

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 2, 2005

WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE

King Belshazzar, King Nebuchadnezzar's son, had a great feast. Many great people attended the feast. Golden vessels were taken out of the temple of God. The people drank wine out of them and praised idols.

The king's face grew pale. His knees knocked together. What he saw frightened him. A hand had appeared over a candlestick on the wall of the king's palace. The fingers of a man's hand were writing words that King Belshazzar could not understand.

"Bring in all of my wise men. Whoever can read this writing and tell me what it means will be clothed in expensive clothing. They will be made the third ruler in my kingdom," the king commanded.

All of the wise men came before the king but they could not tell him what the writing meant. "Oh, king, there is a man in your kingdom who could show you what the writing means. His God is holy and has given him much wisdom and knowledge. This man's name is Daniel," the queen advised the king.

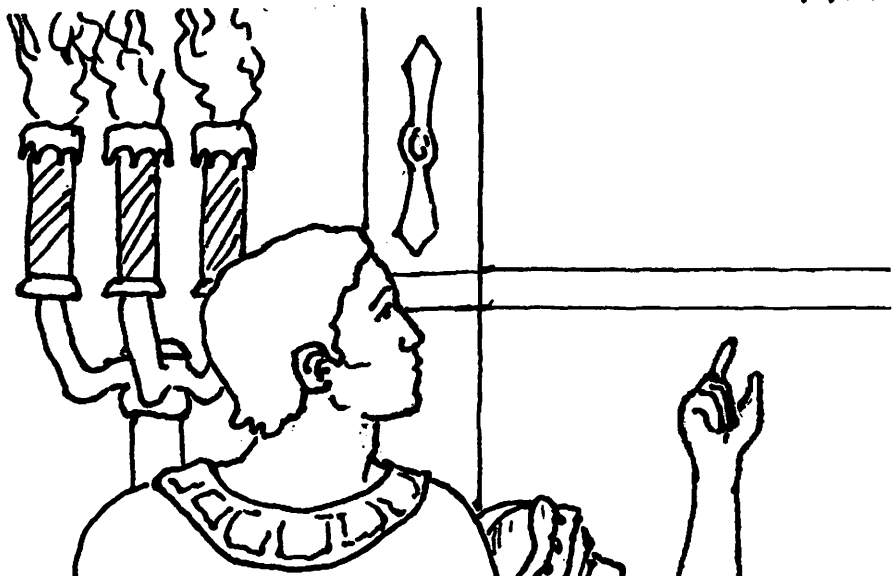
"I have heard that God has shown you many things. If you can tell me what this writing means, I will give you gifts and you shall be the third ruler in the kingdom," the king told Daniel.

"Give your gifts to someone else, but I will read the writing to you and tell you what it means. Your father was given a great kingdom but when he became proud and hard his kingdom was taken from him. You, his son, have not humbled your heart even though you saw what happened to your father. You have brought vessels from God's temple and have worshiped other gods. This was what was written on the wall: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. MENE means that your days as king are numbered and your kingdom is finished. TEKEL means that you have been weighed in the balance and are found wanting. PERES means that your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians," Daniel revealed.

That very night King Belshazzar was killed. A Medianite named Darius became the next king.

—Monica Murphey







the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and
rote over against the candlestick upon the...wall of the
king's palace:..." Daniel 5:5.



Know To Say No

Terry was playing in his front yard with his collie dog, Rascal, when a pickup truck sped down the country road.

"Arf-arf-arf!" Rascal left Terry and raced after the truck.

"Rascal, come back!" yelled Terry as he ran after his dog. He grabbed Rascal by the collar and scolded him. "You know better than to chase after trucks and cars, Rascal! It is a very dangerous thing to do!"

Rascal looked at Terry with sad eyes because he did not like to be scolded. "Now I will have to chain you up for awhile so you will learn not to chase the cars. Otherwise you could play around the yard but you can't chase cars!"

Terry clipped the chain onto Rascal's collar and Rascal laid down and put his long nose on his white front paws. "I know you are sad about being chained up but it is for your own good," continued Terry. "If I didn't care about you, I would let you get hit chasing after cars." Terry petted his dog for a few minutes then went inside his house.

"Bring-ing!" The telephone was ringing so Terry picked it up. "Hi, Terry," said his new friend, Jason. "My dad is taking me and some of my friends to a movie tonight for my birthday. I would like for you to come and go with us—my dad's paying—and also we'll get some pizza afterwards. Think you can come?"

"I don't know," Terry said. "My parents don't let me go to the movies. I probably better pass."

"Oh, come on, man," said Jason. "My dad said it is a good movie and he wouldn't take us to one that has bad stuff in it. Do you need my dad to talk to yours? He could tell him about the movie."

"My dad isn't home right now," replied Terry. "But he wouldn't let me go anyway. Thanks, Jason, for thinking of me, but I better pass this time."

"Okay, man," said Jason with dis-

appointment in his voice.

Terry hung up the phone. He thought, "Now the guys will talk about how strict my parents are and think I'm too straight. I really didn't want to go because it would make me feel bad to disobey. Besides, what if the movie had had stuff in it and was embarrassing. Most of them are. I just hope the guys don't bug me about not going. Maybe I shouldn't worry about it."

Just then Terry's sister came inside. "Did Rascal chase a car again?" she asked. "I see he is chained up."

"Yep," replied Terry. "He doesn't know how dangerous chasing cars can be. Looks like fun to him but he can't seem to see the danger."

Suddenly Terry saw a connection between his decision to not go to the movie and Rascal chasing cars. If he had disobeyed, his soul would be just as much in danger as Rascal was chasing cars. Terry sighed in relief. He was glad the Lord had given him grace to not chase after the favor of his friends.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where were the vessels at the feast taken from?
2. What made the king so afraid?
3. Who did the queen say could tell the king the meaning of the writing?
4. What did MENE mean?
5. What did TEKEL mean?
6. What did PERES mean?
7. What happened to King Belshazzar that night?
8. Who became the next king?

(Answers: 1. God's temple. 2. He saw a hand writing on the wall. 3. Daniel. 4. The king's days were numbered and the kingdom was finished. 5. The king had been weighed in the balance and found wanting. 6. The kingdom had been divided and given to the Medes and Persians. 7. He was killed. 8. Darius.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Jan. 9, 2005

CAST INTO THE DEN OF LIONS

King Darius set one hundred and twenty princes over the kingdom. Three presidents were set over the princes. Daniel was the first president over the whole kingdom.

The other princes and presidents were jealous of Daniel. They looked hard to find something that Daniel did wrong but they couldn't find anything.

"The only way we can get Daniel in trouble with the king is to get him in trouble somehow for worshipping his God," these men decided.

The men came to the king. "O king, we have decided that you should make a decree that for the next thirty days no one should pray to any god besides you. The person that does pray to another god shall be cast into a den of lions," the evil men proposed.

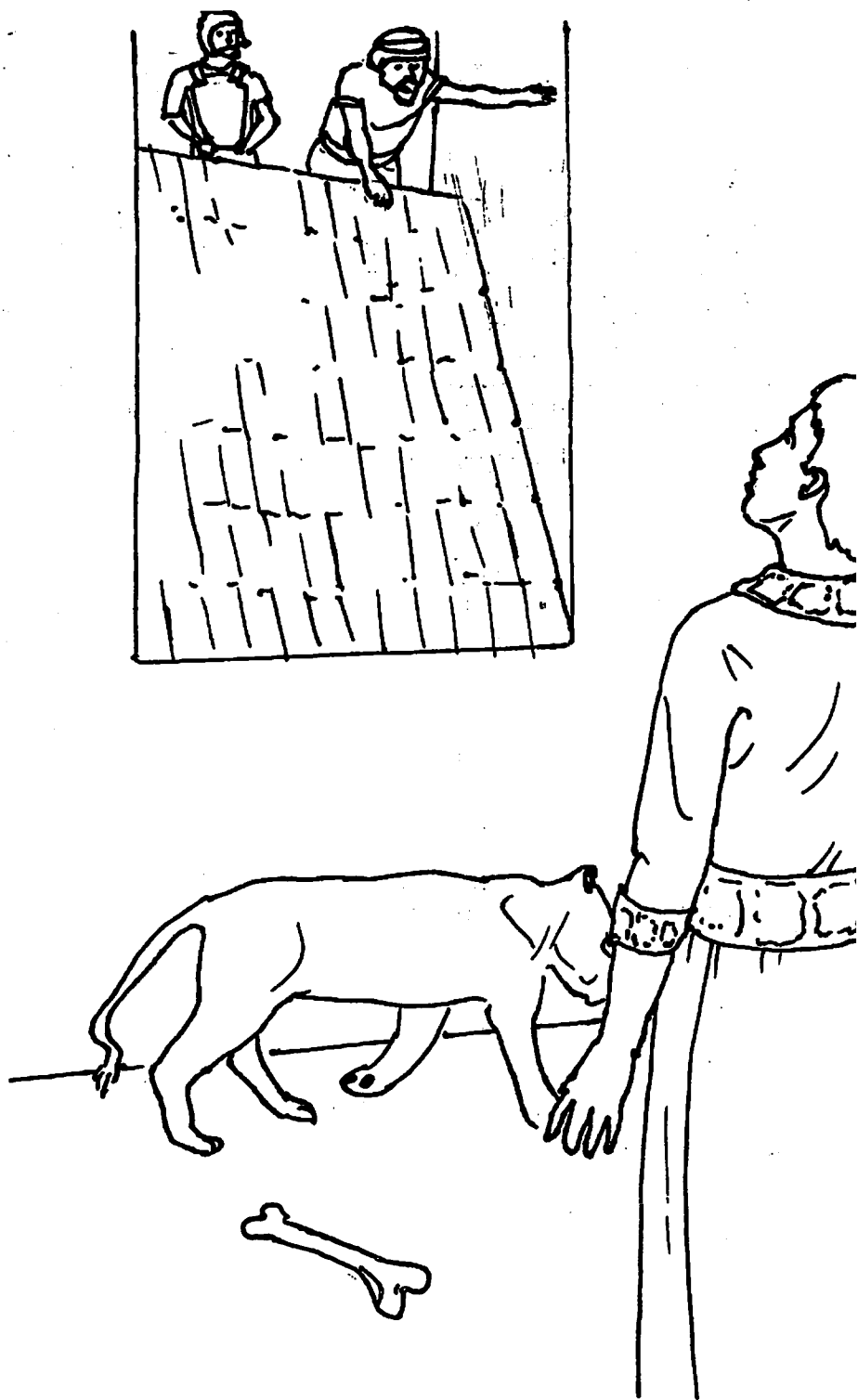
The king liked the idea and signed the decree. Daniel always prayed to God three times a day. The men found Daniel praying to God. They went back to the king.

"Have you not signed a decree that any man who prays to any god besides you should be thrown into a den of lions?" they asked the king. "This is true," the king replied. "Daniel, the captive from Judah, has not obeyed your law but has prayed to his God three times a day," the men told the king.

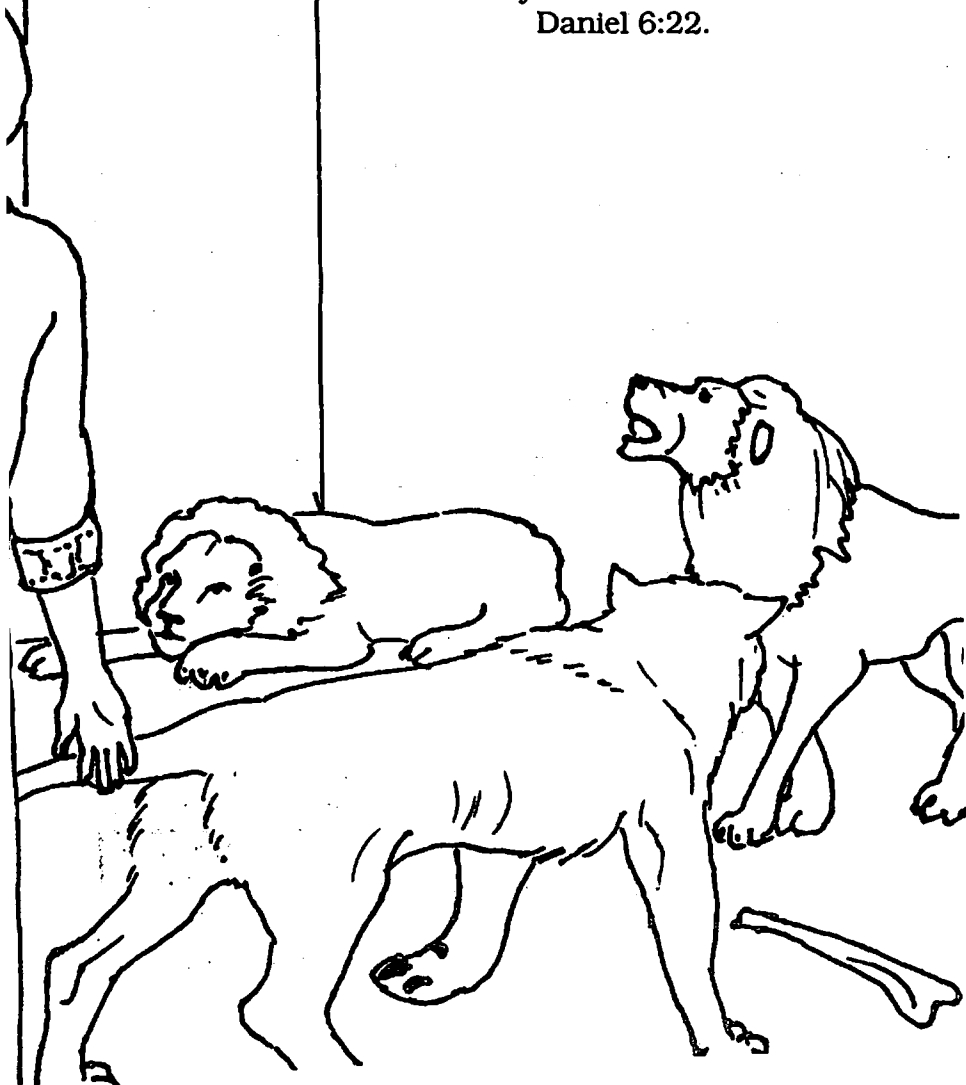
The king was sad. Daniel was his friend. He tried to think of some way to save Daniel but he could not. Finally, King Darius commanded that the men bring Daniel and throw him into the den of lions. "Perhaps your God will deliver you," the king told Daniel sadly.

The next morning King Darius rose and quickly went to the den of lions. "Daniel, was your God able to deliver you from the lions?" the king cried. "My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me," Daniel answered. The king ordered that Daniel be taken out and the other men put into the lions' den instead.

—Monica Murphey



"My God hath sent his angel,
and hath shut the lions' mouths,
that they have not hurt me:...."
Daniel 6:22.



A Tramp Comes Home

Snuggled in bed at 5:30 in the morning Ellen heard their doorbell ring. Her husband, Pastor Ron, moved beside her. "Br-ing-ing!" The doorbell rang again!

Pastor Ron threw back the covers. "I wonder who that can be?" he said as he went to the door. Ellen heard him speak a few words to someone, then he came back into their bedroom and said: "Honey, there is a poor tramp at our door needing some breakfast. Could you please fix something for him?"

Ellen groaned. "You know I just cleaned out the refrigerator because we are moving next week," she replied. "I don't know if there is anything much to cook."

"Well fix him what you have planned for us to eat at breakfast. This guy really looks sad," said her husband.

So Ellen crawled out of bed, put on her house robe and went to the kitchen. She gasped when she saw the tramp sitting right at her kitchen table! He was the most pitiful looking human being she had ever seen!

A dirty brown baseball cap was pulled down over the tramp's eyes and a straggly beard stuck out a little beneath it. His dingy red and yellow plaid jacket had torn places here and there. His faded bluejeans had gaping holes exposing his skinny knees. His dirty black tennis shoes had not left any dirt tracks on Ellen's clean floor and he didn't seem to stink, both for which Ellen was grateful.

"Good morning," Ellen greeted him.

"Mornin'" he mumbled back.

Ellen thought, "I didn't feel like saying *good* either." She opened up her refrigerator and took out a few strips of bacon and a couple of eggs.

"Hope you like bacon, eggs and toast," she said to the tramp. "Sorry I can't fix much more."

As she talked, Ellen was busy taking out her heavy skillet. She had just set it on the stove when the tramp

grabbed her! Ellen screamed and the tramp held her close, laughing at her fright. Then he pulled off his cap and her fright turned to joy! It was her son who lived across the country in another state attending college there.

"Oh, Steve, I nearly had a heart attack," Ellen gasped as he helped her to a chair.

"I'm sorry, Mom," Steve said, laughing. "But I just knew you would pass the test. I have told the guys at college that my parents are still the hospitable type who would help a stranger in need. They don't think people like that still exist but now they will know at least one couple who shows kindness."

"And your dad?" asked Ellen, as Pastor Ron came into the kitchen with his Bible.

"I told him who I was," said Steve. "so we wouldn't have to sit on the cold front porch reading the Bible while you fixed breakfast. It's good to know my parents still feed strangers with food and the Word of God."

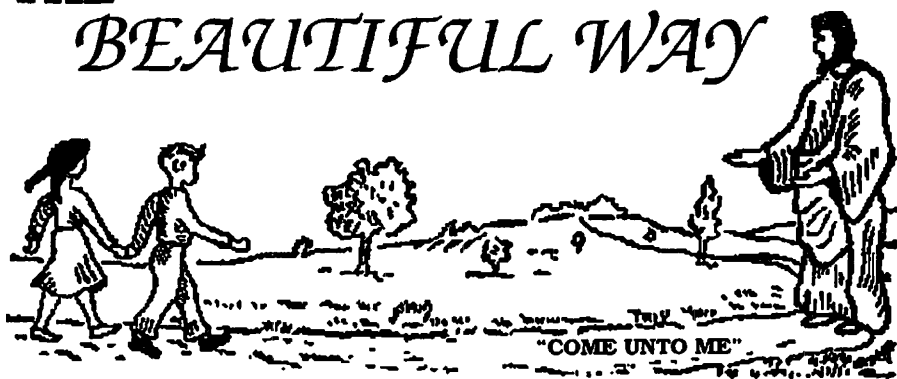
Soon even Ellen could laugh at the scare.
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the first president over the whole kingdom?
2. Why did the other men try to find fault in Daniel?
3. How many days were the people to pray only to the king?
4. What would happen to the ones who prayed to any other god?
5. How many times a day did Daniel pray?
6. How did the king feel about having to throw Daniel in the lions' den?
7. Did the lions harm Daniel?
8. What happened to the other men?

(Answers: 1. Daniel. 2. They were jealous. 3. Thirty. 4. They would be thrown into a den of lions. 5. Three. 6. Sad. 7. No. 8. They were thrown into the den instead.)

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Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Jan. 16, 2005

FLEEING FROM GOD

Jonah was a prophet of God. "Get up and go to Nineveh. Warn them to stop their evil ways," the Lord told Jonah.

Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh. Instead he went the opposite direction. Jonah found a ship going to Tarshish.

The Lord caused a great wind to go upon the sea. The waves rose up high and tossed the ship to and fro. A great storm had blown upon the ship.

The people were afraid. "Toss some of the crates overboard to lighten the ship," they cried. So every man came to help.

The shipmaster found Jonah sound asleep in the side of the boat. "How can you sleep? Wake up and pray to your God that we will not all be killed in the storm," he requested.

"Let us cast lots so that we will know who has caused this storm to come upon us," the men decided. The lot fell to Jonah.

