

Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 1, 2006

BETTER THAN SILVER OR GOLD

Peter and John were on their way to the temple to pray. There was a crippled man lying at the gate of the temple. Every day his friends carried him there and he laid there asking people who went into the temple for money.

Peter and John were about to go into the temple when they came to this man. "Look at us," Peter tried to get his attention. The man looked, expecting to get money.

"I do not have silver or gold, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk," Peter commanded the man.

Peter took the man's right hand and lifted him up. Immediately, the man felt strength come into his feet and ankles. He walked with Peter and John into the temple, jumping and praising God.

Some of the people in the temple recognized the man as the beggar who lay at the gate of the temple. They were amazed at the miracle! A crowd began to gather around Peter, John and the healed man who had once been a cripple.

"Men of Israel, why are you surprised at this? Why do you look so hard at us, as if our own power or holiness has made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has glorified His Son Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when Pilate wanted to let him go. You denied the Holy and just One and let a murderer go free and crucified the Prince of life, who God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. It was our faith in Jesus' Name that made this man strong. Repent and be saved so your sins will be forgiven. Every soul that is not saved will be destroyed."

While Peter taught and preached these things in the name of Jesus Christ, several of the religious leaders came over. They were not happy about what Peter was saying. However, many people believed and were saved.

—Monica Murphey





Getting Acquainted

"I really did appreciate the message the minister preached this morning," said Betty Copeland to Mother. The Copeland family had sat with the Anderson family during the morning church service and now they were visiting afterwards.

"Good!" said Mother with a smile.
"The Lord gives our pastor such inspiring thoughts and we have good services every Sunday morning. All of us in the congregation are blessed by such good messages."

Mrs. Copeland sighed. "I know we need to attend church more often. Ever since Bob hurt his leg cutting tree limbs from the big Sycamore in our backyard he has not been able to work on a job. These last few months have been very depressing."

"Oh, I am so sorry," said Mother as she hugged Mrs. Copeland. "The Lord knows all about your troubles and He brought you to church this morning for some encouragement."

"Well, I'm glad you gave me the invitation to church that day in the grocery store when you were handing out cookies. That really pleased Robin and Ricky."

"Speaking of the children," said Mother. "Listen to them talk. You would think they had known each other for a long time."

Linda was talking. "So did you get very many presents for Christmas, Robin?"

Robin smiled. "I got three nice gifts! I like to draw so Mama gave me some magic markers and lots of paper that will last me a long time if I am careful with it. I got these new shoes, too, so I can come to church." Robin raised up one foot so Linda could see her dress shoe.

"Oh, I like them," replied Linda. "I think your feet are just a little smaller than mine. Would you like some of my shoes I can't wear anymore?" "Yeah!' replied Robin. "I'm sorta outgrowing all my older clothes. Mama bought me some at the thrift store but they did not have very many good things for my size."

"Well, I may have some clothes that you can wear, too." said Linda. "Where do you live? Maybe we can bring some things to you."

"We just live on Ash Street about five blocks away from here," said Robin. "Our house isn't hard to find. Hey, what are the boys doing over there?"

"HA! HA! HA!" laughed Jerry, Ricky, Randy and little Allen as they played with Randy's new remote control dune buggy. They had it dodging in and out of the trees in the church yard, doing flips and chasing after each other.

"Okay boys," said Dad. "Put up the noise maker and come get in the car. Bob and I think it is time for dinner. Let's go to our house!"

Mrs. Copeland turned to Mother. "But you haven't planned for all of us to come...."

"Oh, we have plenty," interrupted Mother, smiling as she patted Mrs. Copeland's arm. "We were praying for company today." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why were Peter and John going to the temple?
- 2. Who met Peter and John at the gate?
- 3. What did the man want?
- 4. What did Peter give him instead?
- 5. How did that make the man feel?
- 6. Why did a crowd gather around the three men?
- 7. What made the religious leaders unhappy?
- 8. Did everyone feel this way?

(Answers: 1. To pray. 2. A crippled man. 3. Money. 4. Healing. 5. Happy. 6. Some recognized him as the cripple. 7. Peter taught and preached in Jesus' name. 8. No, many were saved.)



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DECEPTION BROUGHT DEATH

All of the believers who owned land or houses sold them and brought the money made from their sales to the disciples. Then the disciples would distribute money for everyone as they needed it. No one lacked anything they needed.

There was a man and his wife named Ananias and Sapphira. When Ananias and Sapphira sold their property, they did not give all of the money to the disciples. Ananias brought part of the money and laid it at the disciples' feet.

"Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart with deceit against the Holy Ghost?" Peter asked. "Why are you only giving a part of the price of the land? You have not lied to men, but to God."

When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. Great fear came upon all of the ones present who heard these things. The young men arose and carried Ananias out to be buried.

Sapphira began to wonder about Ananias. About three hours later, she entered into the room to find out what had happened.

"Tell me," Peter began questioning her. "Was this the amount you received for your land?"

"Yes, it was that much," Sapphira answered.

"Why have you agreed together to lie against the Spirit of the Lord? The feet of the ones who buried your husband are at the door and will also carry you out," Peter told Sapphira.

Sapphira fell down at his feet and died. The young men came back in and found her dead. They carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

The Bible says that sin will separate us from God. Unless we repent of our sins, such as lies, we will not be saved. The Bible tells us the fate of liars. "...All liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8.

—Monica Murphey





Hope Patiently

The Copelands had dinner with the Andersons. Mother and Linda filled a bag with good clothes that Robin and Ricky could wear. When Mother gave the bag to Mrs. Copeland, she hugged her tightly.

"You will never know how much your family's kindness has meant to us today," she whispered in Mother's ear. "We have been feeling so alone and hopeless. Your family's friendship has

been a wonderful gift to us."

Mother patted Mrs. Copeland's back as they hugged. "Thank the Lord, Betty. He is Love and the Giver of it. We are thankful to be helpers in His Service."

Everyone was in the living room relaxing and visiting. Dad and Bob had been talking for a long time. "You know, Bob, I think you could get a job as an office dispatcher for Quick Trips Truck Company. I know the foreman who hires there and I can give you his phone number if you would like it."

"Yes, that would be great," agreed Bob with a smile. "I sure do need a job that doesn't keep me on my feet. This

ole' leg gives me trouble."

"Well, we will pray that the Lord will heal the ligaments and muscles in your leg," said Dad. "The Lord has healed me many times so I could keep a job and provide for my family. A man feels better when he can work with his hands and pay the bills."

"Boy, you got that right," sighed Bob. "I am tired of limping along."

"Oh, my!" exclaimed Mother. "It is nearly time for night service! Would you folks like to go to church with us tonight? We would be glad for you to come along!"

"Oh, I don't know," said Betty as she looked at her husband. "It is okay

with me...."

"Yes, we can go," finished Bob. "I

think it has done us good."

"Yeah!" shouted the children. Everyone hurried to tidy their clothes, comb hair and put on coats. Soon they

were sitting together on the same bench in church. During prayer request time, Dad asked that Bob's leg would be remembered in prayer.

After church, Robin watched as her dad stood up from the bench, took hold of his crutches and limped into the aisle. Disappointed, Robin turned to Linda and said, "That lady prayed for my dad and I thought his leg was going to be better. Why didn't prayer work?"

"Oh, Robin," said Linda as she hugged her new friend. "The Lord heard our prayers and He will help your dad's leg when He is ready. We can't just boss God around to heal us when He knows better than we do about when and how to do things. Let's just keep praying and believing that God is healing your dad's leg."

Robin sighed. "Well, we have waited a whole summer and fall. It seems to me that should be long enough for God

to answer prayer."

"I don't think so," said Linda. "We have waited a long while many times. It seems God is kinda slow, but He always does something good when we are patient with Him."

"I guess we will just keep waiting," agreed Robin. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What did the believers do with their possessions?
- 2. What did they do with the money from their possessions?
- 3. What did Ananias and Sapphira not give to Peter?
- 4. Did Peter know that they were lying?
- 5. What happened to Ananias?
- 6. Did Sapphira tell Peter a different story than Ananias?
- 7. What happened to Sapphira?
- 8. What is the fate of liars?

(Answers: 1. Sold them. 2. Gave it to the disciples. 3. All of the money from the sale of their land. 4. Yes.

- 5. He died. 6. No. 7. She died.
- 8. They'll have their part in the lake of fire.)



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RESULTS OF A MIRACLE

After the lame man was healed, Peter and John preached and taught the people in the temple. This made the priests and Seducees, leaders of the temple, very unhappy with them. They did not like Peter and John preaching in the name of Jesus and talking about Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The religious leaders took Peter and John and put them in prison until the next morning.

The next day, the elders, rulers, scribes, Annas the high priest and some of his relatives were in a meeting together in Jerusalem. Peter and John were brought into this meeting.

"What has given you the power to do what you have done?" the religious leaders asked Peter and John.

"You rulers of Israel," Peter replied, "Let me tell you that it was through the power of Jesus Christ, whom you crucified and was raised from the dead, that this man can walk again. No one else can save except Jesus."

When the leaders heard these words, they were surprised. Peter and John had not been educated, but Peter was speaking very powerfully and intelligently. Seeing the crippled man healed, they could not deny the words of Peter. Peter and John were commanded not to teach in the name of Jesus.

"You be the judge. Should we obey you, or God?" Peter asked. "We must speak what we have heard."

The religious leaders could not find anything Peter and John had done that was bad enough to put them in jail, so they let them go after threatening them.

Five thousand had been saved because of the healing of the crippled man and Peter's powerful testimony of God's power.

Peter and John told the other believers what the religious leaders had told them. They prayed together about the situation and praised God for His miracle of healing. While they prayed, the house shook, and all of the men were filled with the Holy Ghost. God granted them grace and power.

-Monica Murphey





Witnessing About Healings

The Copeland family came to church often and began to make friends with other families. Mr. Copeland was hired by the Quick Trips Truck Company as a dispatcher.

Robin and Ricky Copeland liked to visit with Jerry and Linda. "I'm glad Dad has a job now," said Ricky. "I'm glad we met you all when we did."

"Me too," agreed Robin. "I just wish Dad's leg was better. We don't have the money for surgery and the doctors may not be able to fix it anyway."

"Well, God can," said Linda. "We must keep praying about it and believe."

Robin sighed. "I'm just tired of waiting."

"Oh, we have to do a lot of waiting on the Lord," said Jerry in a matter of fact way. "The Lord finally healed me of earaches and nosebleeds."

"Oh, I have earaches sometimes," said Ricky. "They really hurt and sometimes the eardrops work, and sometimes they don't take away the hurt at all."

"I know how bad they hurt," said Jerry. "Usually, I had earaches in the night. My Dad and Mom would come into my bedroom and pray for me. I laid on a warm pad and tried to keep quiet. Sometimes Mom would call the pastor for prayer. One night he and his wife came over when I was really hurting. They anointed me with oil, prayed with my parents and I haven't had an earache for four years now."

"Did they put some special oil in your ear?" asked Ricky.

"No, they put the oil on my forehead like the verse in James says to do. Each one laid a hand on my arms and our pastor prayed. I remember feeling very warm and sleepy and when Jesus took the pain away I went to sleep for a long time because I hadn't been able to sleep for a day and two nights."

"Jesus healed me, too," said Linda.

"I had a bad ingrown toe nail and could hardly walk. It really hurt when Dad or Mom tried to clean it out. Finally, Mom was able to cut the corners on my toenail and...."

"Don't tell them everything, Linda" interrupted Jerry, "it's kinda gross."

"Okay, anyway, it hurt but after Mom worked on it and I was anointed and prayed for, my toe has not had any more problems."

"Did they put the oil on your forehead, too?" asked Ricky.

"Yes," replied Linda. "That's the way the Bible says to do it."

"Maybe we should have Dad be anointed," said Robin thoughtfully. "I will talk to him about it. He wants to be healed really badly."

Robin and Ricky did tell their parents all about anointing with oil and praying for his pulled leg ligaments and muscles. "If Jesus can heal Jerry's earaches and Linda's bad ingrown toenail, then He can heal your leg," said Ricky.

"Maybe so," replied Dad. "It would be nice." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why were the religious leaders unhappy?
- 2. What did the religious leaders do to Peter and John?
- 3. What question did they have for Peter and John?
- 4. Who did Peter say gave them that power?
- 5. Why couldn't the religious leaders argue with them?
- 6. What did the religious leaders decide to do with Peter and John?
- 7. How many people were saved?
- 8. What did Peter, John and the other believers do together?

(Answers: 1. Peter and John were teaching and preaching in Jesus' name. 2. Put them in prison. 3. "What has given you the power to do this?" 4. Jesus Christ. 5. The man had been healed. 6. Let them go. 7. Five thousand. 8. Pray.)



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BETRAYED BY A FRIEND

Jesus had just finished teaching when He made another comment to His disciples. "You know," Jesus said. "That the feast of the Passover is in two days. The Son of man will be betrayed and crucified."

The chief priests, scribes and elders among the Jews met together at the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest. They all wanted to kill Jesus. They were afraid to kill Jesus on the Passover, because Jesus was very well liked by the people. There were crowds around Jesus much of the time. Many people came to listen to Jesus' teachings and bring Him their sick. The priests were afraid the people would protest.

Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, went to the chief priests. "What will you give me if I bring Jesus to you?" Judas asked.

The chief priests agreed to give Judas thirty pieces of silver for this act. From that time on, they planned to betray Him. Judas promised to find a way to betray Jesus and began to look for an opportunity to betray Him while Jesus was away from the crowds that followed Him.

Jesus commanded the disciples to go to the city and prepare for the Passover. The disciples did as Jesus said and when it was evening, Jesus sat down with the disciples.

While they ate, Jesus announced, "One of you will betray Me."
The disciples were very sad. Every one began to ask, "Lord, is it
I?"

"He that dips his hand in this same dish with Me will betray me," Jesus answered.

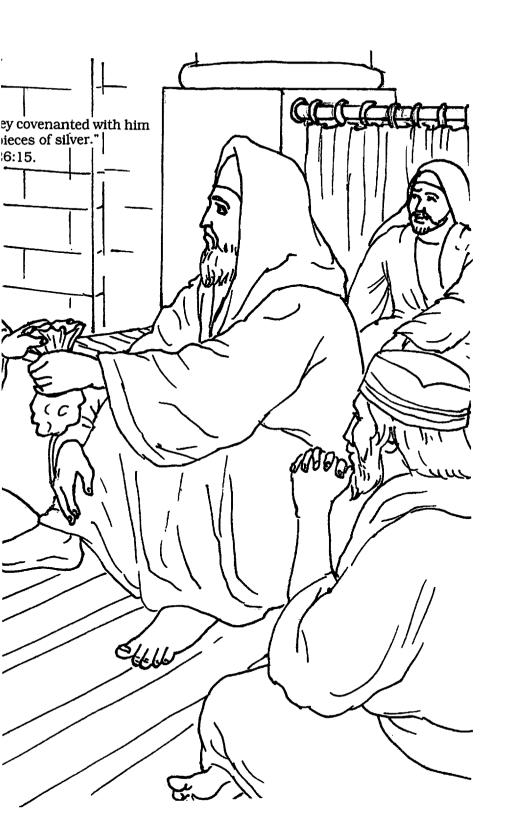
"Master, is it I?" Judas Iscariot asked.

"You have said it," Jesus replied.

Jesus could see into people's hearts. He knew that He would be crucified and He knew which of His disciples would betray Him. Jesus can also see into our hearts. We need to keep our thoughts and our actions pure and pleasing to Him.

—Monica Murphey





The Healing Begins

"Robin and Ricky keep telling me that I should be anointed and prayed for," said Bob Copeland to Dad one Sunday after dinner. They were alone in the Anderson's den. "I guess your son and daughter were healed that way?"

"Yes, we all have been healed through prayer," replied Dad. "When Jesus died on the cross, He shed His blood for the saving of our souls and the healing of our bodies. We can claim this healing when we are a child of God."

Mr. Copeland was quiet for awhile as he sat looking at his wrapped leg and the crutches laying nearby. Slowly, he said, "I am not worthy of the blood of Jesus. I have done some bad things in my life. He won't want to heal me."

"Oh, yes, Jesus wants to help you," answered Dad. He told Mr. Copeland about the man who was lame and laying on a pallet. Jesus told him that his sins were forgiven and then Jesus healed him. (Mark 2:1-12.)

"How do you talk to Jesus about it all, anyway?" asked Mr. Copeland.

"First, you need to ask Jesus to forgive you of the sins you have committed," replied Dad. He was so happy to lead his new friend to Jesus. "He wants you to repent and tell Him you do not want your old way of living and thinking, but you want Him to cleanse your heart and mind."

In quiet confidence, Dad explained how to pray. Tears misted Dad's eyes and he noticed that Mr. Copeland was blinking back tears. "It is okay to shed a few tears," said Dad. "When we think about how Jesus suffered on the cross because we are so wicked, then we are sorry about our evil ways."

"I have been so evil," confessed Mr. Copeland sadly. "I don't know where to begin."

