

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 July 2, 2006

ÆNEAS AND TABITHA ARE HEALED

Peter went to visit the saints that were living in Lydia. When Peter got to Lydia, he met a man named Æneas. Æneas had been sick for eight years. He had a disease called palsy, which makes it hard to move, so Æneas had to stay in bed for all of those eight years.

"Æneas, Jesus Christ is making you well. Get up and make your bed," Peter told him. Æneas immediately got up and walked! Everyone that lived in Lydia saw Æneas. All of them prayed to the Lord.

Joppa is the name of a city that is close to Lydia. A disciple named Tabitha lived in Joppa. Tabitha had done many good works. She became sick and died. Her friends washed her body and laid her in an upper room.

When the disciples heard that Peter was so close to Joppa, they sent for Peter. Peter returned to Joppa with the disciples. Peter went to the home where Tabitha lay.

Many women were in the room with Tabitha, crying and discussing things that Tabitha had sewn when she was alive. Peter asked all of the women to leave. When the room was emptied of everyone except for him and Tabitha, he knelt down and called out to God.

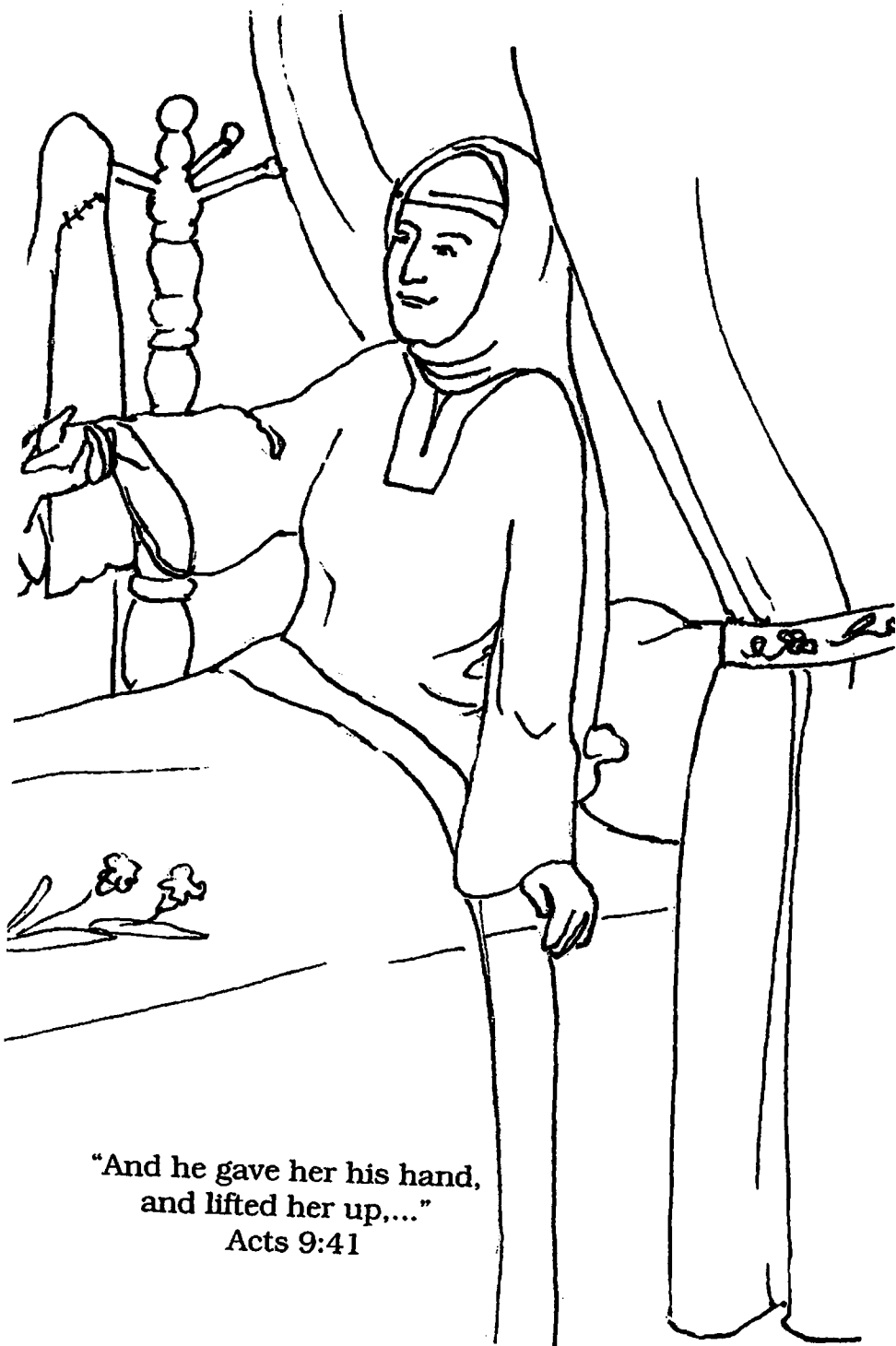
"Tabitha, get up," Peter commanded.

Tabitha opened her eyes and saw Peter beside her bed. She sat up. Peter took her hand and lifted her up. He called everyone back into the room. All of the saints and widows who had mourned Tabitha's death came back to the room to find Tabitha alive!

Everyone in Joppa found out about this miracle. Many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed several more days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

—Monica Murphey





"And he gave her his hand,
and lifted her up,..."
Acts 9:41

Baby Birds

Standing on the curb of Oak Street, Connie watched a neighbor boy climb into a tall sycamore tree. Carefully, he reached toward a nest of baby birds resting on a tree branch.

"Cheep! Cheep! Cheep! Cheep!" Four yellow beaks flashed above the ring of twigs as David's hand moved under the nest and picked it up. Suddenly, a scolding mama bird screamed and dived toward David's head.

"Watch out, David!" Connie called from the ground. "Maybe you shouldn't bother those babies. That mama doesn't like it."

"Oh, we can take care of these babies as well as the mama can," replied David. "Here, hold this nest while I slide down the tree."

Connie cradled the nest in her arms while David came down to the ground.

"I'm going to put them in my garage so a cat won't get them," David said. "Get your brother so he can help us look for worms to feed these babies. These birds will quit cheeping when they each have a worm to eat."

Connie hurried to get Donnie so he could help. Her mother said they had to stay on their side of the garage where she could see them from her front porch.

With sand shovels in hand, David and his little sister, Connie and her brother, dug and dug on that side of the garage.

"I think the worms are on the other side of the garage," said David. "Let's go around to the back."

"No, we can't," replied Connie. "Here are some roly-polly bugs. Maybe the baby birds will eat them."

They fed bugs to those babies as fast as they found them but the little birds never stopped cheeping.

"I think we had better give them back to their mama," said Donnie.

"No, I want these birds to be my pets," replied David. "How can I train them if they fly away with their mama?"

"How long do we have to feed them? I'm getting tired," said Laurie.

"They should take a nap before long," said Connie. "Most babies sleep in the afternoon like our baby brother does."

The children soon learned that these baby birds never slept nor seemed full.

David's dad and mom did not want the birds left in their garage. "Don't get anymore noisy baby birds," they told him.

By morning the baby birds had died. "We must have a funeral," said Connie sadly. The children dug a hole under the Sycamore tree, sang *Jesus Loves Me*, prayed and buried them there.

Also, they promised their parents that they would not take any more baby birds away from their mama, who knows best how to care for their babies. That is the way the Lord planned it to be.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Peter visiting?
2. What man did Peter meet?
3. What was wrong with Æneas?
4. How long had Æneas been sick?
5. What disciple had died in Joppa?
6. Who did the disciples in Joppa send for?
7. What did Peter tell Tabitha to do?
8. Why did many people in Joppa believe in the Lord?

(Answers: 1. Lydia 2. Æneas. 3. He had palsy. 4. Eight years. 5. Tabitha. 6. Peter. 7. "Get up." 8. They heard about Tabitha.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 July 9, 2006

A HEAVENLY VISITOR

A man named Cornelius lived in the town of Caesarea. He was a centurion, one of the leaders in a band of soldiers. Cornelius was a very religious man. He feared God and prayed to God always. He was a very generous person, giving money to the people.

An angel appeared to Cornelius in a vision. "Cornelius," the angel called.

"What is it, Lord?" Cornelius asked.

"The prayers you have prayed and your generous spirit have come to God's attention," the angel informed Cornelius. "Send one of your men to Joppa for a man called Peter. He is staying with Simon, the tanner. His house is by the seaside. Peter will tell you what to do."

After the angel had said these things, he disappeared. Cornelius called two of his servants and one of his soldiers and asked them to go to Joppa.

"Cornelius, a centurion and a devout man who fears God, was warned by an angel to send for you and to listen to what you have to say," the servants told Peter when they arrived at the house of Simon.

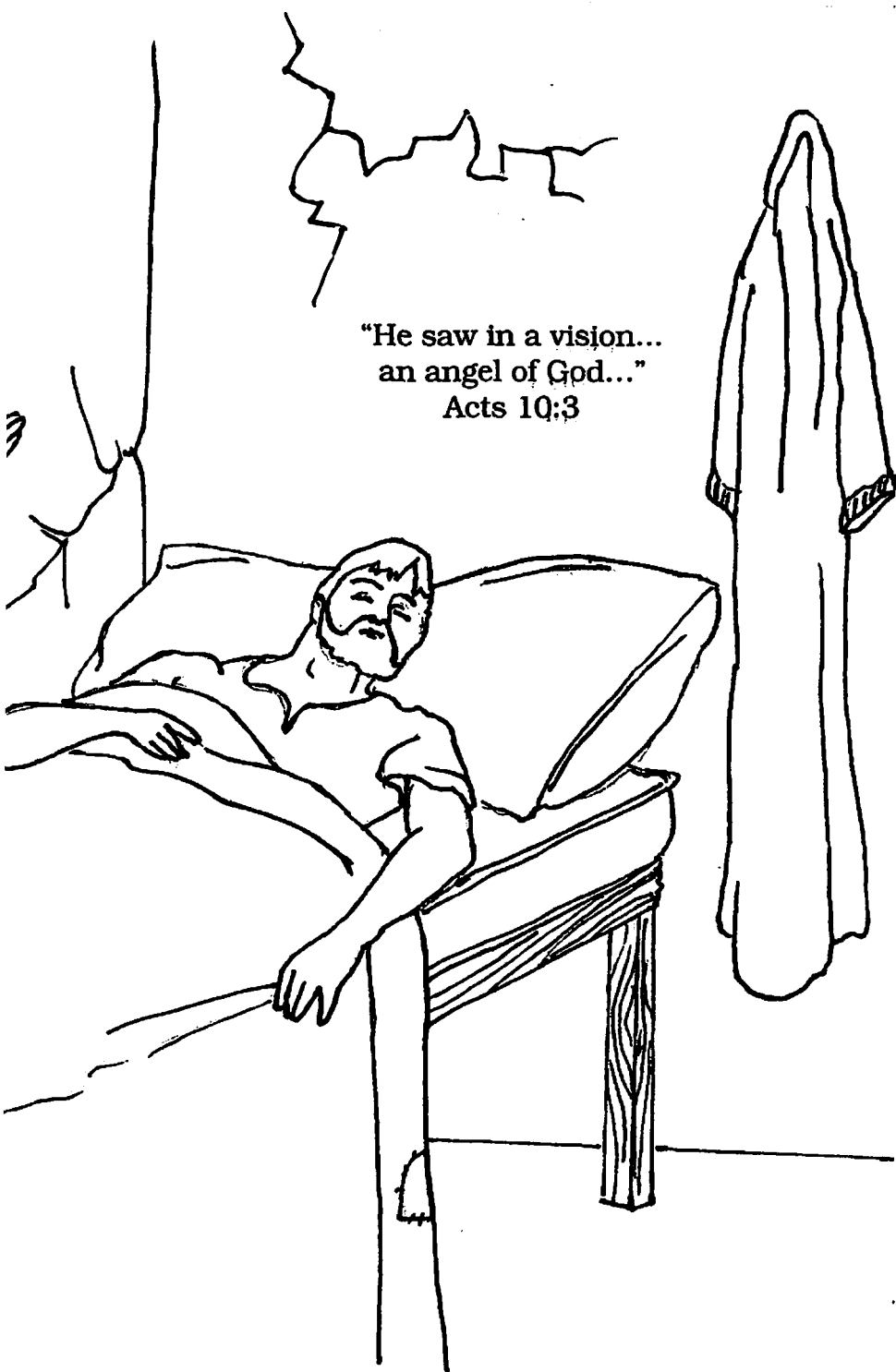
The next morning, Peter entered Cornelius' home. Cornelius was so excited about Peter's visit that he had invited all of his family and friends over to hear Peter speak. When Cornelius saw Peter, he fell down at Peter's feet and worshiped him. "Stand up," Peter said. "I am only a man."