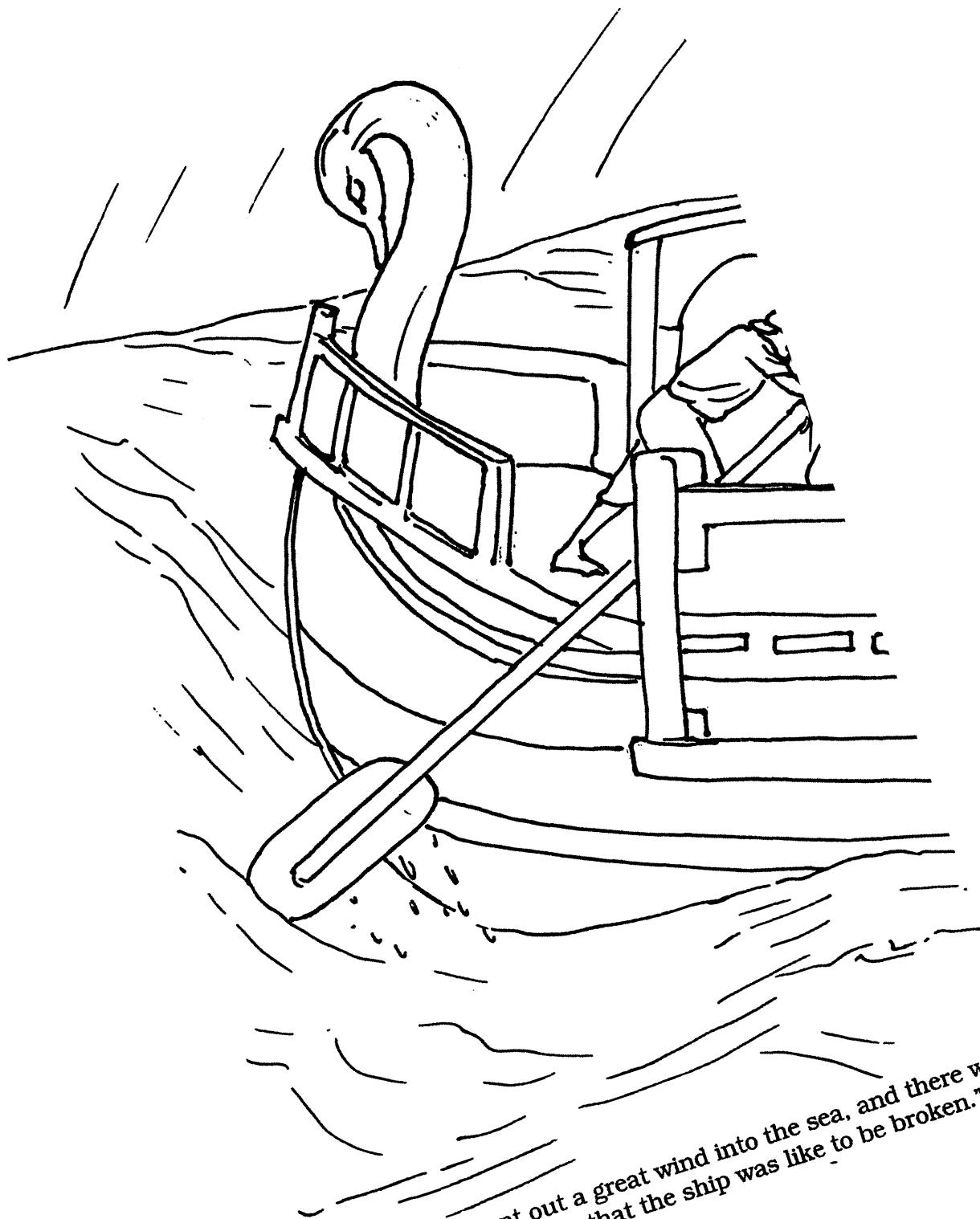
"What have you done to cause this storm? What do you do? Where are you from?" they asked Jonah.

"I am a Hebrew. I fear the Lord God of heaven who has made the sea and the land," Jonah answered.

When the men heard that Jonah had fled from the Lord they were very afraid. "What shall we do to you? How can we get the storm to stop?" they wondered.

"Throw me into the sea. Then it will be calm. It is my fault this storm is going on," Jonah advised. They did not like the idea. The men tried to go on and bring the ship to land but they could not. The storm became worse.

"Do not lay this man's blood on us, O Lord," they prayed. They took Jonah and cast him into the sea. —Monica Murphey



"But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken." Jon



Bread Instead

At the grocery store Sandy's mom carefully added up her total as she put items into the cart. "This gallon of milk is the last item we can put into the cart," Mother said to Sandy. "I only have a twenty and a five."

Mother steered her cart to the check-out lanes and got in line behind an elderly lady in a navy blue double-knit dress. She was carefully holding on to her cart for support.

Quickly the clerk checked out the ten or so items that the elderly lady had. "That will be \$17.45," she said.

The elderly lady carefully brought out some money from a well-worn coin purse.

"Oh, my," sighed the elderly lady. "I don't seem to have enough change. I guess I need to put something back—I just didn't add things up right and I'm sorry."

While the elderly lady began to look through her items the clerk looked at Mother and said, "I'm sorry about the wait, ma'am. I'll help you as soon as I can."

"I understand," said Mother. "How much does she lack in money?"

"Almost a dollar," replied the clerk.

"Here, take it out of this five dollar bill," said Mother as she handed the clerk the money. The clerk made the payment and gave Mother back the change about the time the elderly lady said, "I guess you can put this bread back. I can make do a week without it."

"Ma'am," said the clerk. "You don't have to put the bread back. This lady here just loaned you a dollar."

The elderly lady turned and looked up at Mother. The wrinkles on her face creased into a thankful smile. "I appreciate that, ma'am," she said. "May the good Lord bless you for your kindness."

"You are welcome; God has blessed us and will continue to do so," replied Mother.

After the elderly lady had left, Mother handed Sandy a box of crackers. "Put these back on the shelf," she

said. "The Lord wanted us to buy bread instead." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go?
2. Did Jonah obey God?
3. What happened when the ship got out to sea?
4. Where did the shipmaster find Jonah?
5. How did the men find out that the storm was Jonah's fault?
6. What did Jonah tell them to do?
7. Did they want to do it?
8. Why did they eventually throw Jonah overboard?

(Answers: 1. Nineveh. 2. No. 3. A storm came up. 4. Asleep. 5. They cast lots. 6. Throw him overboard. 7. No. 8. They tried to go on but the storm got worse.)

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Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Jan. 23, 2005

NINEVEH REPENTS

A big fish swallowed Jonah after he was thrown into the ocean. Jonah was very sorry for not obeying God. For three days and three nights Jonah stayed in the fish's belly. He spent his time praying to God. Jonah cried out to God and praised God for His wondrous works.

After the third day the fish spit Jonah out on dry land. "Go to Nineveh and preach to the people there," the Lord once again commanded Jonah. This time Jonah obeyed. He had learned his lesson.

Jonah traveled for three days and finally reached the city of Nineveh. When he arrived Jonah began to preach to the people.

"In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed," Jonah prophesied. Jonah begged them to repent of their sins. The people of Nineveh believed in God. Every person, from the biggest to the smallest, put on sackcloth and fasted and prayed to God to deliver their city. Even the king of Nineveh rose from his throne and put on sackcloth. He sat in ashes. "Let no man or animal eat or drink at all. Instead, let every man cry out to God. Turn from your evil ways so we will not perish," the king pleaded.

After Jonah preached to the people of the city he went to the east side of the city. Jonah sat, waiting for the Lord to destroy the city. Jonah wanted Nineveh to be destroyed.

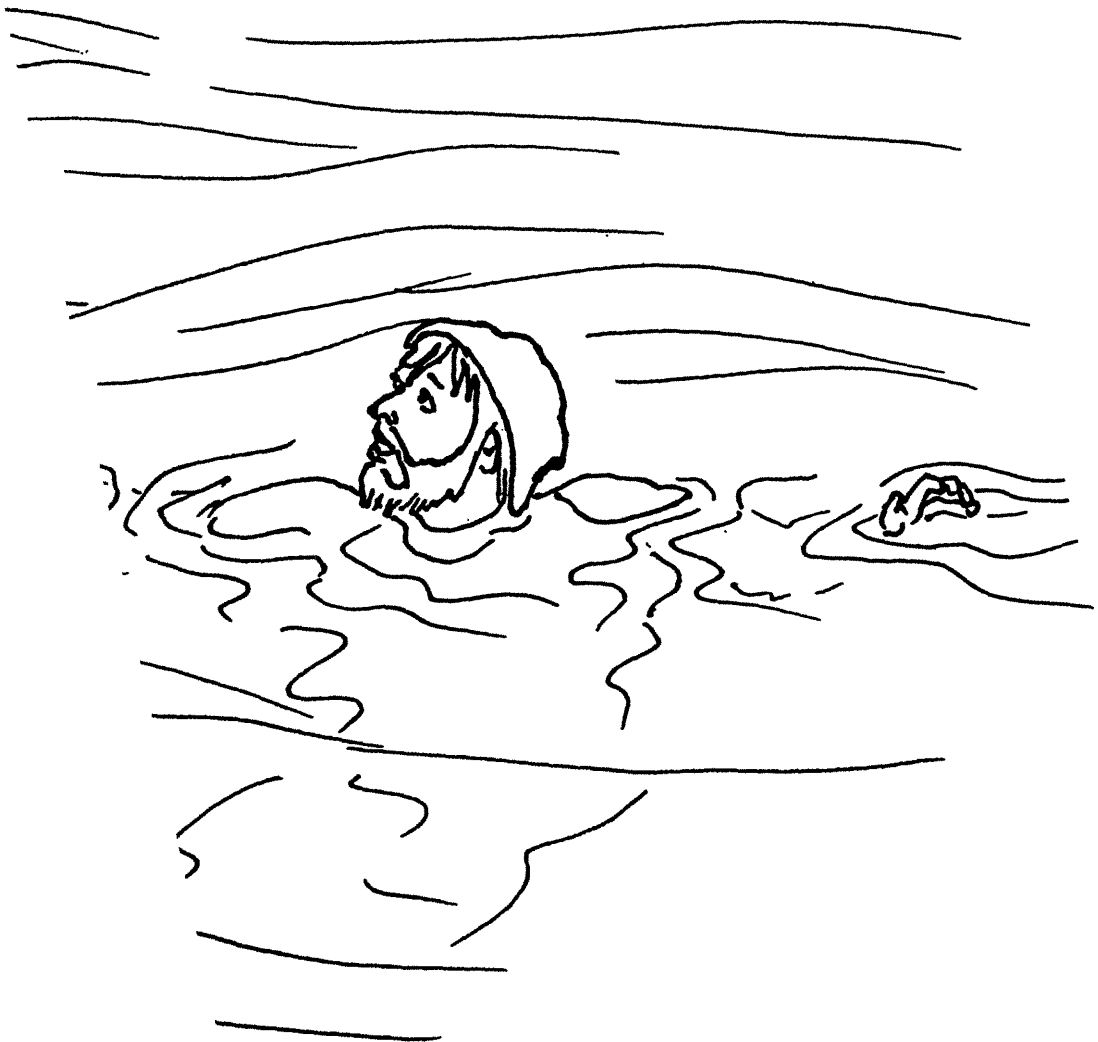
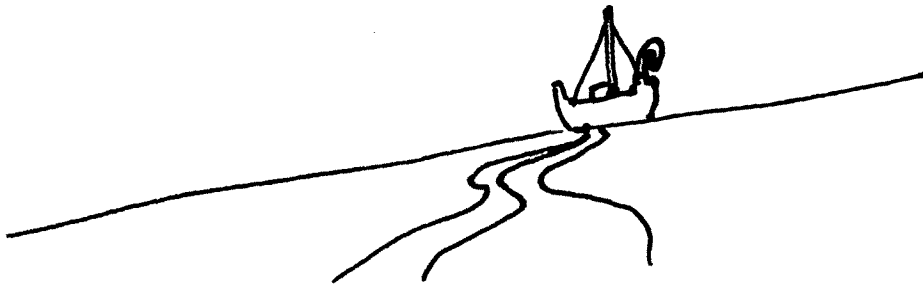
God caused a gourd to grow over Jonah. It gave Jonah shade. Jonah was very glad to have the gourd. The next morning God sent a worm. It caused the gourd to wither up. A great heat and fierce wind came upon the land. The sun was so hot it caused Jonah to faint. "It would be better for me to die than to live," Jonah pouted.

"Why are you angry about the gourd? You are sorry that the gourd died but you did not cause it to grow. Should I not have pity on Nineveh where more than 120,000 people live?" God asked Jonah. God spared the wicked city of Nineveh because He saw the people were truly sorry for their deeds.

—Monica Murphey



"Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." Jonah 1:17.



Broker The Horse

Sitting among the prairie grass on the Texas plains, Tommy watched Broker, a black horse with a white chest and four white feet. Tommy's dad had bought Broker in a herd of ten horses.

"You can have Broker for half price," the rancher had told his dad. "Old Broker won't amount to much because the spirit was whipped out of him."

Tommy asked his dad about Broker when they climbed into the truck to pull the horse trailer home. "What did that rancher mean the spirit was whipped out of Broker?" he asked.

"It means that the horse wasn't broken easily, Tommy. Whoever worked with him must have used the whip more than needed and ruined the horse's desire to please."

So Broker had been whipped! This made Tommy sad so he paid close attention to Broker when the horses were unloaded. Right away he noticed that Broker did not eat or stand by the other horses, but he stayed to himself.

"Hey, Dad," said Tommy, "Can I make Broker my pet?"

His dad shrugged. "Sure. Just don't take up time from school work or your chores." "Alright!" agreed Tommy.

Dad let the horses stay in the holding corral for a few days so they would get used to the place before he put them out to graze. Tommy took time to visit Broker and bring him bits of carrots or apple cores. Tommy would hold out the treat on the palm of his hand. Broker would look at Tommy but keep a distance from him. Tommy talked softly to him, but it wasn't until he showed Broker his other hand that Broker would come close enough to sniff the food. Broker wanted to make sure Tommy didn't have a whip or stick in his other hand!

Finally Broker's soft lips would brush over Tommy's open hand and quickly pick up the treat. Then he

would roll his eyes, jerk his head back and leave a distance between him and Tommy. Just before the horses were let out into the open pasture, Tommy had been able to pat Broker's nose and forehead without Broker pulling away. Now out on the open range, Broker did not want Tommy to bother him.

"It takes a lot of patience and steady love to win a horse's confidence in you, Tommy," Dad said. "Spend time with him and always keep your moves the same."

After Tommy had visited Broker for a few days, Dad decided to move Broker to his own stall and pen so that Tommy could befriend him easier. Broker did not like the move at first and kept away from Tommy. "I want us to be partners," Tommy told Broker kindly. He kept his voice calm and his body movement simple.

Time passed before Tommy was able to walk up to Broker and pet him. Daily showing love to Broker, Tommy won his confidence and later rode Broker with his friends and their horses.

God's love is like this; steady, patient and ready to make us useful.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What happened after Jonah was thrown into the sea?
2. How many days was Jonah in the fish's belly?
3. How did Jonah spend his time there?
4. What did the Lord command Jonah to do?
5. Did the people turn from their wicked ways?
6. What gave Jonah shade?
7. What happened to the gourd?
8. Why did God spare Nineveh?

(Answers: 1. A fish swallowed him. 2. Three. 3. Praying. 4. Go to Nineveh. 5. Yes. 6. A gourd. 7. A worm caused it to wither and die. 8. He saw they were truly sorry.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Jan. 30, 2005

A PROMISED MESSIAH

There are sixty-six books in the Bible. The Old Testament has thirty-nine books in all. Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It means "Beginning." Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Esther, Job, Daniel and Jonah are all books that contain stories about the history of the Israelites. Some of the books tell about Jewish laws. Many of the books were written by prophets. A prophet is a man or a woman who is very close to God. Sometimes God allows them to see into the future so they can warn others to change their ways.

For hundreds and thousands of years, Hebrew prophets spoke of a promised Messiah. Messiah means "anointed one." The Messiah was to be the Holy One of Israel. He was to be the Prophet, Priest and King of all mankind. Many Hebrews thought that the Messiah would be an earthly king who would set up a kingdom and rule over the world from Jerusalem.

Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah would set up a kingdom that would have no end. Prophets like Daniel, Micah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Zechariah and Moses gave hints of what the Messiah's life would be like. The Messiah was to be born in the city of David to a young girl. Although the Messiah would be set up as Prince and Counselor over all men, He would be a man of sorrows. He would be beaten and punished for the sins of all mankind.

There are four hundred years between the last chapter in the Old Testament and the first chapter in the New Testament. These years are often called the "silent years" because there is no book written during that time. Different countries took over the ruling of Israel. Persia, Greece, Syria and finally Roman soldiers took control of Israel during these years. Dark times had fallen on the Israelites. Most of the leaders of Israel were not honest men. The people were poor and oppressed. Although a coming Savior had been prophesied for hundreds of years, the hope of a better kingdom aided the Israelites through those tough times.

—Monica Murphey





"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:....and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

Pat, Matt And The Bat

Like most young boys Pat wanted to play baseball. However for Pat this desire was not simple because he had a special challenge with hand and eye coordination. You see, Pat was listed as a unique person with Down's Syndrome, or DS.

In their back yard Pat's mother would patiently toss the baseball to Pat who would swing the bat with all his might only to miss the ball every time. In her heart Pat's mother would pray that the Lord would send someone to help Pat hold the bat and swing it with him at the right time. They lived alone and she did not feel comfortable asking just anyone for help.

One Saturday afternoon eight-year-old Pat and his mother took a walk in a park where a crowd of neighborhood children were playing an informal game of baseball. Pat's eyes shone with delight when he saw the game. He looked at his mother and asked, "Can I play?"

His mother wanted to say yes but she knew Pat could not hit the ball nor catch it and that would make the children laugh at him or worse yet scorn him so she shook her head no. Pat obeyed his mother, but his boyish heart longed to join in the fun of play. He begged to at least watch the game, so his mother agreed to stay awhile.

Soon Pat was cheering every time the ball was hit. It didn't matter to him what team the batter was on, he simply was happy when the ball was hit by the bat. The children began to notice Pat's cheering and when they went to bat it was encouraging to hear his cheer after the ball and bat connected. After an hour or so had passed, an eleven-year-old boy came over to visit with Pat.

"Hi, my name is Matt. What is your name?"

"Pat," said Pat with a laugh because he noticed that the names rhymed. "You sure are good at cheering, Pat," said Matt. "Do you like baseball?" "Yal," said Pat with a big grin. "Play with Mom."

Matt looked at Pat's mom. "Can he play with us?"

"No, I don't think that would be a good idea," she replied slowly. "Pat and I need more practice before we play with a crowd."

Matt seemed quick to understand the need. "Maybe Pat and I could practice together," he said. "I need to practice more myself."

Pat's mother looked carefully into the eyes of the young man before her. *Should she trust her son's fragile ego into the hands of such a young coach? If Matt lost his patience and yelled at Pat and called him names, more damage would be done to Pat's self-esteem than if he never hit the ball.* "Oh, Lord, should I let Matt help Pat?" she prayed.

The Lord seemed to give her a peace of mind about Matt's help, so she agreed. The first practice was in Pat's back yard. Matt seemed to understand Pat and worked to help him hit the ball. The first time Pat's bat connected with the ball, he was too excited to run. He jumped up and down with joy. Under Matt's kind coaching, Pat learned to play baseball well enough to join in with the other children. Pat's mother thanked the Lord for sending Matt to help her son.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. How many books are in the Bible?
2. How many books are in the Old Testament?
3. Can you name some of them?
4. What does "Messiah" mean?
5. What was the Messiah to do?
6. What were some of the prophecies about the Messiah?
7. How many years went by between the Old Testament and the New Testament?
8. Why are they called the silent years?

(Answers: 1. Sixty-six. 2. Thirty-nine. 3. Answers may vary. 4. Anointed one. 5. Be the Prince, Prophet and Priest to all mankind. 6. Answers may vary. 7. Four hundred. 8. No book was written during that time.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 6, 2005

ZACHARIAS AND THE ANGEL

In the days when Herod was king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias. His wife was named Elisabeth. Elisabeth and Zacharias were both old. Elisabeth and Zacharias had no children although they had hoped and prayed for children.

Zacharias' job in the temple was to burn incense before the Lord. People would pray outside of the room while Zacharias was burning incense. One day, when Zacharias began burning the incense, he found an angel sent from God standing on the right side of the altar of incense. Zacharias was afraid.

"Fear not, Zacharias. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife, Elisabeth, shall bear thee a son. You will name him John. Everyone will be glad at his birth because he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He will not drink wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Ghost. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord," the angel informed Zacharias.

