

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 4, 1999

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## NEARING LAND!

"Wherefore, Sirs, be of good cheer!" Paul concluded after telling those on the ship about the angel's message. "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. But first we will be cast up onto some island."

But still the terrible storm raged. The ship bobbed up and down like a little cork as the waves beat over its decks and briny water poured over the sides. At one moment the hissing black waves seemed like a mountain towering over them, and at another like a valley being scooped out from under them. In spite of Paul's encouraging words, both sailors and passengers could see no hope of being saved from drowning.

Then, at the end of the second week, about midnight, the seasoned sailors sensed that they were nearing land. Listening carefully, they thought they heard the roar of waves beating against rocks. They were nearing land!

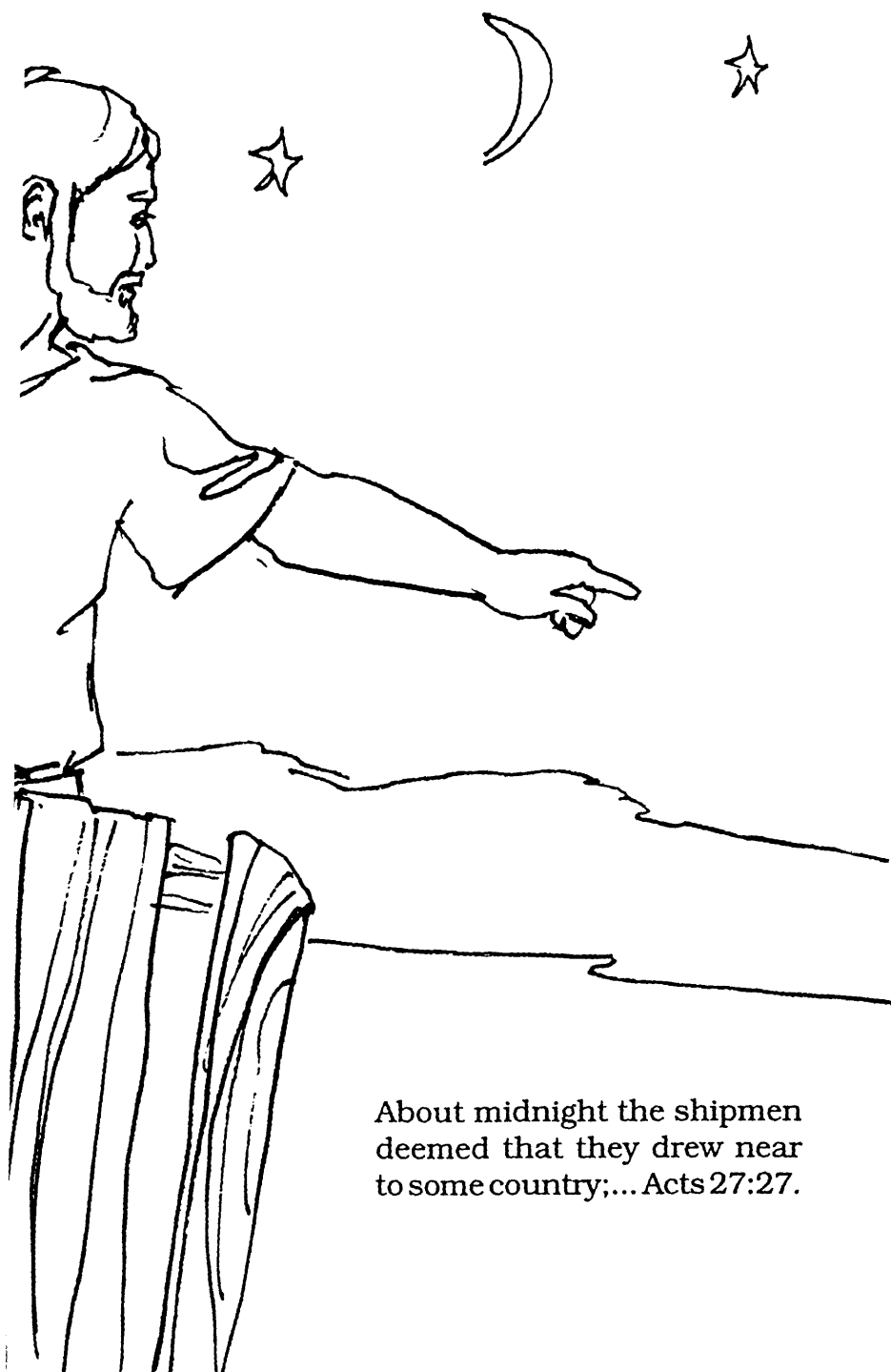
They had drifted on the waves for so many days they were not sure where they were. There was no way of knowing whether they were nearing a rocky coast or a sandy beach.

The sounding lines were dropped overboard and it was found that the water was twenty fathoms deep. When they had gone a little farther, they sounded again and found it was fifteen fathoms deep. This meant that the sea was becoming shallower and there was great danger of crashing into rocks or sandbars.

The sky was as black as ink around them. For fear of being wrecked on the rocks, they threw four anchors overboard to hold them fast. Now all they could do was wait anxiously for morning to come.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





About midnight the shipmen  
deemed that they drew near  
to some country;... Acts 27:27.

## "Old Ironsides"

Jerry was busy building a ship. He was putting together a model of "Old Ironsides." Before he chose to build the model, Jerry had read all about this ship in a special history book.

Jerry learned that the real ship called the Constitution was constructed by ship builders in the 1790's. The thirteen American Colonies needed a strong warship to carry cargo to Europe and back without being destroyed by pirates.

"Old Ironsides" carried 44 guns and a crew of 80 sailors. It fought and won the battles for American ships to sail on the Atlantic Ocean. This gave the American people the liberty to buy and sell products in Europe.

The British ships threw cannonballs at "Old Ironsides" and the Barbary pirates tried to burn it. Because it had a plate of iron around its hull, "Old Ironsides" sailed safely through the attacks. For thirty-two years "Old Ironsides" served the United States. Then in 1829, it was declared unseaworthy. The U.S. government was going to deliberately sink it in the Atlantic Ocean.

A poet named Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote a poem of tribute to "Old Ironsides" which caused the American people to rise up and defend the old battle-scarred warship.

Today this ship stays in Boston Harbor and once a year, on July 4th, "Old Ironsides" takes a "tour of duty" around the harbor.

All this information made Jerry more enthused than ever to build a model of "Old Ironsides." Carefully, with tweezers, Jerry pulled a tiny string through each cream colored sail. His ship would not sail on water but it would be sturdy. That evening,

Jerry showed Dad his model.

"You did a great job on building it, Son," said Dad.

"Thanks!" replied Jerry. "I read all about 'Old Ironsides' and it was quite a ship. Someday I would like to go to Boston Harbor and see this ship."

"That would be interesting," agreed Dad. "Ships have been used by mankind for thousands of years. I've never sailed in a ship but I've been in one for most of my life."

"Oh, you have?" asked Jerry. "What ship is that?"

"We sometimes call the Church, 'The Ship of Zion.' It's like 'Old Ironsides' in that it is battle-scarred but wins every battle. You need to prepare yourself to be a good sailor in this trusty 'Ship of Zion.'"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who told the men on ship to be of good cheer?
2. Did the storm stop?
3. The ship bobbed up and down like what on the waves?
4. Who could see no hope of being saved?
5. What did the sailors sense?
6. Why didn't they know where they were?
7. What was the great danger of the sea getting shallower?
8. Why was the sky black as ink?
9. Why did they throw anchors overboard?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 27:25-29.

(Answers: 1. Paul. 2. No. 3. Like a cork. 4. Both sailors and passengers. 5. That they were nearing land. 6. They had drifted for many days. 7. They might crash into rocks. 8. It was about midnight. 9. To hold the ship fast.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 11, 1999

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## THE SAILORS' SECRET PLAN

The ship lurched back and forth under the force of the angry waves but the anchors held fast. The sailors knew there was no way to bring the ship safely to land.

Some of the sailors secretly planned a way to escape and save their own lives. There was a small lifeboat on deck. They would use this to reach land. Lowering the boat over the side of the ship, they pretended to be throwing more anchors into the sea.

But Paul knew what they were doing. Quickly he called the centurion and his soldiers. "Unless these sailors stay in the ship, you cannot be saved," he warned.

Julius, the centurion, sprang into action. A quick command sent one of his soldiers to the side of the ship with drawn sword. He brought it down sharply on the rope, cutting it in two. The little lifeboat dropped into the dark waves below and disappeared.

Without the lifeboat they were even more helpless. Now the sailors could only huddle together in the cold rain with the others and wait for the first streak of light to appear so they could see the shoreline.

No one knew what land was near but all two hundred and seventy-six men aboard crowded on deck to catch the first glimpse of it. As they waited expectantly Paul urged them all to take some food. They had fasted for fourteen days. The danger was so great no one had an appetite for food. Holding up bread, Paul bowed his head, gave thanks to God and ate the food. His good cheer had its effect. The others took courage and ate food. This gave them strength and fresh determination to fight for their lives.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...Exce  
ship,

ese abide in the  
not be saved.  
27:31.



## Stay With The Saints

Linda was in the kitchen helping Mother make lunch after church service. While Linda set the table, she asked Mother a serious question.

"Mother, do you know why Karen and her family doesn't come to church anymore?"

"Well, Linda, Karen's parents have many excuses for not coming but the real reason is that the devil has fooled them. He has told them the same lies he told Eve in the Garden of Eden."

"What sort of lies?"

"Remember when Eve looked upon the forbidden fruit she 'saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise.' When a person will listen to the devil, he will tell them that the world is good to be a part of. He will make sin look pleasant to the natural eyes and he will say, 'you don't have to be old-fashioned, but prosper like the world does.' Slowly and slyly the devil pulls a soul away from the Lord. That makes the person feel uncomfortable at church so that person leaves the saints, often blaming them for why he or she isn't coming anymore."

"Oh, that's too bad," sighed Linda. "Karen was my friend and we had lots of fun together."

"I know, dear. We will have Karen come and play with you. But I do want you to promise me this: if Karen talks bad about the saints, tell her you don't want to hear it. We all go through times of misunderstanding and trials but it isn't right to blame the Lord for it and leave Him."

"So Karen's mom and dad don't like the saints now?"

"Let's say it this way, Karen's mom and dad have their feelings hurt so they have listened to the devil. He has told them the world will be better friends to them than the saints. Right now the devil is making the world look nice but in time, they will be sorry for leaving their best friends behind."

"I will stay friends with Karen so I can help her," said Linda.

"That will be okay as long as you are able to pull her up and not let her push you down. Together we must stand against the devil. It is dangerous to leave the saints. Those who leave often sink into sinful troubles."

"Let's pray for Karen and her parents." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What caused the ship to lurch back and forth?
2. What held the ship fast?
3. Who knew there was no way to bring the ship to land safely?
4. What did the sailors lower over the side of the ship?
5. What did they pretend to be doing?
6. Who knew what they were doing?
7. Who did he call and warn?
8. How many men were on board the ship?
9. How long had they fasted?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 27:30-37.

(Answers: 1. The angry waves.  
2. The anchors. 3. The sailors.  
4. The lifeboat. 5. Throwing more anchors overboard.  
6. Paul. 7. The centurion.  
8. Two hundred and seventy-six. 9. Fourteen days.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 18, 1999

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## THE SHIPWRECK

After eating, everyone took new courage. All hands turned to the work again. They threw overboard the remainder of the cargo of wheat. Relieved of this weight the ship rode lightly on the waves. This would help them run the ship closer to shore.

At daybreak the sailors studied the shoreline carefully. They saw one thing that gave them a ray of hope. There was a small creek and a sandy beach, which broke the line of huge coastal rocks in one place. The captain thought it might be possible to steer the ship into the mouth of the creek before the ship ran aground.

At the captain's order the rudder was unleashed, the anchors taken up and the mainsail was hoisted to the wind. Then they guided the battered ship toward shore. Before they got very far the ship grounded on a sandbar. With a grinding noise her bow stuck fast!

There was no hope of getting the ship off the sandbar. Violent waves still beat against the back of the ship, causing the planks to loosen.

The Roman soldiers knew they would lose their own lives if any of the prisoners escaped. No one could swim through the angry waves while chained to another. They decided the only way to prevent the prisoners' escape was to kill them. But Julius had come to know and respect Paul. To save Paul's life he ordered that the prisoners' chains be removed and all that could swim should make for the shore. Others found broken pieces of the ship and floated ashore. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...They ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast,...but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves. Acts 27:41.







## Traveling To Camp Meeting

"I think we have everything loaded into the van," said Dad to Mother. "Take another check around the house and make sure all the water faucets are turned off and the trash is taken out to the dumpster."

Mother did as Dad said while Jerry, Linda and Randy took their favorite places in the van. Jerry liked to sit behind Dad and Linda sat behind Mother so Randy had to sit in the middle.

"I can't see out the windows!" complained Randy.

"Look out the front window," replied Dad.

"Here, put your pillow between us and you can sleep while we go. That way you won't need to see out," said Linda.

"Alright," agreed Randy.

When Mother climbed into the van and shut her door, Dad said, "Now I want us all to get quiet, bow our heads and pray for the Lord's protection on this trip."

Like they always do before a trip, the Richardson family asked the Lord to be with them and bless them traveling.

Soon the family was on the highway going to Monark Springs Camp Meeting. The miles were clicking by as Dad drove, Mother read, Jerry looked for sports cars, Linda loved her dolls and Randy slept.

At lunchtime, Dad was turning the van into a McDonald's parking lot when a big semi-truck came charging up behind them. The driver did not see Dad's turn signal. The driver swerved the truck just in time and barely missed the van's tail lights.

"Oh, thank the Lord!" Dad and Mother said together.

"Aren't you glad you took time to pray before we left Dad?" asked Linda.

"Yes, honey, our prayers just now paid off. I'm glad Jesus heard and had mercy on us."

After eating and refreshing themselves, the Richardsons were ready to continue their journey. They arrived at the Monark Springs campgrounds just before night service.

"Before long we will be singing under the tabernacle, won't we Mother?" said Linda. "I always love to sing here."

"Yes, and when we pray, let's be sure to thank the Lord for His protection on the highway," replied Mother.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. When did everyone take new courage?
2. What did they throw overboard?
3. Why did they want to lighten the ship?
4. What did the sailors do at day-break?
5. What did they see that gave them a ray of hope?
6. What did the ship become grounded on?
7. Why did the soldiers want to kill the prisoners?
8. Who knew and respected Paul?
9. Why did he order the prisoners' chains be removed?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 27:38-44.

(Answers: 1. After they had eaten. 2. Wheat. 3. So they could run the ship closer to shore. 4. Studied the shoreline carefully. 5. A small creek and a sandy beach. 6. A sandbar. 7. If any prisoners escaped they would lose their own lives. 8. Julius. 9. To save Paul's life.)

# THE *BEAUTIFUL WAY*



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 25, 1999

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## A VIPER!

The natives on shore watched the vessel in distress and the efforts to save it with great sympathy. As the men struggled to shore one by one they ran to help the strangers, lighting a fire so that they might warm themselves and dry their clothes. Those who escaped were weak and exhausted, but they were all there! As the angel assured Paul, not one life was lost. The natives were sure many would die in such a shipwreck.

As soon as Paul got to shore, he joined the others in bringing sticks for the fire. With an armload of wood he approached the fire and laid the sticks in the flames. Suddenly a viper, hidden among the sticks, fastened itself onto Paul's hand. With one quick motion Paul shook it off and it dropped back into the fire.

Those standing nearby were horror-stricken. They knew the deadly poison of the viper and how quickly it acts. "No doubt this man is a murderer," they thought. "Although he escaped the sea, yet vengeance will not allow him to live." They expected his arm to swell and to see him drop dead at any moment.

But Paul was not afraid. God said he would preach in Rome and he was confident that he would do just that. As minutes passed, the natives were more and more amazed to see Paul calmly prodding the fire and warming himself. They watched carefully. He did not act nor look like a dying man!

After watching him a long time and seeing no harm come to him, the superstitious natives changed their minds. They decided Paul must be a god because not even a deadly snake could harm him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...There came a viper out of the heat,  
and fastened on his hand. Acts 28:3.







## The Beginning Of Life

(A true story.)

Richard Wurmbrand lived on the streets in the country of Romania. He was an orphan during World War I and life was very hard for him. He did not know anything about God or Jesus Christ but he often felt sad inside because there wasn't any God to help him.

One day, in despair, Richard prayed like this, "God, I know surely that You do not exist. But if perchance You do exist, which I doubt, it is not my duty to believe in You; it is Your duty to reveal Yourself to me."

Richard did not know that an old carpenter and his wife who lived in a village high up in the mountains were praying to the Lord like this: "My God, I have served You on earth and I wish to have my reward on earth as well as in heaven. And my reward should be that I should not die before I bring a Jew to Christ, because Jesus was from the Jewish people. But I am poor, old and sick. I cannot go around and seek a Jew. In my village there are none. Please bring a Jew into my village and I will do my best to bring him to Christ."

For some unknown reason to Richard, he decided to climb the mountains in search of food and shelter. He came into the same village where the old carpenter lived. When the elder Christian saw Richard on the street, he recognized his answer to his prayer. The Christian took Richard home where he fed him, helped him with a bath and gave him clean clothes.

Then the kind Christian and his wife shared the gospel with Richard and gave him a Bible. Never before had Richard been treated so kindly and never had he owned a Bible. All of this touched Richard's hard heart and he began to weep.