It was against the Jewish laws for a Jew to keep company with a man of a different nationality. God had shown Peter that he should go to Cornelius. Peter told Cornelius and all that were in his house about Jesus and the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost fell on all of those who heard Peter's words. Some of the people in Cornelius' home were Jewish. They saw that the Gentiles, who were listening, received the Holy Ghost. "Shouldn't these men be baptized?" they asked. The people there begged Peter to stay for awhile.

—Monica Murphey



"He saw in a vision...
an angel of God..."
Acts 10:3



Early Example of Godliness

Connie enjoyed going to church with her parents at the chapel on Sixth and West Warner in Guthrie. On Sunday morning, she would hurry to the little room on the east side of the chapel for Sunday School.

"Good morning, children," exclaimed Sis. Lillian Meek as each child came through the door. "Sit down in your chair at the table and let's sing a song."

Connie sat down, and took a Beautiful Way Sunday School paper. She listened to Sis. Meek read the lesson in her soft voice. Her soft, smooth face seemed to shine under her soft, white hair. Yes, everything about Sis. Meek looked soft and pretty to Connie.

"Angels probably look like Sis. Meek," thought Connie. "They just have a shiny, gold circle on their head, but Sis. Meek doesn't need one."

When the church service started, Connie was sometimes allowed to sit on the front bench with Grandma Marie Miles.

After prayer requests were taken and they all knelt down to pray, Grandma would often lead out in prayer. Kneeling beside Grandma, Connie would peep up at her.

She looked different without her eye glasses on her nose. Her closed eyes became moist as she called out the names of those who were sick or in trouble. Her voice would tremble with emotion when she asked the Lord to deal with sinners.

"Grandma really tells God who needs help," thought Connie as she would tuck her head down in respect.

After prayer, Connie knew the preaching would soon follow. Bro. Ira Stover would slowly walk to the pulpit, his worn Bible placed under one arm. Bro. Stover laid his Bible on the

wooden pulpit and opened it. His commanding voice made Connie listen even when she wiggled and looked around at others sometimes.

Bro. Stover would walk back and forth behind the pulpit, preaching about the goodness of God and the wickedness of the world. Connie did not always understand all that Bro. Stover said, but she was sure he was right because Dad, Mom and Grandma all agreed with him.

For many years, when Connie would pray at her bedside at night, she would picture the Lord looking at her as Bro. Stover looked over the congregation when he was preaching. His face showed love, but his voice divided right from wrong. She desired to keep the Lord's face smiling at her, and to obey His voice. It made her feel better inside.

Because she had good examples of Godliness to see, Connie learned what was right and wrong. It did not mean that she always did right, but she certainly knew when she was naughty and disobedient.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Cornelius' job?
2. How did Cornelius feel about God?
3. Who appeared to Cornelius?
4. Who was Cornelius told to send for?
5. Who was with Cornelius at his house?
6. What did Peter tell those with Cornelius about?
7. What happened to those that heard Peter's words?
8. Who were the Jews not allowed to keep company with?

(Answers: 1. He was a centurion. 2. He feared God and prayed to Him. 3. An angel. 4. Peter. 5. Friends and family. 6. Jesus and the Holy Spirit. 7. They received the Holy Ghost. 8. People of other nations.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 July 16, 2006

A DIVINE RESCUE

Herod, the king, did not like the popularity that the Church was gaining in Israel. He tried to do everything in his power to stop Christianity from spreading. James and his brother John were killed by a sword at the hand of the wicked King Herod. This pleased the Jews, who disliked the rapid spreading of Christianity as much as Herod did. When Herod saw their pleasure, he decided to kill Peter next. Peter was caught and thrown into prison. The members of the church prayed continuously in his behalf.

Peter slept between two soldiers. Chains bound his hands. There were guards that kept watch at the door of the prison. While Peter was sleeping, an angel appeared. The angel struck Peter on his side and pulled him up. "Get up, quickly," the angel commanded. Peter's chains fell off.

"Put on your sandals," the angel advised him, "And follow me."

Peter followed the angel past the guards. Peter followed the angel all the way to the iron gate that opened to the city. The gate opened on its own! The angel led Peter out to the street and left Peter alone. Peter thought he had a vision, but out on the street, he came to himself.

"I know that God sent his angel and delivered me out of the hands of Herod," Peter proclaimed.

Peter went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark. Many of the church believers had gathered there and were praying. Peter knocked at the gate. A girl named Rhoda answered. She was so excited, she ran in and told the others that Peter was standing at the gate!

"You are seeing things," they accused her. "It is his angel."

Peter continued knocking at the door until the occupants of the house opened the door. They were amazed! "The Lord brought me out of the prison," Peter told them.

—Monica Murphey





“...the angel of the Lord came upon him,...
and his chains fell off from his hands.”

Acts 12:7

Great-Grandpa Pruitt's Blessing

"I want you children to be quiet and stay with me," said Mother to Connie and Donnie as they stood in front of the Faith Publishing House.

The warm, Oklahoma breeze rustled the leaves as the locusts rasped loudly in the dry dirt under the Elm trees. It was a beautiful June day, without a cloud in sight.

The three of them watched as Grandma Miles came out of the side door of the print shop and joined them on the sidewalk.

"Hello," Grandma greeted them. "Papa just woke up from a nap," she said to Mother. "I told him we would bring the children over right away and he said that was fine with him."

Mother nodded and took hold of each child's hand. "Now I want you children to be quiet," she repeated. "Grandpa Fred Pruitt is very sick and we don't want to make him worse. Don't be afraid, just be quiet and listen to him."

Both children agreed to be quiet as they walked with Grandma and Mother to the little white house next door to the print shop.

"Hello, Papa," said Grandma to her father as she opened the front door. Grandpa Pruitt was lying on a raised bed in his front room right by the front window and door. Connie and Donnie blinked as their eyes adjusted to the darkness in the room.

"Hello, Anna Marie," he replied. Grandpa turned his head to look as the two children were brought to his bedside. "Hello, children, and Bertha," he said.

After a few words of greeting, Grandma said, "Papa, do you think you have enough strength right now to bless the children? We would

like for you to lay a hand on each of them if you can."

"I believe I can do that," replied Grandpa. The children moved closer as he was brought near the edge of the bed. He placed one hand on Connie's head, and one hand on Donnie's head, then he began to talk to God.

Connie did not remember what he said in his prayer, but she never forgot how close she felt to Jesus and God at that moment in her life. His prayer was not very long, because he was weak, but the presence of the Lord was strong, and the blessing was given for eternity.

Soon after their visit, Grandpa Fred Pruitt passed away on June 6th, 1963. Sitting on the front bench during the funeral service, Connie and Donnie saw their Grandpa's body resting in a cushioned bed, but they knew his soul was with God who he had talked to for them.

Honor Godly great-grandparents, grandparents and elder saints who are faithful to the Lord. Learn from them when you are with them. Remember what they say, for it will help you live for Jesus.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were killed by a sword?
2. Who was happy because of the deaths?
3. Who did Herod decide to kill next?
4. Where was Peter taken?
5. Who came to Peter in prison?
6. Who's home did Peter go to?
7. Who came to answer the gate?
8. Who did Peter say saved him from prison?

(Answers: 1. James and John. 2. The Jews. 3. Peter. 4. To prison. 5. An angel. 6. Mary's. 7. Rhoda. 8. The Lord.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 July 23, 2006

KING HEROD'S AWFUL FATE

While the believers of the church were rejoicing over the miraculous appearance of the angel that saved Peter from prison, the soldiers were wondering over his mysterious disappearance. No one knew what had happened to Peter.

"I would like to see Peter," King Herod requested. Peter was not brought before Herod. Instead, the prison guards were there, informing King Herod of Peter's disappearance. King Herod was very displeased. King Herod thoroughly investigated the matter, and commanded that the prison keepers should be killed.

King Herod was very unhappy with the people that lived in the cities of Tyre and Sidon. The people from these cities came to visit King Herod. They wanted peace. King Herod provided their country with many things.

The people set aside a day to honor King Herod. King Herod sat on his throne, wearing fine clothing. He made a speech to the people. King Herod sat there, taking all of the honor the people would give him. Of course, he did not give any glory to God.

"It is the voice of a god, not of a man!" the people shouted.

An angel of the Lord struck King Herod immediately after this. He died because of this great fault. His death was tragic. Psalms 34:16 says, "The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth."

The word of God spread and many people believed, despite King Herod's wicked efforts to stop it.

—Monica Murphey



"And upon a set day Herod,
arrayed in royal apparel,
sat upon his throne,..."
Acts 12:21



The Big Silver Dollar

The screen door slammed shut behind Connie and her cousins, as they ran out of the dining hall behind the chapel at Sixth and West Warner in Guthrie. It was Oklahoma camp meeting time and everyone had just finished eating a big lunch. The adults were standing in groups visiting with one another and the children were playing a game of chase before afternoon service started.

While playing by the line of elm trees on the west side of the chapel, Connie saw an elder man slowly walking toward the chapel. Connie stopped running as he came closer, because she remembered her mother saying not to run around older people. They could be easily knocked over by a clumsy child running too fast. Daddy said if Connie or any of his children ever bumped into an elder person and hurt them, he would punish that child.

Connie was taught not to push and shove through a crowd, but to politely say, "Excuse me." Then adults and other children would give her room to pass by. "Good manners will always please people and make a pleasant friendship with others," she was told.

As the elder man came closer, he called to Connie and her cousins. "Children, do you see all this trash scattered here and there on the ground?" he asked. "If you will pick up all this trash and put it in the trash barrel over there, I will give each of you a silver dollar."

Connie watched as he pulled out a large silver coin from his brown trouser suit pocket. She figured a coin that big would buy a lot of candy.

"Hey, let's start picking up this trash!" she said to her brother, Donnie, and cousins. Instead of tagging one another, the children picked up trash, ran to the trash barrels, and tossed it in. It was a new game with a reward at the end!

They raced each other to see who could get the most trash picked up. Before long the camp ground was tidy. Now the elder man was sitting down on a bench outside the chapel, but he called them to come for their rewards. While he was handing out the silver dollars, Connie's parents joined them.

"Grandpa, these are my children," said Mother to the elder man as she took Connie and Donnie's hands. "This is your great-Grandpa Eck," she said to them.

"Hello, Bertha," replied Great-Grandpa Eck. "So these are Waldo's grandchildren! I'm glad you told me who they are. They just earned a silver dollar for picking up the trash around here."

"I'm glad they were useful," replied Mother. After a few more words they parted for church service. Connie never did find out how much candy that big coin would buy because she never did spend it at a store. She still has that coin in a safety box, and she still remembers the value of putting trash in the trash barrel to keep the campgrounds looking clean and tidy.

QUESTIONS: —Sis. Connie Sorrell

1. Who were rejoicing over Peter's release?
2. Who wanted to see Peter?
3. Who was killed because of Peter's disappearance?
4. Who wanted peace with King Herod?
5. What did the people do to honor King Herod?
6. Whose voice did the people say they heard?
7. What did the angel do to King Herod?
8. Why did King Herod die?

Answers: 1. The believers. 2. King Herod. 3. The prison keepers. 4. The people from Tyre and Sidon. 5. Set a day aside to honor him. 6. A god's. 7. Struck him. 8. He did not give God the glory.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 July 30, 2006

THE UNBELIEVING MAGICIAN

Barnabas and Simeon were among the prophets and teachers who attended the church in Antioch. Several ministers of the church were praying and fasting when the Holy Ghost gave them some instructions. "Set Barnabas and Paul apart for my work," the Holy Ghost told them.

The others laid their hands on them and fasted and prayed for them. Then Barnabas and Paul were sent away. They sailed on a ship to the city of Cyprus. When they reached Salamis, they preached the word of God in the temples of the Jews. John was with them.

They visited more cities, coming to one called Paphos where an evil magician lived. The magician was a false prophet named Barjesus. He was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus. Sergius Paulus was a wise man who had some political power in the country. He called for Barnabas and Paul, wanting to hear the word of God.

Barjesus, the magician, did not want the deputy to believe in God. He did everything he could think of to turn Sergius Paulus away from the faith.

"You are full of mischief, child of the devil, enemy of righteousness, will you stop trying to make the Lord's righteousness look evil?" Paul asked Barjesus. "The hand of the Lord is on you. You will be blind and will not see the sun for a season."