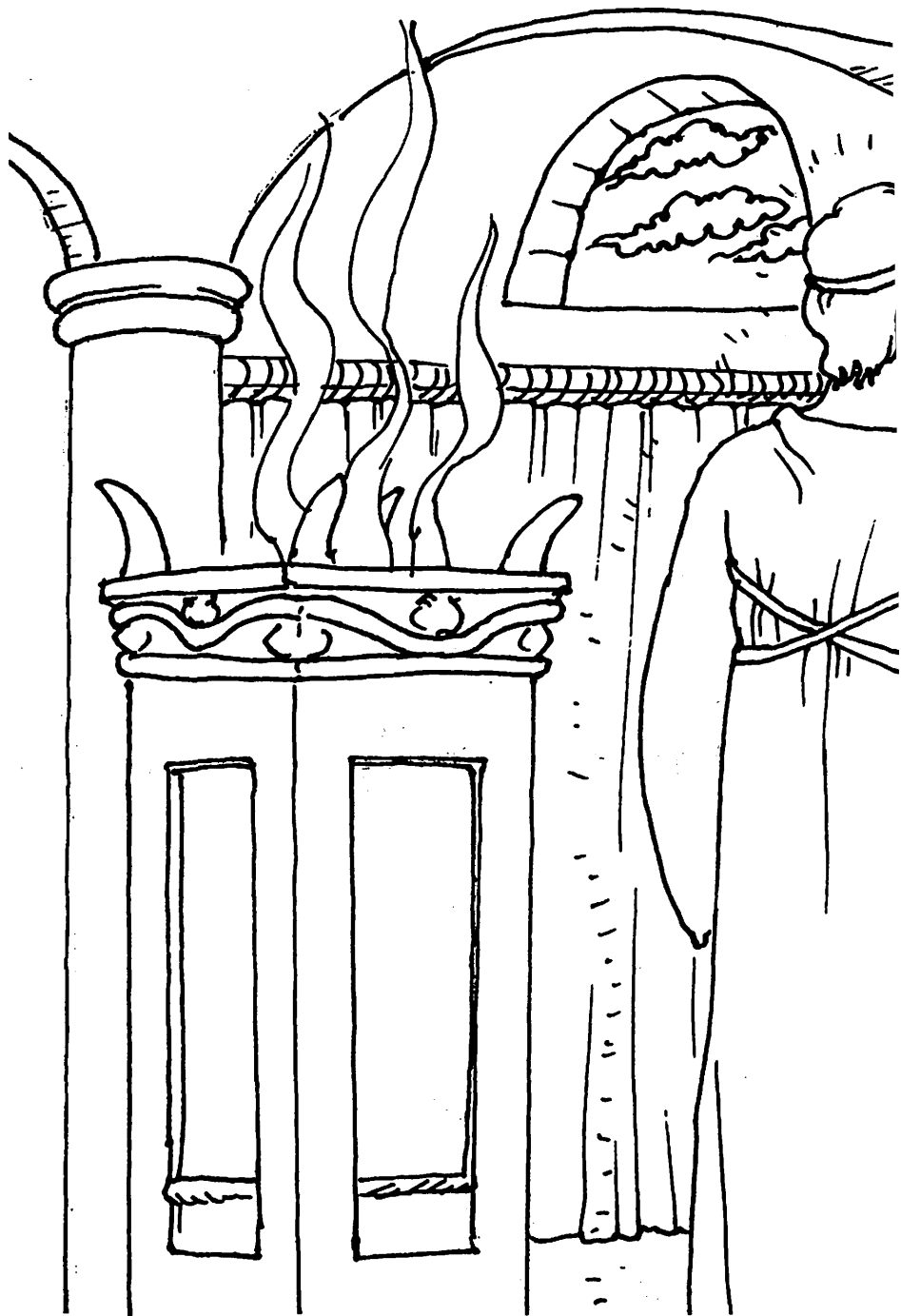
"How can I know this will really happen? I am an old man and my wife is old also," Zacharias doubted.

"I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. Because you do not believe my words, you will not be able to speak until your son is born," Gabriel answered.

While Zacharias was conversing with the angel, the people outside waited. "Why is he taking so long?" they wondered. When Zacharias finally came out, he could not speak to them. They thought he had seen a vision in the temple. When Zacharias' duties at the temple were completed he returned home. Soon they found that Elisabeth was going to have a baby. Elisabeth was very happy.

—Monica Murphey

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord stand



on the right side of the altar of incense." Luke 1:11.



Jay's Angel

(A true story.)

Often through his young life Jay Jones was not well. He had been born with several challenges to face and perhaps the biggest one was known as Down's Syndrome, or DS. Jay was not able to talk very much so he learned sign language and so did his loving mother, father and older brother. They wanted to make Jay's life as full and happy as possible.

As Jay grew older his special challenges separated him more and more from people who did not take the time to know and understand Jay. This grieved his mother's heart and she often prayed for the Lord to give her son a good friend, someone he could talk to in his own way.

Jay went to church regularly with his family and every evening his mother prayed with him before tucking him into bed. Kneeling with him by his bedside his mother would say, "Jay, do you have a special prayer request?"

Jay would nod his head then sign with his hands what he wanted to pray for that night. One evening as Jay and his family prepared for bed he signed to them that he wanted to see an angel like he had heard about in church. His father was impressed. "So, Jay, you want the Lord to send an angel to visit you tonight?"

"Yal," replied Jay. "A real one."

That was his prayer request—to see an angel. After his mother had prayed with Jay, she secretly, in her heart, told the Lord that what Jay wanted was a friend he could talk to and be comfortable with. Then she tucked Jay into bed and tiptoed out of his room.

The next night Jay said he wanted to see an angel again, and again his mother prayed about it. This went on for some time and then one night Jay made signs and gestures to let his mother know that an angel *did* come and visit him at night. He pointed to

the door way, smiled and let his mother know that the angel came in his room right there and spoke kind words to him.

Curious to know more, his mother asked, "What did he look like?"

Jay wiggled his thumb and pinkie signing, "Yellow."

"You mean the angel's clothes were yellow?"

"Yal," said Jay.

"What about the angel's face and hair?"

Again he signed, "Yellow."

Suddenly, his mother realized Jay didn't know how to say *golden*, *bright* or *shining* so his best way to describe his angel was by saying *yellow*.

This angel became a friend to Jay. Sometimes at night he would smile toward his doorway and let his mother know that his angel was there smiling at him. This was a comfort to his mother's heart, especially when Jay was sick and needed special attention. When Jay's body was in pain, his soul seemed to be at peace when he looked toward his bedroom doorway.

Many times his mother has thanked the Lord for sending a special friend to understand and talk to Jay in this way.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was king during this story?
2. What was Zacharias' job?
3. What did Zacharias and Elisabeth wish for?
4. Who was standing on the right side of the altar?
5. What did the angel tell Zacharias?
6. What was the baby's name to be?
7. How was Zacharias punished for his unbelief?
8. What did the people think was wrong with Zacharias?

(Answers: 1. Herod. 2. To burn the incense. 3. Children. 4. Gabriel. 5. He was to have a son. 6. John. 7. He could not speak until the baby's birth. 8. He had seen a vision.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 13, 2005

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE TO MARY

God sent Gabriel to visit a girl living in a city in Galilee, called Nazareth. The girl's name was Mary. Mary was engaged to marry a man named Joseph.

"You are highly favored. The Lord is with you. You are blessed among women," an angel had appeared to Mary and made this statement in praise of her. When Mary saw the angel, she was afraid. What did he mean?

"Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You shall have a son. His name will be called Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of His kingdom there shall be no end," the angel promised. "Your cousin, Elisabeth, is also having a son in her old age. With God, nothing is impossible."

"I am the servant of the Lord. Let it happen according to your words," Mary replied.

Mary quickly went to visit the house of Zacharias and Elisabeth. Both women realized that the babies they were going to have would be very special. Elisabeth and Mary praised God and rejoiced together at the miracles which had come to pass.

When Elisabeth had her baby her neighbors and family rejoiced with her. After the baby had been born for eight days, some decided his name should be Zacharias after his father. "No, he shall be named John," Elisabeth contradicted. "But we have no relatives named John," their friends protested.

Zacharias reached for a note pad and writing utensil. He wrote, "His name is John." Then Zacharias was able to speak. Zacharias praised God for His many wondrous miracles. "The child will be called the prophet of the Highest," Zacharias prophesied. "He will give people knowledge of salvation by repenting of their sins. He will give light to those that sit in darkness."

And John grew, strong in spirit.

—Monica Murphey

“...The angel Gabriel
came unto a city of
Nazareth.” Luke 1:26



sent from
lee named



Kayla Hid Away

Kayla was the delight of her large family. Born the youngest of eight children she received her share of attention. She needed that many people to watch after her! By the time Kayla was two-years-old, she was walking everywhere, climbing onto things and crawling into difficult places. Kayla loved to hide in small places and let family members hunt for her.

Mother warned her many times about hiding in dangerous places like the dryer, freezer or car trunk. Kayla would say, "Alright." But she still had to guard against such dangerous hiding since Kayla was a special needs child with Down's Syndrome, or DS.

One day Kayla was at a park playground playing with several other children near her age. One of the older girls said, "I have an idea you all. Let's play hide-n-seek!"

All the children thought it was a great idea, including Kayla. Soon the one who would hunt the children began to count. Kayla scrambled around with the others, eager to hide quickly. She wanted to hide with a friend but each time she tried, she heard, "No, Kayla, don't hide with me!"

"Leave me alone, Kayla!"

"Get lost, Kayla!"

Hiding time was running out! Frustrated, Kayla ran toward the big trash barrel. She was climbing up the side of it when the counting stopped. "Ready or not here I come!" called the finder. "Okay, Kayla, I see you hanging on the trash barrel!"

"Don't either!" cried Kayla. She didn't want to be caught.

While the hunter finished finding the other children, Kayla decided to hide really good. "Where is Kayla?" asked the hunter. "I saw her on the

trash barrel. Maybe she climbed in it!"

The children rushed over and peeked inside. No Kayla.

"Well I found Kayla first so she is the next one to hunt. We have to find her!" One boy said, "Maybe she is hiding in those bushes over there." The children checked the bushes. No Kayla.

One girl pointed to the outhouse and said, "Maybe she hid in there!" "Phew-wee, I hope not!" declared another girl.

Someone looked but Kayla wasn't there.

"Maybe she is hiding among those parked cars!" said one child.

They all ran to the parking lot to look. One of Kayla's big brothers was in his car watching them play. "Have you seen Kayla?" someone asked him.

"Yes, I've seen her," he replied. "Haven't you?"

"Here I am!" called Kayla as she threw off her brother's coat. Everyone laughed and Kayla was happy to be found. Her brother helped her count and do the hunting next time. It is good to play together in peace.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Mary's visitor?
2. What was the angel's message?
3. What was the baby's name to be?
4. Who did Mary visit?
5. What did some of the relatives want to name the baby?
6. What did Zacharias write?
7. Did Zacharias always stay unable to speak?
8. What did Zacharias say?

(Answers: 1. Gabriel. 2. She would have a very special son. 3. Jesus. 4. Elisabeth and Zacharias. 5. Zacharias. 6. "The baby's name will be John." 7. No. 8. Answers may vary.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 20, 2005

HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED JESUS

Mary told Joseph she was going to have a baby. At first Joseph didn't believe Mary. Then he was angry. Joseph decided not to marry her.

While Joseph was thinking of these things, an angel appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary for your wife. She will have a son and his name will be called Jesus. He will save people from their sins," was the angel's message to Joseph.

Joseph did take Mary for his wife. The Romans were in control of Israel. The emperor of Rome sent out a decree that all of the world would be taxed. He wanted to know how many people lived in each city. Every man was to take his family and go to the city where his family had lived. There, everyone would be counted by the Romans. Joseph's family was from the city of Bethlehem. Joseph and Mary began the long journey to Bethlehem.

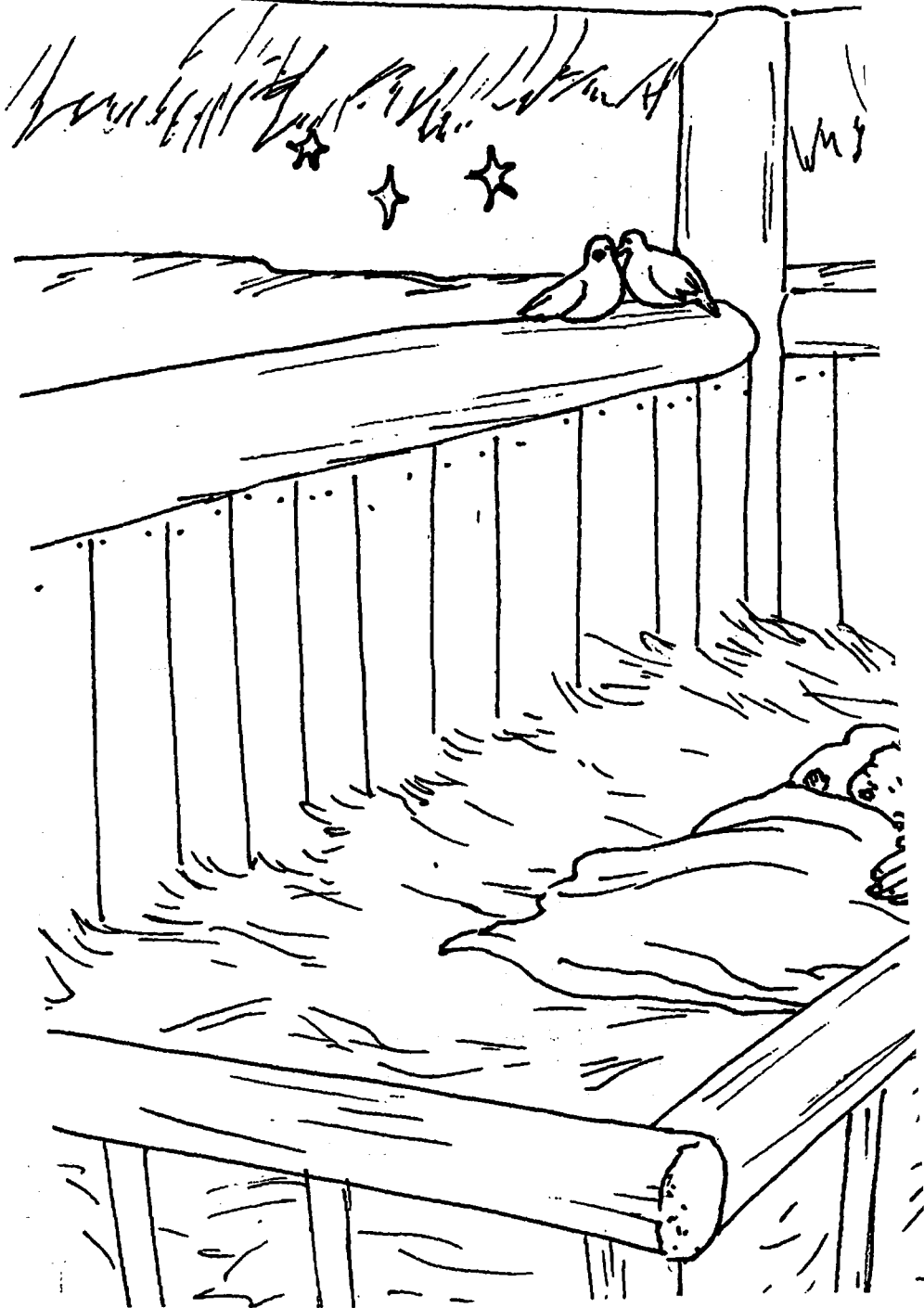
Tired and weary, Mary and Joseph entered Bethlehem. "Do you have a place where my wife and I could stay?" Joseph asked over and over at each inn. "We have no room," the innkeepers all replied. Finally, one innkeeper allowed Mary and Joseph to stay in his stable. People kept their animals in the stables. But Mary and Joseph were very grateful to have a place to stay.

That night baby Jesus was born. Baby Jesus was very special. His father on earth was Joseph, but God was his real father. Jesus was wrapped in cloth and placed in a manger.

No one is sure what day Jesus was born. Years later followers of Christ adopted a popular holiday to celebrate Jesus' birth. This holiday is now called Christmas. Although Jesus may not have been born on December 25th, it is a time we set aside to celebrate the birth of such a special baby boy.

—Monica Murphey

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him
no room for thei



waddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was the inn." Luke 2:7.



Cindy's Wonderful Home

Cindy was having the time of her life playing in her new life-size playhouse. She had her new dishes put away in the one cupboard and two pans were neatly arranged on the two-burner stove top. Her refrigerator was stocked with plastic fruits, meats, pies, doughnuts—you name it—she had it. Jenna, her favorite doll, was sharing a bedtime snack with Cindy at the small table when she heard Dad's footsteps on the stone breezeway floor.

"It is time for family worship, Cindy," said Dad. "Come on out of your playhouse and join the rest of the family."

"Oh, Daddy, I have my house all set up so cute," said Cindy, as she looked out of one window. "Come and peek inside! Jenna and I were just snacking!"

Dad did bend his six-foot-three inch body down and look inside the window as Cindy showed him where she had stored or placed each little treasure. "I wish you could come inside, Daddy, though you might be a little crowded."

Dad laughed. "I think I would be like a bull in a China cabinet if I tried to wiggle into your dainty house," he said. "You probably wouldn't want more than my head inside!"

"Oh, Daddy," giggled Cindy, as she stepped out of her house and hugged her father. "I would want all of you inside but I guess you wouldn't like to be bent in two when you sat down."

"No," said Dad. "I really enjoy watching you play in the house. Have all the fun you can while you are this size. You are at a happy age right now."

"Do you get unhappy when you grow up?" asked Cindy, as she put her hand in Dad's and they walked to the family room together.

"You should not," said Dad. "But there are a lot more things to care

about after you get big. Don't worry about growing up right now. Just learn to obey your mother and me and let Jesus live in your heart. He will help you as you grow bigger."

"Does Jesus live in my heart like I play in my house?" asked Cindy.

"You could compare it in that way, I guess," Dad replied with a smile. "Jesus comes into our hearts and He puts things in order there. He arranges love on this shelf, kindness on the stove, patience in the refrigerator, joy on the table, and so we have a heart full of His things by the time Jesus is finished."

Cindy's eyes were shining at her dad with these happy thoughts, but her brother Jim had only heard about the patience in the refrigerator.

"When I open up the refrigerator door," he said, "I don't want patience, I want something to eat!"

Everyone laughed and then Dad opened the Bible story book. The family became quiet as he read to them. Later they discussed the story and had prayer. Cindy is blessed to have such a wonderful home!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the angel tell Joseph to do?
2. What did the emperor wish to do?
3. Where was every man to go?
4. Where was Joseph's family from?
5. Where did an innkeeper put Mary and Joseph?
6. Who were Jesus' parents?
7. Where was Jesus put?
8. When do we celebrate Jesus' birthday?

(Answers: 1. To take Mary for his wife. 2. To tax the entire world. 3. The city where his family was from. 4. Bethlehem, the city of David. 5. In a stable. 6. Mary and Joseph. 7. In a manger. 8. Christmas day, December 25th.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Feb. 27, 2005

JESUS VISITS THE TEMPLE

Eight days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph brought him to the temple to present Him to the Lord. Mary and Joseph also came to offer a sacrifice to God.

A devout and elderly man named Simeon lived in Jerusalem. Simeon had waited for years to see the Messiah. Simeon felt that the Holy Ghost had revealed to him that he would see the Messiah before he died. On this day Simeon felt the Holy Spirit urging him to come to the temple. There he saw Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus. Simeon knew that this was the Promised Child. He took Jesus in his arms and praised God. "Now I can die in peace, because my eyes have seen your salvation. This child will be a light to the Gentiles, and the glory of Israel," Simeon predicted.

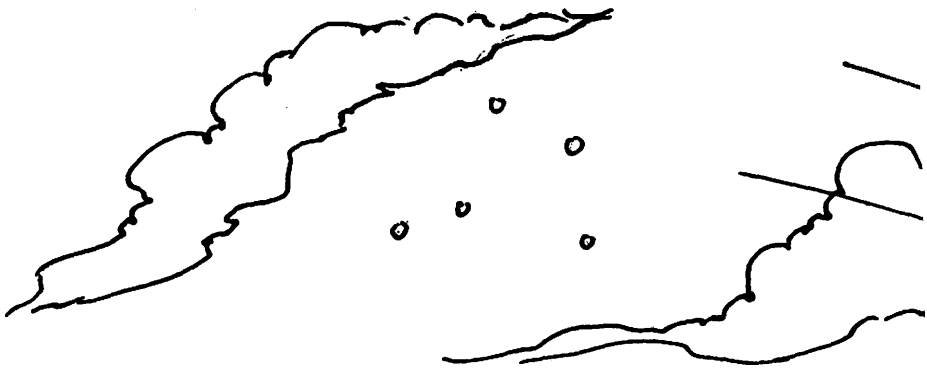
Anna, a widow for eighty-four years, and a prophetess, was also at the temple. Anna came to the temple often to fast and pray night and day. When Anna saw Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, Anna gave thanks to the Lord. "He will be the redemption of Israel," Anna prophesied.

Shepherds were in a field near Bethlehem, watching over their sheep. It was nighttime. Suddenly an angel came to the shepherds. A bright light shown all about him. The shepherds were very afraid.

"Do not be afraid. I have good news which shall cause joy among all people. A baby has been born in Bethlehem. This baby is our Savior, Christ the Lord. You will find the baby wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger," the angel proclaimed.

Many other angels appeared in the night sky. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men," the angels praised. The shepherds came to the stable where Mary and Joseph were still staying. After they saw the baby they hurried away to spread the good news.

