

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 3, 1999

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## LYDIA HEARS THE GOSPEL

Paul, Silas and Timothy knew the Lord had called them to preach the gospel in Macedonia. The first city they visited was Philippi, the most important city in that part of Macedonia. There was no synagogue because only a few Jews lived in that city. Each Sabbath a few Jews would meet outside the city by the riverside to pray. So, on the Sabbath, Paul and those with him left the city and found the place where the Jews met.

There they found a few women who had gathered. Paul and his friends sat down and talked with the women. Soon Paul was teaching them about Jesus. One woman named Lydia was especially interested. Lydia worshiped God. How glad she was to hear that God had sent His only Son, Jesus, to save the people from their sins! She and all her household believed the good news and were baptized.

After being baptized, Lydia begged Paul and his friends to come to her house. "If you think I am faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my house," she pleaded. They were glad to accept her invitation.

Some time later as the missionaries went to the place of prayer, a certain slave girl met them who was possessed with an evil spirit. By the power of this evil spirit she could tell about the future. Her masters earned much money from her fortunetelling. This girl followed Paul and his company crying out, "These men are the servants of the most high God, which show us the way of salvation!"

This happened day after day. Finally, after many days, Paul turned and spoke to the evil spirit. "I command you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her!" he said boldly. Immediately the evil spirit left. The poor girl was free from its awful power.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Lydia,...which worshipped  
God, heard us: whose heart  
the Lord opened,...Acts 16:14.





## Dad's Warning

(A true story.)

In the big city of Chicago, Illinois, two brothers were playing basketball in the alley behind the family's wooden house. In spite of the July heat, ten-year-old John was giving his older brother, Michael, a work out. With a quick turn, John stole the ball from Michael and shot it through a make-believe hoop against the brick back-side of an apartment building.

Suddenly an old battered car pulled into the alley.

Honk! Honk!

"Hi, ya, boys!" called a pleasant voice.

"Dad's home!" said John as the boys raced to their father's car.

"Where'd you get this piece of junk?" Michael asked.

"At the gettin' place," replied Dad. "Glad ya boys are at home. I need help workin' on this machine. We'll have it in tip-top shape in no time."

Eagerly the boys handed their dad tools as he tinkered under the car's hood. While they worked, they visited.

"You stayin' clear of those gang bangers hangin' out over at Garfield Park?" Dad asked the brothers.

"Sure, Dad," replied John.

Fourteen-year-old Michael didn't reply, so Dad asked him again. "Yeah," Michael said slowly. "But, man, ain't no place we can play ball if we can't go to the park. We don't got no hoop here in the alley, but they've got lots of 'em in the park."

"I know, son," said Dad, frowning. "Maybe we can go over there as a family come the 4th. We'll shoot a few shots together. How'd that be?"

"Cool, man!" exclaimed both boys.

"Good. Now I need some help," said Dad as he put his head back under the car hood.

On July 4th Dad went to the store to get a few picnic supplies for the family cookout. Mom, Michael, John and Marie, their sister, were at home waiting for Dad to take them to Garfield Park.

The Johnson family cared about each other. They went to church every Sunday and tried to live an honest life. Dad warned his children often about the evils of taking drugs, joining gangs, stealing and packing guns.

It was becoming harder every day for Michael to not join a gang because they lived in a neighborhood busy with gang activity. However, he obeyed Dad because he loved and respected him.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who knew the Lord called them to preach in Macedonia?
2. Which city was the most important?
3. Why was there no synagogue?
4. Where did the Jews meet to pray each Sabbath?
5. Who begged Paul and his friends to come to her house?
6. What was wrong with the slave girl?
7. How did her masters earn money?
8. What did the girl cry out?
9. What happened when Paul commanded the evil spirit to come out?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 16:11-19.

(Answers: 1. Paul, Silas and Timothy. 2. Philippi. 3. Only a few Jews lived in that city. 4. By the river-side. 5. Lydia. 6. She was possessed with an evil spirit. 7. By her fortunetelling. 8. "These men are the servants of the most high God, which show us the way of salvation." 9. Immediately the evil spirit left.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Jan. 10, 1999

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## THE MIDNIGHT PRAYER MEETING

Paul was grieved when the slave girl cried after them day after day. He knew that an evil spirit controlled her; she could not help herself. At his command the evil spirit left the girl immediately. Her masters soon found they could no longer make money by her fortunetelling. They were enraged! Catching Paul and Silas, they dragged them before the rulers in the marketplace.

"These men, being Jews, do greatly trouble our city," they accused angrily. "They teach customs which are not lawful for us to observe because we are Romans."

This excited the mob that heard the accusation. They rushed together to capture Paul and Silas. The rulers did not give the men a chance to defend themselves. Instead they tore the clothes from Paul and Silas and commanded that they be beaten. After the cruel beating they threw them into prison and warned the jailer that he must guard them carefully.

The jailer decided Paul and Silas must be dangerous criminals. He put them in the very innermost cell. Then, to make it impossible for them to escape, he fastened their feet in stocks.

Paul and Silas could not sleep. Their backs were bruised and bleeding. Their feet were firmly gripped by the stocks. But they could talk to God. At midnight the other prisoners heard them praying and singing praises to God. As they listened, wondering how these men could be so happy, the prison suddenly began to shake. A great earthquake shook the very foundation of the prison. Every door swung open and everyone's stocks and bands were loosed.

The noise woke up the keeper of the prison. He was horrified to see the doors of the prison wide open! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

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





## Michael Disobeys

(Continued from last week.)

Michael was becoming impatient with Dad. Why didn't Dad hurry home from the store? They were wasting good time that Michael could enjoy shooting baskets at Garfield Park. He was about to disobey Dad and walk to the park himself when the telephone rang.

Mom answered. "No! Oh, No!" she screamed out then she slumped to the floor in a faint. Michael grabbed the phone to hear the message.

Mr. Johnson had stopped by the park on the way home from the store. He wanted to see if gangs were fighting that day, because he didn't want to take his family to a gang war zone. While Mr. Johnson walked about the park, a young boy opened fire with a hand pistol. He shot a man, a woman and Mr. Johnson.

Instead of going to the park, the Johnsons headed to the hospital where Dad was in critical condition. For three days Dad was hooked up to tubes and machines. Church members came to pray with the family and help them through this difficult time. It was hard for Michael and John when Dad passed away.

John determined to honor Dad and never join a gang. Michael was angry at the gang who had shot his father. Soon he was hanging out at Garfield Park. John was worried about his brother.

"Hey, man, why aren't you goin' straight like Dad told us to?" John asked Michael when Michael came home late one night.

"Shut up, punk, and mind your own business," retorted Michael. "Don't go worrin' Mom about me neither. I know what I'm doin'."

"You're goin' bad, that's what," remarked John.

"You don't know nothin'," snapped Michael. "Me and the Black Gangster Disciples, we gonna protect my family from any more shootouts by the Vice Lords. Now we can play at the park when we want to."

John was too afraid and disappointed in his brother to make any comment. He knew Michael was disobeying but John couldn't stop his older brother. Michael wouldn't even listen to Mom, so John didn't bother to tell her about Michael joining a street gang.

"I won't join any gangs," John told himself. He would go straight like Dad told him too. John had determination in himself, but he failed to ask the Lord to help him.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did the girl's masters do to Paul and Silas after the evil spirit left her?
2. Who did not have a chance to defend themselves?
3. What did the rulers command?
4. What did they warn the jailor to do?
5. What did the jailor decide?
6. Where did he put Paul and Silas?
7. Why couldn't Paul and Silas sleep?
8. What could they do?
9. What shook the prison?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 16:19-27.

(Answers: 1. They dragged them before the rulers. 2. Paul and Silas. 3. That they be beaten. 4. To guard them carefully. 5. They must be dangerous criminals. 6. In the innermost cell. 7. Their backs were bruised and bleeding and their feet were fastened in stocks. 8. Talk to God. 9. A great earthquake.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## THE JAILER IS SAVED

The keeper of the prison woke up and saw the doors of the prison swing open by the force of the great earthquake. Terrified, he ran to the prison. He knew the penalty for letting even one prisoner escape was death. Believing that every prisoner had escaped, he drew his sword to kill himself.

But Paul was watching. He shouted to the jailer, "Do yourself no harm. We are all here!"

The jailer called for a light and rushed into the prison. Sure enough, every prisoner was still there. Trembling, he fell down before Paul and Silas. Now he knew they were men of God. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" he asked.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved," they answered. Then Paul and Silas told him and all that were in his house about Jesus, who came to save them from their sins. The jailer did believe. He and his household were baptized that very night.

Now the jailer's heart was full of love and joy. He carefully washed Paul and Silas' sore backs and cared for their wounds. Then he took them to his own house and fixed them a good meal.

The next morning the rulers sent officers to the jailer saying, "Let those men go!"

Gladly the jailer took this message to Paul. He was sure Paul would be happy to be released. But Paul answered, "We are Romans. The rulers had us beaten openly and threw us into prison without a trial. Now do they want us to leave quietly? No! Let them come themselves and release us."

When the officers took this message back, the rulers were frightened. They came to the prison themselves and released them. Then they begged Paul and Silas to leave the city.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Sirs, what must  
I do to be saved?  
Acts 16:30.





## John's Wrong Turn

(Continued from last week.)

Four years had passed since Michael and John Johnson's dad had passed away. John sat on his front porch steps watching some little children play jump rope. He was fourteen now and he was clean of gangs and drugs like he had promised Dad.

On the other hand, Michael was heavy into gang bangin' and dealing drugs. By now Mom knew what Michael was doing. She prayed for him but he would not listen to her reasoning. Michael felt he was helping the family.

A little girl on a bicycle suddenly braked to a stop in front of John. "Gee-Gee, your brother is dead!" she cried, her eyes wide with terror. "He was shot by the police at Garfield Park!"

John jumped up and took off running the five blocks to the park. He saw several police cars with lights flashing over an angry crowd. John pushed his way through the group and found his brother lying face down on the ground.

Michael had been dealing angel dust (illegal drugs) in the park when a police car drove by. The car stopped and an officer hollered at Michael to stop, but Michael began to run. The officer shot twice at Michael meaning to hit his leg and stop him. Instead the officer shot Michael in the back.

John felt he would go crazy with grief and anger. His dad was gone and now his brother, too. Instead of turning to God for help with his problems, John joined Michael's gang brothers and for three days they threw bottles and rocks at passing police cars.

"I will get even with them for taking my brother's life," John vowed to himself. He knew he would not be able to do it alone, so he made a decision.

One evening he slipped down the concrete steps into the basement of an apartment building where the Black Gangster New Breed met.

"Hey, glad to see ya, Gee-Gee," called one of the guys to John. "We want to let ya know we're real sorry about your brother. If you or your family need somethin', just let us know. We're here for ya."

That sounded good to John's lonesome, grieving heart. "I want to join the New Breed," he said. "Ya know what the police did to Michael. I'm choosin' up sides, and it's with the gang I'm goin'."

The gang was glad to get John, but Someone in heaven was grieved. The Lord knew John was breaking his promise and taking the wrong way.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who saw the doors of the prison swing open?
2. What caused them to open?
3. What was the penalty for letting one prisoner escape?
4. Why did he draw his sword to kill himself?
5. Who was watching?
6. What did he ask Paul and Silas?
7. Who washed Paul and Silas' backs and fixed them a meal?
8. What did the rulers tell the jailer the next morning?
9. Who came to the prison and released them?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 16:27-40.

(Answers: 1. The jailer. 2. The great earthquake. 3. Death. 4. He thought everyone had escaped. 5. Paul. 6. "What must I do to be saved?" 7. The jailer. 8. "Let those men go." 9. The rulers.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## TROUBLE IN THESSALONICA

Paul and Silas came out of the prison after the rulers personally begged them to leave. Then they went straight to Lydia's house. They wanted to encourage the Christians and tell them good-bye. Afterwards they left Philippi to preach the gospel in other cities.

When they reached Thessalonica, they found a Jewish synagogue. Here they went each Sabbath and taught the people out of the Scriptures. Some believed when they heard Paul preach that Jesus is the Christ. These believers were eager to learn more about Jesus. Among them were many Greeks and chief women, as well as Jews.

The Jews who did not believe were angry that so many people listened eagerly to Paul and Silas. They decided the best way to get rid of the missionaries was to stir up the people. So they had a group of rough men start a riot. While the whole city was in an uproar, they went to Jason's house looking for Paul and Silas. Since they were not there, the men dragged Jason and certain other believers before the city officials.

"These men, who have turned the world upside down, have come here also!" the mob shouted. "They are staying with Jason and teaching the people against the laws of Caesar. They claim that Jesus is king."

Both the people and the rulers were troubled when they heard this. They made Jason and the others promise to keep the peace, then they let them go. Immediately the believers sent Paul and Silas to the next town by night. They were afraid what the mob might do if they found the missionaries. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

But the Jews which believed not  
the city in an uproar



ved with envy,...set all  
Acts 17:5.



## An Empty Life

(Continued from last week.)

After joining the New Breed street gang, Gee-Gee Johnson began to do what others in the gang did—sell street drugs. He didn't want to set at the bottom of the ranks. Gee-Gee set his goal to be the top man raking in the most money.

With some money in his pocket, he bought dope and sold it at higher prices than what he paid. His street wise quickness kept him out of trouble with the law. Soon Gee-Gee had built a big business and had boys working for him. He was making thousands of dollars in one week.

Gee-Gee didn't take drugs but he was making a profit from a harmful habit other people had. He thought he had good self-control and was untouchable. He felt that he didn't have to bow to anyone—he was boss.

One of the first things Gee-Gee bought with his money was a brand new baby blue Mercedes Benz. His buddies in the gang were awestruck at such an expensive car! Now Gee-Gee hired more boys who were willing to work just so they could take "bumpin" rides in his "Bonzo." (The powerful stereo was turned up full blast, shaking the car as it rolled down the road.)

As they sailed down the street, Gee-Gee and members from his gang would wave at other guys riding bicycles or walking.

"That Gee-Gee makes me sick," commented a leader in another gang. "He needs to be dealt with."

As usual, one evening Gee-Gee parked his Mercedes outside his nice apartment. Then he went inside and drank several cans of beer. Suddenly, he heard loud noises outside.

**BAM! SCRUNCH! BAM!**

Gee-Gee rolled off the couch and rushed through the front door. He saw an old Chevy car banging into his new car!

"STOP! STOP!" he yelled, but the car hit his car one more time then took off down the street.

Gee-Gee was furious! He looked over his damaged car and felt sick. He didn't have any insurance on his car which had been hit several times.

"It's ruined," Gee-Gee said to himself. "I ain't gonna ride in a wrecked piece of junk."

As Gee-Gee walked around his expensive car, he felt a surge of emptiness sweep over him. The car he so loved was gone. His father and brother were gone. What was there to live for?

Jesus was working on Gee-Gee's heart.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Paul and Silas go after they left the prison?
2. What did they find in Thessalonica?
3. What did they do there each Sabbath?
4. Why were the Jews, who did not believe, angry?
5. What did a group of rough men do?
6. Who were they looking for at Jason's house?
7. Why did they drag Jason before the city officials?
8. What did they make Jason promise?
9. Why did the believers send Paul and Silas away?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 17:1-10.

(Answers: 1. To Lydia's house. 2. A synagogue. 3. Taught the people out of the Scriptures. 4. Because so many people listened eagerly to Paul and Silas. 5. They started a riot. 6. Paul and Silas. 7. Because they could not find Paul and Silas. 8. To keep the peace. 9. They were afraid of what the mob might do to them.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## THE UNKNOWN GOD

The next city Paul and Silas came to was Berea. Again, on the Sabbath, they went into the Jewish synagogue and taught the people about Jesus. These men were wiser than those in Thessalonica. They listened to the gospel eagerly, then searched the Scriptures themselves to learn the truth. Many believed, both men and women, Jews and Greeks.

When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea also, they came to Berea to cause trouble there. The brethren knew Paul was in great danger. Immediately they sent him away by ship to Athens. Silas and Timothy stayed behind.

While Paul waited for Silas and Timothy he toured the city of Athens. Everywhere he saw idols of different kinds. There was even an altar to the Unknown God. Paul's spirit was stirred when he saw that Athens was totally given to idol worship. He wanted the people to know and worship the true God.

Finding a Jewish synagogue, Paul went in and taught the people. Each day he preached the gospel to any that would hear it. It was hard for these idol worshipers to understand about the one true God. Many thought Paul was telling them about a strange god from another land.

