they drag his body?
7. Who stood over Paul in fear and sorrow?
8. What was Paul able to do miraculously?
9. What church had sent Paul and Barnabas out?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 14:19-28.

(Answers: 1. Idol worship. 2. About the one true God. 3. Paul and Barnabas were preaching in Lystra. 4. To make trouble. 5. Stoned him. 6. Outside the city. 7. The believers. 8. Walk back into Lystra. 9. Antioch.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 20, 1998

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## THE ANGEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT

On the hillsides around Bethlehem, shepherds were keeping watch over their flock by night. Suddenly the angel of the Lord came near, and a great light shone through the darkness. The shepherds were afraid. They wondered why an angel had come to them.

The angel said, "Fear not, 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."

Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of angels all praising God and saying, "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 still darkness of the night.

The shepherds said to each other, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing which the Lord has made known to us."

Leaving their flocks, they hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable they found Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. Kneeling before the manger, they worshiped the little baby who lay quietly sleeping on the hay.

They told Mary and Joseph, "An angel of the Lord told us the news and a multitude of angels sang praise to God while we were watching our sheep." 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





...Fear not: for, behold, I  
bring you good tidings of  
great joy,... Luke 2:10.

## A Gift of Dignity

(A true story.)

One Christmas season a school girl named Amy Hagadorn was sad. Amy didn't walk or talk normally because she was afflicted. Though Amy was polite and cheerful to fellow classmates, they often made fun of her slurred speech and limping walk. This hurt Amy's heart.

Amy was very discouraged one evening and her mother noticed her sadness at the supper table. To cheer Amy, her mother said, "There's a Christmas wish contest on the radio station. Write a letter and tell what you wish for the most. The best letters will receive a prize. I think someone at this table with blonde, curly hair should enter."

Amy giggled. The contest sounded like fun so she thought about what she would write. After supper she got a piece of paper and pencil. Then she wrote:

Dear—

*My name is Amy. I am nine years old. I have a problem at school. Can you help me? Children laugh at me because of the way I walk and run and talk. I have cerebral palsy. I just want one day where no one laughs at me or makes fun of me.*

Love, Amy

When Amy's letter arrived among all the hundreds of other letters, radio station manager, Lee Tobin, read it carefully. It touched his heart. He called the local newspaper office and they did a front page story about Amy and her Christmas wish.

Over the radio station WJLT in Fort Wayne, Indiana, word was given out that December 21 was Amy Jo Hagadorn Day throughout the city.

No one could make fun of Amy that whole day.

Indeed, Amy held the respect of her classmates from that day forward. She received hundreds of letters and cards from all over the world, from poor, rich, young and old. They cheered Amy for her courage and strength of character. On Amy's Day, the mayor of Fort Wayne said in his speech, "Everyone wants and deserves to be treated with respect, dignity and warmth."

Truly the greatest gift we can give someone is our love.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who were watching their flocks by night?
2. Who suddenly came near?
3. What shone through the darkness?
4. Why were the shepherds afraid?
5. Who was born that day?
6. Where would they find the Baby?
7. Where did the shepherds go?
8. Where did they find Mary, Joseph and the Baby?
9. What did they tell everyone on the way back?

**LESSON TEXT:** Luke 2:8-18.

(Answers: 1. Shepherds. 2. An angel of the Lord. 3. A great light. 4. They wondered why an angel had come to them. 5. Jesus, the Savior. 6. Lying in a manger. 7. To Bethlehem. 8. In a stable. 9. About the angel's visit and the Savior's birth.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 49, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 27, 1998

## PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY TRIP

After staying in Antioch for some days, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do."

Barnabas agreed with the plan, stating that his nephew, John Mark, should go too. But Paul did not think it would be good to take him because he left for home before the first missionary trip was completed. The two could not reach an agreement, so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to the island of Cyprus where they had witnessed for the Lord.

Paul chose Silas, a preacher from Jerusalem, to go with him. They went to Asia Minor and visited the churches there. At Lystra, the town where Paul had been stoned, they met Timothy. Timothy was a young man who was well thought of by all the brethren. Paul was so impressed with him, he invited him to go with him and Silas. Timothy gladly accepted.

The missionaries did not preach at every place they visited. In many places the people were not ready to accept the gospel. Finally they came to Troas, a city on the seacoast. Ships came to Troas from places much farther away than Jerusalem. The people in those faraway countries had never heard the gospel preached.

One night while they were at Troas, Paul had a vision. In his dream he saw a man of Macedonia who begged him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

When Paul woke up, he told Silas and Timothy about the vision. All three agreed that God wanted them to preach the gospel in Macedonia. They immediately started on their way.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Let us go again and visit our bre  
Acts 15:36.



en in every city...



## Held Hostage For Bibles

(A true story.)

As Bill and John rode their motorcycles on a road along the docks in a southern England river port, they saw a freshly painted freighter ship with a red, gold and blue flag of Romania hanging from its stern. The ship had come in since the last time Bill and John had passed out Bibles and gospel literature to sailors.

"Do you think we ought to board the ship and meet the crew?" John asked Bill.

"Yes," replied Bill. They hid their motorcycles in some bushes, swung their heavy packs on their backs and walked to the ship gangplank. As they stepped onto the gangplank, it moved and crashed against the ship's side. Bill and John expected the sailors to come running, but no one appeared.

"They are probably in the mess hall eating," said Bill. "Let's follow our noses there."

The crew was in the mess hall, eating and watching an English channel on TV. At first no one noticed Bill and John who stood at the doorway watching the 30 to 40 burly men. When some of the crew noticed the missionaries, they asked, "Why are you here?"