—Monica Murphey



— “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.” Luke 2:9.





Billy The Problem

Billy was a boy who had a hard time listening and sitting still. He would stand up and talk to the others right while the teacher was teaching. When asked to sit down and be quiet, Billy would not listen but bothered others instead.

"What should we do about Billy?" was a common question no one knew the answer to. "We want him to come," said one teacher. "But it isn't fair that Billy keeps the other children from listening."

When Sis. Linda began to teach the class she had heard enough about Billy to almost make her quit before she started. However Sis. Linda wanted to really help Billy learn to be quiet. She had a plan.

"Next Sunday please bring something to tell about," she told all nine students. "Bring something that shows your love for Jesus or His love to you and tell us about it." "Alright! Okay!" everyone agreed, including Billy.

All week the children talked with their parents about what they were going to take. Saturday night Sis. Linda called to each student's home to remind them to bring something for the lesson.

Sunday morning Billy came to Sunday school with a sack in his hand. He was so excited that he could hardly wait for his class to start. As soon as Sis. Linda shut the door to their room, she asked, "Now who all remembered to bring something?"

Every hand went up and each face was smiling. "I want to go first," said Billy, standing up.

"Okay, Billy, if we let you go first, you must promise to be quiet while the others show what they have. Okay?"

"Okay," agreed Billy.

"And if you aren't quiet," continued Sis. Linda. "Then I get to keep your item and give it to your mother after class. Understand, Billy?"

Billy looked surprised. "But it's mine!" he said.

"I know, but when you are noisy and take away time from others that is just as bad as giving up your favorite gift from Jesus. Now show us what you have!"

Billy opened up his sack and pulled out a well-worn fire truck. "It used to sound like a siren but now I have to make that sound," said Billy as he sounded off. "This is what Jesus left on my front porch the morning of my sixth birthday. Mama couldn't buy it but Jesus sent it to me."

"Very good," said Sis. Linda. Suddenly her heart felt more love toward Billy and she was glad she didn't have to take the truck from him.

Through this method of teaching, Sis. Linda learned more about her students and Billy learned to listen better.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Mary and Joseph take baby Jesus?
2. Who was waiting to see Jesus at the temple?
3. What had the Holy Ghost told Simeon?
4. Who came to see the shepherds?
5. What did the angel tell the shepherds?
6. Where did the shepherds go?
7. What did the shepherds do after seeing the baby?

(Answers: 1. The temple. 2. Anna and Simeon. 3. That he would see the Messiah before he died. 4. An angel. 5. A special baby had been born in Bethlehem. 6. To see the baby. 7. They hurried away to spread the good news.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 6, 2005

FOREIGN VISITORS

King Herod stared at the three great men that had traveled from a country so far away. They had just asked him, "Where is He that has been born the Christ, the king of the Jews? We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

King Herod gathered his scribes and wise men together. "Where is this Christ supposed to have been born?" he inquired. "The prophets wrote that he would be born in Bethlehem of Judea," they revealed.

"It appears the child has been born in Bethlehem," King Herod informed the wise men. "Go and search for the child. When you have found him, come back and tell me so that I can come and worship him, too."

The wise men continued to follow the star until they reached the stable where Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus were. When the wise men saw the child they fell down and worshiped him. The wise men brought baby Jesus fine gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

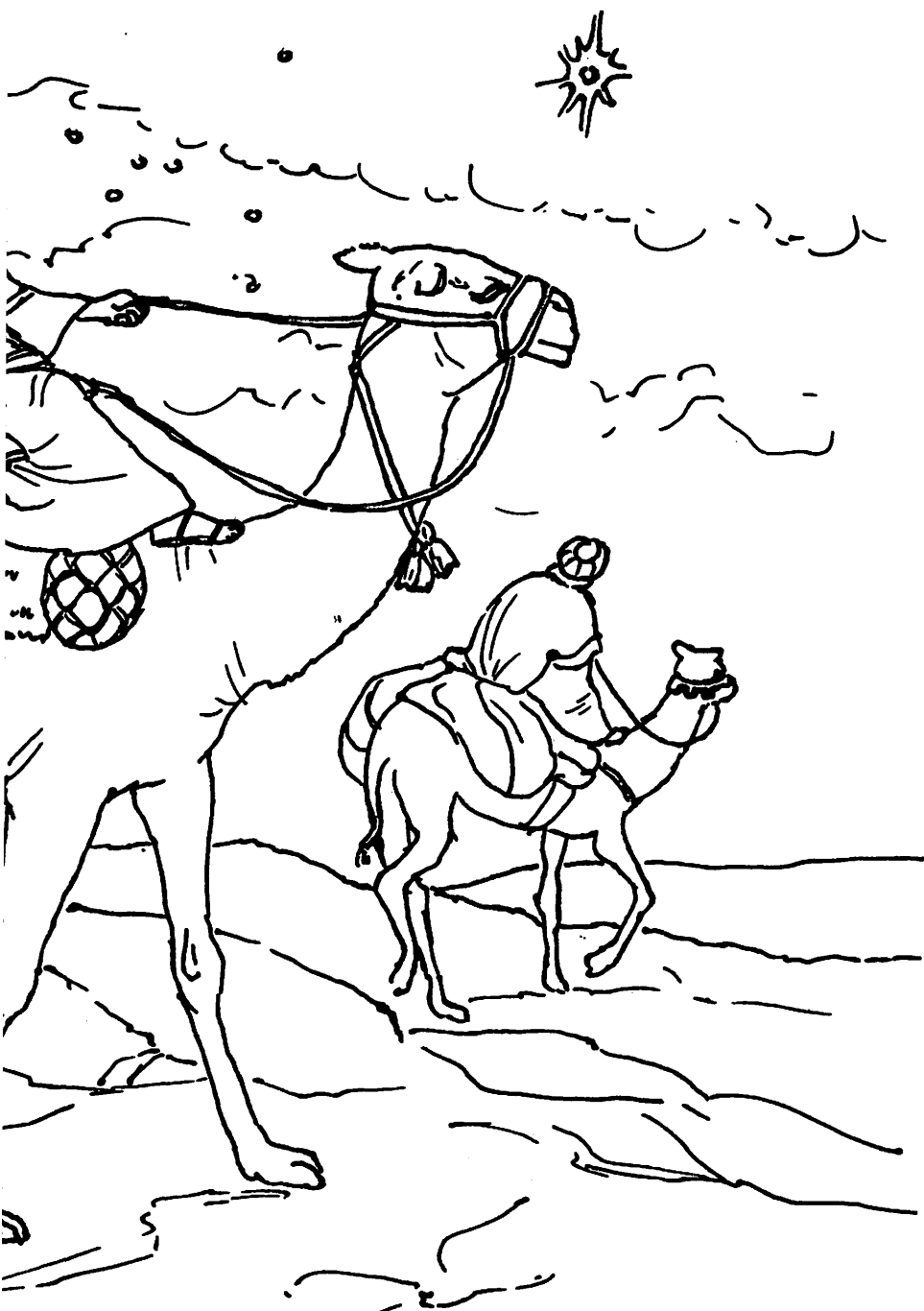
The wise men had been warned in a dream that they should not return to King Herod. Joseph also had a dream. "Wake up. Take the young child and His mother and go into Egypt. Wait there until I tell you to come back. Herod will search for Jesus and try to destroy Him," Joseph was told. So Mary, Joseph and Jesus lived in Egypt for awhile.

When Herod figured out that the wise men were not coming back, he was angry. "Kill all of the children in Bethlehem that are two years old and younger," Herod ordered. All of the children were killed but the one that Herod wanted dead had escaped.

"Take the child and his mother back to Israel. King Herod, who has sought for the child's life, is dead," Joseph was advised in another dream. Joseph took Mary and Jesus and they returned to their own city, Nazereth. Joseph worked as a carpenter. Jesus grew to be a strong boy, full of wisdom and God's grace. —Monica Murphey

سنة ١٤١٥





...Lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." Matthew 2:9.

Love You Lessons

Randy went into the gas station with his mother when she went inside to pay for her gas. First he wanted a drink, so Mother helped him get an icy. The line was long and Randy wanted to look at magazines while his mother waited.

"No, Randy, stay with me," said his mother. "I do not want you by the magazine rack."

"Why?" asked Randy.

"We have plenty of good magazines at home," replied Mother. "You don't need to search the magazine rack at public places."

Randy stayed by his mother, sipping on his icy. He watched as one man bought beer, cigarettes and a magazine. Randy had been told many times that beer and cigarettes were very harmful to the body and this man was buying both, plus a forbidden magazine.

"I guess his mother didn't love him enough to teach him any better," thought Randy. Then he saw a young woman buying several tickets. Randy patted his mother's arm for her attention.

"What are the tickets for?" he asked.

"Those are lottery tickets, Randy," replied his mother. "We don't buy those either. I will tell you about them when we get into the car."

After Mother paid for her gas and their ices, they went to their car, buckled up in seat belts and Randy said, "What were you going to tell me about those tickets?"

"Oh, yes," said Mother. "Those are tickets to gamble in the lottery. They have two matching sets of numbers on them. When the ticket is divided, one set of numbers goes into the drawing with thousands of other tickets and one set of numbers is given to the person who bought the ticket. Then a ticket number is taken out each week and when that chosen number is the same as the ticket in the hand, then that person wins some money."

"How much money can you win?" asked Randy.

"Sometimes a little bit and sometimes more. It isn't worth the try," replied Mother. "We don't waste our money that way. We give ten percent or more to the Lord and He blesses us for that. Giving to the Lord's work is a better money investment than the lottery or any other form of gambling. I love you very much, Randy," said Mother as she glanced at her son with her hand on the steering wheel. "I warn you against the lottery, slot machines, casinos—any form of gambling—because I love you very much and I don't want those things to harm your soul. Remember they are soul enemies and you must fight against any temptation to gamble."

"It is just as bad as smoking cigarettes, drinking beer and looking at bad magazines, isn't it?" said Randy.

"Yes," agreed Mother. "We have the strength of Jesus to help us overcome these evil traps. The devil likes to trap people in these kinds of sins and make them miserable. I don't want you to live a sad, miserable life because of these sins. Be a strong soldier for the Lord, Randy."

"I will," promised Randy as he sipped his icy. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did the wise men visit first?
2. What did King Herod ask them to do?
3. What showed the wise men where to go?
4. What gifts did the wise men give to Jesus?
5. Where did Mary and Joseph go?
6. What did King Herod command to be done to the children?
7. Where did Joseph and Mary return?
8. How did Jesus grow?

(Answers: 1. King Herod. 2. Find the child so he could worship Him. 3. A star. 4. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. 5. To Egypt. 6. Kill all children two and under. 7. To Nazereth. 8. Strong, full of wisdom and God's grace.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 13, 2005

JESUS, THE YOUNG TEACHER

The people of Israel remembered when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. The prophet Moses and his brother Aaron pleaded with King Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt. The Pharaoh would not let them leave. So God sent many troubles, or plagues, on the Egyptians. The last plague occurred when the angel of death visited each house. Houses that had lamb's blood on the doorways were passed over. But in the houses of the Egyptians, where there was no blood on the doorways, the firstborn son was killed. The Israelites had a feast of lamb and unleavened bread and stood ready and waiting for the Pharaoh to let them leave. The Israelites celebrate the Passover to remind them how God helped them to be freed from the Egyptians by having the feast of the Passover every year.

When Jesus was twelve years old, He went with His parents to Jerusalem, as they did every year, to celebrate the Passover feast. Now it was time to leave. "Where is Jesus?" Mary and Joseph wondered. Mary and Joseph were traveling with different families who were friends and relatives of Mary and Joseph. "Maybe Jesus is with some of the others," they decided. Joseph and Mary traveled on for a whole day. But they still could not find Jesus. Joseph and Mary went back to Jerusalem.

Joseph and Mary looked everywhere in Jerusalem for Jesus. They searched for Him for three tiresome days. Finally, Joseph and Mary found Jesus.

Jesus was in the temple. Doctors and leaders of the temple were sitting around Jesus listening to Him speak. The men were amazed at the knowledge and wisdom Jesus had although He was only twelve.

"Son, why did You do this to us? Your father and I have been so worried! We have looked everywhere for You!" Mary reproved Jesus.

"Why did you search for Me? Do you not know that I was doing my Father's business?" Jesus asked His mother. Mary and Joseph did not understand that Jesus was talking about His Heavenly Father.

—Monica Murphey





"And it came to pass that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions." Luke 2:46.

Sad Story Of Sin

Mother was reading the newspaper when Linda came into the living room. "What are you reading about, Mother?"

"Oh this is just another sad story about the wages of sin," replied Mother with a sigh. "I pray the Lord will have mercy and deal with people. The Lord Jesus is their only hope in this world where righteousness is slipping away fast."

Linda sat down on the couch beside her mother and saw the pictures of two little girls. "Oh, they look so sweet," she exclaimed. "Did they die in that fire?"

"Yes," replied Mother. "They were only five-and two-years old—innocent children who died because of their parents' sins."

"What happened, Mother?"

"In the middle of Friday night while these two girls were sleeping, the mother and father were at a nearby casino gambling. They had left two uncles of the girls' to watch them while they were gone. Suddenly there was an explosion and the trailer house caught on fire right away. Before anyone could help the girls and the young men out of the house, the roof fell in. No one was rescued."

"Oh, that is sad," said Linda. "What caused the fire?"

"The fire chief said it appears to be a meth lab or illegal drug kitchen that exploded in a nearby shed. The flames from it caught the trailer on fire."

"So were the uncles making illegal drugs?" asked Linda.

"Probably. But the girls' parents had been making and selling drugs too," said Mother. "See the pattern of sin in their lives. The parents made money selling illegal drugs that harmed others. Still greedy for money, they left their two precious daughters with men and went to a casino to gamble for more money. What a trap the devil has poor people in!"

"Yes," agreed Linda. "That mom should have been at home sleeping near her girls in case they needed her. Parents are supposed to

protect their children and not leave them in a dangerous situation like that."

Mother hugged Linda as she said, "I am thankful that you see this as evil. Don't ever let the devil make you think *I'll win the jackpot and then buy my family something fancy* because that is just a trick to ruin your life and your family's. Gambling can be an addiction just like smoking cigarettes or drinking beer or taking drugs. All of these things go together and make a person's life miserable."

"The parents of these two girls are probably sad now that they made drugs and gambled," said Linda. "What happened to them?"

"The parents have been arrested and will spend time in jail. I would say they are sorry that their daughters and brothers were killed in the fire but I would hope the parents are sorry about their sins and will seek forgiveness from Jesus. He is their only hope of deliverance from such a life of misery. We need to pray for them and ask God what we can do to help others come to Him."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What feast did the Israelites celebrate every year?
2. Why did the Israelites celebrate the Passover?
3. Who visited each house and what happened at each house?
4. How old was Jesus the year when He went to Jerusalem?
5. How many days did Mary and Joseph search for Jesus in Jerusalem?
6. Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus?
7. What was Jesus doing?
8. What did Jesus tell Mary?

(Answers: 1. The Passover. 2. To remind them of how God helped them to leave Egypt. 3. The death angel would kill every firstborn in the houses that had no blood on the doorway. 4. Twelve. 5. Three. 6. In the temple. 7. Speaking to the leaders in the temple. 8. That He was only doing His Father's business.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 20, 2005

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

John had grown to be a man. People called him "John the Baptist," because John preached that after people repent of their sins they should be baptized as a confession of their faith.

Pharisees and Sadducees, leaders of the Israelites, came to hear John speak and to see him baptize people. "You are very bad people. Flee from God's wrath and repent of your sins," John warned them.

John's outfit was made out of camel's hair with a leather belt about his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. John preached in all of Judea. Many people came to John to confess their sins and to be baptized.

"I baptize you with water. There is One to come that is mightier than I. I am not worthy to wear His shoes. He will baptize with the Holy Ghost," John told his followers. "Anyone that will receive Him will receive power to become God's sons."

One day Jesus came to the Jordan where John was preaching. "Will you baptize Me?" Jesus asked John. "But I need to be baptized by You. Why do You come to me?" John wondered. "This is what I need to do," Jesus answered John. So John baptized Jesus. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Spirit of God came down as a dove. It lighted on Jesus. A voice from heaven declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. In the book of Isaiah, Isaiah wrote a prophecy about John many years before John was born. "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make your paths straight,'" he says. Even today we continue the teaching of baptism started by John the Baptist. After someone gets saved, confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness, the Bible says that they should behave as a new person. Baptism symbolizes the death of the old, bad life and the beginning of a new life. It is a way to let the world know that you have chosen to follow Christ. After all, being baptized was the first recorded act that Jesus did when He was a grown man.

—Monica Murphey



“...And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.” Matthew 3:16.



Our Own Special Baby

Ever since she was a teenager, Liz liked to babysit. After Liz married Ron she started babysitting children at a place called Mother's Day Out. In the evenings Liz would tell Ron about the cute babies and the busy little tots that she cared for. Then Liz would say, "Some day, Ron, I want us to have children of our own."

"We will, Honey," agreed Ron. "The Lord will bless us with our own special baby in His own time."

Months and years slipped by. Five times Ron and Liz had to kiss a tiny son or daughter good-bye because the baby did not live after birth. Liz cried a lot about her babies, but it cheered her heart to hold babies at Mother's Day Out.

One day Liz's friend, Kate, talked to her about babysitting with special needs children. "Why don't you visit me at Tender Care Center," said Kate. "You can meet the children and learn about each one's special need."

"Okay," agreed Liz. "I will visit during the noon time and help them with lunch."

A few days later, Liz walked into Tender Care Center and she knew things were different here than at the usual day care centers. There were hand rails along the walls, ramps instead of steps, and short tables that a wheelchair could fasten to.

Kate introduced Liz to each one of the children. Three boys and two girls were in wheelchairs. Four of the children needed walkers to help them walk. Three girls were blind and were learning to walk with canes.

In spite of their physical needs, the children smiled at Liz and said *hello* in their own way. Liz visited longer than she had planned to and was sad to say good-bye.

"Liz, come and visit us as often as you can," said Kate.

"Oh, I will," said Liz. In fact, Liz went to visit so often that she started working there herself!

Tender Care Center also helped new mothers who had a special-needs newborn baby. Liz learned how to help these moms care for their special-need blessing. Liz would tell Ron about all these precious children she was helping.

"The Lord is really blessing you, Liz," said Ron. "He is using your gifts of love and understanding to bless these needy little lives."

"I know the Lord has put me in this work and I love it," said Liz. "I would just like to have one child of our own."

The Lord heard Liz's request and He answered her prayer. A sweet baby girl was born and her mother was not able to care for her. Liz had been with the baby a few hours after it was born and she told Ron all about her. "She has a healthy desire to live even though she has cerebral palsy," she said. "Come see her at the hospital."

Ron did. He fell in love with baby Robin and they decided to adopt her. Now Liz has her own baby to love! As a family, they thank the Lord for blessing them so much. —Sis. Connie Sorrell.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did people call John?
2. Why was he called "John the Baptist?"
3. What did John prophesy about Jesus?
4. Who came to John to be baptized?
5. What came and lit on Jesus' shoulder?
6. What did the voice from Heaven say?
7. What did Isaiah prophesy about John?
8. What did John the Baptist eat?

(Answers: 1. John the Baptist. 2. He baptized people after they confessed their sins. 3. That he would baptize with the Holy Ghost. 4. Jesus. 5. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. 6. "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well-pleased." 7. That he would prepare the way of the Lord. 8. Locusts and wild honey.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 27, 2005

CHRIST IS TEMPTED

After Jesus was baptized by John, He went to spend some time fasting and praying in the wilderness. Jesus did not eat anything for forty days and nights. He spent time praying.

Jesus was very hungry and probably tired when the devil came to Him. "If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread," the devil tempted Jesus.

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God,'" Jesus quoted from scripture.

The devil took Jesus to a large city. They sat on the top of a temple overlooking the city. "If you are the Son of God, jump down. It has been written that God will give his angels charge over you, and that they will hold you up to keep you from dashing your foot against a stone," the devil continued trying to tempt Jesus.

"It is written, 'You will not tempt the Lord your God,'" Jesus again answered with scripture.

Next, Jesus was taken to the top of a high mountain. There, Jesus and the devil could see all of the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all of these kingdoms if you will fall down and worship me," the devil offered.