Finally Paul was asked to speak at Mars' Hill. Standing before the crowd, Paul told them about the Unknown God whom they worshiped ignorantly. He explained that there was only one God, the Creator of all the universe. "It is wrong," he told them, "to think God is like any idol made from gold, silver or stone." Encouraging them to seek God, he warned them that they must repent of their sins and accept Jesus as their Savior.

Some mocked when they heard about Jesus. But several turned from their idols and believed on the true God and His Son, Jesus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



Fo  
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passed by, and beheld your devotions, I  
an altar with this inscription, TO THE UN-  
KNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly wor-  
ship, I declare I unto you. Acts 17:23.



## Broken

(Continued from last week.)

Gee-Gee Johnson drove his used Nissan Sentra up and down the streets of his "hood," or gang's neighborhood. He was looking for a guy who owed him eight thousand dollars. Tucked inside his shirt was a loaded gun.

Gee-Gee spied the young thief with some other gang members hanging out on a street corner. Gee-Gee pulled over to the curb and got out of his car. As he was walking up to the boys, a police car turned the corner and suddenly parked behind Gee-Gee's car.

Right away Gee-Gee knew he was in big trouble. The police would certainly search him. When they found the gun on him, he would be arrested without any doubt. As two police officers walked toward Gee-Gee, he suddenly lost his cool. He pulled the gun out of his shirt and threw it at the officers. Then he turned and ran.

Gee-Gee ran down alleys, across backyards, jumped fences and zig-zagged through several blocks. He figured he was finally safe—those fat officers wouldn't catch up with him for an hour or two—so he walked out into a street to take a look around.

"There he is!" someone shouted, and Gee-Gee was on the run again. In an alley he hid behind a dumpster for five minutes, thinking all would be clear by then. When he looked around the dumpster, he saw a police car blocking the end of the alley.

"Well, they don't have me yet!" he told himself as he took off running again. "If I can just get to my car, then I'll drive outta this place."

Gee-Gee circled around in his running and came within a couple of

blocks from his car. Yes, it was still parked where he had left it. Darting from hiding place to hiding place, Gee-Gee drew close to his car. With a weak sense of relief, he got to his car and opened the door.

"Freeze, Johnson!" ordered a police officer. "Keep your hands where we can see them!"

Gee-Gee was arrested and taken to jail. He was now going to pay for all the wrong turns he had made. The New Breed gang that he had joined didn't come to his rescue. In fact, they were glad he was gone so they could keep his money they had earned for him.

Gee-Gee was broken and Jesus was waiting to mend him.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. What city did Paul and Silas come to next?
2. How were these people wiser than those in Thessalonica?
3. Who came to cause trouble?
4. Who was in great danger?
5. What did Paul find everywhere he went in Athens?
6. What did he want the people to know?
7. What did Paul tell them about on Mars' Hill?
8. What did he warn them to do?
9. What did several turn from?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 17:11-34.

(Answers: 1. Berea. 2. They listened to the gospel and searched the Scriptures. 3. The Jews from Thessalonica. 4. Paul. 5. Idols. 6. About the one true God. 7. The Unknown God. 8. Repent of their sins. 9. Their idols.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 7, 1999

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## PAUL'S VISION

After preaching on Mars' Hill, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. Here he met a man named Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, who had only been in Corinth a short time. Because Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers Paul lived with them. He, too, was a tentmaker. During the week he worked with Aquila and Priscilla, but on the Sabbath he preached in the synagogue.

Silas and Timothy joined Paul in Corinth. Their coming encouraged Paul. He spoke more boldly in the synagogue, testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. This made the unbelieving Jews angry. Since they refused to accept the truth, Paul turned to the Gentiles. He no longer taught in the synagogue but preached in the home of Justus, a believer who lived near the synagogue.

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision. "Do not be afraid," He told him. "Speak boldly. I am with you, and no man will hurt you here. I have many people in this city who will believe when they hear your words."

Paul obeyed the Lord. He stayed in Corinth one year and six months teaching the word of God to all that would hear.

The unbelieving Jews saw that many people believed on Christ. They decided to stop Paul from preaching. After causing an uproar among the people, they seized Paul and took him to Gallio, the ruler of the city. "This man persuades people to break the law by the way they worship," they accused.

Before Paul could say a word Gallio spoke to the Jews. "If it was a matter of right or wrong, I would listen to you," he told them. "Since it is a question of your law, I will not be a judge in such matters."

Paul remembered the words God spoke to him in the vision. He realized God had protected him from the mob just as He promised.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



Then spake the Lord to  
Paul in the night by a  
vision, Be not afraid,  
but speak, and hold not  
thy peace. Acts 18:9.



## Serious Thoughts

(Continued from last week.)

Locked up in the Cook County Jail, Gee-Gee was feeling depressed. None of his boys from the New Breed gang came to visit him and he knew they were making money from his drug spots. What kind of friends were they, anyway? When he was down and out, they weren't there to help him.

"Okay, I'll take care of myself," said Gee-Gee to himself. In a short time he was able to convince a guard to smuggle him some marijuana to sell and split the profit. Soon Gee-Gee was selling drugs again but this time in jail.

One day a jailmate said to him, "Hey, Gee-Gee, you hear about the Friday night youth service? Some dudes from Youth for Christ have a service and anyone can go if they want."

Gee-Gee gave the talker a bored look. He didn't have time for stuff like that.

"Hey, man, get the connection? You could meet more guys at the service and that could mean more business for you."

Gee-Gee's eyes lit up. "Yeah, man, I could sit in the back and do my thing while the preacher does his."

That Friday night Gee-Gee lined up with other inmates for the chapel time. He sat and listened politely while the service went on but as soon it ended, he started selling his packs while the Youth for Christ Staff answered questions.

For several weeks Gee-Gee continued his business but the messages were getting to him. There was an emptiness inside of him that money, fame, nor friends could fill. Besides, he really didn't like the way his life was going. Those preachers

were telling true things about him that he didn't like to admit.

One night the preacher really got under Gee-Gee's skin. "If you're honest with yourself, you'll admit that the loneliness you feel inside hasn't gone away, even in the gang. Everyone says they're down for the gang—but really, everyone's down for himself."

Gee-Gee caught his breath. "Man, that was true," he muttered. He had discovered that no one cares for you unless you can do something for them. But the preacher talked about serving a Boss who only took your bad stuff and gave you love, peace and contentment for it. That Boss was like a good father to his boys.

Gee-Gee left that meeting thinking serious thoughts about who he was and where he was going. He remembered his earthly father and a great longing swept over him to know more about this heavenly Father.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Paul go after he left Athens?
2. Who did he meet there?
3. What kind of work did Paul do?
4. What did Paul do on the Sabbath?
5. Who became angry at Paul's preaching?
6. To whom did Paul turn?
7. Who spoke to Paul in a vision?
8. How long did Paul stay?
9. Who protected Paul from the mob?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 18:1-23.

(Answers: 1. To Corinth. 2. Aquila and Priscilla. 3. He was a tentmaker. 4. He preached in the synagogue. 5. The unbelieving Jews. 6. To the Gentiles. 7. God. 8. One year and six months. 9. God.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 14, 1999

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## APOLLOS

Paul stayed in Corinth a long time before deciding he should attend the Feast of the Passover at Jerusalem. When he got ready to sail, Aquila and Priscilla went with him as far as Ephesus. There Paul taught the Jews in the synagogue. These Jews heard the gospel gladly and begged Paul to stay longer and teach them. But Paul told them good-bye, promising to return if God permitted. Then he sailed from Ephesus.

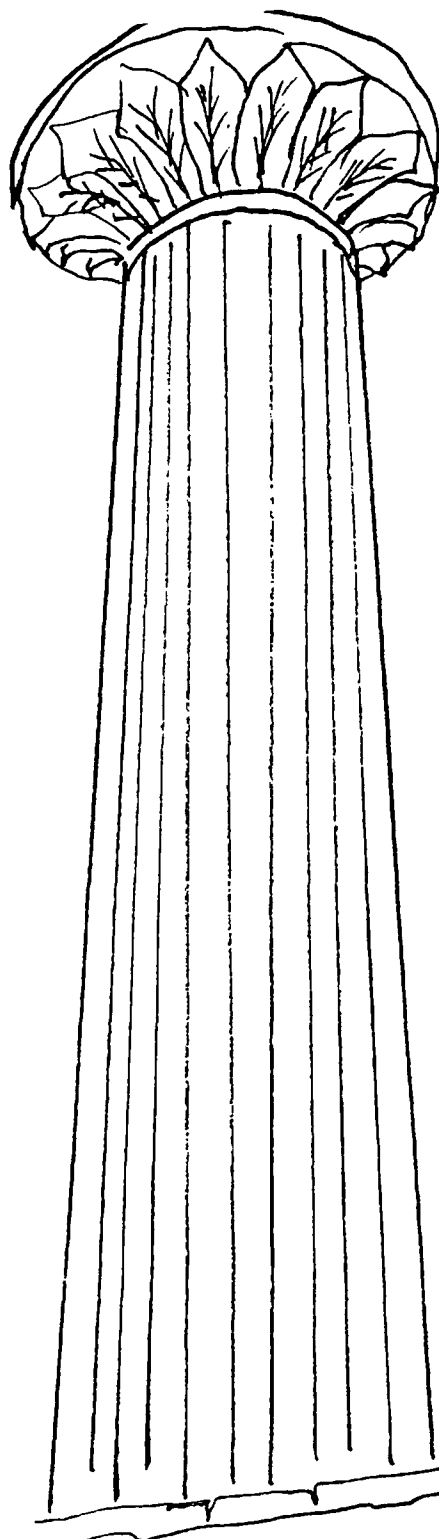
After attending the Feast in Jerusalem, Paul went on to Antioch to visit the church there. From Antioch he traveled all over the country of Galatia encouraging the believers.

Meanwhile, in Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla carried on their tentmaking. They were faithful to meet with the believers to worship God in the synagogue. Apollos, a Jewish preacher, visited the Jews in Ephesus. He was a powerful preacher and the people listened eagerly to his words. Apollos loved God with all his heart. He taught about the things of the Lord constantly but he had never heard about Jesus! He did know about John the Baptist and believed that he was a prophet sent from God.

As soon as Aquila and Priscilla heard Apollos preach, they invited him to their home and taught him about Jesus Christ. Apollos was glad to hear the good news. He believed at once.

From that time Apollos preached the whole gospel. Publicly he proved by the Scriptures that Jesus is Christ. His message was so convincing that many other Jews believed. When Apollos decided to go to Greece, the believers wrote and encouraged the disciples there to receive him. In Greece, too, Apollos was a great help to those who believed.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And a certair  
andria, an  
scriptures

named Apollos, born at Alex-  
ent man, and mighty in the  
e to Ephesus. Acts 18:24.



## A Right Turn

(Continued from last week.)

That night Gee-Gee laid on his bunk in his cell and stared at the ceiling. That preacher man said you could belong to God if you asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and let Him change your life for the better. He had said God would go with you and be your Friend if you would stay His friend. He would stick closer to you than a brother.

Gee-Gee missed his brother, Michael. It was three years ago that Michael had died and seven years since his dad died. He remembered that his dad had warned his sons to stay clear of gangs. He had said he didn't want none of his boys dealin' drugs and dyin' young. Now Gee-Gee understood his dad's warning better than before.

The ways of gangs looks exciting. You feel like you belong to something bigger than yourself and there's a sense of security in that belonging. If you work your way up the ladder of ranks in a gang, you gain a certain amount of respect. And money can be made—big money—working the system. But there is an emptiness in it all that leaves you hopeless inside!

Gee-Gee knew all this and this night his heart was crying out for help. He wanted to be at peace with God and know he would go to heaven when he died. He had seen enough of death and he knew it was real and took anyone at any age.

Suddenly, Gee-Gee sat up on his bunk. It was pitch dark in his cell and all the other guys were asleep. Gee-Gee slid out of his bunk, dropped down on his knees, and cried out in his heart, "God if you'll have me, I want to be one of Your boys. I give my heart to You and ask You to be my Saviour and Lord. Amen."

As Gee-Gee climbed back into bed, he felt different. He felt full inside. He felt like he belonged to someone. A new hope and a better future was before him! The next day Gee-Gee took the drugs he had and flushed them down the toilet. He wasn't going to sell any more of that junk.

At the next Friday night meeting, Gee-Gee sat up in the front. Afterwards he had the courage to tell the preacher and the boys that he had decided to join up with Jesus and go His Way. Mr. G. shook Gee-Gee's hand and gave him a Bible.

"This book will tell you about your heavenly Father and His rules for life," said Mr. G. "I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. What feast did Paul decide to attend?
2. Who went with him as far as Ephesus?
3. What kind of work did Aquila and Priscilla do in Ephesus?
4. What Jewish preacher visited Ephesus?
5. What kind of preacher was he?
6. Who had he never heard about?
7. What did Aquila and Priscilla do for Apollos?
8. What did Apollos prove by the Scriptures?
9. What did Apollos do in Greece?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 18:24-28.

(Answers: 1. The Feast of the Passover. 2. Aquila and Priscilla. 3. They were tentmakers. 4. Apollos. 5. He was a powerful preacher. 6. Jesus. 7. They took him to their home and taught him about Jesus. 8. That Jesus is Christ. 9. He was a great help to those who believed.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 21, 1999

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## PAUL IN EPHEBUS

Soon after Apollos left, Paul arrived in Ephesus. Paul was pleased to find so many believers. When he met with certain disciples Paul asked them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?"

"We have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit," they answered.

These believers, like Apollos, knew only about John the Baptist. Paul told them that John himself taught the people that they should believe on Jesus Christ who would come after him. When the believers heard this, they gladly accepted Jesus as their Savior and were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then, after laying his hands on these twelve believers, Paul prayed that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Instantly the Holy Spirit came upon them and they began to tell others of the wonderful power of God.

Paul preached boldly in the synagogue for three months. By the Scriptures he proved that Jesus is the Christ. But many would not believe. They spoke evil about the truth, trying to turn others away. Finally Paul left the synagogue. Instead, he taught the believers in a school, continuing to teach there every day for two years. His teaching became known throughout the entire city and country around about. Many believed on Jesus and were baptized.

While Paul taught, God worked great miracles through him in the name of Jesus. Many sick people were healed. Some were too sick to be brought to Paul. Their families or friends brought handkerchiefs and aprons to Paul. Prayerfully they laid these on those who were sick and the sick were made well! Even evil spirits were cast out. The people marveled at the great power of God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. Acts 19:6.

## Out For Good!

(Continued from last week.)

Court day finally came around for John Johnson. Gee-Gee had made good changes in his life and was attending chapel service every Friday night. He became good friends with Mr. G. and asked questions about the Bible. Together they prayed that the judge would give Gee-Gee a chance to do something good with his life.

The judge looked over John Johnson's file. His charges of selling drugs were serious and so was the firearms charge. The judge talked with Gee-Gee and gave him a choice. He could do 17 years in prison or he could do four months in boot camp and finish out with house arrest and probation.

Gee-Gee was happy to tell Mr. G. that he would be going to boot camp and then home. They knew the Lord had done this for him. Boot camp was tough and Gee-Gee nearly dropped out but many times he prayed and the Lord gave him endurance.

At last Gee-Gee's mother and sister met him at the bus station—he was a free man except for the monitor strapped around his ankle that would report his activity to the police. Boy, it felt good to be back on the bricks but Gee-Gee knew he would have to face the New Breeds gang sometime.

Soon the chief in the gang called. "I hear you're chillin' out on the New Breeds," said the leader.

"I've joined Jesus' gang," said Gee-Gee. "No more dealin' for me, man."

"Yeah?" said the chief. "I understand ya. I get tired of the drag myself."

"Let me tell ya about my Boss," said Gee-Gee. "He has a rule book too. Sometime ya need to come over and let me tell ya more and give ya His book."

The chief was quiet for a moment, then agreed to pay Gee-Gee a visit soon. Later the chief did come along to visit Gee-Gee and he listened carefully to Gee-Gee's testimony. Gee-Gee gave him a Bible and he left.

It wasn't long until the news came through that the chief was out of the area. He had taken his wife and two small children where he could think about what Gee-Gee had told him.