Kindly, Dad talked with his friend. Then they knelt in prayer and talked to Jesus who did wash away Mr. Copeland's sins. Sad tears became joyful ones as Mr. Copeland began to laugh. "I have never felt so light and free!" he exclaimed. "I think I could walk on air!"

Dad began to sing, "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!..."

Their singing and happy talk brought the rest of the two families into the den to see what had happened. Bob Copeland reached out his arms to his family. "Honey, meet your new husband!" he exclaimed as he hugged his wife, son and daughter in one big squeeze. "I have never known such happiness before! I feel like I could fly out of here!"

The Anderson family began to sing songs of rejoicing and praise to Jesus, the Son of God. Then Betty started crying, "I want what Bob has!" she cried. "I want to let go of my burden of sins and feel free, too!"

That day the blood of Jesus cleansed four hearts and made them whiter than snow. What a miracle!

-Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

- What feast was approaching?
- What did Jesus say was going to happen to Him during the Passover?
- 3. Why did the priests and elders meet together?
- 4. Who went to the priests and offered to betray Jesus?
- 5. What did the priests promise Judas for his betrayal?
- 6. What did Jesus say one of His disciples would do?
- 7. How did this make the disciples feel?
- 8. What did Jesus say after Judas asked if it would be him?

(Answers: 1. The Passover. 2. He would be betrayed and crucified. 3. To figure out a way to kill Jesus. 4. Judas Iscariot. 5. Thirty pieces of silver. 6. Betray him. 7. Very sad. 8. "You have said it")



Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Jan. 29, 2006

JESUS' LAST SUPPER

"Go and prepare the Passover supper for us so that we may eat," Jesus commanded Peter and John.

"Where do you want us to prepare it?" Peter and John asked.

"When you enter into the city, there will be a man coming to meet you. He will be holding a pitcher of water. Follow him to the house he goes in. You will find the head of the house and say, "The Master says to you, Where is the guestroom where I can eat the Passover with My disciples?" He will show you a large upper room. Make that room ready," Jesus answered.

When Peter and John reached the city, they found everything happened just as Jesus said it would. They made preparations for the Passover supper for Jesus and His disciples.

When it was ready, Jesus and His disciples sat down to eat. Jesus got up, reached for a towel and poured water into a basin. He began to wash the disciples' feet and wipe them with the towel. When Jesus came to Peter, Peter asked, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"

"You will not know why I do this now, but you will know later," Jesus answered.

"You will never wash my feet," Peter protested.

"If I do not wash your feet, you will have no part with Me," Jesus informed him.

"Then don't just wash my feet, wash my head and my hands also," Peter begged.

After Jesus had washed the feet of each disciple, He sat down again and spoke to them for a moment.

The disciples had been arguing among themselves, wondering who would be counted the greatest.

"Do you know what I have done to you?" Jesus asked in reply. "You call me Master and Lord. This is right, because I am. If I, your Lord, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done. A servant is not greater than his master. Whoever is the greatest among you let him be like the younger. Whoever is the chief should do as the one that serves."

-Monica Murphey





Twice Healed

Sunday night the Andersons and Copelands came into the chapel with such a happy glow that everyone knew something special had happened. "We are one of you, now," said Bro. Copeland as he embraced first one brother and then another. "Oh, I feel so happy!"

Someone started singing, "It is joy unspeakable and full of glory...." and the whole congregation rejoiced and praised the name of Jesus.

Bob Copeland forgot about his injured leg and began to walk down the aisle without crutches. "Oh, my leg!" he exclaimed as he grabbed a benchend to keep from falling. "I can't believe I walked nearly all the way down the aisle without my crutches! I haven't walked this far alone in three months!"

"Walk just a little farther to this altar," said Bro. Anderson. "We will anoint you with oil and pray for your total healing. I know the Lord wants to help you."

So Bro. Copeland sat down on the altar and a brother put a fingertip of oil on his forehead. Then four brothers gathered around and prayed the prayer of faith. When the last "amen" was said Bro. Copeland stood up.

"I believe I can walk back to my seat without my crutches," he said as he took off walking down the aisle. "Praise the Lord!" He shouted as he raised his arms in the air. "I don't feel any pain! The Lord has healed my muscles and tendons!"

Then he hugged his wife who was crying tears of joy as she stood by a bench. "Honey," he said, "you have a new husband! Not only has the Lord saved my soul from sin, but He has healed my aching body. I am a new man!"

Songs of rejoicing lifted to the heavens that night as the whole congregation praised the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, whose shed blood cleanses even the most wicked sinners and heals the body of injuries and afflictions.

From that night on the Copeland family made changes in their lives and lifestyle—the clothes they wore, the places they went, the things they did were prayed about. Bro. and Sis. Copeland did not want to do anything to take away from the peace and quiet joy that they had received from the Lord.

One Sunday afternoon, Robin said to Linda, "I am glad we met you all. Our family is so much happier now that we have Jesus. My dad and mom don't holler at each other like they used to. Even our dog, Tippy, is happier than she used to be."

Linda smiled as she hugged Robin. "Tippy can feel the love of Jesus in your home. She doesn't understand what the change is but she can feel the difference."

"Well, Dad said he doesn't want to ever go back to the old way of living. Some of the men where he works have been teasing him about 'getting religious' but he said he doesn't care. They just need to talk to Jesus like he did and let Jesus change their lives."

"That's right," said Linda. "Your dad can tell them about Jesus by the way he lives. We will pray that your dad will be a good witness to the men where he works. You stay true to the Lord, too, Robin, and encourage your dad."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

- What did Jesus tell Peter and John to do?
- What happened when Peter and John reached the city?
- 3. What did Jesus pour into the basin?
- 4. What did Jesus begin doing with the towel and water?
- 5. What did Peter ask Jesus?
- 6. What did Jesus say Peter would not have if Jesus did not wash his feet?
- 7. What had the disciples been arguing about?
- 8. What did Jesus say the chief should do?

(Answers: 1. Go and prepare for their Passover supper. 2. Everything that Jesus said. 3. Water. 4. Washing the disciples' feet. 5. "Do you wash my feet?" 6. Part with Him. 7. Who would be the greatest. 8. Be as the one who serves.)



Vol. 57. No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 5, 2006

WHO IS THE BETRAYER?

"One of you will betray Me," Jesus informed His disciples while they were eating the Passover supper.

The disciples looked at one another. Who was Jesus talking about? "Lord, is it !?" they began asking.

"Lord, who is it?" John asked.

"The person who I give a handful of food to is the one who will betray Me," Jesus answered.

When Jesus dipped into the food, He gave it to Judas Iscariot. "What you have to do, do it quickly," Jesus told Judas Iscariot. No one else knew what Jesus was talking about. Judas was the treasurer of the disciples. He kept the moneybag. Some of the disciples thought that Jesus had told him to go buy something they needed for the feast, or that he should buy something to give to the poor. After Jesus said this, Judas immediately left the room.

"I wanted to eat this Passover supper with you before I suffer. I will not eat this anymore, until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God," Jesus proclaimed. After He said these words, He took the cup and gave thanks. Then He said, "This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you."

Jesus also took the bread, gave thanks and brake it. Jesus gave the bread to the disciples and said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves."

Jesus and the disciples sang an hymn after they finished eating the Passover supper. It was night when they were finished. Jesus and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus told Peter, "Satan would like to have you so that he can sift you as wheat. I have prayed for you, that your faith won't fail. When you are converted, give your brothers strength."

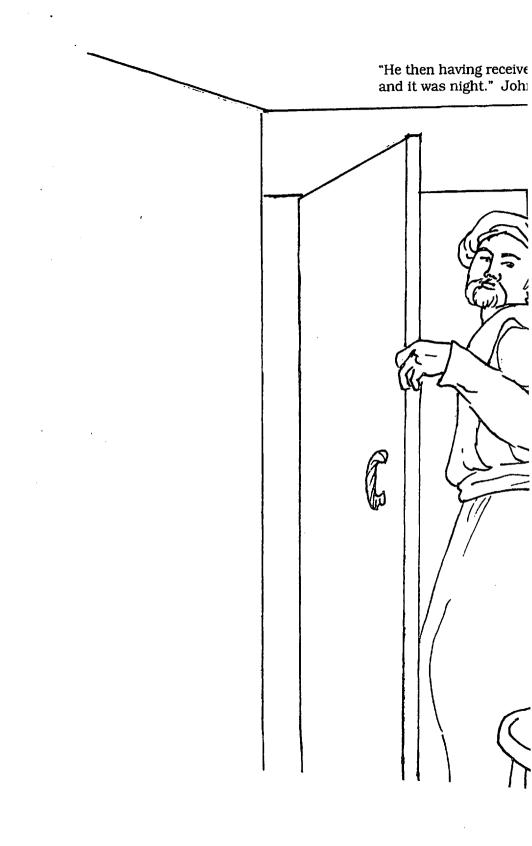
"Lord, I am ready to go with You. I will follow you to prison and even to death," Peter declared.

"Before the cock crows today, you will deny that you know Me three times," Jesus told him.

"Even if I should die with You, I will not deny You," Peter protested.

The disciples agreed.

—Monica Murphey





Young George Mueller

With dread, George Mueller watched his father climb out of the carriage. George's mother had died when he was fourteen-years-old and his father seemed to think the only way to communicate with George was through beatings. He knew his father worked hard and was successful as a businessman in Germany (in the early 1800's), but the money his father gave him did not buy George's love. Instead, George used it to buy beer, hoping to drown out his sad thoughts of life.

George was standing at the top of the stairs when his father opened the front door. "Ha, there is my no-good son!" exclaimed Mr. Mueller as he glared up at George. "What did a month in the German jails teach you?"

George shrugged. "That the meals are terrible. Why didn't you pay my fine faster?"

"Because I wanted you to learn a lesson in honesty and respect!" replied Mr. Mueller as he grabbed a sturdy cane hanging on a hall hook and bounded up the stairs two at a time. George knew what was coming and braced himself for the blows. Why couldn't his father talk to him as a person? Would he ever have a true friend he could trust? Would life always be so miserable?

As the cane whistled through the air and landed with a sharp thud on George's back, he thought, "Some day I want to be free. Free from men and hatred. I want to find freedom in love and friendship." This simple gleam of hope helped George endure his father's wrath time and time again.

Two years of schooling at Nordhausen slipped by. George's father wanted him to be a German student of Divinity so he enrolled George in classes of Latin, Hebrew, Greek and the Classics. During the day, George studied from the Bible, but in the evenings he drank beer with his bud-

dies at the nearby tavern. Laughing, joking and telling stories, George tried to drown out his sadness and the thirst he had for soul freedom.

At the age of nineteen, George was accepted as a student at the University of Halle. For once his father seemed pleased with George for this was his dream—that George would be a minister in the Lutheran Church of Germany. George's mind studied and knew the right answers to tests so that he made decent scores, but his heart was far from doing right.

Living at Halle, away from his father, George felt more free but he was terribly bound by sin.

At night he would cross the cobblestone street to Der Gruner Tisch, a tavern, where he would drink beer with other young men.

Though George did not know God personally, yet God knew him. The Lord looked upon George and saw his thirsty soul seeking for something better. He had good plans for George. Would George submit to God for freedom?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- Who did Jesus say would betray Him?
- 2. Which disciple did Jesus hand the food to?
- What was Judas Iscariot's job?
- 4. What did Judas do after Jesus told him to do his job quickly?
- 5. What did Jesus do with the cup?
- 6. What did Jesus do with the bread?
- 7. How many times did Jesus say Peter would deny Him?
- 8. Did Peter think he would ever deny Jesus?

(Answers: 1. The person He gave the food to. 2. Judas Iscariot. 3. He was treasurer. 4. He left. 5. Gave thanks and passed it to the disciples. 6. Gave thanks, brake it and divided it among the disciples. 7. Three times. 8. No.)





Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 12, 2006

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

After Jesus and His disciples were finished eating the Passover supper, Jesus began teaching them. "Don't let your heart be sad. If you believe in God, believe in Me, too. My Father has many mansions. I am going to prepare a place for you. I will come again, to bring you to be with Me," Jesus instructed.

"Lord, we don't know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Thomas asked.

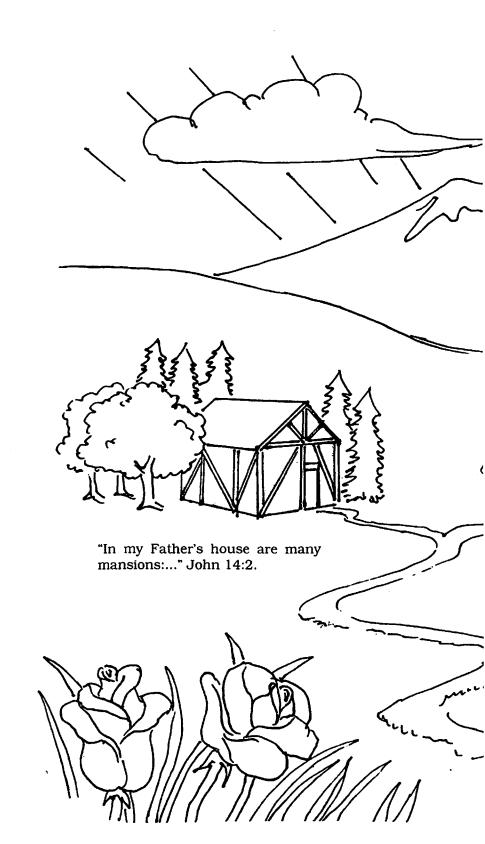
"I am the way, the truth and the life," Jesus answered. "No man comes to the Father, except through Me."

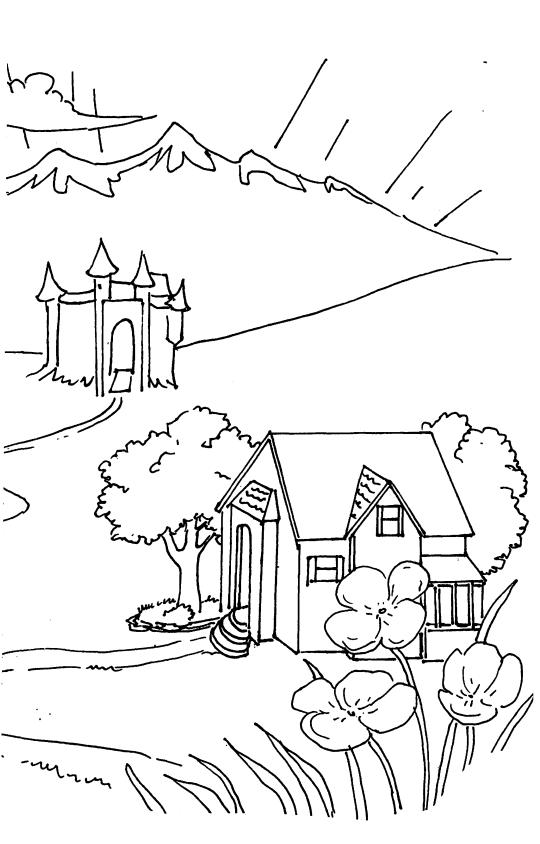
"Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied," Philip requested.

"If you have seen Me, you have also seen the Father," Jesus told him. "The Father lives in Me. It is not Me that speaks to you and does these works, but the Father. I go to my Father. Whoever believes in Me will be able to do the works I do also. Whatever you ask in My name, I will do, so that My Father will be glorified in the Son. If you love Me, keep My commandments. I will pray to the Father. He will send you a Comforter to live with you forever. The world will not see this Spirit of truth, but you will know Him, for He will live with you. Whoever keeps My commandments is one that loves Me. Whoever loves Me will be loved by My Father."

Next, Judas (not Judas Iscariot) had a question for Jesus. "How is it that You will show Yourself to us and not to the world?" he inquired.

"If you love Me, you will do My works. He that does not love Me will not keep My sayings. The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, will teach you all things and will help you to remember what I have told you. I leave My peace with you. Not peace like the world has. Now it is time for what I have discussed with you before to come to pass. It will come to pass that you might believe. The world will know that I love the Father and that whatever He tells Me to do, I will do it. Let us leave here." And with these words, Jesus completed His instructions to His disciples.





Two Ways Meet

(Continued from last week.)

"Here comes George Mueller!" shouted one young man among the group sitting around the table in the Der Gruner Tisch, a tavern across the street from the University of Halle.

"Now the fun begins!" exclaimed another fellow as he greeted George with a raised fist then pounded the green table before him. Three other fellows began to pound the sturdy table, calling for more beer from the bar maid.

"Herr Mueller tells us he is studying to be a Lutheran minister, but he is actually the best drinker in town."

"Okay, Emil," chuckled George as he sat down and glanced down the table at his four party fellows in the ring of the lantern light. Cigarette smoke hazed the air, but George's eyes caught sight of a figure sitting outside the circle of light.

Being a friendly fellow, George called out, "And who are you sitting in the dark by yourself?"

The young man leaned forward out of the haze and George gasped when he saw who it was. "Beta, what are you doing here?"

"George, I want to be your friend," replied Beta, but George just turned away. He thought of Beta as a "goodygood" who not only read the Bible, but also obeyed it. George did not want friendship with someone who would hinder his fun times at the tayern.