Bill held up a Romanian Bible. "We are Christians," he said. "We want to give you a Bible. Is that okay?"

The Captain smiled. He had the TV turned off. Soon spiritually hungry men were gathered around Bill and John who handed out Bibles and gospel literature. The sailors wanted Bibles because they had never seen one, but had heard about the book of God. Together the missionaries only had twenty Romanian

"Biblias" which greatly disappointed the sailors.

Two strong seamen took hold of Bill and gently, but firmly, carried him to a chair. Then they turned to John. "While your friend waits, you go back and get more Biblias for us."

Quickly, John slipped out the door and rushed to his hidden motorcycle. He raced the five miles to headquarters and filled his backpack with many more Romanian Bibles. Within an hour he was back in the mess hall giving Bibles to the rest of the crew. Meanwhile the sailors were asking Bill all sorts of questions about God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

As Bill and John left the ship, they prayed that these men would come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where had Paul and Barnabas been staying?
2. Who suggested they visit all the places where they had preached?
3. Who did Barnabas want to take along?
4. Why didn't Paul want to take him?
5. Where did Barnabas and Mark go?
6. Who went with Paul?
7. What had happened at Lystra?
8. What young man was Paul impressed with?
9. What did the man in Paul's vision say?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 15:36-16:15.

(Answers: 1. In Antioch. 2. Paul. 3. John Mark. 4. Because he went home before they finished their last trip. 5. They sailed to the island of Cyprus. 6. Silas. 7. Paul had been stoned there. 8. Timothy. 9. "Come over to Macedonia and help us.")

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## THE GENTILES HEAR THE GOSPEL

When Paul finished preaching, the Jews left the synagogue. At once the Gentiles came and begged Paul to preach this same sermon to them on the next Sabbath.

Some of the Jews did not like what Paul had said, but others wanted to hear more. On the next Sabbath the whole city met to hear the missionaries tell about Jesus. When the Jewish leaders saw the crowds following Paul and Barnabas, they were jealous. They spoke against the missionaries to turn the people away from them.

Paul and Barnabas knew what the Jewish leaders were doing. They told them, "It was necessary that the word of God should be preached to you first. We see that you refuse to believe, so we will preach to the Gentiles who are eager to hear the message. God has commanded us to take the light of salvation to the Gentiles, even to the farthest places of the world."

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad. Afterward many of them believed in Jesus, and the word of the Lord was spread throughout the whole region.

But the Jewish leaders did not want things to go so well with the Christians. They stirred up a bitter feeling toward Paul and Barnabas, and the city officials began to persecute the two. They ordered the missionaries to leave their city. As a witness against them, Paul and Barnabas shook off the dust of their feet and went on to the city of Iconium filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

At Iconium many Jews and Gentiles believed in Jesus and were saved. Paul and Barnabas stayed there a long time ministering to the people.

The unbelieving Jews continued to stir up trouble. They told things about Paul and Barnabas that were not true. When the people heard these stories, they turned against the missionaries. Soon Jews and Gentiles were working together to get rid of Paul and Barnabas.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And when the Gentiles heard this,  
they were glad, and glorified the  
word of the Lord:... Acts 13:48.





# Windows Of Opportunity

(A true story.)

One cool evening in Vienna, Czechoslovakia, a team of trained missionaries entered the platform beside the railroad tracks. With only one train waiting for passengers, the platform looked deserted of people.

Then one of the missionaries noticed two crowded coaches in the middle of the train. Polish students and their teachers were going back to Poland after visiting Vienna. The twelve and thirteen-year-old students, all in uniforms, were laughing, talking and making a lot of noise as they waved goodbye from the open windows.

Immediately, the four missionaries walked over to the coaches and through the windows began to hand out little booklets and gospels, New Testaments and Bibles written in Polish. Eager hands grabbed a gift and disappeared into the coach, followed by another waiting hand.

Suddenly, a harsh voice shouted. Every hand quickly popped back into the coaches. The chattering stopped. The missionaries looked at each other then bowed their heads for a silent agreement of prayer.

The leading missionary climbed the steps between the two train coaches and looked for the teacher in charge. He found her sitting beside the main door. With a polite greeting and bow, the missionary opened his bag and showed her what he was giving the children. "Will this be all right?" he asked.

A smile spread over her face. She nodded her head then called out to the school monitors to help the train missionaries give gospel booklets,

New Testaments and Bibles to every child in the coaches.

Most of the students began to read their Bibles as soon as they got them. They had heard about this Book but had never seen one. To have their very own Bible was a precious treasure to these students. They would share this wonderful book with their parents.

With tears in her eyes, one teacher said, "We will make sure the children put the books safely in their bags."

At that time the Polish government did not allow Bibles into the country of Poland. However, the people living in Poland desire to have the Word of God. Let us pray for them.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## QUESTIONS:

1. Who begged Paul to preach to them?
2. How many came to hear the missionaries the next Sabbath?
3. Who became jealous?
4. Why did they speak against the missionaries?
5. Who commanded them to take the light of salvation to the Gentiles?
6. Who were glad when they heard this?
7. What did the city officials order the missionaries to do?
8. What were Paul and Barnabas filled with?
9. What city did they go to?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 13:42-14:4.

(Answers: 1. The Gentiles. 2. The whole city. 3. The Jewish leaders. 4. To turn the people away from them. 5. God. 6. The Gentiles. 7. To leave the city. 8. Joy and the Holy Spirit. 9. To Iconium.)