The prayers that the Christian had prayed and his love toward Rich-

ard made the Bible seem real to him. As he read about Jesus, Richard compared his wicked heart to the purity of Jesus Christ. He saw his need to change from the habits of sin and take the beautiful way of Christ. He begged for the blood of Jesus to wash away his hatred, bitterness, anger... and put the love of God within him.

Jesus answered Richard's prayer and the elder Christian rejoiced because his prayer was answered also. Soon afterwards, Richard's wife became a believer. Right away they wanted to tell others about this glorious treasure of salvation. By their testimonies, Richard and Sabina won other souls to Christ.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who watched the vessel in distress from on shore?
2. How did they help the men who struggled to shore?
3. How many lives were lost?
4. What did Paul do as soon as he got on shore?
5. What happened when he laid the sticks on the fire?
6. What did Paul do?
7. What did the natives expect to see Paul do?
8. Why was Paul not afraid?
9. Why did they decide Paul was a god?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 27:44-28:6.

(Answers: 1. The natives. 2. They built a fire to warm them. 3. Not one. 4. He helped gather sticks for the fire. 5. A viper fastened onto his hand. 6. Shook it off into the fire. 7. Drop dead at any moment. 8. God said he would preach in Rome. 9. Because not even a deadly snake could harm him.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 1, 1999

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## HEALING THE GOVERNOR'S FATHER

The islanders took the shipwrecked people to Publius, the governor, who lived nearby. He greeted the men warmly and invited them into his own home. For three days he took care of all their needs and treated them courteously.

Paul soon learned that Publius' father was very sick with a fever. He had a terrible disease that often caused death. Paul asked to see him and, receiving permission, he laid his hands on him. Lifting his eyes to God in heaven, the apostle prayed fervently that a miracle would be done and that this man might be healed as a testimony to the power of God and the truth of the gospel.

The Lord heard that prayer, and the governor's father was made well. News of the healing spread quickly over the island. The people brought all their sick to Paul. They came by the dozens, hoping that this man, Paul, might heal them, too. All who came were healed. The islanders and those from the ship saw God's great power at work.

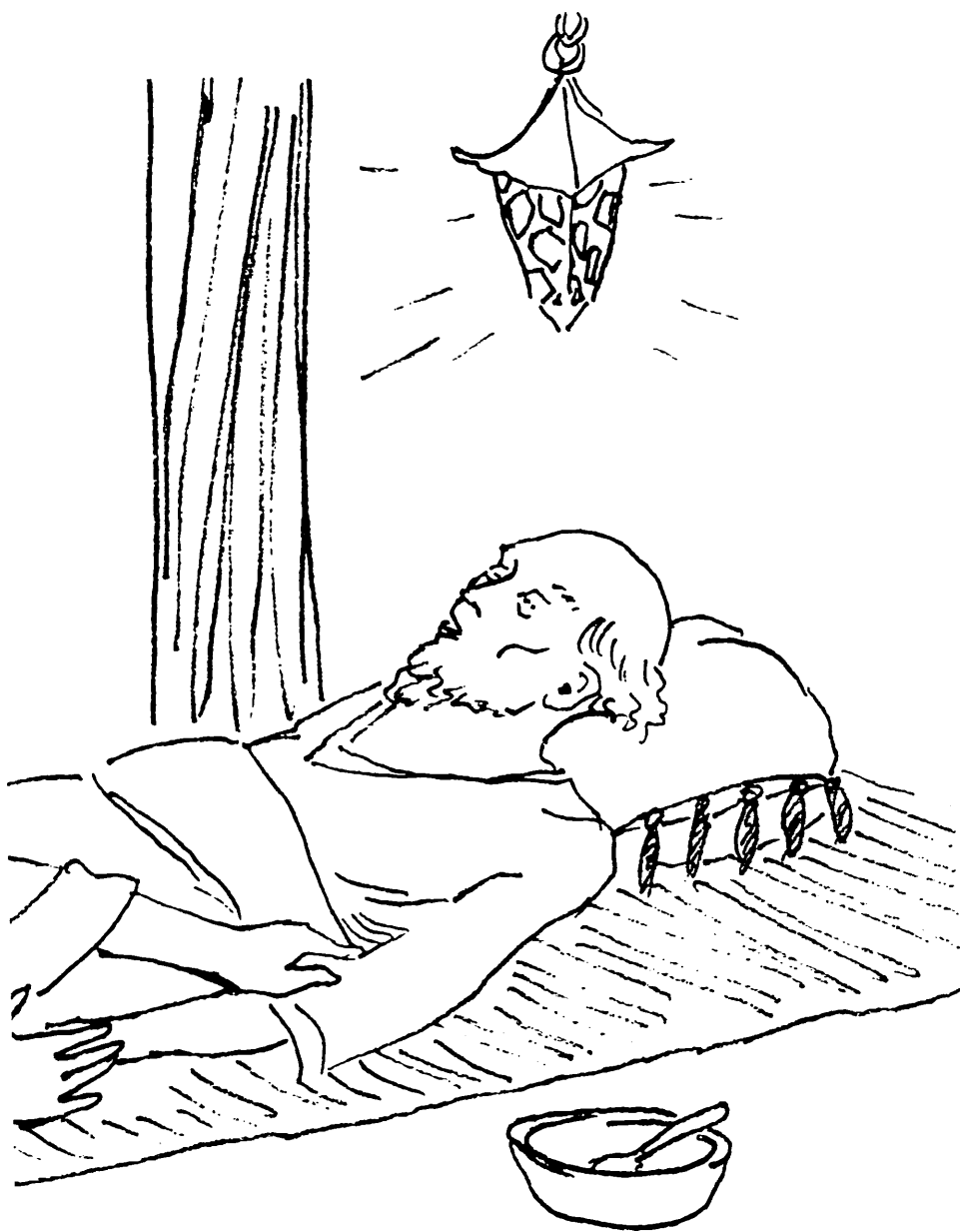
It was impossible to sail during the three winter months. Julius and the owner of the ship could hardly wait for spring to come. Then the sea would become navigable once more. The three months went by quickly for Paul and his friends, Luke and Aristarchus. Daily they kept busy preaching the gospel of Christ to all that would hear. God was with them and confirmed their words by working miracles.

The islanders honored Paul and his friends with special honors. They had won the love and confidence of many people. Everyone, those of high degree and low, had seen the mighty power of God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Paul...prayed, and laid his hands on  
him, and healed him. Acts 28:8.





## The Old, Yet New, Story

(Continued from last week.)

Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand were Christians living in Romania. Richard had a burning desire to witness to the Russian war prisoners because they were taught from babyhood that there is no God. Every chance he had, he would mention the name of Jesus to a Russian.

One day a knock sounded on Richard and Sabina's door. When Richard answered, a Russian officer stepped inside. "Please shut the door," he commanded. After Richard did so, he continued, "I have been told that you are Christians. Is that correct?"

Though fear struck Richard and Sabina's hearts, they told the truth. "Yes, we are followers of Jesus Christ."

The officer's face softened. "Could you please tell me about Jesus? I do not know anything about Him."

Eagerly, Richard and his wife sat down with the Russian officer. They read to him the Sermon on the Mount and several parables Jesus told. The officer became so joyful that he arose from his chair and danced around the room. "What beautiful words! How could I live without knowing this Christ?"

Then they told him about the plan of salvation. They told how Jesus was hated by His own people and crucified. The officer was so sad that he fell in an armchair and began to weep bitterly.

Richard put his hand on the man's shoulder. "Don't be grieved about His death," he told the crying

man. "Jesus shed His blood for your sins. Now let me read to you about how Jesus came out of the tomb and where He is today."

As the officer heard about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, his face became happy again. He slapped his knees and shouted, "He is alive! He is alive!" Then he danced around the room again!

Finally, after the man had calmed down, Richard asked him if he wanted to pray to Jesus and be saved from his sins. The Russian fell on his knees with his new friends and he prayed something like this: "O God, what a fine chap You are! If I were You and You were me, I would never have forgiven You of your sins. But You are really a very nice chap! I love You with all my heart."

With this prayer, a new child of God was born. —Sis. Connie Sorrell  
(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Publius?
2. How long did they stay in his home?
3. What was wrong with Publius' father?
4. Who asked to see him?
5. What news spread quickly?
6. Who did the people bring to Paul?
7. What happened to all that came?
8. How long were they on the island?
9. Who honored Paul with special honors?

**LESSON TEXT:** ACTS 28:7-10.

(Answers: 1. The governor. 2. Three days. 3. He was sick with a fever. 4. Paul. 5. News of the healing. 6. All their sick. 7. They were healed. 8. Three months. 9. The islanders.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 8, 1999

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## SAILING ON TOWARD ROME

The three months of winter went by quickly as Paul taught the islanders about Jesus. With the first balmy breezes of spring, the owners of the ships in the harbor began calling their crews back to work. They must make ready to sail.

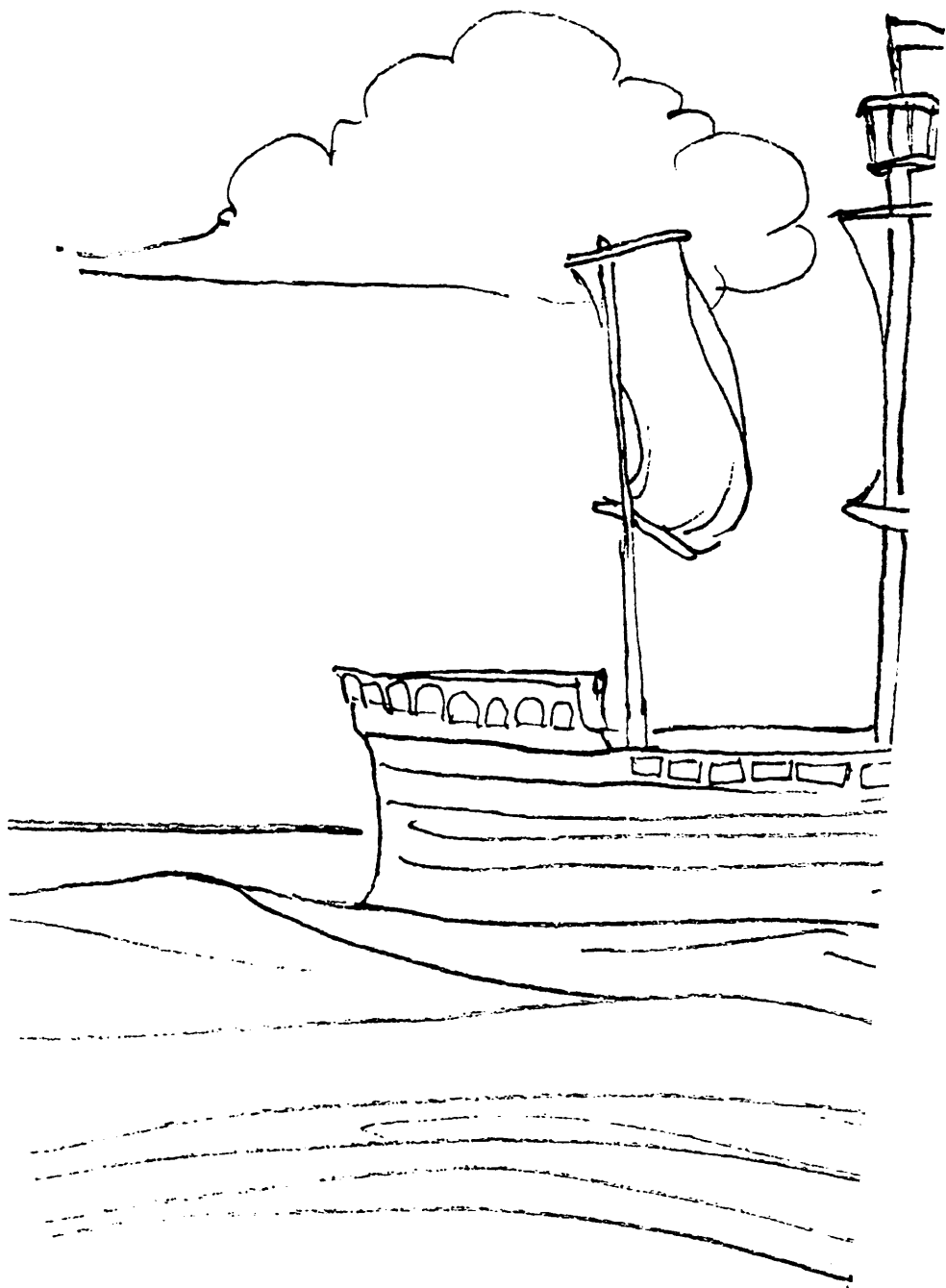
Julius was restless to go. He made arrangements with another ship and the soldiers with their prisoners prepared to leave the island. By this time Paul had won many friends. They were sorry to see him leave. In token of their love, they brought gifts and provisions and, gathering on the shore, they waved farewell.

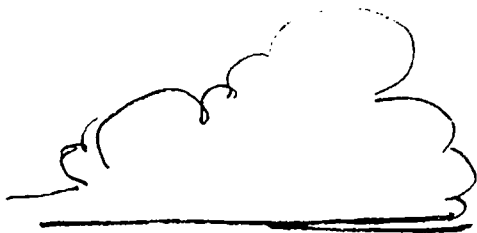
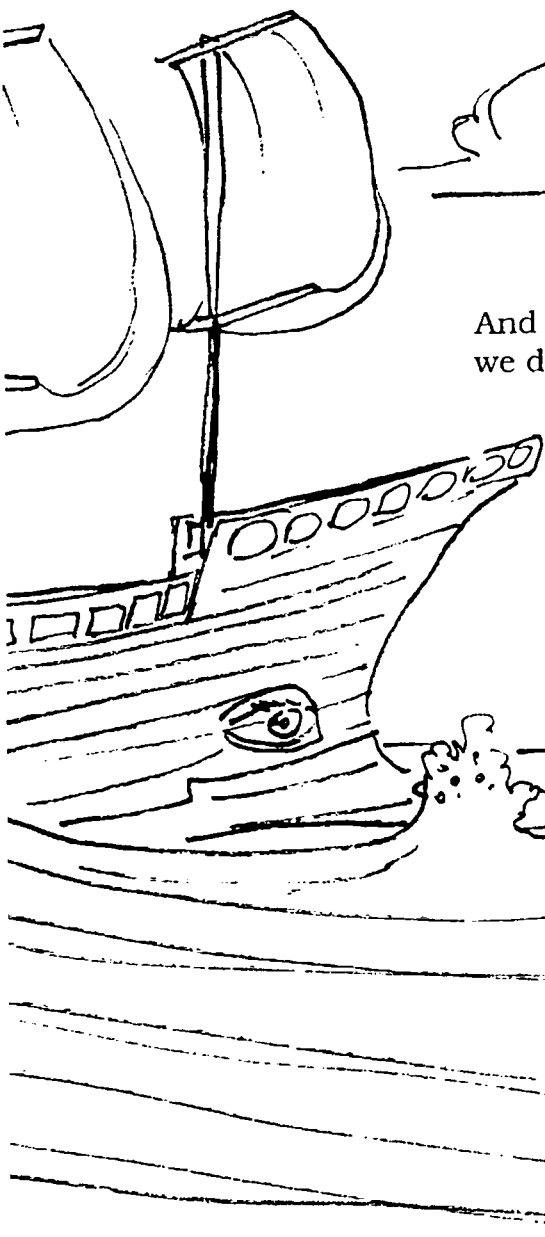
The heavy ship was paddled out into the bay and the sails were hoisted. The soft winds blew, and after a day of good sailing with sunny skies above and blue waters about them, they reached the ancient city of Syracuse. Here they stayed for three days before continuing their journey.

In the beautiful harbor of Rhegium, sheltered by the high hill of Sicily and the mainland, the wind ceased and the ship lay motionless for a day. But in the morning the south wind blew, and with all the sail spread to the breeze, the narrow strait was left behind. All that day and night they ran before the wind and came the next morning into one of the great harbors of Rome. It was the city of Puteoli on the Bay of Naples.

Julius stayed for a week in this beautiful city. During that time Paul was allowed to see his friends freely. There were Christians in most every city now. When word came that Paul was in Puteoli, many of the believers came to see him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





And after three months  
we departed in a ship...  
Acts 28:11.



# Standing For The Truth

(Continued from last week.)

The Russian Communist troops came marching into Romania, August 23, 1944. The Foreign Secretary of the Soviet Union stormed into the office of the Romanians' beloved King Michael I. The Secretary pounded his fist on King Michael's table. "You must appoint Communists to the government of Romania," he demanded.

The Russian army was much bigger than King Michael's army. He did not have the power to stop the Russian Communists who took over his country.

Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand were Romanian Christians who witnessed about Jesus Christ to the Russians. One day as Richard was working among some Russian men, he had the courage to privately ask a man, "Do you believe in God?"

The man was an educated engineer who did his work well. He looked at Richard with a blank stare. "I have no such military order to believe," he replied. "If I have an order, I will believe."

Richard cried in his heart for this poor man who could not make such a serious decision on his own. This made Richard more determined to tell the Russians about Jesus Christ.

The Russian Communist officials called together all Christian leaders in Romania. They told the Christians that being a Communist was nearly the same thing as being a Christian. This was a terrible lie, but most of the Christians were greatly afraid of the powerful Communists.

One by one, each Christian leader was asked to swear loyalty to the Communist Party. This grieved the

hearts of Richard and Sabina. How would the Russians ever learn about Jesus Christ if they were told a wicked lie that Jesus Christ was a Communist?