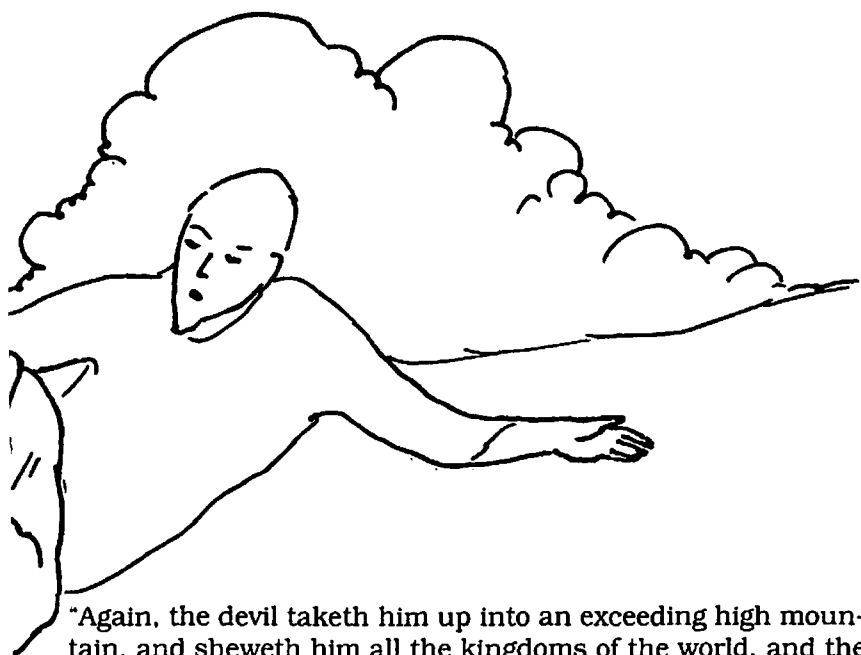
"Go away, Satan! It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you will serve,'" Jesus answered.

The devil left Jesus. Angels came and ministered to Jesus.

Every time the devil tempted Jesus, Jesus answered by using scriptures. God's promises are always true. God is more powerful than the devil. Using scriptures is one good way to make the devil cower.

—Monica Murphey





"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Matthew 4:8-9.



Bob's Punishment

"Bob, you go straight home right after school," said his mother as he climbed out of the car one morning.

"I will," he replied as usual.

"Be good, Son. I love you and so does God," said Mom.

"Okay, Mom. Bye," replied twelve-year-old Bob as he shut the car door. Mom was someone to be respected and obeyed because she knew how to use the switch to keep that respect healthy. Bob respected his dad because he was such a good man.

Dad worked at a big bank as a loan officer. Every morning he always looked nice and trim in his business suit. When Dad hugged Bob good-bye before leaving for work, Bob would inhale the pleasant scent of after shave.

It was the same scent that greeted Bob when he would visit Dad at his office after school. Some days Dad was too busy for Bob to stay so he would walk home and wait an hour or so before Mom came home from her job as a secretary. But sometimes Dad would have time to visit and show Bob something. Bob loved that time with Dad.

This afternoon Bob's friend, Scott, wanted him to stop by his house on the walk home from school. "You don't have to stay very long," said Scott. "But I want you to see my new pup tent and lantern that I got for my birthday. It will be great for our next scout camp-out!"

So Bob disobeyed his mother and stopped by Scott's house. They were in the pup tent with the lantern burning though it was a sunny afternoon. Wrestling in fun within the tent, the boys didn't realize the lantern had caught the dry grass on fire until suddenly they felt the heat! A neighbor called the fire station. Sirens sounded as a police car and a fire truck pulled up and quickly put out the fire after it had destroyed Scott's tent. The police called their parents.

Bob's mom came for him. "Go straight to your room, young man, and wait for your father," she said sternly.

"Aw, Mom, just whip me—I'm sorry—and don't bother Dad about it," said Bob.

"You mind me! Dad will know about this!" she fumed.

From his bedroom, Bob heard his mom explain his disobedience to his dad. Then Dad opened and shut his door. "Son, let's talk," he said.

In tears Bob admitted his guilt and said he was sorry.

"It's time for punishment," said Dad quietly. "Stand up and turn around."

Bob heard his dad's belt slip out of the loops and he waited for the sting. He heard a slap but felt nothing. Then he realized his dad was hitting his own bare legs! "Remember, Son, that you deserved punishment, but I showed you mercy and took the punishment for you. Don't grieve the Lord and me with disobedience."

All the rest of his life Bob never forgot the day that his dad showed him mercy and it made him more obedient and merciful. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus do in the wilderness?
2. How many days did Jesus fast?
3. Who came and tempted Jesus?
4. What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn into bread?
5. What did Jesus answer the devil with?
6. What did the devil tell Jesus he would give Jesus if He worshiped the devil?
7. Who came and ministered to Jesus after the devil left?
8. Who is more powerful than the devil?

(Answers: 1. Fasted and prayed. 2. Forty. 3. The devil. 4. Stones. 5. Scripture. 6. All the kingdoms of the world. 7. Angels. 8. God.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 3, 2005

JESUS' DISCIPLES

Peter and his brother, Andrew, were casting a net into the Sea of Galilee trying to catch fish. Peter and Andrew were fishermen. This morning Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee and saw Peter and Andrew.

"Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men," Jesus offered.

Something about Jesus made Peter and Andrew want to follow Him. Immediately, Peter and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus. The procession walked on down the beach. Jesus saw two other brothers, James and John. James and John were sitting in their father's boat mending their nets. "Come, follow Me," Jesus called to them. James and John left their boat and their father, Zebedee. They followed Jesus.

The next day Jesus found Philip. "Follow Me," Jesus told Philip. Philip went to Nathanael. "We have found the man that Moses and the prophets wrote about. His name is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph," Philip informed Nathanael. "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him. "Here is an Israelite who does no wrong!" Jesus exclaimed. "How do you know me?" Nathanael wondered. "Before Philip called to you, when you were sitting under the fig tree, I saw you," Jesus answered. "You are the Son of God and the king of Israel," Nathanael proclaimed. "You believe Me when I say I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these," Jesus said.

Jesus saw a tax collector sitting at his desk. "Follow Me," Jesus told him. Matthew, the tax collector, rose and followed Jesus.

All of these men followed Jesus and helped Him as He preached and healed. Twelve men became Jesus' disciples. They were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon, Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot.

—Monica Murphey

"And Jesus,...saw two
b. ethren,...Peter, and
Andrew his brother, casting
a net into the sea: for they
were fishers. And he saith
unto them, Follow me, and
will make you fishers of
men." Matthew 4:18-19.





The Prayers Of Momma

In the 1840's, sitting on the dirt floor of a shack in eastern Maryland, Momma Ross rocked back and forth in rhythm to her songs and prayers as she nursed a huge wound on her youngest daughter's head. Poppa and Momma Ross had ten children, but where were they? As soon as they had been old enough to work, Master Brodas had sold their children to other plantation owners. The worst horror was when two of her daughters were sold to the chain gang that enforced hard labor, little sleep and bad living conditions. She would never see them again this side of heaven, but she prayed all her children would make it to the beautiful promised land above the clouds.

Momma dipped a rag into a herbal mix, wrung out the rag and placed it on her little daughter's wound. "Oh, Jesus, what's gonna happen to my baby?" cried Momma. "She was so brave to help one man to freedom. Put yer hand of protection on my baby. Make her a blessing to yer people, Lord."

Lying on a straw mat listening to her mother's songs and prayers, the young girl picked up her mother's burden. At birth she had been named Araminta Ross and nicknamed Minty. Now her name had been changed because of her bravery. She had helped a field slave escape by deliberately standing between him and the enraged boss who threw a brick that hit her head. Her slave friends now called her Harriet, Momma's name.

After several months of Momma's good care and pleading prayers, Harriet gained strength to work in the fields again. She preferred working out in God's sunlight, picking cotton, hoeing, plowing behind a mule. Her rich husky voice often lead the chant songs that the workers sang while

their hands labored in rhythm.

They sang about "Moses leading his people to the promised land." Harriet knew that song had two meanings. One was about Jesus taking a soul on to be with Him in heaven. The other was about the Underground Railroad that helped runaway slaves go north to freedom. The Underground Railroad wasn't a train but it was the nickname of a network of people who risked their safety for the freedom of others.

In time Harriet met a kind Quaker woman who offered to help her anytime she needed help. When Harriet heard that she was going to be sold to the chain gang she decided to trust this kind friend and escape. The Lord blessed her to find freedom in the northern states and Canada. Harriet wanted others to have this same blessing. She became a conductor who assisted many other slaves into the land of freedom. It was dangerous, but the Lord protected her just as her Momma had prayed He would.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What two brothers did Jesus see casting their nets?
2. What did they do when Jesus called them?
3. What two brothers did Jesus see next?
4. Who did Philip tell about Jesus?
5. Where did Jesus say He saw Nathaniel?
6. What tax collector left his job to follow Jesus?
7. How many disciples did Jesus have?
8. Who were some of Jesus' disciples?

Answers: 1. Peter and Andrew.
2. Left their nets and followed Jesus.
3. James and John. 4. Nathaniel.
5. Under a fig tree. 6. Matthew.
7. Twelve. 8. Answers will vary.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 10, 2005

JESUS' TEACHINGS

Jesus taught in the Jewish synagogues and preached the gospel. His fame spread through Israel. Large crowds began following Jesus and His disciples.

One day Jesus took His followers up a mountain. Jesus encouraged His followers. He told them that they would be blessed if they were poor in spirit, mourning, meek, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, persecuted, made fun of, or if they sought after righteousness.

"Those that are poor in spirit are blessed because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Those that mourn are blessed for they shall be comforted. The meek are blessed for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those that are hungry and thirsty for righteousness because they will be filled. Blessed are those who are merciful because they will receive mercy. Blessed are those who are pure in heart; they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God. Blessed are the ones who are persecuted for My sake; the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Remember to rejoice when men make fun of you and persecute you for My sake; your reward will be great in heaven," Jesus encouraged.

"Go out, be a light to the world. Let men see your good works. Glorify your Father in heaven. It has been said that you should love your neighbors and hate your enemies. I tell you to love your enemies. Bless the ones that curse you. Do good to those that hate you. Pray for the ones that badly use you," Jesus instructed.

"When someone hits you on your right cheek, turn your other cheek to him also. If anyone would like to take your coat give him your cloak also. If someone wants you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to whoever asks you," Jesus continued.

Jesus taught that we should do good to everyone. This includes our neighbors and our enemies. We are to love everyone.

—Monica Murphey

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it
unto all that are in the house. Let your
works, and glorify your Father which is



"...a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light
to shine before men, that they may see your good
deeds even." Matthew 5:15-16.



A Wagon Load

Riding on the seat of a vegetable wagon, a manly figure clucked to the horse as it plodded along the dusty road of Maryland in 1851. It was a warm summer night and the driver seemed in a hurry to get somewhere before the vegetables wilted from the heat. The wagon bounced on the bumpy road but the skillful driver kept the horse in check and the wagon from spilling.

In the light of the moon, the old horse finally brought the wagon to the riverside.

"All's clear!" said the driver.

Suddenly, the vegetables in the wagon began to move! Two men and a woman climbed out of the wagon and walked toward the river as the driver tied the horse reins to a tree. The four people slipped quietly into a small boat and with paddles pushed it into the river current.

Standing in a thicket of bushes, a Quaker farmer watched as the boat swiftly disappeared around a bend in the river. He bowed his head in prayer, "Heavenly Father, go with them and protect them. Give them a safe journey to the north."

The Quaker untied the horse and climbed onto the wagon seat. He glanced back to see if the vegetables in the wagon were in order, then he turned the horse toward the road and home. He had gone just a short distance down the road when he heard hound dogs barking.

"Steady, ole boy," he said to his nervous horse as the barking and loud talking of men surrounded them. They forced him to stop.

"Hey, you, ole man," shouted one of the men. "Have you seen any stray slaves on this here road just now?"

"No, sir," replied the Quaker quietly.

"Mind if we look into your wagon and make sure no one hopped in without you knowin' it?"

"Go right ahead," replied the Quaker. He steadied his horse who wanted to bolt away from the restless hounds. Three men jumped into the back of the wagon, lifted empty gunny sacks and thumped full ones.

"Ain't nothin' in here," called one of the men.

"Okay, let's quit wastin' time with him," said the leader. "Hey, ole man, you know it's against the law to help slaves travel north, don't ya? We know that Harriet Tubman is around here and two men and a woman are already missin'. Don't you be helpin' her out or your family will be missin' you while you're in jail! Understand?" The Quaker nodded and the rude group rushed down the road. "Oh, Lord, keep Harriet and her friends safe," he prayed as he continued home with his vegetable wagon.

—Sis Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why should the poor in spirit feel blessed?
2. What is the reward for those that are pure in heart?
3. What will the peacemakers be called?
4. Who are we to be a light to?
5. Who did Jesus say we should love?
6. What should we do to those who badly use us?
7. When someone hits your cheek, what should you do?
8. If someone asks you to go a mile, what should you do?

(Answers: 1. The kingdom of heaven will be theirs. 2. They will see God. 3. The children of God. 4. The world. 5. Our enemies, everyone. 6. Pray for them. 7. Turn your other cheek. 8. Go two with them.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 17, 2005

JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE

Jesus, His mother and His disciples were at a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Everyone was happy. They feasted and drank. But soon the hosts of the wedding feast had a problem. Mary, Jesus' mother, called Him over.

"They have run out of wine," Mary informed Jesus. Then Mary turned toward the servants. "Whatever Jesus tells you to do, do it," she commanded.

There were six waterpots made of stone. Jesus told the servants, "Fill the waterpots with water."

The servants filled the pots to the brim with water. "Go out, and take the pots to the head of the feast," Jesus said.

It was wine! The ruler of the feast tasted the wine. He called to the groom, "At most weddings the best drinks are served first but you have saved the best for last."

Everyone that heard the story was amazed. After the feast Jesus, His mother and His disciples left and traveled to a city called Capernaum.

This was the very first of many miracles Jesus performed while on the earth. Another miracle that Jesus performed also occurred in Cana.

A nobleman who lived in Cana had a sick son. When he heard that Jesus was visiting Cana he went to Jesus.

"Will you please heal my son? He is about to die," the nobleman asked.

"Go home. Your son lives," Jesus replied.

The nobleman believed that his son was healed and he started for home. While he was on his way, some of his servants stopped him. "Your son lives," the servants said. From that time on the nobleman was a believer in Jesus and everyone that lived in his house believed also.

—Monica Murphey





"Jesus saith unto them, fill the waterpots with water.
And they filled them up to the brim." John 2:7.

Gettin' Poppa And Momma

A slight breeze fluttered green leaves on the trees shading a dusty road of Maryland in the mid 1800's. Walking down the road through patches of light came a stooped old granny slave holding onto two fat hens in each hand. She took steady, determined steps though she seemed half blind with a patch covering one eye.

The old granny slave was nearly to the gate of a huge plantation mansion when she saw a cloud of dust surrounding a horseback rider coming toward the same gate. Her open eye told her immediately that this was Dr. Brodas, master of the place she was about to enter.

"Oh, Lord, help me!" prayed the granny. She couldn't hide—the master had already seen her. Suddenly, she let go of the chickens' feet. Squawking and scolding, the four angry hens started running in four different directions with the flustered granny chasing one and then another.

One hen ran right in front of the doctor's horse so that he nearly spilled his master. "Hey, there, ole granny," called Dr. Brodas. "You need to have better control of your fat hens. Make sure you get a hold of each one of them! We don't want them scratching in our flower beds."

"Yes, sirah!" replied the woman as she gathered her birds in both hands. The doctor watched her a short time longer, amused at her tactics of capturing the hens, then he rode to the stable and dismounted. The granny slave noticed his movements as she walked farther down the road. She went around to the back of the plantation between the fields and stables where the slave shacks were in rows.

The granny took the hens inside a shack where an old woman was busy at the open hearth cooking turnup greens. "Hi, there, Momma," said the granny as she took off her eye patch. The old woman looked up surprised. The voice sounded familiar but who was this person?

"Momma, it's your baby girl—Harriet!" exclaimed the daughter as she hugged her mother.

"Oh, Lord have mercy!" cried the old woman in a panic. "Why you shouldn't have come here, Honey! You know the law is after you and if the master saw you he...."

"He has already seen me," laughed Harriet. Then soberly she said, "Momma, you and Poppa are gonna have to come with me this time. Ya'll are gettin' old and may be sold off soon. Three of yer sons and a daughter are up north and some grandchildren as well."

"Oh, I don't know," stammered the mother. "It would be like heaven to live free with my family but the journey..." Momma shook her head.

"Well, I've talked to Poppa and we got plans," said Harriet "Dress and cook one of these hens and see if you can't wrap some meat in brown paper for travelin'. I'll be callin' for ya'll tonight when I have the wagon ready."

Harriet placed the patch back over one eye and the granny slipped away from the shack.

She prayed the Lord would give her parents a safe journey over the underground railroad to the north, and the Lord did just that.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the problem that happened at the wedding Jesus attended?
2. What did Jesus tell the servants to do?
3. What happened to the water?
4. What did the ruler of the feast say about the wine?
5. What was the nobleman's problem?
6. What did the nobleman do?
7. In what village, or town, did the two miracles occur?
8. What did the nobleman's servants tell him?

(Answers: 1. They ran out of wine. 2. Fill up six waterpots with water. 3. It turned to wine! 4. "You have saved the best wine for last." 5. His son was sick. 6. He asked Jesus to heal his son. 7. Cana. 8. His son was well!)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 24, 2005

"THEN THEIR NETS WERE FULL OF FISHES!"

People were beginning to come from all over to hear Jesus preach and to watch Jesus perform miracles. One day many people were gathered around listening to Jesus as He spoke. They were by the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus saw two ships sitting by the sea but there were no fishermen in them. The fishermen were out washing their nets.

Jesus went into one of the boats. The boat belonged to Simon. "Go out into the deep water," Jesus told Simon. "Let down your nets for fish."

"Master, we have fished all night and we haven't caught any fish!" Simon protested. "But I will obey Your orders."

They went out into the deep waters. When Simon let down his net, they had caught many fish! Their net broke. Simon hollered over to the other ship. They came to help. The men filled both of the ships with fish. There were so many fish that the ships began to sink! Simon fell and worshipped Jesus.

"From now on you will catch men instead of fish," Jesus informed Simon and the men with him. After that Simon left everything that he had and followed Jesus.

We, too, should leave everything behind and follow Jesus.

"Whoever loves his father or mother or son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me," Jesus taught. "Whoever will not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me."

Once while Jesus was teaching the people His mother and brothers stood outside of the crowd wanting to speak to Him. "Who is My mother? And who are My brothers?" Jesus asked. "Whoever will do the will of My Father are My brothers, and sisters and My mother."

—Monica Murphey

"And when they had this done, they inclosed
fishes: and their net brake." Luke 5:6.



t multitude of



Young Amy Of Ireland

Running her pony at a terrific speed, Amy Beatrice Carmichael laughed at the Irish Sea as it lapped at Fanny's hooves. Nothing relaxed Amy more than a carefree run on the beach that bordered her family's property. She rode along until she could see the wheat mill that her father and uncle owned and operated. In 1880 the Irish imported wheat from America and her father's mill ground it into flour for bread. The thought of hot crusty bread with a bowl full of steaming potatoes caused Amy to turn Fanny's nose toward home, a two-story mansion on the hillside.

At the stable, Amy dismounted and rubbed down her pony as father had taught her to do. "It is a sin to neglect your pony after a ride," he had told his children. Amy was the oldest of seven children so she knew how to care for young brothers and sisters too.

Sometimes she led them into trouble, like the time she climbed out the top skylight of the house and marched around the slate roof for a while. Norman and Earnest had followed her, yipping like puppies during the adventure. Of course Mother heard them and they were spanked for such a naughty, dangerous trick. Amy's parents believed the Bible verse about "spare the rod and spoil the child" and they kept stern order among their young ones.

Attending church was a Sunday duty with the Carmichaels. Amy sat straight and quiet with her family on their pew while the preacher talked and talked. Yes, she wanted to be good but something inside caused her to do naughty things like pinching her brothers, fussing with her sisters and disobeying her parents.

After church, Amy talked with other children of Millisle. She did not play

with them because she was supposed to be a rich lady from the big gray mansion. Her mother said, "Be polite to the children, Amy, but don't take anything from them or be too close to them. Some of them are sickly."

Amy remembered one time when her mother took her to a nice little tea shop for a morning treat. While they sat at a table sipping tea and nibbling sweet dainties, Amy noticed a face pressed against the window. *How charming, thought Amy, to see a little girl peering in at the sweets!* When she left the shop with her mother she saw that the little girl was in a thin dress barefoot in the cold rain. A sick feeling went over Amy.

