

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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**Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 6, 2003**

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## **JESUS' DEATH**

The chief priests took Jesus to Pilate, the governor. They lied and said, "Jesus is a bad man. He should die."

Pilate told the priests, "I don't see anything that Jesus has done wrong."

The priests said more bad things about Jesus.

Pilate said to Jesus, "Don't you hear the bad things they are saying about you?"

Jesus did not say anything.

Pilate told the priests, "I am going to let Jesus go. He hasn't done anything wrong."

The priests and people said, "No, crucify Him!"

Pilate said, "It is a custom that I let a prisoner go free at this time of the year. I have a murderer in jail named Barabbas. Do you want me to let him go free or Jesus?"

The priests and people said, "Let Barabbas go free! Crucify Jesus!"

Pilate gave Jesus to his soldiers. The soldiers beat him. They got some thorny twigs and made a wreath that they pushed down on Jesus' head. The soldiers pulled Jesus' beard out. They made fun of him. They knelt down in front of him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews." They hit Jesus on the head.

They made a cross of wood and made Jesus carry it. Outside the city, they nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross and set it up. Jesus hung on the cross to die.

Jesus' mother and some of his other disciples were there. They cried.

Two thieves were crucified with Jesus. One of them said, "If You really are God's Son, rescue us and Yourself."

The other thief said, "You shouldn't say that. We deserve to die because we have done wrong. Jesus has done nothing wrong."

The thief said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me."

Jesus said to him, "Today you will be with Me in paradise."

The sky got very dark. The earth shook and people's graves opened up. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Jesus bowed his head and died. The soldier who was standing by said, "This really was the Son of God."

—Joanna Booher

Jesus, when he had  
cried again with a loud  
voice, yielded up the  
ghost. Matthew 27:50.





## The Dangling Rope

It was a hot summer afternoon. Jerry and his three friends were swimming in the clear water of a creek on his grandfather's farm—the best way to cool off!

"Hey, Jerry," called David. "Let's tie a rope on that big tree limb so we can swing over the water and jump in."

All the boys looked at the limb David pointed to. "Do you think that tree branch is strong enough to hold our weight?" asked Jerry.

"Oh, yeah," replied David. "Here, I'll climb out on that limb and tie this rope to it."

Jerry, Tim and Collins watched as David laid down on this tree branch and scooted out on his belly to the place where he could tie the rope. David's bare feet clasped the tree tightly as his hands worked with the rope. Carefully he positioned the rope on the end of the branch, looped the rope and brought down its end to dangle just above the water.

"Yeah!" the others cheered. "Beat you to the rope!" challenged Tim as he dived into the water. David was already sliding down the rope when the other three grabbed onto it also. Laughing, kicking and teasing, the four boys suddenly were on the rope at the same time.

RIP! The limb broke from the tree without warning and the boys plunged into the water below. They were still laughing when they bobbed back up—until Jerry saw David lying limp, face down in the water. The tree branch had hit his head!

"Quick! Let's get him to the bank!" cried Jerry. Tim held David's face out of the water as Jerry and Collins pulled him to the creek side.

Thump! David's body plopped on the ground. "Let's pray!" said Jerry

and the others nodded. Quickly, he turned David on his stomach, opened his mouth and began to push on his back. "I'll go get help," said Collins as he took off toward the house.

"Oh, Lord, help David!" each boy was praying as he did what he could to help David. Just as Grandpa arrived, David sighed and breathed air into his lungs. "Thank the Lord!" exclaimed Jerry.

David had to rest for awhile before he could swim again, but he had enough breath to thank his friends. "Thanks, guys, for helping me and for your prayers. It meant a lot to hear you all praying for me when I was in trouble."

"That's what friends are for," replied Jerry. "Helping and praying for you was the only right thing to do."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Did the priests tell the truth about Jesus?
2. What did the priests want to happen to Jesus?
3. Did Pilate think Jesus had done anything wrong?
4. What kind of man did the priests and people ask to be set free instead of Jesus?
5. Were the soldiers nice to Jesus?
6. What did the soldiers nail Jesus to?
7. How long would Jesus have to hang on the cross?
8. Did the thief who was sorry for doing wrong get to go to heaven?
9. Who did the soldier think Jesus was after he saw him die?

LESSON TEXT: Matt. 27:11-56; Luke 23:39-43.

(Answers: 1. No. 2. They wanted him to die. 3. No. 4. A murderer. 5. No. 6. A cross. 7. Until he died. 8. Yes. 9. The Son of God.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 13, 2003

## HE'S ALIVE!

A man named Joseph went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. He took Jesus' body and laid it in a new tomb. He rolled a stone over the doorway.

The priests went to Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember how when Jesus was alive he said he would come alive again. We want you to have soldiers guard Jesus' tomb. We don't want any of Jesus' disciples to come and steal his body and say he came alive again."

Pilate said, "Okay. Do what you want."

The priests had their soldiers seal the stone and stand there to guard it.

On Sunday morning, the first day of the week, some women came to Jesus' tomb. They wanted to put spices on his body to help keep it. They said to each other, "How will we get the stone off the door. It's very heavy."

When the women came to tomb, the stone was rolled away. There was an angel sitting on it. He was bright and shining. The soldiers were lying on the ground. They were very afraid. The women were afraid too.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. You came here looking for Jesus. Why are you looking here? Jesus is not here. He came alive. He couldn't stay dead. Come see where He was. Go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is going to meet them in Galilee."

The women were so happy and very amazed. They ran to tell the disciples what the angel had told them. As they went, they met Jesus on the road.

Jesus said to them, "Hello."

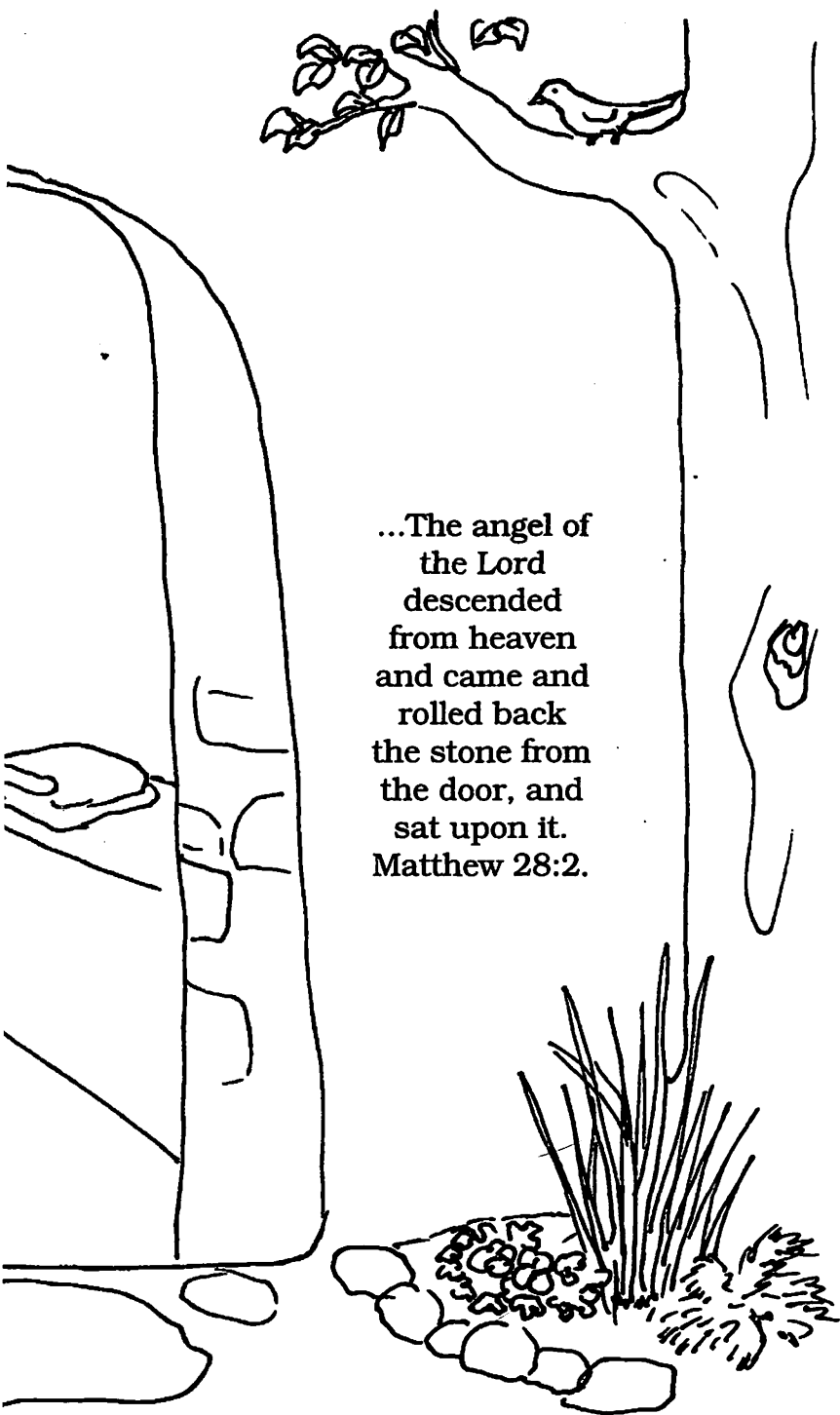
They knelt down in front of Him and worshipped Him.

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. Go tell My brothers that I will see them in Galilee."

When the women told the disciples that Jesus was alive, they didn't all believe it. Peter and John ran to the tomb to see. They saw Jesus' grave clothes were empty. John saw it, and he believed. They went back to their home.

—Joanna Booher





...The angel of  
the Lord  
descended  
from heaven  
and came and  
rolled back  
the stone from  
the door, and  
sat upon it.  
Matthew 28:2.

## The Faith of Sister Ma Yuquin

(A true story.)

In the country of China, saints who follow Jesus Christ live under the threat of police raids, house burnings and arrests. One warm night in May, 2001, Sister Ma Yuquin and her family were sleeping in their house when Chinese Public Security Bureau police broke down the door and stormed into their home. Yanking them from their bed mats, the police pulled Sister Ma, her son, and daughter-in-law into the front courtyard where they were arrested for being Christians. Yu Zhongju, a family Christian friend, was also taken with the family to the police station. They left behind a five-year-old boy in the house alone and terrified.

At the police station, officers took each person to a separate room.

"Tell us who else belongs to your illegal church?" screamed one officer at Sister Ma.

Sister Ma would not give one name.

"You must give us names and sign this paper against your Jesus or we will give you shock treatment!" ordered the officer.

Sister Ma did not want to deny Jesus Who had washed away her sins in His blood. She did not want to lose the peace she felt with God nor did she want to miss heaven. She held steadfast to the Lord.

This made the police mad. He grabbed an electrical shocking stick and prodded all over Sister Ma's body. While she cried in pain, he screamed, "Deny your Jesus, and give us names!"

From the room beside this one, Sister Ma could hear her son's cries of pain as the police beat him. It hurt her heart to hear her son crying. Within her mind, she prayed for all of them to be strong and true for Jesus Christ.

The pain in her body was terrible, but she would not part with Jesus, Who had suffered on a rugged cross so

that she could be saved from sin. Her torturer needed to be saved from the awful sins he was committing. He was serving the devil who is a cruel, destructive master. That was why he and the other officers were so mean—they listened to the devil who was taking them to a lake of fire after death.

Sister Ma and her family clung to Jesus Christ who gave them the strength and grace to hold on until the torture ended. Heaven shone even brighter to them when they learned that Yu Zhongju had crossed over and joined the angels, leaving behind her torturers.

Sister Ma still cries when she testifies about the abuse that her family suffered, but their faith and trust is anchored securely in the Lord who is their best Friend.

Do you love Jesus even if others about you don't? Do you know Jesus as your best Friend in time of trouble? We can learn a lot from our Chinese brothers and sisters.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTION:

1. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body?
2. What kind of tomb did Joseph put Jesus in?
3. What did Joseph put over the door?
4. What did the priests want Pilate to give them so no one would steal Jesus' body?
5. What day did the women come to the tomb?
6. Was the stone over the door and were the soldiers guarding the tomb?
7. Why not?
8. Could Jesus stay dead?
9. Who did the women meet on the road?

**LESSON TEXT:** Matt. 27:57-28:10; John 20:2-10.

(Answers: 1. Joseph. 2. A new tomb. 3. A stone. 4. Soldiers. 5. Sunday. 6. No. 7. Because an angel came down and rolled the stone away and sat on it. 8. No. 9. Jesus.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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**Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 20, 2003**

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## **BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVE**

On Sunday Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus had been. She stood outside it and cried. She turned around and saw a man standing there. He said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

She thought this must be the gardener who took care of the flowers. She said, "Sir, if you have stolen my Lord Jesus' body, tell me where you have put Him. I will take Him away."

The man was not the gardener. He was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Mary." Mary knew then that it was Jesus. She said, "Master."

Jesus said, "Don't touch Me. I have not yet gone up to heaven. Go and tell my brothers that I am going up to see my Father and their Father."

Mary went and told the disciples.

That same evening, all the disciples were together in a room. Suddenly Jesus was standing right there with them. Jesus said, "Peace be unto you. My Father sent Me here and as He sent me, I am sending you." Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Ghost."

Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus came. The disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus. Thomas said, "I don't believe it. Unless I see Him myself and see the nail holes in His hands and in His feet, I won't believe it."

About eight days later all the disciples were together and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked. Jesus appeared right with them. He said to Thomas, "Look at me, Thomas. Touch the holes in My hands and feet. Believe, Thomas."

Thomas said, "My Lord and my God."

Jesus said, "You believe because you have seen Me. Blessed are the people who have not seen Me but still believe."

Jesus did many other miracles and many other people saw Him alive. Jesus led His disciples out into the country. He said to them, "Go everywhere and preach the gospel to all people. Baptize them in My name." Jesus lifted His hands and blessed them. As He blessed them He was carried away from them up into the sky.

—Joanna Booher



**...Be not faithless, but  
believing. John 20:27.**



## Quadriplegia

(A true story.)

Like all 14-year-old girls, Jennifer has hopes and dreams about her future, the things she wants to do and who she wants to become. She isn't boastful or proud about her past, but Jennifer has already conquered some very big challenges in her life.

When Jennifer was three-years-old, she was playing with her two brothers and a few cousins on a swing set that was not cemented into place. The weight of the children swinging back and forth caused the whole swing set to fall and it pinned down Jennifer right on her neck. It was such a serious accident that Jennifer has been on a ventilator since then in order to breathe.

Never again would Jennifer walk out on the playground nor would she climb the monkey bars with her hands and feet. Jennifer cannot comb her hair, wash her face or wipe her eyes when she cries. Her hands and feet are not able to obey any command because these connecting nerves were cut away from her brain nerves. Her body feels a touch, a hug, a pat or pain, but she cannot make her body move to respond in return. Jennifer has *quadriplegia* which means she cannot move any of her body from the neck down.

Though her body is paralyzed, Jennifer is able to think and talk very well. She has passed the eighth grade in school, loves to read and communicate on the computer with her friends.

She spends most of her waking hours in a motorized wheel chair, controlling it with a mouth control. Jennifer also writes with a mouth pen—quite a challenge with an air ventilator to control her regular breathing.

One friend who has encouraged Jennifer is Joni who has been quadriplegic for 35 years. Jennifer and Joni agree that one of their favorite scriptures is "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil.4:13. This gives them courage to face each trial and problem that comes with being paralyzed.

Jennifer's mother says, "I have learned to be thankful for what we do have....a precious girl with a wonderful smile who is ready to do what most 14-year-olds want to do: play, go to the mall, ride horses, use the computer and have fun."

Next time you see someone in a wheel chair, smile, speak pleasantly to the person, and treat the person with respect. They are daily conquering problems in life that most of us don't know anything about. Let's encourage these brave soldiers.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was crying at Jesus' tomb?
2. Who did Mary think the person who talked to her was?
3. Who was He?
4. Who did Jesus say He was going up to heaven to see?
5. Who appeared to the disciples?
6. What did Jesus tell the disciples to receive?
7. Why didn't Thomas believe that Jesus was alive?
8. What did Jesus say the people who haven't seen and still believe are?
9. Where did Jesus say we should preach the gospel?

**LESSON TEXT:** John 20:11-29; Matt. 28:29.

(Answers: 1. Mary Magdalene. 2. The gardener. 3. Jesus. 4. His Father and our Father. 5. Jesus. 6. The Holy Ghost. 7. Because he hadn't seen Him and touched Him. 8. Blessed. 9. Everywhere.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 27, 2003

## THE HOLY GHOST

After Jesus was carried up into heaven, the disciples stood looking up into the sky. Two men stood by them in white clothes. The men said, "Why are you looking up into the sky? This same Jesus Who was taken away from you will come back in the same way."

The disciples went back to Jerusalem. They went into an upper room and prayed. On the feast day of Pentecost a sound of rushing wind filled the whole room where they were sitting. Flames of fire appeared and sat on each of their heads. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and started to talk in other tongues as the Holy Ghost told them to.

There were many religious people in Jerusalem right then. These religious people had come from many other countries. They came to see what was going on. They were amazed at what they heard. They said to each other, "Aren't all these men from Galilee? How is it that we can each hear them preaching about God in our own language?"

Other people laughed and said, "These men are drunk."

Peter stood up and said, "Men of Judaea, listen. We are not drunk. It is too early for that. This is what was said would happen. It's a prophecy come true. The Scriptures said that God would give His Spirit to men and women and they would preach. Whoever calls on God's name will be saved.

"Listen. Jesus of Nazareth was a man who did miracles and signs in front of you. God made Him able to do that. He was crucified and rose from the dead. This Jesus is the Lord and the Christ that we have been waiting for."

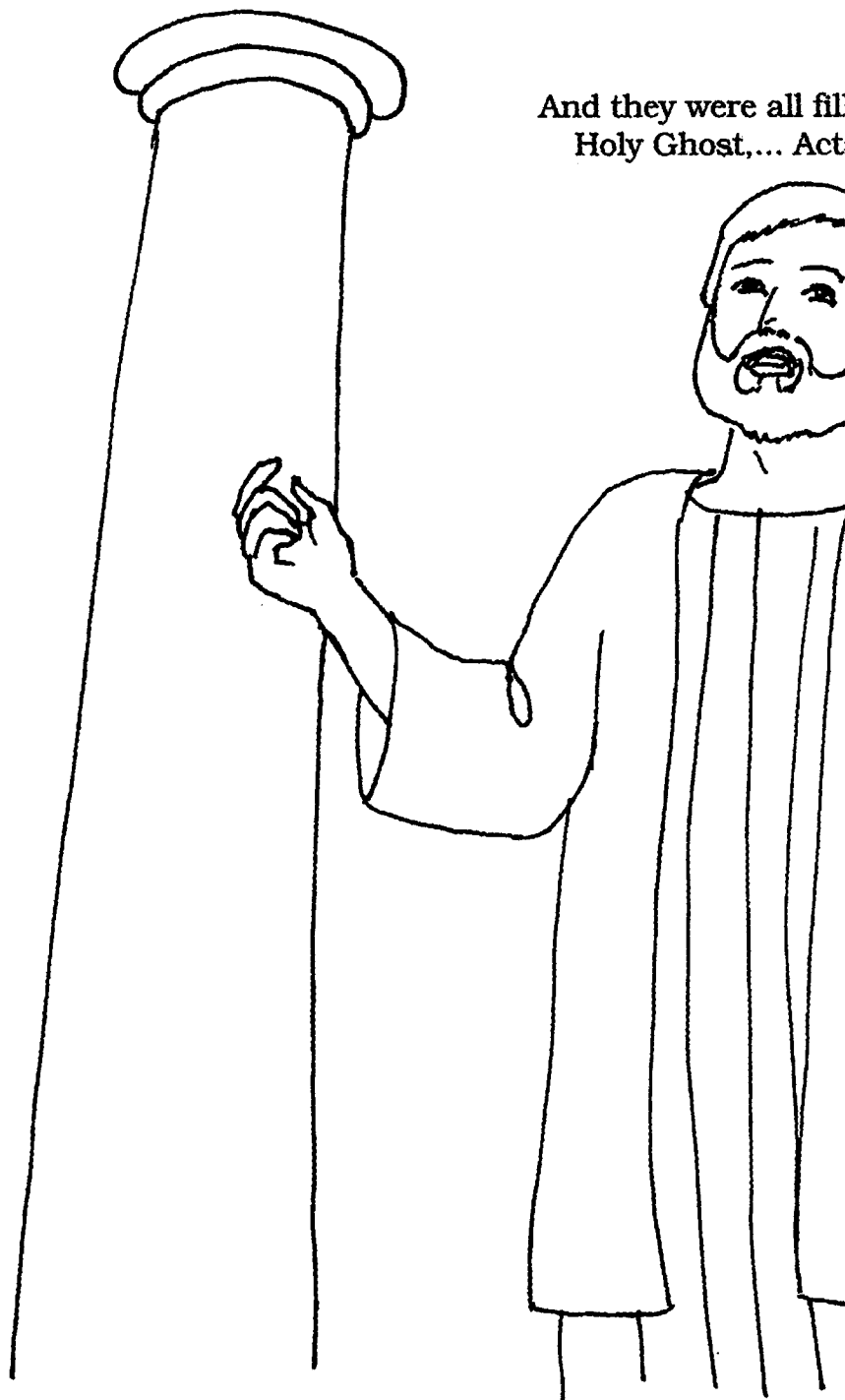
When the men heard that, they were pricked in their hearts and said, "What shall we do?"