As they witnessed this, Sabina whispered to her husband, "Richard, when it comes your turn, stand up and wash away this shame from the face of Christ. They are spitting in His face!"

Richard said to his wife, "If I do so, you could lose your husband." She said, "I don't wish to have a coward for a husband."

When it came Richard's turn, he praised Jesus. He said his loyalty was first due to Jesus, who was not a Communist, but the Son of God. Richard felt good in his soul but later he suffered for it.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

## QUESTIONS:

1. What did Paul teach the islanders?
2. Who was restless to go?
3. Who had won many friends?
4. What did the islanders bring in token of their love?
5. What city did they reach first?
6. How long did they stay there?
7. Where did Julius stay for a week?
8. Who was Paul allowed to see?
9. When word came that Paul was in Puteoli who came to see him?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 28:11-14.

(Answers: 1. About Jesus.  
2. Julius. 3. Paul. 4. Gifts and provisions. 5. Syracuse. 6. Three days. 7. In Puteoli. 8. His friends. 9. Many of the believers.)

# THE *BEAUTIFUL WAY*



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 15, 1999

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## THE GATES OF ROME!

During the seven day layover in Puteoli the Christians had opportunity to send word to Rome that Paul was on his way. The believers in Rome were happy to hear that they would see the man who had spent his life in the service of Christ. They had read and memorized his letter to them.

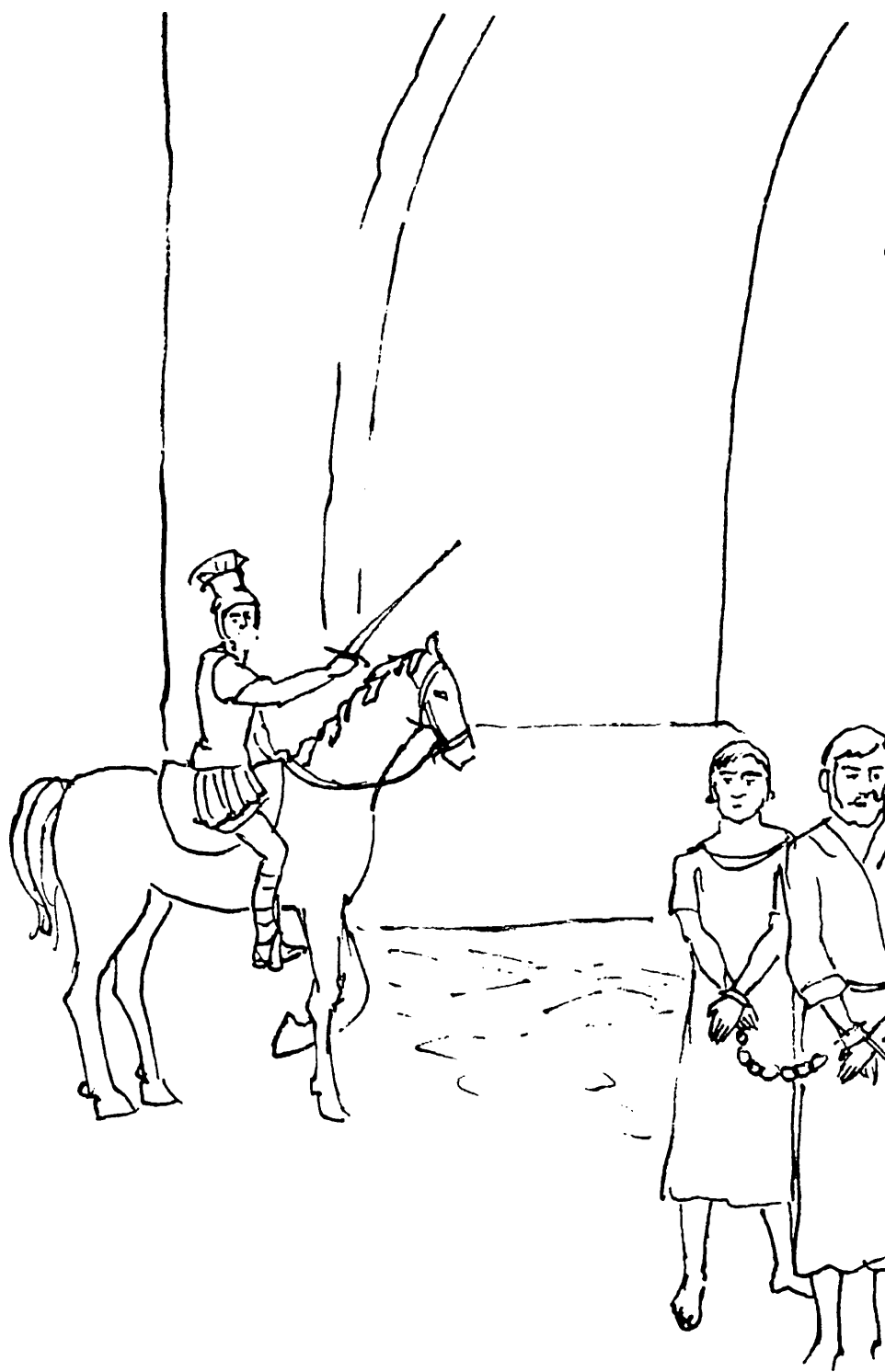
Some were so anxious to see Paul they decided to go out on the highway to meet him and accompany him back to Rome. Some came forty miles and met him at the market of Appii forum, and some came thirty miles to The Three Taverns.

When Paul saw the friends from the church at Rome, his heart was moved. He knew he must stand trial and would possibly be condemned, but when he saw the love and devotion of these brethren, he thanked God and took courage.

Now, as they traveled on, Rome was just ahead. Soon the gates of that great city were in sight. Julius drew his band of prisoners together in the center of the soldier escort and marched them through the streets to the imperial barracks where he handed them over to the captain of the guard. This kind man listened with interest as Julius told him about each man. After telling him about Paul, he obtained special favor for him. Paul was allowed to live by himself with a soldier who guarded him. He would be allowed to see his friends whenever he wished.

Three days after arriving in Rome, Paul called the chief of the Jews together. When they came, he explained to them why he had appealed to Caesar. He told them how the Jews in Jerusalem had accused him and caused his imprisonment; his only hope of release was to appeal to Caesar.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



when we came to  
ie, the centurion  
ered the prisoners  
ne captain of the  
rd:... Acts 28:16.



## The Watch-Buying Evangelists

(Continued from last week.)

Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand are Christian Romanians who have a burden for the Russian Communist soldiers in their country. They had several methods of reaching the Russians.

One way was by the "watch" method. In the country of the Soviet Union of Russia, there were not watches for them to wear on their arms. When Russians came into Romania, they saw watches for the first time and all the Russians wanted several. They stole watches from everybody. They would stop a Romanian on the street and demand the watch. If anyone wanted a watch, he had to go to the barracks where the Russians lived and buy back a watch.

The Christians went to the Russian barracks to buy back a watch, but they also went to tell the gospel. Richard went into a Russian barrack to buy a watch. He looked at one soldier's watch and said it was too expensive. Another watch he said was too small. Another was too big. By this time a good-sized crowd had gathered around him. Then Richard asked, "Are any of you named Paul or Peter?" Some were. "Do you know who Peter and Paul were?" No one knew.

Then Richard began to tell them a Bible story about the apostle Peter. An older Russian soldier stopped Richard. "You have not come to buy watches. You have come to tell us about the faith. Sit down here with us and speak to us! But be very careful! We know about whom to beware. These around me are good men. When I put my hand on your knee, you must talk only about watches. When I remove my hand, you may begin your message again."

So Richard told the eagerly listening men about Peter and Paul. Then he

told them about their Master, Jesus Christ, who loves us all. From time to time the older soldier would put his hand upon Richard's knee to let him know a spy was near. Then Richard would say some things about watches until that spy would leave.

In this way many Russians heard about Jesus Christ for the first time. They received the four books of the New Testament written in Russian. It was a thrill to their souls! They would carefully take the booklet and hide it underneath their bed mattress. They knew they were reading a "forbidden book" under the communist law, but their hunger for the truth was greater than their fear of the law. Many Russians became believers who later suffered for their faith.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who sent word to Rome that Paul was on his way?
2. Who was happy that they would soon see Paul?
3. What had they memorized?
4. Why did some travel thirty or forty miles to meet Paul?
5. What did Paul do when he saw the love and devotion of the brethren?
6. Who drew his band of prisoners together?
7. Who did he hand the prisoners over to?
8. What special favor did Paul get?
9. What did Paul do three days after arriving in Rome?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 28:15-21.

(Answers: 1. The Christians. 2. The believers in Rome. 3. Paul's letter to them. 4. They were anxious to see him. 5. He thanked God and took courage. 6. Julius. 7. The captain of the guard. 8. He was allowed to live by himself and see his friends whenever he wished. 9. He called the chief of the Jews together.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 22, 1999

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## MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OF THE JEWS

"We neither received letters out of Judea concerning you nor did any of the brethren that came from there speak any harm of you," the Jewish leaders in Rome told Paul. They had heard much about the Christians, but they did not know what the Christians believed. They eagerly asked Paul to preach to them about Jesus Christ.

Finally, on the appointed day, the door of opportunity had opened for Paul to preach the gospel in Rome as God said he would. He spoke on his favorite theme: Jesus Christ, the Savior from sin. The Jews came in great numbers to hear Paul's words about the Messiah.

With deep conviction in his voice, Paul led his hearers back through their own Scriptures. He had been well trained in the school of Gamaliel and was able to quote passage after passage from their scrolls. Through the words of Moses and of the prophets he showed them that the only hope of Israel is in the promised Messiah. He showed that their own Scriptures contained the proof that Jesus Christ is that Messiah, if they would only believe.

They listened attentively to Paul from morning until evening. But when the day was done, there was a division among his listeners. Some were convinced and went out with a new hope in their hearts and a new life to live. But others did not believe and refused the gospel.

As they stood up to leave, Paul warned them, "Even your blindness and hardness of heart has been foretold by Isaiah, the prophet. Did not Isaiah clearly say that the people would hear and not understand and that they would see and yet not recognize the Messiah? Be it known to you, that the salvation of God is sent to the Gentiles. They will hear it!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...I  
test:  
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ounded and  
he kingdom of  
suading them  
ing Jesus,...  
s 28:23.





## Open Preaching

(Continued from last week.)

In Romania during the 1940's and 50's, Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand were very active in the Lord's work. They had a caring burden for the Russians who had invaded their country and had forced communism on Romania.

Sometimes the Christians dared to preach the gospel openly at the risk of their lives. They planned street preachings which was dangerous to do. A small group of Christians would pray and ask the Lord what street corner they should choose. After He would give them inspiration concerning what corner, they would quietly gather and sing a gospel song. People crowded around them to hear the beautiful singing and then one of the Christians would tell the crowd about Jesus Christ, their Saviour.

Sabina was very busy in this work. One afternoon she gave a message about Jesus to thousands of workers before the gates of the Malaxa factory, in the city of Bucharest. Sabina never knew how many workers believed on Jesus because she had to leave when the gates opened. However, the next day many of those workers were shot after disobeying the communists. They had heard the message of Jesus just in time!

One time, two Christian brothers were able to go past Russian guards and security at a government building. They had a burden to tell the Romanian prime minister, Gheorghiu Dej, about the plan of salvation. He was angry indeed that they had come into his office with such teachings. Both men were thrown into prison and suffered many years for witnessing to this government leader.

Years later Gheorghiu Dej became very ill and the doctors gave him no

hope of living. It was then, in his hour of need, that he remembered those two daring Christians who had spoken to him about a Saviour. The scriptures they had used came back to him and they cut through his hard heart.

On his deathbed, he began to weep and confess his wicked sins to Jesus Christ. Though this man had killed many people, Jesus was willing to forgive him. After Gheorghiu Dej felt the forgiving power of Jesus wash away his sins, he openly rejoiced in the Lord and told everyone he could about the love he had found in Christ Jesus. Some of his comrades thought he was losing his mind in his illness but others were touched. Soon he died a Christian because two men had dared to tell him about Jesus.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who had heard much about the Christians?
2. What did they ask Paul to do?
3. Who had said Paul would preach in Rome?
4. What was Paul's favorite theme?
5. Whose school was Paul trained in?
6. What contained proof that Jesus is the Messiah?
7. How long did they listen to Paul?
8. Did everyone believe?
9. To whom is the salvation of God sent?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 28:22-29.

(Answers: 1. The Jewish leaders in Rome. 2. Preach to them about Jesus Christ. 3. God. 4. Jesus Christ, the Savior from sin. 5. The school of Gamaliel. 6. Their own Scriptures. 7. From morning until evening. 8. No. 9. To the Gentiles.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 29, 1999

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## A PRISONER IN ROME

Paul was glad for the opportunity to tell the Jews at Rome about Jesus. He spoke to them from morning until that evening, proving from their own Scriptures that Jesus was the promised Saviour. Yet Paul could see that many of the Jews still did not believe. As they were leaving he told them, "Be it known to you that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles. They will hear it."

While some resented Paul's preaching and refused to believe, there were others who did believe. They gladly accepted Jesus as their Saviour. They were happy to hear how God had sent His own Son to save them from their sins.

For two whole years Paul was a prisoner in Rome. During his imprisonment he was treated kindly. He was permitted to live in his own rented house but was chained constantly to a Roman guard. Wherever he went through the streets of Rome, a guard accompanied him.

After two years of this, many a rough soldier heard the gospel and observed Paul's holy life. As Paul dictated his letters and preached to his friends, some of these guards accepted Jesus as their own Saviour.

Paul was no secret Christian. No one hindered Paul from preaching about the kingdom of God so he let it be known that he would teach the new gospel to any that would come to his house. Many did come and with great confidence he taught them about Jesus Christ.

Although he was a prisoner, Paul was not idle. His house in Rome became a center of Christian testimony and God used him mightily to spread the gospel in Rome. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

And Paul dw  
whole years in  
hired house  
Acts 28:3



to  
own



## Paying The Price

(Continued from last week.)

Active in the Church, witnessing to Russians and fellow Romanians about Jesus Christ, Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand were faithful in the great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." Mark 16:15.

They could not be silent with the gospel story when millions around them did not know about joy in salvation. So they sang, preached and quietly handed out gospel tracts and Gospels, which is the first four books of the New Testament.

On February 29, 1948, Richard was walking to church. It was a beautiful Sunday and his heart was full of praise to the Lord for creating such a lovely earth.

Suddenly a van of the secret police stopped in front of Richard. Four men jumped out and pushed him into the van. He was thrown to the floor, handcuffed and taken to the prison for questioning.

The communists had no mercy on their prisoners. They quoted from their book of Lenin the "you cannot make omelets without breaking the shells of eggs" and that "you cannot cut wood without making chips fly." They wanted to break the Christians' faith and trust in Jesus Christ so he or she would be tools in their hands. A Christian has spiritual knowledge and this makes the communists angry.

Like other prisoners, Richard was tortured during the 20 years that he existed in prison. Handcuffs, which had sharp nails on the insides, were put on their wrists. If they were totally still, the nails didn't cut them. But in bitterly cold cells, when they shook with cold, their wrists would be torn by the nails.

Richard was put in a "refrigerator cell" which was so cold that frost and ice covered the inside. Prison doctors would watch through an opening until they saw he was about to freeze to death. Then they would tell the guards to open the box and let him "thaw" out. When Richard felt warm again, the guards would throw him back into the refrigerator cell and he would start freezing again. The communists were trying to break Richard's faith in Jesus and in God. They wanted him to tell who else was a Christian and where they lived so the communists could arrest these believers. By the grace of God, Richard never lost his hold on God—in fact, he learned to hold onto God even tighter!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Paul tell about Jesus?
2. What did he prove from their own Scriptures?
3. How long was Paul a prisoner in Rome?
4. How was he treated?
5. What did he live in?
6. Who accompanied him everywhere?
7. Who accepted Jesus as their own Savior?
8. Who was no secret Christian?
9. God used Paul mightily to do what?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 28:30-31.

(Answers: 1. The Jews in Rome. 2. That Jesus was the promised Savior. 3. For two years. 4. Kindly. 5. In his own rented house. 6. A guard. 7. Some of these guards. 8. Paul. 9. To spread the gospel in Rome.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 5, 1999

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## THE GOSPEL SPREAD BY CAPTIVITY

Christians from many cities came and went from Paul's house seeking his advice and counsel. When Paul was not entertaining visitors he was busy writing letters to the churches. These were carried to the various congregations to be read and shared with other churches.

Paul also had a great influence on his soldier guards. They were strong and faithful men. Paul grew to love them. It was not long until a little group of believers was found in Caesar's own household. These men, being convinced of the truth of Christianity, as they heard it from Paul's lips, carried it into their homes to their sisters and brothers as well as to all the men in the barracks.

Paul's heart was greatly cheered when his faithful young friend Timothy came to Rome to be near him. Timothy loved Paul and considered him to be his spiritual father. He was ready to do all he could in the Lord's work under Paul's direction.

The coming of Epaphroditus was another great comfort to Paul. The church at Philippi sent him with an offering to help support Paul and his work for God in Rome. It was encouraging to hear through Epaphroditus that the church at Philippi was standing strong and true to the faith. What strength it brought to Paul to know that one of their members had come to be his companion in labor!