Mr. G. and Gee-Gee prayed for the chief that he would let Jesus Christ be Chief in his heart. Also, they prayed for the rest of the gang because not all of them were happy that Gee-Gee was a Christian. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who arrived in Ephesus soon after Apollos left?
2. What did he ask certain believers?
3. Who did these believers know about?
4. What did they do when they heard about Jesus?
5. What happened when Paul laid hands on them and prayed?
6. Where did Paul teach after he left the synagogue?
7. How long did he teach there?
8. What did God work through Paul?
9. What did the people do for those who were too sick to come to Paul?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 19:1-12.

(Answers: 1. Paul. 2. "Have you received the Holy Spirit?" 3. John the Baptist. 4. They believed and were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 5. They received the Holy Spirit. 6. In a school. 7. Two years. 8. Miracles. 9. They brought handkerchiefs and aprons to Paul.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Feb. 28, 1999

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## SEVEN SONS OF SCEVA

The people marveled at the special miracles God worked through Paul. Among those who watched as the sick were healed and evil spirits cast out were seven brothers. Their father was Sceva, a Jew and chief of the priests.

These brothers decided they could also cast out evil spirits. Finding a man possessed of the devil, they said, "We command you to come out in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches!"

The evil spirit did not obey but answered saying, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" Then the evil spirit caused the man to jump on these brothers and beat them terribly. When they could escape, they ran from the house naked and wounded.

All the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus heard what happened to the seven brothers. Fear and respect for the mighty power of God came on them and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly magnified.

Many of the believers in Ephesus had once practiced magic themselves. Now they confessed their wrong and turned away from their superstitions.

Books were very rare and expensive in those days. Few people could afford to buy even one. But the people of Ephesus had saved their money and bought many books about magic. When they saw the mighty power of God, they brought their books together and burned them in a great bonfire in the streets of the city. When they counted the price of all the books, it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver!

Now that they believed in Jesus they would not need these evil books. They did not want to be tempted by even having them in their houses. Such books were not good for anyone to have, so they burned them while the crowd watched.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And the  
them, ar  
naked a



whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame  
ailed against them, so that they fled out of that house  
ended. Acts 19:16.



## Who Will be Chief?

(Continued from last week.)

A few days after the New Breed's chief had visited Gee-Gee, four cars pulled up in front of his apartment. About fifteen boys poured out onto the front lawn. Gee-Gee knew they wanted him so he went out to meet them.

One spokesman said, "We hear you chilled out of the New Breeds. Ya know ya joined for life and nobody leaves. The only way out is death."

"So you've all come to kill me?" asked Gee-Gee of the boys he had known since childhood.

The boys looked at each other. "No," said the one, "we want you to stay in the gang and be our leader. We've missed ya, Gee-Gee."

"Okay," he replied. "I accept your offer. I'm going to be y'all's chief."

A cheer arose from the boys. "Let's party!" they shouted and went to the cars' trunks to get their beer.

"Wait a minute," said Gee-Gee. The boys got quiet and listened. "If I'm gonna be your chief, you will obey me. We're going to do things my way."

The boys were used to language like this so they waited. Gee-Gee continued, "From now on, we aren't goin' to fight other gangs. We aren't goin' to sell drugs and drink beer."

The whole group of boys stared at Gee-Gee with funny looks on their faces. Finally, one said, "If we aren't goin' to be gangbangin', then what are we gonna do?"

"From now on, we're goin' to go to school, we're goin' to get jobs and we're goin' to go to church and study the Bible."

"Hey, man, you can't do that!" they protested. "You can't tell us to do things not in our rule book."

"Besides that," continued Gee-Gee, "Our Chief has given us another Rule Book. If I'm your leader, we will be goin' by the new Rule Book."

The boys stood around and talked among themselves for awhile. They had heard Gee-Gee was a Christian, but they didn't know he had made so many changes.

They began to get back into their cars and the spokesman said, "We'll take up this matter with the big man in the joint and let you know what he says."

Gee-Gee smiled, "Okay." They didn't know, but he had already talked to their chief and their chief was out of town. Gee-Gee was glad he had a Chief that would never leave him alone. —Sis. Connie Sorrell  
(The End.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did the people marvel at?
2. How many sons did Sceva have?
3. What did these brothers decide?
4. What did not obey them?
5. What did the evil spirit cause the man to do?
6. What came on the people of Ephesus after they heard what happened?
7. What had many of the believers once practiced?
8. What did they do with their books?
9. How much were the books worth?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 19:13-20.

(Answers: 1. The special miracles God worked through Paul. 2. Seven. 3. That they could cast out evil spirits. 4. The evil spirit. 5. Jump on the brothers and beat them. 6. Fear and respect for the mighty power of God. 7. Magic. 8. They burned them. 9. Fifty thousand pieces of silver.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 7, 1999

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## THE GODDESS DIANA

The word of God grew mightily through Paul's teaching and the special miracles God worked through him. Yet there were many in Ephesus who did not believe. They worshiped the goddess Diana who they believed fell from heaven. These people preferred to worship at the temple of Diana. In their homes they had images of her.

Many silversmiths made their living making small idols of Diana. They grew rich selling these to the people. One silversmith, named Demetrius, became alarmed when many people left idol worship to serve Jesus Christ. It seemed every day more were turning away from worshiping Diana.

Demetrius called the other silversmiths to a meeting to decide what they could do to save their jobs. "This Paul has persuaded and turned away many people from worshiping idols," he told them. "He says gods made with hands are no gods! Not only is our work in danger but also the temple of the great goddess Diana will be despised and her magnificence will be destroyed."

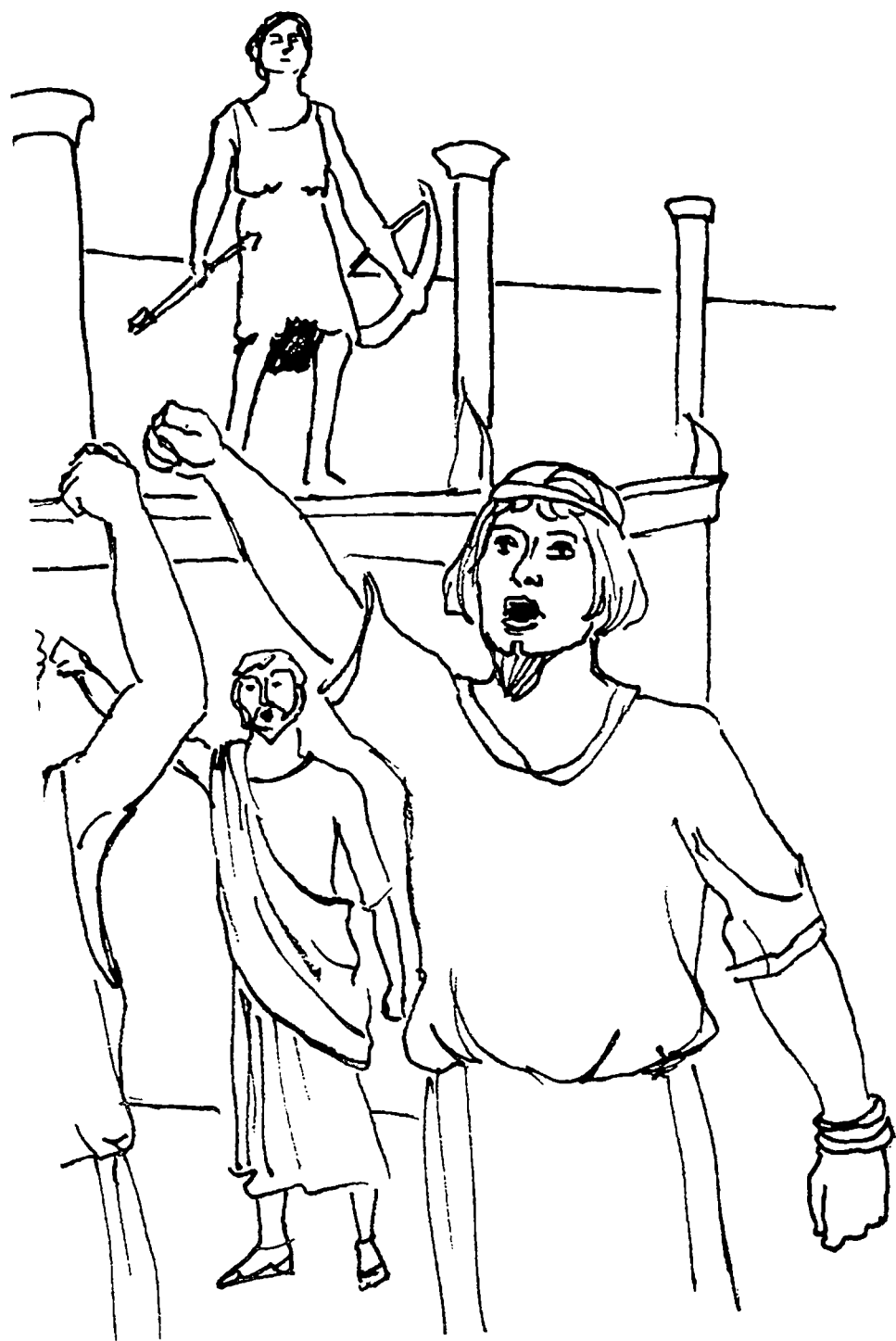
When the silversmiths heard these things, they became very angry. They cried out saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" Soon the whole city was in an uproar. Some seized two of Paul's companions and dragged them into the theatre. When Paul heard what had happened, he wanted to go help his companions but his friends would not let him.

For two hours the people shouted, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" Finally the town clerk quieted the people. He told the silversmiths to settle their problem in court if they wanted to bring charges against Paul. Then he sent the people home, warning them that they could be arrested for causing this riot.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...They were full of wrath,  
and cried out, saying,  
great is Diana of the  
Ephesians. Acts 19:28.





## Starving Souls

(Based on a true account.)

A native missionary in South Korea met with another Christian who had fled from North Korea. The man from North Korea was lovingly holding a Korean Bible in his arms.

"My church family back home begged for this Bible," said the North Korean, "but I could not give it to them."

The missionary frowned a little. "You were selfish with God's Word? That wasn't good."

The North Korean bowed his head and kissed the sacred book. "I know," he replied quietly. "I wanted to give it to them but I had been praying twenty years for a Bible and I had just gotten mine."

He sighed deeply and hugged his precious Bible close to his chest. In his part of the country, it is against the law to worship any god other than the leader of the country. The leaders do not care about the people who are starving to death. There is not enough food, but the leaders will not let any other country send food to the hungry. Now the people realize their leader is not a god, so they are also hungry for soul food.

Only the true, living God who created all people can satisfy the soul's hunger. Terrible things are happening in this poor country because the people feel hopeless. They are struggling to live but many are dying. The living are eating the dead.

We must pray for those who are suffering such hardship. Also, let us pray for our own country. The Word of God tells us, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34. When there is dishonesty and awful wickedness among the leaders

of a nation, all the people in that country suffer. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2 it says that we should pray for our leaders that we may "lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

As this Christian man clung to his Bible, tears flowed down his cheeks. "I cannot forget the people in North Korea who begged for a Bible. Please ask your American friends if they can get more Bibles for my starving people. PLEASE do not forget them!"

"I will do what I can," promised the missionary. Last year many Bibles were secretly taken into North Korea. Pray for them and ask the Lord if there is anything you can do to share God's Word with hungry souls.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What grew mightily through Paul's teaching?
2. Who did the people worship?
3. Where did they think she came from?
4. What did they have in their homes?
5. Who grew rich selling idols to the people?
6. Who was Demetrius?
7. What did they do with two of Paul's companions?
8. What did the people shout for two hours?
9. Who quieted the people and sent them home?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 19:20-41.

(Answers: 1. The word of God. 2. Diana. 3. They believed she fell down from heaven. 4. Idols of Diana. 5. The silversmiths. 6. A silversmith. 7. Dragged them to the theatre. 8. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" 9. The town clerk.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 14, 1999

## EUTYCHUS' FALL

After the uproar in Ephesus, Paul called the disciples to him. He wanted to tell them good-bye before leaving for Macedonia.

In Macedonia he visited the churches, encouraging the believers. From there Paul sailed across the sea to Troas where he stayed several days.

Then, on the first day of the week, Paul met with the believers in a large room on the third floor. They broke bread together in memory of the last supper Jesus ate with His disciples before He was crucified. Then Paul preached to them. He was to leave the next day. Knowing he would never see these people again, his heart was full of things to tell them. Midnight came and still Paul had not ended his sermon.

There were many lights in the room where the people listened to Paul's words. One young man named Eutychus sat in an open window listening. As hour after hour passed, Eutychus grew sleepy. He got so drowsy he forgot how dangerous it was to go to sleep in a third-story window. Before he realized it he was sound asleep. As he slumped down, he fell out of the window to the ground far below!

Someone saw what happened. Friends rushed down the stairs to Eutychus. They picked him up, but he was dead.

Paul, too, rushed down to help Eutychus. He threw his arms around the young man's body. "Don't worry," he told those standing near. "He is still alive!" God brought life back to Eutychus. The people were greatly comforted.

Finally they climbed the stairs again. After they had eaten, Paul went on preaching. At daybreak he left the city and continued on his trip.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





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

Acts 20:9.

## Sunday Morning In America

"Jerry, are you ready for church?" asked Mother as she finished combing Linda's hair. "We want to be there on time for Sunday school. Randy, come here and let me straighten your collar. Did you clean your ears with Q-tips? It is a shame to go to church with dirty ears."

"Aw, Mama, my ears can hear okay," pouted Randy, while Mother cleaned his ears and combed his hair.

"Say your Bible verse for me again," she said to her youngest son.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him," said Randy. "I wish we didn't have to say a verse. I don't like everybody listening to me."

"It is good for you to memorize verses and repeat them before others," replied Mother. "Hide the Word of God in your heart so that it will guide your thoughts."

"Linda, did you know you still have house slippers on? Change your shoes and hurry. Has Daddy started the car? Jerry, see where Daddy is and tell him we are ready."

Soon the family was on their way to church. Dad was singing a favorite gospel song and Mother was worried that the turkey in the oven would be done before the family got home from church.

"We had better leave right after the last amen," she said to Dad. "We don't want to give our Sunday guests a burnt offering for dinner. Linda, did you make sure the iron was off like I told you to?"

"Yes, Mother," replied Linda.

"Oh, no, did I not get my Bible?" asked Mother. "I thought I had it under my arm but I only have the

*Beautiful Way* Sunday school papers. Honey, can I borrow your Bible during Sunday school time? I need it to teach the class."

"I guess," sighed Dad. "That means I won't have one to look up scriptures with."

"Oh, I found an extra Bible in the glove compartment," said Mother. "I can use this one. Now, do all of you children remember your Bible verses? Say them loud and clear so we can hear them."

"Yes, Mother," chorused all three. They were glad when the car stopped in front of the big chapel doors. The Sunday morning rush had ended. How wonderful it is to worship with the people of God!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did Paul do in Macedonia?
2. On the first day of the week where did Paul meet with the believers?
3. What did they do in memory of the last supper Jesus ate with His disciples?
4. When did Paul plan to leave?
5. What was Paul doing at midnight?
6. Where was Eutychus sitting?
7. What happened when he fell asleep?
8. Who threw his arms around the young man's body?
9. What did Paul do after they had eaten?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 20:1-12.

(Answers: 1. He visited the churches and encouraged the believers. 2. In a large room on the third floor. 3. They broke bread together. 4. The next day. 5. Preaching. 6. In an open window. 7. He fell out of the window. 8. Paul. 9. Went on preaching.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 21, 1999

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## PAUL'S FAREWELL

If at all possible, Paul wanted to be at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. He did not have time to visit Ephesus, yet he wanted to speak with the believers there. So Paul sent word to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to meet him at the seashore.

When they came, he told them, "You know how I have worked and lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility. I taught you publicly and in your homes and testified to both Jews and Greeks. Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ was always the subject of my teaching.

"Now I feel I must go to Jerusalem. I do not know what will happen to me there, but the Holy Spirit has revealed that bonds and afflictions await me. However, none of these things make me afraid. I do not desire a long life. I only want to finish my work with joy. It is for the Lord Jesus that I preach the gospel of the grace of God.

"I know you will not see my face again. Be very careful how you live and take good care of the church of God. I know enemies will try to destroy the church. You must be on guard. Remember, for three years I warned every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to His word which is able to keep you safe."

When Paul finished speaking, he kneeled down and prayed with them. When they stood up, they all cried and threw their arms around Paul and kissed him. They were sad because he told them he would never see them again. With heavy hearts they walked with him to the ship which would take him to Jerusalem.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And  
you



behold, I know that  
shall see my face no  
re. Acts 20:25.