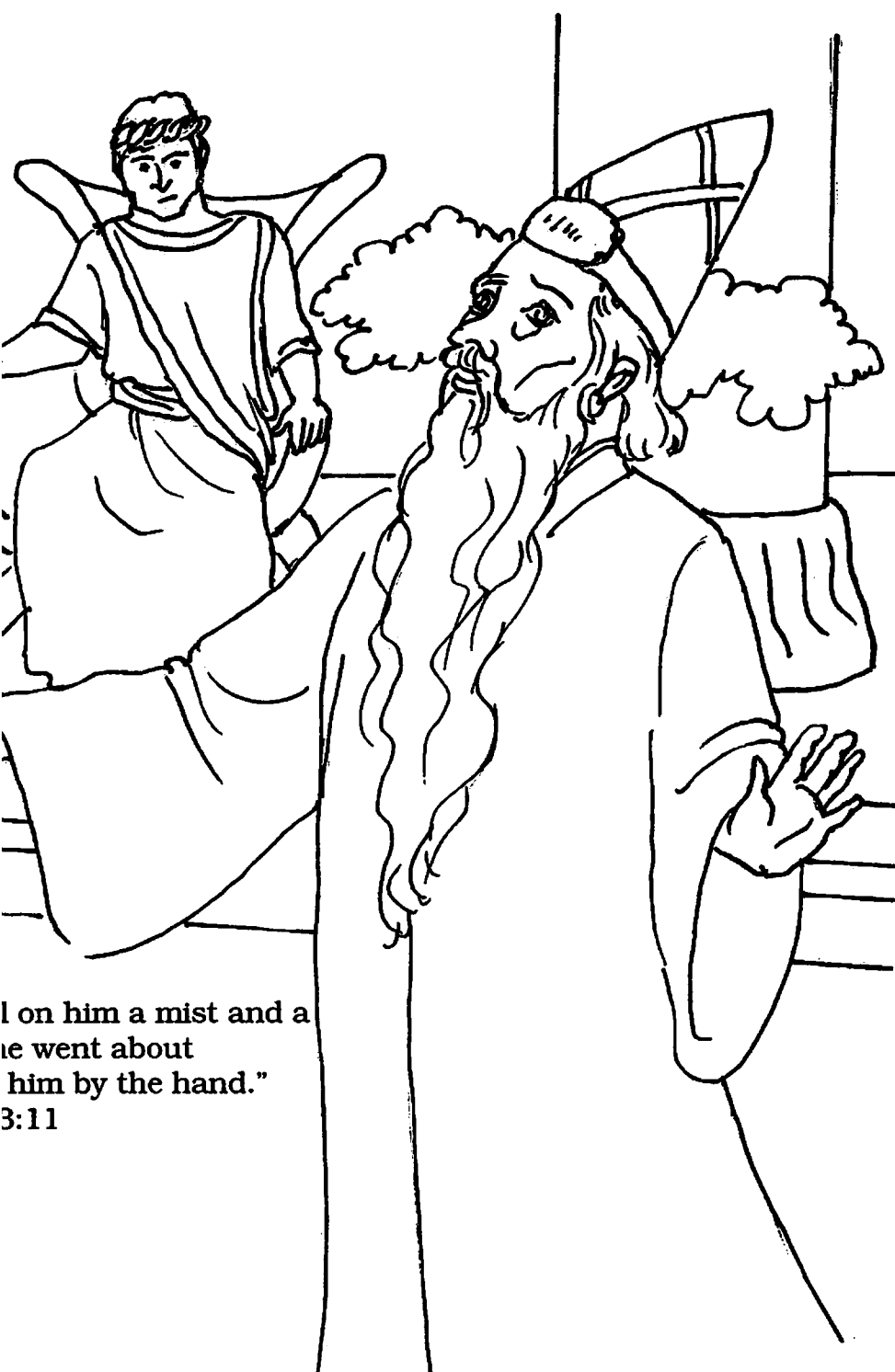
After Paul said these things, a darkness fell over the magician. He had to have someone lead him out by the hand.

Sergius Paulus saw these things and believed in the word of the Lord.

—Monica Murphey



“...immediately there
darkness; and
seeking some to lead
Acts



l on him a mist and a
e went about
him by the hand."
3:11

Be Help, Not Problem

Friday morning, March 13th, Connie woke up to find that her mother and daddy were gone. A cousin had come to stay with Connie, Don, and Lonnie while a new baby was being born.

"Come and help me get breakfast ready," said Kathy, their cousin. "What do you like to eat?"

"We like pancakes and chocolate syrup," replied Connie in a grown-up voice.

Kathy wrinkled her nose. "I've never heard of chocolate syrup on pancakes!" she exclaimed.

"Oh, we eat that almost every morning," said Connie. "Do you want me to fix it?"

"I don't know," said Kathy with a slight frown. "You're not tall enough to reach the cabinet top. Why don't we just have a bowl of cereal?" She put out a box of Post Toasties while Connie and Don whispered.

"We don't like Post Toasties," said Connie, as Don shook his head. "We will just have some toast."

Lonnie began to cry from his bed so they all raced to his bedside. "Good morning," said Kathy as she stooped to pick him up. Connie saw a startled look on Lonnie's face because he did not know Kathy.

"He wants his big sister," she said reaching for him.

"No, I will change his diaper," said Kathy. "You need to go get dressed."

Connie decided to let Kathy care for Lonnie because she did not know how to change a diaper. Connie took Don to their bedroom closet. She helped Don choose a shirt and pair of pants. Then after he left the room, she chose a winter corduroy jumper and put it on without a blouse.

When Connie walked into the kitchen, Kathy had Lonnie in the high chair and Don at the table eating Post Toasties. Kathy looked at Connie and shook her head.

"Where is your blouse, Connie?" she asked.

"Oh, I don't need one," replied Connie.

Kathy sighed. "Now, Connie, I know your mother would not let you go without sleeves. She wants you to dress modest; besides the jumper looks silly without a blouse."

Connie looked down at her jumper and held out her bare arms. It did feel funny to not be fully dressed. She went back to her closet and got out a blouse to put on.

About that time the telephone rang. When Connie came back into the kitchen, Kathy was on the phone. "Do you want to talk to Connie?" she asked. She handed the phone to Connie.

"Hello," said Daddy's voice. "You now have a sweet baby sister! I'll come and get you and the boys to see her and Mama after awhile. Right now, I want you to be kind and obey Kathy. We are counting on you to be good."

"Okay, Daddy!" agreed Connie. After she put down the phone, she sat down by Don and ate a bowl of cereal. She decided to help Kathy do things right because she did not want to teach her brothers to be bad and her new sister soon would be watching.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were to be set apart for work?
2. Where did they preach in Salamis?
3. Who lived in Paphos?
4. Who was the magician with?
5. What did Barjesus try to do?
6. What did Paul say would happen to Barjesus?
7. Did Paul's words come true?
8. Who believed after seeing these things?

(Answers: 1. Barnabas and Paul. 2. In temples. 3. A false prophet named Barjesus. 4. The deputy, Sergius Paulus. 5. Turn the deputy from faith. 6. He would become blind. 7. Yes. 8. Sergius Paulus)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 August 6, 2006

PERSECUTED, BUT NOT FORSAKEN

Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch and attended the Jewish synagogue one sabbath day. The prophets and rulers read the law to the people. "Men and brothers, if any of you have a word to say to the people, say it now," they said.

Paul stood and preached the word of God to the unbelieving Jews. He told of the miracles God had performed for the Jews down through history. He spoke of their exit from Egypt, of David's reign over Israel, and of God's promise to give Israel a Savior through David's lineage. He spoke of Jesus' victory over death and of the many that saw him afterward. "Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins," Paul informed them. "By him all that believe are saved from all things."

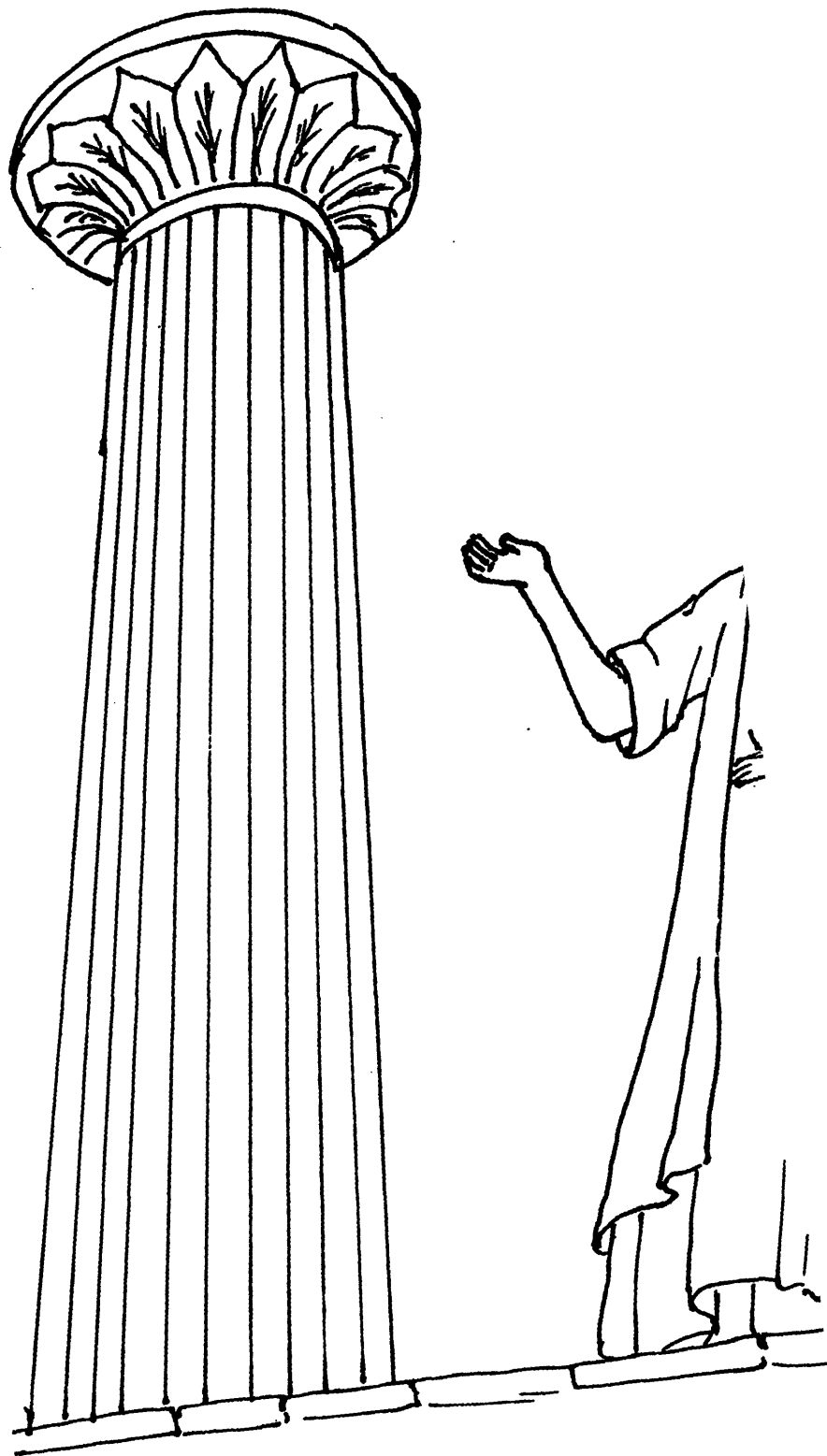
When the Jews had left the synagogue, the Gentiles asked Paul to preach the gospel to them again the next sabbath. The Jewish congregation was broken up. Several of the Jews questioned Paul and Barnabas and were persuaded to continue in the grace of God.

Almost everyone in the city was there on the next sabbath day to hear Paul preach the gospel. The Jews saw the crowd and were jealous. They spoke against Paul. "God's word was told to you first," Paul told the Jews. "But since you have put it away, we are now preaching it to the Gentiles."