After the last joke and story was told, the tavern closed at midnight, putting the six young men out into the cobblestone street. Beta walked beside George toward Halle University.

"I want to be your friend, George," said Beta. "I want to try your happygo-lucky life style and see if it is better than the straight way I have been living."

George stopped walking and burst

out laughing. "I can't believe you said that! I thought you were happy going to prayer meetings and living so carefully. Maybe you have something to teach me about happiness?"

"No, I don't," replied Beta. "You are such a happy sinner and I thought I would find out your secret of living so carefree."

The cold night air rang with George's laughter. "I was thinking of asking you about your secret of good living, Beta. I tell you what, I'll show you a good time and then you tell me if it is better than how you are living. Is that a deal?"

"It is a deal!" agreed Beta as he grasped his new friend's hand. "I will meet you at the tavern tomorrow night. Will you have more lying and cheating stories to tell? I don't think I have ever laughed harder in my life!"

"Ah, you haven't heard the best ones," replied George. They said goodnight and parted. George went to his room wondering which way is happier—the sinful or the righteous way?

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

8. "I leave My

	(Complete these sentences.)
1.	"Don't let your heart be"
2.	"I am going to prepare a for
	you."
3.	"I will come"
4.	"I am the, the and the
	**
5.	"If you love Me, keep My"
3.	"The Father will send you a
	to live with you."
7.	"The Holy Ghost will you

(Answers: 1. Sad. 2. Place.

_ with you."

- 3. Again. 4. Way, Truth, Life.
- 5. Commandments. 6. Comforter.
- 7. Teach: all things. 8. Peace.)

THE
BEAUTIFUL WAY

Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 19, 2006

PRAYER IN THE GARDEN

Jesus and His disciples arrived at a place called Gethsemane. "Sit here," Jesus told His disciples, "While I go over there to pray."

Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him. Jesus was very sad. His heart was heavy. "My soul is full of sorrow. Stay here, and watch with Me," Jesus requested.

Jesus went a little father on into the garden away from His disciples. He needed some time alone to pray and to talk with His Father. Jesus knew that some things were about to come to pass that would be difficult for Him to bear. He fell onto His face and prayed. "Oh, Father, if it is possible, let this cup be taken from Me. However, do not do what I want, but do what You want to do."

When He completed His prayer, He returned to the place He had left Peter, James and John. The men were sound asleep. "What? Could you not watch with Me for only one hour?" Jesus asked. "Watch and pray, so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing to, but the flesh is weak."

Jesus left His disciples for a second time to pray. "Father, if this cup is not taken from Me, and I have to drink it, do as You will."

Jesus went once again to Peter, James and John. Once again, He found them asleep. Jesus left them to pray for a third time, praying the same prayer as before.

When Jesus returned to His disciples, He said, "Sleep for now. Rest. The hour is very near when the Son of Man will be betrayed into the hand of sinners."

Then Jesus said, "Rise. Let us go. The one who will betray Me is here."

—Monica Murphey





Finding The Better Way

(Continued from last week.)

One school term at the University of Halle slipped past and George Mueller was still sinful, leading his friend, Beta, the wrong way. Then in November, the fall that George was twenty, he met Beta at their meeting place on the corner.

"Let's go to the tavern!" exclaimed George, but Beta held back.

"No, George," he said nervously. "I promised my friend Wagner that I would meet him tonight. I-I have known him a long time and...." Beta looked down at his shoe toes.

"So what do you and Wagner do that is so fun?" jeered George.

"We-we have a prayer meeting," stammered Beta.

George tipped back his head and roared with laughter. For some reason this gave Beta more courage and he spoke up.

"I have gone your way, George, and it is empty and hopeless. The fun is all on the top but underneath, I feel so-so sad and dull. My old way of life had meaning to it. When I obeyed the Word of God I felt satisfied and full. I have never felt that way after drinking with you."

"Well, I do say!" exclaimed George. "Perhaps I ought to try your way and see if it fills me up, too. Where do you go with Wagner?"

"I meet him at his house," replied Beta. "A few of us get together to sing and pray. Sometimes we read a sermon—that's all."

"This Wagner must be a daring soul to have prayer meeting in his house and not in the chapel as the state church demands. Take me with you so I can meet him," teased George. Really, George was growing tired of his old, bad habits. He felt empty inside, too. Maybe Beta would show him a better way?

Wagner's house was a gray stone two-story in a row of other gray stone houses close to the cobblestone street. A few men in winter cloaks were entering the wide front door as Beta and George arrived. Wagner was greeting each one just inside the door.

Beta shook hands with Wagner. "This is my friend, George Mueller," he said quietly.

"George Mueller!" exclaimed Wagner as he took George's hand and shook it warmly. "I welcome you as a brother. Now find yourself a seat and a hymn book. We're about ready to start singing."

The men had drawn their chairs into a circle in the library. George sat down on a chair and looked closely at each one there. They did not look pale and weak. Instead they looked content and courageous. When the men sang hymns, George's soul drank in the music and words like a thirsty man craves water. Suddenly, George realized that these men had what he was hunting for. Never in all his life had he met such a group of strong men who seemed anchored on a rock foundation. George was eager to learn more.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Where did Jesus and His disciples go?
- 2. What did Jesus want to do?
- Who did Jesus take with Him?
- 4. What two things did Jesus ask these men to do?
- 5. What were they doing when Jesus found them?
- 6. Why did Jesus say to watch and pray?
- 7. How many times did Jesus find His disciples asleep?
- 8. What hour did Jesus say was near?

(Answers: 1. Gethsemane. 2. Pray. 3. Peter, James and John. 4. Stay and watch. 5. Sleeping. 6. So they would not fall into temptation. 7. Three. 8. The hour He would be betrayed.)



Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Feb. 26, 2006

THE KISS OF DEATH

"Rise, let us go. The person who will betray Me is here," Jesus told His disciples. While He was still speaking, Judas Iscariot arrived. He brought many people along with him. They carried lanterns, torches, swords and other weapons given to them by the chief priests and elders of the Jewish people.

The chief priests and elders had wondered how they would know who Jesus was. Judas and the chief priests had decided on a sign. The person that Judas would go up to and kiss was Jesus.

Judas went straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Master," Judas said. Then, Judas kissed Jesus.

"Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" Jesus asked him.

"Who do you seek?" Jesus asked the multitude.

"Jesus of Nazereth," they replied.

"I am He," Jesus said. As soon as Jesus said this, the crowd fell to the ground.

Again, Jesus asked them, "Who do you want?"

They said, "Jesus of Nazereth."

"I have said that I am He," Jesus answered. "Let the rest go."

Peter took his sword and struck one of the servants of the high priest with it. The servant's name was Malchus. Malchus was in pain. His right ear had been cut off by the sword's thrust.

Jesus reached out and touched the man's ear. It was healed!

"Put away your swords. All who use the sword will die with it. Do you know that I could pray to my Father and He would send Me twelve legions of angels? It must happen this way, however, to fulfill Scripture," Jesus told the crowd.

Jesus also said to the people, "Have you come out looking for a thief with swords and knives to take Me with? I sat with you every day in the temple and you did not take Me. All of this was done so that the prophets words would be proven true."

All of Jesus' disciples were afraid. Every one of the disciples ran away leaving Jesus alone to His fate.

—Monica Murphey





Kneeling In Prayer

(Continued from last week.)

At Wagner's house for prayer meeting, George Mueller heard Christian men sing good gospel hymns for the first time in his life.

After the singing, Wagner stood up in front of his desk in the library and faced the circle of men sitting before him. "I want to welcome all of our visitors tonight and pray God's blessing on our souls. Brother Kayser, will you ask God to be with us tonight?"

George stared as Brother Kayser stood, turned around and knelt before his chair to pray. When Brother Kayser prayed it seemed to George that he was talking to Someone in the room who had great power. Never before had George seen or heard anything like this. The entire service was so different and somehow satisfying. As George put on his cloak to leave, he asked Beta and Wagner, "Why did that brother kneel when he prayed?"

Beta glanced nervously at Wagner. "Don't tease and cause trouble, George," he said. "We do that here when we talk to God."

"I know why," George said to answer his own question. "He wanted God to know he was humble and needy and that God was worthy to kneel before. I just never have done that before nor seen it done in all my months at the University of Halle, and I am studying to be a minister!"

"Come again, Mr. Mueller," said Wagner. "We may have different ways, but the Lord meets with us."

"Yes, yes, I believe that brother was talking to God," said Mueller. "Any man that will kneel and talk to God like that has to be some big fellow!"

On their walk home, Beta and George talked very little. They parted at their meeting corner and a very sober George climbed the stairs to his boarding room. He could not forget the sight of Bro. Kayser kneeling to talk to God like a friend. George had always

thought of God as cold and distant, ready to beat him for any disobedience.

In the dark of his room, George walked slowly across the wooden floor to his bed. He paused a moment before his knees bent and he felt the cold floor beneath them. He did not know what to say once he was kneeling. Suddenly, he flung back his head, looked into the darkness and cried out to God, "At last, God, tonight I am Yours! Please take me as Thine own! In Jesus' name, Amen!"

For half an hour, George stayed on his knees in quiet humility before the Lord. Never again would he enter a tavern to drink beer or smoke. Never again would he lie, steal or cheat. All those old sins were washed away in the blood of Jesus. George became a new, happy man that night.

As he tumbled into his bed, George thought of his father. He had never felt his earthly father loved him, but now he knew the great heavenly Father's love. George felt like singing a hymn.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- Who brought a multitude along to capture Jesus?
- What did the crowd carry with them?
- 3. What sign did Judas use to tell who Jesus was?
- 4. What happened to the crowd when Jesus admitted who He was?
- 5. What did Peter do with his sword?
- 6. What did Jesus tell the crowd to do with their swords?
- 7. What did Jesus say would be fulfilled?
- 8. What did the disciples do?

(Answers: 1. Judas Iscariot. 2. Lanterns, torches, swords and other weapons. 3. A kiss. 4. They fell to the ground. 5. Cut off Malchus' ear. 6. Put them away. 7. Scripture, prophesy. 8. Ran away.)



Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 5, 2006

AN UNFAIR TRIAL

The crowd that captured Jesus took Him to the high priest's palace. The high priest's name was Caiaphas. Scribes and elders had met at Caiaphas' palace.

All of the disciples had been afraid when the crowd took Jesus. They ran and left Jesus alone. Peter decided to follow the crowd at a distance behind to see what would happen to Jesus. Peter sat with the servants in the high priest's palace.

The chief priests and the council wanted to put Jesus to death. They looked for witnesses with stories that might hurt Jesus. They didn't find anyone, but there were many people who told lies about things Jesus said. "This man said that He could tear down the temple of God and build it back in three days," one man accused.

"Will you not answer the accusations? Are the things these witnesses are saying true?" the high priest asked Jesus. But Jesus was quiet.

"I ask you by the living God. Tell me if you are Christ, the Son of God," the high priest asked.

"You have said it. However, after this, you will see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, coming through the clouds of heaven," Jesus answered.

"This man has spoken blasphemy," the high priest said. "We do not need any more witnesses. He has said He was the Son of God. You heard Him. What do you think?"

"He is guilty," the crowd answered.

The people spit in Jesus' face. They made fun of Him and hit Him. They said, "Tell us a prophecy, Christ! Who hit You?"

The next morning, the chief priests and elders decided to put Jesus to death. They tied Jesus up. They must have Pontius Pilate's approval before they could act. The crowd headed his way.

-Monica Murphey

"Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands." Matthew 26:67.





The Girl Who Said "No"

(Continued from last week.)

Since that night in November when George Mueller's sins were washed away in the blood of Jesus and he had given himself to the Lord, George was a new man. He went to prayer meetings instead of drinking at the tavern. He read his Bible and told Bible stories. He liked to sing hymns especially on Saturday night when the girls were there.

Once pretty girl named Ermegarde fluffed her blue silk skirt and fluttered her fan when she sat down in a cushioned chair before the prayer meeting. Immediately her eyes met George's and he walked over to sit beside her. He was in awe of her beauty and she was charmed by this tall, strong and lively young man. She liked the way George talked and giggled at his funny comments. George enjoyed her attention and so they became friends.

One evening, waiting in the entrance hall of Wagner's house, Emegarde became impatient. She had a pout on her face when George finally came out of the library.

"I am sorry, Ermegarde, to keep you waiting," said George, "but I had to speak with Wagner and the missionary minister. I can't wait another night to tell them to sign me up to be a missionary."

George saw her pretty face smile under the lovely bonnet and his heart beat faster. Her blue eyes teased him as she said, "A missionary! Oh, George, don't take the Christian life so seriously! There are others already doing mission work! You don't have to!"

"But, Ermegarde," George's voice had softened. "The Lord has done so much for me that I want to tell others about Him. Don't you see the joy in telling the gospel story to sinners who need Him like I did?"

Ermegarde leaned close to George. He smelled her sweet perfume and saw her eyes twinkle like stars, but her words stung his heart. "George, don't be so solemn. I for one would never be a missionary. They always live so poorly. Maybe God will change your mind?" She fluttered her eyes then dipped

her bonnet as she gathered up her rustling silk skirt and floated to the door.

George stood silently watching her leave. Over the months he had become very fond of Ermegarde and dreamed of making her his wife. If she did not want to be a missionary, George had to make a decision. Would he give up his call to be a missionary for Emegarde, or would he give her up?

Walking home in the darkness George passed the huge Halle orphanages and he heard a child crying. The cry pierced his heart as he hurried down the alley to his room. Kneeling by his bed, he cried out, "Oh, dear God! Please give me wisdom and strength to do what is right!... Finally, he tumbled into his bed with the sound of the orphan crying and Ermegarde's teasing trying to drown out each other:

Several months passed with George struggling over Ermegarde or his missionary call. Late one Spring night, Ermegarde told him he had to choose. "Then you will never be Mrs. George Mueller," he told her and walked out of her life.

George sighed. He was ready to serve God with all his heart. —Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

OUESTIONS:

- Where did the crowd take Jesus?
- 2. Which disciple followed the crowd?
- 3. Did the priests and elders find any witnesses against Jesus?
- 4. What did the witness say that Jesus did?
- 5. What did the high priest ask Jesus?
- 6. What did the high priest accuse Jesus of?
- 7. What did the people do to Jesus?
- 8. Where did they take Jesus next?

(Answers: 1. To Caiaphas, the high priest's palace. 2. Peter. 3. No, only false witnesses. 4. That He could tear down the temple and rebuild it. 5. If He was the Son of God. 6. Blasphemy. 7. Spit at Him, hit Him and made fun of Him. 8. To Pontius Pilate.)



Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 12, 2006

BEFORE THE ROOSTER CROWS

Peter followed the crowd that took Jesus and sat with Caiaphas' servants while Jesus' trial was going on. A girl came up to Peter. "You were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

"I don't know what you are talking about," Peter protested.

Peter went out on the porch. Another servant saw him. "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth," she told the other servants.

"I don't know who you're talking about," Peter denied.

After awhile, another servant standing near to Peter said, "You are one of them. Your accent is like theirs."

Peter had became very angry. "I do not know the man!" he cried.

Immediately after he said this, the rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had told him at the Mount of Olives, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter had answered, "Lord, even if I die, I will never deny You." When Peter remembered these words, he left and cried bitterly.

Judas Iscariot, the disciple that had betrayed Jesus, was also at Caiaphas' palace watching the trial. When he saw the crowd pronounce Jesus "guilty," he knew Jesus would die. He knew he had done wrong.

Judas Iscariot went to the high priest and tried to return the thirty pieces of silver. "I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood," Judas repented.

"We do not care," the priests said. "You take care of it."

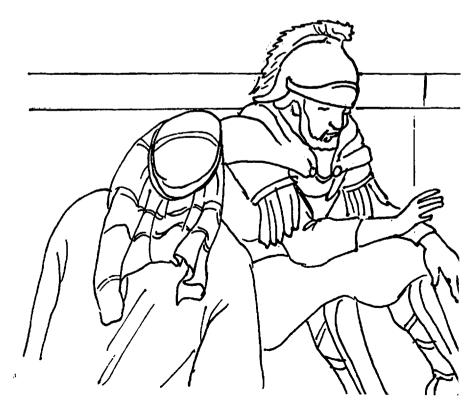
Judas Iscariot threw down the pieces of silver. Then he went out and killed himself. "We cannot put this money in the treasury." the chief priests decided. "This money bought someone's death."

The chief priests used the money to buy a field to bury strangers in. Jeremiah, the prophet, had spoken of this event many years before. "They took the thirty pieces of silver," Jeremiah prophesied. "This was the price of the man that the children of Israel thought highly of. They gave the money for a potter's field."

—Monica Murphey



"...Saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew." Matthew 26:74.





George Visits His Father

(Continued from last week.)

George Mueller sat in a carriage bouncing along the road to Schoenebeck, Germany to see his father after four years of study at the University of Halle. In the hot, dusty coach he was praying that his father would be kind. When George had written to him announcing his changed life, his father had not been pleased. When George was deep in sin, his father had not liked him, and now that George was a man of God living right, his father seemed upset. How could George ever please him?