Peter said, "Repent of your sins and be baptized in Jesus' name. Then you will receive the Holy Ghost."

Three thousand people got saved that day. They were all together and shared their food. They loved each other and more people got saved.

—Joanna Booher

And they were all fil  
Holy Ghost,... Act



ith



## Uncle Riley's Story

Jerry was at a family reunion when he met Uncle Riley for the first time. He had heard stories about Uncle Riley, their grandpa's brother, but had never heard his side of the stories. Right after lunch, Jerry sat down on a bench beside his friendly uncle.

"Uncle Riley," said Jerry. "I heard you liked to ride bulls when you were a boy."

"Hal Hal Hal" laughed Uncle Riley, slapping his knee in merriment. "Who has been telling you stories? That big brother of mine?"

By now most of the family had turned their heads to see what Uncle Riley was laughing at and Jerry's face felt warm because of the quietness in the room. Jerry looked to his grandpa and the twinkle in his eyes gave Jerry the courage to continue.

"Well, he said you could ride a bull backwards," replied Jerry.

"Hal Hal Hal" laughed Uncle Riley, again slapping his knee. "Let me tell you how that happened. Old Red, our family bull, was up in the ramp pen because our dad was planning to load him in the trailer and take him to the sale barn. Well, your grandpa was supposed to feed him but for some reason—and now I don't remember why—he wanted me to feed Old Red for him."

The brothers exchanged knowing looks as the family listened.

"Well," continued Uncle Riley, "Old Red was sort of a family pet. Earl nor Dad had told me that he was mad about being penned up so I ignorantly went into the pen to feed him hay instead of throwing it over the fence like I was later told to do.

"I think," said Uncle Riley as he put his arm around Jerry. "I think my brother Earl set me up because he wanted to see what I would do when Old Red blew steam and came at me."

Grandpa laughed. "Now, Riley, you

should have known better than to get in that pen! After all, you were thirteen years old and knew the way of bulls."

Uncle Riley laughed and continued. "When Old Red came charging after me, I started climbing the fence but I wasn't fast enough. Old Red's head made contact with the seat of my pants and he threw me right on his back, my face looking at his big rump. I started hollering and the bull started jumping. Dad and Earl came running. Just as I slid off the bull, he went for Earl who had climbed the fence. Dad got me up and out of there before the bull could make a second come back."

By now all the family was smiling as Uncle Riley finished his story. "I was never so scared in all my life and I've kept my promise to the Lord that I would never again ride a bull."

The family laughed and some cheered. Story telling at family reunions can be so much fun.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. How will Jesus come back?
2. What kind of sound filled the room on the day of Pentecost?
3. What sat on each of their heads?
4. What did the disciples start doing?
5. What did the other people hear the disciples preaching about?
6. Who did Peter say Jesus was?
7. How did the men feel when they heard that?
8. What did Peter tell them they should do?
9. How many people got saved that day?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts. 1:9-14; 2:1-47.

(Answers: 1. In the sky. 2. A mighty rushing wind. 3. Flames of fire. 4. Preaching in other languages. 5. God. 6. Christ. 7. Pricked in their hearts. 8. Repent and be baptized. 9. Three thousand.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Aug. 3, 2003

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## THE LAME MAN

Peter and John went to the temple at prayer time. There was a lame man who sat at the gate of the temple. He couldn't walk. He had been like that all his life.

The lame man sat at the temple gate and asked people for money. He needed the money to buy food.

Peter and John came by. They said to him, "Look on us."

The lame man looked at them. He thought they would give him some money.

Peter said, "I don't have any money, but I do have something else. In Jesus' name, get up and walk."

Peter took the lame man's hand and pulled him up. Right away, the lame man felt strength come into his feet and ankles. He jumped up and stood. Then he started jumping around and praising God. He went with Peter and John into the temple. He was so happy he kept jumping and praising God.

All the people saw this man who had been lame. They came to see what had happened.

Peter preached to them. He said, "Why are you looking at us as though we made this man walk. We didn't make him walk. God, whose Son is Jesus, made him walk. You killed Jesus, but God wants you to repent of your sins and accept His Son."

Many of the people who heard Peter felt bad. They were sorry for what they had done. Five thousand of them got saved that day.

The priests heard that Peter and John were preaching about Jesus in the temple. They did not like that at all. They made Peter and John come to a meeting. They said to them, "Stop preaching about Jesus."

Peter said, "The lame man was healed in Jesus' name. Jesus is God's Son and He is the only way we can be saved and accepted by God."

The priests said, "We don't want you to preach anymore about this Jesus."

Peter and John said, "We should do what God tells us instead of what you tell us. We have to tell about the things we have seen and heard."

—Joanna Booher



Peter said, S  
have I none;  
have give I t



and gold  
such as I  
Acts 3:6.

# The Dog Hunt

(A true story)

"Marc," said his mother's voice on the phone. "Midnight was hit by a car and I can't find her. Do you think you could come home from your work and help me find her?"

Midnight! His black Lab-Chow that he loved so much was hurt!

Marc leaned against the wall of the drive-thru restaurant where he worked and shook his head as he spoke. "Mom, I wish I could leave but this Saturday night we are so busy that I couldn't possibly leave early. I will be praying for Midnight and hope you all find her. As soon as I get home, I'll take care of her. Just keep looking and I'll help when I get there!"

"Okay, Marc," agreed his mom. "Your prayers will help. I'm not for sure how badly she was injured but she is a fighter."

After he hung up the phone, Marc could hardly think clearly to wait on customers. He thought about how they had brought Midnight home from the dog pound and how happy she had been to be loved and belong to a good family. "Lord, we must find Midnight and help her now," he prayed.

Then Marc thought of his best friend, Trevor. Maybe Trevor could help his mom look for Midnight until he came home from work. He called Trevor who agreed to help look for Midnight. A co-worker at the restaurant said he would take Marc's clean up duty for \$20. "Boy, some friend," thought Marc as he paid the \$20 and left. He was so worried about Midnight that the money didn't matter at the moment.

When Marc arrived home it was dark. Trevor's car was in the driveway and he had brought others to hunt also. Marc rushed into his house to get a coat and flashlight. His little sister and four cousins were coloring in color

books, tears of sorrow for Midnight rolling down their cheeks. He knew Midnight had not been found yet so he rushed outside to join the hunt.

It was getting cold—below the 20's—and Marc worried that Midnight's loss of blood would cause her to freeze. He continued to pray for her as he and others searched ditches, yards and barns within three miles of their house. Finally, at 11:30 p.m., Mom called off the search, saying, "When dogs get hurt they like to run away and hide. Sometimes they will come home on their own."

Marc fell asleep on the couch, praying that Midnight would be there in the morning. Mom found Midnight on the front porch early the next day. She was hurt but after a visit to the vet, Midnight was soon back to normal and happy to be home. Marc and his family was happy to have her home, too.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the lame man sit?
2. What does it mean to be lame?
3. Had the man ever been able to walk?
4. Did Peter and John have any money to give the lame man?
5. What did Peter tell the lame man to do?
6. Who healed the lame man?
7. How many people got saved that day?
8. Who didn't want Peter and John to talk about Jesus?
9. Who did Peter say they should obey instead of the priests?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 3:1-4:22.

(Answers: 1. At the gate of the temple. 2. Not able to walk. 3. No. 4. No. 5. Get up and walk. 6. Jesus. 7. Five thousand. 8. The priests. 9. God.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



**Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Aug. 10, 2003**

## LYING TO GOD

Many people got saved. They loved each other and shared their food and things. If they had houses and lands they sold them, and brought the money to the apostles.

A man named Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, sold some land and brought some of the money to the apostles. They wanted the apostles to think that they were bringing all of the money.

Peter said to Ananias, "Why are you trying to lie to the Holy Ghost? You aren't lying to men. You are lying to God."

Ananias fell down and died. The young men carried him out to bury him.

Sapphira came in. The apostles said to her, "Did you sell your land for this much money?"

Sapphira lied and said, "Yes. We sold it for just that much."

Peter said to her, "The men who buried your husband are at the door. They will carry you out too."

Sapphira fell down and died. Everybody who heard about this was afraid.

The apostles did many miracles too. They healed many sick people. People laid their sick friends in the streets so that Peter's shadow might touch them and heal them.

The priests were jealous of the apostles. They put the apostles in jail.

In the night, an angel let the apostles out of jail and said to them, "Go and preach in the temple."

The next day the priests sent to get the apostles out of jail. They weren't there. Someone came and told them, "The men you are looking for are in the temple preaching."

The priests brought the disciples to a meeting. They said, "Didn't we tell you to stop preaching about Jesus?"

The disciples said, "We should obey God instead of man."

The priests were angry. They wanted to kill the disciples. They had the disciples beaten and told them not to preach in Jesus' name again.

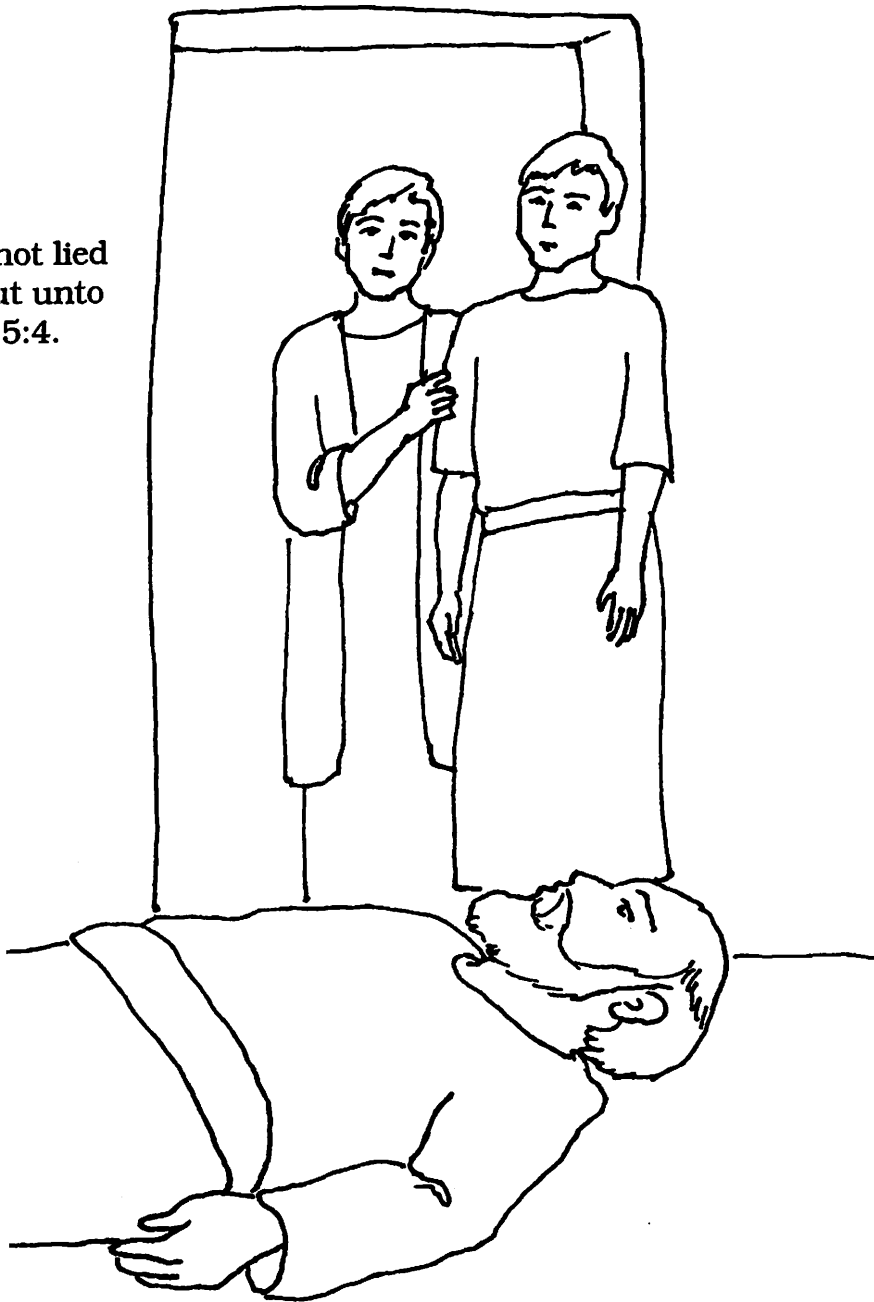
The disciples kept preaching everywhere, in the temple and in the houses. They couldn't stop talking about Jesus.

—Joanna Booher

...Thou  
unto m  
God.



not lied  
it unto  
5:4.



## Lord, Save the Wheat

Dust billowed around the huge green and yellow combine as Ricky drove it through a golden wheat field in Kansas. He watched the long, sharp blades spin around and around on the cutter head in front of him. Breathing deeply of the sweet "bread" smell of wheat, Ricky looked to the west horizon where the orange-red sun was setting for the night. While the western sky looked to be on fire, the southern sky was blowing in dark gray clouds with forks of lightning stabbing at the ground.

Ricky glanced across at the ripe wheat waiting to be cut. If he didn't get that dry wheat into the granary before the rain came, then he might have to wait two days or so before he could harvest it. Wet wheat cannot be stored in the gigantic granaries because it will mold or mildew. If wheat spoils like that, it can't be used for anything. Otherwise good wheat can be made into flour and flour is used for bread, cakes, cookies, donuts and all sorts of other good things to eat.

Not wanting any of this wheat to be beaten and wet with rain, Ricky increased the speed of his combine. "Dear Lord," he prayed. "You have control of the weather. Please hold back the rain until we can get this field harvested."

Across that area of Kansas other farmers were harvesting wheat and watching the coming rain clouds also. Perhaps they were praying too—anyway, Ricky was. As he turned the corner to go across the field he saw the jagged breaks of lightning move closer toward him. The air was hot and still, waiting for the sudden cloud burst that was soon to come.

"Lord, please hold back the rain!" pleaded Ricky as he turned another corner in the field.

He was bringing in the unharvested wheat as quickly as he could but he could already smell the damp breeze from the thunder clouds as they rolled closer.

Finally, Ricky had all the grain cut! Now to pour it into the grain truck and cover it with a waterproof tarp! He drove the combine across the field to the grain truck, positioned the combine chute over the truck bed and unloaded the wheat. As it poured into the truck, little drops of rain began to splatter on the combine. There, the last of the wheat was in the truck bed! While Ricky turned the combine and prepared to turn it off, a couple of men put a tarp over the wheat. Then Ricky and the men jumped into the grain truck just as the clouds burst open and poured down heavy sheets of rain.

"Thank you, Lord," exclaimed Ricky. "You held back the rain until the wheat was safe!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did the Christians share?
2. Why did they share?
3. Did Ananias and Sapphira bring all the money that they had?
4. Did they lie about it?
5. Did God know they were lying?
6. What happened to them because they lied?
7. Who was jealous of the disciples?
8. Where did the priests put the disciples?
9. Who let the disciples out of jail?
10. Did the disciples stop talking about Jesus?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 4:32-5:42.

- (Answers: 1. Food and things.  
2. Because they loved each other.  
3. No. 4. Yes. 5. Yes. 6. They died.  
7. The priests. 8. In jail. 9. An angel. 10. No.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Aug. 17, 2003

## A MAN NAMED STEPHEN

The apostles preached about Jesus and many people believed that He was the One who would save them from their sins. A lot of people became disciples of Jesus. Some of them started to complain, though. They said, "We have women whose husbands have died and they need money to live." They told the apostles, "You need to do something to take care of these women."

The apostles said, "Find seven men who are filled with the Holy Ghost and have them take care of this. We need to keep preaching."

The people chose seven men. They prayed for them and laid their hands on them. One of the seven men was Stephen. Stephen was full of the Holy Ghost. He had faith and did miracles.

The priests were jealous of Stephen. They made him come to a trial. Some men lied and said, "Stephen blasphemes and says things against holy things and God's law."

Everyone looked at Stephen. His face looked like the face of an angel.

Stephen said, "Men and brethren, God talked to Abraham and told him what to do. Abraham had faith in God. He did what God said.

"God was with Moses. God made Moses the princess' of Egypt's son. God used Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt where they were slaves.

"The people of Israel disobeyed God many times. They killed the preachers who told them to stop being bad. God got angry at Israel. God still gets angry at Israel because they still won't listen to Him.

"You, the people of Israel, have killed God's Son. You don't want to believe in Him. Jesus is the Son of God."

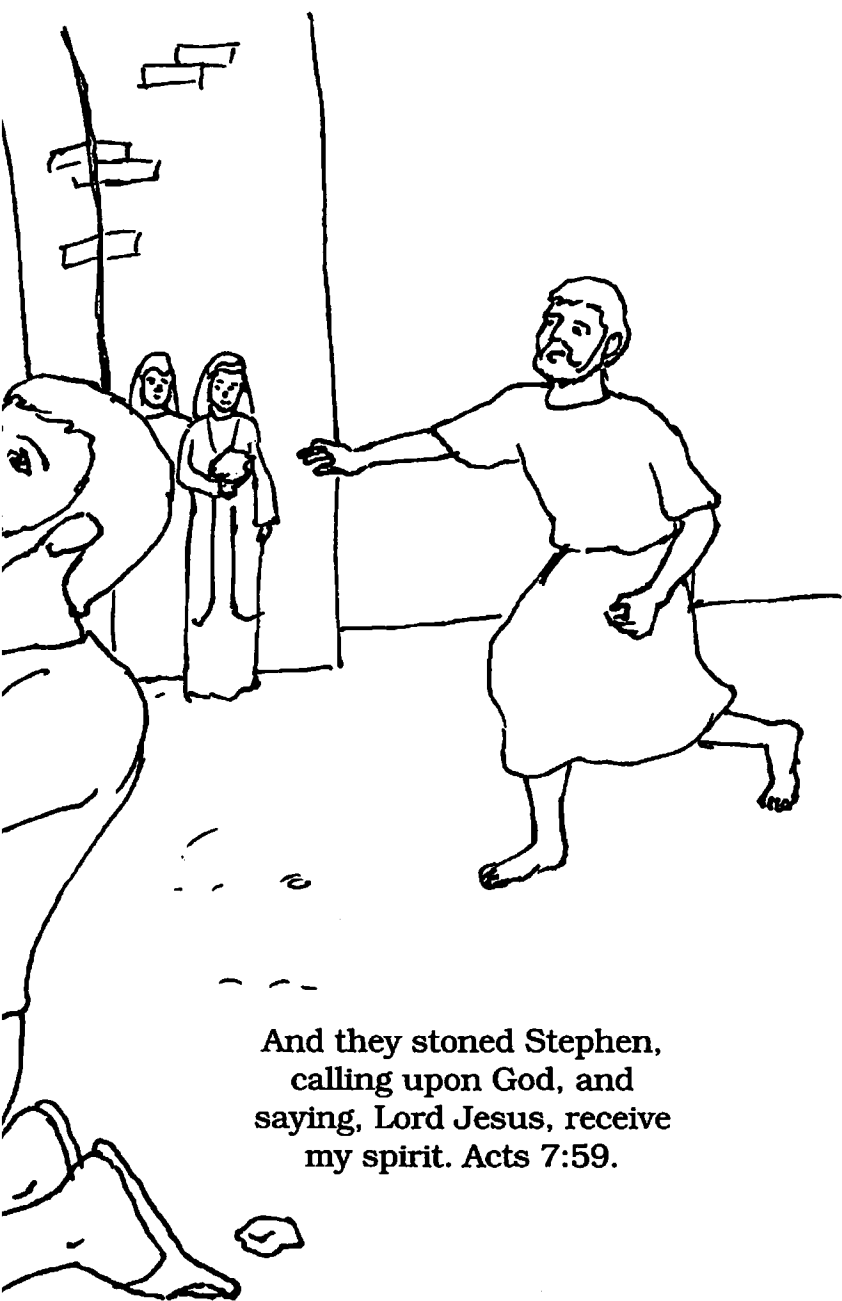
The men were so angry. They ran at Stephen and bit him. They pulled him out of the city and threw stones at him.

Stephen looked up to heaven and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He said, "Lord, don't make these people guilty for this sin." After he said that, he fell asleep. Stephen died.

The people who stoned Stephen to death took off their coats and laid them down in front of a man named Saul.

—Joanna Booher





And they stoned Stephen,  
calling upon God, and  
saying, Lord Jesus, receive  
my spirit. Acts 7:59.

## Learning About Jesus Christ

(Based on a true story.)

"Little Pui-Wing, I want you to attend the Christian missionary school," said her mother. "I think the Christians' God is more powerful than Buddha. You can teach me what you learn."

"Yes, mother," replied obedient Pui-Wing. To a young Chinese girl living in the Philippines, going to school was an honorable privilege.

Each morning her mother would wrap cold rice in a cabbage leaf, hand this lunch to Pui-Wing at the door of their home and whisper, "Learn well so you can teach me, too!"