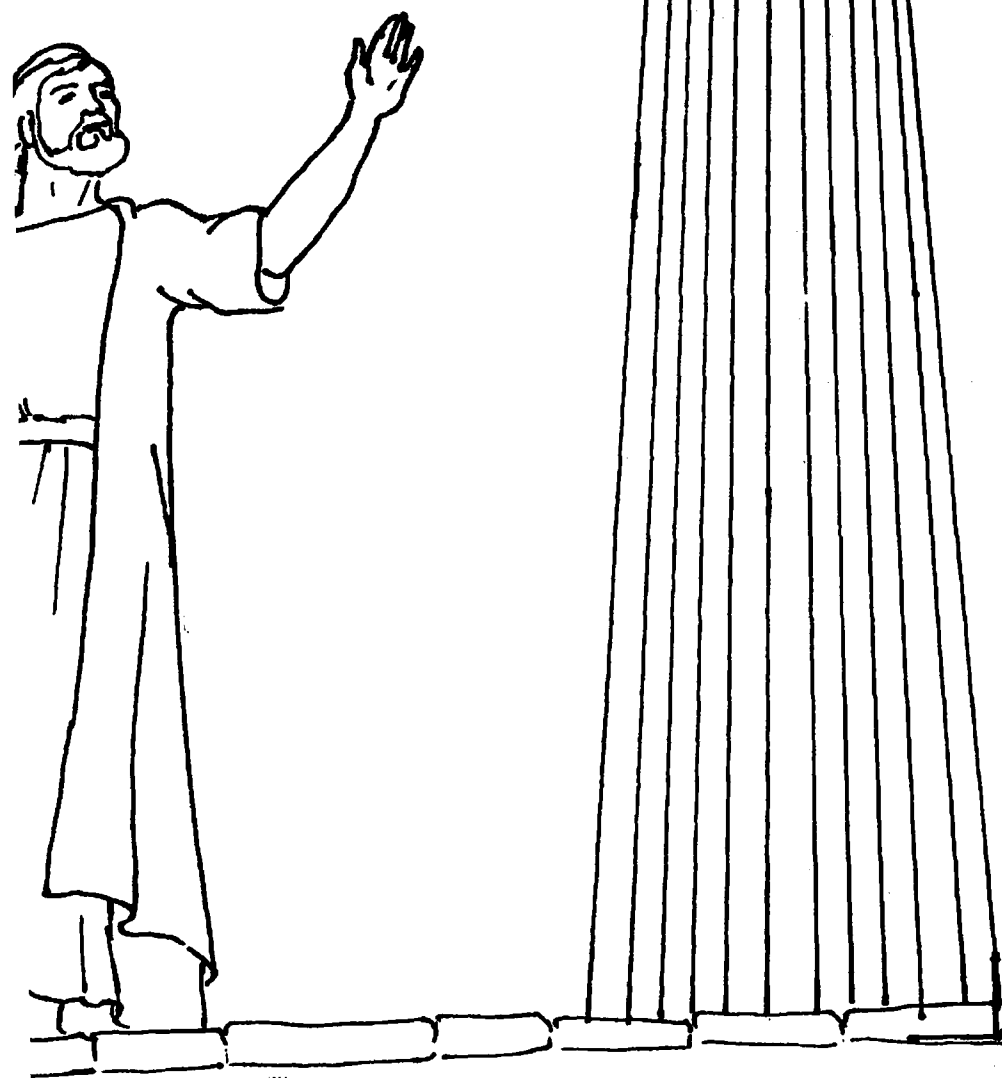
When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad. They praised God.

The Jews continued to stir up trouble for Paul. They turned several people in leadership positions against Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas were told to leave. They shook the dust from the city off of their feet and went on to another city. The disciples were full of joy and of the Holy Ghost.

—Monica Murphey



"Then Paul stood up, and...said,
Men of Israel,...give audience."
Acts 13:16



I Have Something New

Knock. Knock. Knock. Connie stood at Vickie's front door anxiously waiting to tell her friend something important.

Mrs. Moore opened the door. "Hello, Connie, how are you today?"

"I'm fine, thank you," replied Connie. "Is Vickie home?"

"No, she is with her sister right now, but she should be home before too long. They just went to town for something."

"Could I wait on the porch?" asked Connie. "I really want to tell Vickie something."

Mrs. Moore smiled. "You can come inside, if you would like?"

"No, that's okay," replied Connie. She sat down on the porch step and listened to happy birds singing in the nearby tree. Suddenly she saw a big black beetle crawling across the porch, right toward her. Connie looked down at her bare feet. No, she did not want to step on it bare footed. What could she use to squish that ugly thing anyway? She looked for a rock and found one the right size just in time to smash that creepy beetle bug before it got to her. She took a stick and flicked the bug under the tree.

"Hey, little birdies, there's some supper for you!" she called. She was still watching to see if any bird would snatch that beetle when Vickie and Rodena drove up.

Vickie hopped out of the car and ran to Connie.

"Hello!" they said to each other. Then they both wanted to talk at the same time.

"Wait a minute!" said Rodena, laughing. "You girls can't hear what the other one is saying when you are both talking at once. Vickie, let Connie talk first."

"I got a new baby sister!" exclaimed Connie. "Want to come and see her?"

"Yeah, I sure do!" replied Vickie. She looked at her sister. "Do you think Mama would mind if I go to Connie's house for a minute?"

"Go ahead," agreed Rodena. "I will listen to my new Beetle records myself."

"Oh, Connie, that's what I was going to tell you," said Vickie. "Rodena just bought two new Beetle records!"

"Oh," said Connie with a wrinkled nose. She glanced over at the dead beetle laying in the grass. *Singing black beetle bugs?* she thought. *Who trained them to sing?*

"Let's go see your sister, Connie," said Vickie, as she took hold of her hand. "Then you can come back and hear the Beetles!"

At Connie's house, Vickie sat down and held baby Cindy in her arms. In a few minutes, she was ready to go, but Mama did not want Connie to go with Vickie. It was several days before Connie learned that the Beetles were four men with long black hair who sang music Mama did not approve of.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Paul and Barnabas visit?
2. Who stood and preached the word?
3. By whom do we have forgiveness from sins?
4. By whom are we saved from all things?
5. Who was God's word sent to first?
6. Who does Paul say God's word will be preached to now?
7. What were Paul and Barnabas told to do?
8. What did Paul and Barnabas shake from their feet?

Answers: 1. A Jewish synagogue in Antioch. 2. Paul. 3. Jesus. 4. Jesus. 5. The Jews. 6. The Gentiles. 7. Leave the city. 8. The dust from the city.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 August 13, 2006

IS THIS BARNABAS, OR JUPITER?

Paul and Barnabas came to the city of Lystra. They passed a crippled man. The man had not been able to walk since he was born. The man listened closely while Paul was speaking. Paul noticed the poor man and thought, "This man has the faith to be healed."

"Stand upright on your feet," Paul loudly instructed the man.

The man jumped for joy and was able to walk. When the people saw this, they were astonished! They called Barnabas, "Jupiter." Jupiter was the king of the Roman gods. They called Paul, "Mercurius," after the chief speaker. They thought anyone who had the power to heal was divine.

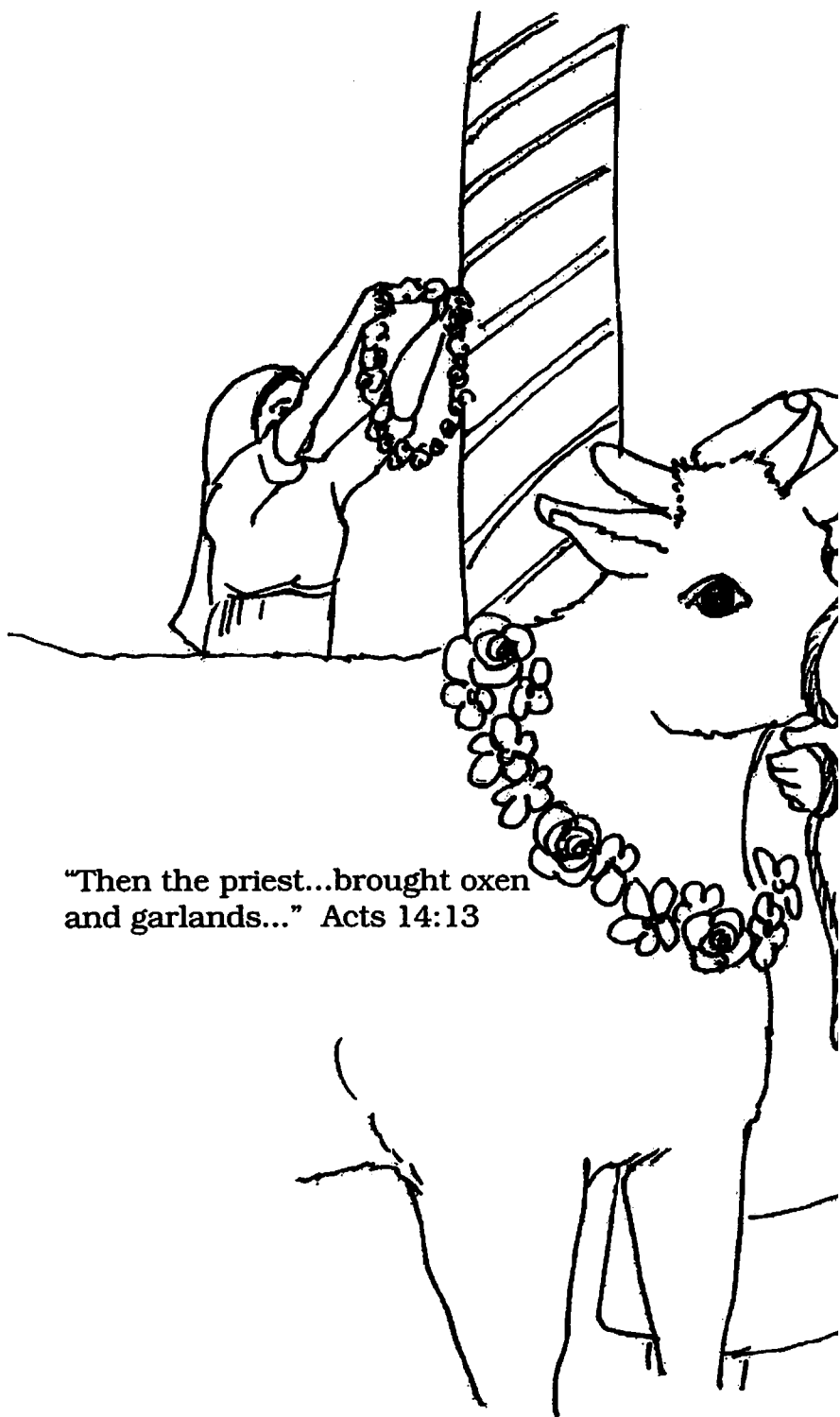
Soon, the priest of Jupiter came, loaded down with garlands of flowers, and fine oxen. These were sacrifices they made to the god Jupiter.

When Barnabas and Paul saw all of this, they tore their clothing and ran in among the people. "Why do you do these things? We are men just as you are. We preach that you should turn from these things to the living God, who made the heavens, the earth and the sea!" Paul and Barnabas cried. These words calmed the people down.

Some Jews that did not like Barnabas and Paul in a city they had been in came and spoke to the crowd. They convinced the crowd that Barnabas and Paul were evil.

Paul was taken outside of the city by the crowd and stoned. Everyone thought Paul was dead. The disciples gathered around him, and Paul stood up! He survived the stoning! The next day, Paul and Barnabas left for a different city.

—Monica Murphey



"Then the priest...brought oxen
and garlands..." Acts 14:13



The Mushroom Stew

In their back yard, Connie and Donnie were each digging in the sand with a shovel, when an elder neighbor called to them from across the alley.

"Hello, children," said Mr. Tinsley. With the help of a cane, he walked across his back yard and looked over his fence at them. "Would you children like to make a little spending money?"

The two children stopped playing and went to the fence to talk business over with Mr. Tinsley. "You see all these mushrooms popping up in my back yard?" he asked, pointing at them with his cane. "I would give you children a nickel a mushroom if you will dig them up and throw them away."

Connie looked at Donnie and together they nodded. "We will ask Mamal" they said, and raced to the house. Mama agreed because she could watch them from her back door.

Connie and Donnie took their shovels and sand buckets and walked around some houses to Mr. Tinsley's back yard. They waved to Mama who was standing in the door way holding baby Cindy with Lonnie by her side. Then they set to work digging up mushrooms.

Counting each one as it went into the bucket, Connie felt richer by the minute. Donnie was getting one every time she did, so they finished together.

Mr. Tinsley was sitting in his lawn chair, ready to pay them.

"Here's your seventy cents, and here is yours," he said. "Thank you, children, for your help. Tell your mama you were good little workers!"

"Thank you, Mr. Tinsley!" said both of them. They left smiling, with money in one hand, and a bucket of mushrooms in the other. As they walked around a few houses to go home, three big neighbor girls saw them.

"Hey, kids," called Janet. "What do you have in your buckets?"

"Mushrooms," replied Connie. She did not like the way these girls stood in front of them.

"Look at these mushrooms," said Teresa, as she took Donnie's bucket. "Big and healthy ones, aren't they?" The girls laughed, then Janet said, "We saw you got some money, too." "That's none of your business!" retorted Connie as she tightened her hand over her money and pulled Donnie to her.

"I'll tell you what, kid," said Janet. "Let's play restaurant. We will make some mushroom stew and charge you a little to eat at our table."

Connie and her brother did not want to play but they had no choice, for the girls would not let them go. They refused to eat the cut up, watered down mushrooms, which saved them a bad tummy ache, but they lost their money.

When they ran home to tell Mama and Daddy, they were crying. Mama cried with them and Daddy went to get their buckets and shovels, and talk with another Dad. Now Connie and Donnie knew why Mama watched them so closely.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What city were Paul and Barnabas in?
2. What was wrong with the poor cripple?
3. Did the man stay a cripple?
4. Who did the crowd think Paul was?
5. Who did the crowd think Barnabas was?
6. Were Paul and Barnabas happy because of this?
7. What did the Jews convince the crowd of?
8. What did the crowd do to Paul?

Answers: 1. Lystra. 2. He couldn't walk. 3. No, he was healed. 4. Mercurius. 5. Jupiter. 6. No. 7. Paul and Barnabas were evil. 8. Stoned Paul.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 August 20, 2006

THE CRY OF THE MACEDONIANS

Paul had passed through many cities preaching the gospel. One night, Paul had a vision. A man from Macedonia stood before him, pleading, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us." After Paul saw the vision, he and Silas went to Macedonia.