## No Good-byes

"Oh, I'm sorry," said Mother to the other person on the telephone. "We have been praying for Uncle Ben, but the Lord knows what is best. We will probably come to the funeral so let us know when it will be. Thank you. Good-bye."

As soon as Mother hung up the phone, her three children gathered around her.

"When did Uncle Ben die?" asked Linda.

"Early this morning, around 2:00," replied Mother.

"Uncle Ben hadn't been well for some time and he had really suffered these last few weeks. He isn't suffering anymore. He is in heaven now with Jesus."

"I'm glad Uncle Ben lived for Jesus, aren't you, Mama?" asked Randy.

"Yes, that makes death not so terrible," agreed Mother. "We want to live for Jesus here so that when we leave this earth, we can live with Jesus in heaven."

"Oh, it will be wonderful to live in heaven! We will never feel sick or sad or hungry, but we will sing songs of praise around the throne of God."

"I like to sing," said Randy. "And I like to eat. Will we not eat in heaven?"

"I don't know because the Word of God doesn't really tell all about heaven. Most of it is a mystery, but we do know we will be with God, our Father, and Jesus, His Son."

"Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding feast," said Jerry. "At weddings we eat cake, so don't you think we will eat in heaven?"

Mother smiled. "That makes sense to us," she said. "But we won't have bodies of flesh that need food."

"We really wouldn't need a house either," said Jerry, "but Jesus said there are many mansions at His

Father's place. It sounds like we will live in a house."

"Very good thinking, Jerry!" exclaimed Mother. "We can't really imagine what heaven will be like because it will be so different. That is why we don't want to die—we fear the unknown. However, if we know Jesus here on earth, then we will feel welcome and at home when we enter heaven. We will be with loved ones and our best friend, Jesus."

"Will you be there?" Randy asked his mother.

Mother drew her children close to her. "I want us all to be together in heaven someday," she said. "In heaven, there are no good-byes."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Paul want to be at on the day of Pentecost?
2. Who met him at the seashore?
3. What was the subject of all Paul's teaching?
4. Who revealed that bonds and afflictions awaited Paul?
5. How long had Paul warned them day and night?
6. Who did he commend them to?
7. What did he do after he finished speaking?
8. What did they do when they stood up?
9. Why were they sad?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 20:13-38.

(Answers: 1. In Jerusalem. 2. The elders from the church at Ephesus. 3. Repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus. 4. The Holy Spirit. 5. For three years. 6. To God. 7. He kneeled down and prayed with them. 8. They cried and hugged Paul. 9. Because they would not see Paul again.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 28, 1999

## PAUL IN JERUSALEM

When Paul reached Jerusalem the elders of the church welcomed him gladly. The next day Paul told James and the other elders about the wonderful things God had done among the Gentiles by his ministry. Together they glorified God for His mighty works.

Then the elders told Paul, "You see, brother, thousands of Jews believe and yet keep the law of Moses. They have been told that you teach the Jews who are among the Gentiles that they should pay no attention to the law. What shall we do? The multitude will come when they hear you are here."

Finally the elders decided that Paul should prove to the Jewish believers that he honored the law of Moses. At their advice Paul went to the temple and performed the ceremony of cleansing as Moses had commanded.

About a week later Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple. They recognized Paul because he had taught in their synagogue about Christ. They would not accept his teaching. Because he taught the Gentiles that they could become the people of God without keeping all the Jewish rules, they hated him.

To arouse the people, they shouted, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man that teaches all men everywhere against the Jews and the law and the temple. He has even brought disgrace to the temple by bringing Greeks here!"

Soon the entire city was in an uproar. The people ran together. Taking Paul, they pulled him out of the temple and shut the doors behind him. Seeing that the mob was determined to kill Paul, someone ran to the Roman captain and reported the trouble.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And when we were  
come to Jerusalem,  
the brethren re-  
ceived us gladly.  
Acts 21:17.





## Help At The Wreck

The Richardson family was in their van traveling down the interstate to the Nelson's house where they had been invited to eat supper.

"Look at the flashing lights up ahead," said Dad, who was driving. "It looks like a wreck has just happened. I need to slow down and get in the other lane."

Jerry sat up from his back seat and looked out the windshield. "Dad, that car looks like Sister Bardell's. I hope it wasn't her in the accident."

All the family was looking at the two wrecked cars as they slowly drove forward. Suddenly, Mother cried out, "There is Sister Bardell! Oh, Honey, we must stop and help her!"

Right away Dad parked the van by the side of the road and Mother jumped out. Dad kept the children in the van and they watched while Mother went to Sister Bardell's side. She was sitting on the shoulder of the highway. When she saw Mother, she smiled and took her hand.

"I'm so glad you came, Sharon," said Sis. Bardell. "My car was side swiped by the other car. I feel so shaky inside, but I don't think I need to go to the hospital. The ambulance is on the way for the other driver. He seems to be hurt worse than me."

"I will stay with you," said Mother. "Paul can take the children to the Nelson's, and I can join them later."

Sis. Bardell gave her friend a thankful smile. The arrangements were made. Dad took the children, while Mother rode in the ambulance with Sis. Bardell. At the hospital, Mother stayed with Sis. Bardell through her check-up and helped her answer questions. Finally, they released Sis. Bardell. Her husband had been called and he talked to the

wrecker service about their car. It was not able to be driven, but it could be fixed.

Now Bro. Bardell was at the hospital ready to take his wife home. "We thank you so much for your help," he said to Sharon. "The Lord was so good to protect my wife and spare her life. An accident is always bad, but when we see how the Lord was merciful, our hearts are thankful instead of sad, and it means so much to have caring friends like you."

"I was thankful we came by when we were needed," said Sharon. "The Lord wanted me to help and I am blessed for doing so."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who welcomed Paul in Jerusalem?
2. What did Paul tell James and the other elders?
3. What did the elders advise Paul?
4. Who saw Paul in the temple?
5. Why did they hate Paul?
6. Why did they begin shouting?
7. What was in an uproar?
8. What was the mob determined to do?
9. Who did someone report the trouble to?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 21:17-31.

(Answers: 1. The elders of the church. 2. About the wonderful things God had done. 3. To perform the ceremony of cleansing, as Moses commanded. 4. Some Jews from Asia. 5. Because Paul taught the Gentiles they could become the people of God without keeping all the Jewish rules. 6. To arouse the people. 7. The entire city. 8. To kill Paul. 9. The Roman captain.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 4, 1999

## FROM DEATH TO LIFE!

It was evening. Many strange and terrible things had taken place that day. Joseph of Arimathea, a Jewish leader who believed on Jesus, had felt helpless as he watched them beat Jesus mercilessly and then crucify Him. But now, looking up at Jesus hanging on the cross he thought of one thing he could do! Rushing to find Pilate, he begged for Jesus' body. With Pilate's consent he hurried back to the cross.

Carefully Joseph took Jesus' body down from the awful cross. Wrapping it in clean linen cloth, Joseph then carried it to his own new grave that was carved out of rock. Here he lovingly laid the body of Jesus. Before leaving, Joseph rolled a huge rock over the door of the cave. Now no one could disturb the body.

Meanwhile Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sat nearby, watching. They yearned to somehow show their great love for Jesus. But it was late. No work could be done on the Sabbath. They could only wait!

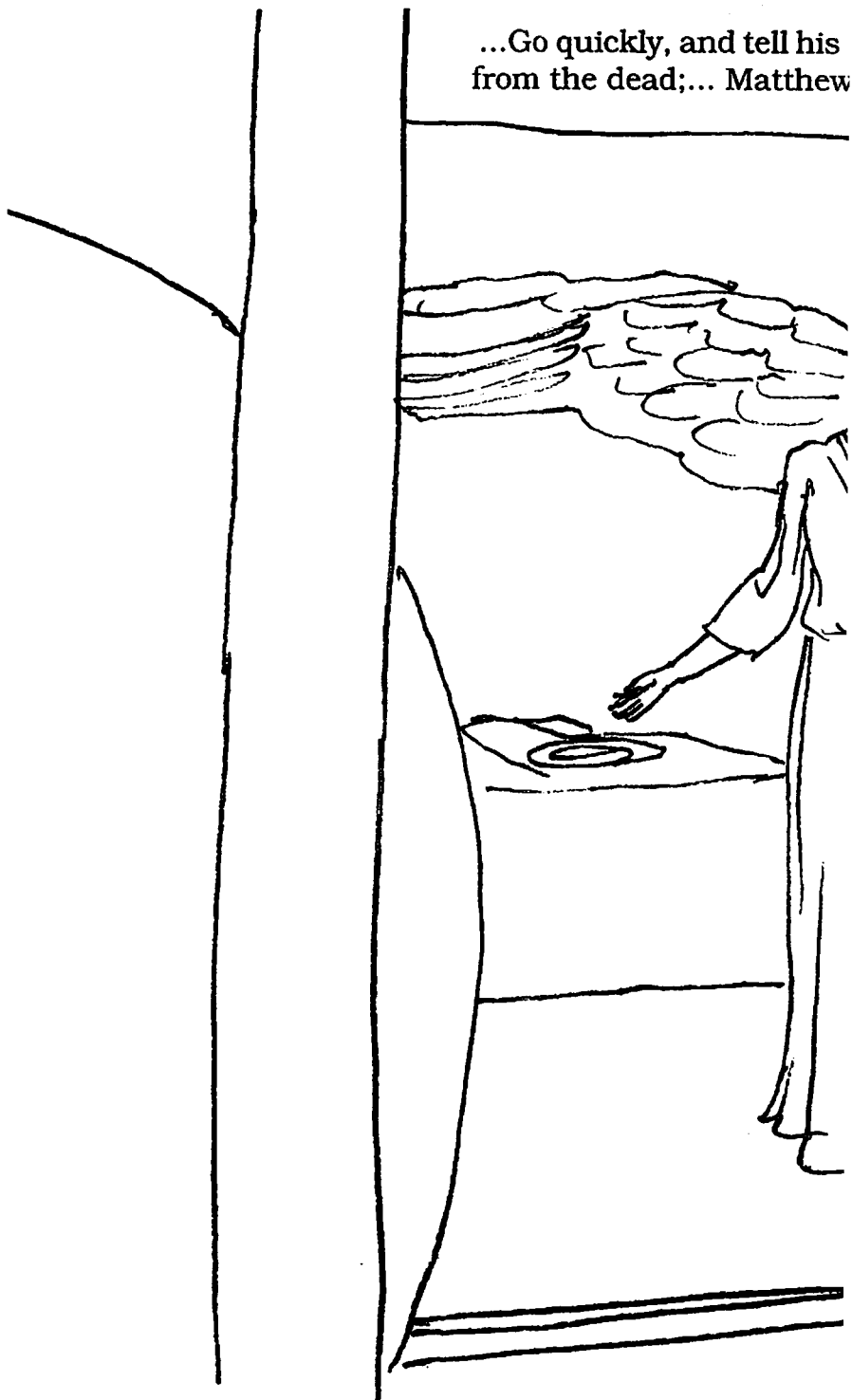
In the end of the Sabbath, as soon as it was light enough to see, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sadly walked to the grave. They brought spices for Jesus' body. "Who will roll the heavy rock away?" the women asked one another.

But when they came near the grave they saw the rock was already rolled away! Reaching the grave, they stooped down and looked in. Instead of Jesus' body they saw an angel! He was dressed in a dazzling white robe and his face shone like lightning.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said gently. "I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He is risen! Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead. You will see Him in Galilee."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Go quickly, and tell his  
from the dead;... Matthew



les that he is risen



## From Old to New In Baptism

(A true account.)

If you have a globe or world atlas, find the country of Bangladesh. On old globes it may be called East Pakistan. It is below China and by India.

The leaders of this country do not want Christians to worship Jesus. Those who live for Jesus are persecuted for doing so. Many people still love Jesus even though they are beaten, burned or killed by the Muslim government.

Christians in Bangladesh are very poor. They work hard in wet rice fields to have enough food to feed their families. Most of the adults cannot read or write but their children are learning. They read to their parents the Holy Bible written in their own language. In this way the people of Bangladesh have heard about salvation and baptism.

They understand that when a person has his sins washed away by the blood of Jesus, he becomes a saved Christian. A Christian does not live like the sinner person he had been. He does not lie, steal, cheat or do other wicked things anymore. To let others know about his new life, a Christian wants to be baptized.

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. He waded into the River of Jordan and John put Jesus under the water then raised him up again. Remember how a white dove from heaven came to rest on Jesus' shoulder? God the Father was pleased with His Son's baptism. All around the world followers of Jesus Christ are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, or Spirit.

In Bangladesh, Christians are baptized in a muddy duck pond hidden away in a green forest. Early in the morning a group will gather at the

water's edge. A songleader starts the singing. They praise the Lord as their bold pastor wades into the dirty water.

While the new believers line up for baptism, quacking ducks swim to shore. The ducks flap their wings and add their noisy honking to the singing. This doesn't bother the men, women and children who are following Jesus Christ in baptism.

Each newbeliever stands in waist-deep water beside the pastor. He is happy when he goes below the water and comes back up again. Now others know he has buried his old, bad life of sin and is living a new life of peace with God.

Baptism shows the change from the old life to the new life just like when Jesus came from the tomb.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Joseph of Arimathea?
2. How did Joseph feel as he watched them beat Jesus?
3. Why did he rush to find Pilate?
4. Who took Jesus' body down from the cross?
5. Where did he lay the body?
6. What did he do to make sure no one disturbed the body?
7. Who sat nearby watching?
8. Who did they see when they looked into the grave?
9. Why wasn't Jesus' body in the grave?

**LESSON TEXT:** Matthew 18:1-15.

(Answers: 1. A Jewish leader who believed on Jesus. 2. Helpless. 3. To beg for Jesus' body. 4. Joseph. 5. In his own new grave. 6. He rolled a huge rock over the door of the grave. 7. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. 8. An angel. 9. He had risen from the dead!)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 11, 1999

## A PRISONER IN JERUSALEM

The roar of angry shouts grew louder as the mob gathered around the temple in Jerusalem. As the Jews went about to kill Paul, someone ran to tell the chief captain. "All Jerusalem is in an uproar!" they told him excitedly.

The captain took soldiers and ran to find out what was happening. The Jews did not quit beating Paul until they saw the captain and his soldiers. Elbowing his way through the crowd, the captain saw Paul standing surrounded by angry Jews. Thinking Paul must be some great criminal, the captain ordered him to be bound with two heavy chains.

"Who is this man and what has he done?" the captain demanded.

Some shouted one thing and some another among the crowd. In the confusion the captain could make no sense of their accusations. He commanded the soldiers to take him into the castle so he could determine who Paul was. Because the people were still determined to kill Paul, the soldiers picked him up and carried him out of the enraged mob. "Away with him!" the Jews shouted angrily.

At the top of the stairs Paul asked the captain, "May I speak to you?"

"Can you speak Greek?" the captain asked. Before Paul could reply the captain asked, "Aren't you that Egyptian which made an uproar awhile back and led four thousand men, all murderers, out into the desert?"

"I am a Jew of Tarsus," Paul responded. "I beg you, let me speak to the people."

When the captain gave him permission to speak, Paul stood before the people on the stairs so all could see and hear him. The mob watched Paul. When he motioned with his hand they got very quiet.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Then the chief captain  
commanded him to  
be bound with two chains  
Acts 21:33.





## Godly Courage

(A true story.)

One by one Christians slowly gathered at a brother's house to worship the Lord. They did not come in groups because they did not want the neighbors or police to notice them coming. In China today, Christians must meet at night in someone's house in order to pray, sing and listen to a preacher.

On December 1, 1998, the Public Security Bureau (PSB) heard about a worship service at this brother's house. The police came in twenty cars and surrounded the house so that no one could leave. Three officers went to the door and stormed into the living room where a hundred or more Christians were singing.

Pastor Li De Xian was leading the service and one officer shouted at him, "You know you are here illegally! It is against the law of China to gather without permission." This officer turned to the other officers. "Arrest Li De Xian at once."

As the officers put handcuffs on Pastor Li, an elder man came forward. "Please take me instead of this young man," he said. "I will gladly go to prison in his place."

"Get back, old man," demanded an officer as they pushed him away.

An elderly woman spoke to the officers, "We do not hate you for what you are doing," she said. "We know you are in bondage to the law. We will pray for you that God will open your eyes that you may find freedom in Jesus Christ."