Soon Pui-Wing was telling her mother about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died on a cruel cross to save from their sins all people of every nation.

"Hum," said her mother, wagging her head. "Buddha has never said he would save people from sin. He just enlightens people about their sins and a good Buddhist will want to do good."

"Well, Jesus has more power—He can save someone from sin and sin won't be in the heart anymore," said Pui-Wing. At this her mother was thoughtful.

Then one day the missionary sent a message home with Pui-Wing to her mother. "Please come at 9:00 and be with us for chapel time."

Smiling with hope, Pui-Wing looked into her mother's face. "You will come, won't you, Mother?"

Her mother smiled. "Yes, I will come."

The next morning Pui-Wing was so excited to have her mother walk to school with her. Other parents came also and listened while their children sang a few songs about Jesus Christ.

The missionary then told the old Gospel story.

"You must humble yourself, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, ask forgiveness of your sins, and He is faithful and just to take those sins out of your heart. Who would like to bow before Jesus Christ and have their sins washed away?"

A handful of parents stepped forward and Pui-Wing's mother was one of them. After a good, tearful prayer, Pui-Wing's mother felt light and happy in the Lord. She wanted to learn more and more about this wonderful Saviour and how to please Him.

Together Pui-Wing and her mother grew in the Lord. Later, in life, Pui-Wing learned to be a dentist and she moved to the United States. Recently, she was named the director of the Pacific Garden Mission Medical/Dental Clinic. She is so happy to help little girls and boys because she knows it made her life better because she learned about Jesus.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the Christians think needed taken care of?
2. How many men did the apostles say the Christians should find?
3. What did the apostles say the seven men should be full of?
4. Who was jealous of Stephen?
5. Did the men at the trial say good things about Stephen?
6. Who did Stephen say Jesus was?
7. Did the priests want to believe that Jesus was God's Son?
8. What did the priests and people do to Stephen?
9. What happened to Stephen?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 6:1-7:60.

(Answers: 1. The women. 2. Seven. 3. The Holy Ghost. 4. The priest. 5. No. 6. God's Son. 7. No. 8. Stoned him. 9. He died.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Aug. 24, 2003

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## THE ETHIOPIAN

One of the seven men who were supposed to help take care of the women was named Phillip. Phillip went down to preach about Jesus in Samaria. The people of Samaria believed in Jesus when they heard what Phillip said and saw the miracles that Phillip did. Phillip, through Jesus' power, made devils come out of people. People who couldn't walk or who were sick were made well. Lots of people in Samaria believed in Jesus.

The angel of God came to Phillip and said, "Go down to this certain road."

Phillip went. The road was in the desert. As Phillip was on that road, a man came by. The man was riding in a chariot. He was an Ethiopian and very important. He worked for the Queen of Ethiopia and took care of her treasures. This man was reading the Scriptures.

Phillip went near to the chariot and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The Ethiopian said, "How can I understand if no one explains it to me?"

The Ethiopian asked Phillip to come up and ride in the chariot with him.

Phillip told the Ethiopian what the Scriptures meant. They were talking about Jesus. The Ethiopian believed what Phillip said about Jesus.

The chariot went past some water. The Ethiopian said to Phillip, "Here is some water. Can I be baptized in Jesus' name?"

Phillip said, "If you believe with all your heart that Jesus is God's Son, you can."

The Ethiopian said, "I believe."

Phillip and the Ethiopian went down into the water and Phillip baptized him.

After that the Spirit of God caught Phillip away. The Ethiopian didn't see him anymore. But, the Ethiopian was so happy to know about God's Son, Jesus, Who had died for his sins. He went on his way very happy.

Phillip was found somewhere else. He kept preaching as he went from city to city.

—Joanna Booher



...And he answered,  
said, I believe that  
Christ is the Son of  
God.  
Acts 8:37



po  
sns  
pun

## Stitching Time

(A true story.)

When Paula first came to live in a small village in Zambia, Africa, the women flocked about her, staring at her clothes and red hair and at the peculiar boxes that she put in her hut. Some of the women just came inside to see what she had in those boxes.

Wanting to make friends with the neighborhood women, Paula set a box in the center of the one room hut. "This is my sewing machine," she said as she opened up the box. "I sew clothes with it."

Wide-eyed with wonder at such a marvelous machine, some of the women were hesitant to touch it—but not Irene. Irene wanted to feel it and examine how it worked. Her eyes watched every move Paula's hands made in operating that sewing machine. Irene wanted to sew with that sewing machine herself!

So Paula promised Irene that she would teach her how to sew. They agreed to a day and the time. Paula had the sewing machine ready and was waiting for Irene to arrive at the appointed time. However, the clock ticked past the time and Irene was not there. Pacing the floor of her hot hut, Paula watched an hour and then two hours tick by on her clock and still Irene had not come.

"Okay, this does it," said Paula to herself. "I won't give her a sewing lesson today."

She was ready to gather up her machine when she heard soft footsteps on the dirt path and then a gentle knock on her door. Paula opened the door to see Irene's smiling face nod in greeting. "Thank you for this great honor of teaching me to sew," she said. A piece of clean fabric was neatly tucked under Irene's arm.

Paula smiled back but her voice was firm as she said, "Irene, I know I promised that I would teach you how to sew and I know it is important in Zambia to keep promises, but in my culture, it is just as important to be on time to an appointment. That's a promise, too. You were late and missed our sewing time."

Irene stared at Paula for a moment, then she opened her mouth and laughed. "Why didn't you tell me before that keeping the time was a promise? From now on we will be on *your* time and I will try not to be late again."

This promise warmed Paula's heart. She and Irene spent the rest of the evening talking and laughing as they sewed. From then on Irene arrived on time for her lessons and she learned so well that soon she was giving sewing lessons to others.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Phillip preaching at?
2. Did the people of Samaria believe in Jesus?
3. Did Phillip do miracles in Samaria?
4. When the people saw miracles did it help them believe in Jesus?
5. Who told Phillip to go to the desert road?
6. Who was riding by in a chariot on the desert road?
7. What was the Ethiopian reading?
8. Did the Ethiopian want Phillip to tell him what the Scriptures meant?
9. Did the Ethiopian believe in Jesus?
10. Who caught Phillip away?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 8:5-8, 26-40.

(Answers: 1. Samaria. 2. Yes. 3. Yes. 4. Yes. 5. An angel of God. 6. An Ethiopian. 7. The Scriptures. 8. Yes. 9. Yes. 10. The Spirit of God.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Aug. 31, 2003

## SAUL

Saul was a young man who watched Stephen get stoned to death. Saul hated the Christians. He went around putting them in jail.

Saul went down the road to Damascus to put Christians in jail. Suddenly, a bright light shone all around him. Saul fell on the ground. The other men who were with him fell on the ground too. Saul heard a voice out of heaven saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you fighting Me?"

Saul said, "Who are You, Lord?"

The Lord Jesus said, "I am Jesus, Who you are fighting."

Saul was shaking and very surprised. He said, "What do You want me to do, Lord?"

Jesus said, "Get up and go to Damascus. I will tell you what you should do there."

The other men didn't hear the Lord talking to Saul. Saul got up but he couldn't see. The men took his hand and led him into the city.

In the city of Damascus there was a disciple of Jesus named Ananias. The Lord said to Ananias, "Get up and go to the street called Straight. Go to the house of Judas, a tanner. There is a man there named Saul. He is praying. He has seen a vision of a man named Ananias coming to him and making him see again."

Ananias said, "Lord, I have heard about this man Saul. He has been really mean to the Christians."

Jesus said, "Go see him. I want him to work for Me. He will preach to the Gentiles so they can be saved too."

Ananias went to see Saul. He came into the house where Saul was. He put his hand on him and said, "Brother Saul, Jesus sent me to you so you would receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost."

Scales fell off of Saul's eyes and he could see. He got up and was baptized in Jesus' name.

After that Saul went to the church and preached about Jesus to the people. The people were surprised. They said, "Is this the Saul who used to put people in jail for believing in Jesus?"

Saul stayed with the disciples in Damascus for many days.

—Joanna Booher



And he said, Who art thou, Lord?  
And the Lord said, I am Jesus  
whom thou persecutest:... Acts 9:5.



## Freedom to Have a Prayer Time

Jerry was glad to see his friends at school after being apart all summer. "Hey, what have you been doing with yourself?" was the usual question. Each one was telling about vacations and fun times they had enjoyed. On the steps after school, Thomas quietly shared some good news with Jerry.

"I went to a church camp this summer," said Thomas. "I got saved and baptized. Now I have been reading the Bible and praying. You're a Christian, Jerry, when do you have your devotions?"

"Wow, it's great that you are saved, Thomas!" exclaimed Jerry as he slapped his friend's shoulder with approval. "I try to read from this devotional book every morning before I come to school and then I pray."

"I'm trying to read in the morning, too," said Thomas, "but it is hard to get it done when there is so much to do before rushing off to school."

"Maybe we could set a time aside at school and read and pray together," suggested Jerry.

"That's a great ideal" agreed Thomas.

"I'll bring my devotional book tomorrow and we will see what is the best time to be together," said Jerry.

"Good! Thanks, Jerry, this will be a great help to me!" said Thomas.

The next day Jerry did as he promised and brought his devotional book to school. He had it laying on the top of his books when another student saw it.

"Why did you bring a prayer book to school, Jerry? Didn't you know that it's against the law?" said Jimmy.

"No, it isn't against the law," replied Jerry. "I talked to my parents about it last night and they said our

laws are to protect our freedom to pray and to worship God."

"But not at school," said Jimmy. "This is a public school and you aren't to pray on public grounds."

"Look, Jimmy, the Congress of the United States opens each session with prayer and they are in the Pentagon, a public building for sure. If you don't want to read my prayer book or join me in prayer, that's your choice but I have the right to pray and read a prayer book if it isn't bothering my studies. Case closed. Thank you."

Jimmy just looked at Jerry, then he walked away. During lunch break, when Jerry and Thomas were alone, they prayed for Jimmy that he would have a change of attitude and become a Christian. The two boys continued to have their prayer time and the Lord blessed them for it.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What did Saul want to do to the Christians?
2. Where was Saul going to put Christians in jail?
3. What shone out of heaven on the road to Damascus?
4. Who talked to Saul from heaven?
5. Was Saul surprised that it was Jesus talking to him?
6. Did Saul want to do what Jesus said?
7. Who did Jesus send to make Saul see?
8. Was Ananias afraid to go see Saul?
9. What did Saul do after he could see and was baptized?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 9:1-22.

(Answers: 1. Put them in jail. 2. Damascus. 3. A bright light. 4. Jesus. 5. Yes. 6. Yes. 7. Ananias. 8. Yes. 9. Preached about Jesus.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 7, 2003

## DORCAS

Peter went to a city called Lydda. In that city there was a man who had been sick for eight years with the palsy. His name was Aeneas. Peter went to him and said, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ has made you well. Get up and make your bed."

The man got up right away. He was well. All the people who lived there saw him and believed in Jesus. People who lived in Saron saw him too and believed in Jesus.

In the city of Joppa there was a woman named Dorcas. She was a disciple of Jesus and did good things for people. There were women whose husbands had died. They couldn't make very much money. Dorcas made coats and clothes for them because they were too poor to buy their own. The people loved her.

After some time Dorcas got sick. She got so sick that she died. The people she had been nice to were very sad. They washed Dorcas' body and laid it in an upper room.

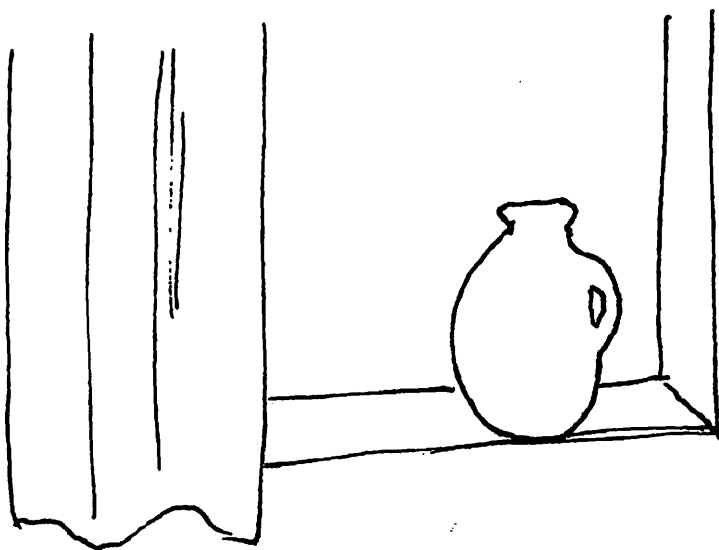
Some Christians heard that Peter was in a nearby city. They sent two men to Peter. They asked him to come to Joppa right away.

Peter came with the two men. When he came to the house where Dorcas' body was, many people were there crying. The ladies whose husbands had died were there. They showed Peter the coats and clothes Dorcas had made for them when she was alive. They showed Peter the room where Dorcas was.

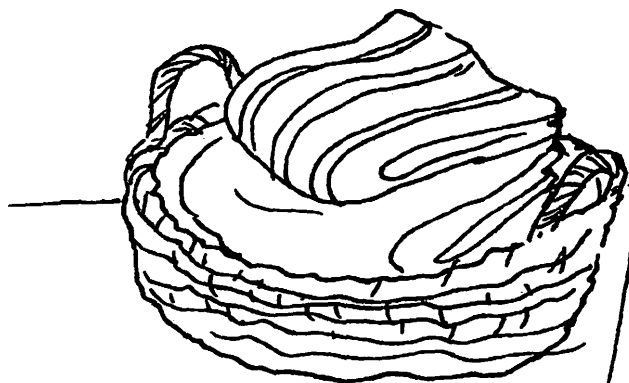
Peter told them all to go out. He knelt down and prayed beside Dorcas' body. Then he said to the body, "Tabitha, get up."

Dorcas opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. Peter took her hand and lifted her up. He called the Christians and widows in and gave Dorcas to them alive. They were very happy.

Many people heard about how Dorcas had been dead and was brought back to life again. They believed in Jesus. —Joanna Booher



**...This woman was  
full of good works and  
almsdeeds which she  
did. Acts 9:36.**





## Protection From The Tornado

(A true story.)

Gene and Christine Walker were eating supper with their younger two sisters and brother, aunt and cousin, when their great-grandmother called. "Have you all been listening to the weather report?" she asked. "There is a tornado sighted near Moore. You all need to get to a storm shelter!"

Right then the tornado warning sirens sounded in Moore, Oklahoma, and the family stopped eating and joined neighbors at a safety shelter. The younger children were crying as Aunt Moyra, Gene and Christine helped them down the stairs. Their parents were at a Family Life conference in Florida and little Rebekah was missing her mama.

"Let's pray and ask Jesus to protect us," said Christine. She held her two-year-old sister as the family prayed. They could hear a roaring outside and then there was a knock on the shelter door. A neighbor tried to open the door but the wind was so strong that she couldn't be let in. Sixteen people and two dogs were crowded into that small shelter, praying for themselves and for those who were in the tornado's path. They could hear things banging together as stuff flew through the air. Finally, it was quiet outside.

When the family stepped out of the shelter, they were shocked at the sight of twisted wood, broken glass, uprooted trees, smashed cars and other damage done by the destructive winds of the tornado.

Since the streets were blocked with debris, no vehicles could drive them to their aunt and uncle's house so the Walkers walked two and a half miles to get there. "We must call Dad and Mom and tell them about what

happened," said Gene. "The Lord has protected us and I'm glad that lady was okay even though she didn't make it into the shelter. Our house is ruined but we are safe and that's the most important thing."

Gene's parents agreed. They flew back to their family as soon as possible and Rebekah was so happy to have her mama hug her. "That big tomato came and ate my McDonald's," she cried to her mother. "Now I can't have a birthday party."

"Oh yes, you will have a birthday party," comforted her mother. "The Lord has spared your life and we are going to celebrate when you turn three years old."

"We do have much to be thankful for," agreed her dad. "Most of our belongings were not thrown out of the house though it was destroyed. We will rebuild the house, repair and replace our things but the Lord saved the lives of our children whom we could never replace. That was His mercy to us." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. How long had Aeneas been sick?
2. Who did Peter say made Aeneas well?
3. Did people believe in Jesus when they saw Aeneas was well?
4. What kind of things did Dorcas do for people?
5. Did the people love Dorcas?
6. What did the Christians do when they heard Peter was in a near city?
7. Did Peter come with the two men?
8. Did Peter pray to God?
9. Who made Dorcas come to life again?

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

(Answers: 1. Eight years. 2. Jesus Christ. 3. Yes. 4. Good things. 5. Yes. 6. They asked him to come. 7. Yes. 8. Yes. 9. God.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 14, 2003

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## CORNELIUS

In the city of Caesarea there lived a man named Cornelius. Cornelius was the leader of a band of soldiers. He feared God and all the people in his house did too.

Cornelius saw a vision of an angel coming to him. The angel said to him, "Cornelius, your prayers and the good things you do have come to God's attention. Send men to Joppa and ask for a man named Peter. Peter will tell you what you should do."

When the angel left, Cornelius sent for two of his servants and one of his soldiers. He told them to go and find Peter.

The next day Peter was up on top of the house where he was staying. He was praying. Peter got hungry and wanted to eat. He had a vision. In his vision he saw a sheet come down from heaven. In the sheet there were lots of animals. There were lions and pigs and snakes and eagles.

A voice said to Peter, "Get up, Peter. Kill an animal and eat it."

Peter said, "No, I can't do that. I've never eaten a dirty animal like that. It's not fit to eat."

The voice said, "Peter, what God has made clean don't call unclean." This happened three times.

Peter wondered what the vision meant. Three men knocked on the gate and asked to see him. The Spirit of God said to Peter, "Don't be afraid. Go with these men. I have sent them."

Peter got up and went. They brought him to the house of Cornelius. Cornelius had asked many of his friends and family to come over. When Cornelius saw Peter he bowed down on the ground. Peter said, "Stand up. I am a man too."

Peter asked Cornelius why he had sent for him. Cornelius told him about the angel that had talked to him.

Peter said, "I see now that God doesn't love some people more than others. Everyone, no matter who they are, if they serve God—God accepts them."

Peter told Cornelius about Jesus, God's Son. The people were so happy to hear. They believed in Jesus and God's Spirit came into them.

—Joanna Booher



**...What God hath cleansed, that call  
not thou common. Acts 10:15.**



## Don't Cheat Yourself

"Linda, did you get your math homework done last night?" asked Sarah when the girls met in the school hall one morning.

"Well, sorta," replied Linda. "It was hard. Did you get it figured out?"

Sarah nodded. "My dad helped me. He's good with numbers and he showed me how to do the problem solving questions. I have a hard time knowing whether to add, subtract, divide or multiply."

"Me too," agreed Linda. "I guess I should have asked my dad. He may have helped me. He has a lot of math problems himself when he does the paper work for his business. I wish we didn't even have to do math!"

Sarah laughed. "My dad says life has math in it so I need to learn how to do it and not complain, but numbers can be so contrary sometimes. Dad says I need to make sure I keep my columns straight when I line up those big numbers; you know, the ones' place, the tens', hundreds' and like that."

"Yeah, and in division it takes a lot of work keeping columns straight as I subtract below and divide above the line," remarked Linda.

"I'm glad we have computers or calculators to do math for us," said Sarah. "I'm tempted to use one on my school work."

"Oh, that would be cheating," said Linda quickly. "I don't like math either, but I don't want to cheat."

"I know some of the other students use a pocket calculator," said Sarah. "I don't know if the teacher knows but the students do it quite a bit of the time."

"Then the students aren't learning how to do math and when it comes test time they will be confused and make a low grade," replied Linda.

"Oh, they have a way of getting around that, too," said Sarah. "If they

can't sneak a calculator to their desk, then they take a cheat sheet with answers on it."

"That's terrible!" exclaimed Linda. "You don't do that, do you, Sarah? That really is cheating themselves from learning and the rest of us from a good grade because the teacher grades by the highest score down."

Sarah's face turned warm. "I haven't cheated with them," she replied, "though I will say I have been tempted to do it. You're right, though, in that a cheater only cheats himself because he never *learns* how to do his work."

"Yeah, and then a cheater has to depend on someone to help him all the time. It's okay to get instructions from your dad like you did, Sarah. I might have my dad help me. But he says I have to do the work and learn how to work the problems myself."

"Thanks, Linda, for helping me decide not to cheat in math," said Sarah. "You're a real friend."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. What was Cornelius?
2. Did Cornelius fear God?
3. Who came and talked to Cornelius?
4. Who did the angel tell Cornelius to send for?
5. What was Peter doing on top of the house?
6. What kind of animals did Peter see?
7. Did Peter want to eat the animals?
8. Who did the voice say had made the animals clean?
9. Does God love some people more than others?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 10.

(Answers: 1. The leader of soldiers. 2. Yes. 3. An angel. 4. Peter. 5. Praying. 6. Unclean animals. 7. No. 8. God. 9. No.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 21, 2003

## PETER IN PRISON

King Herod decided to hurt the Christians. He killed James, the brother of John. The Jews were glad. King Herod decided to kill Peter too.

King Herod put Peter in prison. Lots of soldiers were around Peter. Peter was chained to two of them. Christians were praying for Peter.