At home in her cozy bedroom Amy sat down at her table and wrote a verse to the poor little girl: *When I grow up and money have, I know what I will do, I'll build a great big lovely place, For little girls like you.* Many years later, Amy would think back to this day and thank the Lord for touching her heart when she saw that little girl. A seed of concern was planted in her that day.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What sea was Jesus standing by?
2. What did Jesus see by the shore?
3. Whose boat did Jesus go into?
4. What did Jesus tell Simon?
5. How long had Simon been fishing?
6. What happened when Simon let down his net?
7. What happened to the boats when they were filled with fishes?
8. Who did Jesus heal?

(Answers: 1. The Sea of Galilee. 2. Two ships. 3. Simon's. 4. "Go into the deep waters and let down your net." 5. All night. 6. The net broke because there were so many fish. 7. They began to sink. 8. A man with leprosy.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 May 1, 2005

"YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN!"

Jesus returned to the city of Capernaum. Rumors began flying that Jesus was going to be there. Many people gathered in a house to hear Jesus speak. There was not enough room for everyone to be in the house. Jesus preached to them.

Some people came to see Him, bringing a man who was sick with palsy. These people saw that they had a problem. There were so many people listening to Jesus that they could not get through with their burden.

They made a hole in the roof above where Jesus was standing and lowered down the bed that the sick man was on. Jesus saw that these people had faith that their friend would be healed.

"Son, your sins are forgiven!" Jesus proclaimed.

Among the crowd that was gathered were some scribes. They were thinking, "This man is saying that He can do what God can. Who can forgive sins besides God?"

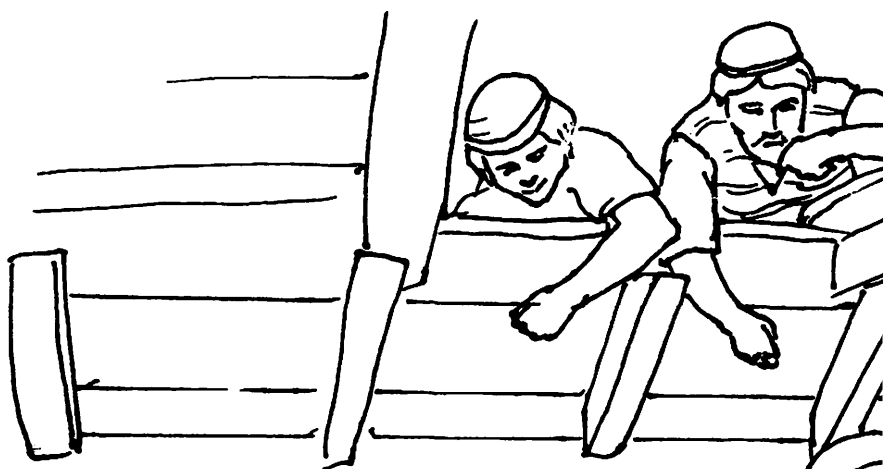
Jesus knows every thought that we have. Jesus knew what these men were thinking. "Why do you think these thoughts? Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven?' than to say, 'Take up your bed and walk?' Know that the Son of man has the power on earth to forgive sins," Jesus said to the men.

"Take up your bed and walk. Go to your own house," Jesus told the sick man.

Immediately the man got up, took up his bed and walked. All of the crowd saw and were amazed! They worshipped God because of this marvelous happening!

Jesus went to the seaside again. The entire multitude followed him. Jesus taught them. "Those who are well have no need of a doctor. I am not here for the ones who are spiritually satisfied. I am here to save the sinners," Jesus said.

—Monica Murphey



"And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay." Mark 2:4.



Amy Grows Up

(Continued from last week.)

"Oh, Mother, must I go to boarding school?" asked twelve-year-old Amy.

"Yes, you must," replied Mother firmly. "Every proper young lady must have a formal education. Our tutor has taught you well, but it is time for you to advance. Let's look over your clothing and see what we should buy before you leave this autumn."

Amy's carefree days of romping on the beach with her four brothers and two sisters came to an end when her father took her by carriage to the docks in Belfast. From there she boarded a ship and crossed the Irish Sea to England. Her parents had chosen to send her to Marlborough House where manners were firmly taught.

Fun loving, outspoken Amy often found herself in trouble. She would rather be planning a ruckus in the girls' dorm than to study for an English test. The girls loved Amy's mischief though one teacher after another sought ways to discipline her. There was only one Being who could cleanse her heart of naughtiness. Guess who?

In 1884 Amy's choir was introduced to a new song: **Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so, Little Ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong....** Suddenly it occurred to Amy that Jesus actually loved AMY. She was weak. She needed to trust in the strength of Jesus to take away the bad sins in her heart.

After they sang the hymn, the preacher asked if anyone wanted to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. Amy raised her hand. Later she wrote in her journal, "I opened my heart to Him and in His great mercy the Good Shepherd has drawn me into His fold!"

That spring Father came to take Amy back home. She had lived at the boarding school four years and home-going was sweet to her. Her younger brothers and sisters were happy to see her though she did not romp with them as before.

The Carmichael family had to move from the big house to a smaller one in another town. Because of this move Amy became acquainted more with the neighbors. She noticed that some children were not taught manners nor anything about Jesus Christ. Amy remembered the little girl looking in the window at the tea shop that day she was eating dainties with her mother.

"Are you willing to work for me?" asked the voice of Jesus.

"Yes, Lord," she replied. Soon Amy was telling the little children to come to her house on Saturday afternoon for Bible story time. She was surprised at how many came. The Lord was blessing her offering of time and self.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What problem did the people with the sick man have?
2. What did they do to solve this problem?
3. What did Jesus tell the man?
4. What power did Jesus say the Son of Man has on earth?
5. What was the sick man to "take up?"
6. Was the man able to walk?
7. What did the crowd do?
8. Who did Jesus say He was here to save?

(Answers: 1. They could not get close to Jesus. 2. Made a hole in the roof and lowered down the bed. 3. "Your sins are forgiven." 4. The power to forgive sins. 5. His bed. 6. Yes. 7. Worshipped God. 8. The sinners.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 8, 2005

LIVING WATER

Jesus was passing through the city of Samaria when He came to Jacob's well. Jesus was tired and sat on the well. A woman who lived in the town came to draw water from the well. "Give me a drink," Jesus told the woman. The disciples had gone into the town to buy meat.

"How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a Samaritan? The Jews and the Samaritans do not get along," the woman asked curiously.

"If you knew who it is who asks you to give Him a drink, you would ask Him to give you a drink. He would have given you living water," Jesus informed her. "Those who drink of the water I will give them will never thirst. The water I will give him will be in him a well of everlasting life."

"Give me this water that I will never thirst," the woman requested.

"Go and call your husband and come here," Jesus commanded. "I have no husband," the woman protested. "You are right when you say that you have no husband. You have had five husbands and the man you are living with now is not your husband," Jesus said.

"Sir, I think that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain and You say that Jerusalem is the place to worship," the woman replied.

"The hour has come now when the true worshippers of God will not worship in the mountain or in Jerusalem but will worship in spirit and in truth," Jesus told her.

"I know that a Messiah is going to come who is called Christ. When He has come He will tell us all things," the woman said. "I am He," Jesus revealed.

The woman left her waterpot and went into the city, telling the men of the city, "Come see a man who told me everything I ever did. Isn't He the Christ?" People went out of the city to hear Him speak. A great number of Samaritans began to believe that Jesus was the Christ.

—Monica Murphey



"The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things I did: is not this the Christ?" John 4:28-29.



and
ever

The Beginning Of Welcome Halls

(Continued from last week.)

As Amy Carmichael held meetings with the village children of her home town in Ireland, she became acquainted with the poor young women. These mill girls were too poor to buy fancy hats so common in the 1880's, so they draped a shawl up over their heads. This custom gave them the nickname of *shawlies*.

One day Amy asked her brother, Ernest, an important question. "Ernest, you work for the railroads. Tell me what you know about the shawlies and how the railroad men treat them?"

"I don't know if I should tell you because it would make you sad and angry," replied Ernest.

Amy insisted on knowing, and Ernest was right—it did make her sad and angry! "We must do something to help them!" she said.

With her two brothers' help, Amy began to invite the shawlies to evening meetings in a rented room at a college. The young women liked Amy's way of teaching and showing them how to be clean, tidy, mannerly and, most importantly, how to be saved and live for Jesus. Amy gave them hope for a better life in Christ Jesus.

Then, in 1885, sadness came into Amy's life. Her father became sick and passed away. Amy and her brothers and sisters tried to comfort their mother who became sick with grief. At this time, Amy and some of her family began to attend revivals held in different parts of Ireland.

At these revival meetings Amy met Mr. Robert Wilson, a fatherly old man who was wealthy from the coal industry. One day he said to Amy's mother, "Your daughter, Amy, makes me think of my own sweet daughter whom the Lord took to heaven. Now with my wife and daughter both gone, my big house is so quiet and empty. Would you let

me take Amy as my daughter and let her live in a quarter of my estate?"

"I will talk to Amy and we will pray about it," replied Mrs. Carmichael.

After praying and fasting about this, Amy moved into a section of Mr. Wilson's mansion. Mr. Wilson encouraged Amy's work among the poor children and shawlies and he gave her money for the work. Amy was so thankful! How good the Lord was to supply her needs!

Amy's mission work among the children and shawlies had grown. The Lord helped Amy buy land where she had a big building built for their meetings. She named it *Welcome Hall*. Other towns in Ireland and England wanted a *Welcome Hall* for their children and shawlies.

"Thank you, Lord, for multiplying Your work," prayed Amy. "I want to ever be a humble, willing vessel for Your service. Amen."

Because she obeyed the Lord, He blessed all the *Welcome Halls* that Amy started.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What city was Jesus passing through?
2. What well did Jesus come to?
3. What did Jesus tell the woman who came to the well to do?
4. What kind of water did Jesus offer the woman?
5. How many husbands had the woman had?
6. Who did the woman think Jesus was?
7. What did the woman do when Jesus told her He was the Messiah?
8. What did the woman leave at the well?

(Answers: 1. Samaria. 2. Jacob's well. 3. Give him a drink. 4. Living water. 5. Five. 6. A prophet. 7. Told the people to come and see the man. 8. Her waterpot.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 15, 2005

JESUS BREAKS THE SABBATH

One day Jesus and His disciples were very hungry. They came to a field of corn. The disciples began to pick the ears of corn and eat. Some Pharisees saw what the disciples did. The day the disciples did this was the Sabbath. The Sabbath was very important to the Jews. It was a day they set aside to worship God.

"Your disciples are doing something against our laws by working on the Sabbath," the Pharisees complained.

"Do you not remember that David went into the house of God and ate bread which was not lawful for him to eat? Or have you forgotten that many priests do bad things in the temple on the Sabbath day and have not gotten in trouble for it? The Son of Man is Lord even on the Sabbath day," Jesus rebuked.

In Jerusalem, by the sheep market, there was a pool called Bethesda. The Jews believed this was a very special pool. An angel went down at a certain time into the pool and made movements in the water. The first person to step into the water after this would be healed of whatever sickness he had.

While Jesus was visiting in Jerusalem He stopped by the pool. A large group of people had gathered around the pool. Jesus stopped and saw a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years lying beside the pool. "Sir, I have no friend to put me into the pool. While I am still trying to walk to the pool someone steps in front of me," the man said sadly.

"Get up. Pick up your bed and walk," Jesus told the man.

The man got up and was well. Jesus had healed this man on the Sabbath day. The man was stopped by some Jews as he was walking away.

"It is the Sabbath day. It is against the law for you to carry your bed," the Jews informed him. The Jews found out Jesus was the one who healed the man and confronted Him about healing someone on the Sabbath. "If one of your sheep fell into a pit on the Sabbath day, any of you would stoop to pull him out. Is not man worth more than sheep?" Jesus replied.

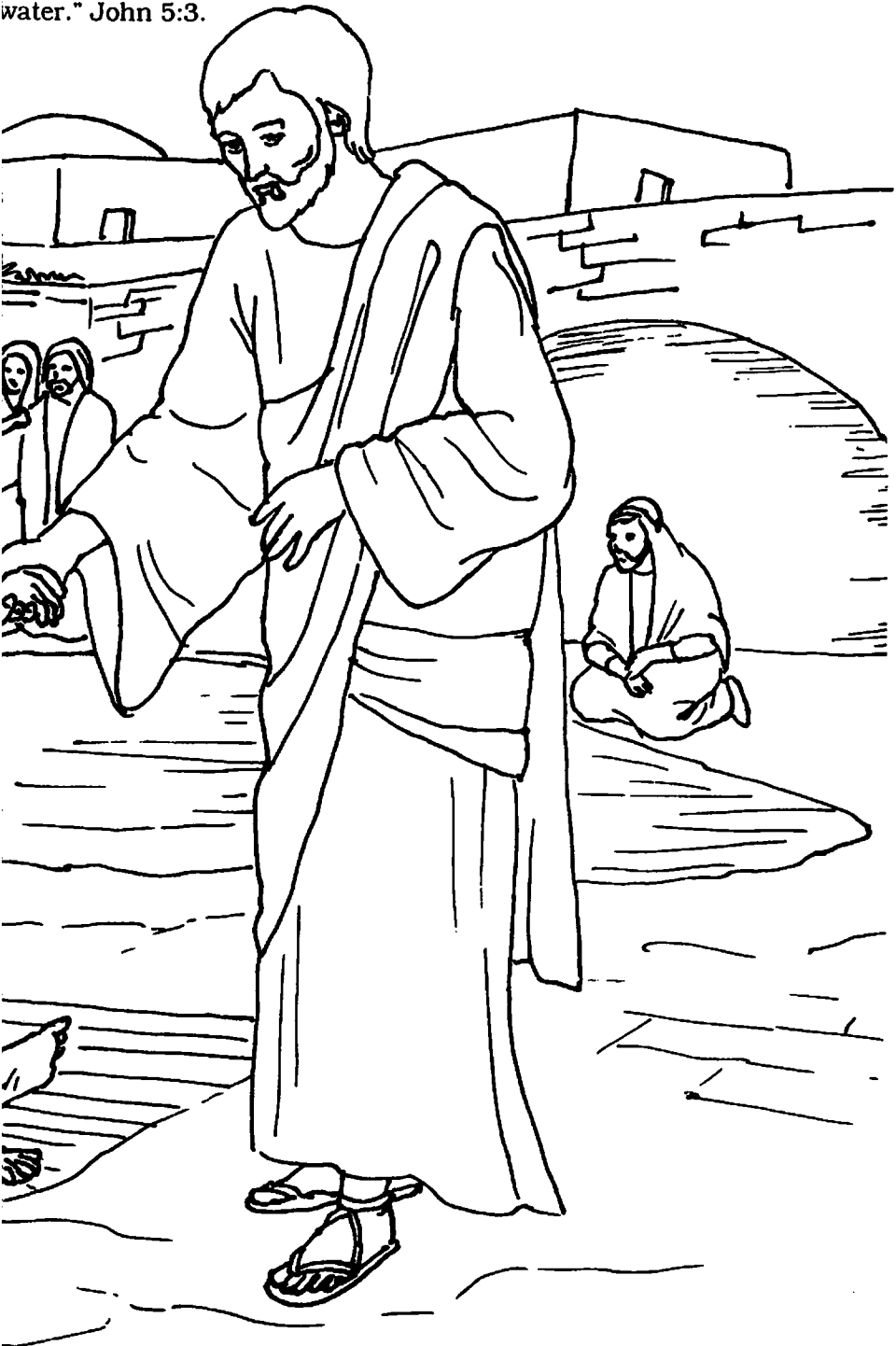
—Monica Murphey



"In these lay a gr
for the moving o



multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting
water." John 5:3.



Amy Travels Across The Seas

(Continued from last week.)

In the revivals and camp meetings that Amy Carmichael attended, she met and listened to many missionaries from other countries. It saddened her heart to know that there were thousands of people who knew nothing about Jesus Christ.

As Amy listened to missionaries tell their stories about the darkness of sin in China, India, Africa and other countries, she realized the children and women in these places needed *Welcome Halls* like Ireland and England did.

Amy prayed and consecrated her life to the Lord for work anywhere He wanted her to go. Amy's wealthy friend who had "adopted" her, Mr. Robert Wilson, knew Hudson Taylor as a good friend. Hudson Taylor had begun the China Inland Mission. Yes, he would be glad for Amy to come and work in China.

So it was after much prayer and planning Amy sailed away to China to help the poor women and children there. First, Amy studied the language so she could talk to the people. It was hard, difficult work. The weather in China was hot and damp, very different from Ireland. Amy studied so many hours that she found herself tired and soon she was sick. This forced her to go back home until she was well.

But Amy wasn't going to stay home under Mother's care for very long. As soon as the Lord healed her and she was strong enough to travel, Amy boarded a ship and sailed across the seas again.

Amy's final mission work was in India, where the British had authority in the government. Amy fell in love with these people of India. She wanted to help them and teach them about the Lord Jesus Christ, but she could tell

that she needed to move away from the big cities. So it was on November 30, 1896, she moved to Tinnevely, South India. She was almost 29 years old.

Amy lived with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker in a bungalow. A bungalow is a white staccato house with a wide porch around the front of it. The kitchen is set away from the U-shaped living quarters. Sometimes an extra room or two were added to the back of the house for the servants. All of this was encircled by a staccato wall.

First of all, Amy had to learn Tamil, the native language of the people. A young native woman was willing to help Amy. She also tried to learn as many customs of the Hindus and Muslims as possible. Amy's desire was to teach these precious souls about the true God, Jesus Christ, who wanted to save them from the sins they were in.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the disciples do on the Sabbath?
2. Why was the Sabbath an important day?
3. Who was supposed to visit the pool at a certain time each day?
4. What problem did the man by the pool have?
5. What did Jesus tell him?
6. What day had Jesus healed the man on?
7. What did the Jews tell the man?
8. What question did Jesus ask the Jews?

(Answers: 1. Picked and ate ears of corn in a field. 2. It was the day set aside to worship God. 3. An angel. 4. He had no one to help him to the pool. 5. "Take up your bed and walk." 6. The Sabbath day. 7. "It is against the law for you to carry your bed on the sabbath." 8. If one of their sheep fell, they would help it up. Is man not more important than sheep?)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 22, 2005

THE FOOLISH RICH MAN

Jesus was speaking to a great multitude of people. One man had a question for Jesus. "Would You speak to my brother and ask him to divide his inheritance with me?" the man asked Jesus.

"Do not covet someone else's goods. The things which a man owns is not the most important part of his life," Jesus replied.

Then Jesus told a parable. "Once there was a rich man. One year his crops did especially well. The man thought within himself, 'What will I do? I have no more room to store my produce. This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger and better barns. I have many goods stored up to last for many years. I will eat, drink, and be merry.'

"God said to the man, 'You are foolish. Tonight you will be dead. Then who shall have your things?'

Jesus ended His story by saying, 'This is what will happen to a man who lays up treasure for himself and not for God. Do not worry about what you will drink, what you will eat or what you will wear. Look at the ravens. They do not sow or reap. God feeds them. Do you not know that you are much better than birds?'

"Look at the lilies. They grow but they do not work or spin. If God can clothe the grass how much more will He clothe you? Your heavenly Father knows you have need of these things. All of the nations in the world seek after them. First seek the kingdom of God and God's righteousness and all of these things will be given to you.

"Keep your lights burning. You are like servants waiting on their master. When he returns from a wedding his servants will answer the door immediately when he knocks. Those servants whom the master finds watching will be blessed. He will make them sit down and eat and will serve them.

"Be ready. You do not know what hour the Son of man will come."