Asking God for a miracle, George arrived at his father's house with a paper that had to have his father's signature on it so he could become a missionary. George greeted his father and realized he was the same self-centered man. The housekeeper kept the house tidy and the stew was tasty.

"George, you hardly eat," said his father at the table. "You are too thin. If your mother were alive, she would make you eat. What bothers you?"

A knot tightened in George's stomach. "Father, I need your signature on a paper I have. It is about my recent decision to be a missionary."

"You want to waste your life as a missionary?" exploded his father. "After I pay for you to have four years of study at a good university, you waste your life on heathens! No! I will not sign anything that will cheapen your life so much!"

"But, father, you wanted me to be a minister," replied George.

"Yes, I want you to be a well-paid minister with a respectable congregation in a clean, decent German town," retorted his father.

"There are plenty of that kind," George answered.

His father slammed down his fist on the mahogany table. "I will not sign," he insisted.

When his father made a decision, George knew he would not change. No pleading would work. "I hope you realize what you are doing," said George. "You are going against what my heavenly Father has asked me to do."

"Has He paid for your schooling? Has He bailed you out of jail and worried over your debts? Who has done that?"

"Thank you, Father, for all you have done for me," replied George. He was amazed at his calmness in the presence of his angry parent. "I know you have helped me financially, but it has been my heavenly Father who as given me a new life, peace and joy I had never known until He changed me. Father, I owe God so much and there are so many others who need Him like I did."

His father's face was wrinkled in anger. "What about me? Don't you owe me anything?"

George looked around the rich decor of the room he was standing in. His father had plenty of money stored up for retirement and caring servants to attend him.

"Father," said George evenly. "I will never ask you for money again. I will pray for you because what you need is God as much as I did."

This did not make his father any happier, but George somehow felt peace in his heart at severing financial ties with his father. Now his heavenly Father would take care of his physical needs.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. How many servants asked Peter about Jesus?
- 2. What did Peter say to these servants?
- 3. What did Peter hear after he answered the last servant?
- 4. How did Peter feel then?
- 5. How did Judas feel when Jesus was found guilty?
- 6. What did Judas return to the priests?
- 7. What did the priests use the money to buy?
- 8. Who had prophesied about the money?

(Answers: 1. Three. 2. He denied that he ever knew Jesus. 3. The rooster crow. 4. Sad. 5. He knew he had done wrong. 6. The thirty pieces of silver. 7. A potter's field. 8. Jeremiah.)



Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 19, 2006

THE CROWD'S CHOICE

The morning after Jesus had been at the high priest's palace, the people had tied Jesus up and taken Him to see the governor, Pontius Pilate.

"Are you the King of the Jews?" Pilate asked Jesus.

"You have said it," Jesus answered.

The chief priests and elders made all kinds of accusations about Jesus to Pilate. During this time, Jesus said nothing. "Do you not hear what these witnesses are saying about You?" Pilate demanded. Still, Jesus did not answer. The governor was amazed.

It was a tradition for the governor to have a feast where he would release a prisoner that the people chose. At this time, there was a very bad man in the prison. His name was Barabbas. When the crowd had gathered before Pilate, Pilate asked them, "Who would you like for me to release? Barabbas, or Jesus, who is called Christ?"

Pilate's wife sent for him. "Will you do nothing for this innocent man? I had a nightmare about Him last night and have been afraid all day," she told Pilate.

The chief priests convinced the crowd that they should ask for Barabbas and have Jesus killed. So, when the governor asked the question again, the crowd shouted, "Give us Barabbas!"

"What will I do with this Jesus, then?" questioned Pilate.

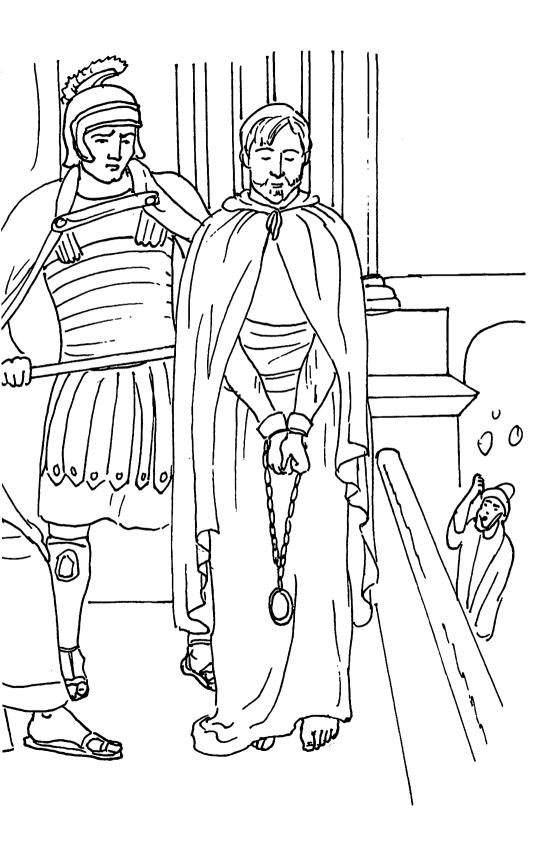
"Crucify Him!" the angry crowd cried.

"What wrong has He committed?" Pilate asked the crowd. After he asked this, the crowd only cried louder, "Let Him be crucified!"

Pilate saw that he could do nothing to help Jesus. He took water and washed his hands. "I am innocent of the blood of this man. He has done nothing wrong. His death will be your responsibility," Pilate said.

"His blood will be on us and our children," the people answered.
—Monica Murphey





Fresh Salt Water Air

Obeying God's call to be a missionary, George Mueller went to London, England to visit a missionary committee. It was a miracle how George was able to come to England. Earlier, when he had prayed for work to pay for his expenses, the Lord had sent Americans who paid George to teach them German. Then his friend, Tholuck, had helped him get a passport and admission to the London Missionary Society.

George opened the door to the London office and introduced himself to the clerk. He sat down and began his story. "...so you see," he finished, "after four years of studies at Halle University, I am ready to teach the Jews of London about Jesus Christ."

The clerk cleared his throat. "I understand that you know Greek, Hebrew, the Classics, French, English, as well as your native tongue of German. However, you must learn Aramaic and the Rabbinic alphabet. After six months of studies, perhaps you will be ready to work a little among the Jewish people."

George leaned forward in his chair. "You mean I must speak and read yet another language before I can testify about the Lord?"

The clerk nodded.

George left the mission office very unhappy. Through the next few months he studied and worked to survive, but the smog and damp air of London hurt George's health. Finally, he had to go to the English coast to breathe in fresh sea salt air. All this time George was praying that the right mission work would open for him.

Walking along the seashore, George found a little wooden chapel and learned that the small congregation needed a pastor, so he offered his services. He stood before the group of fishermen and their wives, dock hands and an inn-keeper and gave his introduction.

"...And so I accept the call. I'll stay in Teignmouth—pastor your church and preach the truth to you—all this I'll do under one condition: I won't guarantee how long I'll stay. I retain the right to leave when I want to."

The housewives nodded their bonnets and the fishermen sighed. They smiled quietly as they shook George's hand and left the small wooden chapel. George heard one wife say to another, "Here today, gone tomorrow. What if my man went about his fishing like that?"

George knew they did not like his last statement, but he did not want to be tied down to this place for very long. He felt God had other plans for him in the future. He pulled out a worn piece of paper from his pocket. A London friend had written on it a family's name who would give George a room to rent by the seashore.

Finding the Hakes' big mansion, George climbed the stairs and knocked at the door. A servant let George inside and left him in the hallway while she went to get someone. Nervously playing with the handle of his suitcase, George looked up the long, winding staircase and saw a young woman quietly watching him. Her gentle smile and soft brown eyes relaxed George and he watched her gracefully come down the stairs to him.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- Who questioned Jesus after the high priest?
- Did Jesus answer the accusation against Him?
- 3. What tradition did the governor follow during the feast?
- 4. Who did Pilate ask the crowd to choose between to release?
- 5. Why was Pilate's wife afraid?
- 6. Who did the crowd choose?
- 7. What did they say for Pilate to do to Jesus?
- 8. What did Pilate do to his hands?

(Answers: 1. Pilate. 2. No. 3. To release a prisoner of the people's choosing. 4. Barabbas or Jesus. 5. She had a nightmare about Jesus.

- 6. Barabbas. 7. Crucify Him!
- 8. Washed them.)



Vol. 57, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 26, 2006

JESUS SUFFERS FOR US

Many people had prophesied, or foretold, about the things that would happen to Jesus. These prophets were special men and women that God sent messages to during very dark times. They gave hope to the people of a coming Messiah who would bring peace to the world. Many people thought that the Messiah would set up a new kingdom and overthrow the government.

Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would be rejected, a man of sadness. He would be hated. The priests and elders hated Jesus and sought for ways to have Jesus killed. Eventually, they succeeded.

Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. A prophet named Zechariah had told about this many years before. "They weighed my price as thirty pieces of silver," Zechariah wrote. When Judas returned the money to the high priests, they used it to buy a potter's field to bury dead strangers in. Zechariah also wrote about this. "I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord." A prophet also spoke of the false witnesses that would accuse Jesus. "False witnesses have risen up against Me," the prophecy reads. Isaiah also writes about Jesus' trial. "He was oppressed, but did not open His mouth."

After Jesus appeared before Pilate, the governor's soldiers took Jesus out into the hallway. They took His clothes off and gave Him a purple robe to put on. They put a crown of thorns on His head and a reed in His right hand. They bowed to Him, making fun of Him. They said, "See the king of the Jews!" Isaiah writes of the times the Lord was struck and spit on. He also tells that the Messiah would be with sinners at the end and that He would bear the sins of many.

The fulfillment of these prophecies tells us for certain that Jesus is the Messiah. The Bible tells that we deserve death for our sins. Jesus died on the cross in our place. If Jesus died for us, can't we give Him our lives in return? We can do this by loving and serving Him and by always seeking His will.

—Monica Murphey





Finding The Right Partner

(Continued from last week.)

As the graceful young woman descended the stairs, George watched her from the hall in the Hakes' mansion. When she approached him, he asked, "Miss Hakes?" She laughed.

"Gracious, no!" she replied. "I am Mary Groves, companion, nurse, general handy-woman. We have been expecting you, Mr. Mueller. Miss Paget wrote many good things about your preaching. Let me take your coat, and come into the parlor for a cup of tea. I know you will want to rest."

George followed Mary into the parlor but he hardly saw the rich furnishings of the room. His mind was on Mary Groves and what she was saying. "My brother is a missionary, Mr Mueller. He believed God wanted him to teach the people of Persia the gospel, so he went."

"You mean your brother is Anthony Groves?"

Mary nodded with a smile.

"I admire your brother a lot, Miss Groves," continued George. "He broke away from the London missionary board and went by faith without any money coming to him. The Lord has been faithful to supply my needs also, though I haven't been so bold as of yet."

George rented a room and settled into a routine of studying the Word of God, visiting the members of the church and neighbors and spending time with Mary Groves. He found himself in love with Mary's honest ways, love for God and kind-hearted deeds. Her sweet smile and wholesome laugh were much more to his liking than Ermegarde's merry giggle and flirting eyes.

Through the spring and summer, Georgewondered if he should ask Mary to marry him or not. He prayed and fasted before the Lord because he did not want to make a mistake. He wanted a wife who would serve God with him. He knew God wanted him to be a

missionary to the lost, but he did not knowwhere or how the Lord would lead him. Would Mary be willing to be a missionary's wife? Would she be willing to sacrifice nice things in order to help others who needed salvation?

Finally, George felt clearly that Mary was the right one. They were married in October, 1830 and went to live in a little cottage by the seashore. Mary cleaned the house and made it a nice home. George did not want Mary to keep her China or silverware. This was a hard sacrifice for Mary because these gifts had come from her parents.

"Mary, I don't feel right in eating out of such nice things when the Lord has commanded us to sell all and give to the poor," said George. "We have a mission field to work in and these fine things will hinder us in the Lord's work."

Mary prayed in her heart for grace. Then she said, "All right, George, I want to give the Lord what is best."

George loved his wife who had a burden for lost souls, also.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Which prophet said that Jesus would be hated?
- 2. Which prophet told about the thirty pieces of silver?
- 3. Which prophet told that Jesus would not open His mouth?
- 4. What did Pilate's soldiers put on Jesus?
- 5. What did the soldiers put on Jesus' head?
- 6. What did the soldiers do before Jesus?
- 7. What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
- 8. What did the soldiers say to Jesus?

(Answers: 1. Isaiah. 2. Zechariah. 3. Isaiah. 4. A purple robe. 5. A crown of thorns. 6. Bowed. 7. Spit on Him, hit Him and made fun of Him. 8. "See the king of the Jews!")



Vol. 62, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 March 25, 2012

The disciples continued performing many miracles. All of the believers continued meeting together. The religious leaders watched as more and more men and women believed in Jesus and joined the followers of Jesus. They also watched as people brought their sick friends into the streets. The sick were laid on beds and mats. They believed that even if Peter's shadow fell on them they would be healed. There were also people with mental problems. The disciples healed each one.

The religious leaders were angry and jealous. They arrested the disciples and threw them into jail. During the night, the Lord sent an angel to open the doors of the jail and release the men. "Stand in the temple courts," the angel instructed. "And tell the people the message of new life." As the sun rose, people began entering the temple courts. They saw the disciples and listened to their teaching.

When the high priests arrived at the temple, they sent word to the prison for the disciples. The officers looked and looked for them but could find the disciples nowhere. "We found the jail locked," they reported. "Guards were standing at their posts, but when we opened the doors, no one was inside." The captain of the temple guard and the other religious leaders were puzzled. "What will come of this?" they wondered.

"Look!" someone exclaimed. "The men you put in jail are standing over there in the temple courts teaching the people." The captain immediately went with his officers to question the disciples. "We gave you orders not to teach in Jesus' name," the religious leaders complained. "Yet you fill Jerusalem with your teaching and tell them that we are guilty of killing an innocent man."

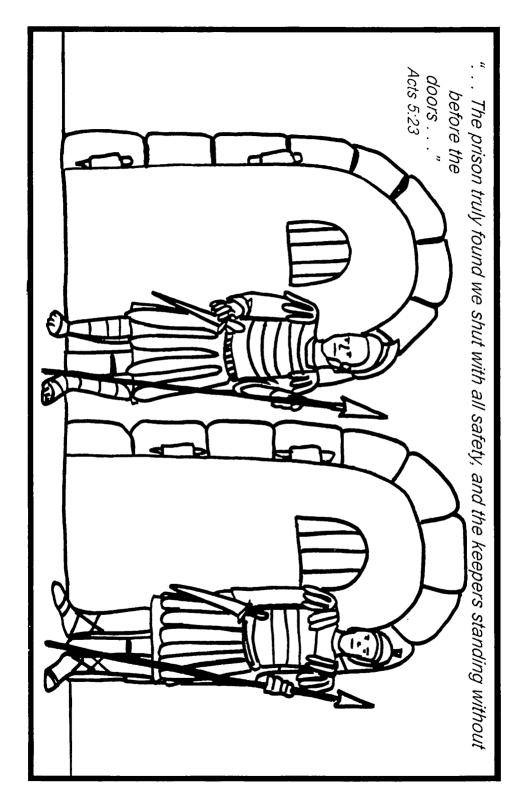
"We must obey God, not man!" Peter explained. "You have killed Jesus on a tree. God raised Him from the dead. We are witnesses of these things." The religious leaders were furious. "Let's kill them," they plotted. But an honored teacher of the law persuaded them not to. Instead, they had the apostles beaten. "Do not teach in Jesus name," the leaders ordered. Then the disciples were free to go.

-Monica Murphey

Fill in the Blank

Circle the correct word and write it in the blank to complete the verse. Copy the verses, Matthew 5:11-12, again on the lines below.

	are ye, when		
(Blessed/Cursed)	(women/men)		
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against you	, for my sake.		
(fal	sely/truly)		
	and be exceeding		
(Weep/Rejoice)	(sad/glad)		
for	_ is your reward in		
(great/little)	(heaven/hell)		
for so	they the (prophets/priests)		
which were			
(afte	er/before)		
			
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Answering God's Call

William appreciated learning en-gineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, but he always said his highest education came from the Lord. He attended a Culture for Christ seminar where he met Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his wife, Sabina. They had survived the horrors of persecution for Christ's sake in Romania. Pastor Wurmbrand established an American based ministry called Voice of the Martyrs. He knew about the terrible oppression and persecution

taking place in Sudan.
William and his cousin, John, were able to visit privately with the Wurmbrands. "The Sundese people need Christ and His hope, and you two young men may be called to that mission, "encouraged Pastor Wurm-

brand.

This touched William's heart and he began to cry softly. "If God will lead me to do His Work, I will do it," he promised. "I need to know how,

what and when to do it."