The night before Herod wanted to kill Peter, Peter was asleep in the jail. An angel came to him and hit him in the side. The angel said, "Get up quickly, Peter."

Peter thought he was dreaming. He got up. His chains fell off his hands. The angel said, "Put on your shoes."

Peter did. The angel said, "Follow me."

The angel led Peter out of the prison. They came to the iron gate that led out into the city. The big gate opened all by itself. They walked through. The angel left.

Peter said, "Now I know for sure that God has sent His angel and got me out of prison."

Peter went to Mary's house. There were many Christians there praying. Peter knocked on the door. A girl named Rhoda came to the door. She heard Peter's voice and was so happy. She ran and told the others, "Peter is at the door."

They did not believe it. They said, "You're crazy."

She said, "No, I'm not. It is really Peter."

They said, "Maybe it is his angel."

Peter kept knocking. They opened the door. They were so surprised to see him. Peter told them what had happened. Then he went to another place.

In the morning, Herod sent for Peter. When he found out that Peter wasn't there, he had the soldiers killed.

King Herod went down to Caesarea. Many people came to see him. One day, King Herod sat on his throne and made a speech. All the people shouted, "It is the voice of a god and not of a man."

Right then, an angel hurt King Herod. King Herod got worms that ate at him from the inside. He died because he didn't worship God.

—Joanna Booher





And the angel of the Lord came upon him...And his chains fell off from his hands. Acts 12:7.

## The First Commission

(A true story.)

"Just where is the village of Ibillin?" Elias asked a church elder who was wanting him to go there as a pastor.

"Oh, it isn't far from here," replied the elder. "Just go there for a month and see if you like it or more importantly, if the people there like you. A small community of Melkite live in Ibillin and they will have a place for you to stay. May our Lord Jesus Christ give you wisdom and protect you, Elias."

So the next morning Elias left the Mediterranean coast and drove 35 miles to Ibillin, located in the hills of Galilee. Driving his white Volkswagen up a narrow, stony, winding road between the flat-roofed cement houses and shops, Elias finally reached the top of the hill where the large stone church building stood on dry dirt.

A large, frowning man came out of a small building beside the chapel. "Who are you and what are you doing here?"

"I am Elias Chacour and I was asked by a missionary board to come here and help with your worship services. Mind if I get out of my car?"

The big man stood right beside Elias's car door like a watch dog. "No, you can stay in your car and go back where you came from. We have had enough of stealing preachers in this region."

Elias was silent a moment, then he said, "Mind if we have prayer together right here? Let's ask our Father in heaven about this."

The unfriendly man bowed his head as Elias began to pray. "Our Father, please allow us to communicate on friendly terms. You know the hurt that has been done to Your dear

people and we desire Your wisdom and grace to help them. I don't have any ill will or wrong intentions but I need Your protection and guidance in order to help Your people. In Jesus name I ask these things, Amen."

The man moved away from the door as Elias opened it. "It is Wednesday night and the people are coming soon for prayer meeting," he told Elias. "We will see what they think about you." With these words, he walked away and left Elias to look around the place.

As a Palestinian living in Israel, Elias was used to hostile treatment. He had been away from Israel for six years to study the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Now he had come back to his birth land to teach his people about the peace that comes with knowing Jesus Christ. Would he be accepted? Only God knew.

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Which disciple did Herod have killed?
2. Who did King Herod put in prison?
3. What did the Christians do when Peter was in prison?
4. Who came to Peter in the prison?
5. Did Peter think he was awake?
6. What happened to Peter's chains?
7. How did the gate open?
8. Did the Christians believe that Peter was really out of prison at first?
9. What happened to King Herod because he didn't worship God?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 12.

(Answers: 1. James, the brother of John. 2. Peter. 3. Prayed. 4. An angel. 5. No. 6. They fell off. 7. God made it open. 8. No. 9. He died.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 28, 2003

## PAUL AND BARNABAS

After Saul was a Christian he went into the churches and preached about Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus. The Jews got angry. They wanted to kill Saul.

The Christians told Saul to run away to another city. They helped him get out of the city. They put him in a basket and let him down over the wall.

Saul went to Jerusalem. He wanted to be with the Christians there. They were afraid of him. Barnabas brought Saul to them and told them how that Saul had become a Christian. The Christians believed him. Saul kept preaching and many more people got saved.

The Christians were praying. The Holy Spirit said to them, "I have a work for Saul and Barnabas to do."

The Christians fasted and prayed for Saul and Barnabas. They laid their hands on them and sent them away.

Saul, who was also called Paul, and Barnabas went to many places. In the city of Lystra, there was a man who had never been able to walk. As Paul was preaching he saw this man. He thought this man had faith to be well. Paul said to him, "Get up and stand on your feet."

The man jumped up and stood. The people of the city were so surprised. They said to each other, "The gods have come down from heaven to us."

The people brought animals to sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas did not like that at all. They tore their clothes and said, "No! Don't do that! We are men just like you are. It is the God who made the heaven and earth who made this man well."

People in that city believed in Jesus. Some of them didn't. Some Jews came to Lystra and talked bad about Paul and Barnabas. They made the people so angry that they stoned Paul. They thought Paul was dead and pulled him out of the city.

The Christians stood around Paul. They thought he was dead too. But he got up and walked back into the city.

Paul and Barnabas kept preaching everywhere they went.

—Joanna Booher





...We also are men of like passions  
with you,...ye should turn...unto  
the living God,... Acts 14:15.

## It is Good Enough

(Continued from last week.)

In the hills of Galilee there is a small village called Ibillin. Elias Chacour had a hard climb driving to the big stone chapel and now he was going to have a struggle living by that chapel. The false preacher who had lived in the village earlier had stolen money from the people. He had stripped the chapel of its wood carvings and stained glass. Now the villagers did not want any strange preacher to live in the house beside the chapel.

A big man who called himself the caretaker of the grounds showed Elias the house. "Look at it," he said as he pointed to an open doorway. "The last preacher took the doors when he left. Right inside there is your bedroom."

Elias stooped as he stepped into a little room littered with trash and broken furniture on the concrete floor. In one corner was an old bed with a dirty mattress laying on it.

"Let me show you the kitchen," said the big man as he led the way through a doorway. Elias was tempted to hold his nose when he saw the garbage, crusty dishes and moldy cooking pots thrown everywhere. A lone water tap stuck out from the wall and a dirty gasoline cook stove was nearby.

"Does this place have any gas or electricity?" asked Elias.

The big man shook his head. "Nope, and no modern toilet either. Out there is the toilet," he added, pointing to a tiny lean-to.

Elias sighed. It was going to be rough without a place to bathe and relax but Jesus had not had a place to lay His head, not even a hole like the foxes had.

The big man was watching Elias's face. "Well," he said gruffly. "Take it or leave it. Don't matter to me."

Not willing to disappoint his Lord, Elias looked at the hard face of the

caretaker and smiled. "This is fine for me," he replied. "It is good enough. I will stay."

The big man turned and walked away. Elias understood this rude fellow. Both of them had many of the same obstacles to overcome in life. Because they were Palestinians, the Jewish people did not want anything to do with them. Palestinians were not allowed to improve their lives. They could not get building permits to make new houses. No Palestinian could hold a decent, influential job such as a lawyer, judge, policeman, teacher, etc., and Palestinian children could not go to school past the eighth grade.

Elias had been called to minister to these rejected people. He wanted to teach them about Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah, Who loves them.

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Did the Jews like it when Saul preached about Jesus?
2. Did the Jews try to kill Saul?
3. Were the Christians at Jerusalem afraid of Saul?
4. Who brought Saul to the Christians?
5. Who told the Christians that God had a work for Paul and Barnabas?
6. What did Paul think the crippled man had?
7. Was the crippled man made well?
8. Why did the people want to sacrifice animals to Paul and Barnabas?
9. Who made the crippled man walk?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 9:20-28; 13:1-4; 14:8-20.

(Answers: 1. No. 2. Yes. 3. Yes. 4. Barnabas. 5. The Holy Spirit. 6. Faith. 7. Yes. 8. They thought they were gods. 9. God.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Oct. 5, 2003

## GENTILE CHRISTIANS

Paul and Barnabas preached in many cities. The people of these cities were Gentiles. Many Gentiles believed in Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas went to Pamphylia and told the church there about all the Gentiles who had gotten saved. The Christians were very happy to hear it.

Some Christians from Judea said, "Unless the Gentiles keep Moses' law they can't be saved."

Paul and Barnabas did not think that was right. They went to the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem and asked them about this.

There were Pharisees there who believed in Jesus too. They stood up and said, "The Gentiles need to follow Moses' law."

Peter said, "Brethren, you know that I preached to Cornelius and his family who were Gentiles. They all believed in Jesus and God gave them his Holy Spirit. God didn't keep his Spirit from them because they were Gentiles. God saved them because of their faith just like He saved us. We should not try to make them follow some rules that we haven't even been able to follow."

Paul and Barnabas stood up and told of all the miracles and wonders God had done with them among the Gentiles.

James said, "Brethren, God told the prophets that the Gentiles would be saved. We should not cause them trouble."

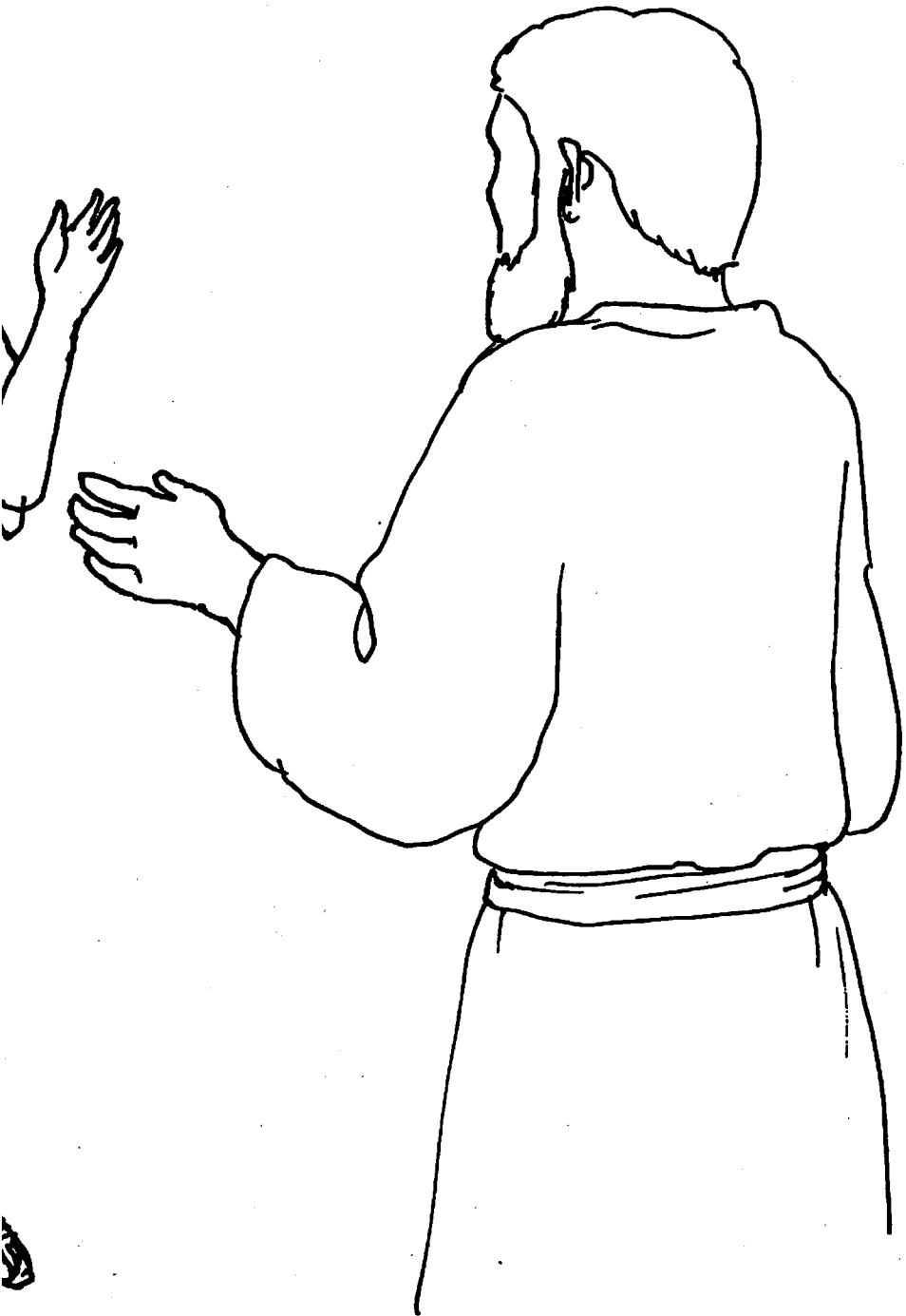
The apostles and brethren all agreed to send a letter to the Gentile churches. In it they said, "We have heard that some people are telling you to obey the law of Moses. We believe the Holy Spirit just wants you not to do these important things: don't eat things offered to idols, don't eat blood, and don't commit fornication. If you obey these things it will be well with you."

When the Gentiles heard this letter they were very happy.

—Joanna Booher



God...put no difference between us and them, purifying  
their hearts by faith. Acts 15:8-9.



## The Open Door

(Continued from last week.)

Elias Chacour laid on his two blankets spread on the concrete floor of the house next to the big stone chapel. Looking down over the village of Ibillin from his open doorway, everyone seemed to be asleep but him. He had lived in Ibillin for over a month and he felt just as much a stranger now as he did when he first came. The caretaker of the chapel and its grounds was even more cantankerous than before.

Physically Elias ached all over and his stomach growled with hunger. Spiritually Elias was discouraged and he was fighting a battle in his mind. The people of Ibillin were ignoring him. Only a few persons attended church and only one of them would sing with him.

"Dear God," Elias prayed, "I am so lonesome and hungry. The people don't act interested in hearing about Jesus Christ and His love for them. Am I to stay here and die alone from hunger? Do You care about me? What am I to do?"

While in prayer, Elias drifted to sleep and he dreamed he was a boy again sleeping with his brothers and sister on the floor of his boyhood home in Biram, Israel. Blankets covered all the family between his father on one side and his mother on the other side. How cosy and warm it was sleeping this way!

Elias' mother had told her children the parable Jesus gave about the neighbor who came knocking on his friend's door about midnight. She said, "All the family was sleeping snugly just so, and the father tried to ignore the knocking. He did not want his family disturbed. But the neighbor stood outside, knocking on the door, begging for bread, so finally the father got up, gave his neighbor bread and brought peace between the families.

(Luke 11:5.)

Suddenly Elias woke up. From this dream and parable the Lord spoke to him. "Go and knock on doors in the village," said the Lord. "Invite the people to come through your open doorway and to visit you. Tell the children my parables about honesty, kindness and other good teachings. I will bless you for it."

"Thank you, Lord!" exclaimed Elias. By early morning he was ready to go. All day he knocked on doors and invited families to church. Every door opened to him and several mothers gave him bread, fruit and drink while he visited. In the evening as Elias walked toward the chapel a group of boys followed him. "Come to the chapel house and I will tell you stories," he told them. The boys smiled at him, then ran away.

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who were Paul and Barnabas preaching to?
2. What did Paul and Barnabas ordain in the churches?
3. What did the Christians from Judea say the Gentiles needed to follow?
4. Where did Paul and Barnabas go to ask about this?
5. Were the Christians happy to hear about the Gentiles getting saved?
6. Who thought that the Gentiles needed to follow Moses' law?
7. Had the Jews been able to follow Moses' rules?
8. Did God save the Gentiles and give them His Spirit?
9. Did God think the Gentiles needed to follow Moses' law?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 14:21-15:35.

(Answers: 1. The Gentiles. 2. Elders. 3. Moses' law. 4. Jerusalem. 5. Yes. 6. The Pharisees who were Christians. 7. No. 8. Yes. 9. No.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Oct. 12, 2003

## LYDIA, THE SELLER OF PURPLE

After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back to the churches where we preached and see how they're doing."

Barnabas wanted to take John Mark. Paul did not want to take John Mark. Paul and Barnabas disagreed so strongly with each other that they parted.

Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas to go with him. They went through Syria and Cilicia, checking on the churches.

Paul and Silas came to Derbe and Lystra. There was a disciple there named Timothy. The brethren at Lystra and Iconium said good things about Timothy. Paul wanted Timothy to go with them.

Paul, Silas and Timothy went around to more churches. They gave them the laws from the apostles and elders. The churches were strong in the faith and more people got saved.

The Holy Ghost told Paul, Silas and Timothy not to preach about Jesus in Asia. They wanted to go into Bithynia, but the Holy Ghost would not let them.

One night Paul had a dream. In his dream a man from Macedonia said, "Come over into Macedonia and help us."

After Paul had the dream they tried right away to go over to Macedonia. They got on a ship and came to Philippi, a city of Macedonia.

On the sabbath day they went out of the city to the riverside. People liked to pray there.

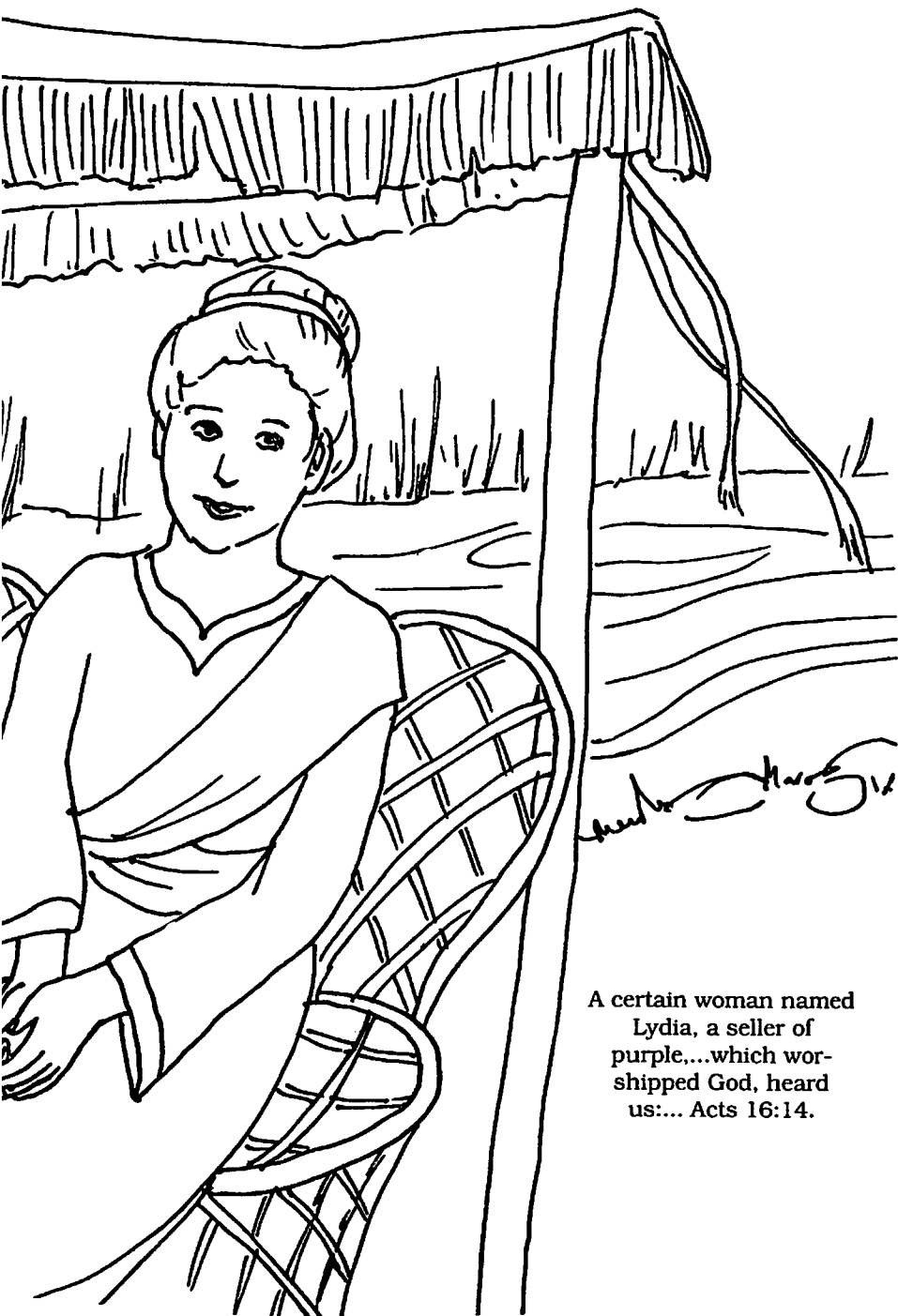
There was a certain woman there named Lydia. She sold purple. Purple was a very expensive dye that people used to color clothes. Only rich people could buy purple clothes.

Lydia worshipped God. She heard Paul, Silas and Timothy talk about God. Her heart was opened and she wanted to do the things Paul talked about.

Lydia was baptized and all the people in her house. She said to Paul, Silas and Timothy, "If you think that I have been faithful to the Lord come into my house and stay there." Lydia made Paul, Silas and Timothy stay in her house and eat and sleep there.