Day after day Epaphroditus preached the kingdom of God in the streets of Rome. Wherever he could find people to listen he told them of Jesus and His great love for them. But after a few months of such intensive labor Epaphroditus became seriously ill.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



...My bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace  
all other places. Philippians 1:13.



in



## The Bread Of Love

(Continued from last week.)

Richard Wurmbrand spent twenty years in a Romanian prison because he was a Christian who dared to tell others about Jesus Christ. The Russian communists bound Richard's hands and feet and kept him locked in a cell but they could not control his soul and spirit. He belonged to God and had the freedom in his spirit to believe in God.

For hours he was forced to listen to recorded Communistic tapes chanting: Communism is good!

Christianity is stupid!

Give up! Give up!

Like other prisoners, Richard was skinny, weak, bruised and sore from beatings. This constant chanting was to make him give in and deny Christ. His tormentors would tell him he could be set free as soon as he became a good communist. They worked on his mind when his body was weak.

However, the drawing power of God is greater than the driving force of men. When Richard had no strength or power of his own, he would feel the love of God flow over his body and warm his heart. Time and time again he felt the touch of the Lord giving him divine power to overcome the evil forces of Satan.

Then Richard had strength to tell fellow prisoners about Jesus Christ and His love to them. It was against the prison rules to preach to other prisoners but Richard and other Christian pastors knew it was the Lord who gave them help in their sufferings. They wanted the other prisoners to know about the love of God and His forgiveness of sin.

Often the Communists fought among themselves and Communists were thrown into prison. Sometimes prison guards would be punished

and thrown into the cell with the prisoners. This gave the Christians an opportunity to return good for evil.

The prisoners received one slice of bread a week and dirty cabbage soup once a day otherwise. Often Christian prisoners would give the Communist guard, who became a prisoner, their slice of bread. Even though the Christians were starving and needed the bread for strength, they wanted to show the guard, who had beat them, that they cared for him. Several hard-hearted Communists came to know Jesus as their Saviour because of this love shown to them.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who came and went from Paul's house?
2. What were they seeking?
3. What did Paul do when he was not entertaining visitors?
4. Who did Paul grow to love?
5. In whose household was a little group of believers found?
6. Who considered Paul as his spiritual father?
7. Whose coming was a great comfort to Paul?
8. Who sent him?
9. Who became seriously ill?

**LESSON TEXT:** Philippians 1:12-20; 2:25; 4:18.

(Answers: 1. Christians from many cities. 2. Paul's advice and counsel. 3. Wrote letters to the churches. 4. His soldier guards. 5. Caesar's. 6. Timothy. 7. Epaphroditus. 8. The church at Philippi. 9. Epaphroditus.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 12, 1999

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## A LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Epaphroditus was so sick it looked as if he might die. How thankful Paul was when he began to recover! He decided it would be best for Epaphroditus to go back to his home in Philippi as soon as he was strong enough. Desiring to encourage the church and express his gratitude for their offering, Paul prepared a letter for Epaphroditus to take with him.

With Timothy as his penman, Paul began to dictate the letter. Affectionately he thought of each member of the church. He wrote, "I thank my God every time I think of you. I always remember you in prayer with thanksgiving for your fellowship in the gospel.

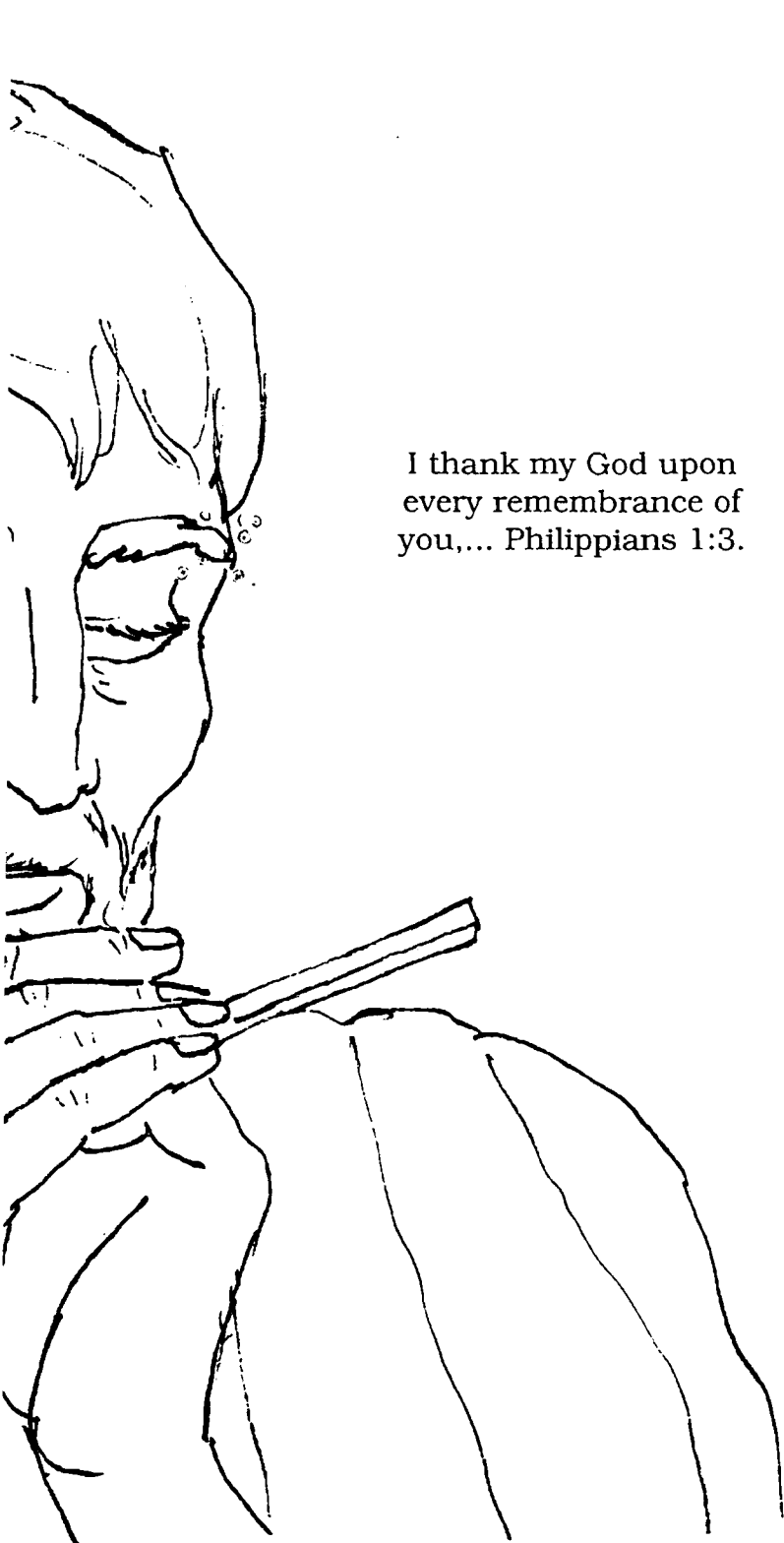
"You have been diligent in your care of me. Twice before, at the beginning of my ministry in Macedonia, you helped me with your gifts at a time when I was in need and no other church was assisting. But now I have all and abound. All my needs are taken care of because I have received the things you sent me by Epaphroditus. This offering is acceptable and well-pleasing to God."

Paul told the Philippian church how Epaphroditus had worked hard and unselfishly to spread the gospel. He asked them to receive him back with gladness and honor. He told them he hoped to send Timothy to them shortly.

Then Paul spoke of his trial and of his uncertainty as to how it would turn out. He had no assurance that he would be spared; he knew he could receive the sentence of death. But he did not fear even death. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," he wrote bravely. "I have a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better for me. Yet it is better for you if I remain and work in the gospel."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





I thank my God upon  
every remembrance of  
you,... Philippians 1:3.

## The Word Is Out

(Continued from last week.)

After Richard and his wife were released from prison they were given a "church" by the communist government. "There are 35 people who meet at this church building and we will watch to make sure there will never be 36 to come," Richard was told. "Also, you must report to us every week and tell us of your activities in this church."

The Wurmbands visited the church and met the people but he never preached there. Again they worked with the underground church who met in the woods, hills, or in the basement of another Christian's house.

By this time Christians in America and in Europe heard about the sufferings of Christians in Romania. Bold missionaries were able to slip past the national security guards and visit Romania. They found the underground church, heard about their need for Bibles, went home to tell others, then again visited Romania with Bibles.

Soon Richard and Sabina were secretly helping to give out Bibles to hungry Christians. So happy to see the Word of God, many Christians cried tears of joy and kissed their Bibles.

When the communist rulers heard Richard and Sabina were giving out Bibles, they planned to arrest them again. However, two European missions contacted the communist rulers and asked to pay for the Wurmbands' release from Romania. The communists agreed to let them go for \$10,000. In December of 1965, Richard, Sabina and their son, Mihai, left Romania.

Richard's last deed before he left his native country was to go to the

grave of the communist colonel who had given the order for his arrest and torture. Richard knelt and put a flower on his grave.

In his heart, Richard still loves the communist men who are so spiritually empty. He hates the communist system that teaches there is no God and makes people puppets to Satan. But Richard and his wife write in their testimony: "I love the communists with all my heart. Communists can kill Christians but they cannot kill their love toward even those who killed them. I have not the slightest bitterness or resentment against the communists or my torturers."

When Jesus Christ was dying on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." This is divine love.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell  
(The end.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did it look like Epaphroditus might die?
2. Who was thankful when he began to recover?
3. Where was Epaphroditus' home?
4. Why did Paul prepare a letter for Epaphroditus to take with him?
5. Who dictated the letter?
6. Who was the penman?
7. Who did Paul hope to send shortly?
8. What did Paul speak about with uncertainty?
9. Did Paul fear death?

**LESSON TEXT:** Philippians.

(Answers: 1. He was very sick. 2. Paul. 3. In Philippi. 4. To encourage the church and thank them for the offering. 5. Paul. 6. Timothy. 7. Timothy. 8. His trial. 9. No.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 19, 1999

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## A LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

Epaphras, a distinguished disciple of Jesus, came to Rome to work for the Lord as one of Paul's helpers. The church at Colosse had sent their most valued leader to preach the gospel in Rome.

While in Rome, Epaphras spent many hours with Paul. They prayed together for each church. Epaphras was especially concerned for the church at Colosse. Over and over again he prayed that it might stand perfect and complete in the will of God. Paul had never seen the church at Colosse but Epaphras referred to it constantly. Finally Paul decided to write a letter to the Colossians. Again Timothy wrote his thoughts down as he dictated them.

First Paul thanked God for the saints and faithful brethren in Colosse and assured them they were always in his prayers. He commended them for their faith in Jesus and great love for all the saints. He then exhorted them to always walk worthy of the Lord.

Epaphras had expressed a deep concern to Paul because certain Jews were trying to teach a false doctrine among the Colossians. In his letter Paul warned them against these false teachers. They must continue to walk in Christ, as they had been taught, in order to abound in faith and holiness.

Paul ended his letter with words of practical advice for Christian living. He exhorted them to always watch and pray, not only for themselves but also for him and his work for God. Then, taking the letter from Timothy, Paul wrote the final greeting with his own hand. After signing it he gave it to Tychicus with orders to deliver it to the Colossian church.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

...We heard of your faith in  
Christ Jesus, and of the love  
which ye have to all the  
saints,... Colossians 1:4.







## Christians Suffer Today

(A true story.)

An American missionary working in Sudan, Africa, was at a refugee camp giving food and clothing to the people living there. These people are running away from their homes in Sudan because they do not want to become Muslims. The leaders of Sudan are now Muslims and they are forcing everyone to read the Koran and obey it.

The Koran is a book of laws and customs that a ruler named Muhammad wrote around 600 A.D. The Koran tells about a god named Allah who controls people and punishes anyone who disobeys him. Muslim boys are forced to memorize the Koran and pray to Allah. The Muslims do not allow girls to learn to read or write.

The Koran gives the husband and father complete control over his wife and children. If he wants to beat them, he can do so and no one will stop him. If he decides to kill a child for disobedience—he can because the Koran gives a father this right.

Like Sudan, other countries in Africa are being conquered by Muslims. They do not have mercy on anyone who is Christian. In Sudan, Muslims burn down churches and kill those who are followers of Jesus Christ.

A young boy named Paul Modi was walking to church with his parents and two brothers. As they quietly walked through the woods to their secret meeting place, Muslim men suddenly stood in their way. They told the Christian family to turn back but Paul's father and mother were devoted Christians who were not willing to submit to the Muslims.

Paul and his two brothers saw the Muslims kill their parents. Then the Muslims started a fire. They threw the parents and the live boys into the flames. Paul was the only one who escaped. His body was badly burned and some Christian friends took him to the refugee shelter.

Paul was brought to the missionary for help. His burns were cleaned and bandaged. He was given a new shirt and pants to wear. "Do you still love Jesus?" the missionary asked Paul. Soberly, Paul replies, "Yes, I am a Christian."

Let us pray for men, women and children who are suffering under the cruelty of Muslims. Pray also that the Lord will be able to deal with the Muslims.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Epaphras come to Rome?
2. Whose helper was he?
3. What church sent him?
4. What did he and Paul pray for?
5. What church was he especially concerned about?
6. Who decided to write a letter to the Colossians?
7. In the letter, whom did he warn them against?
8. Who wrote the final greeting with his own hand?
9. Who had orders to deliver the letter to the Colossians?

### LESSON TEXT: Colossians.

(Answers: 1. To work for the Lord. 2. Paul's. 3. The church at Colosse. 4. Each church. 5. The church at Colosse. 6. Paul. 7. False teachers. 8. Paul. 9. Tychicus.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 26, 1999

## THE RUNAWAY SLAVE

When Tychicus left Rome he took Onesimus with him. Onesimus had been a slave in the household of Philemon who lived in Colosse. But when he found an opportunity to escape, he ran away to Rome. He hoped to lose himself in that crowded city and make a better life for himself.

But in Rome Onesimus met Paul. Like many others he heard Paul tell about Jesus Christ. Day by day he learned more of Jesus and His love. He realized Jesus died to save him, a runaway slave! He soon became a happy Christian.

For a time Onesimus took care of Paul. As they worked together, Paul taught him more about Jesus. Onesimus was glad to do everything possible to make life easier and more comfortable for Paul. Paul loved this young man and would have been glad to keep him with him.

According to the law the runaway slave still belonged to Philemon. Since he was a Christian, Onesimus wanted to make every mistake in his life right. For the Lord's sake he would even return to slavery. Paul hated to see him go but agreed that he must return to his master.

Paul sent a letter with Onesimus to his master, Philemon. We can read this letter in the New Testament. In the letter Paul wrote, "I appeal to you for Onesimus who has been like a son to me while I am in prison. I have sent him back for you to receive as your own. I would have liked to keep him, but I could not do that. Receive him, not as a servant, but as a brother. Treat him as you would treat me. If he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge it to me and I will repay it." —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

I beseech thee for my son Onesimu  
begotten in my bonds. Phile



om I have  
10.



## Starving In Korea

In communist North Korea people do not have enough food to eat. The few men and women who are leaders in the country buy food from other countries but they are not sharing this food with the common people of the land. Thousands of Koreans are starving to death and the government leaders don't care.

The country of China is across the Yalu River from North Korea. China is a poor country too but right now they do have food for all the people. Many Koreans want to cross the Yalu River and go into China so they can get food to eat. The communist government leaders tell Koreans: "If you try to escape to China, we will catch you and suck all the blood from your body." Many threats are told to the Koreans so they will not try to escape into China for food.

Among the common Koreans another story is told. "If you are fortunate enough to escape, you are to look for a building with the shape of a cross on it. There you will find help." This means that they are to look for a Christian person because they will help you.

Day and night gunboats continually patrol the Yalu River. If the soldiers see anyone crossing the river, they capture or shoot them. It is very difficult to cross the Yalu River at any time. Even though they are threatened and they know the gunmen are there, some Koreans still dare to swim across the Yalu River.

Many of these who cross the river are single children. They have watched their parents, brothers and sisters starve to death. Kum Chong Jun is a thirteen-year-old boy who managed to cross the river into

China. He watched his parents die because they had no food to eat. Then he decided to escape and during the night, weak with hunger, Kum swam across the Yalu River. Weak and weary, he stumbled into the forest of China looking for a building with a cross on it. Finally, he found a refuge of hope!

A Christian pastor and his wife took Kum into their small, three room hut where eleven other Korean children were already living. They fed Kum, cleaned and dressed his bleeding feet and then he slept for a long, long time.

The pastor and his wife care for these children even though they could be punished by the communist government for doing so. They have taught all these children Bible verses and they know several gospel songs. Pray for their safety.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who left Rome with Onesimus?
2. Whose slave was Onesimus?
3. Why was Onesimus in Rome?
4. Who did Onesimus meet in Rome?
5. Who did Paul tell Onesimus about?
6. Who became a happy Christian?
7. Who did Onesimus take care of in Rome?
8. To whom did Paul write the letter he sent with Onesimus?
9. Where can we read this letter?

### LESSON TEXT: Philemon.

(Answers: 1. Tychicus. 2. Philemon's. 3. To make a better life for himself. 4. Paul. 5. Jesus Christ. 6. Onesimus. 7. Paul. 8. Philemon. 9. In the New Testament.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 3, 1999

## THE CREATION

Before there was time there was God. God decided that time should begin and so it did. In the beginning of time, God created the heaven and the earth. But the earth had no form and was empty and darkness covered the waters. God's Spirit moved upon the waters in the dark. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw the light and said that it was good. He divided the light from the darkness. "The light shall be called Day," He said, "and the darkness shall be called Night." That was the first day.