Philippi was a large city inside of Macedonia. It was there that Paul and Silas stopped and stayed for awhile. One sabbath day, they went and sat by the river. Paul and Silas ministered to a woman who had gone down to the river.

Another woman named Lydia heard Paul and Silas. Lydia sold purple garments. Her heart was softened to the things of the Lord. She was baptized along with her whole family.

"Come to my house and stay with us," Lydia offered.

When Paul and Silas went to prayer, a girl who had an evil spirit passed them. The girl made money for her masters by telling people's fortunes. She cried, "These men are the servants of God, who show us the way of salvation." The girl kept on doing this for many days. "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her," Paul commanded the evil spirit. The evil spirit left her that very hour.

When the girl's masters saw that she could no longer make money for them, they were very angry. They went to the city leaders. "These Jewish men are stirring up trouble in our city," her masters complained. "They teach us customs that are not lawful for us to obey because we are Romans."

A large crowd came against them. The leaders beat Paul and Silas. Paul and Silas were thrown into prison.

—Monica Murphey



“...a certain woman named Lydia,
a seller of purple,...heard us:...”
Acts 16:14



A Neighborly Visit

David came and sat down on Connie's porch beside her and Donnie. "Why don't you come up the street and play at my house?" he asked.

"Mama doesn't want us to go past our yard," replied Connie.

"Why, you are just as old as I am and I can go anywhere I want to on these two blocks," replied David.

"Do you play with those mean big girls?" asked Donnie. "They stole all our money the other day."

"Why didn't you beat them up?" demanded David.

"I tried to," replied Connie. "We dumped over the mushroom stew they tried to make us eat, but we decided to run away from them instead of fight."

David frowned and flexed his five-year-old muscles. "I will help you take care of them," he said.

"No, that's okay," said Donnie. "God's going to do that for us. We prayed that they would feel bad about keeping our money and give it back to us. We should be getting it back any day now."

"I don't know about that," said Connie. "Almost all the big boys and girls on this block are mean. I think they listen to the devil more than to God. Even their big black dog acts naughty. He tried to get a sandwich out of my hand and he bit my nose while I was taking a bite!"

David looked at Connie seriously. "Sammy didn't bite it off because you still have a nose."

Connie rubbed her nose. "It still hurts, David, and it isn't funny."

"Can you go down the street?" asked David.

"I don't know," said Connie.

"Mama didn't say anything about going down the street. There is only Bread and Smarty who live down the street, anyway."

David frowned. "Who is Bread and Smarty?"

"Oh, they're two brothers who aren't really big, yet, but they think they are. Bread is sorta chubby and he is always eating something. Smarty tells Donnie and me to get lost and he acts rude all the time."

While Connie was talking, Mama had come out on the porch with the two babies. "Hello, David," she said. "I think Connie is telling you about Brad and Marty, who live two doors down from us. You need to be careful about calling someone the wrong name, Connie. That can cause them to be angry at you."

"Okay," said Connie. "I don't say that to them anyway."

"It is better not to call them names anytime," said Mother. "Name calling can cause fussing and fighting."

Then Mother smiled at David. "Have you been spying on any baby birds, lately?" she asked him.

David began talking and Connie had to listen, which was sometimes hard to do.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Who came to Paul in a vision?
2. What did the man ask Paul in his vision?
3. Who heard Paul and Silas talking to a woman?
4. What was wrong with the other girl?
5. What did Paul cast out of the girl?
6. Who was angry at Paul because of this?
7. Who did the girl's masters go to?
8. Where were Paul and Silas thrown?

Answers: 1. A man from Macedonia. 2. "Come and help us." 3. Lydia. 4. She had an evil spirit. 5. The evil spirit. 6. The girl's masters. 7. The city leaders. 8. Into prison.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 August 27, 2006

A SONG IN THE NIGHT

Paul and Silas had been beaten and cast into prison. Their feet were secured by heavy stocks. At midnight, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God. Paul and Silas had the sweet assurance that Christ had control of their lives. The other prisoners could hear them as they worshipped.

Suddenly, the earth began to shake. The foundation of the prison was loosened and all of the doors came open. The chains fell off of the prisoners' hands and feet.

The prison keeper woke up to find the doors of the prison hanging open. He was sure that all of the prisoners had escaped. If they had, he would be in big trouble. He pulled out his sword and was going to kill himself when he heard a loud voice.

"Do not hurt yourself. We are all here," the voice said. The voice was Paul! None of the prisoners were gone!

"Bring a light," the prison keeper called. He tremblingly entered the prison, falling before Paul and Silas.

"Sirs, what do I need to do to be saved?" the prison keeper asked.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you and your household will be saved," they replied.

Paul and Silas preached the word of God to the prison keeper. The prison keeper washed Paul and Silas' wounds they had gotten as a result of their beatings. That night, the prison keeper and his family were baptized. The next day, word came to the prison keeper that he was to let Paul and Silas go. They were told to leave the city.

—Monica Murphey

“...there was a great
earthquake,...all the doors
were opened,...”
Acts 16:26





Let's All Go to the Park

"Mama, where are you?" called Connie, as she came into their house on Oak Street. Mama was in the bedroom taking care of the two babies.

"What do you need, Connie?" she asked.

"All the big girls and boys are going to the Lions Park to play and so is Vickie! Can Donnie and me go, too?" When Mama waited a minute to answer, Connie added, "PLE-E-EASE!"

"Not by yourselves," replied Mama. "Daddy will be home from work before too long. After we eat supper, we can go together."

"How long will that be?" sighed Connie. "Vickie and everybody are going right now!"

"It won't be too long," said Mama. "I just know you need to wait until Daddy and I can take you. Come, let's finish supper." Mama led the way to the kitchen. She asked Donnie to watch the two babies while Connie set the table. They all were happy to see Daddy walk into the kitchen.

Soon they were sitting around the table ready to pray. Cindy bounced and cooed in her seat and Lonnie patted his hand on his high chair tray. Connie and Donnie sat on booster seats in chairs. Mama and Daddy smiled at each other. "Let's pray to Jesus," said Mama. They bowed their heads and Daddy prayed.

During the meal, Mama told Daddy about Connie's desire to go to Lions Park.

"We can walk to the park after supper," said Daddy. "Help Mama clean up the kitchen so we can go and be back before dark."

The kitchen was cleaned quickly and the family started toward the park. Daddy put Lonnie on his shoulders, and Cindy rode in a stroller. Connie and Donnie skipped along beside their parents.

Quite a few neighbor children were playing at the park. Connie leaned against her Daddy. She was glad that her parents were with them. Big boys were playing basketball and shouting at each other. Big girls were talking and swinging on the swing set. Vickie was playing with children her size at the monkey bars.

"Let's go play with Vickie," Connie said to Donnie. They ran to the monkey bars and soon were laughing with the other children. Daddy joined the basketball game and Mama put the two little ones in seat swings.

When the sun began to sink behind the trees, Daddy said it was time to go back home. The big boys called out to Daddy, "Thanks for playing ball with us, Mr. Miles."

"Yeah, you sure do play good, Mr. Miles."

Connie took hold of her Daddy's hand and leaned closely to him. Those big boys and girls looked much friendlier when she was with her father. Somehow she just knew it would not have been as safe without her parents with them.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where were Paul and Silas?
2. What did Paul and Silas do at midnight?
3. Who heard Paul and Silas worship?
4. What happened to the doors?
5. What was the prison keeper about to do?
6. Had the prisoners left?
7. What did the prison keeper ask them?
8. Who was baptized that night?

Answers: 1. In prison. 2. Sang and prayed. 3. The other prisoners. 4. They opened because of the earthquake. 5. Kill himself. 6. No. 7. "How can I be saved?" 8. The prison keeper.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Sept. 3, 2006

"NO OTHER GODS"

Paul's heart was very sad. He was in Athens, waiting for the arrival of Silas and Timotheus. The things Paul saw going on in Athens made his heart heavy. The city was full of idols and many people worshipped them.

Paul pleaded with the Jews in the synagogue. He spoke to the religious people he saw daily in the market place.

There were certain philosophers who heard Paul speaking. A philosopher prides himself on his high education and his ways of thinking. "What is this person talking about?" they asked. "He seems to be talking about a strange God," someone answered. Paul actually had preached about Jesus and His resurrection.

They took Paul to one of their leaders. "What is this new doctrine that you are talking about?" they asked. In Athens, there is a hill called Mars Hill, around which much of the idol worship is centered. This is where Paul was when he was asked this question.

"I saw an idol named, 'the unknown god,' Paul said. "You worship ignorantly. God made the world. He is Lord. He does not stay in temples made with hands. He is not worshipped with man's hands. He gives life and breath to all things. If you seek the Lord, you will find Him. In Him we live, and move, and have our being. We are His offspring. The Godhead is not gold or silver or graven stone. Repent; for He has appointed a day when the world will be judged by His righteousness."

Some made fun of Paul for his words. Others said, "We will hear more of this later." Several people heard Paul's words and believed.

—Monica Murphey



“...I found an altar with this inscription,
TO THE UNKNOWN GOD....” Acts 17:23



The Kick-the-Can Lesson

One Saturday night after supper, Connie went outside to see what was going on. Up the street the big boys and girls were playing a game of kick-the-can. Connie sat down on the curb in front of her house and watched the game.

The one who was IT stood by a tin can sitting in the middle of the street. While this person counted to fifty, all the other players ran and hid. When the counting was done, the IT person started looking for the others while guarding the can. When the IT person saw someone, he would call their name and they had to help him find the others. If one of the hiders kicked the can before being found and having his name called, then the kicker would holler, "All-ye! All-ye in free!" Then all the hiders would come out to the can and the game would start over again. The IT person was the first one found.

Donnie came and sat by Connie on the curb.

"That game looks like a lot of fun," said Donnie, "but Mama said we can't leave the yard."

"Yeah, but we don't want to play," said Connie. "I'm sick and tired of them being so mean to us." She sat with her brother for just a little while longer, then she told him she had a funny idea. She whispered it in Donnie's ear.

"No, Connie, you had better not," said Donnie. "They will be mad at you!"

"Well, they have never given us our money back," said Connie. "And I don't like the way they treat us."

"Yeah, but we are still praying about that," said Donnie. "You had better ask Mama or Daddy before you do anything."

Connie shrugged her shoulders. She wasn't going to ask because they

would tell her not to, and she wanted to do something to those naughty big girls.

So while Janet was IT and looking for the others, Connie took off running and she kicked that can really hard.

"All-ye! All-ye in free!" she called, then ran like crazy back to her house. She barely reached her front porch before Janet could catch her.

Connie dashed into her house panting and laughing. "Connie, why are you so out of breath?" asked Mama. "Where have you been running?"

"I kicked their can!" declared Connie. "It made Janet really mad, but she is so mean anyway."

"Connie!" said Mama sternly. "I told you not to leave the yard. You have only made things worse. What have I told you about trying to make others do right? Repeat with me: *You cannot force other children to be good, but you must be good yourself.*"

Connie repeated this rule with her mother, but she learned the hard way that what she had done was wrong. Now more than ever it was important for her to stay in the yard.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was Paul sad?
2. Who did Paul plead to?
3. What did Paul preach about?
4. Where did the philosophers take Paul?
5. What was the name of an idol Paul saw?
6. Who made the world?
7. Whose offspring are we?
8. "The Godhead is not_____."

(Answers: 1. Because of the idol worship. 2. The religious leaders. 3. Jesus and His resurrection. 4. Mars Hill. 5. The unknown god. 6. God. 7. God's. 8. Gold or silver or graven stone.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Sept. 10, 2006

CONFLICT WITH THE JEWS

Paul left Athens and came to Corinth. He had friends here. Paul enjoyed staying with these friends, because Priscilla and Aquila had the same job that he had. They were also tent makers.

Every sabbath, he spoke with the ones who visited the synagogue. Many people were persuaded to believe. Silas and Timotheus joined Paul. Paul was impressed by the Holy Spirit to tell the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. This made the Jews angry. They spoke bitterly to Paul, denying what he said. "Let your blood be on your own head," Paul told them. "I will preach to the Gentiles."

Paul left and came to a house owned by a man named Justus. He believed and worshipped God. Several others gathered here and listened to Paul preach. Many believed and were baptized.

One night, Paul had a vision. The Lord spoke to him. "Do not be afraid to speak," the Lord told Paul. "I am with you, and no man will hurt you. There are many of my people in the city." Paul was comforted by this.