"That is enough from you, old woman!" snapped an officer. "You will see how much freedom you have!"

Pastor Li calmly looked upon the faces of the congregation. "Pray," he said. Right away every believer knelt and began to pray as the officers lead Pastor Li out the door.

The police commander was impressed. He looked at Pastor Li and asked, "How is it that you have so much power? You say a word and the people obey."

"It is not me but the love of Christ that is within us," replied Pastor Li. Then an officer saw that Pastor Li had a bag with him. "This is a blanket and some clothes," said Pastor Li. "I knew you would come to arrest me again."

The police were amazed at Pastor Li's courage.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the mob gather?
2. Who did they want to kill?
3. What did they tell the chief captain?
4. When did the Jews quit beating Paul?
5. Why did the captain order Paul bound with chains?
6. Where were the soldiers commanded to take Paul?
7. Why did the soldiers carry Paul?
8. What did Paul ask to do?
9. What happened when Paul motioned with his hand?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 21:31-40.

(Answers: 1. Around the temple. 2. Paul. 3. "All Jerusalem is in an uproar!" 4. When they saw the captain and his soldiers. 5. He thought he must be a great criminal. 6. Into the castle. 7. The people were still determined to kill him. 8. To speak to the people. 9. The people got very quiet.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 18, 1999

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## PAUL SPEAKS TO HIS TORMENTORS

Standing at the top of the stairs Paul motioned to the furious crowd below. The angry shouts stopped and the people became very quiet. Paul began speaking to them. When they heard he spoke in the Hebrew language they listened even more carefully.

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

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

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

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And when they heard that he spake in ti  
kept the more silence:



ew tongue to them, they  
22:2.



## Courage Before The Police

(Continued from last week.)

As three or four officers led Pastor Li De Xian to a police car, several other officers marched into the Christian brother's home where the worshippers were praying. The PSB, or police, began their mean work of destroying the house. They took all the furniture and piled it into a heap in the front yard. They cut the electricity and broke all the dishes, lamps and pictures. With sharp knives they split the bed mats, curtains, doors and walls. They destroyed tools and stole any treasures.

While all this was being done, the believers were in the living room praying for God to have mercy on their persecutors. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," was the common cry among the prayer warriors.

The police set fire to the furniture and items piled in the front yard. Nothing was left but the bare walls of the house. When the fire was red hot, the police left.

The worshippers began to praise the Lord that their lives were spared, but they continued in prayer for Pastor Li who was taken to the police station.

With his head bowed, his hands in shackles, Pastor Li stood before the police commander. "You have disobeyed the law!" shouted the commander. "Don't you know we have the power to put you back into prison for what you have done?"

Pastor Li raised his head. "I do not fear you. Jesus said, 'Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him

who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.' I obey and fear God rather than man."

The commander was furious but secretly in awe of this brave man. He hit the table. "YOU FEAR US!" he screamed at Pastor Li.

"The fear of man brings a snare," calmly stated Pastor Li. "You already have me in chains, what more can you do? Shoot me and I will go to my heavenly Father who I am obeying."

The commander was stunned at this Christian's courage. "Take this man away and put him in a cell," he told nearby officers. Pastor Li was put in a small cell with twelve other prisoners. While he was with them, he shared the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Secretly, the commander told Pastor Li, "You have more power than I." Later, Pastor Li was released from prison.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell  
(The end.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Paul standing?
2. To whom did he motion?
3. What did the people do?
4. In what language did Paul speak?
5. Where was Paul born?
6. Who was his teacher?
7. Who gave Paul permission to arrest believers?
8. What shone round about him?
9. Who told him "Receive your sight?"

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 22:1-16.

(Answers: 1. At the top of the stairs. 2. To the furious crowd below. 3. They became very quiet. 4. Hebrew. 5. In Tarsus. 6. Gamaliel. 7. The high priest and rulers. 8. A great light from heaven. 9. Ananias.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 25, 1999

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## **"I AM A ROMAN!"**

Standing at the top of the stairs, Paul continued his speech to the Jews. "When I came back to Jerusalem the Jews wanted to kill me for believing in Jesus," he told them. "As I prayed in the temple the Lord told me, 'Hurry! Get out of Jerusalem. I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.'"

At the mention of the Gentiles, the people would listen no more. They shouted, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! It is not fit that he should live."

At this outburst of anger, the captain commanded the soldiers to bring Paul into the castle. He was to be beaten until he told what terrible thing he had done to infuriate the Jews so.

As the soldiers tied Paul for the beating, he asked them, "Is it lawful for you to beat a Roman citizen before he is found guilty?"

When the soldiers heard this they quickly reported to the chief captain, "Be careful what you do to this man. He is a Roman!"

Immediately the chief captain went to Paul. "Tell me," he asked, "are you a Roman?" When Paul assured him he was, the captain answered, "My freedom cost me much money!"

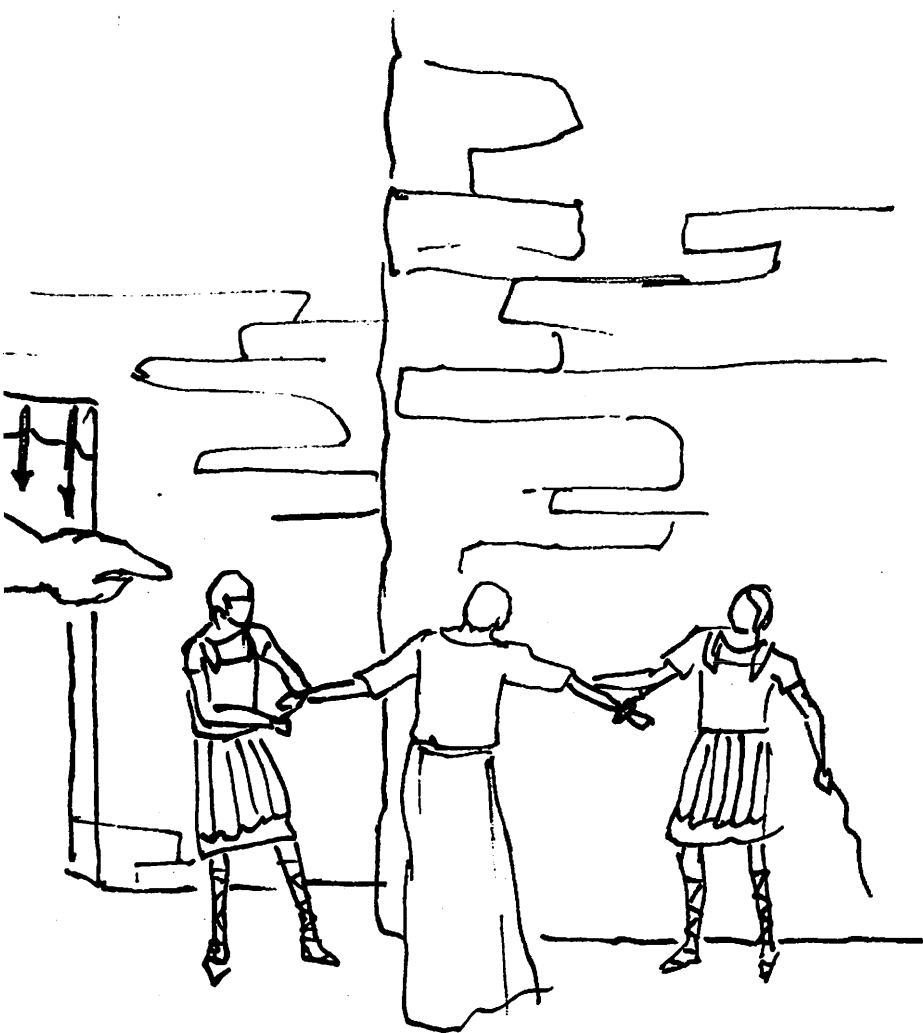
"But I was born free," Paul replied.

The captain ordered the soldiers to not harm Paul. He was afraid, knowing he had bound Paul, a Roman, without proving he had done anything wrong.

The next day Paul was brought before the chief rulers of the Jews. The captain noticed that even the Jewish rulers did not agree about what to do with Paul. Some wanted to set him free, and others insisted that he be put to death. The rulers caused so much confusion and uproar that the captain had his soldiers take Paul away.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





...Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a  
Roman. Acts 22:26.

## Dressed In White

(Based on a true account.)

In the country of Russia, it is against the law to be baptized, but that doesn't stop the true Christians from following Christ in baptism. They have learned to do this at night while the rest of the people are asleep.

One time twenty new Christians wanted to be baptized so the pastor said to them, "Tonight at midnight come dressed in white to the fish nursery. Let us pray that the old watchman will be sleeping so that I can baptize all of you in the south pool."

Obedying the pastor, twenty figures dressed in white silently gathered at the water's edge. In the darkness of the night, each one quietly waded into the knee-deep pool where the pastor waited.

"Are you willing to follow Jesus Christ at any cost?" he asked each person.

"Yes," they would answer.

The pastor raised his hand toward heaven. "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, I baptize you, my brother, in the Lord."

With his arm behind the Christian, the pastor dunked the Christian beneath the water, then brought him up again. Rejoicing with whispered songs, all twenty Christians were baptized.

They knew that at any time their gathering could be interrupted by the police. All of them could be arrested and put into prison for what they were doing, but they loved Jesus Christ more than their own life. Their hearts were at peace with the Lord because they had obeyed him.

Afterwards everyone left as quietly as they had come. It seemed that only the startled fish in the pool and the twinkling stars above were witnesses along with the Lord and His holy angels. However, someone else had seen the baptism.

The next day the caretaker of the fish nursery called his communist boss. The caretaker was really shaken up. "I-I can't work this job anymore," he stammered to his boss. "I-I saw something very strange last night. Twenty some 'beings' dressed in white went to the south pool and sang songs from another world. I am sure they were not usual earthly beings. I was afraid and hid myself. I cannot stay here anymore."

The Lord protected those who obeyed Him. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Paul speaking to?
2. Why did the Jews want to kill him?
3. Who spoke to him as he prayed in the temple?
4. Where was He going to send Paul?
5. Where did the captain tell the soldiers to take Paul?
6. What were they going to do to Paul?
7. Why did the soldiers tell the captain to be careful what he did to Paul?
8. Why was the captain afraid?
9. Who did not agree about what to do with Paul?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 22:17-23:10.

(Answers: 1. The Jews. 2. Because he believed on Jesus. 3. The Lord. 4. To the Gentiles. 5. Into the castle. 6. Beat him. 7. Because Paul was a Roman. 8. He bound Paul before proving he had done wrong. 9. The Jewish rulers.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 May 2, 1999

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## PAUL'S NEPHEW

The second night Paul was in prison the Lord suddenly stood by him. "Be of good cheer, Paul," the Lord said. "You have testified of Me in Jerusalem. You must also bear witness in Rome!"

Paul was much encouraged by the presence and words of the Lord. He had wanted to visit Rome for a long time. Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire and he was anxious to preach about Jesus to the many people there.

Even with Paul in prison, his enemies were not satisfied. They wanted him killed. Forty men bound themselves under a curse. They said they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed him.

Hurrying to the chief priests and rulers, they told them their decision. "You can help us," they said. "Tomorrow ask the chief captain to send Paul here so you can question him some more. While the soldiers are bringing him from the castle, we will capture Paul and kill him."

When Paul's sister's son heard the wicked plan, he hurried to the castle. He must tell his Uncle Paul at once! When Paul heard what the Jews were planning to do, he quickly called one of the captains and told him, "Take this young man to the chief captain. He has something important to tell him!"

When the chief captain heard the young man had a message for him, he took him aside where they could talk in private. "What do you have to tell me?" he asked.

Paul's nephew told him the Jew's wicked plan. "But do not yield to them," he pleaded. "More than forty men have bound themselves with an oath and wait to kill him!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he...told Paul. Acts 23:16.



## Help A Friend In Need

The last school bell rang and children poured from the doors, glad one more day of study was done. Linda and several other students gathered under a spreading elm tree to wait for the bus to come.

Linda and a couple of friends sat on the retaining wall talking and laughing.

"When I get home I'm going to make myself a big sandwich," said Pam. "It will have everything in it that you like, Karen. Don't you wish you could come and have one with me?"

"Now you know I can't go anywhere after school without permission," replied Karen. "Maybe tomorrow I could come over if I ask my mom tonight."

"Okay," agreed Pam. "Hey, look over there! Those three big boys are picking on Herbie again. I wish they would leave him alone!"

"Don't bother them," said Karen. "You know what happened the last time we went and hollered at them."

"They picked on us—those big bullies," said Linda.

"Now look what they are doing to him! They threw his books out in the street! Let's go help Herbie!"

"No, you two stay here and I will go get Mr. Biggs," said Linda as she stood up. "I'll go through this side door so the boys won't see me go."

"Hurry!" said Pam. "Cars are running over his books and those mean boys are pushing Herbie toward the street!"

Linda ran to the door and quickly walked to Mr. Biggs' classroom. She found him in the workshop. "Mr.

Biggs, come help Herbie. The boys have thrown his books..."

Mr. Biggs didn't wait for Linda to finish. He had come to Herbie's rescue many times before. When the boys saw him coming, they left Herbie and acted like they hadn't done a thing to him. "You boys get his books out of the street," commanded Mr. Biggs. "From now on I'll be out here to babysit you boys until the bus comes. Here hand that book to Herbie. Brush it off first."

Quietly Linda joined her friends while Mr. Biggs helped Herbie. "Th-th-thank you, Mr. Biggs," stuttered Herbie, "Y-you are m-my friend."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who suddenly stood by Paul in prison?
2. Where had Paul wanted to visit?
3. What did he want to do in Rome?
4. Who was not satisfied even though Paul was in prison?
5. How many men bound themselves under a curse?
6. Who did they ask to help them?
7. Who heard about their wicked plan?
8. Why did he hurry to the castle?
9. Who else did he tell about the wicked plan?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 23:11-22.

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. Rome. 3. Preach about Jesus. 4. His enemies. 5. Forty. 6. The chief priests and elders. 7. Paul's sister's son. 8. To tell his Uncle Paul. 9. The chief captain.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 9, 1999

## ESCAPE BY NIGHT

Lysias, the chief captain, knew Paul had done nothing wrong. Since Paul was a Roman citizen, he was determined to give him a fair trial. He was sure the Jews had no evidence and could not prove their argument against him.

Calling two centurions, Lysias told them, "Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea. You must also get seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen. Be ready to leave by nine o'clock tonight. Have a horse ready for Paul to ride. You must take him safely to Felix the governor."

Suddenly the entire castle was in a flurry of activity. While the soldiers were getting ready, the chief captain wrote a letter to the Roman governor, Felix, at Caesarea explaining why he was sending Paul. It said, "This man was taken by the Jews who were about to kill him. Then I came with an army and rescued him since he is a Roman. I brought him before their council and found he is accused of breaking their Jewish law. They did not accuse him of anything worthy of death or even imprisonment.

"When it was told me how the Jews laid wait to kill this man, I immediately sent him to you. I commanded his accusers to say before you what they have against him. Good-bye." Sealing the letter, Lysias gave it to the captain to take to Felix.