"Let us pray," said Pastor Wurmbrand. They asked God to lead them so they could lead others to Christ. They visited about the Lord's work. and William asked this elder man of God many questions concerning what methods would work and what did

That evening in June of 1993, William became sure of his calling. He re- consecrated his life for he knew

danger would be in his path way. The next few days William made many phone calls to exiled friends from Sudan. He wanted their ideas about how to better help Sudan. Many friends came together to encourage William with his project he called Operation Nehemiah. The theme verse was Nehemiah 2:17-18.

As William became known, a friend who had a radio program, asked him to give his testimony over the air and tell about Operation Nehemiah. Money began to come in for the work, and an office space was given for the paperwork. John went home to Kampala, Uganda, and began a small mission there by the support

of Operation Nehemiah. In the fall of 1994, William's old friend, Michael Longwa, established a mission in Nairobi, Kenya. William made contact with his brothers and sisters in South Sudan, but his grandfather Vuni, Father, Mama and several uncles and aunts had passed away. He hopes to see them some day

around the throne of God.

(This past year, 2011, South Sudan was acknowledged as a separate nation and Christian freedom was granted. Let us pray that this new government will establish good moral values and allow the children safety at schools. CS)

William met and married a young woman named Hannah. They now have three children who they are raising to serve the Lord. They live in the United States, but William travels back to Sudan, Uganda and other countries where people are starving both for physical and spiritual food.

Often William tells his testimony so that others will know God loves to care for his children. He believes that if God's people will have the courage to testify for Him and live godly lives that lost souls will find their way to Jesus Christ. He knows that Jesus is the only way through which real peace and unity can be reached on this earth.

...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:34-35

The End

-Sis. Connie Sorrell (Paraphrased from The Bible or the Axe by William O. Levi, Moody Press, 20051

Questions:

- 1. Why were the religious leaders jealous?
- 2. What did they do to the disciples?
- 3. What did the angel do?
- 4. What did the officers find?
- 5. Where did the religious leaders find them?
- 6. Why did the religious leaders complain?
- 7. What did they want to do?
- 8. What did they tell the disciples to do?

Answers: 1. People believed in Jesus. 2. Threw them into prison. 3. Rescued them from prison. 4.

Locked doors, guards, no prisoners. 5. Teaching in the temple court. 6. They taught in Jesus' • name. 7. Kill the disciples. 8. Not to preach in Jesus' name

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Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 16, 2006

AN EMPTY GRAVE

After Jesus' death, one of His followers, Joseph of Arimathaea, went to visit Pilate. Joseph was an honorable counselor. He asked Pilate if he could have Jesus' body. Pilate granted Joseph permission to take Jesus' body. He buried Jesus in fine linens and laid Him in a grave carved out of a rock.

"Sir, remember that this deceiver said that He would rise again after three days?" the chief priests asked Pilate. "Command that Jesus' grave be guarded until the third day so that the disciples will not try to steal His body and claim that Jesus rose from the dead."

"Go your way and make sure of it," Pilate told them. The chief priests went and made the grave secure, putting a stone over the opening and setting a guard to watch it.

On the morning of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to visit Jesus' grave. There was a great earthquake because an angel of the Lord had come down from heaven. The angel rolled the stone from the door of the grave and sat on it. His face was like lightning and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook and fainted in fear.

"Fear not. I know that you look for Jesus, who was crucified," the angel told the two women. "He is not here. He is risen. He goes before you to Galilee. You will see Him there."

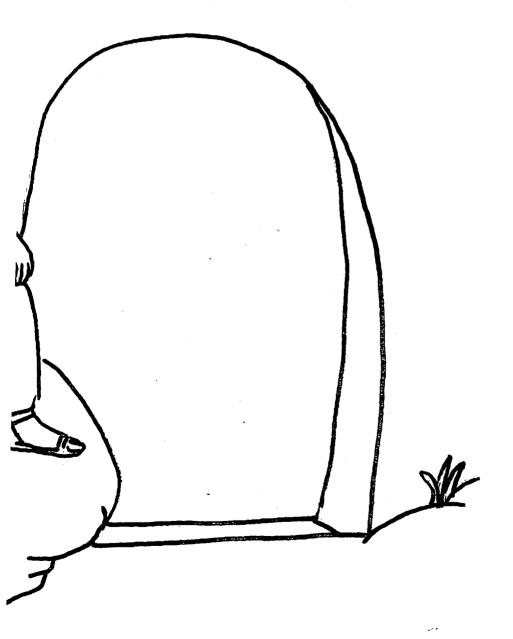
The two Marys left quickly. They were filled with joy but were also afraid. They ran and told the disciples what had happened. As they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. They came and worshipped Him. "Go tell My brothers that they will see Me in Galilee," Jesus told them.

The chief priests received word of what had happened. They gave the soldiers money to keep it quiet. "Say that Jesus' disciples came by night and stole His body while we slept," the priests commanded. The soldiers took the money and did as they were told. This saying is still told among the Jews to this day.

—Monica Murphey



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



Where Are the Heathen?

(Continued from last week.)

After prayer was answered and the cholera epidemic stopped, George, Mary and baby Lydia had more time together. Through the day George Mueller and Henry Craik spent time visiting neighborhood folks with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The chapel filled with people every Sunday morning which was payment to them for all the visiting they had done through the week.

Then one day Henry received a letter asking him and George to sail to Baghdad as missionaries. The letter assured them of money and a place to live there. This was the invitation George had dreamed about for many years! At last he could go live in a heathen land and teach the wonderful saving gospel of Jesus Christ to sinners who had never heard the story before.

George was very excited about the invitation, but Mary was not. She had her baby daughter to consider now and she worried about George's health. He worked too hard for much of the day.

"Please, George, let's pray about this," Mary said. "We need to know from the Lord if He wants us to live in Baghdad."

George agreed. On the way to the chapel one afternoon George was walking down Paul Street in Bristol when he heard a boy's voice calling out to him.

"Ey, ya bloke! Give me a handout, will ye?"

George looked toward the tall iron fence that encircled the big brick almshouse. A twelve-year old boy stood staring at George from between the rails. He reached out a thin, dirty hand when he saw that George had stopped. "Ey, 'ow about a shilling, govern'r?" The eager pleading in the orphan's eyes pierced his heart as George reached in his pocket for a shilling.

"Thankee! Thankee!" exclaimed the boy as he clasped the piece of money and pushed it into his dirty pants pocket. In the back of his mind George saw the orphanage in Halle and heard the lonely cry of a child. The almshouse was even worse than the orphanage. All ages of people lived within its dark, gloomy walls and the children were abused, many of them not surviving to adulthood. What hope did boys like this have? They were locked away and treated as criminals only because no one cared enough to teach them a better way. Who would care for these poor heathens?

Suddenly George knew his mission field was right about him—in the slums of Bristol.

George decided right then and there that by the grace and mercy of God he would teach the poor, young heathens of England a better way through Jesus Christ.

From that time on George knew that the Lord wanted him to do more for the orphans than give them a shilling. He began to ask the Lord to show him how to reach these rejected children.

The Lord was faithful to answer George's plea. —Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- Who asked for Jesus' body?
- 2. What were the chief priests afraid the disciples would do?
- 3. What two things did the priests do to the grave?
- 4. Who went to visit Jesus' grave?
- 5. Who was sitting in front of Jesus' grave?
- 6. What happened to the guards?
- 7. What did the two women do when they saw Jesus?
- 8. What did the priests tell the soldiers to say?

(Answers: 1. Joseph. 2. Steal the body and claim Jesus had risen. 3. Put a stone in front of the grave and put a guard on watch. 4. Mary of Magdalene and the other Mary. 5. An angel. 6. They fainted in fear of the angel. 7. Worshipped him. 8. That the dis-

ciples had stolen the body.)



Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 2, 2006

CHRIST AT CALVARY

Jesus was led away to be crucified. The soldiers had placed His own clothing on Him. As they traveled to their destination, they saw they needed someone to carry Jesus' cross. The soldiers found a man named Simon, who walked behind Jesus, carrying His cross.

Two other men—prisoners, thieves—were also in the procession with Jesus. They would be crucified with Him. Many of Jesus' followers came along, wailing and crying. "Do not weep for Me, weep for your children. Hard days are coming," Jesus told them.

The crowd came to a hill called Calvary, or Golgotha, which means the place of the skull. Here, the soldiers prepared the crosses. Jesus' cross was in the middle of the two thieves. Someone had written a message on a sign at the top of Jesus' cross. It was in three different languages—Latin, Greek and Hebrew. "This is the king of the Jews," it read. Pilate had ordered this to be done.

"Do not write that He is the king of the Jews. Write that He said He was the king of the Jews," the chief priests complained.

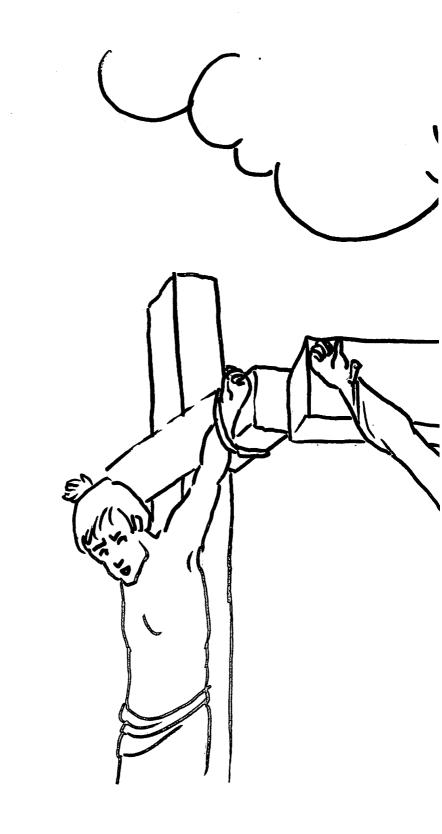
"What I have written, I have written," Pilate answered.

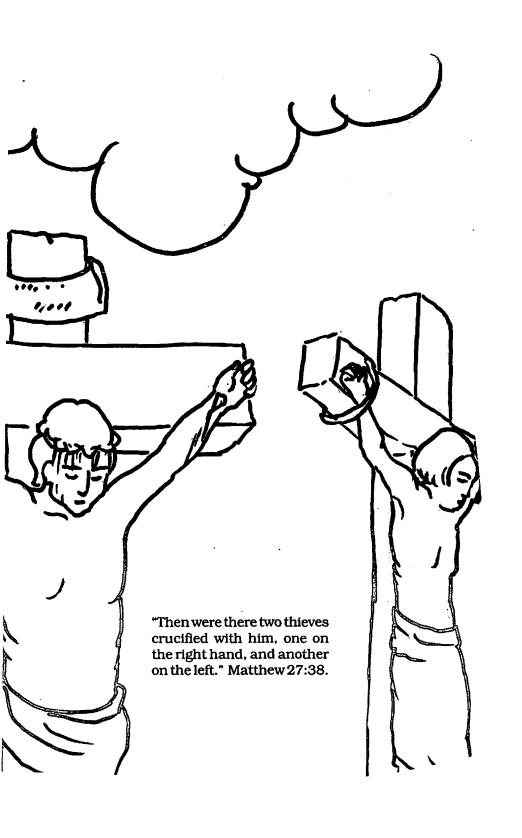
The soldiers took His clothing and gambled to see who would win it. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," Jesus prayed.

Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross. As He hung there between the two thieves, the soldiers began to make fun of Him. "If You are the king of the Jews," they said to Jesus, "then save Yourself."

The rulers of the Jews made fun of Him, too. "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is Christ, the chosen of God," they mocked. "You, who could destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself. Come down from the cross."

. "Let Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross, so that we might believe," the chief priests said. When Jesus had been on the cross for six hours the whole land became dark. —Monica Murphey





A Big Move

(Continued from last week.)

George and Mary Mueller served the Lord in Teignmouth, a fishing village along the sea coast of England in the early 1830's. The few faithful church-goers were poor folk but willing to give of their small income to support their pastor who used his money wisely. During this time, George and Mary learned more about depending on the Lord for money to live on.

One of George's friends, Henry Craik, was an evangelist in the area. These two men had many visits about the goodness of the Lord and how they wanted to serve the Lord more. One day George received a letter from Henry which said: "...Gideon Chapel here on Newfoundland Street is in the heart of what will be slums in a few years. Here we could both preach and minister. And there is talk of beginning a new chapel...we would work together here so well, George. How about it, old fellow? Why don't you come down and look Bristol over?"

As George folded the letter into a small square and tucked it into his pocket, he wondered if Mary would like Bristol. Mary was already planning for the baby to be born in September, so George decided that they should go right away and look for a house to rent.

It was hard for them to say "good-bye" to their old friends at the Teignmouth chapel, but they promised to write and maybe visit sometime. Living in a busy city was quite a change from the quiet sea side life. Mary set up housekeeping in a small, wood frame house near the Gideon Chapel.

George and Henry wasted no time in visiting every house in the neighborhood and inviting people to come to church. While walking down the streets, George saw the poverty and basic needs about him. The open water gutters stank because trash, spoiled food and waste floated on the top. Ragged children played along the edge of these dirty gutters. Drunk men and women would sleep off a hangover by the gutters.

Ignorance and sin was ruining the lives of these poor souls. Surely the people in the slums of Bristol needed deliverance from sin and education on how to live better lives. George worked very hard to help others and teach them about Jesus Christ.

(To be continued next week.)

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OUESTIONS:

- Who carried Jesus' cross for Him?
- 2. Was Jesus going to be crucified alone?
- 3. What was the name of the place where Jesus was crucified?
- 4. What does Golgotha mean?
- 5. What did the sign on Jesus' cross say?
- 6. What did Jesus pray?
- 7. What did the soldiers and priests begin doing to Jesus?
- 8. What happened during the sixth hour?

(Answers: 1. Simon. 2. No, with two thieves. 3. Golgotha, also called Calvary. 4. The place of the skull. 5. "This is the King of the Jews." 6. "Father, forgive them." 7. Making fun of Him. 8. The land became dark.)



Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 9, 2006

CHRIST'S AGONY ON THE CROSS

One of the thieves hanging beside Jesus joined with the priests and soldiers who were mocking Jesus. "If you are Christ," the thief said, "save Yourself and us."

The other thief scolded him for saying this. "Do you not fear God?" he asked. "You and I are in the same situation—we did wrong and deserve our punishment. This man has not done anything wrong!" Then the thief turned to Jesus. "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

"Today you will be with Me in Paradise," Jesus answered.

Jesus' mother, His mother's sister, Mary Magdalene and Mary, Cleophas' wife, were standing beside Jesus' cross. When Jesus saw His mother and one of His disciples standing nearby He called to His mother, "See your son!" And to the disciple He said, "See your mother." From then on, Jesus' mother, Mary, stayed at that disciple's home.

"I thirst," Jesus said. The soldiers brought Jesus a sponge soaked in vinegar. They held it up to Jesus. He refused it.

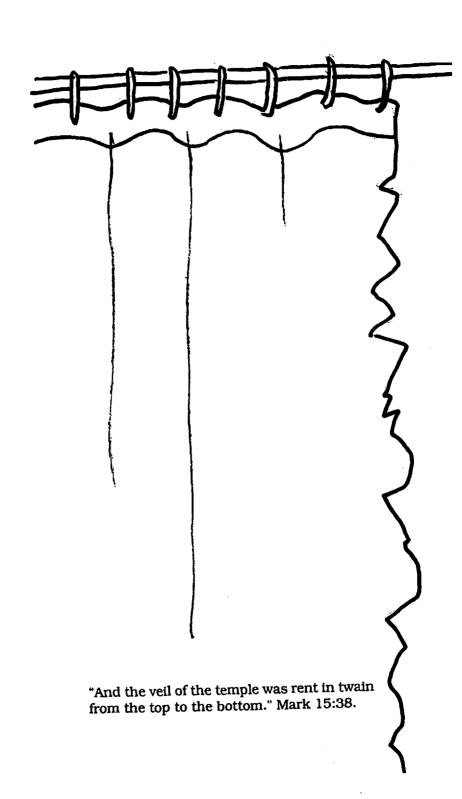
"My God, My God, why have You left me?" Jesus cried during His ninth hour on the cross.

"It is finished," Jesus said later and He died on the cross.

The veil of the temple was torn in two. The earth shook and rocks fell apart. One of the soldiers saw these things happen. They were very afraid. "Surely, this man was the Son of God," one of the soldiers said.

After a crucifixion, the soldiers always broke the legs of the people to make sure they were dead. When they came to Jesus, they saw that He was already dead so they did not break His legs. One of the soldiers put his sword into Jesus' side. Jesus was dead.

-Monica Murphey





Cholera!

(Continued from last week.)

"Thankee, Pastor Mueller and Pastor Craik, for a-prayin' for my husban'," said the thin woman as she told them goodbye from the doorway of her tumbled-down house. "Yer prayin' means a bunch ev'n if 'e not talkin'."

"Your husband is a very sick man," said George sadly. "I wish we could do more for you but we have so many more asking for help. We will keep praying for him, you and the children."

"Thankee! Thankee!" exclaimed the tired wife as she patted tears from her eyes with a corner of her worn apron.