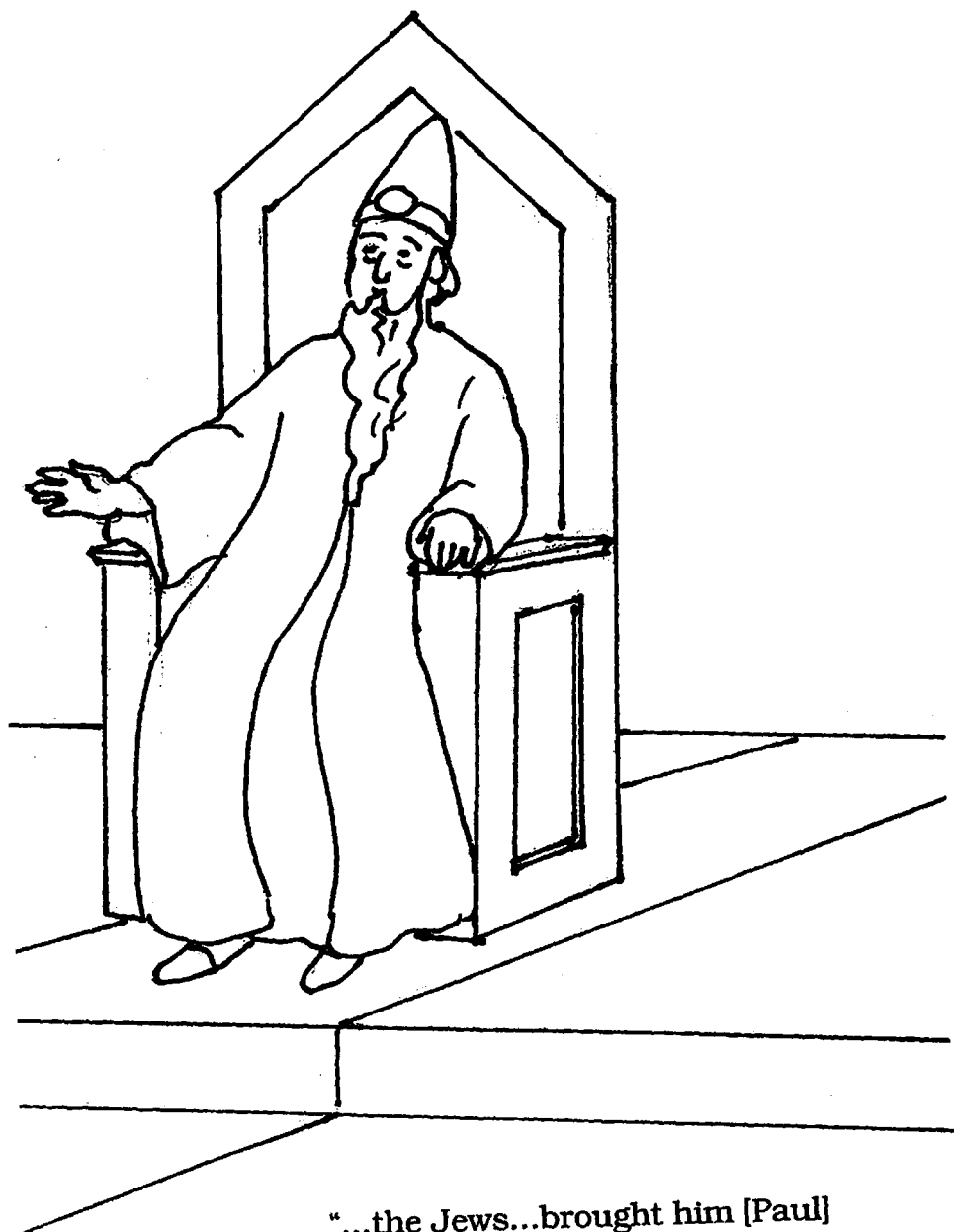
The Jews had angry feelings toward Paul. A mob of Jews got Paul and took him to the city's deputy, Gallio. "This man is persuading men to worship God. This goes against our laws," the Jews complained.

"If this were a matter of wrong doing, or wickedness, I would listen to your words," Gallio responded. "If it is only a question of your law, then you take care of it." Gallio ushered them all away. Gallio did not care about Jewish problems. Gallio did nothing in response when a Jewish religious leader was taken from the synagogue and beaten.

Paul stayed in the city with his friends for a year and a half before he returned to Ephesus. He preached the gospel and followed the Lord's command he had received in the vision.

—Monica Murphey





“...the Jews...brought him [Paul]
to the judgment seat,...”
Acts 18:12

Saved by the Meter Man

It was a hot afternoon and the air conditioner in the Miles' house on Oak Street had given up the fight to keep the house cool. Mama had the front door open, but the screen door was latched.

Sitting on the couch by the front door, Mama drank from a big glass of ice water as she cradled baby Cindy in her arms. One year old Lonnie was already asleep on a quilt on the floor. Connie and Donnie were supposed to be asleep on another quilt, but they were still wiggling.

"Lay still, children," said Mama. "You make yourselves hot by moving so much."

Connie tried really hard to obey. It seemed to her that it was harder work to be still for a nap than to play a game of chase.

"Can I have a drink of your water?" asked Connie. "I am so thirsty and hot."

Mama sighed, because she had just given Connie a drink a minute ago. "Okay, come and get another sip," she agreed.

Of course Donnie wanted one, too. They had just taken another sip when Connie saw something black curve over the front door threshold and slide behind the couch.

"Mama! Look! There's a black snake coming in the house!" exclaimed Connie.

Mama was already tired of Connie trying to get out of a nap. "One more trick, young lady, and I will give you a good spanking. Now you go lie down and don't bother your brother anymore!"

"But, Mama, that snake could bite me!" pleaded Connie. However, Mama was not to be pushed any further with nap delays. So Connie laid down, but this time on her stomach, looking under the couch.

Suddenly, she screamed and jumped up. "Mama, there really is a snake under the couch! Get up quick!" Seeing the panic on Connie's face, Mama got up to humor her daughter's imagination. She laid Cindy on the couch and looked behind it. Then Mama hollered and moved out the couch. Sliding along the wall was a fat black snake.

"Go outside quick," Mama said to Connie and Donnie. "Look for a big rock or stick, quick!" Then she began to pray. Connie and Donnie raced outside and looked under their big tree for a stick.

"Hello, children!" called a friendly voice as the meter man came walking toward their water meter cover, his meter stick in hand.

"Hi, meter man!" said Connie. "We have a big black snake in our house and we are looking for a stick like yours to kill it with."

About that time, Mama saw the meter man and called for his help. He gladly came and in a short time had the snake outside and killed.

That afternoon, Connie and Donnie did not have to take a nap, but calling "snake" during nap time never did scare Mama again. She said snakes don't make a habit of stopping children from a nap.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What city was Paul visiting?
2. Who did Paul stay with?
3. What was Paul's job?
4. What made the Jews angry?
5. What was Paul not to be afraid of?
6. Who did God say would hurt Paul?
7. Who did the Jews take Paul to?
8. How long did Paul stay in Corinth?

(Answers: 1. Corinth. 2. Priscilla and Aquila. 3. He was a tent maker. 4. He said Jesus was Christ. 5. To speak. 6. No man. 7. Gallio. 8. A year and a half.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Sept. 17, 2006

PAUL VISITS EPHESUS

Paul came to Ephesus where certain disciples lived. "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" Paul asked them.

"We have not heard of the Holy Ghost," the disciples replied. "We were baptized by John."

"John baptized with repentance, saying that you should believe on Christ Jesus," Peter said. All of the men wished to be rebaptized in Jesus' name. After their baptism, Paul laid hands on them and the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost. They were able to speak in different languages, and they prophesied about things to come.

For the next two years, Paul preached the gospel. All of the Jews and Greeks of Asia heard the word of the Lord. God used Paul to perform many miracles. People were healed of diseases and evil spirits.

Some of the Jews questioned a man who was possessed by evil spirits. "We ask you through Jesus who Paul preaches about," the Jews informed a man with the evil spirit.

The evil spirit inside of the man answered, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?"

The man jumped on the Jews and fought them. They ran out of the house, humiliated and afraid. This story was told throughout the city. Many people believed in Jesus because of it.

Many people confessed their sins. Some of the ones who confessed used evil arts. They brought their sinful books together and burned them. Altogether, these books would have cost fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Paul felt, in his spirit, that he needed to visit Macedonia, Achaia, Jerusalem and then Rome. He sent Timotheus and Erastus to Macedonia and stayed in Asia for awhile. The word of God spread rapidly in Asia and many believed.

—Monica Murphey



“...they were baptized in the
name of the Lord Jesus.”

Acts 19:5



A Scare in the Garage

On a normal evening after prayer, Mama cleaned the babies and Connie helped. One of her jobs was to put the dirty clothes in the laundry basket, and the wet cloth diapers she would put in the diaper pail out in the garage.

It was already nighttime outside and Connie did not like going into the dark garage when she took the diapers.

"Oh, there's nothing to be afraid of," Daddy told her. "The garage is locked and no one can get inside."

"What if a big snake is by the diaper pail?" asked Connie, remembering the snake the meter man had poked with his stick. "You don't want me to get bit, do you?"

"There isn't any snake in the garage," reassured Daddy. "If you see anything scary in the garage, just call me and I'll take care of it."

"Yeah, don't be such a scaredy cat," said Donnie.

"Well, you go put the diapers in the pail!" retorted Connie.

Donnie shook his head. "I'll come with Daddy when you call us for help."

"Go get those smelly diapers in the pail so we can go to bed," said Daddy. "You're a big girl."

So Connie took off with the dirty clothes and wet diapers. Quietly, she opened the door that led to the garage from the house. She stepped down and walked around the corner to put the dirty clothes in the basket. She was raising up the diaper pail lid when she looked up at the walk-in garage door. Looking in the door window was a big boy's face staring down at her.

Connie screamed wildly, dropped those diapers in the pail, and bumped into Daddy at the garage-house door.

"There was a boy looking at me!" screamed Connie, pointing to the walk-in door. Her dad ran to the door, opened it and saw the boy run around the corner of the neighbor's house. Daddy chased after him but the boy dodged and got away.

Connie was still shaking and crying in Mama's arms when Daddy came back in the house.

"Who do you think it was?" asked Mama.

"I have a pretty good idea," replied Daddy. "I think he was watching the teenage girl next door and when he heard a noise in our garage, he looked in to see what made the noise. We scared him away, big girl. You are okay, right?"

Connie nodded amid her sniffs.

"I will talk to the girl's dad tomorrow and maybe together we can find out who the boy was. Peeking toms don't belong in our neighborhood," said Daddy.

"Maybe we ought to think of moving," said Mama as she held Connie and Donnie close to her. "Our family might be better in a neighborhood with less teenagers."

"We can pray about it," said Daddy.

"Let's not forget that there are angels around us," said Mama. Then she told her children about guardian angels and how they are told to watch over them while they sleep or are in danger. Later they found a picture to put on their bedroom wall. It was the guardian angel watching over a sister and brother walking on a bridge.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Paul ask the disciples if they had received?
2. Who were the disciples baptized by?
3. What did Paul say John baptized by?
4. What happened when Paul laid hands on them?
5. What did God use Paul to do?
6. What did the man do to the Jews?
7. What did some of the people burn?
8. How much money did the wicked books cost?

(Answers: 1. The Holy Ghost. 2. John. 3. Repentance. 4. They received the Holy Ghost. 5. Perform miracles and preach the gospel. 6. Jumped on them and fought them. 7. Books about evil arts. 8. Fifty thousand pieces of silver.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 3 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Sept. 24, 2006

The Selfish Silversmith

Demetrius was a silversmith. He made idols for the goddess Diana. Demetrius was worried, because he did not like the fact that Paul convinced so many people to follow Christ. That meant his business suffered. Demetrius called several different craftsmen together for a meeting.

"Sirs, you know we make our money by creating idols. You have seen and heard about Paul persuading people to turn away from gods made with hands. Our jobs are in danger," Demetrius said. "The temple of the great goddess Diana will be hated. Her magnificence will be destroyed."

When the others heard these things, they were full of anger. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," they cried. The whole city was filled with confusion.