On the second day God created the sky and told some of the waters to be above the sky and some to stay below it. When the flood came (which you will hear about later) and it rained for the first time, the water above the sky fell. God called the sky Heaven.

The third day God said, "Let the waters gather together into one place and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters He called Seas. God saw that it was good.

God said, "Let grasses and trees and herbs grow on the earth and let them have seeds in themselves that will grow more grasses and trees and herbs." And it was so and good also.

—Joanna Booher



In the beginning God created  
the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:





## The Sea Water Film

"Class, today we are going to watch a film," said Mrs. Riley, the science teacher. "Put your books in your book rest under your desk. I want everyone of you to pay close attention to this important film."

There was a scuffling of excitement as the students put their books away. Watching a film meant no book work.

"What is the name of the film?" asked one student.

"Sea Water," replied Mrs. Riley. She turned off the lights, started the film and a man's pleasant voice began the story.

Jerry sat with his classmates and watched as swirls and patterns appeared on the screen.

"In the beginning," said the man, "Molecules floated loosely in the universe. In time molecules attracted to each other and came together..."

The man on the film said that sea water was formed first and the earth was all sea water. The molecules in the water began to advance in their development and in time creatures like tadpoles formed in the water. New life had begun. From these tadpoles, different creatures took shape. The water began to shrink in amounts and dry land appeared. Some of the creatures needed the dry land to live upon. Down through the years more creatures developed, including man. All the animals and man evolved from sea water.

Jerry listened in disbelief at what he was hearing. He remembered reading in Genesis, the first chapter, that "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." God spoke all things into existence and He did it in six days.

After the film was over, Mrs. Riley turned on the lights. "Wasn't that an interesting film?" she asked.

Jerry raised his hand but the teacher said, "Just save your questions until later because we are going to discuss this further in class tomorrow."

"I don't have a question," said Jerry. "I just want to say something. This film didn't tell the story right. Man didn't come from sea water but God created man from the dust of the earth. Then God breathed into man the breath of life and man became a living soul. That's what it says in God's science book."

Several students nodded their heads, agreeing with Jerry. "That will be enough from you, Jerry," said Mrs. Riley. "We are learning this theory and I will give you a test over it so you had better study it."

Jerry politely shook his head as the bell rang for class to dismiss. He would talk to his parents about it.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was in the beginning?
2. What did God create in the beginning?
3. Who moved on the face of the waters?
4. What did God call the light?
5. What did God call the darkness?
6. What did God create on the second day?
7. What did God call the dry land?
8. What did God call the waters?
9. What did God say when He saw what He had made?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 1:1-13.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. The heaven and the earth. 3. The Spirit of God. 4. Day. 5. Night. 6. The sky. 7. Earth. 8. Seas. 9. That it was good.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 10, 1999

## THE CREATION

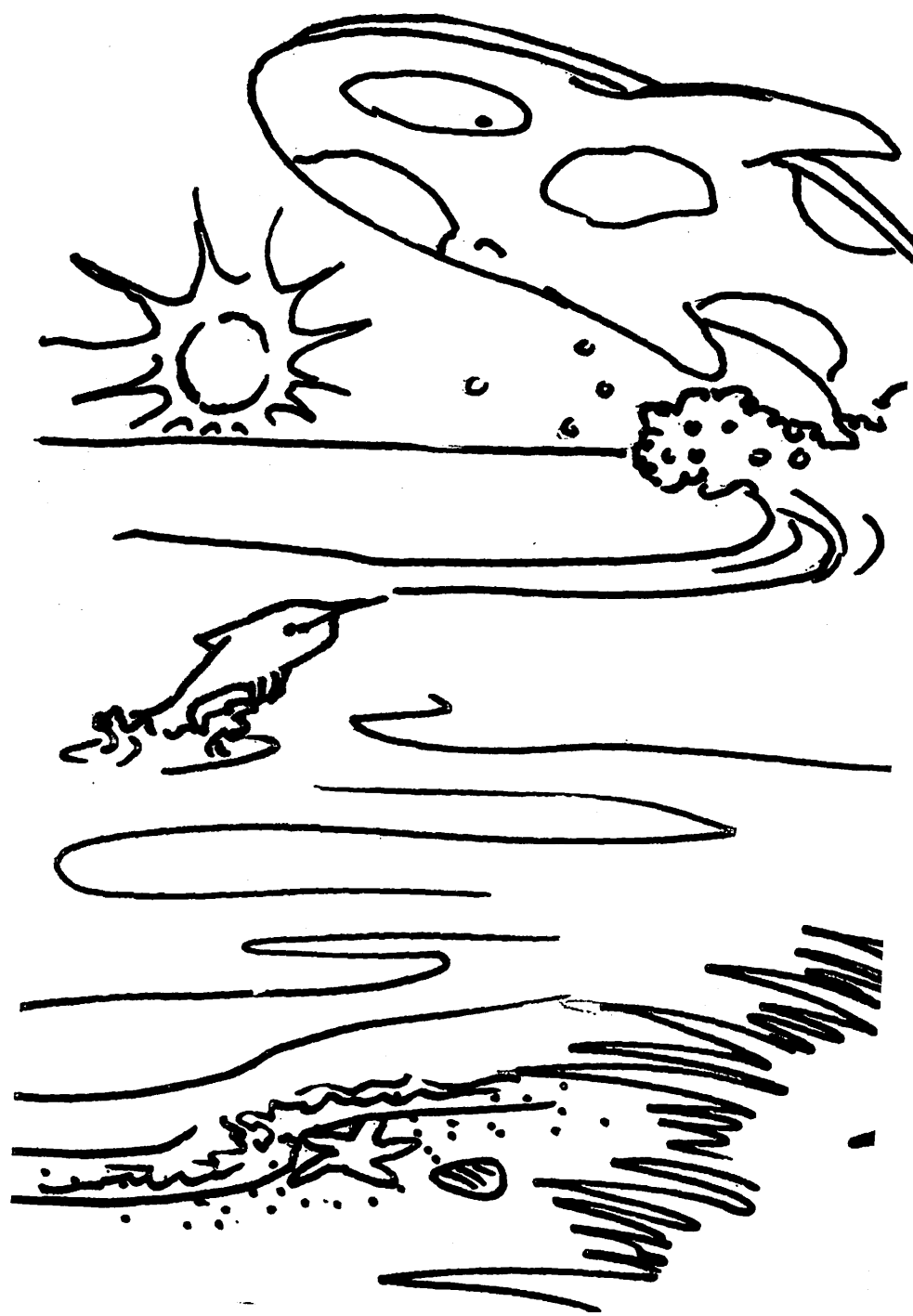
God had created a world with oceans and dry land and grass and trees, there was light and there was darkness. But would you want to live in a world that was dark and silent at night? There were no stars in the sky nor crickets in the bushes. Would you want to sail over an ocean that had no dolphins or fish in it? There were not even any people. God decided to add some more to His Creation.

On the fourth day God created stars and planets and the aurora borealis and the sun and the moon and all the other lights in the sky. He commanded the lights and stars to be signs and seasons to us. He set the sun up to rule the day and the moon to rule through the night. God saw what He had made and said that it was good.

The fifth day God said, "Let the waters bring forth lots and lots and lots of living creatures and let there be birds to fly in the sky." It was good and God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply."

On the sixth day God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures: cows, possums, raccoons and all creeping things." And God commanded the cows to have more cows and the possums to have more possums and all the animals to have more of their own kind. And God saw that it was good.

—Joanna Booher





And God blessed them, saying,  
fruitful, and multiply,... Genesis 1:22.

## The Action Plan

(Continued from last week.)

With their arms full of school books and a lunch pail, Jerry and Linda came into the kitchen looking for Mother. They were glad to see the cookies and milk she had waiting for them. Quickly, they washed their hands and sat down to munch cookies and talk about their school day.

"Mother, you should have seen the film we watched today in our science class," said Jerry. "It was about sea water."

"Oh, did you see a lot of fish and water plants?" she asked.

"No, this film was different. The man on the film told us that all living creatures came from sea water. I told my teacher I did not believe that."

"What did she say to that?" asked Mother.

"She told me to study this theory because I would be tested about it. Do I have to study something I don't believe?"

Mother had a troubled look on her face. "First, I think we should pray about it. Then let's ask Daddy what should be done when he comes home from work."

That evening Jerry told his parents more about the sea water film he had seen in science class. Daddy listened, then said, "Do you think it would help if Mother talked to Mrs. Riley and told her we don't approve of the sea water theory?"

"It might help," replied Jerry thoughtfully.

"Do you have good behavior in Mrs. Riley's classroom? That will be important because Mother doesn't want to hear a bad report on you when she talks with your teacher."

"I listen. I don't disturb class. I have all my work done. She shouldn't say anything bad about me but with a teacher, you never know."

"We will pray about it tonight in family worship. The Lord can give Mother the right words to say to Mrs. Riley. We don't want to make her angry but I don't think you should be tested on a theory that is false."

All this time, five-year-old Randy was listening to the conversation. "Well, I know this," he said, "People don't come from tadpoles—frogs do. Your science teacher isn't very smart."

Daddy smiled. "These people are smart, Randy, but not in the godly way. The apostle Paul told Timothy that worldly people are ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. They aren't using God's Word to learn from so they don't know the truth. Let's pray for Jerry's teacher." —Sis. Connie Sorrell  
(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did God create on the fourth day?
2. What did God command to rule the day?
3. What did God command to rule the night?
4. What did God tell the waters to bring forth?
5. What did God command to fly in the sky?
6. When God blessed them, what did He say?
7. What did God tell the earth to bring forth?
8. On what day did God create the living creatures on the earth?
9. What did God say when He saw what He had made?

### LESSON TEXT: Genesis 1:14-25.

(Answers: 1. Stars, planets, the sun, the moon, all the lights in the sky. 2. The sun. 3. The moon. 4. Living creatures. 5. Birds. 6. "Be fruitful and multiply." 7. Living creatures and all creeping things. 8. The sixth day. 9. That it was good.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 17, 1999

## THE CREATION

God had created a beautiful world, with animals and fish and birds. There were wide blue oceans, tall green-leaved trees and purple flowers.

But God wanted a friend, someone to love Him freely. The animals had to do what God wanted no matter what. God wanted someone who would choose to serve Him. So God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit said, "Let us make man in our own image and in our likeness. And let us give him rule over the earth and over the animals and fishes and birds." So God created man in His own image. He took the dust of the earth and formed it into the first man and called him Adam. God breathed His own breath into Adam's nostrils and Adam became a living soul—a human.

God gave to Adam dominion over the earth. He gave Adam the job of naming the animals and taking care of them. He gave him the fruits of the trees and plants to eat and gave to the animals the grasses to eat. And Adam took good care of what God had given him.

But still something was missing. God said, "It is not good that man should be alone. I will make him someone to help him." So God caused Adam to fall fast asleep and while he slept God took out one of his ribs and closed his side back up. Of the rib God created a woman and brought her to Adam. Adam saw her and said, "You are bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. You shall be called Woman because you were taken out of me."

And God saw everything that He had made and it was very good. He blessed all of His Creation and said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."

On the seventh day God rested from His work. He blessed the seventh day and commanded that it be a day of rest to all people.

—Joanna Booher

So God created man in  
image of God created he  
created he them



own image, in the  
1; male and female  
nesis 1:27.





## The Conversation

(Continued from last week.)

The next day Mother called Mrs. Riley and asked if there was a time she could talk with the teacher.

"Are you wanting to discuss the Sea Water film that I showed the students yesterday?" asked Mrs. Riley.

Mother cleared her throat. "Yes, I am. I would like to have a private visit with you if that could be arranged."

"It could be, but it really isn't necessary," replied Mrs. Riley. "I had other parents call me last night about that film. You must remember that this is only one theory about the beginning. You shouldn't be so closed-minded to other opinions."

Mother paused a moment and secretly prayed for wisdom. "My husband and I don't think it is necessary for Jerry to study this theory when he already knows how God created everything. We ask that he be given some other assignment to do for a grade."

"Because other parents didn't like the film, I'm not going to study this theory much more," replied Mrs. Riley.

"Thank you," said Mother. "I appreciate your understanding in this matter."

"You're welcome," replied Mrs. Riley. "But I want you to know that I find no fault in this film and it is approved by the Education Board. I am only showing courtesy to your son and five or six other students. I will talk about it and those who don't agree must not interrupt me. Please let Jerry know this."

"Has he been well-behaved in your classroom, Mrs. Riley?" asked Mother.

"Yes, I don't have discipline trouble with Jerry," replied the teacher. "He is a good Christian boy and that is just the point. When I talk about something he doesn't agree with, he

will tell the class something different. I want him to be silent and not tell his side about Creation."

Mother was stunned. "I hope you don't expect Jerry to never give an opinion in the discussion. He has the right to speak just as the other students."

"For learning purposes I feel I must control the discussion to some degree. Right now we are studying the Sea Water Theory and our conversation will deal with this."

After Mother hung up the telephone, she didn't know if she had helped Jerry or not. Before leaving for school the family prayed that Jerry would have grace and wisdom in Mrs. Riley's classroom.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did God want?
2. Whose image did God use to create man?
3. Out of what did God form man?
4. What was the first man called?
5. How did Adam become a living soul?
6. What did God give to Adam?
7. What did God see that Adam needed?
8. Out of what did God form Adam's help meet?
9. What did Adam call her?
10. What did God do on the seventh day?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 1:26-2:24.

(Answers: 1. Someone who would choose to serve Him freely. 2. His own. 3. Dust. 4. Adam. 5. God breathed His own breath into his nostrils. 6. Dominion over the earth. 7. An help meet. 8. Adam's rib. 9. Woman. 10. He rested.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 24, 1999

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## THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Adam and his wife were happy in the beautiful Garden of Eden. They walked and talked with God every day and He talked to them. They were innocent and pure and didn't even know that they were naked. They had God to talk to, each other to talk to, animals to play with and all the trees in the Garden to choose to eat from—except one. After God had created man and woman, He said, "You may eat of all the trees of the Garden of Eden except—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die." So they lived happily, eating of all the other trees of the Garden except that one.

But one day the woman was walking in the Garden and she heard the voice of the serpent; the devil. He said, "Has God told you that you cannot eat of all the trees of the Garden?"

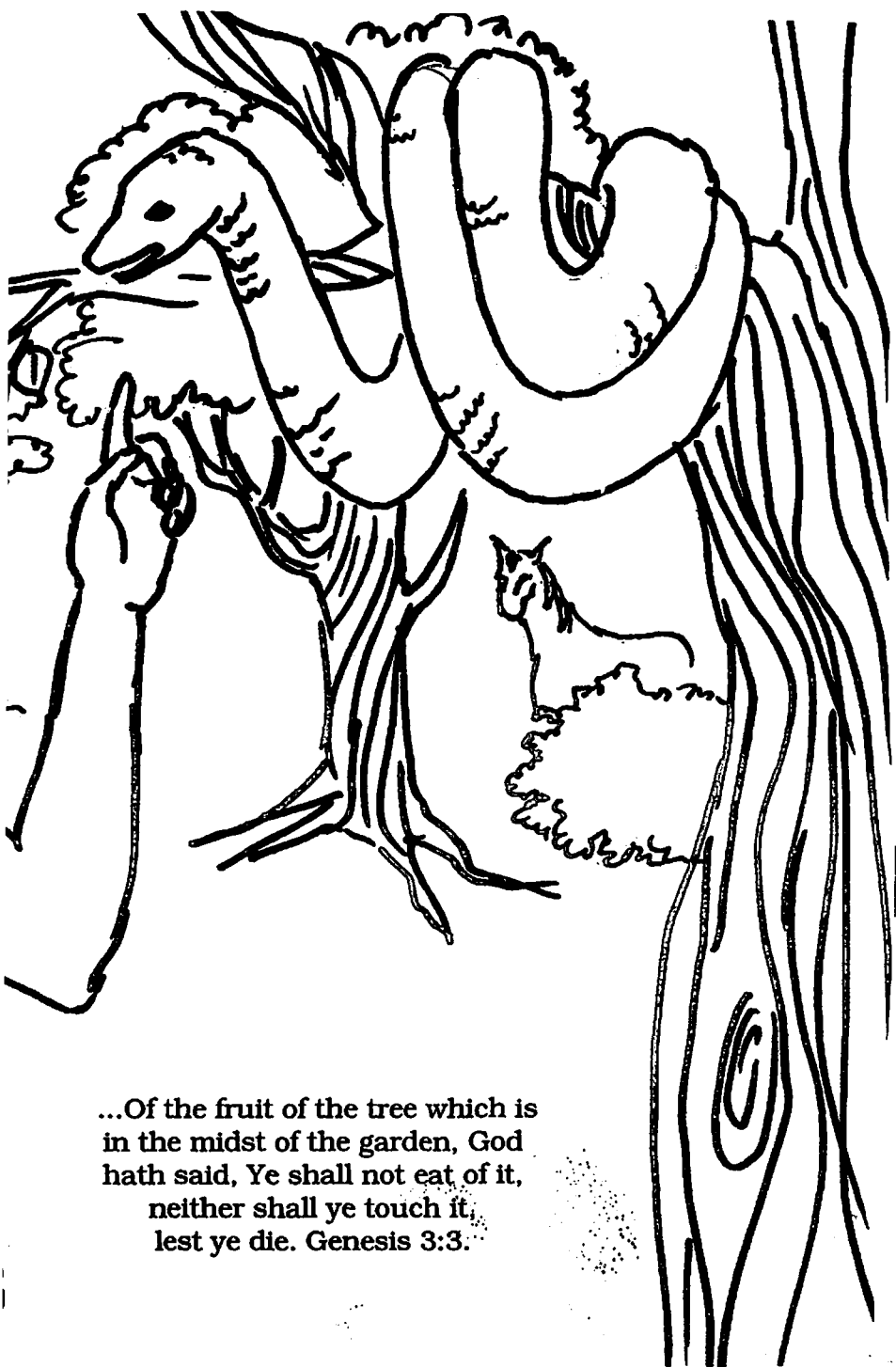
She shouldn't have even stopped to listen to him but she did. "God has said we may eat of all the trees of the Garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God says that if we eat of it we shall die."