—Joanna Booher





A certain woman named  
Lydia, a seller of  
purple,...which wor-  
shipped God, heard  
us:... Acts 16:14.

## Locked In The Chapel

(Continued from last week.)

After Elias Chacour began to visit the people of Ibillin, Israel, they started coming to church services on Sunday morning. It was wonderful to see the people come inside this 17<sup>th</sup> century chapel located only 30 kilometers from Nazareth where Jesus had lived with his mother.

Many customs and habits have not changed in that area since Jesus has been there. The villagers still walk to most places and from the open doorway of the chapel, Elias loved to watch the groups of families walk up the hill to the chapel.

On Palm Sunday the chapel bells rang at 9:30. Dressed in clean clothes family after family came through the doors until all the benches were full and then people stood in the side aisles and in the back of the chapel. Never before had Elias seen so many attend and he thanked the Lord for everyone there.

During the worship service, Elias realized that many of the people were not friends with each other. Some were angry and would not talk to each other. No one liked Abu Muhib, the policeman, because he represented the Israeli law. In his policeman uniform he and his family sat alone. Elias saw neighbors who were fighting over olive vineyards and he silently prayed for them. How could he restore peace and friendship to this broken community of bitterness and anger?

Suddenly a daring thought crossed Elias' mind. As the worship service ended with the last song, Elias walked quickly down the center aisle and closed the two big wooden doors. The startled people watched as he took an old key from his pocket and locked the only doors to the outside. Back at the altar, Elias faced the congregation.

"This morning during worship service I realized we have only been going through a form because many of you are holding grudges and have bitter-

ness in your hearts toward each other. This is not pleasing to your heavenly Father who sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to bring peace and love to His people. Now I have locked the doors and no one will go out of this chapel until forgiveness has been asked of each other and of God."

The stunned crowd was quiet. The old clock ticked by a silent ten minutes. Elias felt cold and sweaty. What if the people turned on him and he lost their respect? Worse yet they would not then listen to his stories about Jesus Christ who came to save them from their sins. Praying in his heart Elias faced the people of Ibillin who were locked in the chapel.

Abu Muhib stood up, stretched out his arms and said, "I ask forgiveness of everybody here and I forgive everybody. And I ask God to forgive me of my sins." Tears streamed down his face as those about him accepted his apology. Others followed Muhib's example and asked forgiveness. By the time Elias unlocked the chapel doors peace, love and hope had come to the little town of Ibillin, Israel.

(The end.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Paul want to check on to see how they were doing?
2. Did Barnabas and Paul go together?
3. What young man did Paul and Silas meet in Lystra?
4. Did Timothy go with Paul too?
5. Did God let Paul, Silas, and Timothy preach in Asia and Bithynia?
6. Where was the man in the vision from?
7. What lady did they meet in Philippi?
8. Did Lydia believe in Jesus?
9. Where did Lydia want them to stay after she was baptized?

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

(Answers: 1. The churches. 2. No. 3. Timothy. 4. Yes. 5. No. 6. Macedonia. 7. Lydia. 8. Yes. 9. At her house.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Oct. 19, 2003

## THE EARTHQUAKE

As Paul, Silas, and Timothy went to pray a girl followed them. She had a devil in her that made her able to know things. Some men made her work for them. She made them money by telling people their fortunes. This girl cried out as she followed Paul, "These men are servants of the most high God. They will show us the way of salvation."

The girl did this for many days. Paul got tired of this so one day he turned to her and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ come out of her."

The devil came out of the girl. When the girl's masters saw that she couldn't make money for them anymore they were angry. They caught Paul and Silas and took them to the rulers of the city.

They said, "These men are troubling our city. They're teaching us to do things that we shouldn't."

The rulers beat Paul and Silas and put them in prison. They told the jailer to make sure they didn't get away. The jailer put them in the innermost prison. He put their feet in stocks.

At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God. The prisoners heard them.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake. The whole prison shook, all the doors opened and everyone's chains fell off.

The jailer woke up and saw that all the doors of the prison were open. He knew he would be killed because all the prisoners got away. He pulled out his sword to kill himself.

Paul called out and said, "Don't kill yourself. We're all still here."

The jailer was shaking. He called for a light. He came and fell down in front of Paul and Silas. He said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They said, "Believe on Jesus Christ and you'll be saved."

The jailer washed their wounds right away. He was baptized that night with everyone in his house.

He brought them to his house and gave them food to eat. He and everyone in his house were very happy to know they were saved.

—Joanna Booher



He set meat before them, and rejoiced,  
believing in God with all his house. Acts 16:34.



## A Talk About Harry Potter

One autumn evening the Anderson family sat around the table enjoying supper together. Jerry, Linda and Randy were eagerly telling about their day at school while Mother fed baby Allen and listened with Dad.

"Today our teacher put up new things on the bulletin boards," said Linda. "She put up Harry Potter characters because it's getting close to Halloween."

"Oh, our teacher has been reading to us a book about Harry Potter," said Randy, who is in the first grade. "We are going to dress up like him for Halloween."

Mother put down her spoon. "Who said you are dressing like Harry Potter?" she asked. "I don't want my son looking or acting like a wizard."

"Well my teacher said we can!" declared Randy. "Some of my friends wear round glasses like Harry Potter's just for fun and I would like to have some too!"

Mother and Dad exchanged glances and Jerry said, "Randy! That Harry Potter stuff isn't cool! It honors witches and wizards who serve the devil big time! You don't want to be like him and displease God."

"Well," said Randy thoughtfully because his big brother's opinions had weight with him. "Don't your friends like Harry Potter?"

Jerry shrugged. "Some of them talk about him but they think he is funny and kid's stuff. They don't believe in all that magic."

"My friends think he is cute," said Linda. "But they don't want a boyfriend who looks like him. I don't know why so many people like him anyway."

Dad cleared his throat. "For one thing the nature of the story appeals to the flesh and the imagination. In other words, because the story of Harry Pot-

ter has a lot of evil in it most people of the world like it."

"The books and the films show magic and casting spells as good," added Mother. "By Harry Potter's terms we would be called 'muggles' because we don't do magic. Do you feel ignorant or dumb because you don't cast spells?"

The children shook their heads and Mother continued. "We don't want to have anything to do with Satan and his evil powers yet the Harry Potter books teach that witchcraft and evil is better than being a normal family like we are here tonight."

"Does that mean I shouldn't dress like Harry Potter?" asked Randy.

"You don't want to be like Harry Potter," stated Mother.

"Maybe you should have a visit with Randy's teacher," Dad said to Mother.

"I believe I will," agreed Mother. "Let's pray for wisdom in this matter."

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. How did the girl make money for her masters?
2. What did the girl have in her that made her able to do that?
3. What did Paul do to the devil in the girl?
4. Did the men get Paul and Silas in trouble?
5. Did they beat Paul and Silas?
6. Which prison did the jailer put Paul and Silas in?
7. What did Paul and Silas do at midnight?
8. What happened?
9. Who got saved and baptized that night?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 16:16-34.

(Answers: 1. By telling people's fortunes. 2. A devil. 3. Made it come out. 4. Yes. 5. Yes. 6. His innermost one. 7. Prayed and sang praises to God. 8. An earthquake. 9. The jailer and all his house.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Oct. 26, 2003

## THE UNKNOWN GOD

People got mad at Paul because he preached about Jesus. They wanted to get him in trouble. The Christians did not want Paul to get in trouble so they sent him away to Athens.

While Paul was in Athens he saw the idols that were all over the city. It made him sad to see all these idols. He went to the churches and marketplaces and talked to people about Jesus.

Some of the people who came to listen thought Paul was a bad man who just liked to talk. Other people thought Paul was preaching about some new strange gods.

They brought Paul to Areopagus and said, "We want to know what your new teaching is." Everyone in Athens liked nothing better than to tell or listen to new things.

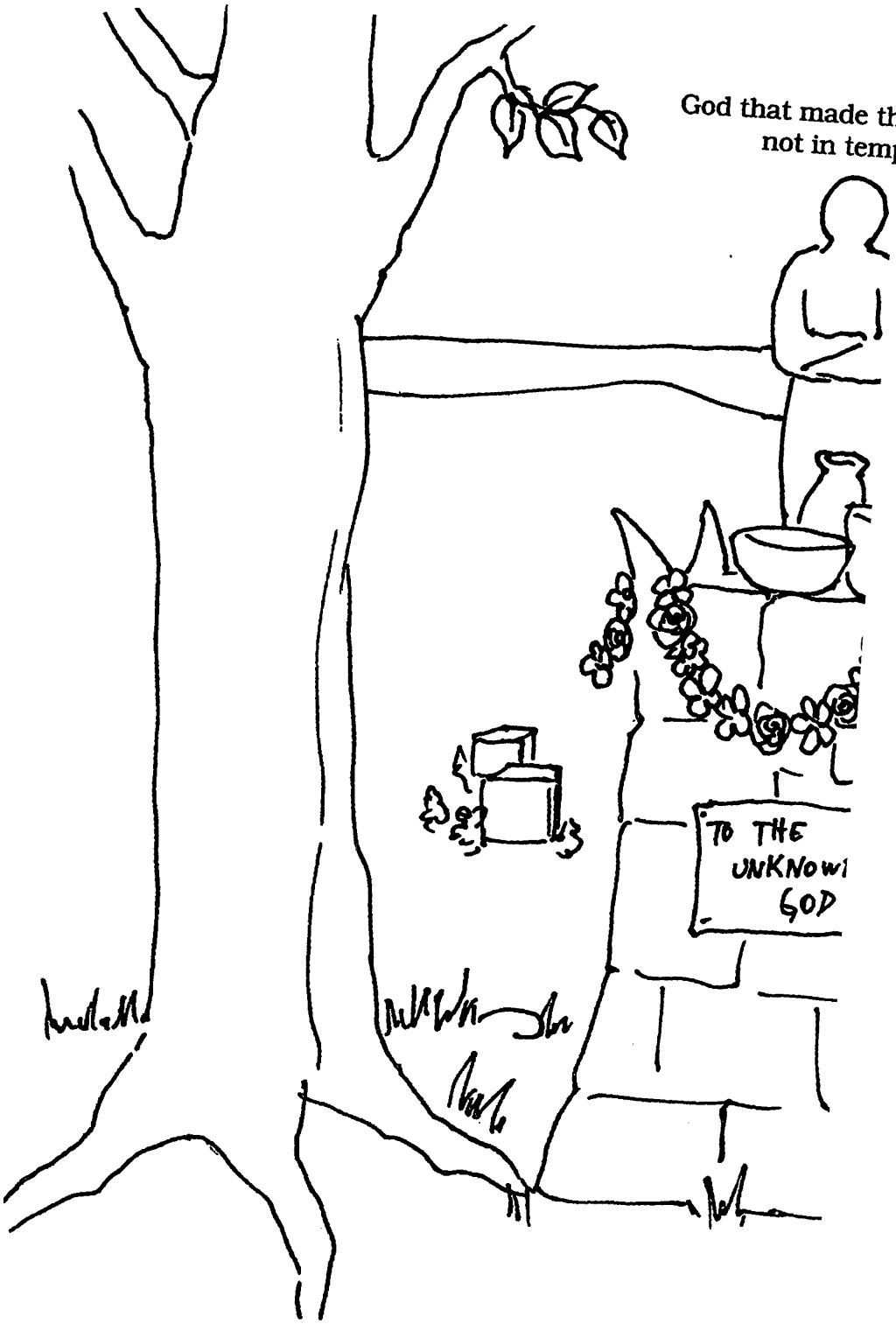
Paul stood up on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I think that you are too superstitious. I saw all the places that you worship your gods in this city. One place said, 'To the Unknown God.' You don't know who he is, but you try to worship him. Let me tell you about Him. This God made all the heavens and earth and everything in them. Because He made everything, we can't worship Him with anything we make. God made us. We are His children. Because we are His children, do you think that He is made of rock or wood? Are we made of rock or wood? God used to let people worship the way they chose. Now God says everyone should repent of their sins and worship Him and His Son. Jesus is His Son. One day Jesus will be our Judge. God raised Jesus from the dead and we should all believe in Him."

Some of the people thought it was silly to think that God raised someone from the dead. Other people said, "We will hear you again later about this."

Paul left these people. Some people believed the words Paul said and followed him. One was a man named Dionysius, a woman named Damaris and others.

—Joanna Booher

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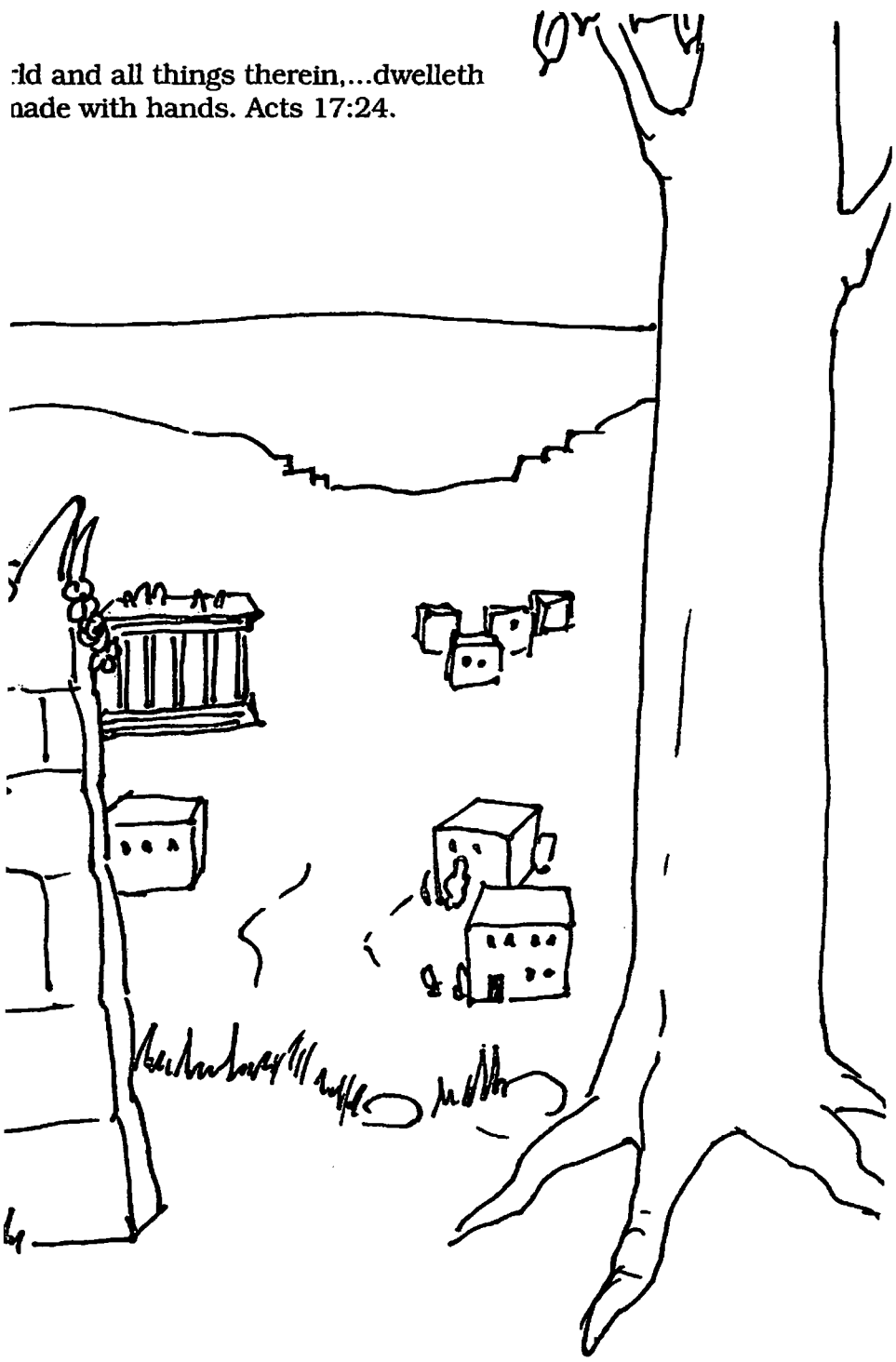


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ld and all things therein,...dwelleth  
nade with hands. Acts 17:24.



## No Harry Potter Clothes

(Continued from last week.)

"Today I plan to visit with Randy's teacher about the evils of Harry Potter," said Mother to Dad. "Please pray for me that I will have kind words of wisdom. I don't want to make his teacher angry, but I don't want Randy to dress and act like a young wizard."

"I agree," replied Dad. "Let's pray together before you go."

All the family gathered in the living room and knelt down to pray before leaving for school. Dad asked the Lord to especially give Mother the right words to say and that Randy's teacher would be understanding.

Randy was excited that Mother was coming to his classroom. "I want you to see my desk and all my friends," he said to her on the way to school. "I think you will like them."

Mother smiled at Randy. "I want to see everything you have to show me," she said. "Most important of all you must give me time to visit with your teacher alone. After you show me things then don't whine at me when I ask to talk with Ms. Taylor. Okay?"

Randy nodded his head. True to obey, Randy did give Mother time alone with Ms. Taylor when he was asked to go to his desk. Then Mother turned and smiled at Ms. Taylor.

"I appreciate how you show each of your students attention," said Mother. "Randy is already learning so many good things! He is so excited when he tells us about school."

"Thank you," said Ms. Taylor with a smile.

"I did want to ask you about something Randy said last night," continued Mother. "He mentioned that he is supposed to dress like Harry Potter on Halloween and I am concerned

about honoring the Harry Potter characters like that."

"Well, Mrs. Anderson," said Ms. Taylor. "I appreciate your concern but I think Harry Potter is harmless. It is full of imagination and keeps the children entertained and laughing."

"It entertains but there are harmful undercurrents of evil in the story also," said Mother. "I have a book about the Harry Potter dangers. Would you like to read it?"

Mother handed the book to Ms. Taylor who glanced at it. "Thank you, Mrs. Anderson, but I don't care to read your book. However, if you do not want Randy to dress like Harry Potter and participate in the games, he does not have to and I will still give him a fair grade."

"Thank you, Ms. Taylor," replied Mother. "We will do something else with Randy that day. I appreciate your understanding in this matter."

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Paul go to keep from getting in trouble?
2. What did Paul see all over the city of Athens?
3. Did some of the people who heard Paul think he just liked to talk?
4. What did the people of Athens like to hear and talk about?
5. What did Paul say the people of Athens were when he saw all their idols?
6. Who was one idol to?
7. Is God made of rock or wood?
8. Can we worship God by making an idol of rock or wood to Him?
9. Did any people believe the words Paul said?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 17:13-34.

(Answers: 1. Athens. 2. Idols. 3. Yes. 4. New things. 5. Too superstitious. 6. The Unknown God. 7. No. 8. No. 9. Yes.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Nov. 2, 2003

## THE SEVEN WITCHDOCTORS

Paul came to Ephesus. He found twelve disciples there. He said, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you have believed?"

The disciples said, "We did not even know there was a Holy Ghost."

Paul said, "What were you baptized into then?"

They said, "We were baptized in John's baptism."

Paul said, "John came and preached that we should repent of our sins. He said we should believe in the man who would come after him. That man was Jesus Christ."

When the disciples heard this they were baptized in Jesus' name.

Paul prayed and laid his hands on them. They were filled with the Holy Ghost and talked in other languages and preached.

Paul went into the church and preached there for about three months. He preached about the kingdom of God. Many people would not listen. They talked bad about the kingdom of God and what Paul said.

Paul left them and went into the school of Tyrannus. He taught there day after day for about two years. Because he was there everyone in Asia heard about Jesus.

God did miracles through Paul. People took handkerchiefs and aprons from Paul to the sick. The sick people were made well and devils left the people.

Some of the Jews who were into witchcraft decided that they would cast devils out of people. There were seven sons of a Jew who said to a man who had a devil, "We command you by Jesus, whom Paul preaches about, to come out."

The man who had the devil said, "I know Paul and I know Jesus but who are you?"

The man jumped on the seven men and fought them. The seven men ran away bleeding and with their clothes torn off.

When the people heard this they were afraid. The people who were believers came and confessed. They showed what they were doing. Many people who used witchcraft brought their books and burned them in front of everyone.

—Joanna Booher



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hem also which used curious arts brought  
ks together, and burned them. Acts 19:19.



## A Good October 31<sup>st</sup>

(Continued from last week.)

"Did you have fun on Halloween night?" Ms. Taylor asked Randy the next day at school."

"Oh, yes!" exclaimed Randy. "We went to visit my Grandma and Grandpa. They always have lots and lots of candy. Mother and Grandma made carmel corn and it was so yummy!" Randy licked his lips and rubbed his tummy.

Ms. Taylor laughed. "So you spent the day eating candy at Grandma's house?"

"Not all day," replied Randy. "We had a wiener roast that night. We played games and sang songs around the campfire. It felt good around the fire because it was getting cold. My little brother was all wrapped up in a blanket."

Randy's friend, Jimmy, was listening and he said, "Yeah, we got awfully cold out trick or treating. I was ready to go home before we finished."

"Did you wear your Harry Potter costume?" Ms. Taylor asked Jimmy.