George and Henry had only walked a few steps away when George said, "Henry, did you see that man's eyes?"

"Yeah, poor chap is in a bad way,"

replied Henry with sympathy.

"His eyes and skin are yellow, Henry," continued George. "I saw that very look in London when the cholera epidemic spread and could not be stopped. People were dying every hour and we could not bury them fast enough. Cholera spreads like wildfire and there is no cure for it,"

"Well, if one man has cholera in Bristol...." said Henry. "I wonder if anyone else has come down with this sickness?"

"Henryl Listen! There is a lone bell ringing in the distance. What does that mean?"

The men stood on the street corner listening to the distant bell. Then it was joined by another bell, then another and another until the air was ringing with the warning of sadness and death. That summer of 1832, dying men, women and children were asking for the pastors to come pray for them.

At home preparing for their first baby, Mary cried and prayed for the safety of her husband who spent long, tiring days praying with the sick. George and Henry set aside two hours every day to pray in the chapel for God to stop the plague. A small band of prayer warriors would meet with them in the hot chapel. "Into thy hands, O Lord, we commit our lives and souls," George prayed. "If this night we're taken by the cholera, then our hope and trust is in the blood of Jesus Christ, shed for our many sins. Oh, God, help us!"

Henry's words echoed the same. "Oh, Lord, except You keep us tonight, we will no longer be in the land of the living tomorrow. Please have mercy on Your poor children!"

During all this time of sickness, death and sorrow little baby Lydia was born to Mary and George. In answer to Mary's prayers, Lydia was a strong, healthy baby and she looked like her daddy.

By the end of September, the cholera plague stopped as quickly as it had started. On October 5, 1832 the two young ministers called a special service of thanksgiving to God for stopping the cholera. Of the small band of prayer warriors, only one person had died though all of them were exhausted from caring for the sick.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What did the thief on the cross say to Jesus?
- 2. How did the other thief react to what the first thief said?
- 3. What did the other thief ask Jesus to do for him?
- 4. Where did Jesus say the thief would be?
- 5. What did Jesus say to the disciple standing beside His cross?
- 6. What did Jesus say right before He died?
- 7. What happened to the veil in the temple?
- 8. What did the soldier do to Jesus' side?

(Answers: 1. "Save Yourself and us."

2. He rebuked the other thief. 3. To remember him when He entered His kingdom. 4. In Paradise. 5. "See your mother." 6. "It is finished." 7. It was torn in two. 8. Put his sword into it.



Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 23, 2006

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Two men were on their way to a village called Emmaus, which was a little ways from Jerusalem. These men were discussing all that had happened recently.

As they talked Jesus drew close and began walking with them. "What are you talking about that makes you so sad as you walk?" Jesus asked the men.

"Are you a stranger in Jerusalem? Do you not know what has happened in the last couple of days?" one of the men named Cleopas asked.

"What happened?" Jesus asked.

The men told Him the story of Jesus, how the chief priests and rulers had put Him to death and crucified Him. The men thought that He should have saved all of Israel. Three days had passed since it had happened. Some women they knew had visited the grave where Jesus was buried. They didn't find His body but saw angels who told them that Jesus was alive. Some of the men they knew went to the grave to see and they found what the women had said was true, but they did not see Jesus.

"Oh, fools," Jesus reprimanded them. "You are slow to believe what the prophets have said. Shouldn't Christ have suffered these things and entered into His glory?"

Then Jesus explained the scriptures of Moses and other prophets concerning prophecies about Himself. Soon they came to the village. Jesus said something to the men about going on farther. "Stay with us. It is late," the men suggested.

Jesus sat down to eat with the men. He took the bread, blessed it and gave it to them. Suddenly, the men's eyes were opened! They realized they were eating with Jesus! But Jesus disappeared. The two men returned to Jerusalem and told the disciples their story.

-Monica Murphey

"...While they communed toget and went with the



Jesus himelf drew near, Luke 24:15.



The Answer In Twenty Pounds

(Continued from last week.)

For awhile George Mueller gave money to a school that taught orphan children, but he was not satisfied with the school because they did not teach about God.

At the supper table one evening George said to Mary, "The Lord has been dealing with my heart about helping the orphans in a better way, Mary. He has given me a vision of opening the Scriptural Knowledge Institute where we can teach the children about the love of God along with reading and arithmetic."

Mary's next forkful of mutton never reached her mouth. "George!" she cried, "why would you take on another responsibility right before the next baby will be born? You are already over-worked and besides, where will you get the money?"

"The Lord will send the money if it is His will," said George with confidence. He picked up little Lydia and set her on his lap. "The Lord has provided for us so far, has He not? Let's pray about it."

Mary agreed to pray about this big decision. On March 19, a baby boy was born to Mary and George. Lydia was delighted to have a baby brother and helped her mother all she could.

George could not forget the needs of other children who did not have the love of parents like his children did. One evening in April, he was praying to the Lord.

"Oh, dear Father, I believe You gave me this burden to start a school for the orphans, but I don't have any money. If You could send me 20 pounds—I know that is a lot of money—but I would buy Bibles with it and start handing them out to the children. These poor children need to

know about You and find hope in You, Lord Jesus."

That evening George and Mary were just finished with supper when a knock sounded on their door. When George answered the door, a nicely dressed lady handed him an envelope.

"I am sorry this isn't more money, Mr. Mueller," she said, "but I thought it would pay for a few Bibles that you could give to the orphans. You are so good to help them. May God richly bless you for it!"

"Thank you for your support and prayers," replied George.

With a smile and a nod she turned and walked down the street. George looked in the envelope and then showed Mary the 20 pounds.

Mary's head bowed in prayer. "Oh, Lord, please forgive me for doubting. Bless George as he starts the Scriptural Knowledge Instutite."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Where were the two men going?
- 2. What were the two men talking about?
- 3. Who came and walked with the two men?
- 4. What did Jesus ask them?
- 5. What did Jesus explain to the two men?
- 6. What did the two men ask Jesus to do?
- 7. When did the men realize who Jesus was?
- 8. What did the men do?

(Answers: 1. Emmaus. 2. All that had happened. 3. Jesus. 4. What were they talking about that made themsad? 5. Prophecies about Himself. 6. Stay with them. 7. While they were eating. 8. Left for Jerusalem and told the disciples.)





Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 April 30, 2006

UNLESS I PUT MY FINGER IN THE NAIL PRINTS

The disciples were afraid. It had been several days since Jesus' death. They were meeting in secret. The doors were closed. Suddenly, Jesus stood among them.

"Peace be to you," Jesus told them.

Jesus showed the disciples the marks made from the nails that had pierced His hands. He showed them His side, where the sword had cut a deep gash. The disciples were so glad the Lord was alive.

One of Jesus' twelve disciples, Thomas, was not present when this meeting had occurred. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."

"Unless I see the print of the nails in His hands and put my hand in His side, I will not believe.

The disciples were having another meeting. This time Thomas was with them. The doors were shut. Jesus appeared.

"Peace be to you," Jesus said.

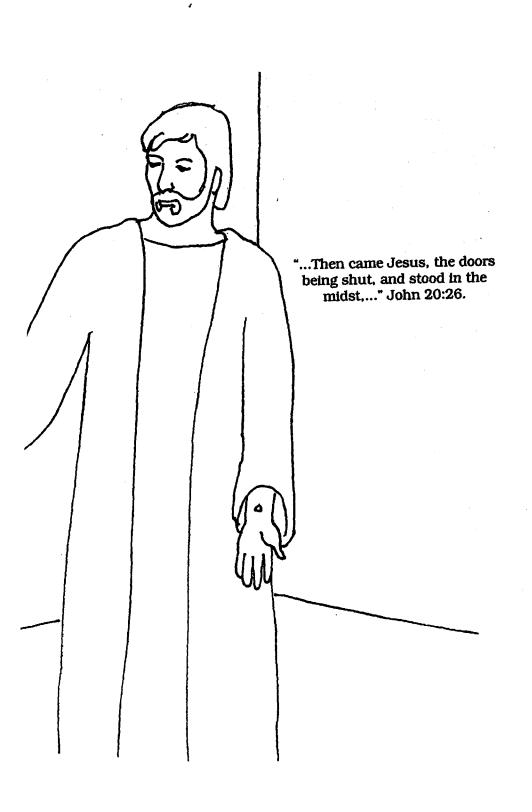
Then Jesus spoke to Thomas. "Take your finger and touch My hands. Feel the marks. Put your hand into My side. Do not doubt," Jesus said.

"My Lord and my God," Thomas answered. He finally believed.

"Thomas, you have seen Me and believe in Me. Blessed are the ones who have not seen, but still believe," Jesus told Thomas.

This story is found in the book of John. At the end of the story, John leaves us with a message. "These things that Jesus did have been written in this book so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If you believe in Him, you will have eternal life through His name." —Monica Murphey





Moving Forward

(Continued from last week.)

By faith, George Mueller rented a small building and made it into the Scriptural Knowledge Institute. He hired a headmaster, Mr. Conger, to teach the young children under twelve years old.

The Lord blessed the school and all 35 seats filled quickly. Merchants, sailors, lawyers—many business people gave money to support the school. They knew the school taught the students about God and a better life.

One day after school, George and the headmaster took a long walk down by the sea docks because they had a lot to talk about.

"Colin has been one of our best students," said Mr. Conger. "It is sad that he is forced to live in the almshouse and can't come anymore."

In deep thought, George was trying to keep in step with the headmaster's long strides. "It seems like there could be a way to keep boys like Colin from disappearing behind that iron fence. There is no hope for them there. We must do more to rescue these boys from destruction!"

"The almshouse is supported by the government, sir, and it gives shelter and food to the orphans," said Mr. Conger.

George breathed deeply of the fresh sea air. "By the Lord's help, we must provide more for these children," he said. "We need to have an orphanage built on Bible principles."

Mr. Conger was doubtful. "We are already working long hours and barely paying all the bills."

"But hasn't the Lord provided for us this far?" asked George. "If He wants us to open an orphanage, He will provide the needs." George stretched his arms toward the sea. "His riches are as big as the sea. We must only ask and have a willing heart to obey Him. Let us start praying about an orphanage!"

As the two men started walking back to Bristol, Mr. Conger shook his head. "Mr. Mueller, I don't think there is much we can do about the situation. It would take more people than you and I to run an orphanage and much more money than what we have coming in now."

George sighed. The smell of the sweaty, stale air as they reached the city limits made him wish he could stay by the seaside forever, but souls that needed deliverance from sin were in the city. As he walked forward, he told Mr. Conger, "The Lord will provide when He puts the burden on the heart."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- Why had the disciples been meeting in secret?
- 2. Who appeared among them?
- 3. What did Jesus show the disciples?
- 4. Who was not at the meeting?
- 5. What did he say when the disciples told him about Jesus?
- 6. Who appeared at the meeting when Thomas was also there?
- 7. What did Jesus tell Thomas to do?
- 8. Did Thomas still doubt?

(Answers: 1. They were afraid.

- 2. Jesus. 3. His hands and side.
- 4. Thomas. 5. He did not believe.
- 6. Jesus. 7. See the nail marks and feel His side. 8. No.)





Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 7, 2006

FEED MY LAMBS

Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John and two other disciples were together. "I am going fishing," Peter announced to the others. "We will go with you," the others told Peter.

They went out to fish on a boat. They fished all night but did not catch anything. The next morning a man stood on the shore. The disciples could not tell who it was. "Children, do you have any meat?" the man asked. "No," they answered. "Take your net and cast it on the right side of your boat. Then you will catch fish," the man told them.

When the disciples did this, their net was full of fishes. There were so many in their net that they could not bring it up to their boat. "It is the Lord," John said to Peter. When Peter heard this, he jumped into the sea and started swimming for the shore. The other disciples came in a boat, dragging their nets full of fishes behind them.

As soon as they reached the shore, they saw a fire made of coals started. Fish and bread were laid out. Peter brought the net of fishes to shore. There were one hundred and fifty-three of them. "Come and dine," Jesus said to them. Jesus gave them bread and fish.

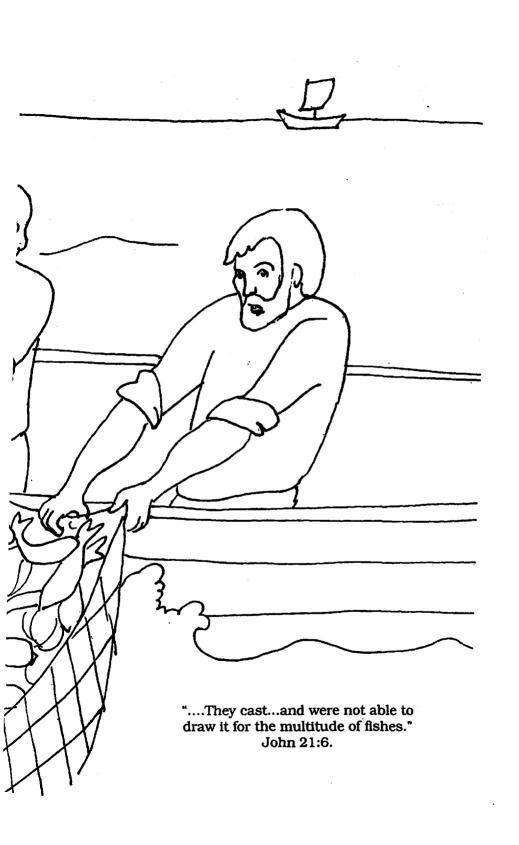
"Peter, do you love Me more than these?" Jesus asked Peter after they had finished eating. "You know that I love You, Lord," Peter answered. "Then feed My lambs," Jesus told him.

"Peter, do you love Me?" Jesus asked again. "Yes, Lord, you know that I love You," Peter answered a second time. "Feed My sheep," Jesus told him again.

Jesus asked Peter a third time, "Peter, do you love Me?" Peter was very sad that he had to tell Jesus three times that he did love Him, but again, he answered, "Lord, You know all things. You know that I love You." "Feed My sheep," Jesus told him. "Follow Me."

-Monica Murphey





The Vision Is Growing

(Continued from last week.)

George and Mary Mueller were very busy with a daughter and son to care for plus all the responsibilities of the two congregations and the Scriptural Knowledge Institute. Mr. Conger was an excellent headmaster and the children were making progress under his teaching. However, too often a child would disappear because the government put them in the almshouse.

"We MUST have more care of these children," George told Mary at the supper table one evening. "We see them learning about God and so much happier when suddenly they are ripped away from us by a monster of hopelessness."

"I know it hurts, George, but you are doing the best you can."

George stood up and began to pace the kitchen floor. "Are we doing the best we can? God help us! Give us more faith to reach out more!"

Not long after this discussion, Mary's missionary brother came to visit the Muellers. He wanted to go to Germany for a short visit there and asked George to go with him.

Riding in a carriage on the same old roads he had traveled as a boy in Germany cheered George. He was glad to see old friends and visit with Dr. Tholuck who had helped him so much as a university student. George also visited Halle where Franke's orphanage was. It had been started a hundred years ago in 1727 with a little income at first. The physical needs of the children were taken care of, but what about the spiritual?

This was the most important function a school or orphanage should have—to teach and show the children how to live for God.

After six weeks in Germany, George and his brother-in-law returned to Bristol, England. Mary and the children, Mr. Conger and Henry Craik were glad to see George return, but Mary's happiness soon turned to sorrow. A chest and throat flu was spreading through the city and their baby son became sick. He died not long after George came home.

For awhile, the Muellers were in deep sorrow. Then George told Mary, "We must do what we can to help other boys who do not have a father. We know our son is safe in the arms of Jesus but what about these poor, hopeless chaps living on the streets? I know the Lord wants us to start an orphanage and He will provide the means!"

A plan began to form in George's mind. He would rent a house in a decent part of town and open the doors to boys under twelve-years-old who needed a home. He began to look for such a place right away despite the doubts of his wife and others. The Lord would provide, he was sure.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Where did Peter say he was going?
- 2. How many fish did they catch that night?
- 3. What did the man tell them to do with their net?
- 4. Who was the man on the shore?
- 5. How many fish did the disciples catch in all?
- 6. What did Jesus have ready for them?
- 7. What question did Jesus ask Peter three times?
- 8. What did Jesus tell Peter to do three times?

(Answers: 1. Fishing. 2. None. 3. Cast their net on the right side of the boat. 4. Jesus. 5. 153. 6. Bread and fish. 7. "Do you love Me?" 8. "Feed My sheep.")



Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 14, 2006

JESUS RETURNS TO HEAVEN

After Jesus had had a meal with the disciples at the seashore, He appeared to several different people before returning to heaven. One place in the Bible says that He was seen by five hundred brothers gathered together. Then, He appeared to James and all of the other disciples.

Once when Jesus appeared to the disciples He asked, "Do you have any meat?" The disciples gave Him a piece of fish and a honeycomb. Jesus took it and ate it.

During these meetings Jesus spoke to the disciples concerning different matters. After Jesus ate the honey and fish, He told them, "It is written that Christ is to suffer and to rise from the dead after three days. Repentance and forgiveness from sin should be preached in His name to all nations, starting in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Stay in Jerusalem until you receive power from on high."