"You shall not die," the serpent lied. "God knows that if you eat of it you shall be wise as gods, understanding good and evil."

Then the woman made a worse mistake; she looked. When she saw that the tree was so beautiful and the fruit looked so delicious she wanted some. She wanted to be as wise as God. So she plucked one and took a bite. Then she went to Adam and gave him some. And he ate it too. As soon as they had eaten it they felt terrible. They knew they had done wrong and sinned against God. Now they dreaded His voice and didn't look forward to His coming down to the garden to talk with them.

—Joanna Booher





...Of the fruit of the tree which is  
in the midst of the garden, God  
hath said, Ye shall not eat of it,  
neither shall ye touch it,  
lest ye die. Genesis 3:3.

## Ending The Sea Water Theory

(Continued from last week.)

"Tell Dad how your science class went today, Jerry," said Mother at the supper table that evening.

"Oh, it was really funny," replied Jerry. "When Mrs. Riley began to review the Sea Water film, the room became quiet and for some reason Mrs. Riley seemed nervous. She kept forgetting what she was saying and that made her more nervous. Finally, she said, 'This ends our study of the sea water theory. Tomorrow we will begin our study about the different kinds of rocks and their hardness.' Everyone was relieved and I think Mrs. Riley seemed the most relieved."

"Sounds like the Lord fought your battle for you, Jerry," said Dad. "The Lord must have troubled her conscience about teaching such a false theory."

"I'm glad," said Jerry with a smile. "I didn't want to sit through class and hear all that stuff but I didn't know what to do about it."

"What you did at first was fine," said Dad. "It is okay to politely let the teacher know you do not believe in wrong theories that go against the Bible. Speaking out in class will help others who are uncertain about the truth."

"It is so hard to know when to speak and when not to," said Jerry with a sigh. "Sometimes it just makes them angry."

"Your life really is the best long-term witness for God," said Dad as he put an understanding hand on Jerry's shoulder. "Don't be ashamed to speak for the Lord. It takes cour-

age to stand for what is right but there is a blessing in doing so. You will also gain the respect of others. Like my dad used to say, 'If you don't stand for the right, you will fall for anything.' You aren't standing alone—the Lord is right there with you."

"Yes, and your parents will stand with you if you are doing right," added Mother. "Mrs. Riley said she doesn't have any behavior trouble with you, Jerry, and that made it easy to talk with her."

"You are on the right track, Son," said Dad. "We will pray that the Lord will give you strength and courage to do right."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who talked with Adam and his wife every day in the garden?
2. How many trees could Adam and the woman eat of?
3. Which tree could they not eat of?
4. Who talked to the woman as she walked in the garden one day?
5. What did the serpent ask her?
6. What did the woman say God told them would happen if they ate of the tree?
7. What did the serpent say?
8. What did the woman do after she looked at the tree?
9. Did she give some to Adam?
10. Did he eat it?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 3:1-6.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. All of them except one. 3. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 4. The serpent; the devil. 5. "Has God said you cannot eat of every tree of the garden?" 6. They would die. 7. "Ye shall not surely die." 8. She took some and ate it. 9. Yes. 10. Yes.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Oct. 31, 1999

## SENT OUT OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN

God came down in the cool part of the day to talk with Adam and his wife as He usually did. But Adam and the woman had sinned and they knew that they were naked. Although the woman had stitched some aprons for them from leaves they were ashamed and ducked behind the trees and bushes when they heard God's voice.

"Where are you?" God called, though He knew just where they were—He always knows.

Adam crept out of the bushes. "I was ashamed because I was naked and hid myself," he said.

"How did you know you were naked?" God asked. "Have you eaten of the tree I told you not to eat of?"

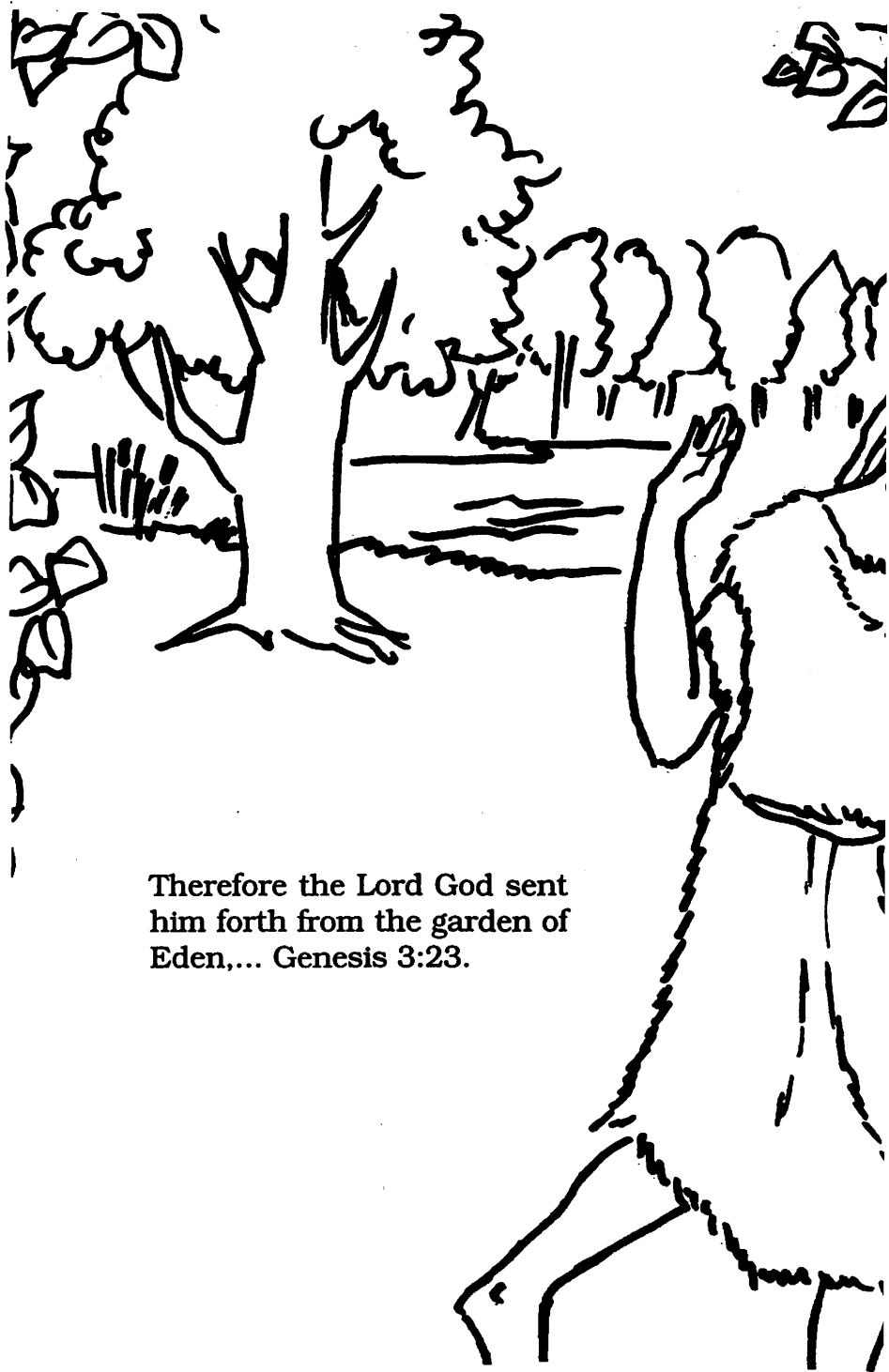
"It's the woman's fault," Adam said.

She came forward. "It's the serpent's fault," she said.

First God cursed the serpent. "On your belly you shall go and eat dust all the days of your life." To the woman He said, "You shall have pain and suffering and serve your husband." And to Adam, "Cursed is the ground for your sake. It will grow weeds and thorns and you'll have to work hard to grow food from it."

Then God made them coats of animal skins and sent them out of the Garden of Eden. He put an angel at the gate to guard it from anyone who might come in. He did this because also in the Garden was the Tree of Life, and if anyone ate of it they would live forever. All this Adam and his wife lost because they sinned. We always get into trouble when we do wrong.

—Joanna Booher



Therefore the Lord God sent  
him forth from the garden of  
Eden,... Genesis 3:23.





## Which Is Worse—A Ghost Or A Witch?

"Mother, may I dress up like a ghost and go trick-or-treating with Carlton?" asked Randy as he came into the kitchen where Mother was peeling potatoes for supper.

"You know we don't go trick-or-treating on Halloween," replied Mother. "If you want some candy, I can buy you some."

"Awe, I'm going to miss all the fun," sighed Randy. "Carlton is going to a haunted house with his dad and mom. I wish we could go to one."

"We can plan something fun to do that evening but we will call it Fall Fun," said Mother. "There is so much witchcraft and wickedness in Halloween that we don't want any part in it. In our country today there are witches and they do evil things on Halloween."

"Being a ghost or a goblin isn't as bad as a witch, is it?" asked Randy.

"You are probably thinking that a ghost is a white form with black holes for eyes and a mouth, but ghosts are thought to be the spirit or clear form of someone who is dead. Witches talk to these spirits which the devil sends to them. A ghost can bring messages for the devil. A witch receives the messages from the devil. Both are of the devil. Now you tell me which one would you want to be—a ghost or a witch?"

Randy wrinkled his nose. "Well, maybe I would rather dress up like a king or someone that's good."

"Just be you—you're someone that's good." Mother gave Randy a hug then said, "The last of October is a pleasant time of year to do outdoor games. What sounds like fun that all our family could do?"

"I guess we could have a picnic or

go to the zoo. Maybe Grandpa and Grandma could go with us. I think that would be fun."

"Yes, it does sound like fun but Halloween is on Sunday and that means we should be in church services Sunday night. Maybe we can have a picnic in the afternoon. We can talk to Dad about it and see what he thinks."

Dad liked the idea of a picnic and a visit to the zoo on Sunday afternoon. Other relatives joined them and so October 31st was a special day of fun for everyone.

That night, Randy was so tired from the events of his pleasant day that he didn't even think about his friends who were out trick-or-treating.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who came down to talk with Adam and his wife?
2. What did Adam and the woman do when they heard His voice?
3. Did God know where they were?
4. Who did Adam blame for his disobedience?
5. Who did Eve blame for her disobedience?
6. What was the serpent's curse?
7. What was Eve's curse?
8. What was Adam's curse?
9. What did God put at the gate of the garden?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 3:8-24.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. They hid. 3. Yes. 4. The woman. 5. The serpent. 6. To go on his belly and eat dust all his life. 7. To have pain and suffering and to serve her husband. 8. To have to work hard to raise food from the ground which was cursed for his sake. 9. An angel.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 7, 1999

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## CAIN AND ABEL

Life was not so easy after Adam and his wife were sent out of the Garden of Eden. Adam had to work hard. He got sweaty and sunburned, had blisters and was hungry too. His wife probably had to make a place for them to live and keep it clean and cook the food that Adam brought in.

After awhile, the woman had a baby; a son. She named him Cain. "For," she said, "I have gotten a man child from the Lord." And Adam named the woman Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Then she had another son and called him Abel.

Cain and Abel grew up working hard. Cain raised crops and Abel tended sheep. They worshipped God and brought their sacrifices to Him. Abel brought his most perfect lamb and sacrificed it. Cain brought vegetables or grain, but not his best. God saw that and liked Abel's sacrifice, and disliked Cain's.

Cain became jealous. God said to him, "Why are you mad? If you do right I will like your sacrifice too."

But Cain did not do right. Instead he hated Abel. One day when they were alone in the field, Cain rose up and killed his brother.

God saw it. He said, "Cain, where is your brother?"

"Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain said rudely.

"What have you done?" God said. "Your brother's blood cries to Me from the ground. Because you have done this, crops won't grow for you and you will become a hunted man."

"My punishment is more than I can bear," Cain cried. "If you send me away from Your presence anyone who finds me will kill me."

"I will set a mark upon you," said God, "so that no one will kill you. If they do they will suffer a worse punishment than yours."

So Cain was sent out from the presence of God and wandered through the earth.

—Joanna Booher





...And the Lord had respect  
unto Abel and to his offer-  
ing: But unto Cain and to  
his offering he had not re-  
spect.... Genesis 4:4-5.

## The Ape Chart

"Mother, look at this funny chart in this magazine," said Linda as she held up the pages for Mother to see.

Mother put down the shirt she was mending and looked at the chart. "This is about evolution, Linda. It is a theory that atheist scientists are trying to prove. By the few bones they have discovered, these scientists are claiming they have some missing links to man's descent from apes."

"What?" exclaimed Linda. "How can those scientists tell what those bones were? They have only pieces and parts of bones. What if some of those bones really came from a lion or a wolf?"

"It is silly," agreed Mother. "Evolution is only a theory and there is very little evidence to support it. Most of the bone fossils in this chart have been found in Africa. That's because apes still live in Africa. They don't find these bones in North America because apes didn't live in this area before the days of zoos."

"They only have a skull or bone for each step in the change. They claim two bones show one million years of change. Many worldly wise scientists have spent years of time looking for evidence that evolution happened. This is very skimpy proof for all their searching."

Linda nodded her head, "Are these scientists smart men? I don't see how anyone can believe this stuff."

"They are worldly wise but they lack understanding of God and His ways. It reminds me of a scripture in the Bible. Here, Linda, hand my Bible to me and let me look it up."

Linda picked up her mother's Bible from the end table and gave it to her. Mother turned the pages to I Corinthians 2:7 and read, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mys-

tery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory." The hidden wisdom of God is only found by people who seek after Him. The Lord's Word tells us how the world was created and how God made man. It is easier to believe God created man in His own image than to believe the faulty theory of evolution."

"Then why is it that so many people believe in this evolution stuff?" asked Linda.

"Because they don't want to admit that there is a God who created man to obey and serve Him. People who believe in evolution don't study and learn from God's Word. It will be sad for them when they die and meet their Creator. All the old bones in the world won't save them then. It is best to study and believe the mystery of God's wisdom and be saved."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did Adam name his wife?
2. What were Eve's first two sons' names?
3. What did Cain do for a living?
4. What did Abel do for a living?
5. Did they both sacrifice to God?
6. Why did God like Abel's sacrifice better than Cain's?
7. Because of his hate, what did Cain do?
8. Did God see Cain kill Abel?
9. What was Cain's punishment?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 4:1-16.

(Answers: 1. Eve. 2. Cain and Abel. 3. He raised crops. 4. He tended sheep. 5. Yes. 6. Because Abel brought his best. 7. He killed his brother, Abel. 8. Yes. 9. He was sent out from the presence of God, his crops wouldn't grow and he would be a hunted man.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 14, 1999

## NOAH AND THE FLOOD

More and more people began to fill the earth. Many of them lived a very long time and some of them were giants. A man named Methuselah lived for nine hundred sixty-nine years. A man named Enoch walked with God and didn't die because God took him. Men began to build harps and musical instruments and make tents and tools and things out of brass and iron.

But men also began to become more and more wicked. A man named Lamech killed a man for bruising him and another man for hurting him. Because of this, God's heart was saddened for making man.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah loved God and served Him, so God told him, "Noah, I am going to destroy the earth with a flood. All men and animals on the earth will die. But I want you to build an ark and take two of every kind of animal into the ark with you so there will still be life left after the flood."

So Noah did as God told him. His wife and his three sons, Ham, Shem, and Japheth, and their wives helped him. It took many years to saw and hammer the boat together and seal the outside with pitch, then to gather enough food for all the hundreds of animals and themselves and put it into the ark.