"Yeah, people thought I was cute," replied Jimmy with a shy smile.

"My big brother says that Harry Potter stuff is just a bunch of nonsense," said Randy. "I wouldn't be caught dead looking like him."

"It sounds like both of you had a nice time on Halloween night," said Ms. Taylor briskly. "Here come some other children who probably have stories to tell also."

Soon the bell rang for school to start. Randy was sitting in his seat

ready to work. The morning went by quickly and right after lunch, Ms. Taylor read a story to the children while they cooled off from recess play.

"We will start reading another book today," said Ms. Taylor. "This book is about the First Thanksgiving and how the Pilgrims celebrated."

Randy raised his hand and Ms. Taylor said, "Yes, Randy?"

"Will this story be true? That Harry Potter story is just a bunch of nonsense."

Ms. Taylor smiled. "Yes, Randy. This story tells about a Thanksgiving that really happened."

(The end.)

--Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Whose baptism had the twelve disciples been baptized in?
2. Had the disciples heard of the Holy Ghost?
3. Did they want the Holy Ghost?
4. When Paul taught in the school of Tyrannus, what country got to hear about Jesus?
5. Did God do miracles through Paul?
6. What did the seven sons try to cast out of a man?
7. Did the devil come out?
8. Is God in witchcraft?
9. What did the people do with their books about witchcraft?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 19:1-20.

(Answers: 1. John's. 2. No. 3. Yes. 4. Asia. 5. Yes. 6. A devil. 7. No. 8. No. 9. Burned them.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Nov. 9, 2003

## PAUL GOES TO JERUSALEM

Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. Many Christians did not want him to go. They were afraid that he would get into trouble in Jerusalem. Many people hated him there.

A prophet named Agabus came to see Paul. He tied Paul's belt around his own hands. He said, "This is what the Jews at Jerusalem will do to the one who owns this belt."

Paul said, "I am willing to be tied up and killed too for Jesus' sake."

Paul went to Jerusalem and saw the Christians there. He went into the temple. Some of the Jews saw him and got a crowd together. They said, "Paul is here. He is the one who is teaching bad things everywhere. He teaches people not to obey Moses' law."

The Jews made the people angry at Paul. They grabbed Paul and took him out of the temple. They beat him. They wanted to kill him.

The chief captain of the soldiers heard that there was a fight going on. He came with his soldiers and put two chains on Paul. He asked the people who Paul was and what he had done.

Some of the people yelled one thing and some yelled another. The captain could not tell what had happened. He had his soldiers carry Paul to the castle.

Paul asked if he could speak to the people. The captain let him speak.

Paul told the Jews how he used to hurt the Christians. He told how God shone a light from heaven and told him who Jesus was. He told how he preached about Jesus now. He told how he even preached to the Gentiles that they could be saved.

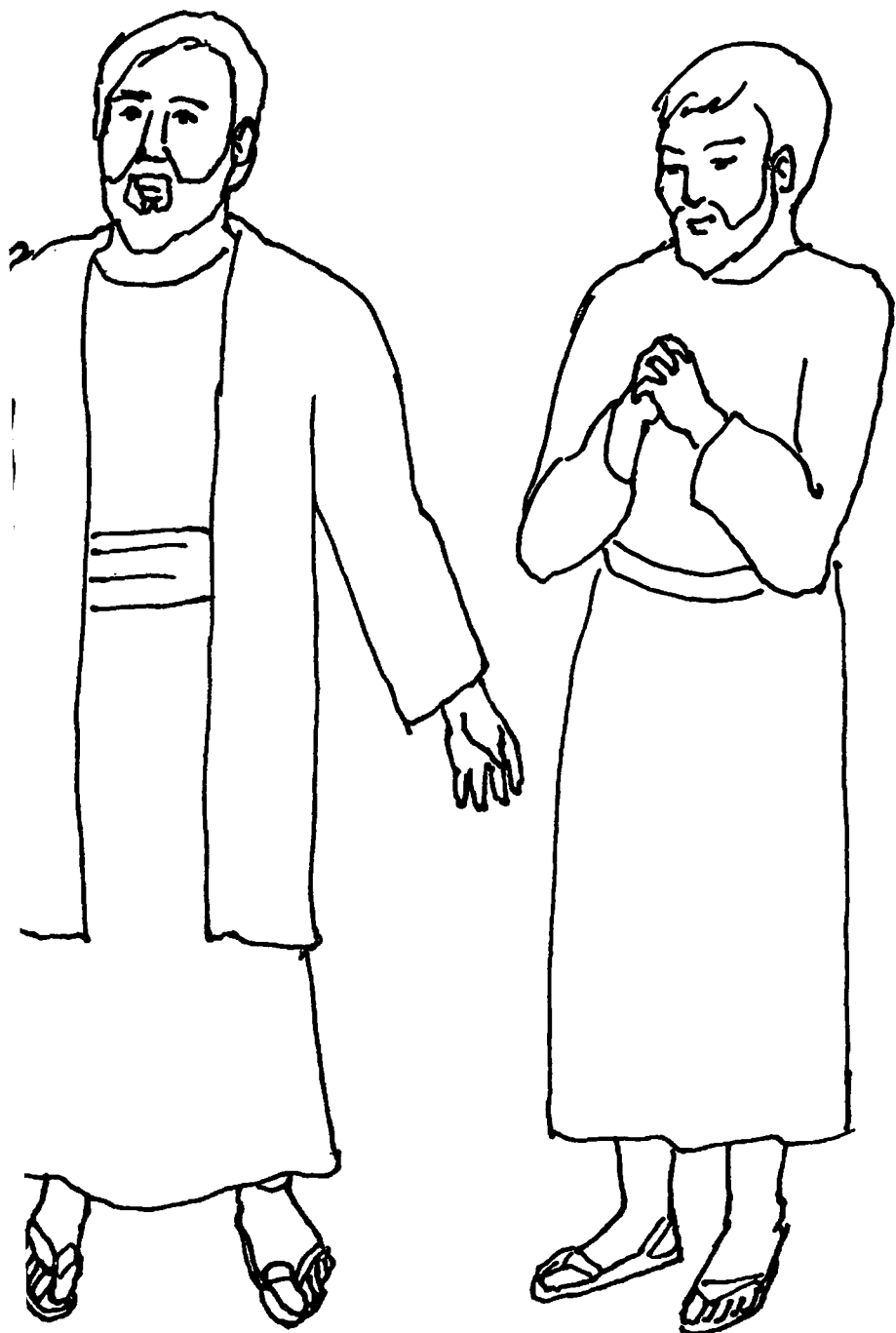
When the people heard this, they got very angry. The captain took Paul into the castle and was going to whip him to find out what he had done wrong. Paul said, "Isn't it against the law to whip someone who is a Roman and you don't know if they deserve it?"

The captain was afraid when he heard that. He left Paul alone for the night.

—Joanna Booher

*I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem  
for the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 21:13.*





# The Lights Were Off

(A true story.)

Five-year-old Doris Duckworth and her sister, Marie, sat quietly in their dark upstairs apartment, waiting for their mother to come home. Marie laid down on the tattered couch trying to sleep, while Dorie sat on a hard stool by the front window watching the headlights of passing cars on the street below.

"What if Mother doesn't come home?" worried Dorie. "Will she be angry at me?"

In her mind Dorie thought over the things she had tried to do right that day. She had fed four-year-old Marie the usual peanut butter and bread sandwich without jelly because there wasn't any left. Carefully, she had filled two glasses with water for them to drink and they had not spilled nor broken anything in the tiny kitchen. They had played with other children in the small vacant lot beside the apartment building but when it grew dark outside Dorie had brought Marie into their apartment, locked the only door to the outside hall and they had left the lights off like Mother always said to do.

Suddenly, Dorie heard the door open downstairs. Two drunk men were laughing and talking loudly! Dorie slipped off her stool and rushed to hide Marie with her own body. She had to protect Marie at whatever cost! "Don't cry, Marie—I'll take care of you," Dorie whispered. They did not know anything about God or Jesus Christ so they only hoped and wished the men would leave. In fear the girls listened as the men clattered around in the hallway. Then they heard the door open again and the men went out. The girls sighed in relief.

Late that night Dorie heard her mother unlock the door and come in.

Dorie ran to meet her mother only to be brushed aside. "Where's Marie? Did you take care of her?" Mother quizzed Dorie as she went to the couch where Marie was sleeping.

"Marie is so cute, but you," said Mother as she turned to Dorie, "you are ugly and a bother to care for."

Mother gathered up Marie and tucked her into bed. Later, Dorie crawled into bed beside her sister wondering why Mother had been angry with her again. She had taken care of Marie and she had left the lights off so those men hadn't known they were home. Why was Mother always upset at her? Dorie drifted off into a restless sleep.

(To be continued next week.)

## QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Paul want to go for the Passover?
2. Did the Christians want Paul to go?
3. What did the Christians think Paul would get into if he went?
4. What did the prophet say the Jews would do to Paul in Jerusalem?
5. Was Paul willing to be tied up for Jesus' sake?
6. How did the Jews feel when they saw Paul in the temple?
7. What did they do to Paul?
8. Who came and took Paul away from them?
9. Did Paul still want to talk to the Jews?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 20:16; 21:10-14, 26-22:29.

(Answers: 1. Jerusalem. 2. No. 3. Trouble. 4. Tie him up. 5. Yes. 6. Angry. 7. Beat him. 8. The chief captain. 9. Yes.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Nov. 16, 2003

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## WE'RE GOING TO KILL PAUL

The chief captain told all the people who were mad at Paul to come see him. He wanted to hear if Paul had done anything wrong.

When they came he brought Paul down to them. Paul saw that some of them were Pharisees and some were Sadducees. The Sadducees don't believe that anyone can come alive from the dead. The Pharisees believe someone can.

Paul said, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee. I am on trial today about the resurrection of the dead."

When the Pharisees and Sadducees heard that they started to disagree with each other. Some of them said, "God may be with Paul." Others thought Paul was a bad man.

The captain came down and took Paul away from them. He was afraid they would tear Paul apart. He put Paul in the castle.

That night Jesus said to Paul, "Be happy, Paul. As you have spoken about Me in Jerusalem, you must also speak about Me in Rome."

The next day forty men made a promise. They promised each other that they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul. They told the chief priest to ask the captain to bring Paul down to them. They told him to pretend like he wanted to talk more to Paul. They said, "When he is coming down, we will kill him."

Paul's sister's son heard what the forty men were going to do. He went to see Paul and told him about it. Paul called a soldier and said, "Take this boy to the captain. He has something to say to him."

The captain listened to what the boy had to say. He told him, "Don't tell anyone else what you told me."

After the boy left the captain said, "Make ready two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen. I want them to go to Caesarea tonight. I want them to take Paul there safely."

The captain sent Paul by night to the governor, Felix. Felix put Paul in Herod's judgment hall and said, "I will listen to you when the people who are mad at you come here also."

—Joanna Booher



And provide them bea  
bring him s



hat they may set Paul on, and  
ito Felix. Acts 23:24.



# Taken To The Orphanage

(Continued from last week.)

Doris Duckworth never remembered any kindness about her mother, but she lived in constant fear of a scolding or beating from her. Mother favored Marie who was younger and prettier than Dorie. In the morning before Mother would leave their upstairs apartment she would instruct Dorie to take care of Marie. Through the week Mother would be gone long hours in the day and night but over the weekend she was home more. The girls remembered seeing their dad only two times and then he was arguing with their mother.

One Saturday morning when Dorie was six-years-old Mother said, "Dorie, pack all your clothes and Marie's in a paper sack. Get ready and come with me."

Dorie hurried to obey. Soon she was walking down the sidewalk on one side of Mother and Marie on the other. Dorie struggled to carry her sack of clothes and keep up with Mother's quick steps. In silence they walked and rode a streetcar. Dorie was excited about seeing so many interesting scenes she had never seen before but she wondered where they were going.

Finally the three of them walked up to a big building with a chain link fence around the yard. Mother rang the doorbell and a stern woman in a uniform dress opened the door.

"Here are two girls," said Mother as she held out Dorie and Marie. "I can not take care of them anymore so I must leave them with you."

"Very well," replied the woman as she pulled the girls inside and took the sack.

"I will try to come back and get them someday," said Mother. "But I must go now. Good-bye."

Without a hug or kiss Mother turned her back, walked down the street and out of sight. Dorie and Marie were

stunned, angry and frightened all at the same time.

"Come girls," said the stern woman. "It is supper time. I will take you to the dining room where you will eat with the other children. You are not to speak unless you raise your hand and have permission."

While she spoke the woman had taken the girls down a wide hall and into a huge dining room where about 65 children sat at tables in three rows. Obediently Dorie and Marie sat down where they were told. On the plate before them were round, red things called beets.

"I'm not going to eat THIS!" exclaimed Dorie.

"You WILL eat everything on your plate," said the stern woman holding a paddle in her hand. That evening Dorie received the first beating of hundreds that she would get over the next six years while living in the orphanage.

(To be continued next week.)

## QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the captain want the people who were mad at Paul to come see him?
2. Did the Pharisees and Sadducees start fighting with each other?
3. How many men promised to kill Paul?
4. What did they tell the chief priest to pretend like he wanted to do to Paul?
5. Who heard about what the men promised to do?
6. Who did Paul tell him to tell?
7. Where did Jesus tell Paul he must speak about Him?
8. What did the captain send with Paul to Caesarea?
9. Did Paul get killed?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 22:30-23:35.

(Answers: 1. To find out what Paul had done. 2. Yes. 3. Forty. 4. Talk. 5. Paul's sister's son. 6. The captain. 7. In Rome. 8. A lot of soldiers. 9. No.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Nov. 23, 2003

## THANKSGIVING

Over two hundred years ago there were Christians who lived in England. They wanted to serve God the way they thought they should. The king of England would not let them. The Christians heard about a country far away called America where people could go and live.

There were hardly any towns in America. There was no running water nor bathrooms. There were no grocery stores. The Christians wanted to go to America anyway.

They got on a ship called the *Mayflower* and sailed across the sea to America. It took several weeks to get there. Some of the people got so sick they died.

Finally, the Christians got to America. They landed at a town called Plymouth Rock. People called them Pilgrims. It was almost winter. The Pilgrims had to build some houses and try to grow some food before the snow came.

The Pilgrims did not grow very much food that fall. They were very cold and hungry that winter. Several of the Pilgrims died.

The next spring the Pilgrims tried to plant more food.

One day an Indian walked out of the woods and started talking in English to the Pilgrims. They were all very surprised. This Indian's name was Samoset. He had learned English from some other English people who had come earlier. He had a friend named Squanto.

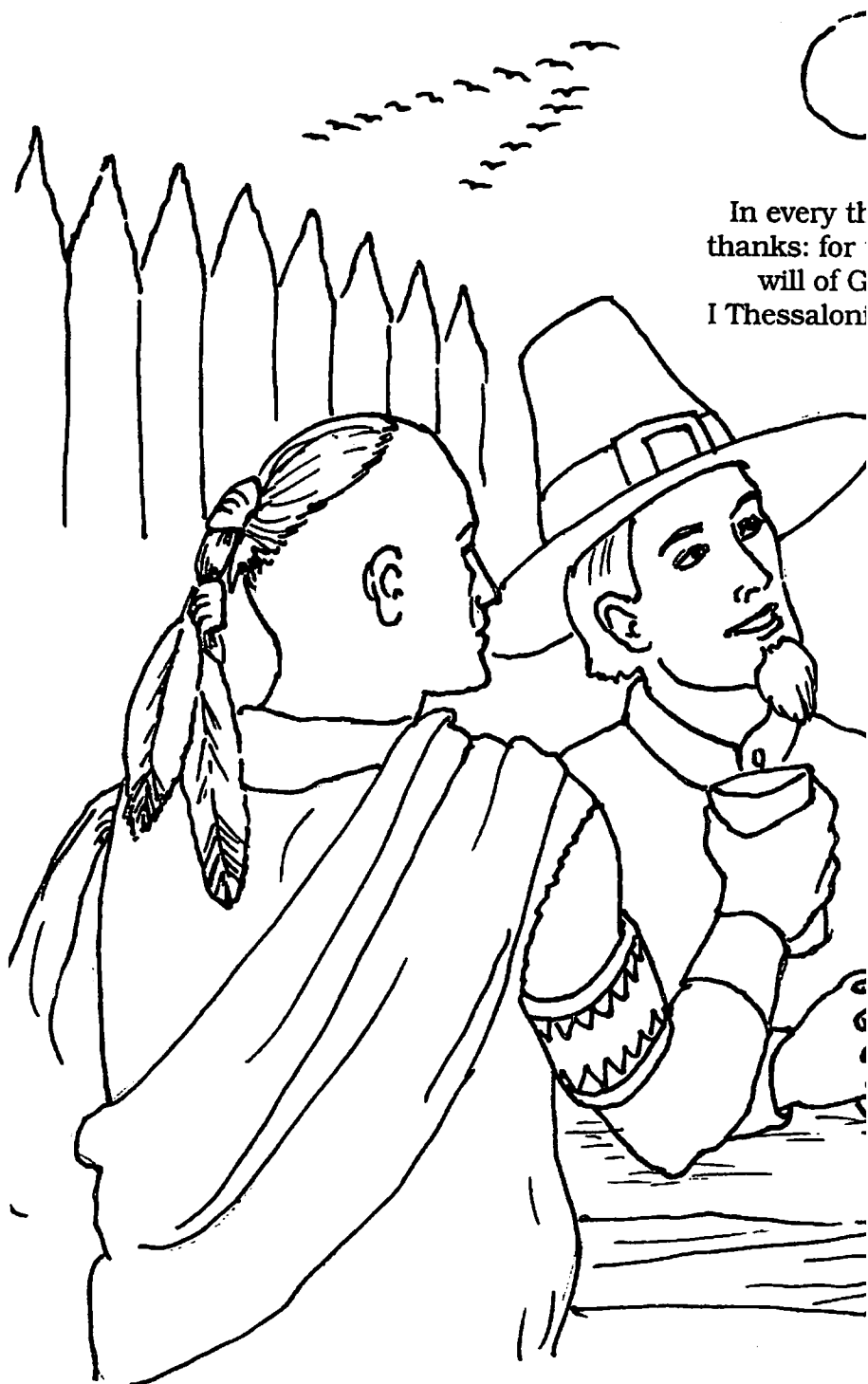
Squanto cared about the Pilgrims. He knew they had been cold and hungry the winter before. He showed them how to put fish around their corn and other things to help their food grow.

That fall the Pilgrims had much food. They were so thankful they decided to have a party. They invited their Indian friends and had a big feast. There were more Indians there than Pilgrims. They thanked God for all their food.

Today we have a holiday called Thanksgiving. On this day we remember the Pilgrims and thank God, like they did, for how He has blessed us with enough to eat.

—Joanna Booher

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5:18.



## Do You Love Me, God?

(Continued from last week.)

After her mother had left her at the orphanage, Dorie decided the best way to survive was to be "tough" and fight for herself. She didn't know how to pray because the only times she heard the names of God or Jesus Christ were as curse words. Her little sister, Marie, was not in the same ward as Dorie so she felt very alone and unwanted.

Every day was the same. The morning bell would ring, each child would arise from a narrow cot, go to a small personal closet, get dressed and go to the dining hall for mush—lumpy, sticky, cooked cereal. At first Dorie would fill her mouth with the mush then raise her hand for permission to go to the bathroom where she would spit the stuff in the drain. One day the matron caught her doing this and she washed Dorie's mouth with lye soap. From then on Dorie made the mush slide down her throat.

Dorie didn't like the sour buttermilk that was often served. She would wait until someone by her would drink their buttermilk then she would trade her full glass for their empty one. "If you don't drink it, I'll get you in the yard," Dorie threatened and every time the other child would drink it because they were afraid of her.

Dorie would push, shove and hit others to get what she wanted. Then the children would say, "We don't want you here, Dorie, leave us alone!" This made her mad and more naughty than ever. Daily she would get a whipping and cry herself to sleep at night. One day the children filed into the drawing room for their first "Gospel Service." Dorie was twelve-years-old and curious about this service. She sat by the back door wondering how long she would have to sit still. When

the young ladies from the university came into the room Dorie thought they were angels. She listened intently as they talked about God and Jesus like they were friends together. One of the girls told the children, "Jesus Christ died on the cross for you, and God loves you!"

Dorie was stunned. *Someone loves me?* "That's a lie! No one loves me!" she declared. Yet her heart was starved for God's love. She wanted it more than anything else in the world. After the girls left Dorie took a chance in making friends with God. "They said You love me, God," she said in her heart. "Nobody else does. If You want me, You can have me!"

Instantly Dorie felt God was with her. A calm peace settled over her and she realized God was her friend and He DID love her. That night she went to bed with a thankful heart.

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the Christians live two hundred years ago?
2. Did the king of England let the Christians serve God the way they thought they should?
3. Where did the Christians want to go?
4. How long did it take to get to America?
5. Did people die on the way to America?
6. Did the Pilgrims have enough to eat the first winter?
7. Who helped the Pilgrims plant their food the next spring?
8. Who did the Pilgrims invite to their party?
9. What do we call this holiday?