"Go to all the world," Jesus told the disciples. "And preach the gospel. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Teach them the things I have commanded you. I will always be with you, even until the end of the world."

While He spoke these words, Jesus was taken up into the clouds out of their sight. The disciples stood in astonishment looking up toward the sky. Two men appeared before them wearing white garments. "Why are you standing here gazing into heaven? Jesus, who has been taken into heaven, will come again in the same way."

History shows that the disciples obeyed this last command of Jesus, where He told them to "preach the gospel to all of the world." The Bible does not tell what happened to the disciples but different people have researched their lives. It is believed that most of the disciples were martyred, or killed, because of their faith in Christ. Some were crucified or beheaded and some were stoned. One of the disciples people call John the Revelator was banished to an island where he wrote the book of Revelations, the very last book of the Bible.

-Monica Murphey





An Open Mouth

(Continued from last week.)

With a burden and vision for an orphanage, George Mueller was having his devotion one morning when a scripture in Psalm 81:10 encouraged him. "I am the Lord thy God,...open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."

George laughed out loud, then he prayed, "Yes, Lord, I will open my mouth wide. I need a thousand pounds to buy a house big enough for a family with thirty children. I need at least three or four persons for a staff who are Christian folks that like children. I need clothes, furniture, dishes and pans. I believe You can do it, and I'll leave it all right in Your hands, Lord Jesus. Amen."

On December 9, 1835, George told the Gideon Chapel congregation about his vision for an orphanage. After the service, some persons made discouraging comments, but one lady gave him 10 shillings and another lady said she would be willing to cook for the orphanage.

"God bless you, sister," said George as he shook her hand. "I will contact you as soon as I get a house and have hungry children."

The next evening George read a letter to Mary that they received from a young husband and wife who said they would be willing to live at the orphanage and manage it. They even offered to bring their own furniture to start housekeeping!

"Hum," said Mary, still doubtful.
"How will you pay them?"

"Just listen, Mary," George continued. "They wrote, 'and to do this without receiving any salary whatever, believing that if it be the will of the Lord to employ us, He will supply all our needs."

"But they don't know you, George."
"We know the same Christ. That is enough, Mary."

Their visit was stopped by a knock at the kitchen door. A man they did not know stood on the back porch with a stack of bundles in his arms. "For your orphans," barked a strange voice as the man heaped his armload into George's arms.

"Thank you and may God bless you," George called out to the man's back as he disappeared down the street. Quickly George and Mary untied each paper wrapper and gasped in amazement as each one opened. They now owned twenty-eight dinner plates, three big serving dishes, three wash basins, a water jug, knives, forks and three salt stands.

George remembered Psalm 81:10 "...Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." Again George laughed out loud. The Lord was beginning to fill the needs for the orphanage.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What did Jesus eat when He appeared to His disciples?
- What did Jesus tell the disciples that should be preached in His name?
- 3. How long were the disciples supposed to go to Jerusalem?
- 4. Where were the disciples supposed to go to preach the gospel?
- 5. Where was Jesus taken?
- 6. Did the disciples obey Jesus' last command?
- 7. What happened to most of the disciples?
- 8. What book did John the Revelator write?

(Answers: 1. Honeycomb and fish.

- Repentance and forgiveness.
- 3. Until they received power from on high. 4. All the world. 5. He was carried up to heaven. 6. Yes.
- 7. They were martyred. 8. Revelations.)



Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 21, 2006

WATCH AND PRAY

Jesus came to us as a baby who grew to perform miracles, heal bodies and souls, forgive sins and die in our place. Jesus rose from the grave and went back to heaven in the clouds, but while the disciples were watching an angel told them that Jesus would come again the same way that He left. While Jesus was still living, He prophesied about what will happen when He comes back.

"No man knows the day or the hour," Jesus tells us. "Just like it was in the days of Noah when people were eating, drinking and getting married, it will also be this way when the Son of Man returns. Two people will be in the field. One will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill. One will be taken and the other will be left. Watch, because you do not know when your Lord will return. If the head of a house knew that a thief was coming, he would stay up and watch to protect his goods. I will return at a time when you are not expecting Me."

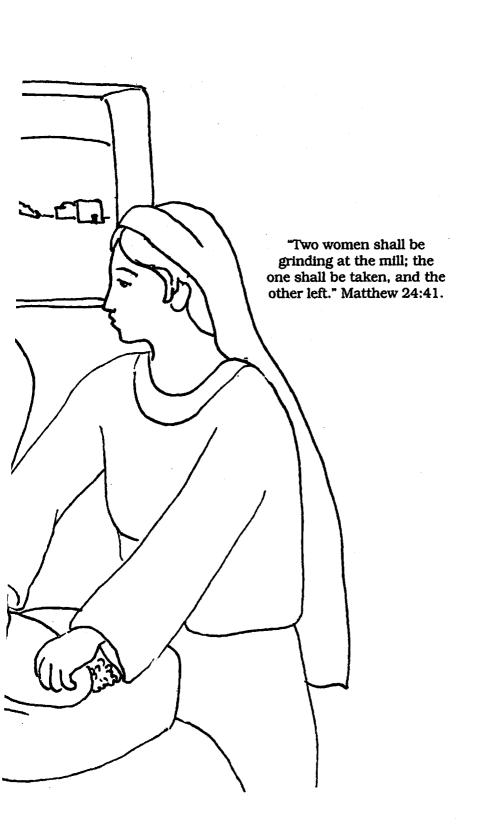
In another place Jesus says, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, He will sit on His holy throne with all of the arigels around Him. All of the nations will be before Him and He will divide them as sheep are divided from goats. He will put the sheep on His right hand and the goats on the left. He will tell the ones on His right to enter with Him into His glory.

"No man knows the hour that I will return. The Son of Man is like one who takes a journey away from home and leaves His servants to their work and commands the porter to watch. Watch and pray, because you do not know when the master of the house will return, whether it is at morning, noon or night."

The apostle Peter tells us more. "The day of the Lord will come like a thief comes in the night," Peter reminds us. "The heavens will go away with a great noise. The elements of the earth will melt with heat. The earth, and all that is in the earth, will be burned up. If we know that these things will happen, we ought to be holy in all of our conversations and actions, looking for the day that Jesus Christ will come. Let us be found without spot and blameless."

—Monica Murphey





Please Send The Children

(Continued from last week.)

During December and January George Mueller received all sorts of items from all kinds of people for the orphanage. At the end of January, George came into Mary's kitchen and took her in his arms.

"We have bought the right house for our thirty children," he told her. "It is a lonely, big house on Wilson Street that is just waiting for our children to move in and slide down the stairs banister. It is so homey, Mary, that you will just love it!"

"What about the kitchen, George?"

"It has a wonderful big range and great oven to bake several loaves of bread at a time. With some cleaning and a little touch of paint, the house will be ready by the first of February. Hasn't the Lord been so good to provide?"

"Yes, George, let us take time to thank Him."

February the third was announced as opening day for orphans to come. George arrived at 6 Wilson Street early that morning. He kept busy cleaning and working here and there, while listening for a knock at the door. Through the day he became hungry, cold and tired. He went home that night very sad. "Mary, why didn't one child come to the door? I thought God was answering our prayers. I wonder why He did not bring any children."

"George," said Mary softly. She stood by his chair and put her hand on his stooped shoulder. "Did we remember to ask God to send the children? We have been so concerned about getting things ready but we haven't asked for Him to bring us children!"

"You are right, Mary!" exclaimed George as he sat up in his chair. "Let's kneel and ask the Lord to bring the right children who need His love and our care." After prayer, George felt his faith increase.

Early the next morning, while he unlocked the door at 6 Wilson Street, a woman and boy walked up the steps. "You the preacher runnin' this here place?" asked the heavy woman in a big bonnet. "I got a brat here for ya."

"Good!" exclaimed George as he smiled at the skinny ten-year-old boy beside her. "Come on in and fill out some papers."

The woman stepped inside and looked around at the simple, clean hall, stairway and parlor. "This here place is bett'r'n what I can give Jerry," she said. "Tve been strugglin' to care fer my dead sister's brat an' I can't do it much more."

Before George had finished signing Jerry into 6 Wilson Street, several more women and children were standing by the door. He was busy greeting new comers and doing the paper work when he glanced up to see Jerry had a rock in his hand and was swinging his arm to throw it.

"Jerry! No!" shouted George but the rock was already sailing through the air, shattering the front window glass. Bang!

So came the children until forty-two had moved into 6 Wilson Street by the Spring of 1836.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell (To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- What did the angel tell the believers who were watching Jesus?
- 2. Does any man know when Jesus will come back?
- In what ways did Jesus say the end of time will be like Noah's time?
 Fill in the blanks:
- 4. The day of the Lord will come as a

5.	He will divide them as are	;
	from goats.	

- because you do not know when the master will return.
- 7. _____ will go away with a great noise.
- 8. Let us be found without _____ and ___.

(Answers: 1. He would return the same way. 2. No. 3. We would be eating, drinking, and marrying. 4. Thief in the night. 5. Sheep. 6. Watch and pray. 7. The heavens. 8. Spot; blameless.)



Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 28, 2006

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The disciples and a multitude of other believers were gathered together on the day of Pentecost. Suddenly, a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a mighty rushing wind. It filled the house where the people were sitting.

Tongues of fire appeared and sat upon each of the believers. All of the ones present were filled with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost gave them power to be able to speak in all different languages. When someone spoke, everyone heard the words in their own language.

There were several men from different countries visiting Jerusalem. When the news of what happened reached them, they met with the believers. They were amazed when the disciples spoke their language. They asked each other, "Aren't these men from Galilee? How are we hearing them speaking in our own language? We are from fifteen different countries and languages and we all can hear them speak in our language about the wonderful works of God. What does this mean?" Other men made fun of the believers.

Peter stood up and spoke to the crowd. "All of you who are here in Jerusalem, hear this. The prophet Joel has said that it would come to pass in the last days that God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh, and that our sons and daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions and the elder men will dream dreams. He will show wonders in heaven and signs in the earth—blood, fire and smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great day when the Lord will return. Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. Men of Israel, hear these words. A man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs has been put into wicked hands and killed. Now, we have received the Holy Ghost, which you now see and hear. Let all of Israel know that God made Jesus, whom you have crucified."

After this sermon many of the ones present felt convicted in their hearts. Three thousand men were saved and baptized in the faith that day. They continued strong in their beliefs and the church grew that day.





Expanding

(Continued from last week.)

After February 3, 1836, George and Mary Mueller never again asked the Lord to send children to the orphanage. Soon they knew there were more children who needed help than the big house at 6 Wilson Street could hold.

George and Mary enjoyed their personal time together at their own supper table in the evenings. "Mary, the Lord has sent us a good staff of Christian people to help with the orphanage. Every day He supplies our needs in miraculous ways. We must reach out to the babies that are left helpless on the streets. I saw that there is another house on Wilson Street that we can rent. Let's pray that two more staff members will come to care for the babies."

Four-year-old Lydia prayed with her parents. She wanted the babies to have a home, food and a chance to learn about Jesus. Soon they were caring for several babies and nine months later, George rented another house for more children. Now George had 96 orphans to feed and clothe, and to teach about Jesus.

On August 18, 1938, George wrote in his diary, "I have not one penny in hand for the orphans! In a day or two, many pounds will be needed.... Oh, God, the Infants' Home needs 5 pounds today.... I am trusting You to supply it, somehow."

That afternoon George was in his study when there was a light knock on his door. In fluttered a lady wearing a silk dress under her velvet cape. She sighed as she sat down and draped her full skirt over the cushioned chair.

"Bro. Mueller, when God told me not to wear my glittering jewels anymore," she said, "He also told me to sell them. Now I do intend to sell them sometime soon, but in the meantime, I thought I would bring you the amount of money they would be worth."

The lady's small, gloved hand reached into her purse and she laid 5 pounds on his desk. "I'm sorry that it

isn't more but I'm afraid my jewels aren't worth too much."

"Oh, it's quite enough," replied George with a smile. "It is the exact amount asked for in prayer."

George had a standing promise with God that he would not ask or beg people for money. Another time George prayed and waited five days for money.

Then another lady drifted into his study. "I am visiting one of your neighbors—I do so like Bristol—and I saw all these clean, neatly dressed children living in your three houses and I couldn't believe it when I learned they were orphans, so I wanted to give you a little something for doing such a wonderful job for these poor souls."

As she talked, she laid out enough money to pay for food for two week's. I don't know what your needs are," she said, "But the Lord laid it on my heart to give you this money five days ago but I waited until it seemed you weren't so busy to visit."

Five days! They had been desperate for five days when the answer to their prayers was waiting across the street. Surely the Lord was trying their faith.

-Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What day were the believers meeting?
- What did the tongues appear as?
- 3. What were the believers able to do?
- 4. Why did the other men come to meet with the believers?
- 5. How did they feel when they saw and heard the miracle?
- 6. What prophet did Peter say told about God's Spirit?
- 7. What wonders did Peter say would happen before Jesus came back?
- 8. How many people were saved and baptized that day?

(Answers: 1. The day of Pentecost. 2. Fire. 3. Speak where all men could understand. 4. They heard about what happened. 5. Some were amazed, some made fun of them. 6. Joel. 7. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood. 8. Three thousand.)



Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 4, 2006

RESCUED FROM PRISON

Multitudes of men and women began believing in Christ. People would bring their sick friends and relatives into the streets. They laid them on couches so that at least the shadow of Peter might pass over the sick and heal them. People brought other sick loved ones directly to the disciples for healing. Each one of these people was healed.

The high priest and other religious leaders were upset. They took the apostles and put them into prison. That night an angel opened the prison doors and set the apostles free.

"Go and teach the ones in the temple," the angel commanded. The apostles went to the temple and taught. The high priests were surprised to see them. They called for the prison officers.

The officers said, "The prison is now shut and guards are standing outside of the doors, but when we opened the doors this morning the men were gone."

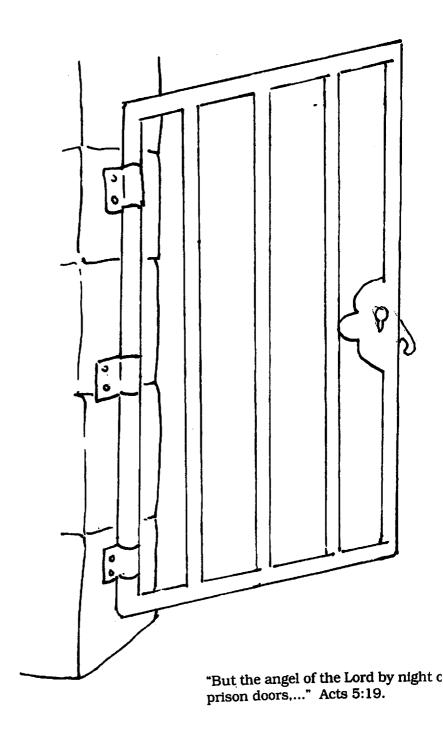
The officers went to the temple and arrested the apostles once more. "Did we not tell you not to teach in Jesus' name?" the religious leaders asked the disciples.

"We ought to obey God rather than men," the apostles answered. "You have crucified Jesus Christ. Now He is sitting at God's right hand to give repentance and forgiveness to Israel. We are His witnesses; so is the Holy Ghost whom God has given to those who obey Him."

The people were very angry when they heard these words. They wanted to kill the apostles. A Pharisee named Gamaliel stood up. He said, "If this council has been brought about by men, it will come to nothing. If these men are doing these things of God, you cannot overthrow it because you will be fighting against God."

The other men agreed with him. They beat the apostles and commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus. Then they let them go. The apostles left, rejoicing that they were able to suffer in Jesus' name. They did not stop preaching and teaching about Jesus.

-Monica Murphey





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Bigger And Better

(Continued from last week.)

George Mueller and Lydia, his thirteen-year-old daughter, walked along the wooded Avon River. Often they took a walk together, visiting about the three orphanages on Wilson Street or talking about God. This time Lydia was trying to cheer up her father who had received a complaining letter from a neighbor on Wilson Street.

"That man had no business telling you the children were too noisy and they caused the gutters to clog up in the winter. He can move away!"

"No, Lydia," replied her father. "We don't want trouble with our neighbors. We need to ask God what we can do to make things better."

Lydia spread her arms out toward the trees and breathed in the fragrant air. "What would be better, Papa, is to move the children out to the country where they can breathe fresh air and not have cranky neighbors living next door."

"Lydia! You are right!" exclaimed George. "Let's pray right now that the Lord will supply us with money to buy land and materials to build an orphanage on a hillside overlooking the sea."

So began the praying, expecting and searching for a move out. The Lord was faithful to answer prayer. Money began to come in and George bought the perfect piece of land on a hillside. One by one men offered to help build the orphanage. Miracle after miracle happened while the Mueller family and the staff caring for the children faithfully worked on and on every day.