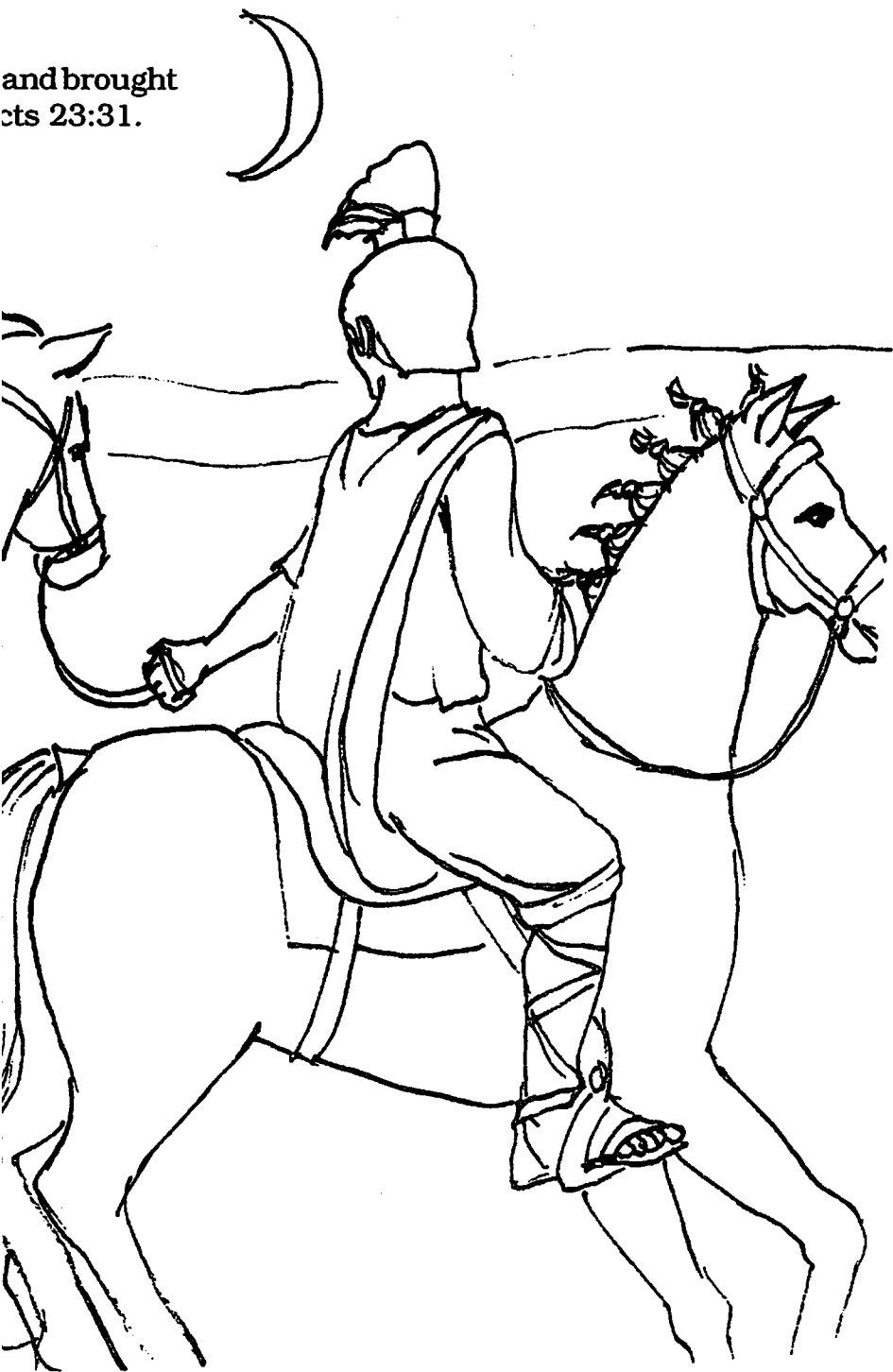
At nine o'clock that night the sound of horses' hooves clattered on the pavement in front of the castle door. Quickly they brought Paul out and mounted him on a horse. Then the small army moved rapidly down the dark street and out of the city. None of the Jews knew what these soldiers were doing.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Then the soldiers,...took  
him by night to Antipat



and brought  
cts 23:31.



## Honest Or Dishonest

It was evening time after supper. Jerry and Linda were playing a game of checkers. Jerry made a move that made Linda's eyes twinkle. When her turn came she quickly jumped three of Jerry's checkers and landed on the last row for a crown.

"How did you do that?" demanded Jerry.

"It was all fair," replied Linda. "I saw this move before you did."

"Well, you should have told me!" retorted Jerry. "I wouldn't have let you have them!"

"I know, but you would do that same thing to me," said Linda.

"No, I would have given you a chance to change your move," insisted Jerry. He was about to push Linda when Dad came to her rescue.

"Jerry! Don't you ever push or hit your sister," commanded Dad. "What is the problem here, anyway?"

Dad had Linda tell her side, and then Jerry. "Well, son, I don't think you can blame Linda for taking your three players. She moved fairly and you need to crown her checker. Just be more careful the next time."

From that point on, Jerry took twice as long to move and Linda was bored during the wait. "I don't want to play anymore," she told Jerry.

"Now you are being a poor sport because you think you won't win," he teased.

"No, I'm just tired of this game. You have to win every time. If you think I'm going to win, you say I'm cheating. It's no fun playing games with you."

Jerry was just about to shove Linda when Dad stopped him again. "Young man, I am ashamed of your attitude," Dad said as he put down his newspaper. Dad got up from his chair and came over to the table where the checker game was laid out. "I will use my watch to time each turn. At the longest you can have three minutes to make a move or you miss your chance to move. Whose turn is it?"

It was Jerry's turn and now he was really nervous. He made some bad moves and in a short while Linda won the game. Dad turned to Jerry, "Tell Linda, congratulations. Linda, let Jerry know he played well. Remember, it is better to lose honestly, than to win dishonestly."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Lysias?
2. Why was he determined to give Paul a fair trial?
3. How many soldiers were to go to Caesarea?
4. How many horsemen were to go?
5. What would Paul ride on?
6. Where were they to take Paul?
7. Who did Lysias write a letter to?
8. What time did Paul and the soldiers leave Jerusalem?
9. Who did not know what the soldiers were doing?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 23:23-35.

(Answers: 1. The chief captain.  
2. Because Paul was a Roman.  
3. Two hundred. 4. Seventy.  
5. A horse. 6. To Felix. 7. To Felix. 8. Nine o'clock at night.  
9. The Jews.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 16, 1999

## TERTULLUS

By the next afternoon the small army entered Caesarea. Paul was taken safely to Felix, the Roman governor. Handing Felix the letter from Lysias, the soldiers presented Paul to him. Felix carefully read the letter. After asking what province he was from, he told Paul, "I will hear you when your accusers come." Then he commanded the soldiers to take him to Herod's judgment hall.

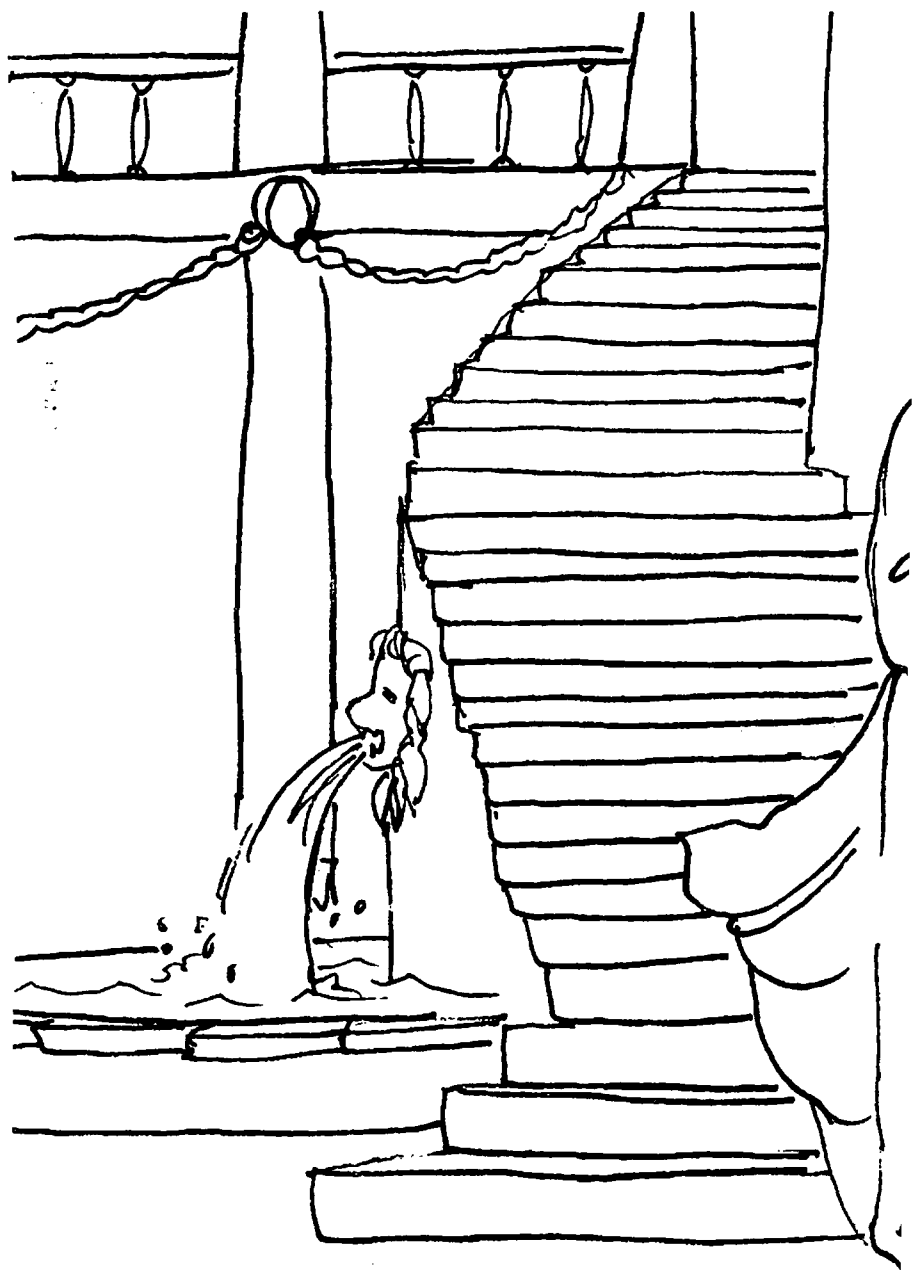
Paul's enemies were very angry when they found that Lysias, the chief captain, had sent Paul out of Jerusalem safely. After five days Ananias the high priest, the Jewish leaders, and a skillful lawyer named Tertullus went to Caesarea. They were anxious to accuse Paul before Felix.

Felix brought Paul before this council. Tertullus rose to speak. "Honorable Felix," he began, "by your leadership we enjoy peace. Your good work is known in this province and throughout the nation. We accept your leadership, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness. I do not want to tire you, but I beg that you will be kind enough to listen to a few words."

Felix was not fooled by Tertullus' flattery. He knew very well how much the Jews hated Roman officials.

Tertullus' tone changed as he began to speak about Paul. Angriily he lashed out, "We have found this man Paul to be a terrible troublemaker. He has caused trouble among the Jews throughout the world. He is the leader of a group called the Nazarenes.

"When he attempted to dishonor our temple, we tried him according to our law. But Lysias, the chief captain, came and took him away from us by force. Now we are come to you, most noble Felix, to tell you what we have against Paul." —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Ananias the high priest descended with the  
governor against Paul. A



ers,...who informed the  
4:1.

## The Last Say

The baseball game was really going swell. In the ninth inning, the score was 24 to 26 with Jerry's team in the lead. Excitement charged through the air as Jerry stepped up to the home plate to bat. There was a team player on every base, two outs already, so it was up to Jerry to bring all the other players safely in.

Jerry swung the bat a couple of practice hits. "I want the ball right here," he told the pitcher.

The pitcher nodded and threw the ball. It flew right over home plate, Jerry swung the bat, but did not hit.

"Strike one!" called the catcher.

Jerry pray to himself. "Oh, Lord, please help me to hit a good one. You see how the bases are loaded and my team is counting on me to get everyone in this time. Please help me hit the ball!"

"Strike two!" called the catcher.

Jerry tapped home plate with his bat and shifted position. Again the ball came sailing toward Jerry.

CRACK! The bat and ball crashed together! Jerry took off running but he did not see where the ball went. Everyone was hollering because the pitcher almost caught the ball. It thumped on the ground beside him. He picked it up and threw it to first baseman.

"Hurry, Jerry, hurry!" cheered his team. He was one step away from first base when he heard a thump, then his foot slid to base.

"He's safe! He made it!" exclaimed Jerry's team.

"You're out! You're out!" hollered the other team.

Right away a big argument started and the P.E. teacher blew his whistle for silence.

"Quiet! Quiet!" yelled the teacher. After the talking stopped, he turned to the first baseman and Jerry. "Now I want the first baseman to tell me whether he caught the ball before Jerry touched the base or not."

"I think I caught the ball first," he said, "but I'm not sure 'cause I was watching the ball and not Jerry."

Everyone looked at Jerry. He knew his team was really counting on him but he had to tell the truth. "He caught the ball first," said Jerry. Though his team grumbled about him, Jerry felt good that he had told the truth. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Paul taken to?
2. Whose letter did they give him?
3. When would he hear Paul?
4. Where was Paul taken?
5. Who were angry when they found Paul had left Jerusalem safely?
6. Who was Lysias?
7. Who was Tertullus?
8. Who was not fooled by Tertullus' flattery?
9. What did Tertullus say Paul was?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 23:32-24:8.

(Answers: 1. Felix. 2. Lysias'. 3. When his accusers came. 4. To Herod's judgment hall. 5. Paul's enemies. 6. The chief captain. 7. A skillful lawyer. 8. Felix. 9. A terrible troublemaker.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 23, 1999

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## FELIX AND DRUSILLA

Tertullus finally ended his accusation against Paul. The high priest and Jewish leaders agreed that he had spoken the truth. They agreed with everything he said.

Now Felix wanted to hear Paul's side of the story. He motioned to Paul to speak.

Paul began, "I speak for myself more cheerfully, Honorable Felix, because you have known this nation for many years. You can easily find out that only twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship God. The leaders did not find me stirring up the people; they seized me while I was alone in the temple. The men who now accuse me cannot prove their charges.

"They condemn the way I worship God. Yet I believe all that is written in the Law of Moses and in the books of the prophets. I have always tried to keep my heart free from wrong toward God and man."

Felix listened carefully. He knew the Jews did not have any real charges or evidence against Paul. He said, "I will wait until Lysias comes so I can find out more about this matter." Then he dismissed the council.

Felix commanded a captain to watch Paul but allow him to have some liberty. His friends could come and go whenever they wanted to.

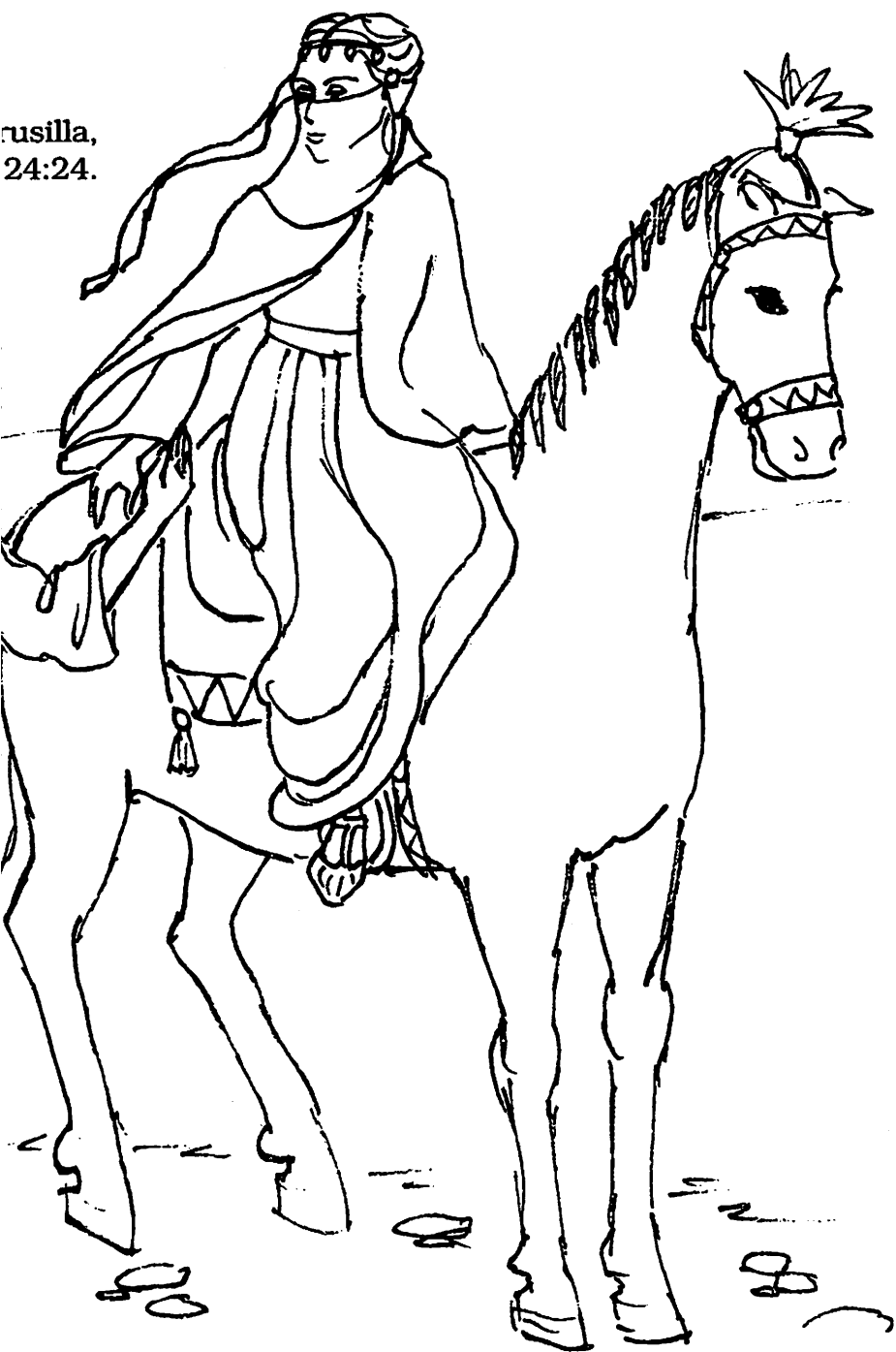
Several days later Felix sent for Paul again. This time his wife, Drusilla, was with him. His wife was a Jewess. They wanted to know more about the gospel of Christ. As Paul talked earnestly with them, Felix was convicted of his sins. He trembled as he told Paul, "Go your way for now. When I have more time I will send for you."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Felix came with his v  
which was a Jewess,...



rusilla,  
24:24.