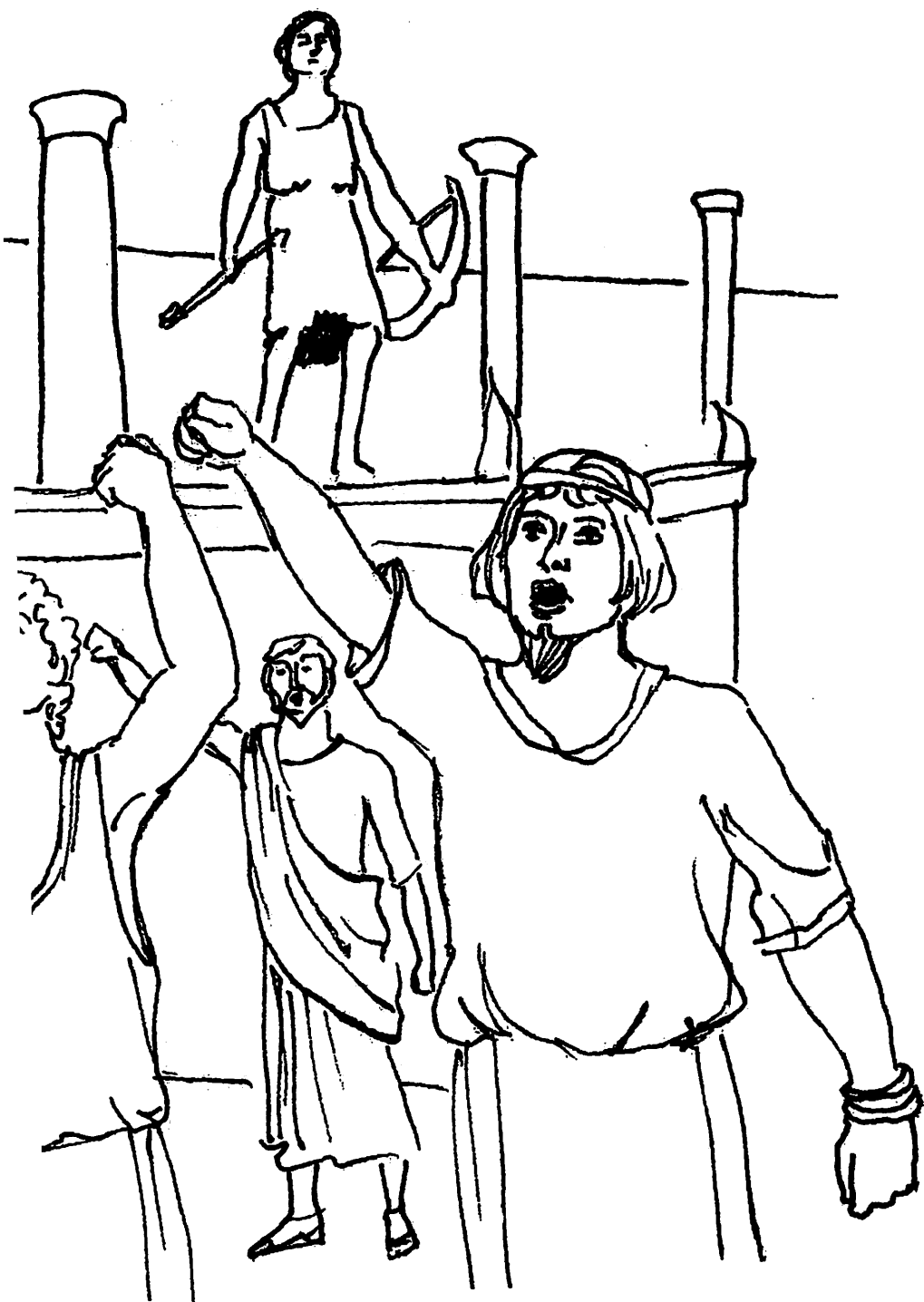
Gaius and Aristarchus were two of Paul's traveling companions. They entered the city and were assaulted by the mob. The crowd rushed into a nearby theater with the men. Several disciples advised Paul not to follow. It was a good thing he did because, inside the theater, the mob was a mass of confusion. Some would cry out one thing and others another. Then they all started chanting, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians."

Finally the townclerk got the people in order. "Men of Ephesus, who is there that does not know how the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana? Since everyone knows this, you ought to be quiet and not act irresponsibly. You have brought these men here. They are not robbers or blasphemers of your goddess," the townclerk said. "If Demetrius and the other craftsmen have a problem with the men, let the deputies take care of it. We need to act within the bounds of the law." The assembly broke up. Shortly after this, Paul departed for Macedonia.

—Monica Murphey

“...saying, Great is Diana
of the Ephesians.”
Acts 19:28





An Important Lesson for Life

Mrs. Moore backed her station wagon out of her driveway and drove down Oak Street. Connie knew she was going to get Vickie from kindergarten.

"I want to go to kindergarten," Connie begged her mother. "I'm just as old as Vickie and she gets to go."

"I know," said Mama, "but I need you here. You are learning how to take care of a baby and a toddler."

Connie frowned. "That's not like learning ABC's and counting numbers. Vickie said they sing songs and eat snacks all morning long in kindergarten."

"Well, Connie, it is time you learn an important lesson in life," said Mama. "You will not always go and do like your friends. Remember that *they that measure themselves among themselves and compare themselves among themselves are not wise.*"

"So?" asked Connie. That scripture did not say anything about kindergarten to her.

"That scripture means you should not be and do just like someone else," explained Mama. "Sometimes you will get to go some place where Vickie won't go, and sometimes she will go some where you won't, but that is okay. You cannot be just like someone else, but you will be yourself."

"Oh, so where do I get to go while Vickie is in kindergarten?"

"I have been teaching you quite a bit right here in the mornings. Grandma Miles takes you with her to the print shop and she has been teaching you things there. I think you will be ready for first grade next year."

"Next year?" exclaimed Connie. "All the children will be bigger by then."

"And you will be, too," said Mama with a smile. "Now you and Donnie go in the back yard and play. I will need your help when the babies wake up."

Later Vickie came to play with Connie and Donnie in their back yard and then Grandma Miles came to visit. The children always loved Grandma's

visits. They sat on the front porch and talked.

"Tomorrow," said Grandma to Connie and her brother, "you children be ready by 9:00 and I will come and get you. You can spend the day at my house."

"Yeah!" they shouted. "We will be ready!"

"May I come, too?" asked Vickie.

"You have to go to kindergarten," said Connie.

"Oh, that's right," replied Vickie.

"But it wouldn't hurt if I missed one day."

Vickie would rather go to my Grandma's than to go to kindergarten, thought Connie. She must not be having THAT much fun in kindergarten.

"Maybe someday you can go with us," said Grandma to Vickie. "But we would need to make plans with your mother ahead of time. Right now, let me tell you a story."

"Yeah!" the children cheered. On the porch step the three children scooted closer to Grandma so they would hear every word. Daddy had Lonnie on his lap, and Mama held baby Cindy. A cool evening breeze relaxed the family as they listened to one of Grandma's good stories.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Scripture: II Cor. 10:12b

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Demetrius' job?
2. What goddess did many people worship?
3. Why was Demetrius worried?
4. What did the people cry?
5. What was the city's reaction?
6. What happened to Paul's companions?
7. Who got the people in order?
8. Where did Paul go?

(Answers: 1. A silversmith. 2. Diana. 3. People were turning away from idols. 4. "Great is Diana!" 5. They were confused. 6. They were assaulted by a mob. 7. The town clerk. 8. Macedonia.)

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 October 1, 2006

A Terrible Fall

Paul called for his disciples. He was about to go on another journey. He hugged the disciples and started out for Macedonia. Paul did a lot of preaching in Macedonia, and when he felt the time was right, he went on into Greece. Several men joined him on his journey back through Macedonia when he left Greece. These men were Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timotheus, Tychicus, and Trophimus. After the Passover celebration, they sailed to Asia and came to the town of Troas.

On the first day of the week, the disciples in Troas usually met to have dinner. This time, Paul was there to preach to them. He was planning to leave the next day. Paul talked until midnight.

There were many lights turned on in the upstairs room where Paul was preaching. All of the disciples were gathered listening to the words of Paul's sermon. A young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window in a room on the third story of the house. It was getting late, and Paul was still preaching. Eutychus was getting tired. All of a sudden, he fell asleep. He fell from his perch on the window with a thud.

Eutychus laid there, looking as if he were dead. Everyone thought Eutychus was dead. When Paul came down from where he was preaching, he embraced the young man.

"Do not be afraid," Paul told the others. "His life is in him."

Paul went up to finish his sermon. He ate and spoke the Lord's messages until day break. After the sun rose, Paul continued on his journey.

The young man was indeed alive! The people were comforted.

—Monica Murphey



“...he sunk down with sleep....”
Acts 20:9.



Visiting Grandma Miles

The next morning Connie was up when Daddy left for work. She went to Donnie's bed and shook him. "Wake up, sleepy-head! We are supposed to go to Grandma's today! Get up!"

Donnie woke up and was just as eager as his sister to dress and be ready. Grandma arrived around 9:00 like she said she would. Mama had just finished feeding Lonnie some cereal. He smiled shyly at Grandma.

"Let me take this one, too," said Grandma to Mama. "Connie can help me take care of him. You need a rest, Honey. Just put his things together in the diaper bag and we will do fine, won't we, Connie?"

Connie smiled and nodded. She liked helping Grandma take care of the babies because sometimes Grandma would ask her what to do. That made her feel important.

Soon all three children and Grandma were in her lime green Rambler buzzing down Oak Street. Grandma liked her car because it was green. Daddy said there wasn't another car like it in all the world and he was glad there wasn't another like it.

From the east side of Guthrie to the west, Grandma drove down College Street. They crossed the railroad tracks, went over a narrow shaky bridge, up and down humps by the furniture factory, and then turned on Ninth Street. That was Grandma's way to her house. Daddy took the longer, smoother road over the viaduct because he said it was better on his car.

Grandma parked her car in the wide driveway by the gray shingle two-story house next to the Faith Publishing House. Then she said, "This morning we are going to help Sis. Meek make lunch for the workers." Connie liked how Grandma would say *WE* are going to *because it made her feel like a partner with Grandma. She carried in the diaper bag and helped Grandma make a play area for Lonnie.*

Connie liked that house because it had four doors and two big porches. Connie could run out one door while Donnie was running in another and that way they could keep a good check on Lonnie playing in the living room. Grandma told them to quit running and slamming the screen doors, so they learned to slow down and shut the doors softly.

They did wash their hands and help Grandma set China, silverware, and glasses of cold ice water on the big dining room table in the long dining room. They set potholders on the table so Grandma and Sis. Meek could put the hot bowls of food on them. Then Grandma gave Connie a hand bell and told her to let Donnie ring it too. Away they ran to the print shop, shaking that bell as hard as they could throughout the print shop.

In a few minutes several workers had washed their hands and were sitting around the table spread with a tasty meal. Everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, bowed their heads. Uncle Lawrence asked the Lord to bless the food and to bless the printed word that they sent out into the world.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What holiday did Paul celebrate?
2. What day of the week did the disciples meet?
3. Where was Eutychus sitting?
4. What happened to Eutychus?
5. What story was Eutychus sitting on?
6. What did everyone think of Eutychus?
7. What did Paul say about Eutychus' life?
8. How long did Paul preach?

Answers: 1. The Passover. 2. The first day of the week. 3. In the window. 4. He fell. 5. The third story. 6. That he was dead. 7. "His life is in him." 8. Until day break.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 October 8, 2006

Paul Is Captured

Paul and James met together to discuss different matters. Some elders of the church were there, also. Paul greeted the men and told them about his preaching to the Gentiles. He told the men about Gentiles' response to his words. The other men present were joyful to learn these things. They praised God for the miracles they were hearing about.

"There are many thousands of Jews that still believe and practice Moses' laws," one elder told Paul. "They think that you teach all of the Jews who live with the Gentiles to ignore the law of Moses. What do we need to do? These Jews will soon hear that you are in the city of Jerusalem."

Almost a week later, Paul went to visit the temple with four other men. Some people saw Paul in the temple. These people were angry with Paul. They were some of the people that thought Paul taught against keeping Moses' laws.

Some men grabbed Paul and cried, "Men of Isreal, this is the man that teaches all men everywhere that the law is wrong. He speaks badly about our people."

The angry men had seen Paul with two Greek men and thought Paul had taken them into the temple. They were upset about that, too.

All of the people in the crowd moved forward and forced Paul out of the temple. Someone shut the temple doors. The crowd wanted to kill Paul.

The captain of a band of soldiers in the city heard about the uproar. He immediately called for his soldiers and centurions. They came upon the scene. Some of the crowd was beating Paul. When they saw the soldiers, they ran. Paul was bound with chains and questioned by the captain.

—Monica Murphey





In Grandma's Office

After eating such a good meal, Connie did feel tired but she helped the teenage girls wash, dry, and put away the dishes. Grandma and Sis. Meek did other things to tidy the kitchen and with so many hands working together, the kitchen was soon clean.

Sis. Meek said she was ready to walk home and take a nap. After she left, Grandma said, "I think it is time for you children to take a nap, also."

Connie sighed. She didn't come to Grandma's just to take a nap. Grandma talked as they followed her to the print shop. "Connie, you watch Lonnie while Donnie and I get two big boxes from the back room. We will put a quilt and pillow in each box and that will be your beds."

Soon they had the box beds fixed up in the corner of Grandma's office. "Now Donnie you lay here," said Grandma. "And, Connie, you will need to lay by Lonnie and help him with his bottle. While you rest, I will read a story to you."

Connie laid down by Lonnie and she listened to Grandma read *Bible* stories. The breeze from the fan, the rhythm of Grandma's voice, the soft pillow, all made Connie drowsy.

The next thing she knew, the telephone rang and Grandma answered. "Yes, the children are doing just fine," she said. "They have been sleeping for over an hour now so I've been able to get some letters written. Have you had a chance to rest, dear?"

Grandma must be talking to Mama, thought Connie. She sat up. "I'm not asleep, Grandma," she said, "I was helping Lonnie with his bottle."