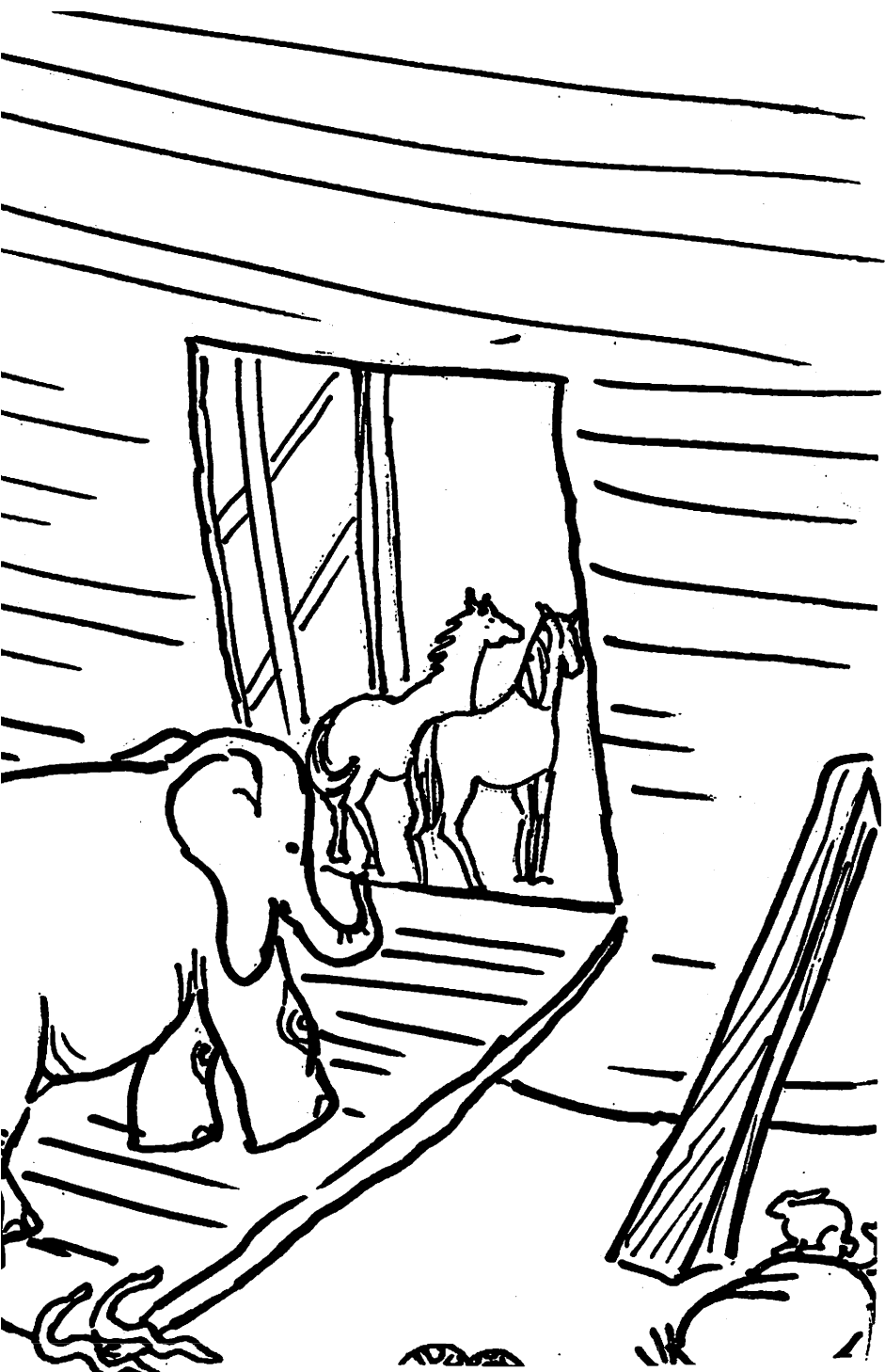
Finally God said, "Come into the ark, Noah, and your family, and the animals two by two. In seven days it is going to rain and pour." So they gathered into the ark, Noah, his family and the long string of animals. When they were all inside, God shut the door. The sky opened up, the ground opened up and it rained and rained and rained and rained—for forty days and nights.

All the people and animals on the earth died, but Noah and his family were safe, floating on the waters in the ark.

—Joanna Booher

There went in two and two unto  
Noah into the ark, the male and  
the female, as God had com-  
manded Noah. Genesis 7:9.







## Walking And Praying

(A true story.)

A few years ago a young woman named Jill began walking a mile in her community every day. As she walked the Lord inspired her to pray. First she prayed for her family. Then she felt burdened to pray for the neighbors as she walked by their houses. Next she prayed for the leaders of that town and she asked the Lord to close down the liquor stores and bad book stores.

In time two women joined Jill in her walk around town. They agreed in prayer with her and God heard their prayers.

One day a local theater advertised an ungodly contest. Jill and her friends knew this contest had evil intentions and for three days they prayed that the Lord would stop this contest.

A week before the contest, Jill visited the theater's owner. She told this young man their concern about the ungodly contest.

"This contest is perfectly legal," declared the theater owner. "You can't stop it or I will sue you."

Jill stayed calm. "If you don't want to stop this contest then we will pray that the Lord will stop it," said Jill as she walked out of the theater. The owner followed Jill outside. He shook his fist and cursed.

"Don't you dare pray for me!" he hollered at her. Jill did not reply. She just kept walking and praying.

In a short time Jill read in the paper that the contest had been called off because not enough people were interested in it. Jill and her friends rejoiced that the Lord had answered their prayers.

A month or so later during a short thunderstorm, that theater was struck with lightening and burned to

the ground. What did the theater owner think now?

Jill didn't know until she saw him at a restaurant where she and her husband were eating. The theater man came over to their table.

"I would like to visit with you outside," he said to Jill. Her husband nodded, "Okay, we will visit with you."

When they went outside, the theater man told them that he had cancer and wasn't going to live long. He asked Jill and her husband to pray for him right then. They did, then parted ways.

Six months later this man called Jill and told her he was healed! He wanted to know what church she attended. He went, was saved, and never owned another theater.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who lived for nine hundred sixty-nine years?
2. Who did not die because God took him?
3. Who found grace in the eyes of God?
4. What did God say was going to come on the earth?
5. Why did God want to destroy the earth?
6. What did God tell Noah to build?
7. What did God tell Noah to bring into the ark 'two by two'?
8. Who shut the door?
9. How long did it rain?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 6:5-7:24.

{Answers: 1. Methuselah.  
2. Enoch. 3. Noah. 4. A flood.  
5. Because the people were so wicked. 6. An ark. 7. Animals.  
8. God. 9. Forty days and forty nights.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 21, 1999

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## THE RAINBOW

The ark floated safely up and up on the flood waters until they covered the highest mountain. Then the Bible says that God remembered Noah. After a hundred fifty days He caused a wind to blow over the earth and the waters to go down. The ark came to rest on Mount Ararat.

After forty days Noah opened the only window in the ark and sent out a raven to fly over the earth. Then he sent out a dove, but the dove didn't find any place to sit so she came back. He knew the waters must still be all over the earth. After seven days he sent the dove out again and this time she came back with a little olive leaf in her beak. Noah was so happy that the waters were going down. He waited seven days more and sent the dove out again. This time she didn't come back so he knew that the earth was finally dry.

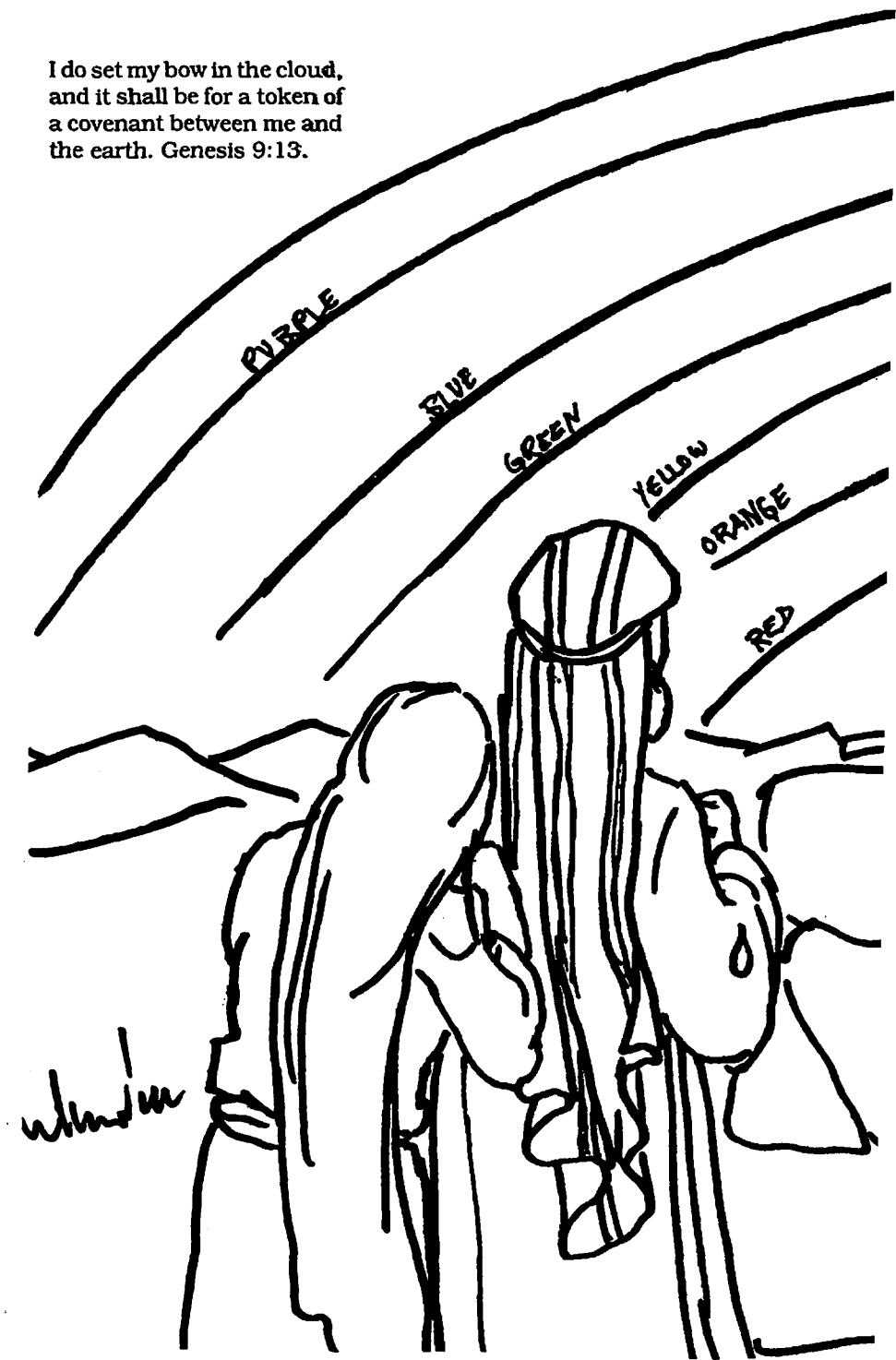
God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark with your family and all the animals and fill the earth again."

So Noah left the ark and built an altar to God to say "Thank You."

God smelled the sacrifice of Noah and it was a sweet smell to Him. He said, "I will never again destroy the whole earth with a flood. I promise that for the rest of time there will be planting time and harvest time, and summer and winter, and day and night, and cold and heat. The sign of My promise is in the clouds—the rainbow. Every time I see the rainbow I will remember My promise to you."

—Joanna Booher

I do set my bow in the cloud,  
and it shall be for a token of  
a covenant between me and  
the earth. Genesis 9:13.





## USA Freedom

In the United States of America we are free to go to church every Sunday without the fear that the police will come and arrest us. We are free to read our Bibles and tell others about Jesus Christ. We should be very thankful for all these freedoms that we have in our country.

The laws of our land were made on the foundation of God's laws in the Bible. Do you know what the ten commandments are? Let's list them briefly:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not worship any graven images.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.
5. Honour thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not lie against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet. (Exodus 20:1-17.)

When the thirteen colonies first came together to make one nation, the men who wrote the beginning laws feared God and obeyed these commandments. This pleased God and He blessed our nation.

Today we can see that many government leaders do not obey these commandments nor have a fear of God. The apostle Paul told Timothy to pray for those who are in authority that we may live peaceable lives. (I Timothy 2:2.) It is im-

portant that we pray for our leaders because the laws that they make do affect our daily lives. We want to keep our freedom to worship God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

This week we will be celebrating the first Thanksgiving that the pilgrims had hundreds of years ago. It is a time to remember how our government was started and how God has blessed us. Then we must pray that our government will not make laws displeasing to God. We want to keep our freedom to worship at a chapel and to tell others about Jesus Christ.

It is a privilege to live in a country of such freedom. May God bless the United States of America.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. How much of the earth did the flood cover?
2. Who caused the waters to go down?
3. What mountain did the ark come to rest on?
4. What bird did Noah send out first?
5. What bird did Noah send out second?
6. Did the dove come back the first time?
7. What did the dove bring back the second time?
8. What did Noah and his family build to God?
9. What was the sign of God's promise to never again destroy the whole earth with a flood?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 8:1-9:17.

(Answers: 1. All of it. 2. God. 3. Mount Ararat. 4. A raven. 5. A dove. 6. Yes. 7. An olive leaf. 8. An altar. 9. The rainbow.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 28, 1999

## THE TOWER OF BABEL

Noah had children and his children had children and the earth became full of people again. And all of the people spoke the same language. So they got together and said, "Let's make a name for ourselves and become famous and powerful by building a tower and city that will reach into the sky."

So they mixed their clay and made bricks. Then they baked them and used teamwork to bring them to the right place and put them together with mortar.

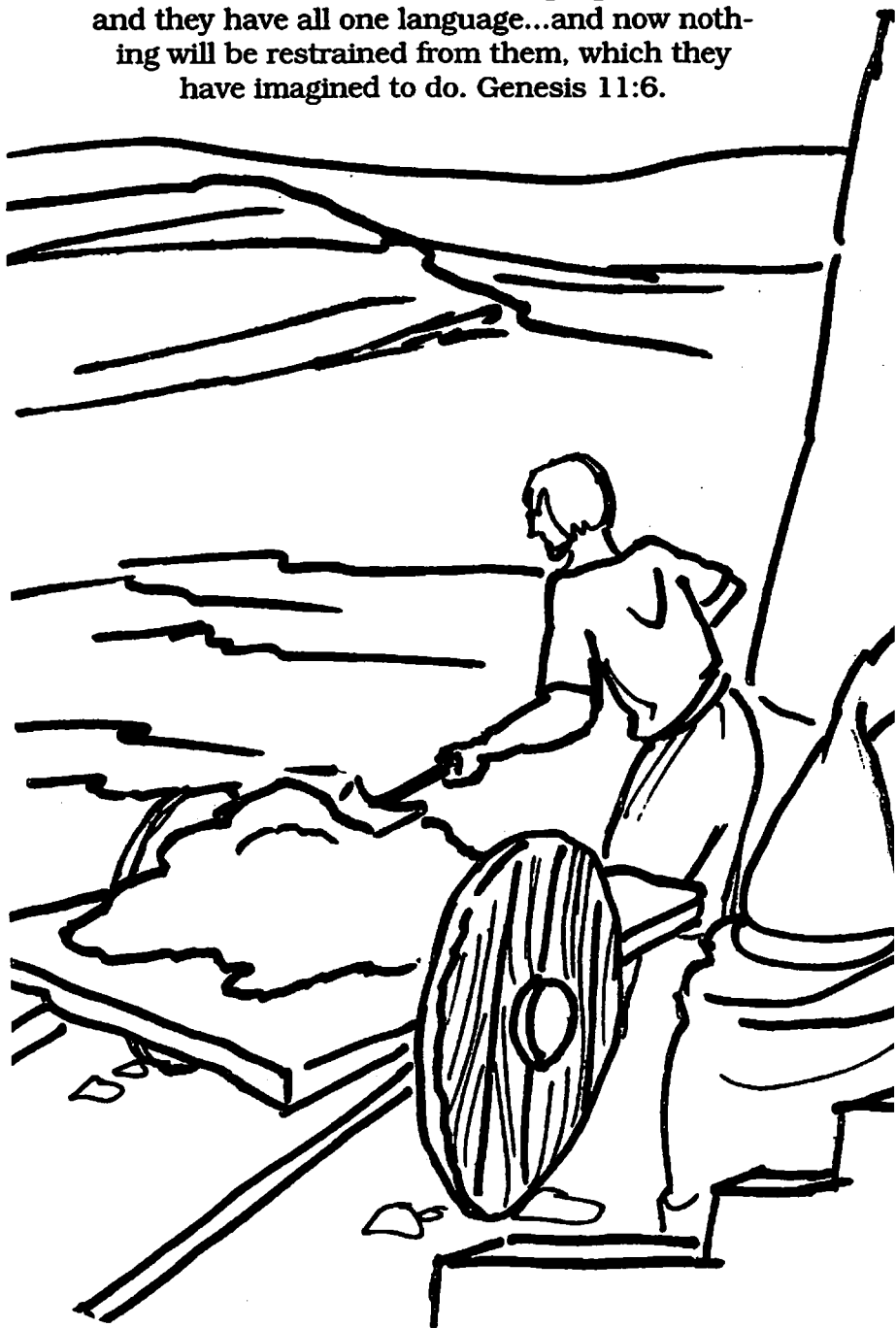
God came down to see what the people were doing. He said, "The people all have one language and can work together easily. And if they get together like this they will be able to do anything that they want to and nothing will stand in their way. So, let Us mix up their language so they will not be able to understand and talk to each other."

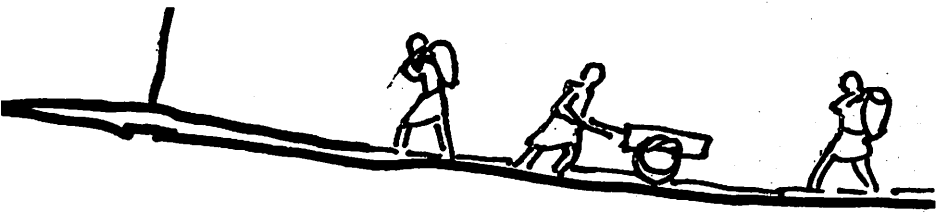
And that's what God did. Sure enough, the people started getting into fights and stopped working on the tower. They split into groups and scattered out over the whole earth. Some went north, some went east, some went west and south.