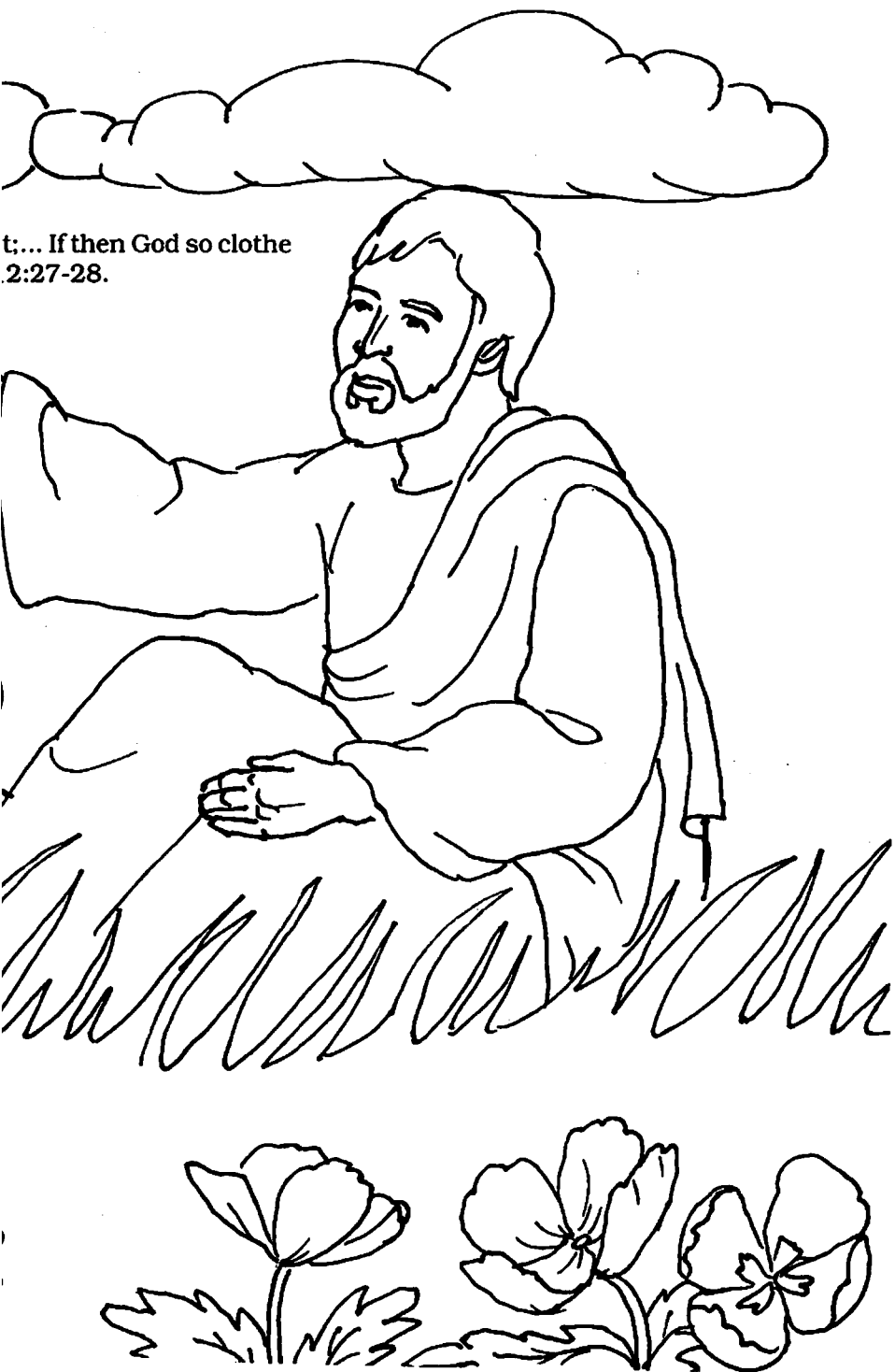
—Monica Murphey



"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they s
the grass,...how much more will he clothe you,...?" 1



t;... If then God so clothe
2:27-28.



The Face Of A Poor Girl

(Continued from last week.)

Amy Carmichael studied Tamil, an Indian language, for many months so she could speak with the native women. Her heart's desire was to teach them about the true God who had sent His Son to save them from their sins.

Three young Christian women helped Amy when she walked to nearby villages and talked to the women and children about Jesus. This band of workers called themselves *The Starry Cluster*. Soon they had gained the respect of the village women and children who quietly listened to Amy's stories of Jesus. Amy dressed in a sari, a wrap-around dress, and she would eat with the native women should they ask her to stay for a meal.

Amy also gathered the women for a meeting in which she would teach them about washing their hands before working with food, keeping their houses clean and other manners in cleanliness. Little by little Amy saw good changes in the women who came to listen.

One day in March, 1901, Amy was sitting down at a table in her bungalow, sipping on tea, when a newly saved village woman brought a little girl to Amy. "This seven-year-old girl needs your help," said the Christian woman. "Last night she came to me in desperation. Her parents have sold her to the Hindu temple to sing and dance before the temple gods. She will be mistreated by the Hindu men and live a very abused life. She ran away again and came to my house instead of her mother's."

"Come up here with me," said Amy in Tamil and she lifted the little girl onto her lap. "Why, your tiny hands are scarred! What happened?"

"This is from burns," explained the Christian. "She was punished for escaping before. She went back home to her mother, but her mother pushed away her daughter and gave her back to the temple priest."

"What a brave little soul you have been, Preena," said Amy as she hugged the child.

Preena clung to Amy and sobbed. "Amma, I want to stay with you always!"

"Oh, you precious child," cried Amy. She was now determined to keep this child and save her from evil. Soon the temple priests heard where Preena was. They gathered before Amy's bungalow, demanding the girl's return.

"No, I won't go with them!" screamed Preena.

"You heard what she said," called Amy to the crowd. "Now go!"

To Amy's relief, they scattered. She learned that the priests would not go to the law for the girl because they did not want the British to know about the selling of children.

Amy held Preena close to her heart and looked into her sweet face. Amy remembered the face of a child so long ago that was looking into the window of the sweet shop while she was eating dainties. Now at last, Amy had rescued a poor little girl who needed her care and the love of Christ.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What question did the man ask Jesus?
2. What problem did the rich man have?
3. What did the rich man decide to do?
4. What did God say to the man?
5. What does not sow or reap but is still fed by God?
6. What does not work or spin but is clothed by God?
7. What two things should we seek first?
8. What kind of servants shall be blessed?

(Answers: 1. "Will you speak to my brother and ask him to divide his inheritance?" 2. He didn't have enough room to store his produce. 3. Tear down his barns and build bigger ones. 4. "You will be dead tonight. Who shall have your things then?" 5. The ravens. 6. The lilies. 7. The kingdom of God and His righteousness. 8. Those that are watching.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 29, 2005

THE SOWER'S SEEDS

Jesus left the house where He was staying and went to sit by the seaside. A large group of people gathered round about Him, so many that He had to sit in a ship while the people stood on the shore and listened to His words.

Today Jesus told them many parables. Parables are stories Jesus told that taught a lesson. One of His parables was about a farmer who bought some seeds for his field.

"The farmer went out to plant the seeds," Jesus related. "Some of the seeds fell to the side and birds came and ate them. Some other seeds fell on stony places. When the sun came up they were scorched and because they did not have enough dirt to keep their roots happy they withered away.

"Some fell among thorns," Jesus continued. "The thorns sprang up and choked these plants. Others fell in good ground and gave good fruit.

"When a person hears the Word of God and does not understand it, the devil comes and catches his heart. This is like the seed that fell by the wayside," Jesus explained. "The person that hears God's Word and listens with joy but does not have a root in himself is like the seed that fell in stony ground. He will endure for a while but when trouble comes he doesn't stay.

"The person that hears the Word but lets the cares of the world and striving to acquire great riches get in his way is like the seed that fell among thorns. The cares and riches of the world choke his seed so that he becomes unfruitful.

Jesus concluded the parable with these words, "The seeds that fell on good ground are the people that understand God's Word and bear fruit."

—Monica Murphey





"...Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up." Matthew 13:3-4.

Amy's Growing Family

(Continued from last week.)

With new determination to help needy girls and women of India, Amy Carmichael and her *Starry Cluster* began to watch at night when the girls were sold. Soon they had rescued four other girls besides Preena. One rescuer brought in a thirteen-day-old baby. In tears, Amy and the Christian Indian workers cried out to the Lord for help in delivering these children. More girls were rescued and Amy was praying for money to feed, clothe and house them all.

Amy also wrote a booklet about this terrible evil in India. Two of her old friends in England took this booklet called *Things As They Are* and had it published for everyone to read. Christians all through Europe, Canada and the United States read Amy's booklet and soon money was coming to her to provide food, clothing and shelter for the girls.

"Thank You, Lord," Amy exclaimed. "Please direct me to the right piece of land to buy for a nursery and girls' dormitory."

The Lord went before Amy and directed her to the right land. Willing workers built the big, fired-brick building and it was finished at a needed time when Amy's bungalow was outgrown by seventy or so children and several Christian women.

Amy was indeed a busy, inspiring woman in 1909. Sometimes she would laugh as she trimmed several tiny fingernails and toenails, hugging each girl afterwards. When she had been a young girl in Ireland she would have never dreamed that someday she would be *Mama* to so many children! Over the years the Lord blessed Amy's labor of love. She was thankful for every dedicated worker that came to help her. She wrote many books and stories about her mission work with the children. These were published in England and sent around Europe and America.

Money came in so that Amy could build more dorms, schools and nurseries. She

also began to rescue boys who were orphaned and left on the streets. In time a good Christian man named Dr. Godfrey Peploe answered the Lord's call to work with the boys. Amy made sure that all staff members were saved Christians who had good works to show for their salvation. She prayed as much for her staff of workers as she did for all her hundreds of children.

Yes, Amy became *Mama* to hundreds of children and she delighted in them all. She wanted every child to know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

On October 24, 1931, Amy had a terrible fall and suffered an injury to her leg. This injury gave her trouble the rest of her life. She used these years to write more books and stories about her *family* whom she loved so much. Then at the age of 83, on January 18, 1951, Amy slipped away to be with her beloved, Jesus Christ.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus have to sit because there were so many people?
2. What is a parable?
3. Who bought seeds to plant in his field?
4. What happened to the seeds that fell to the side?
5. What happened to the seeds that fell on stony places?
6. What happened to the seeds that fell in the thorns?
7. What happened to the seeds that fell in the good ground?
8. What kind of people are like the seeds that fell on good ground?

(Answers: 1. In a boat. 2. A story Jesus told that taught a lesson. 3. A farmer. 4. Birds ate them. 5. They withered away because they had no roots. 6. The thorns choked them. 7. They bore fruit. 8. Ones that understand and act on God's Word.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 5, 2005

THE ENEMY'S EVIL DEED

Jesus told many parables about the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus told another parable about a sower. "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed seeds in his field. While he slept the enemy came and sowed bad plants, called tares, in among his wheat.

"When the plants grew the servants were confused. 'Didn't you sow good seed in the field?' they asked. 'Why are these tares here?'

" 'An enemy has done this,' the master answered.

" 'Would you like for us to gather them?' the servants asked their master.

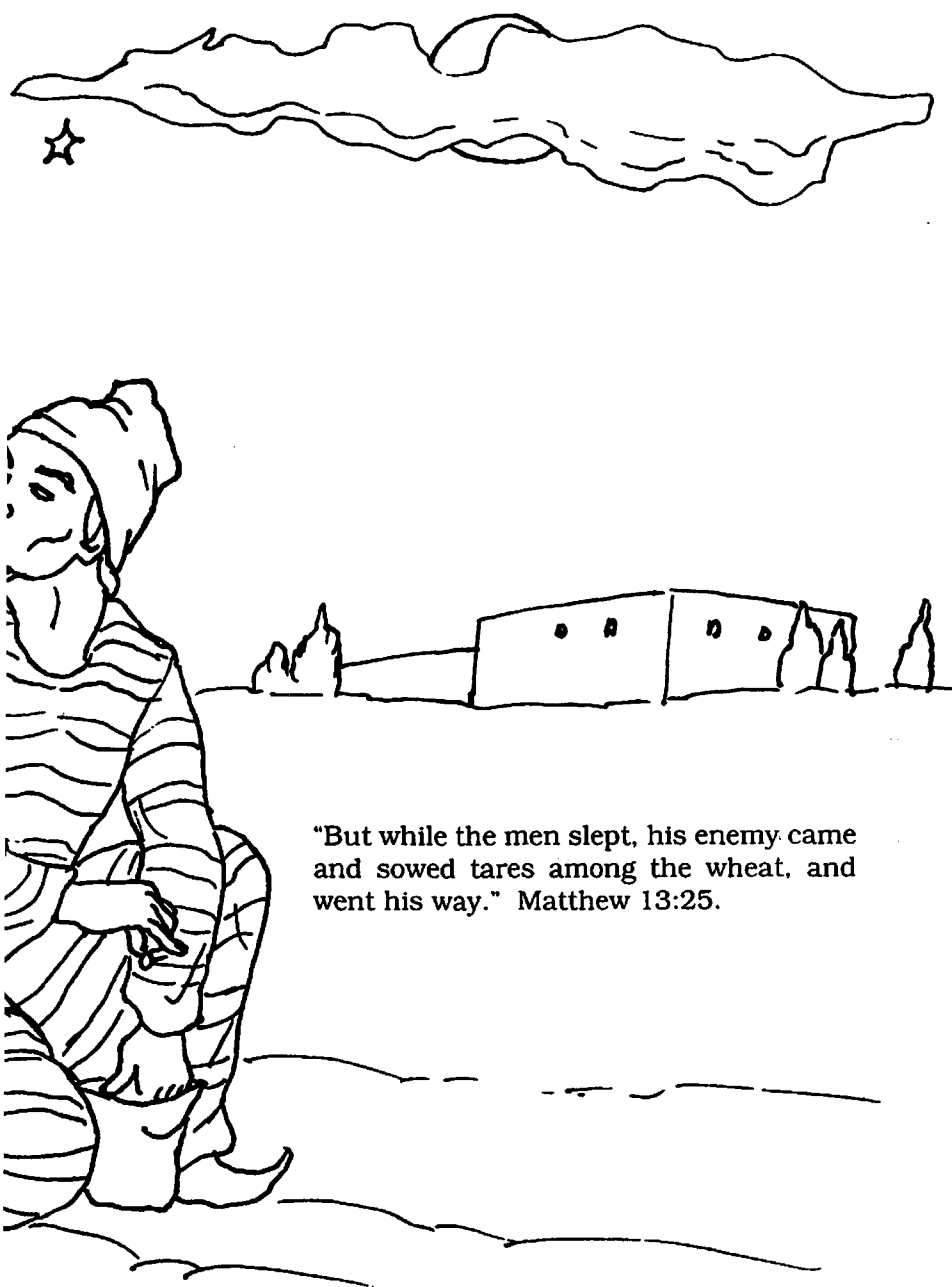
" 'No, you might pick the tares along with the good. Let the good and bad grow together until the harvest. I will tell the reapers to first pick the tares and bind them in bundles to burn, then put the wheat into my barn,' their master replied."

Jesus spoke this parable to a great multitude of people. He was sitting in a boat and the people were standing on the shore. After Jesus finished telling this parable He sent the people away and went back to the house where He was staying. The disciples came to Him. "Tell us the meaning of the parable of the tares," the disciples asked Jesus.

"The farmer that sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The Son of Man will send out His angels and they will gather all of the ones who do bad things and cast them into a furnace with a hot fire. There will be crying and gnashing of teeth. Then He will gather the righteous who will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father," Jesus explained.

—Monica Murphey





"But while the men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way." Matthew 13:25.

The Terrible Clouds of Fire

Watching her four young daughters play on the beach of Lake Michigan, Anna Spafford thought about her loving husband who had left home that morning to sell some property he owned by Chicago. "Oh, Lord, please be with Horatio," she prayed. "Please let this business sale go through."

It was October, 1871. Anna knew her husband wanted to be rid of this debt and he planned to give a good amount of the money to the Lord's missionary work.

"Mama, what is that odd color of clouds over there?" asked nine-year-old Annie as she pointed south.

"That is the lights of Chicago," replied her mother without looking. "Girls, I think it is time for us to go back home. Baby Tanetta is already asleep and Bessie is nodding. I cannot possibly carry all of you by myself so let's gather our belongings."

"Mama, you must look at those clouds!" insisted Annie.

Holding little Tanetta close to her, Anna turned around to see a huge tongue of fire licking at the sky. Anna screamed, "Chicago is burning! Girls, let's hurry home!"

Quickly the girls obeyed Mama as she rushed them to their big, two-story home. "Will the fire burn us up?" asked seven-year-old Maggie. She was trembling with fright.

Mama put her arms around Maggie. "I don't think the fire will come this far, but our summer was very dry and the wind might blow sparks this way. We will pray, Maggie, and ask Jesus to protect us."

"We must pray for Papa, too," said Annie. "His office, with all his good books, is in Chicago."

After Mama and the girls had prayer, they prepared for bed. Mama wanted the girls to go to sleep so they would not see how worried she was about the fire. She did not know that her husband was right by the blazing fire helping scared women and children to escape the flames.

"I want Papa to come home," cried Bessie as her mama tucked her into bed. "Papa always gives us good-night kisses!"

"I know," sighed Mama. "We must trust in Jesus that all will be well. Now let us pray again before I blow out the candle."

Soon all four girls were asleep. "If only I could trust in You, Lord, like my children trust in their parents," sighed Anna. For two days she did not know where Horatio was. Finally, he came walking down their long driveway. His tattered coat was layered with soot. His hands, face and hair were black with ashes and he walked with a limp.

The girls rushed out to meet their father. "Don't knock a fellow down!" teased Papa as they came to the front porch. "Ah, girls, let us thank Jesus that He has spared our house from this awful fire! It has destroyed nearly all of Chicago. Yes, my office is gone, but I am so thankful I have my wife, four girls and our home. We must do what we can to help our neighbors who are in need of help."

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the enemy do while the man slept?
2. Why were the servants surprised to find tares?
3. What were the servants to do with the tares?
4. What were the servants to do with the wheat?
5. Who was the farmer that sowed the good seed in the parable?
6. Who was the enemy that sowed the tares?
7. What did the harvest represent?
8. Where will the righteous be taken at the end of the world?

(Answers: 1. Sowed bad tares among the good seeds. 2. The farmer had only planted good seeds. 3. Put the tares in bundles and burn them. 4. Gather it and put it in the barn. 5. God. 6. The devil. 7. The end of the world. 8. Into the Kingdom of their Father.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 12, 2005

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Jesus told many parables about the Kingdom of heaven. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man takes and sows in his field," Jesus said. "It is a very small seed but it grows to be a great tree. The birds of the air come and lodge in its branches.

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that is hidden in a field. When a man finds the treasure he sells everything that he has and buys the field.

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who buys pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price he sells all that he has and buys it.

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a net that is cast into the sea and gathers things from the sea. When it is full they draw out the net and separate the good from the bad. The bad will be cast away. This is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and take the wicked from the righteous. The wicked will be cast into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth," Jesus explained.

"Repent! The Kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Jesus often advised.

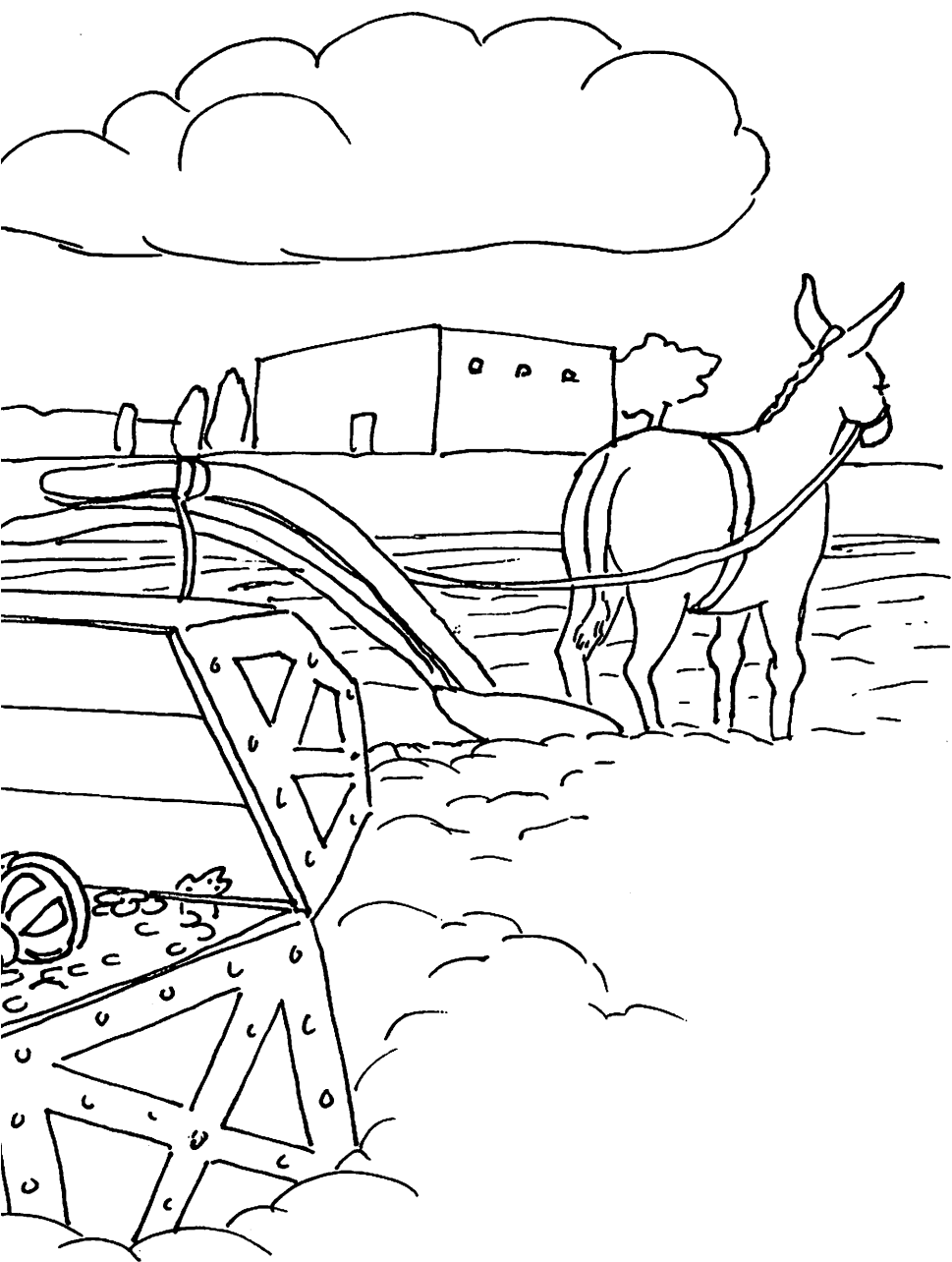
Jesus said once that it was hard for rich men to get into the Kingdom of heaven. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into God's Kingdom," Jesus portrayed. "Who can be saved?" His disciples asked. "With men it is impossible. With God anything is possible," Jesus answered.