## The Obedient Barry Williams

(Based on a true story.)

As a young boy, Barry Williams went to church with his mother and father. "You are a good boy, Barry," said his dad as he put his arm around the shoulders of his eight-year-old son. "I appreciate your obedience. You will do well in life because you obey so well."

Barry grinned and leaned his head on Dad's chest. "I will work to make you proud," he told his father.

"The most important thing is to know Jesus and obey Him," said Dad. "Your mother and I will not always be around but the Lord will be with you everywhere you go. Trust Him, son, and obey Him."

"I will, Dad," replied Barry.

Within five years Barry's life had changed a lot. His father died with heart disease and then his mother was murdered in a robbery. Barry went to live with his grandmother who gave him good care, but he really missed his parents.

"I'm saving up my dollars to send you to college," said Granny. "A smart young man like you needs to do something worthwhile with his life. Now you start planning what you want to be."

Barry decided to be a school teacher. When he entered college, he studied hard and made good grades. He was putting all his thoughts into schooling so he wouldn't think about his parents and his hurting heart. Barry stayed with Granny so they kept each other company, but still Barry was lonely. He felt empty inside.

After he graduated in 1994, Barry began teaching second grade. Then he met a young woman who he thought would satisfy his loneliness. Janet was exciting. She persuaded Barry to drink alcohol and smoke marijuana.

"Barry, I'm ashamed of you!" scolded Granny. "That woman isn't any good for you! Get your head on straight and leave her alone."

"Granny, for 25 years I did what Mom, Dad and you wanted. I never felt as satisfied as I do with Janet. Now I'm doing what I want to do."

Granny's eyes filled with tears. "Well, I'm praying for you, son," she said. "You're too good to ruin your life with parties and wild living."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who finally ended his accusation against Paul?
2. Who agreed with everything he said?
3. What did Felix want to hear?
4. How long had it been since Paul went to Jerusalem to worship?
5. Who was with him in the temple?
6. Who knew there was no real evidence against Paul?
7. Who was Drusilla?
8. Why did they send for Paul?
9. Why did Felix tremble?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 24:9-25.

(Answers: 1. Tertullus. 2. The high priest and Jewish leaders. 3. Paul's side of the story. 4. Twelve days 5. He was alone. 6. Felix. 7. Felix' wife. 8. To hear more about the gospel of Christ. 9. He was convicted of his sins.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 30, 1999

## PAUL APPEALS TO CAESAR

Two years had passed. Still Paul was a prisoner at Caesarea. He had many privileges and Felix called for him often. He knew Paul did not deserve to be kept a prisoner.

A new governor was appointed to Caesarea. Festus, the new governor, was not acquainted with the Jews' customs and religion. After three days at Caesarea, he went to Jerusalem to learn more about the people he was to govern.

As soon as Festus arrived in Jerusalem, the high priest and leaders of the Jews came to tell him about Paul. They tried to get Festus to send for Paul. They still planned to kill him if he was ever brought back to Jerusalem.

But Festus would not consent. "I am going back to Caesarea, he told the Jews. You come there and accuse him."

Ten days later Paul was brought before the Jews and Festus at Caesarea. The Jews brought many serious charges against Paul but they could prove none of them. Paul said, "I have never done anything against the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar."

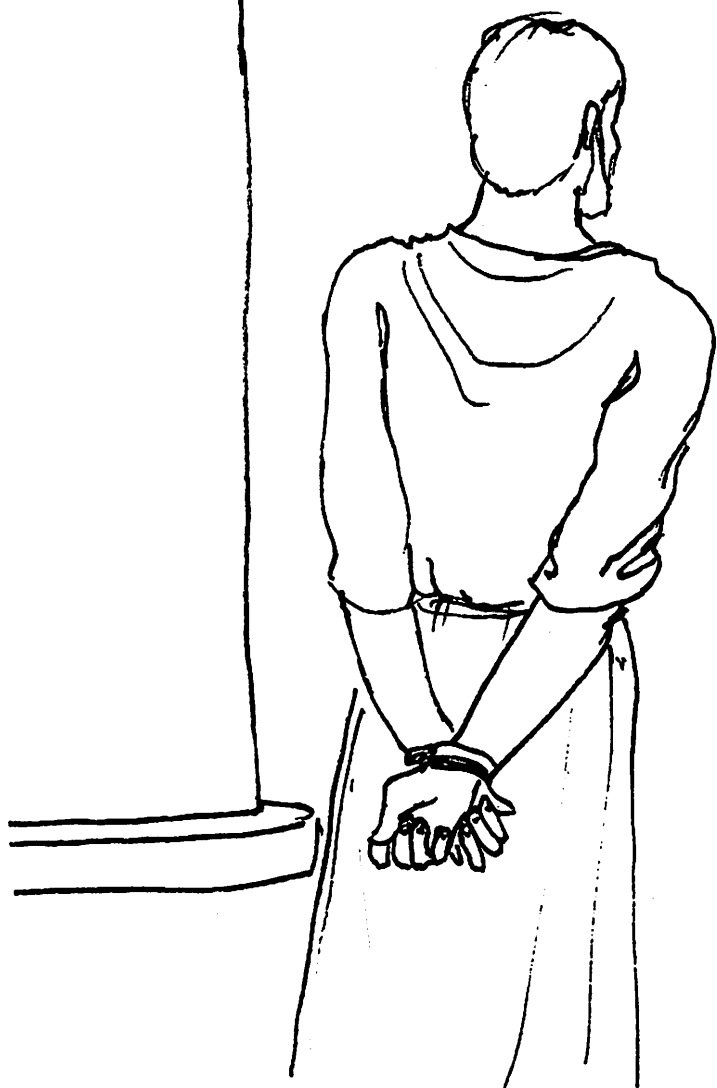
Festus wanted to gain the Jews' favor. He asked Paul, "Are you willing to go to Jerusalem and be judged before me there?"

"I stand before Caesar's judgment seat," Paul answered. "To the Jews I have done no wrong. If I have done anything worthy of death, I am willing to die. I appeal to Caesar!"

Festus knew that every Roman citizen had a right to appear before Caesar. He could give only one answer to Paul's request. "You have appealed to Caesar," he replied. "To Caesar you shall go!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...Hast thou appealed  
unto Caesar? unto  
Caesar shalt thou go.  
Acts 25:12.





## **The Changed Barry Williams**

(Continued from last week.)

With his new girlfriend, Barry Williams slipped farther and farther into sin. His grandmother was a good saintly lady and she prayed for Barry's salvation.

"Are you going out again this Friday night?" Granny asked Barry.

"Yes, it's okay, Granny. I haven't had fun like this in all my life. You know how sad I was after Dad and Mom died. Janet has put laughter into my life again."

"You may be having cheap fun but true happiness and joy come from knowing the Lord Jesus as your personal Saviour," said Granny. "I'm praying for you, Barry. I'm putting you entirely in the Lord's hands."

Barry paused a moment at the door, "Pray for me if you want to, Granny, but don't worry about me." He left to get Janet, and they went to a dance.

Janet was a big talker and a very friendly person. Barry was quiet and respectful. In time Janet's loud ways bothered Barry. He tried to teach her quietness but she rebelled. Just before Christmas of 1995, Barry and Janet broke off their friendship.

"Why don't you come to church with me, Barry," said Granny. "You haven't been there in a long time and everyone would like to see you again."

"Okay," agreed Barry. The next Sunday morning he was shaved, clean and in a suit.

"My, you look mighty fine," said Granny. "I had forgotten how good you looked all dressed up."

Barry kissed her forehead as he opened the car door for her. "I have

a mighty fine grandmother, too," he told her.

At church, everyone was glad to see Barry. Afterwards, Barry talked to the pastor a long time. "I really do want to change my life but I don't want to pretend to be religious," Barry said. "I want to be saved and know Jesus is living in my heart. All my life I just obeyed my parents and Granny. Now I want to feel the joy of salvation."

"It is for you," replied the pastor. "Let's kneel here at the altar and do business with God."

That day Barry found true happiness and became friends with the best Friend anyone could have—Jesus. Today, Barry and his Christian wife teach others about Jesus.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How long had Paul been a prisoner?
2. Who called for him often?
3. Who was Festus?
4. Why did Festus go to Jerusalem?
5. Who came to tell him about Paul?
6. What did they want Festus to do?
7. Why did Festus ask Paul if he would go to Jerusalem?
8. To whom did Paul appeal?
9. What right did every Roman citizen have?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 24:26-25:12.

(Answers: 1. Two years. 2. Felix. 3. The new governor. 4. To learn about the people he was to govern. 5. The high priest and leaders of the Jews. 6. Bring Paul to Jerusalem. 7. To please the Jews. 8. To Caesar. 9. To appear before Caesar.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 6, 1999

## KING AGRIPPA

Several days later King Agrippa and his sister Bernice came to visit Festus at Caesarea. Agrippa governed the land east of the Jordan River.

They had been there many days. During one of their conversations Festus told them about Paul's case. "Felix left a certain prisoner in bonds. When I was in Jerusalem the chief priests and elders of the Jews came to accuse him. They are determined to kill him.

"I told them it was not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die before he is condemned. He has the right to meet his accusers face to face and answer for himself.

"When I did hear their case, I found they had no real charges against the man. Because the Jews insisted, I asked if he would go to Jerusalem to be tried, but he appealed to Caesar."

Agrippa was interested. "I would like to hear the man myself," he said.

Festus answered, "Tomorrow you shall hear him."

The next day Agrippa and Bernice were brought into the judgment hall with great ceremony. There were many important people among the guests. Then Festus commanded that Paul be brought.

Festus stood to introduce the prisoner to the king. "Before you," he said, "stands the man whom the Jews say is not fit to live any longer. When I heard the case, I found he had done nothing to deserve death. He has appealed to Caesar, and to Caesar he shall go.

"However, I have no charge to make against him. I have brought him before you, King Agrippa, so you may hear him and find out why he is being held."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





Then Agrippa said unto  
Festus, I would also  
hear the man myself....  
Acts 25:22.

## He Holds the Future

(A true story.)

As a missionary in India, Graham Staines felt burdened to tell people with leprosy about Jesus Christ. Leprosy is a terrible disease that causes the skin to rot on the body. People who have leprosy live together in a colony away from everyone else. They are outcasts.

Loving and caring, Pastor Staines went often to pray with these poor people. He helped many repent and have their sins washed clean by the blood of Jesus. For 34 years he went quietly to the lepers' colony and worked with them.

The Hindus, who worship carved stones and wood, watched Pastor Staines show love to these lepers. In time some of the Hindus were interested in knowing about the God who put such courage and love in a man.

Pastor Staines was always eager to tell someone about Jesus. Through the years many Hindus came to him, seeking the gospel of Christ. When these saved people really heard the voice of God speaking to their hearts, they would burn their wooden and stone idols.

On January 24, 1999, Pastor Staines and his two sons, Philip and Timothy, went to visit the lepers and newly saved Christians among the Hindus. It was a dark night when Pastor Staines drove his station-wagon toward home. He and the boys were so tired that he decided to park in the church's parking lot to rest awhile before going home to his wife and daughter.

While the three slept, about one hundred Hindus poured gasoline over their car and set it on fire. Together they had worked for the Lord and together they went to be with Him.

The eastern Indian state of Orissa was upset about the burning. India's Prime Minister condemned the attack. He told the Hindus it was wrong to take their lives. But Mr. Vajpayee, leader of a Hindu group, said it is time only one religion teaches in India. He wants only Hindus to live there but by the Staines' deaths, more Indians than ever have heard about Jesus. Many thousands have said that they want the kind of faith Pastor Staines had.

Gladys Staines, his wife, and daughter, Esther, led this song at the funeral. "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who came to visit Festus?
2. Whose case did Festus tell them about?
3. Who was determined to kill Paul?
4. Who did not deliver a man to die before he was condemned?
5. Who found no real charges against Paul?
6. Why did Festus ask Paul to go to Jerusalem to be tried?
7. Who wanted to hear Paul for himself?
8. To whom did Paul appeal?
9. Why did Festus bring him before Agrippa?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 25:13-26:2.

(Answers: 1. King Agrippa and his sister. 2. Paul's. 3. The chief priests and elders of the Jews. 4. The Romans. 5. Festus. 6. Because the Jews insisted. 7. Agrippa. 8. To Caesar. 9. To find out why he was being held.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 13, 1999

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## ALMOST PERSUADED

After Paul was introduced, Agrippa told him, "You may speak for yourself."

With the king's permission, Paul stood up to speak. He stretched out his hand saying, "I am glad, O King, that I may speak for myself and tell you why the Jews have accused me. You understand the customs and questions of the Jews, and you will understand my words.

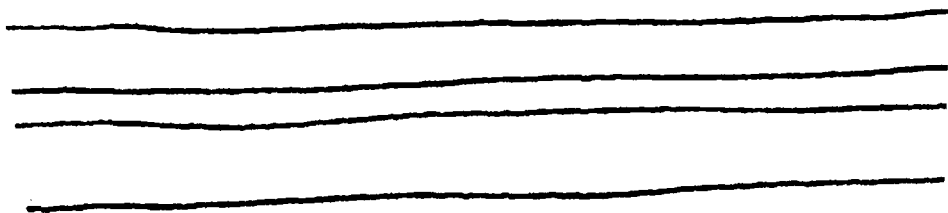
"From my youth the Jews knew all about me, for I was brought up in their city. There was a time when I persecuted those who believed in Jesus. In Jerusalem I put many of the saints in prison. The high priest even gave me authority to persecute the believers in other cities.

"On my way to Damascus to persecute the Christians there, I had a vision from God. It was noon, O King, when suddenly a light more dazzling than the sun shone on me and my friends. We fell to the ground in fear and a voice spoke to me in Hebrew, 'Saul! Saul! why are you persecuting Me?' I cried, 'Who are you, Lord?' The voice replied, 'I am Jesus whom you persecute.' That voice commanded me to tell of Jesus, not only to the Jews, but to the Gentiles as well.

"Because I have obeyed that heavenly command, O King, I am being persecuted by the Jews who will not believe in Jesus. As Festus noticed how earnestly Paul spoke. He said, "Almost you persuade me to be a Christian."

"I would to God that not only you but also all that hear me today were both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these bonds," Paul answered.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



Then Agrippa said unto  
Paul, Almost thou  
persuadest me to be a  
Christian. Acts 26:28.



## Fully Persuaded

(A true story.)

Rosa is a fourteen year old girl who lives in Cuba. She was born in a Communist home where no one could even mention the word "God." As a little girl, she would look at a huge picture of Fidel Castro (the leader of the Cuban Revolution) in her living room. He is a wicked man who does not believe in God or Jesus Christ. He demands that people worship him.

Rosa's parents believe in Castro and obey his commands. Her father was a leader in the Communist Youth Union and now is in a higher position. Her mother is a high-ranking secretary in the Communist party.

Only Rosa's great-grandmother believed in God and trusted in the blood of Jesus Christ. She told Rosa about Jesus and quoted scriptures to her. Rosa asked her parents if she could go to church with her great-grandmother but they refused to let her go.