They never finished the tower and it was called the Tower of Babel because God mixed up their language there.

—Joanna Booher

And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one,  
and they have all one language...and now noth-  
ing will be restrained from them, which they  
have imagined to do. Genesis 11:6.







## God Was There For Daphne

(A true story.)

Daphne is a happy baby—walking and jabbering like most one-year-olds do. Some day when she is older and able to understand, her parents will tell her how they got her. This is how God watched over Daphne.

When Daphne's natural mother first knew about her, she wanted to kill Daphne with an abortion. Maybe afraid of the operation, the woman decided not to have an abortion. Instead she increased her intake of crack or rock cocaine.

This terrible drug destroys the brain and nerve cells of a person. Once a nerve cell is attacked and cut apart from the other nerve cells, it will die and never be used again. These nerve cells can never be replaced.

Nerve cells are in every inch of a body. They help a person feel. If a hand touches a hot stove, the hand will jerk back because the nerve cells said, "Ouch!" A person who has lost the use of nerve cells in the hand will not realize the stove is hot and can burn themselves very badly.

Once a person gets on crack cocaine, they want this bad drug every day. The body becomes addicted to crack even though this drug destroys the body.

Daphne's birth mother took crack cocaine before she was born. When Daphne was born at home, her evil mother was going to put her into a trash can but she must have been afraid the police would find the baby and charge her with murder. She went to a nearby hospital and left Daphne there alone.

Lying in a hospital crib, Daphne suffered withdrawal from the cocaine. Her body had been taking that drug when her mother did. Daphne cried and cried because her stomach hurt. Her arms and legs shook. Daphne was

a sick baby for several days. The nurses cared tenderly for Daphne. They held her, fed her and took care of her needs.

All this was good for Daphne but she needed a mother and father who would love her and give her a happy home.

"We will gladly take her!" said a husband and wife who did not have any boys or girls of their own. They paid a lawyer to write legal adoption papers. They stood before a judge in a courtroom and promised to take good care of Daphne. The judge signed the adoption papers so Daphne could be their daughter.

They paid the hospital for taking care of Daphne, then they took her home with them. Daphne is so happy and so are her parents. Every day they thank God for protecting Daphne.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. All the people had the same what?
2. Why did they want to build a tower and city?
3. What did they want the tower to do?
4. Why did God come down?
5. Why could the people work easily together?
6. Why did God want to confuse their language?
7. What happened when God confused the people's language?
8. Was the tower ever finished?
9. What was the tower called?

### LESSON TEXT: Genesis 11:1-9.

(Answers: 1. Language. 2. To make a name for themselves. 3. To reach into the sky. 4. To see what the people were doing. 5. Because they had all the same language. 6. Because they would be able to do anything they wanted if they worked together so easily. 7. They fought and split up and spread out over the earth. 8. No. 9. The tower of Babel.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 5, 1999

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## ABRAM'S JOURNEY

Fathers had sons and those sons had sons and many sons after Noah, Abram was born. Abram loved and served God.

God said to Abram, "I want you to leave your father and home and go to a land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation and bless you and you will be a blessing to others."

So Abram packed up. He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew, Lot, and all his things and set out across the country. He came to the land of Canaan and God appeared to him there. God said, "I will give this land of Canaan to your children, Abram." And Abram built an altar to the Lord.

Abram travelled on, through Egypt, to a place called Bethel. But the land there was not large enough for Abram and Lot too. Their servants began to quarrel.

So Abram said to Lot, "Let us not fight, my brother. Look at all this land before us. Let's split up. You take whatever land you want and I'll take what's left."

Lot looked out over the land. He saw a beautiful green plain with a river running through it. But also in this plain were the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot wanted that rich land though and chose it anyway. So Abram and Lot separated and Abram travelled further east.

God said to Abram, "Lift up your eyes, and look to the north, the south, the east, and the west—for all of this land will I give to you. And I will make your children and children's children to be so many that they will be as many as the sand on the seashore. And this land will be theirs forever."

—Joanna Booher

Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee.  
Genesis 12:1.





## **Bhutan, The Land of Buddha**

(A true story.)

In the small, hilly kingdom of Bhutan, a young Christian minister walked slowly toward a village in the valley. He was burdened down with a heavy basket on his back but he was glad it was heavy. The basket was full of Bhutan Bibles which he was eager to give to the people in the village below.

As he walked, he prayed for his country of Bhutan. The religion of Bhutan is Buddhism. The statues of the fat, bald-headed Buddha could be seen throughout all his country.

One way they pray to Buddha is with prayer flags called Windhorses. These flags are hung on top of hills and other places, and each flag has a prayer request written on it. The people believe that when the wind blows the flags, the prayers reach their god.

They also have prayer wheels which come in small or large sizes. When a person spins a wheel, his prayers go to this god. Only by these two ways can a prayer be sent to Buddha.

This young man had learned from a missionary in nearby India that a statue of stone did not answer prayer.

"God is a spirit like the wind," the missionary had explained. "We worship the Creator of the wind and all the universe—not any of the creation He has made. By His Holy Spirit, God speaks to the hearts of men and women. Every person has evil in their heart.

"God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to show us how to live for God and then He died on a cross for our evilness. He was in a borrowed tomb for three days and then Jesus Christ came out of that tomb. Now Jesus sits on the right hand of God and He hears our prayers. He talks to God about our needs. That

is how prayer is answered."

The missionary explained all this to the young man who was amazed to learn that he could talk to a listening God at any time, not just when the wind blows. Through answered prayers, he learned to trust in Jesus Christ. Never before had he felt such peace in his heart!

Now the young man shares his gospel of joy to the people of Bhutan. In 1970 there were no known Christians in Bhutan. Today there are around 2,000 believers and more hungry souls to reach. It is not easy work. This young man has been in prison for sharing the gospel, but he presses on because his people need to know the wonderful truth about the real God.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did God tell Abram to do?
2. What did God promise to make Abram?
3. What was Abram's nephew's name?
4. When Abram came to Canaan, what did God tell him?
5. At Bethel, who began to quarrel?
6. Who got the first choice of the land?
7. What did Lot choose?
8. What two cities were in the plain of Jordan?
9. How many children did God say Abram would have?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 12:1-13:17.

(Answers: 1. Leave his father and home and go to a land that God would show him. 2. A great nation that would be blessed and be a blessing to others. 3. Lot. 4. "I will give you this land." 5. Lot's and Abram's servants. 6. Lot. 7. The plain of Jordan. 8. Sodom and Gomorrah. 9. As many as the sand of the seashore.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 12, 1999

## ABRAM BELIEVES GOD'S PROMISE

It came to pass that a group of kings made war on Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom and Gomorrah lost and were carried away with their things by the enemy, and Lot was carried away captive too.

When Abram heard of it, he got his trained servants together. He could have just figured Lot got what he deserved for getting so close to those wicked cities and let him stay captive, but instead he formed a rescue party.

He armed his servants, three hundred and eighteen of them, and attacked the enemy kings in the night. The kings fled and his army chased after them. Abram safely brought back all the captives and the spoil, including Lot.

The king of Sodom came out to meet him with the king of Salem, a priest named Melchizedek. Melchizedek blessed Abram and blessed God for the victory. The king of Sodom offered Abram all the spoil that he had brought back. But Abram would not accept any of it except some of the food and some of the spoil for his captains.

After these things, God spoke to Abram again in a vision and said, "Don't be afraid, Abram. I am your shield and your reward."

Finally Abram asked, "Lord, what will You give me since I don't even have any children? My wife can't have any so all I have is a servant, Eliezer."

God said, "You shall have children. Look at the sky, Abram. Can you count the stars? That is how many children you will have."

Abram believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness.

—Joanna Booher



And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them:... So shall thy seed be. Genesis 15:5.





## The Brave Christians Of Nepal

(A true story.)

Nepal is a small country north of India. The national religion of Nepal is Hindu. It is the only strictly Hindu country in the world. The rulers have commanded that no Christians can live in Nepal. In spite of this law, the people of Nepal are hungry for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are about four hundred Christians living in Nepal. They can not publicly worship Jesus Christ but they secretly meet in each other's houses. These brave Christian men and women know what it is like to suffer for Jesus Christ.

One evening Pastor Sukha Kham Magar was walking to a house church. Maybe he was thinking about the message he was going to give at the services. Maybe he was praying for his country. Whatever Pastor Magar was doing, we will never know.

Two police officers saw Pastor Magar walking quietly down the street. "We will stop that man from telling others about this Jesus Christ," they said to themselves. Taking their guns in hand, the two officers shot and killed Pastor Magar. Later, they shot one other pastor who was nearby.

The government did not punish the officers because the officers said that they accidentally shot Pastor Magar and his friend. His wife and small son know better. "My father is in heaven where he can worship Jesus without the police hurting him," says his son. "Some day I want to see my father again."

At Easter time this past year, the Christians of Nepal wrote letters to

their government asking permission to gather on a football field in Kathmandu to sing praises.

"Yes, you may gather there because we are a free country," replied the government leaders.

In grateful excitement the Christians gathered at the football field to worship Jesus Christ and God, His Father. During their service of praise, the police came and beat with clubs the men, women and children. Several went to the hospital with broken bones and open cuts.

At Christmas-time this year, the Christians of Nepal hope to meet and celebrate together. They are praying that the Lord will deal with the leaders of their country so that others may know the true God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who made war on Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. Did Sodom and Gomorrah win?
3. Who was also taken captive?
4. What did Abram do when he heard?
5. Did Abram win?
6. Who was Melchizedek?
7. What did the king of Sodom offer Abram?
8. God told Abram, "I am your shield and your \_\_\_\_\_."
9. Did Abram believe God's promise?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 14:1-15:6.

(Answers: 1. A group of kings.  
2. No. 3. Lot. 4. He got together a rescue party. 5. Yes. 6. The king of Salem and a priest of the most high God. 7. All the spoil.  
8. Reward. 9. Yes.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 19, 1999

## HAGAR

God had promised Abram that he would have as many children as the stars in the heavens. But years passed and Abram's wife, Sarai, still had not had a son. She did have a maid named Hagar. So she gave her maid to Abram so Hagar could have a child that Sarai could claim as her own.

Soon Hagar was expecting a child. But she became proud that she could have a child while Sarai, her mistress, could not and she despised her. This made Sarai angry and she complained to Abram.

Abram said, "She's your maid. You may do with her as you like."

Sarai spoke roughly to Hagar and Hagar ran away. But as Hagar sat in the wilderness by a fountain, an angel spoke to her. He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, what are you doing here?"

She said, "I'm running away."

The angel said, "Go back to your mistress and submit yourself to her. Your son also will be a great nation. You shall call him Ishmael."

So Hagar went back and served her mistress.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old God made new again his covenant with Abram. He again promised that he would be the father of many nations and kings would be his children. Then He changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means: father of many nations and changed Sarai's name to Sarah which means: princess. —Joanna Booher



And the angel of  
Lord found her by  
a fountain of water  
in the wilderness,  
Genesis 16:7.



## The Warm Feeling Of Giving

"Mother, it is just a few days until Christmas, isn't it?" asked Linda as her mother came into her bedroom to tuck her into bed.

"Yes, my dear," replied Mother. "I can't wait until we open our gifts!" exclaimed Linda. "It's so much fun to get new things!"

"Aren't you thankful for a nice warm bed to sleep in and a cozy house to live in?"

"Yes, I am, Mother, and I'm glad I have good parents who love me and teach me about Jesus. And, you know what? I feel warmer in my bed because I know we sent blankets overseas to help people who don't have all the nice things we have."

"It is a warm, happy feeling that bubbles inside us when we give something to another," agreed Mother. "Remember reading that story about James, the little boy in Sudan? Muslim soldiers attacked his village killing his parents and four brothers and sisters. They took James, made him gather wood for a fire, then told him to deny Jesus as his Saviour."

Linda sat up in her bed. "I remember that story—you read it to us in family worship. James wouldn't deny Jesus so those mean soldiers threw him into the fire and left him to die. But the Lord was watching over James and helped him out of the fire. Someone took him to a doctor who put stuff on his burns. He finally got better."

Linda paused to catch her breath and Mother continued. "As James left the hospital, VOM volunteers were handing out the last blankets. There weren't enough for James to

have one. He left alone, without a blanket, into the cold night."

"But, Mother, we sent some blankets to those kind volunteers and we asked that they make sure James gets one or two of our blankets. Do you think they found him to give it to him?"

"We can hope and pray that they did, Linda. One thing we know, ten more people are warmer tonight because we sent blankets to them. The blessing of knowing this is a wonderful Christmas gift to me."

"Me, too," agreed Linda. "The warm, happy feeling that the Lord gives you when you help someone is the best gift of all."

Mother hugged Linda. "You are growing up, my dear! Now in our bedtime prayer, let's remember those who need God's help in a big way."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What was Sarai's maid's name?
2. How did Hagar feel when she found she was going to have a child?
3. What did she do to Sarai?
4. Was Sarai angry?
5. Whom did Sarai complain to?
6. How did Sarai speak to Hagar?
7. What did Hagar do after her mistress spoke roughly to her?
8. Who found Hagar in the wilderness?
9. What did he tell Hagar to do?
10. What did God rename Abram?
11. What did God rename Sarai?

**LESSON TEXT:** Genesis 16:1-17:15.

(Answers: 1. Hagar. 2. Proud. 3. She despised her. 4. Yes. 5. Abram. 6. Roughly. 7. She ran away. 8. An angel. 9. Go back. 10. Abraham. 11. Sarah.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 50, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 26, 1999

## ABRAM'S THREE VISITORS

As Abraham sat in the door of his tent one hot afternoon, he saw three men coming towards him. Quickly he ran and knelt before them.

"My Lord," he said, "If I have found favour in Your sight, pass not away from me yet. Please, rest under the tree and let me wash your feet and serve you some food."

So they sat while Abraham rushed into the tent and told Sarah to fix some small cakes and had a servant fix some meat. Then he stood by them while they ate.

They said unto him, "Where is Sarah, your wife?"

"In the tent," Abraham answered.

"Your wife, Sarah, shall have a son," they said.

When Sarah, who was behind the tent door, heard this, she laughed. For she was around ninety years old and past the age of having children.

"Why did Sarah laugh?" the Lord asked. "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

"I did not laugh," Sarah said, for she was afraid.

"No, but you did laugh," said the Lord.

The three got up to go on toward Sodom and Abraham went with them a little in the way.

The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham the thing that I am about to do? I have heard of the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah and have come down to see if it is as bad as I hear."

The two other men went on toward the city but Abraham begged the Lord, "Lord, will you destroy the city if there are fifty righteous people in it?"

"I will not destroy the city if I find fifty righteous in it," the Lord said.

"Oh, Lord, please don't be angry," Abraham pleaded. "Will you destroy the city for ten's sake?"

The Lord promised, "For ten righteous, I will not destroy the city." Then He went on His way and Abraham returned to his tent.

—Joanna Booher





And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day. Genesis 18:1.



## The Most Important Invention

"We are entering into another new year," said Dad to his family during family worship. "Not only is it a new year, but we are entering a new millennium."

"What does that word mean?" asked Jerry.

"Millennium means a period or time span of one thousand years," explained Dad. "We are going into the twenty-first century and it has been two thousand years since Christ was born. If you wrote one hundred, twenty times and added that together, you would get two thousand. We are passing the two thousand mark and going into another century. You will not live on earth to see another millennium or for that matter, another century."

"We would be really old if we did, huh, Dad?" said Linda with a giggle.

Dad smiled. "During this century you will choose where you will spend the next millenium—in heaven or hell. For now let's talk about the most important invention of this past millennium."

"Oh, I know!" exclaimed Jerry. "It's computers!"

"Guess again. Now remember this is over one thousand years and not just this century."

"I know!" said little Randy. "The Bible was!"

Jerry and Linda laughed. "The Bible was here way before then!" scoffed Jerry.

"Believe it or not, Randy is very close to the answer," said Dad. Jerry and Linda looked surprised as Dad explained. "The New Testament wasn't written until after Jesus was resurrected and the early morning Church began. The Old and New Testaments were written on parchment paper by scribes who used goose feathers and bottles of ink. Men separated themselves from the world and spent their

entire life making copies of the Holy Scriptures. These few copies were kept carefully in cathedrals or monasteries away from the common people. Then about 1445, in Germany, a man named Johann Gutenberg invented a way to print words by metal type. Guess what book was the first printed?"

"The Bible!" chorused the children.

"Right! Gutenberg improved his printing press and other printers learned from him. By 1476 several cities in Europe had a printing press. In time, common people were able to read the printed Word of God. The printing press has made the biggest change in our world this millennium. Be thankful for your printed Bibles."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Abram see coming toward him as he sat in the door of his tent?
2. What did he do?
3. What did they say would happen to Sarah?
4. What did Sarah do when she heard?
5. Why did Sarah deny that she had laughed?
6. Where were the three men going?
7. Why did the Lord say He had come down?
8. What did Abram beg the Lord to do?
9. How many did the Lord promise to spare the city for?

### LESSON TEXT: Genesis 18:1-33.

(Answers: 1. Three men. 2. He ran and knelt at their feet and invited them to sit under the tree while he served them. 3. She would have a son. 4. She laughed. 5. She was afraid. 6. To Sodom. 7. Because He had heard of the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah and came to see if it was as bad as He heard. 8. Spare the city for the righteous' sake. 9. Ten.)