(Answers: 1. England. 2. No. 3. America. 4. Several weeks. 5. Yes. 6. No. 7. Squanto. 8. The Indians. 9. Thanksgiving.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Nov. 30, 2003

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## PAUL SPEAKS FOR JESUS

The high priest, Ananias, came to Caesarea to talk about Paul. He brought a man named Tertullus who would speak for him.

Tertullus said to Felix, "We are very thankful for how you have treated us, Felix. Our country is quiet because of you. This man Paul causes trouble and disobeys our law."

Paul said, "I have not done anything wrong. The Jews did not find me causing trouble in the church or anywhere else. I serve God in a way they believe is wrong, but I try always not to offend people or God."

Felix said, "When the captain comes I will hear everything that happened."

Felix had a soldier guard Paul. Paul was allowed to go where he wanted and his friends were able to come and see him.

Felix and his wife, Drusilla, came and listened to Paul talk about Jesus. Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment that's coming.

Felix trembled and said, "Go away for now. When I have a better time, I will listen to you again."

Festus came to see what Paul had done wrong. The Jews said many bad things about him.

Festus wanted to please the Jews. He said to Paul, "Will you go down to Jerusalem and be judged by the Jews?"

Paul said, "I have not done anything wrong to the Jews. I want to see Caesar. Caesar can judge if I have done anything wrong."

"All right," said Festus. "If you want to see Caesar you will."

King Agrippa and his wife, Bernice, came to see Festus. Festus told them about Paul. Agrippa asked Paul to tell them why he was in trouble.

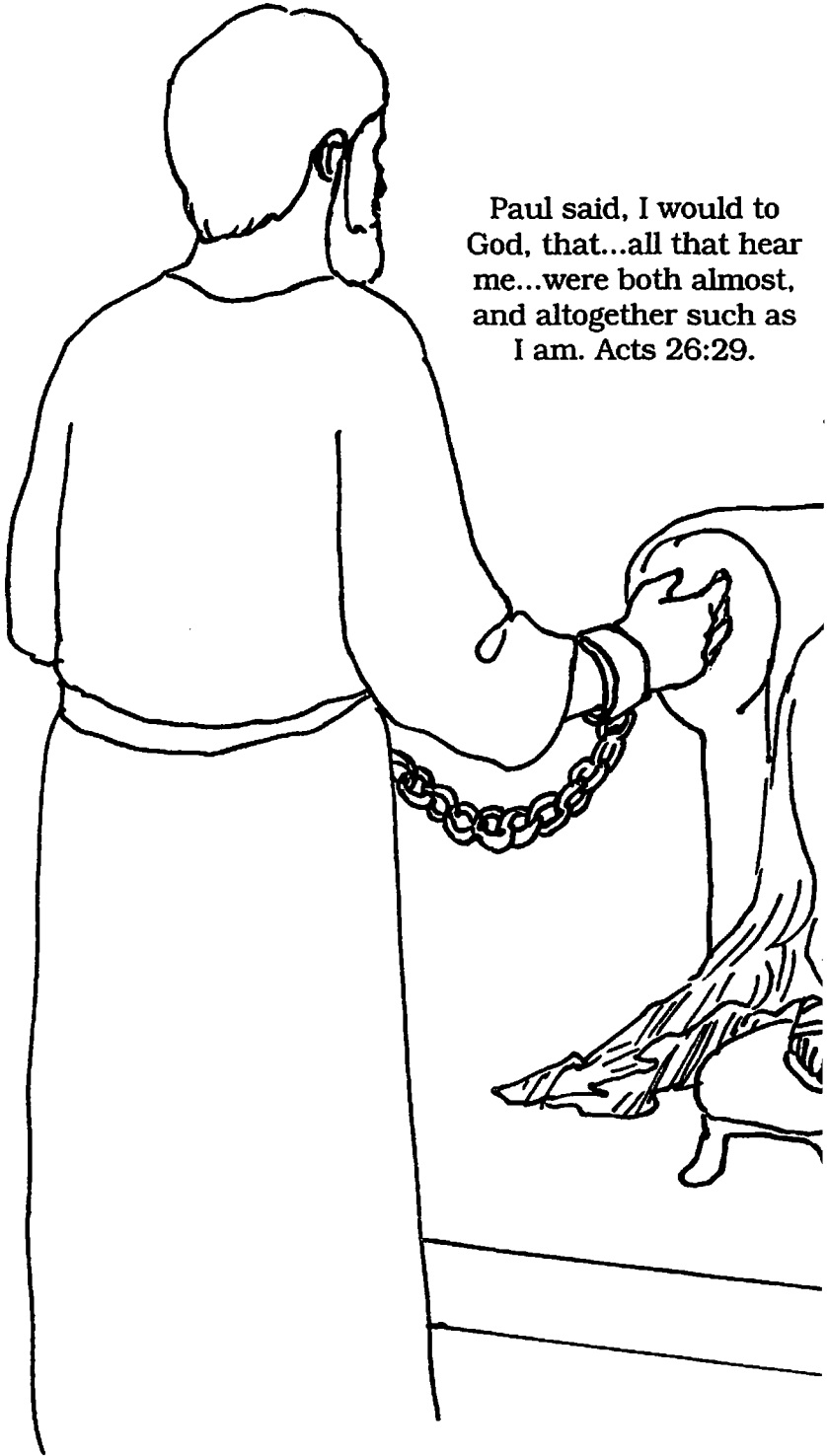
Paul told them about how he used to hurt the people who believed in Jesus. He told how Jesus stopped him and how now he preached to others to believe in Jesus. He told how Jesus was raised from the dead to save everyone.

Agrippa said, "You almost persuade me to be a Christian."

Paul said, "I wish everyone here was just like I am except for these chains."

—Joanna Booher

Paul said, I would to  
God, that...all that hear  
me...were both almost,  
and altogether such as  
I am. Acts 26:29.





## Two Gifts Of Love

(Continued from last week.)

After Dorie asked God to take her as a friend she became more peaceful with those about her and life took on a brighter meaning. Dorie could not explain the comfort and joy that her heart felt as she told herself over and over: *God loves me!*

A few weeks later a new matron joined the orphanage staff. Miss Frem was kind and friendly. Soon Dorie realized that Miss Frem was a Christian. One day she said to Dorie, "Would you like to go to church with me?"

Dorie's eyes sparkled. "Yes!" she said, then added, "If I can."

The orphanage staff permitted Dorie to go and at the age of twelve and a half Dorie attended church service for the first time in her life. She did not wiggle and talk during the sermon, but she sat quietly beside Miss Frem drinking in every word the pastor spoke.

Dorie did not understand too much of the sermons because she had never heard Scriptures and Bible stories, but little by little she learned one important truth: The Son of God, Jesus Christ, had died on a cruel cross for her sins. He had loved her so much that He had taken the punishment of sin for her so that she could be free from sin. No matter how ugly she felt, His blood could make her beautiful on the inside. Her heart sang with joy just to know that she was loved and a child of God!

One day Miss Frem said, "Dorie, I have a gift for you."

Dorie stared at the small package in Miss Frem's hand. She had received only three or four wrapped gifts in her lifetime and none of them from her mother. This kind lady cared about her and had brought a gift especially for her! Her eyes sparkled with

appreciation as she carefully took the package in her hands.

Slowly Dorie opened her gift and exclaimed with joy, "It's a book—a *New Testament!*"

Miss Frem nodded with a smile. "This *New Testament* will tell you more about God and His Son, Jesus. It will help your friendship with them."

"Thank you! Thank you!" Dorie said as she hugged the book close to her heart. Every morning Dorie would read from her *New Testament* while in the tiny closet. This encouraged her to do good and be kind to others. When Dorie was thirteen and a half, she and Marie were told that they had to move to a foster home since the orphanage only cared for children under twelve years old. Telling their old friends good-bye Dorie and Marie climbed into a car to go live with a woman called "Granny."

Dorie was going to need her *New Testament* more than ever!

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who said that Paul caused trouble?
2. Did Paul try to offend people?
3. Who did Felix have to guard Paul?
4. Did Felix and his wife listen to Paul preach?
5. At what kind of time did Felix say he would listen to Paul again?
6. Who did Paul ask to be judged by?
7. Who came with his wife to see Festus?
8. Did King Agrippa listen to Paul?
9. How close was Agrippa persuaded to being a Christian?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 24, 25, 26.

(Answers: 1. Tertullus. 2. No. 3. A soldier. 4. Yes. 5. A better time. 6. Caesar. 7. King Agrippa. 8. Yes. 9. Almost.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Dec. 7, 2003

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## THE SHIPWRECK

Paul was a prisoner on his way to see Caesar. A captain guarded him. The captain put him on a ship to Rome. They sailed to Fair Havens. The good weather was almost past.

The captain found a ship to take them to Phenice. Paul told the captain, "I don't think we should sail right now. I believe this will cause damage to the ship and to us also."

The captain did not believe Paul. He believed what the captain of the ship said. The south wind blew softly. The captain thought nice weather had come. He put them all on the ship and sailed.

After a few days a big storm came up. The ship was tossed. They didn't want the ship to tip over. They let the wind drive the ship.

The next day they threw baggage out of the ship to make it lighter. The third day they threw the ropes out. Then the day after that it got dark. For many days the storm was so bad everyone thought they would die.

Paul stood up and said, "Sirs, you should have listened to me when I said we should not sail. But don't be afraid. An angel told me last night that I will see Caesar. All of you will be saved too."

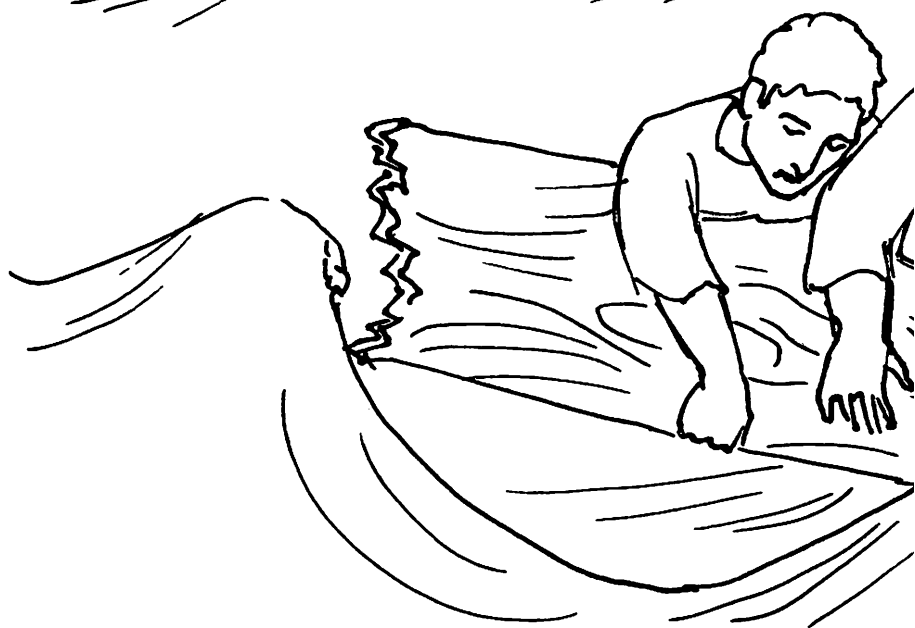
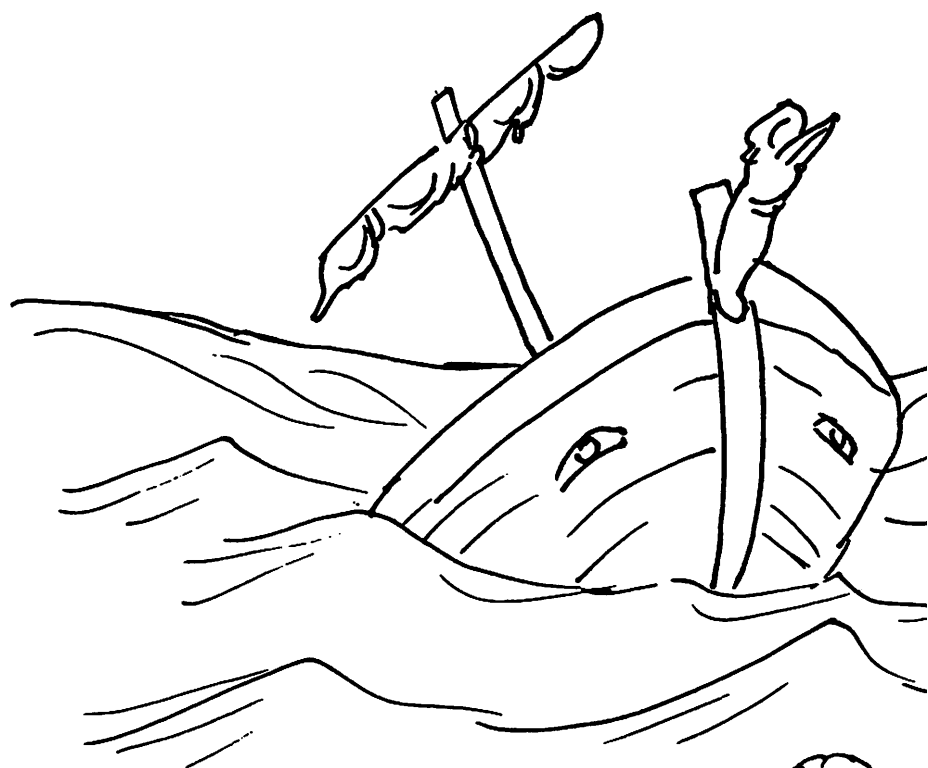
After fourteen days, they thought they were coming near to some land. The water became shallow. They didn't want to wreck. They threw four anchors out of the ship and wished for day.

Paul told everyone to eat something. He broke some bread and thanked God for it. When everyone saw him eat they felt better and ate too.

The next day they saw a little creek. They tried to sail the ship into the creek. The ship stuck on the rocks. The waves beat on the back of the ship and broke it into pieces.

The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners. The captain did not want Paul to be killed. He did not let them do it. He told everyone to swim to shore. The ones who couldn't swim floated on broken pieces of wood. No one drowned. Everyone was saved just like Paul said.

—Joanna Booher



And so it came to pass, that they  
escaped all safe to land. Acts 27:44.



## Granny And Dorie

(Continued from last week.)

From the orphanage Dorie and Marie were sent to live with a woman called "Granny" and her husband who ignored the girls. Granny knew their mother had only visited the girls two times during the seven years that they had lived in the orphanage.

Their mother did not take them to Granny, but she told the girls, "I'm only keeping you troublemakers because your mother is paying me. If you don't mind me you'll get *this*!" and she slapped Dorie and Marie across the face with her bare hand. The blows stung but the girls tried not to cry.

At meal times they were not allowed to eat at the table but had to survive on leftovers from the meals. "You're just lucky to be here," Granny told them. "If it wasn't for us you'd be out on the streets." For small offences Granny would beat them with a wooden mop handle.

After they had lived with Granny for a few months she told them one evening that they must find their mother and get some money from her.

"But we don't know where she is!" said Dorie. "We haven't seen her for a year or more."

"Go find her," said Granny, "and get some money. Don't bother coming back unless you have money with you!"

Scared, the two sisters began to search for their mother in the night-clubs of the city. The delicious smell of food caused their stomachs to growl and as it grew darker the girls shivered without a sweater or coat.

Late in the night the girls entered one place and saw their mother writing out an order.

"Mother!" called Dorie as her mother turned around.

"I'm not your mother!" she snapped. "Now what do you want?"

"We need some money to stay any longer with Granny," said Dorie. "She told us not to come back without any."

"Well, I don't have any!" declared their mother.

"But we must have...." Dorie was already talking to her mother's back as she left to wait on another customer. With tears running down their faces, Dorie and Marie slipped outside to the dark street.

They decided Granny's house was better than the street. When they came in the door without money, she swore and beat them badly. Finally, she threw Dorie in a closet and locked the door. "Stay there until you learn to obey me!" Granny yelled.

In her sorrow Dorie took out her little New Testament and read it by the dim light coming from under the door. The words of Jesus cheered her crying heart.

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Paul going to see?
2. Was Paul a prisoner?
3. Did Paul think it was safe to sail from Fair Havens?
4. Did the captain believe Paul?
5. Why did they sail when the south wind blew softly?
6. What happened a few days later?
7. Did the ship get stuck on the rocks and break apart?
8. Did everyone drown?
9. Did God take care of everyone like He said He would?

### LESSON TEXT: Acts 27.

(Answers: 1. Caesar. 2. Yes. 3. No. 4. No. 5. The captain thought nice weather had come. 6. A storm came. 7. Yes. 8. No. 9. Yes.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Dec. 14, 2003

## THE END OF PAUL'S JOURNEY

Everyone on the ship escaped safe to the island. The people of the island were Barbarians but they were nice. It was raining and cold. They made a fire to warm everyone.

Paul helped gather wood for the fire. A snake came out of the wood and bit his hand. It was a poisonous snake.

The people looked at him and thought, "This man must be a bad man. He escaped drowning but because he is so bad he will still die from the snake bite."

Paul shook the snake off into the fire. He didn't swell up or fall over dead.

The people changed their minds. They thought, "He's not a bad man. He must be a god."

The chief man of the island was named Publius. His father was very sick. Paul went and prayed for him and laid his hands on him. He got well. Many other people on the island who had diseases came to Paul. Paul prayed for them and they got well also.

When Paul left, the people were very kind. They gave him many honours. They gave him things he needed.

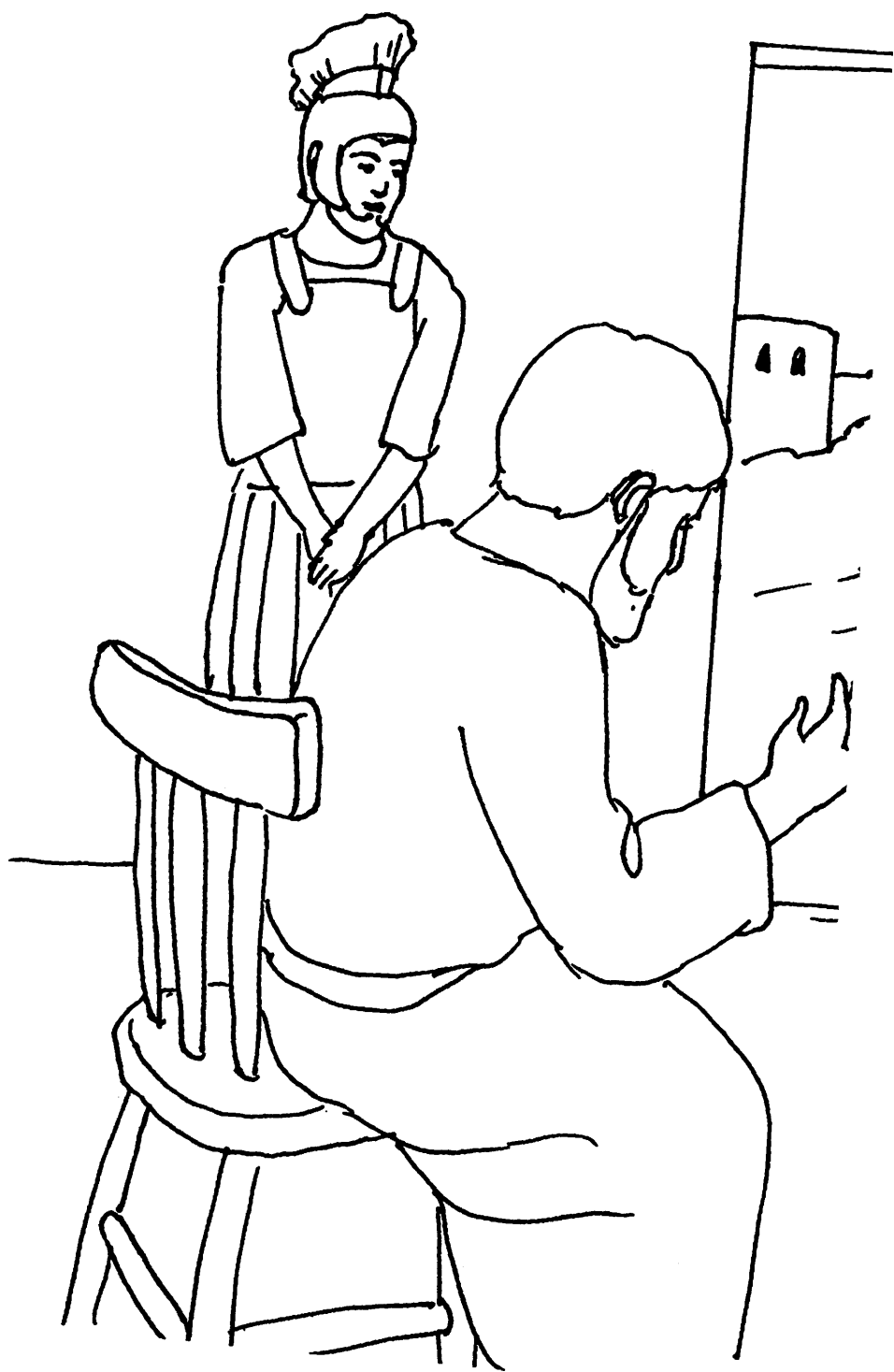
Paul sailed to Rome. In Rome the captain gave his other prisoners to the jailer. Paul was allowed to live by himself in a house with one soldier to guard him.