There was not happiness in Rosa's home and in time her parents divorced. Then Rosa would go to church with her grandmother without her father's permission. When her mother found out that Rosa went to church, she tried to stop her.

"You are invited to a friend's party Friday night," her mother said. "I will take you there myself." She knew prayer meeting was Friday night.

For awhile poor Rosa was torn between her desire to attend prayer meeting or obey her mother. She was so hungry for the truth from God's Word that she left the house early before her mother could take her to a party. In tears, Rosa prayed to the Lord for repentance of her sins. She was sweetly saved.

"Rosa, where did you go?" asked her mother in an angry voice. "You look different. Did you join that church?"

Quietly, Rosa replied, "I am a happy Christian."

This made her mother so angry that she beat Rosa. Her father did not want her near him. In time they sent her to a reform school far away from home. Rosa began making friends with the other students. At first she was the only Christian but now three others meet with her to read the Word of God in a secret place.

"Please pray for my parents," says Rosa. "They are blind and do not see their need of Jesus Christ. My personal decision is to follow Jesus Christ. I will be faithful even at the price of death." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who told Paul he could speak for himself?
2. Who understood the customs of the Jews?
3. Who persecuted those who believed in Jesus?
4. Who gave him authority to persecute the saints?
5. Why was Paul going to Damascus?
6. On his way who gave him a vision?
7. What did the voice tell him to do?
8. What happened because he obeyed the heavenly command?
9. What did Festus tell Paul?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 26:2-29.

(Answers: 1. Agrippa. 2. Agrippa. 3. Paul. 4. The high priest. 5. To persecute the Christians. 6. God. 7. Tell about Jesus to the Jews and Gentiles. 8. The unbelieving Jews persecuted him. 9. "Almost you persuade me to become a Christian.")



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 20, 1999

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## PAUL SAILS TOWARD ROME

Paul boarded the ship which would take him on the first part of his journey to Rome. As they headed out to sea, Paul saw his homeland for the last time. Never again would he return to the country of Judea.

Paul was not the only prisoner on board. At Caesarea he and several others had been given over to the Roman captain, Julius. Festus ordered Julius and his men to take the prisoners safely to Rome and deliver them to Caesar. Two of Paul's friends sailed with him, Luke and Aristarchus.

The next day the ship stopped at Sidon. By this time Paul had already won the respect of the Roman officer and was given permission to go ashore to visit his friends. Paul, his two friends and a soldier guard went ashore to visit the Christians at Sidon.

The ship docked at Myra. This was its last stop. The Roman captain had to find another ship. He soon found one ready to sail for Italy so ordered the soldiers and their prisoners on board. It set sail and soon they were back in the great Mediterranean Sea.

But sailing was not good. Strong winds from the wrong direction swept down on the ship. The passengers were glad when they managed to get into the harbor Fair Havens.

Winter was coming on and sailing was already dangerous. But the captain was eager to get back to Rome, and the owner of the ship was willing to sail on.

Paul knew it was foolish to venture on. "Sirs," he warned them. "I know that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage. We must not sail now."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



ey delivered Paul and certain other prisoners  
one named Julius... Acts 27:1.



## The Bus Tanks

(Based on a true account.)

In the United States, New York City is one of the largest metros of people. Brooklyn is one of the poor sections of New York City. The Lord asked Bill Wilson to live in Brooklyn and teach the children about Jesus Christ.

For over 20 years Bill has faithfully brought children to his Sunday school meetings which he holds in a big auditorium that once was a warehouse for storage. To pick up all 6,500 Sunday school children, big buses rumble down the streets, stopping when they see a group of children waiting for the church bus.

As the bus pulls up to a known bus stop, a built-in chapel bell rings, calling the children to come. When the children climb up the three steps in the bus, their left hand is stamped with the bus number on it. "Hello, Jill, it is nice to see you this morning," greets the bus driver. He knows every child on his bus route like he knows every pothole in the streets.

"Hello, Mr. Bill," reply the children. Some of them give him a hug as they pass by to find a seat. The bus springs forward and goes on its merry way, zigzagging to miss big holes in the pavement.

The bus captain starts a Christian song and all the children join in singing. Laughter and clapping mingle together as the bus rolls along. They are happy to leave their dirty, unkept homes to be with clean, cheery Christians who really care about them.

At the church, hundreds of children peacefully sit on floor mats as they sing gospel songs, pray and hear a Bible story. Sometimes they divide into small groups to do a craft project. Candy is a special treat handed to each child after the service.

Back at the bus parking area, children remember which bus to take by the number written on their hand. Happy, with satisfied smiles, the children climb aboard for a bumpy ride back home.

Within an hour the six buses have taken everyone home. One by one the big, battle-scared buses line up on their parking lot which is surrounded by barbed wire fences. They have served the Lord another busy day.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Paul going?
2. Who was Julius?
3. How many friends sailed with Paul?
4. Who won the respect of the Roman officer?
5. Who did they visit at Sidon?
6. Why was sailing not good?
7. What harbor did they manage to get to?
8. Who was eager to get back to Rome?
9. Who warned them not to sail?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 27:1-11.

(Answers: 1. To Rome. 2. The Roman captain. 3. Two. 4. Paul. 5. The Christians. 6. There were strong winds from the wrong direction. 7. Fair Havens. 8. The captain. 9. Paul.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 27, 1999

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## A STORM AT SEA

Paul warned the captain that they should not sail further. If they did they would suffer heavy losses. The captain respected Paul and knew he spoke the truth but he was anxious to get to Rome. This harbor was not a comfortable place to spend the winter.

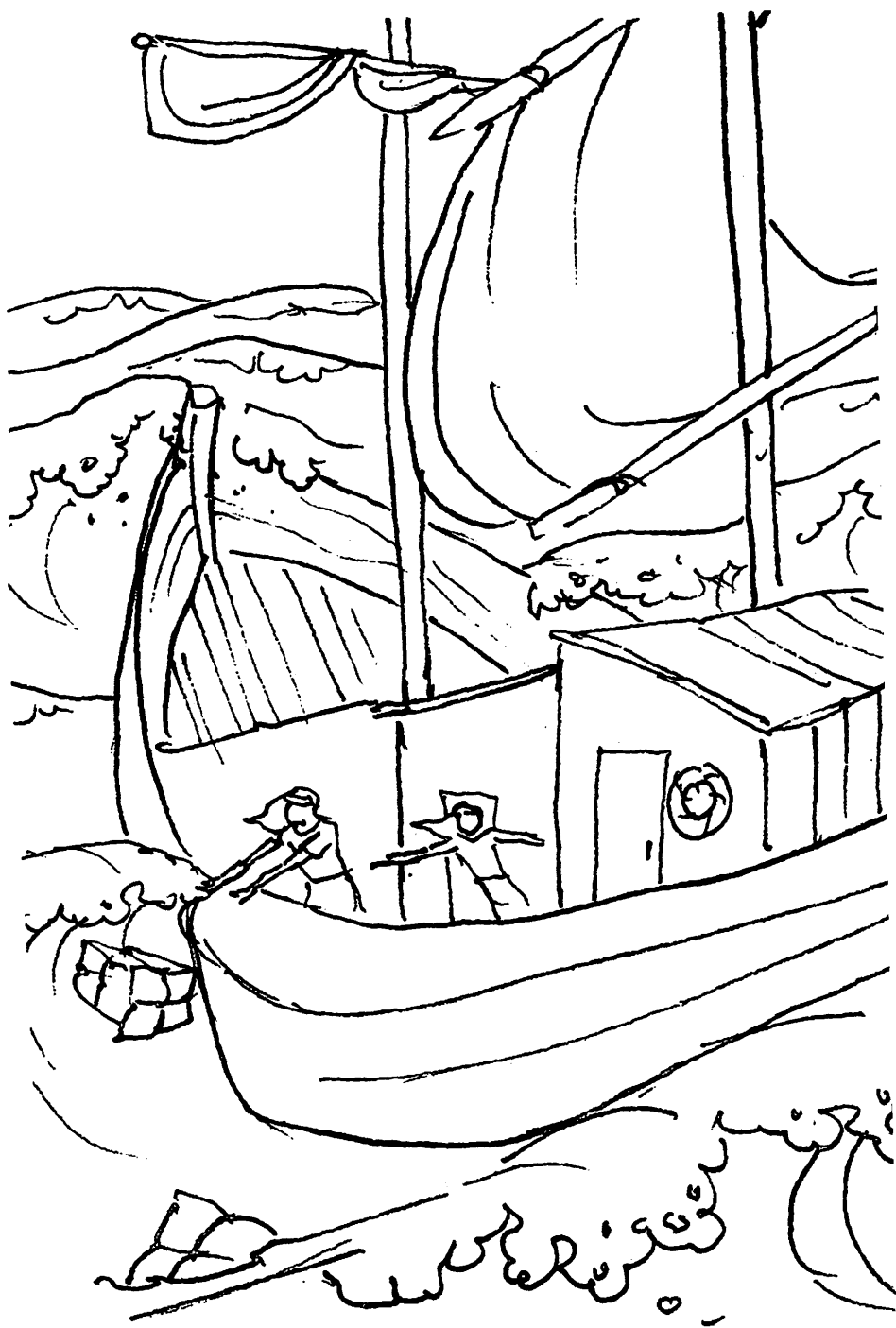
So, when the owner was willing to sail on, the captain ignored Paul's warning and ordered the ship to set sail. A south wind was blowing softly and it seemed safe enough to sail a little further.

The ship glided out of the harbor and into the broad sea. But they had not gone far when a tempestuous wind swept down upon them. They were too far from the harbor; they couldn't turn back now. To go forward was impossible because of the fierce wind. Great angry waves rocked and tossed the ship, threatening to tear it in pieces at any moment. The captain and owner of the ship well remembered Paul's warning.

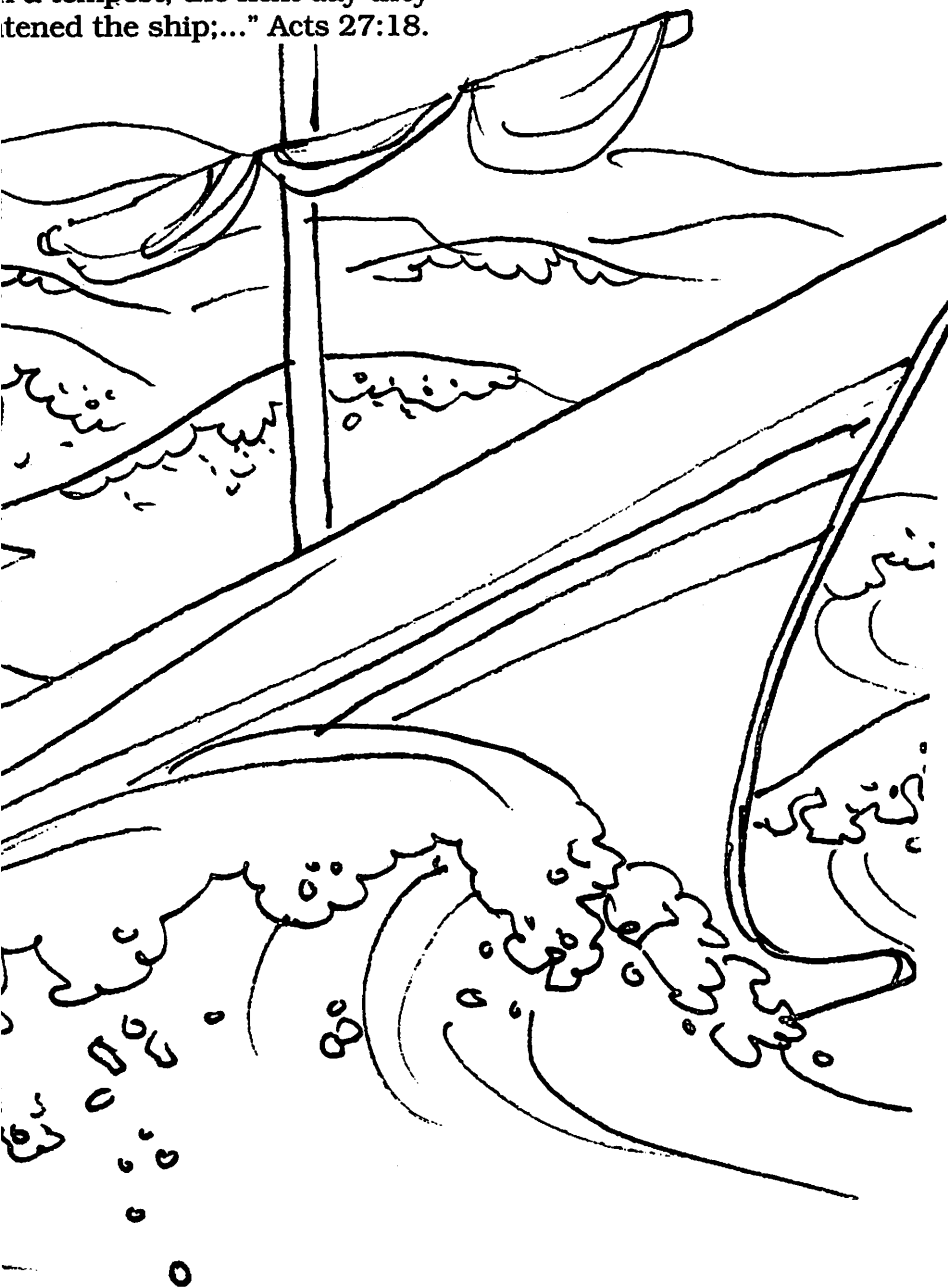
They tried to lighten the ship by throwing things overboard. Then all they could do was wait for the storm to pass. Anxiously they watched for a break in the clouds but the storm raged on. They could not see the sun by day nor the stars by night.

One morning Paul called everyone to him. Above the roar of the storm he told them, "Sirs, if you had listened to me, you would have been spared all this harm and loss. But now be of good cheer! The ship will be lost but no one will lose their life. Last night an angel of the God I serve told me this."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



and we being exceedingly tossed  
in a tempest, the next day they  
lightened the ship;..." Acts 27:18.



## The Lighthouse Of Hope

There is a painted picture of a ship tossing to and fro in a windy rainstorm. The clouds are dark and the water is gray. The ship has pulled down its sails and bobs around helplessly with the huge waves in the wind.

The only brightness in the picture is the golden yellow light shining from the lighthouse setting on the rocky shore. If that tossing ship will throw out its two anchors, it may not hit the rocks close to the waters' surface. Then when the storm dies down, the ship can sail to a safe harbor and rest.

Lighthouses have been in service for thousands of years, warning ships of dangerous rocks or shallow shores. Lighthouse keepers would climb the many steps up the long stairways to the upper room. There they would light the big kerosine or gas lanterns that would shine into the night about a mile or two. During storms they did not shine so far but they still served their purpose.

In the United States there are about 850 lighthouses on islands and along rocky shorelines. Many of them are still in service but they are controlled by computers now. Radio beacons automatically turn on by a computer at the right time. Also, U.S. Coast Guard officers radio to ships and warn them of dangers. Hundreds of ships have been saved from shipwreck because the crew watched, listened and obeyed warnings from lighthouse commanders.

People are like ships out on the sea of life. Problems and troubles can crash against us and leave us

feeling helpless. Have you ever had a problem so big you didn't know what to do? You felt helpless, didn't you? Everyone feels that way sometimes.

Usually sin is the reason for the stormy trouble. If you have sin in your heart, then you need to obey the light of Jesus. Tell Him you are sorry for sinning, and have His blood take away your sins. This will bring peace to your heart.

When you are saved from sin and living for Jesus, you will still have trials and problems but always look to the Lighthouse for help. Jesus is the Lighthouse. He will guide you if you will listen to Him and obey His light. He shines about you. If you do not have the light of Jesus with you, then your life will be shipwrecked some day. Please obey the light of Jesus.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did Paul warn the captain?
2. Where was the captain anxious to go?
3. What swept down upon them?
4. Why couldn't they go forward?
5. What threatened to tear the ship in pieces?
6. Why did they throw things overboard?
7. Who called everyone to him?
8. How many would lose their life?
9. Who told Paul this?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 27:12-24.

(Answers: 1. That they should not sail further. 2. To Rome. 3. A tempestuous wind. 4. Because of the fierce wind. 5. The angry waves. 6. To lighten the ship. 7. Paul. 8. None. 9. An angel of God.)