Finally, on June 18, 1849, George and Mary stood on top of the hill they had named Ashley Down and watched the orphans walk up from Bristol. There were little girls in their white capes and their poke bonnets, little boys in trim jackets and visor caps on their heads, big girls in white pinafores and dark blue skirts and big boys in long serge pants. Three hundred children moved into the tall, brick home from where they could look out glass windows and

watch ships sail out to sea.

After the last little girl walked through the door, George sighed and put his arm around Mary. "I will never forget the last three and a half years and how God has answered our prayers so many times," he said. "Ashley Down is now complete."

"Well, George, the building is finished, but the work is not done," replied Mary as they heard the children laughing and calling to one another inside. "Remember our work is with the children, George, more now than ever before."

About that time a housemother popped her head out the front door. "Oh, Mr. Mueller," she called. "We need your help to start these new gas burners, and, Mrs. Mueller, where are the new blouses for the junior girls?"

George laughed. "You are right, Mary," he said. "Our work has only grown bigger and better. May God give us wisdom to direct these children in the way of the Lord."

Then arm in arm, George and Mary followed the housemother into Ashley Down. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- For what did people bring their loved ones to the disciples?
- 2. What did the religious leaders do to the apostles?
- 3. How did the apostles get out of prison?
- 4. What did the angel tell the apostles to do?
- 5. Who did the disciples say they should obey?
- 6. How did these words make the religious leaders feel?
- Who did Gamaliel say they would be fighting against if it was og God?
- 8. Why were the apostles happy when they left?

(Answers: 1. Healing. 2. Put them into prison. 3. An angel opened the doors. 4. To go and teach at the temple. 5. God, not man. 6. Angry. 7. God. 8. They had been able to suffer in Jesus' name.)



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STEPHEN'S VISION

"Our widows are being neglected," the Greeks complained. The twelve disciples called everyone together. "We should not have to leave the word of God to serve tables. Look for seven honest men who are full of the Holy Ghost to appoint over all of this business," they instructed the crowd. The people chose a man named Stephen, as well as six others. Stephen did many wonders and miracles among the people.

Not everyone liked Stephen. Some of the religious leaders accused Stephen of speaking badly of Moses and God. They stirred up the people. Stephen was brought to council before a group of elders and scribes. False witnesses came forward. While a false witness was speaking all of the ones sitting in the council looked at Stephen's face. It looked like the face of an angel.

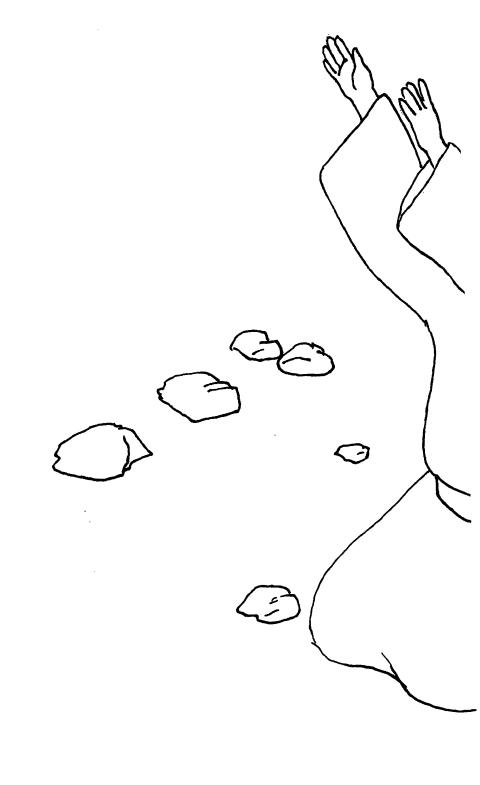
"Are these words true?" the high priest asked Stephen.

Stephen began speaking of the history of Israel. He spoke of the way God lead His children—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses. He told of Solomon and how he had built a temple. "But God does not live in temples made with hands," Stephen exhorted. "The Lord said that heaven was His throne and the earth was His footstool. What house will you build Me?" the Lord asked. You are stiff necked. You always resist the Holy Ghost. How many prophets have your fathers not persecuted? You do as your fathers did and have killed the Just One."

Stephen's words made the council angry. But Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven. "I see the heavens opened and Jesus standing by the right hand of God!" Stephen cried.

The crowd cried out with a loud voice. They all ran to Stephen and drug him out of the city. The crowd laid their coats at the feet of a man named Saul. Then they stoned Stephen. "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," Stephen called to God. At one point, Stephen knelt down and cried, "Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge." After Stephen said this he fell asleep to wake up in eternity.

—Monica Murphey



"And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." Acts 7:56.



Spreading Hope

(Continued from last week.)

Caring for three hundred children at Ashley Down was a lot of work and cost much money but the Lord faithfully supplied for every need. Soon George Mueller had a vision of building for more children. He talked about his plans with his old friend, Henry Craik.

"I don't see how you will have the strength and time to build another orphanage and add 700 more children to

your care," said Henry.

"But there are still more children who need help and we don't have anymore room to put them," said George. "We thank the Lord that about forty of our young men are preaching the gospel and many more of our grown children are Christians. They are living much better lives because they learned about Jesus Christ who gives hope to the helpless. We want every boy and girl we can rescue off the streets and out of the sinful places they are forced to live in otherwise."

"I know this work is of God," replied Henry. "I just don't know how you can afford to do more. We must pray about it, George."

"Yes, we cannot do anymore without God's help," agreed George. He began to tell others about his burden to build and bring in more children. Through years of prayer, labor and God's faithfulness, two more orphanages were built on Ashley Down and in service by March, 1862. Watching the building work progress pleased George, but he was more happy to see the children who were brought to the homes.

Pitiful, crying babies who were smelly and hungry were given to the nursery maids who cleaned up the infants, fed them and rocked them to sleep. Little girls with matted hair, tear-stained cheeks and frightened eyes went to live with housemothers who washed their hair and bathed them, gave them clean dresses and soothed away their fears.

Young unkept boys who acted mean because they had been beaten and

abused were taught by godly men to clean their bodies and their habits. Morning chapel time with over 1,000 children was a daily routine in all three orphanages at Ashley Down.

Because there were more children in England who needed help, George did not stop with three buildings, but he had two more built. By January 6, 1870, he and Mary stood by the door and welcomed more boys and girls into their new homes. As the cool breezes blew up the hill from the sea, Mary began to cough very hard.

"Mary, my dear, you must get out of this breeze and come inside," said George tenderly as he drew her to him. She was such a faithful wife and so helpful with anything that needed to be done for the 2,000 children. Her constant cough worried George.

Lydia was now a young woman soon to marry. However, Mary did not live to see her daughter marry Jim Wright. George was sad to say "Good-bye" to his loving wife.

He faithfully served the Lord approximately twenty-seven more years, then George Mueller was called to the heavenly hills of his eternal home at the age of 93 years. —Sis. Connie Sorrell (The end.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What was Stephen chosen to look after?
- 2. Who did not like Stephen?
- 3. Did the witnesses tell the truth about Stephen?
- 4. Who did Stephen say the religious leaders had killed?
- 5. How did the council feel about Stephen's words?
- 6. Who did Stephen see in his vision?
- 7. What did the crowd do to Stephen?
- 8. What did Stephen ask the Lord to do for the crowd?

(Answers: 1. The everyday business of feeding and distributing goods.

- 2. The religious leaders. 3. No.
- 4. Jesus. 5. They were angry.
- 6. Jesus, at the right hand of God.
- 7. Stoned him. 8. Not to lay this sin to their charge.)



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SAMARIA BELIEVES

The church at Jerusalem was experiencing much persecution. Many of the believers moved to different places. Saul, who was present at Stephen's stoning, was one of the men who dealt some of the worst persecutions to the people of the church in Jerusalem. He placed Christian men and women in prison.

A minister of the gospel named Philip left Jerusalem to spread the gospel in Samaria. He spoke of Jesus to the people of the city and performed miracles. Many of the people believed. He healed unclean spirits, the lame and the sick. There was great joy in the city of Samaria.

One man who lived in Samaria was named Simon. He was a sorcerer, fooling people into believing that he had power from God. They respected Simon because he had performed magic tricks and bewitched the people of the city. When the people began believing in Christ and were baptized, Simon believed also after he saw the miracles and signs that were done.

Word spread of the miracles in Samaria to Jerusalem. The people of Samaria sent for Peter and John. When they were all together, they prayed that the people of Samaria might receive the Holy Ghost. Peter and John laid their hands on the people and they received the Holy Ghost.

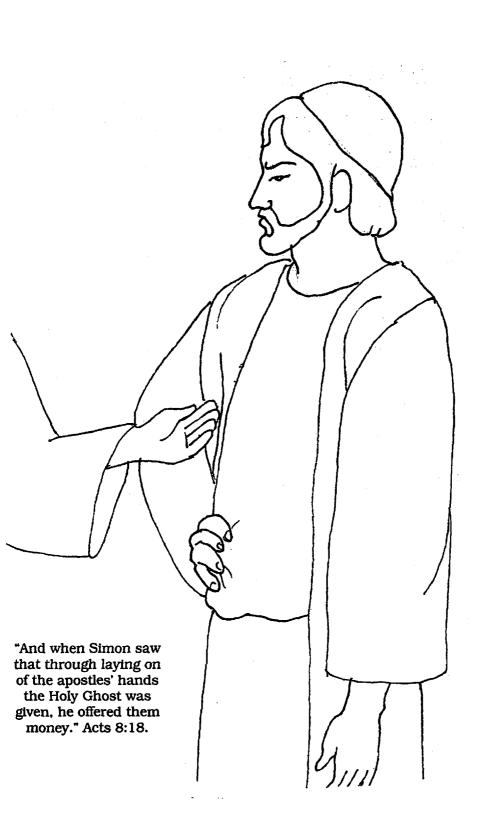
Simon watched as the believers of Samaria began to receive the Holy Ghost. Simon went to Peter. "Here is some money," Simon said. "Give me this power so that I can lay my hands on someone and they can receive the Holy Ghost."

"Your money will perish with you," Peter answered. "Because you have thought that the gift of God could be bought with money. You have no part or lot in this, because your heart is not right with God. Repent of your wicked ways and pray that the thoughts of your heart may be forgiven."

"Pray for me," Simon begged Peter. "So that none of these things that you have said will happen to me." The gospel continued to spread in many Samarian villages.

—Monica Murphey





New Friends

Sitting on the front porch of her new home on Oak Street, Connie watched the girl across the street. That little girl looked about her age—four years old. When she thought that girl was looking, Connie waved to her and that girl waved back. Connie was told not to walk across the street, so she just walked to the front curb to talk.

"What is your name?" she asked that girl who was now sitting on the curb across the street.

"I'm Vickie. What's your name?"

"Connie. Are those your brothers over there?" Connie pointed to Vickie's front porch where two boys were sitting on the steps.

"Yeah," replied Vickie. "Hal is twelve and Bobby is ten. I have a big sister named Rodena and she is fourteen. Do you have any brothers or sisters?"

"I have two little brothers. That's all. Ask your mama if you can come over to play with me," said Connie. Vickie pointed to Connie's front door. "Is that your mama there at the door holding a baby?"

Connie nodded.

"Do you think I could hold the baby if I came over?" asked Vickie.

Connie smiled. "Yeah, my mama wouldn't mind."

Vickie jumped up from the curb. "I'll go ask my mama right now if I can come over."

After awhile, Connie watched as Vickie looked up the street, then down the street before she walked across. Connie had told her mother that Vickie wanted to hold the baby, so her mother was sitting on the porch with Lonnie in her arms and three year old Donnie beside her.

"Hello, Vickie, I'm glad to meet you," said Mother. "Did you want to hold the baby?" When Vickie nodded, Mother continued. "Sit down beside me here on the step and let me show you how to hold him."

Vickie sat down and as the baby slipped into her arms, a big smile spread across her face. "Oh, a real baby is soft and warm, isn't it? He's so cute!"

Connie was delighted that her new friend liked her baby brother. They sat together and talked about babies. "I like to play dolls, too," said Vickie. "Maybe we can play together tomorrow at my house. I have a play kitchen in my garage."

When Connie asked Mother, she said, "I will talk to Vickie's mother about it. Tomorrow we will be at church, but maybe the next day will work."

"My mom takes us children to church, also," said Vickie. "But my dad works all Sunday at the drive-in he owns. He smokes cigars and I don't think he likes church too much."

"Oh, we will pray for him," said Mother. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

(To be continued next week.)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why did believers move from Jerusalem?
- 2. What city did Philip go to?
- 3. Did Samaria receive the Word of Christ?
- 4. What sorcerer also came to believe in God?
- 5. Who came to Samaria from Jerusalem after Philip?
- 6. What did Peter and John do?
- 7. What did Simon offer the disciples?
- 8. Why did Peter say Simon's money would perish with him?

(Answers: 1. The church in Jerusalem was being persecuted. 2. Samaria. 3. Yes. 4. Simon. 5. John and Peter. 6. Laid hands on the saved. 7. Money. 8. He thought that God's gift could be bought with money.)



Vol. 57, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 25, 2006

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

The land of Ethiopia had a queen named Candace, who put a man in charge of all of her treasure. This man had great authority in Ethiopia. He was called the Eunuch. The man had come to Jerusalem for worship and was returning to Ethiopia.

While Philip was in Samaria an angel appeared to him. "Get up and go to the south. Follow the way that goes from Jerusalem to the desert Gaza," the angel commanded. So Philip obeyed and found the Eunuch sitting in his chariot and reading the prophecies of Isaiah.

"Go over to the chariot," the Holy Spirit prompted Philip. Philip ran over to the chariot and heard the Eunuch reading the words of the prophet Isaiah.

"Do you understand what this means?" Philip asked the Eunuch.

"How can I understand unless someone will teach me?" the Eunuch answered. "Come up and sit with me."

The Eunuch read, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: in his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth."

"Who is the prophet talking about?" the Eunuch asked. "Is he talking about himself or someone else?"

Philip began talking about Jesus to the Eunuch. As they traveled they came to a body of water. "Here is some water. May I be baptized?" the Eunuch wanted to know.

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

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God," the Eunuch declared. The Eunuch stopped the chariot. He and Philip walked down to the water. Philip baptized him. When the Eunuch came up from the water after being baptized, Philip was gone. The Lord had caught him away. The Eunuch went on to Ethiopia rejoicing.

-Monica Murphey

"...And t



ent down...into the water...and ptized him." Acts 8:38.



Loyalty Tested

(Continued from last week.)

Connie and Vickie soon became good friends. They spent many happy hours playing house in Vickie's toy kitchen. There was only one big problem.

"Connie, I don't mind you playing with Vickie," said Mother. "But I want you to play with Donnie, also."

"I like for Donnie to play with us," said Connie. "But Vickie doesn't want him to play with us. She fusses at him about her dolls and then he gets mad and does something worse. They just don't get along."

"Donnie doesn't get mad," said Mother. "He is hurt because you girls don't include him in your play. I want you to be nice to your brother."

Connie sighed. She loved her brother—they were the best of friends, but she liked to play with Vickie, too.

Later, when Vickie came over to ask Connie to play dolls, Connie said she would play if Donnie could play also. Vickie looked unhappy, but she said, "Okay, if your brother won't touch my dolls."

One day Donnie was still napping when Connie asked Mother if she could go play with Vickie. Mother called Vickie's mom, and then watched as Connie crossed the street. After the girls played in the toy kitchen for awhile, Vickie said, "Let's take our babies for a walk outside."

Wearing their mothers' old high heel shoes and dress hats, the girls carried their bundled baby dolls outside to Vickie's front yard. They were spreading a blanket on the ground under a tree, when Donnie came outside.

Donnie saw the girls and called across the street. "Hey, I want to play with you! Let me go ask Mama!" As he hurried in the house to ask, Vickie said, "Quick! Pick up your things and let's go to the backyard before Donnie comes over!"

Connie did as Vickie wanted her to do. In the backyard with Vickie, Connie could hear her little brother calling: "Connie! Connie! Where are you, Connie?" He sounded sad, like he was going to cry. Connie loved her brother. She did not like to tease him and make him feel bad. Suddenly, she gathered up her doll and play things.

"Vickie, I'm going to play with Donnie," she said firmly. "If you won't play with my brother, then I don't want to play either."

When Connie walked around Vickie's house to the front yard, Donnie saw her and came running to her. The big smile on his face made her smile, too. Then she took his hand in hers and, carefully, they walked back across Oak Street and to their home. —Sis. Connie Sorrell QUESTIONS:

- 1. Why did the Eunuch visit Jerusalem?
- 2. Who told Philip to go south and follow a certain road?
- 3. What prophet was the Eunuch reading from?
- 4. Did the Eunuch understand what he was reading?
- 5. Whom did Philip tell the Eunuch about?
- 6. What did the Eunuch want to do when they saw water?
- 7. What happened to Philip after the Eunuch was baptized?
- 8. How did the Eunuch feel after he was baptized?

(Answers: 1. To worship. 2. An angel. 3. Isaiah. 4. No. 5. Jesus. 6. Be baptized. 7. The Lord carried Philip away. 8. Joyful.)