In Romans Paul says, "The kingdom of heaven is not meat or drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Some churches teach that the Kingdom of heaven is a real kingdom that will be set up in Jerusalem where the chosen holy ones may live. However, from Jesus' own words, we know that the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. From Paul's words we know this is not a literal kingdom but a spiritual Kingdom that is in our hearts.

—Monica Murphey



"...The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth a



in a field; the which when a man hath found, he
he hath, and buyeth that field." Matthew 13:44.

Plans For A Cruise

(Continued from last week.)

"Horatio, this is my Auntie Sims," said Anna to her husband. "She lost everything she owned in the terrible Chicago fire. I thought we could let her stay in the downstairs guest bedroom."

"Why, sure," replied Horatio.

So Auntie Sims moved in with the Spafford family. Annie, Maggie, Bessie and Tanetta soon learned that Auntie Sims had good and bad days. On her bad days she would groan and complain about the past: how hard *she* had to work all *her* life and how bad *her* husband treated *her*. On her better days, she primly ordered around everyone with titles of *Sweetie*, *Darling* and *Honey*.

Sometimes in the evening Auntie Sims would give Horatio and Anna advice. "You need to have your girls work more around this house, Anna. Why, when I was nine-years-old, I knew how to cook! Annie needs to be in the kitchen more. Having a cook in the kitchen is really not necessary. Maybe the Lord has blessed you with plenty of money to pay a cook and a governess to teach the children but I hope you are not spoiling these girls!"

Horatio sighed. "Auntie Sims, we know you care about the girls but please let us train them as the Lord directs us."

Auntie Sims sniffed and tucked down her chin. "You can feel secure in the Lord because you have so much money and everything is going your way. I know what it is like to loose everything and have to *really depend* on the Lord!"

"We know you have had a hard life, Auntie Sims," replied Anna kindly. "Maybe we can make it pleasant for you while you stay with us."

"Well, thank you," said Auntie Sims with a sniff. "Good-night, children. I think I will retire for the day."

After Auntie Sims was out of the family room, Horatio said to his wife, "You must take time away from this house, Honey. Since the fire we have had so many people spend nights with

us and you have helped them find new places to live. It looks like Auntie Sims is here to stay for awhile and you must have time away from all this pressure."

Anna relaxed in her husband's arms and cried softly. "Tomorrow," said Horatio, "I will check about a cruise to Europe. I remember how refreshing it was for me to visit Europe."

Within a day or so Horatio had tickets for his family to sail on the grand *SS Ville du Havre*, a French liner with a good reputation for luxury and speed. The girls were excited!

"When do we leave?" asked five-year-old Bessie.

"We have to pack our things first," said Annie.

"I don't know if I want to go," said Maggie. She did not want to leave her pets behind at Lake View, her sweet home. Maggie wrote a quick note and tucked it into a hole of a tree trunk that the girls called their mailbox. Then with her sisters, she packed her belongings.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the man do with the mustard seed?
2. What did the mustard seed grow into?
3. What did the man do when he found treasure in a field?
4. What did the merchant sell everything to buy?
5. What happened to the bad things in the net?
6. Finish this sentence. The Kingdom of heaven is at _____.
7. What did Jesus say was easier to do than for rich man to enter God's kingdom?
8. What three things did Paul say the Kingdom of heaven is?

(Answers: 1. Planted it. 2. A tree, where birds came and stayed in its branches. 3. Sold everything and bought the field. 4. A pearl of great price. 5. They were cast away. 6. Hand. 7. For a camel to go through the eye of a needle. 8. Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 19, 2005

THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

Jesus told another parable about the Kingdom of heaven. "The Kingdom of heaven is like a man that owns a house. He went out early in the morning to hire workers to tend to the grapes in his vineyard. He agreed to pay the workers a penny a day and set them to work. After three hours the employer went to the market and saw some people standing idle.

" 'Why are you not working?' The owner asked. 'We have not been hired for work,' they said. 'Go and work in my vineyard and I will pay you a fair wage,' he replied.

"The owner went out three more times during the day and hired workers for a fair wage. At the end of the day the vineyard owner said to his steward, 'Call the workers together for their pay.' When every man was gathered together they all received a penny.

" 'The owner paid us all the same wages and we worked longer. That is not fair,' some of the workers mumbled. Their complaints reached their employer.

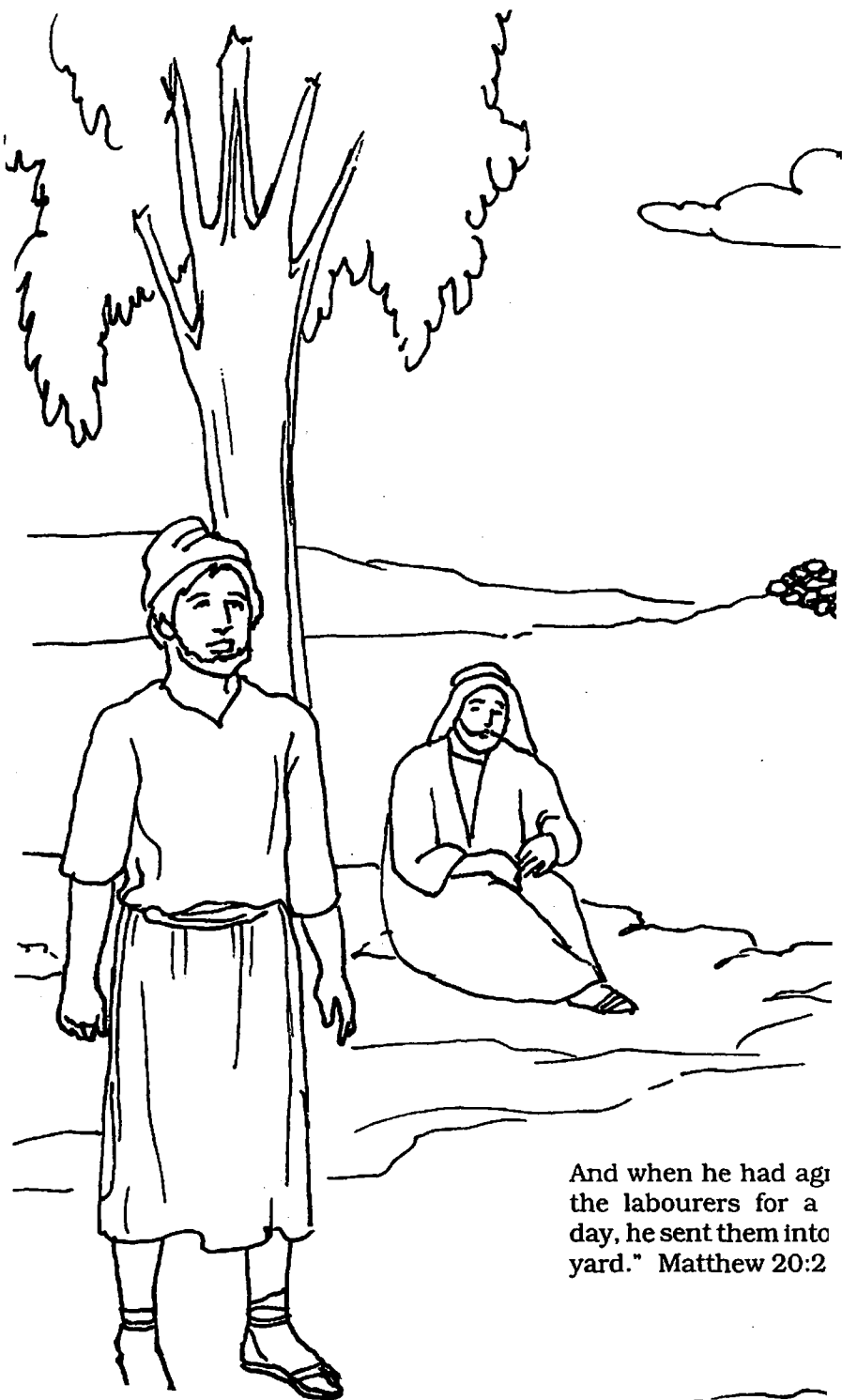
" 'Some of these men have only worked for one hour and they have made the same as we have. We worked hard all day,' one of the workers complained to the employer.

" 'I did not do anything wrong towards you,' the owner answered. 'Did you not agree to work for a penny? Take your wage and go your way.'

"In the Kingdom of heaven," Jesus explained, "The last will be first and the first last. Many will be called but few will be chosen."

"Unless you become as little children," Jesus taught, "You cannot enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever will humble themselves as a little child will be the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever will receive one of these children in My name receives me. Whoever offends one of the little ones offends Me."

—Monica Murphey



And when he had gathered
the labourers for a
day, he sent them into
the vineyard." Matthew 20:2



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Good-bye, Darlings!

(Continued from last week.)

"Papa, I don't want to leave you," said Maggie as she clung to her father before she was to travel to Europe with her mother and three sisters.

"Maggie, darling," said Papa as he hugged his nine-year-old daughter. "I will soon join you girls in France. It is necessary for me to stay home a few days longer and close this business transaction that is very important. You and Annie help Mama with little Bessie and baby Tanetta. Have a nice time and make friends with other little girls on the ship."

Horatio took his wife and four daughters on the train from Chicago to New York City. There anchored at the docks was the *SS Ville du Havre*, a sturdy French ocean liner setting in the water like a queen.

The girls laughed happily as the cool November sunlight sparkled in the water. It was Thanksgiving time in 1873; a time when traveling over oceans by ship was the only way to go.

"Let us have a word of prayer before we set sail," said one of the French pastors on board. After prayer, Horatio hugged and kissed Anna and each of his girls. Maggie hugged her papa tightly. "Jesus will be with you, Honey," Papa whispered in her ear. "We will put our trust in Him while we are apart."

"Yes, Papa," agreed Maggie quietly.

Horatio hurried across the gangplank just before it was raised. As the ship prepared to leave, his eyes watched his family who stood on the deck and blew kisses to him. Even Tanetta, who was almost two-years-old, was busy blowing Papa kisses. Papa must have sent a hundred back to them.

"Oh, God, please guard my girls until I see them again," prayed Horatio as the *SS Ville du Havre* slipped out of sight. To keep from feeling lonesome, Horatio worked extra long hours at his law office in Chicago.

November 25th, after attending a wedding, he wrote Anna a long letter:

"Dearest Darling, I will not say how much I miss you and the dear children.... But never mind my heart. If the Lord keeps us, we

hope before many months to be all together again, better understanding than ever before the greatness of His mercy in the many years past. When you write, tell me about the children. How thankful I am to God for them! May He make us faithful parents, having an eye single to His glory. Annie and Maggie and Bessie and Tanetta—it is a sweet consolation even to write their names. May the dear Lord keep and sustain and strengthen you."

Horatio did not know that the *SS Ville du Havre* had been struck by another ship four nights before he wrote his letter. The ship was broken in two and within a few short seconds it began to sink. Anna and the girls had rushed to the deck in their night clothes. They saw the stern sinking and the sea flooding in. Maggie was screaming and then she became quiet.

"Mama, God will take care of us," she said.

"Don't be afraid," comforted Annie. "The sea is His, and He made it."

Anna held tightly to Tanetta and a strong gentleman grabbed two of the girls. Within twelve minutes after the collision, the *SS Ville du Havre* swirled to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the employer hire workers to tend?
2. What did the employer agree to pay the workers?
3. How many times did the employer go out and hire more workers?
4. What did the employer pay all of the workers at the end of the day?
5. Why did some of the men complain?
6. Did the owner think that he had done wrong?
7. Who will be first in the Kingdom of heaven?
8. What must you become as to enter the Kingdom of heaven?

(Answers: 1. His vineyard. 2. A penny. 3. Four. 4. A penny. 5. Because they all received the same wage. 6. No. 7. The least. 8. A child.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 26, 2005

FROM THE FISH'S MOUTH

One day Jesus and His disciples were in the village of Capernaum. A man had a question for Peter.

"Does your Master pay taxes?" the man wanted to know.

"What do you think, Peter?" asked Jesus. "From what people do the kings of the earth take taxes? From their own children or strangers?"

"Of strangers," Peter figured.

"Then the children are free," Jesus commented. "Even so, in case we offend them, go to the sea. Cast out a hook and pull out the first fish that you catch. When you have opened his mouth you will find a piece of money. Take that and go pay taxes for Me."

Another time some Pharisees asked Him a similar question.

"We know that You are honest and that You teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to give taxes to Caesar or not?" the Pharisees wanted to know. "Shall we give or not give?"

Jesus could see into the hearts of men. As the Pharisees asked this question He could see that the Pharisees, once again, were only trying to find something about Jesus that they could use to get Him into trouble.

"Bring Me a penny," Jesus ordered, "so I may see it."

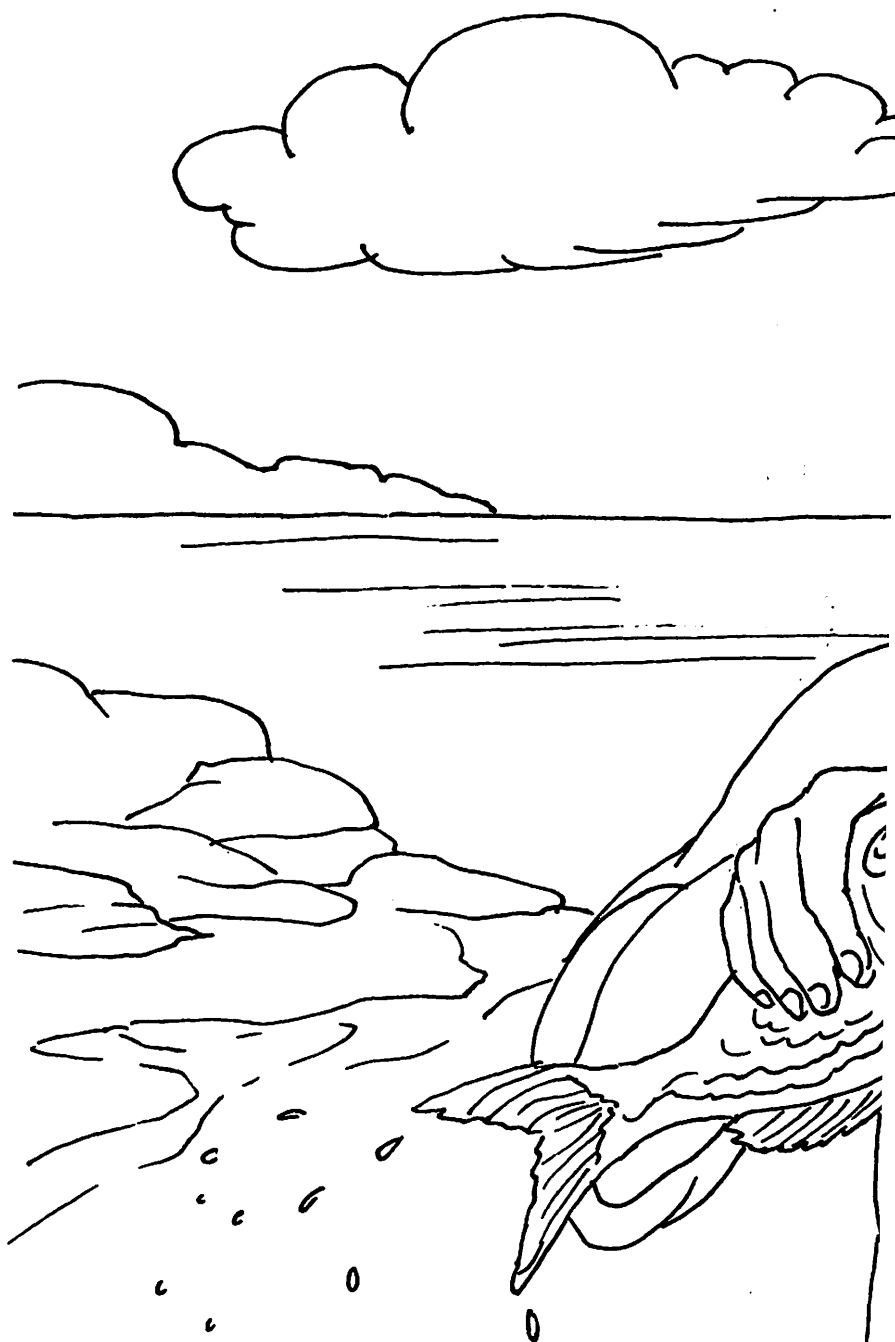
When Jesus received the penny He asked, "Whose picture is on this penny?"

"Caesar's," the Pharisees answered.

"Give to Caesar the things that are his and to God the things that are God's," Jesus instructed.

Although we are to pay our taxes and respect those in authority, we are not to focus on money. Timothy says that the love of money is the root of all evil. Jesus Himself said that a person cannot love both God and money.

—Monica Murphey



"...When thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money:..." Matthew 17:27.



Sad Notes

(Continued from last week.)

"I wish we would hear something from Anna and the girls," said Horatio to Peter, his stable man who cared for his horses and carriages.

"I guess no news is good news, Master Spafford," replied Peter. He missed the family also but he wanted to cheer up Horatio who seemed so overworked and tired.

That very day a cable arrived for Horatio from Wales, dated December 1st, 1873. When Peter brought it to him, Horatio eagerly tore open the telegraph. Then Peter saw a terrible look come into Horatio's face.

"What's wrong, sir?" asked Peter.

"The note says, *Saved Alone, Anna*. What happened to my girls and why is Anna in Wales and not in France? Oh, Lord, what is wrong?!" cried Horatio.

The news about the sunk SS *Ville du Havre* came out in the newspapers after family members had been notified about their loved ones who died. Horatio immediately left for Europe to meet Anna. As his ship crossed the Atlantic Ocean, Horatio asked the captain to tell him about where the SS *Ville du Havre* had sunk. When the captain pointed out the spot, Horatio stood at the bow of the ship, tears streaming down his face. Three miles below, the ocean held the skeleton of the ship, but His Father up in heaven held his four precious little girls.

Horatio found a piece of paper and a pencil in his pocket. Then the Lord comforted his heart with a poem: *When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea-billows roll, Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."* Four more verses followed. Later a friend put the poem to music and thousands of people have found comfort in the song, "It is Well with My Soul."

Horatio met his grieving wife in France with a friend named Bertha Johnson. They drew comfort from Christian friends who grieved with them. Most of all, the Lord helped them through the sorrow.

In the spring of 1874, Horatio and Anna came home to Lake View. Peter and the pets were glad to see them but the house seemed so empty! Church friends had decorated the house with lovely paintings of the girls.

"Let's go outside and walk," sobbed Anna.

Hand in hand, the husband and wife walked past the old tree stump the girls had used for their post office. Horatio stuck his hand in the hole of the trunk and pulled out a note. With trembling fingers he opened it and they read, "Good-bye, dear sweet Lake View. I will never see you again. Maggie Spafford."

"Oh, Lord, our sweet Maggie is in a better home with You," whispered Horatio as he held her mother close to his heart.

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

1. What question was Peter asked?
2. What was Peter supposed to find in the fish's mouth?
3. What was Peter supposed to do with the money?
4. Who else asked Jesus the same question about taxes?
5. What did Jesus ask them to bring to Him?
6. Whose picture was on the back of the penny?
7. What does Timothy say is the root of all evil?
8. Jesus said we cannot love both God and _____.

(Answers: 1. Does your Master pay tribute? 2. A coin. 3. Pay Jesus' taxes. 4. Some Pharisees. 5. A penny. 6. Caesar's. 7. Money. 8. Money.)