After three days Paul sent for the chief Jews of Rome. He told them how he was a prisoner because the Jews of Jerusalem were mad at him. He told them about Jesus, God's Son. He told them how Jesus had died for our sins. He told them how God had raised Jesus from the dead. Some of them believed what Paul said. Some of them didn't.

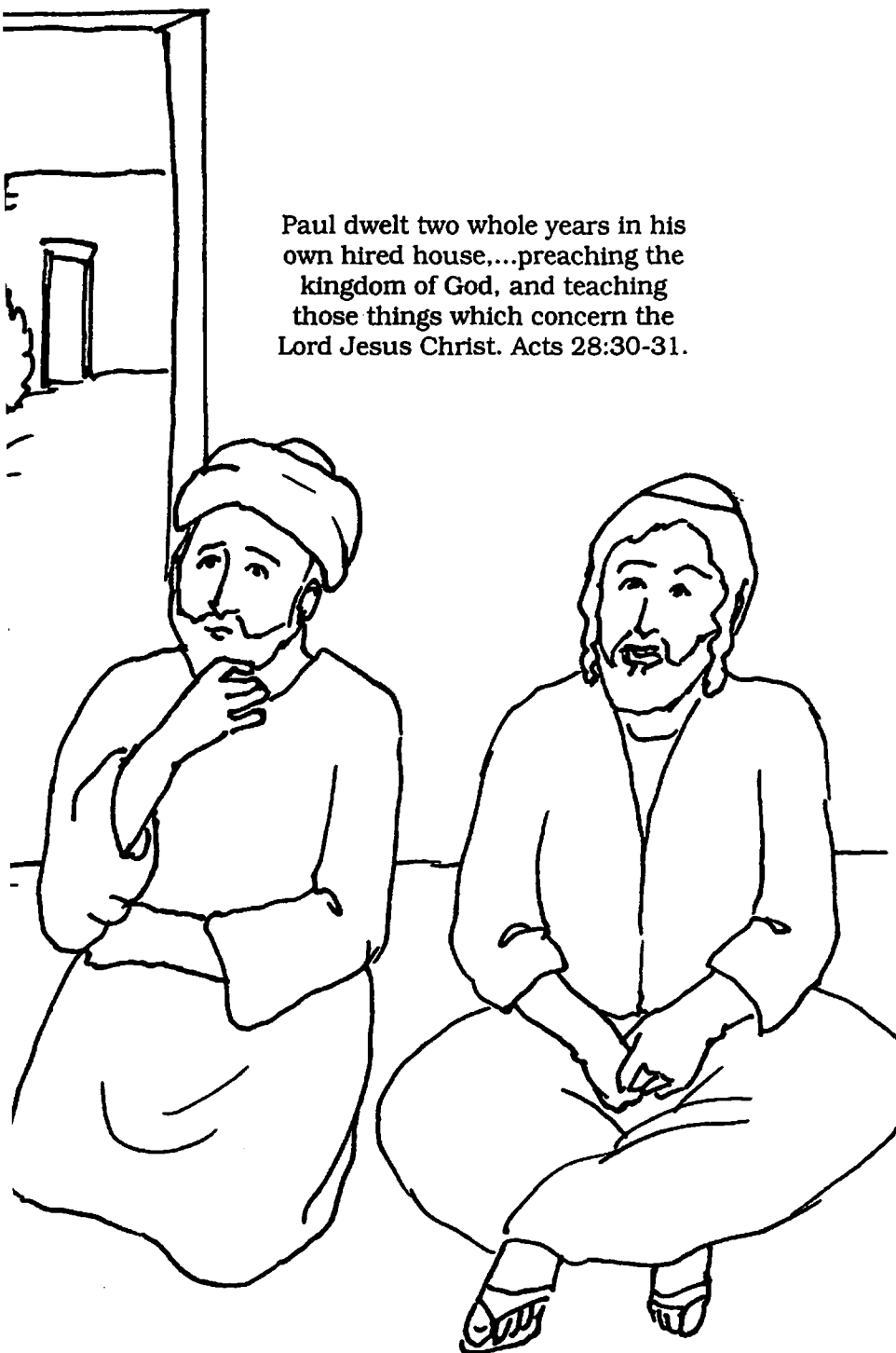
Paul stayed two years in his house. He received whoever came to him. He preached about the kingdom of God and Jesus Christ. No one said he couldn't.

Paul also wrote many letters to the people he had told about Jesus. These letters are now books of our Bible. These letters were to help these new churches become stronger. These letters help us too.

—Joanna Booher



Paul dwelt two whole years in his  
own hired house,...preaching the  
kingdom of God, and teaching  
those things which concern the  
Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 28:30-31.



## The Peace Of Jesus

(Continued from last week.)

Because Dorie and Marie did not get any money from their mother Granny sent the girls away to a girls' state school. It seemed like a place of luxury and comfort compared to living with Granny. While there, Dorie testified about Jesus, her best, loving Friend, and how the Bible had been an encouragement to her through the beatings.

After four months Dorie and Marie were sent to live with a family in a private house. The girls were excited, thinking maybe they were going to have a *real* family to love at last. However as soon as they arrived at the shabby house their hearts were sad. Right away Dorie was told what chores she was to do and that she was not to eat at the table with the family. Marie was to play with Susan, eat at the table and sleep in Susan's bedroom.

While dusting the furniture, washing the clothes, chopping the wood and scrubbing the floor Dorie would talk to Jesus in her heart. He even comforted her after the scoldings and beatings. Her Bible was like a book of love letters, a secret between her and the Lord. In the morning she would read from it while locked behind the bathroom door. She marked special verses and memorized them.

Walking to the house after school Dorie passed many storefronts along the way. When she looked into a dress shop window, Dorie would see the beautiful dresses on display. She had never worn a new dress in her life and she would wonder what that would be like. Then the voice of Jesus would say, "Dorie, you are beautifully clothed, not with garments that can be seen with human eyes but with the righteousness of Christ."

The wonderful scent of cooking food would drift through open restau-

rant doors and Dorie's empty stomach craved something nourishing. Sometimes she thought about stealing a pastry because she had never eaten one before. Then Jesus would remind her, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by MY words." Dorie would turn away not wanting to displease her Lord.

Sometimes Dorie watched a husband and wife holding hands as they walked down the sidewalk. She saw mothers cuddle their babies, hug their children and buy them treats. "Oh, Lord," Dorie prayed, "if I only had someone to hold my hand!"

Jesus responded, "Dorie, I'll be your father and mother, brother and sister. I will be with you; I even dwell within you. I love you, Dorie."

With the love of Jesus in her heart, Dorie grew up surrounded by mistreatment and hatred. Because she listened to the voice of Jesus, she did not allow bitterness to ruin her peace with God.

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

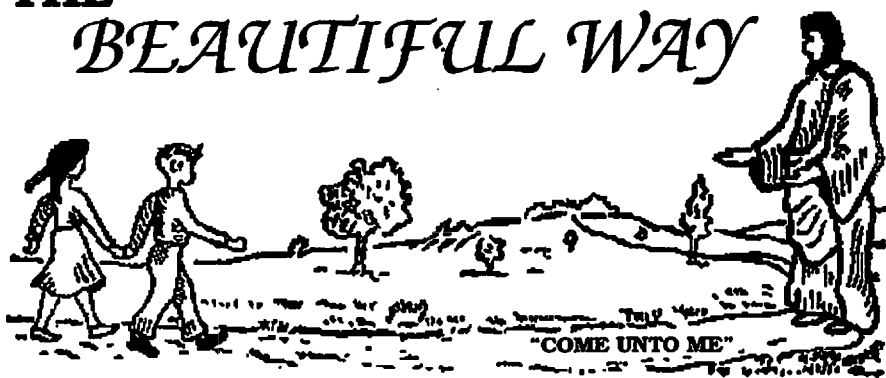
1. Did everyone make it safely to the island?
2. Were the people of the island nice?
3. What came out of the wood and bit Paul?
4. Did Paul fall over dead?
5. What did the people think Paul was because he didn't die?
6. What did Paul do for the other sick people on the island?
7. Who did Paul tell about Jesus in Rome?
8. What did Paul write to the churches to help them?
9. Do Paul's letters help us too?

**LESSON TEXT:** Acts 28.

(Answers: 1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. A poisonous snake. 4. No. 5. A god. 6. Prayed for them and they were healed. 7. The Jews and whoever came to him. 8. Letters. 9. Yes.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Dec. 21, 2003

## THE SAVIOUR OF SINNERS

In the beginning Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They sinned. God cannot let any sinners into heaven. All sinners will go to hell.

But God promised that He would send someone to save sinners so they won't go to hell.

Years ago, in the land of Judea, God sent His angel Gabriel to a girl named Mary. Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Hail, you are highly favoured and God has blessed you more than all other women."

Mary wondered what the angel was going to say.

Gabriel said, "God is going to give you a son and he will be God's Own Son."

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph. An angel came to Joseph and said, "Your fiancée, Mary, is going to have a baby. The baby is God's Son. He will save people from their sins."

The emperor, Caesar, commanded all people to go back to the city of their ancestors. He said they must pay their taxes there.

Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. While they were in Bethlehem the time came to have the baby. Joseph looked and looked for a place to stay but all the inns were full. Finally someone let them stay in a barn.

Mary had her baby boy. She named Him "Jesus," wrapped Him in long strips of cloth and laid Him in the trough that the animals ate out of.

That night an angel came from heaven and surprised some shepherds. Glory shone around the angel as it said, "I bring you glad news. A baby is born tonight who is a Saviour. Go and see this baby."

After eight days Mary and Joseph took little Jesus to the temple. A man named Simeon came up to them. He took Jesus out of their arms and held Him up. Simeon said, "Lord, now let me die because I have seen Your salvation, just as You promised I would."

As Simeon finished speaking, a woman named Anna came up to them. She thanked the Lord too. Then she went away and told other people about Jesus. She told them He was the Redeemer. —Joanna Booher



Thou shalt call his name JESUS:  
for he shall save his people from  
their sins. Matthew 1:21.



## Hope For Dorie

(Continued from last week.)

Because she was faithful to trust the Lord, God blessed Doris Duckworth and she finally found a home with a kind doctor and his wife. Though she was hired to be a maid in their house, they treated her with love and respect.

For the first time in her life she earned money that she could keep herself. Though it was only \$2.50 a week she felt rich. Spending her money carefully, Dorie was able to buy better clothes and a brand new pair of shoes! When she wore her new white buck shoes to school, Dorie was the happiest sixteen-year-old in class.

The doctor's wife, Mrs. Welch, taught Dorie how to clean the house properly, polish her silver and clean her carpets. Dorie admired tall, elegant Mrs. Welch and she did things just how Mrs. Welch told her to. Also Dorie witnessed a mother's true love for her children as Mrs. Welch cared for her young daughter and son. Tears of happiness would spring up in Dorie's eyes as she watched Mrs. Welch cuddle and rock her two children in a chair. *"Those children don't know how blessed they are!"* Dorie thought as she heard them laugh and play.

Now that she had more personal time Dorie began to draw pictures of people and scenery. Mrs. Welch said they were good drawings and that Dorie should sell her art work. Never had Dorie been told that she had a "talent" and she loved to do it also!

Every morning Dorie still took time to read from her little New Testament and pray to God. She found a church which met in a chapel within ten miles of her house. Every Sunday she walked to church and back home. The walk sometimes seemed short because she talked to the Lord while she walked.

When the right opportunity came, Dorie talked to Mrs. Welch about the

love of Jesus and how much of a friend He was to her. Mrs. Welch listened politely, but she told Dorie, "I can see how God has helped you, Dorie, but I don't need Him because I have a good husband and family." She was foolish to not realize these were blessings from the Lord.

Dorie also went to visit Marie who had married at fifteen and now had a baby boy. Dorie was sad to see the poor life Marie was living and she testified to Marie about the Lord. "I don't want nothing to do with your religion, Dorie," said Marie. "It may be good for you, but it never will help me."

This made Dorie very sad. Her best friend, Jesus, had come to give everyone a better life and an eternal home in heaven. He was the Son of God and yet He was rejected. Dorie's heart loved Jesus even more than ever.

(To be continued next week.)

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why do people go to hell?
2. Does God want people to go to hell?
3. Whose son was the baby that Mary was going to have?
4. What did the angel tell Joseph that this baby would do?
5. Where did Mary and Joseph go to pay taxes?
6. Where was Mary's baby born?
7. Who did the angel tell the shepherds that the baby was?
8. Who did Simeon say Jesus was?
9. Who did Anna say Jesus was?

**LESSON TEXT:** Matt. 1:20-21; Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-11, 21-38.

(Answers: 1. Because they sin. 2. No. 3. God's Son. 4. Save people from their sins. 5. Bethlehem. 6. In a barn. 7. A Saviour. 8. The Lord's Salvation. 9. The Redeemer.)

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 54, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Dec. 28, 2003

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## THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Paul wrote a lot of letters. He wrote a letter to the church at Rome called Romans. He wrote two letters to Corinth called I and II Corinthians. He wrote a letter to Galatia called Galatians. He wrote a letter to Ephesus called Ephesians. He wrote a letter to Philippi called Philippians. He wrote a letter to Colosse called Colossians. He wrote two letters to Thessalonica called I and II Thessalonians.

Paul wrote two letters to the young man Timothy. They were letters to teach him how he should behave himself. He also wrote a letter to Titus.

Paul wrote a letter to Philemon, a Christian who owned a slave named Onesimus. Onesimus had run away from Philemon. Now Onesimus was a Christian. Paul told Philemon about this and wanted Philemon not to be angry with Onesimus.

Paul wrote a long letter to the Hebrews, or Jews. In this letter Paul told them a lot about Jesus. He told them how Jesus is our priest now.

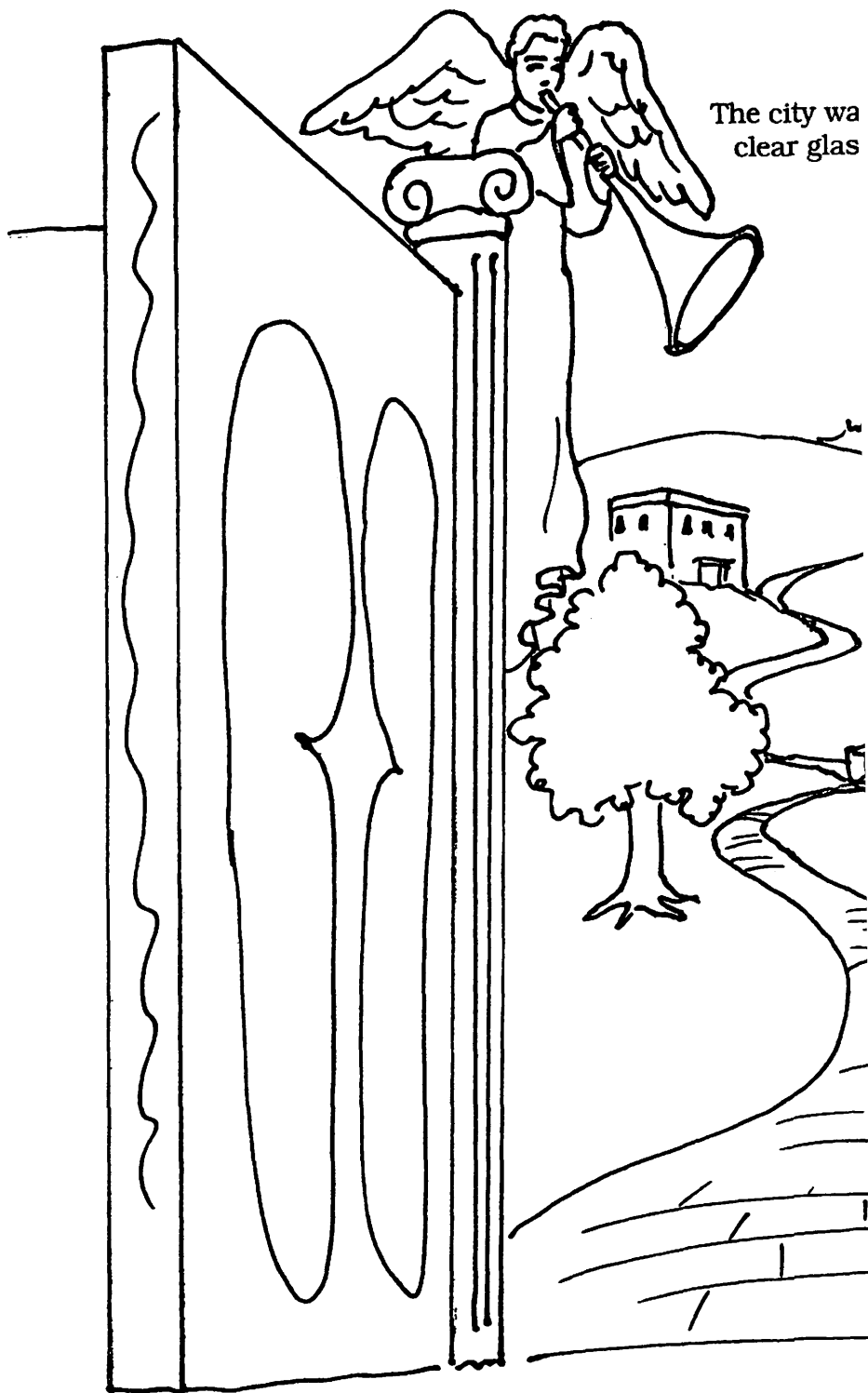
James also wrote a letter. James was the brother of Jesus Christ. James believed in Jesus too.

The apostle Peter wrote two letters. The apostle John wrote three short letters. He wrote a lot about love. He also wrote Revelation.

Jude was another brother of Jesus. He wrote a short letter. It comes right before Revelation in our Bible.

John was the disciple whom Jesus loved. People did not like John because he was a Christian. They made him live on an island by himself. While he was on this island he had a vision. He saw God's great white throne. He saw a city that didn't need a sun to shine. He saw angels blowing trumpets and a lamb opening books. He saw dragons with many heads and horns. The things he saw mean something. They tell a story about things that have happened and things that will happen. In the end of his book of Revelation Jesus said, "Surely I come quickly." And John said, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

—Joanna Booher



The city wa  
clear glas

gold, like unto  
elation 21:18.



## Are You My Dad?

(Continued from last week.)

One day Dr. Welch asked Dorie, "Do you know where your father is?" Dorie only remembered seeing her father a few times when she was under five-years-old and then he was arguing with her mother.

"No," she replied, "I don't even know if he is still alive."

"Would you like to find him, Dorie?"

Dorie shook her head. "He would not want me," she replied. Her mother had rejected her so she was sure her father would also.

"Let's see if we can find him," said Dr. Welch. "He may want to know where you are and what a wonderful person you have grown to be."

Dorie smiled shyly. "Thank you, Dr. Welch. I did hear once a long time ago that my father was in Tulsa, Oklahoma."

"Well, let's find out," replied Dr. Welch. He got on the telephone, called an operator and asked her if there was a Mr. L. Duckworth in Tulsa.

Yes! There was! Dorie felt warm and trembly as they made contact with her father. What if he was angry at her for bothering him? Dorie just had to know more about him.

She wrote a letter, waited and prayed. Finally, he replied, signing his name DAD! Later he called Dorie and said he would pay for her ticket to come visit him. Dorie agreed to come, hopeful that her father would accept her.

Dr. and Mrs. Welch wished her well as she boarded a Greyhound bus headed east. As she traveled she talked with her heavenly Father about her earthly father. How would she know who he was at the bus station? She did not have a picture of him but she felt the Lord would let her know which man it was.

After long, long hours of bus riding from Oakland, California Dorie finally reached Tulsa, Oklahoma. As she climbed down the steps from the bus,

Dorie looked calmly over the crowd in the depot. Her eyes saw a tall, middle-aged man leaning against a pillar. He looked like her father so she walked over to him, sat down her suitcase and asked, "Sir, are you my father?"

"Well, I guess I am," he replied with a quiet grin. Like a flash Dorie was in his strong arms. Her dad's eyes were damp and Dorie was openly crying with joy. She had never been hugged like this before!

"Come, meet my wife and stay with us," said her dad as he took her suitcase. They walked to his nice car and drove to a good neighborhood where he lived in a two story white brick house with lovely flowers around it. She soon learned that her dad sold houses and land for a living. He had plenty of money and was well known in his area.

Dorie agreed to live with her dad and pursue a career in art. Her heart sang praises of joy unto her heavenly Father for bringing her to her birth father who loved her also. She continued to pray and read her New Testament every day.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who wrote most of the letters in our Bible?
2. Who were the letters to?
3. Who is the book of Timothy to?
4. What was Paul telling Timothy in the letter?
5. Who was James?
6. Did James believe that Jesus was God's Son?
7. What did John write a lot about?
8. Whose throne did John see in his vision?
9. When did Jesus say He is coming?

### LESSON TEXT: Rev. 22:20.

- (Answers: 1. Paul. 2. Churches. 3. Timothy. 4. How to behave. 5. The brother of Jesus. 6. Yes. 7. Love. 8. God's. 9. Quickly.)