Grandma smiled and nodded at Connie while she talked. Connie rubbed her eyes and looked around the office. Surely there was something she could do while Grandma was too busy to talk with her.

Grandma's desk set in one corner like a big "L". She had books and

papers on it that Connie wasn't supposed to touch. Grandma wrote stories for the Beautiful Way and articles for the Faith and Victory and Bible Lessons. Connie knew what Grandma wrote because on Sunday, Sis. Meek would read Grandma's stories to Connie and her Sunday school class.

Connie looked at Grandma's electric typewriter setting on a little shelf of her desk. She liked to hear the little bell ring every time Grandma moved the arm of the typewriter while she typed. That little typewriter typed funny letters that curved together like a big person's hand writing. Connie couldn't read anything it typed out.

She looked out the window at the big trees that were too tall to climb.

Then she saw the open outside door and remembered that she hadn't been to the candy store that day.

Connie jumped up from her box bed and went to Grandma who was still on the phone. "Grandma, we can't go home yet," she said. "We haven't been to the candy store!"

Grandma smiled and nodded. That meant Connie needed to be patient until she was not talking on the phone. While she waited, Connie looked at the Bible story book.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did some Jews not like Paul?
2. What place did Paul go to visit?
3. What city was Paul staying in?
4. What did the crowd want to do to Paul?
5. Who heard about the uproar?
6. What was happening when the soldiers got there?
7. What did the crowd do when the soldiers came?
8. What happened to Paul?

Answers: 1. They thought he was teaching against the law. 2. The temple. 3. Jerusalem. 4. Kill him. 5. The captain of the soldiers. 6. They were beating Paul. 7. Ran. 8. He was bound & questioned by the captain.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 October 15, 2006

Paul's Testimony

Paul was taken prisoner by the captain of the soldiers after an angry mob forced him out of the temple and began beating him. He had chains binding him together.

"Who is this?" the captain asked the crowd. "What has this man done?"

By this time, the crowd was a confusing mass. Some people in the crowd shouted one thing, and some shouted another. The captain could not figure out what the people were trying to say. "Take this man to the castle," the captain commanded his soldiers.

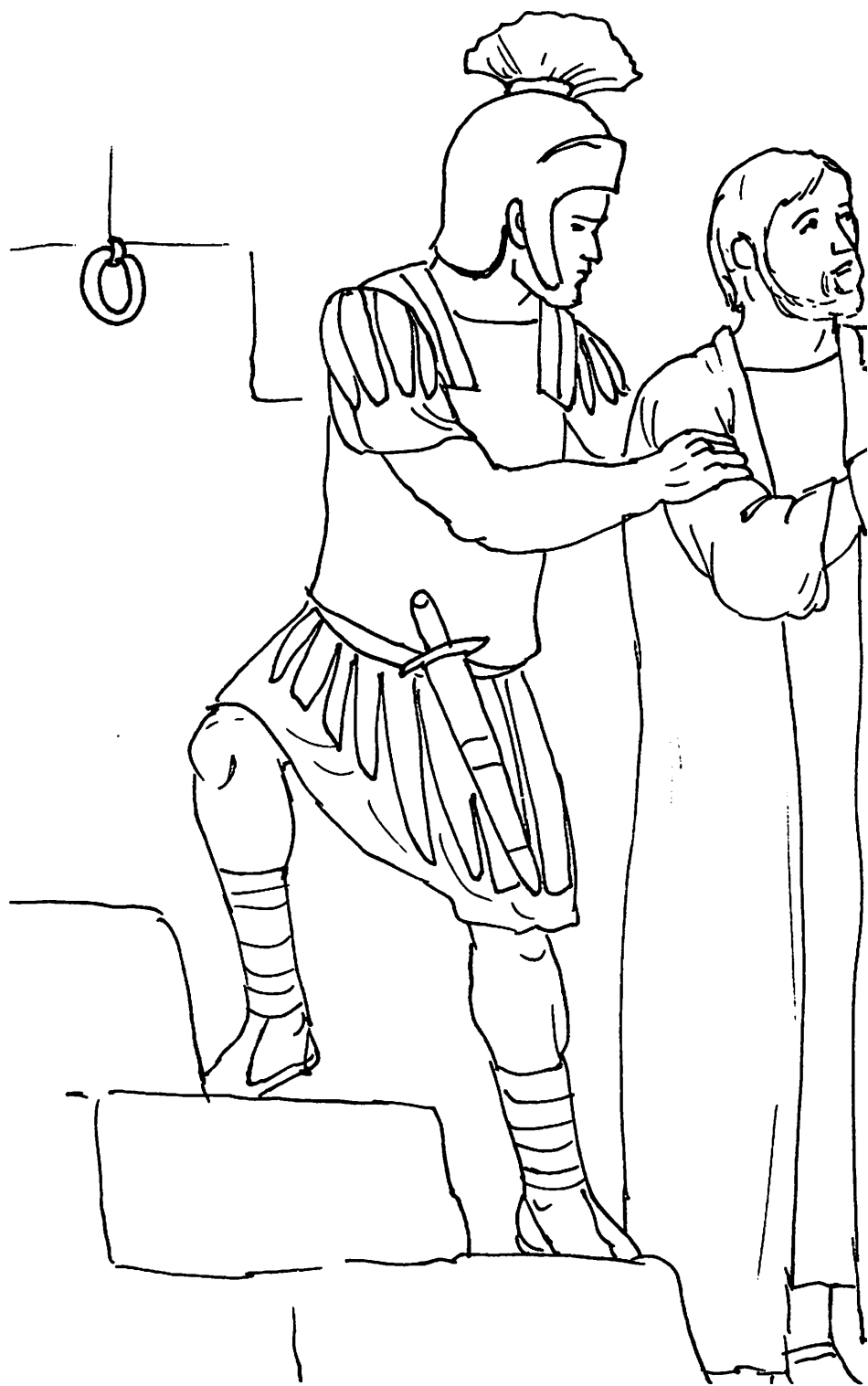
The crowd followed the procession crying, "Away with him!"

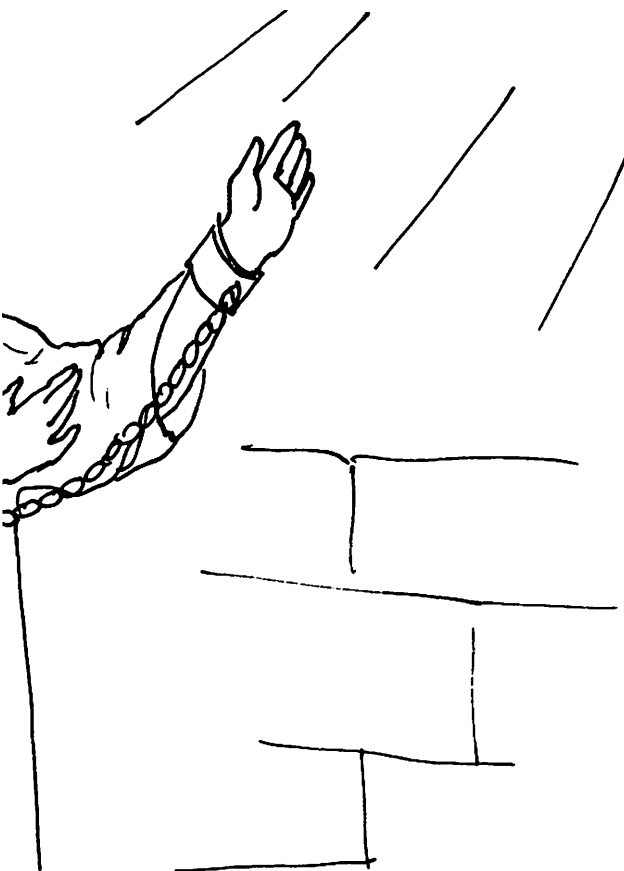
Before Paul started up the steps that lead up to the castle, he asked, "May I say a few words?" The captain agreed. Paul motioned for quiet, and the crowd grew silent, waiting to hear what he had to say.

Paul spoke to the crowd in Hebrew. "I am a Jew from Tarsas," Paul explained. "I sat at the feet of a Jewish teacher and learned the laws of our fathers. I practiced the laws and persecuted people who did not obey the laws. Christian men and women were killed. I took Christians to prison. I was sent to Damascus. I was supposed to bring back any Christians there to Jerusalem for their punishment. I was almost to Damascus when a light from Heaven shone around me. I fell to the ground. A voice asked me why I persecuted him. The voice identified Himself as Jesus of Nazareth and told me to go to Damascus to wait for further instructions."

Paul went on to tell of his blindness and his healing. He told of his calling to preach to the Gentiles. The crowd listened to his words. Then they lifted their voices and cried, "Away with such a person. He is not fit to live." The people took their coats off and threw dirt up in the air. They brought Paul into the castle.

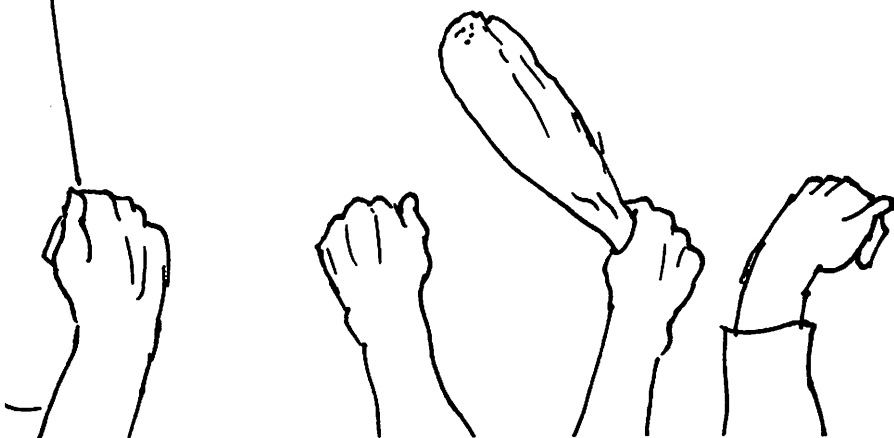
—Monica Murphey





"But Paul said,...I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people."

Acts 21:39.



Cleaning and Candy

After Grandma put up the telephone from talking to Mama, she turned to Connie who was sitting in the bed box looking at a Bible Story book.

"Well, I could use someone to sweep and dust in my office," said Grandma to her. "Do you know a little girl who would like to do that?"

"I will!" exclaimed Connie as she jumped up. "I help Mama clean house so I know I can help you, too!"

"Okay," said Grandma. "Let's get the feather duster, broom and dust pan."

While they were getting things, Donnie woke up and wanted to help. It was always so much more fun cleaning Grandma's office than cleaning their bedroom at home!

Grandma told them what to do and they all kept busy. Donnie swept, Connie dusted, and Grandma showed them how to do it. In this way they earned money to buy candy at the little grocery store two doors down from Grandma's office door.

As Grandma put some coins in their hands, she said, "Now just go to the store and come straight back. Only get enough candy that you have money for. Never take any candy from the store without paying for it first."

"Oh, we won't steal," said Connie quickly. "We will ask that old lady to tell us how much each candy costs."

Holding hands and skipping, Connie and Donnie went two doors down from the print shop to a little

grocery store. The kind elder clerk helped them know how much candy they could buy with how much money they had.

Running back to the print shop, they forgot to shut the screen door softly. Lonnie woke up and Grandma said it was time for them to go home. So they all climbed into Grandma's lime green Rambler and went down Ninth Street to College.

"Grandma," Connie said, "I don't want today to end. Can we live another day just like this one?"

Grandma kept watching the traffic, her hands on the steering wheel, as she said, "If the Lord gives us another day, honey, we will spend time together again."

Oh, boy! thought Connie. *I wish we could tomorrow!*

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What confused the captain?
2. Where were the soldiers taking Paul?
3. What did the crowd want them to do to Paul?
4. What did Paul ask the captain?
5. Where was Paul from?
6. What things did Paul say to the people?
7. What was the crowd's reaction to the words?
8. What did the people throw in the air?

Answers: 1. Different answers coming from different parts of the crowd. 2. To a castle. 3. Kill him. 4. To be able to say a few words. 5. Tarsas. 6. Various answers apply. 7. They were angry. 8. Dirt.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 October 22, 2006

A Courageous Nephew

The chief captain commanded his soldiers to take Paul to the castle for a beating. He thought that if Paul was beaten, it would make him weak enough to confess anything he had done wrong. While the soldiers were preparing Paul for his beating, Paul spoke to one of the centurions nearby.

"Isn't it against the law to beat a Roman citizen who has not been found guilty?" Paul asked him. When the centurion told the chief captain that Paul was a Roman citizen, Paul was released and taken before some of the Jews that had accused him of false teachings.

"I have a good conscience before God," Paul told the Jews. He felt a stinging across his mouth. The high priest had commanded one of the Jews to strike him.

"God will deal with you," Paul proclaimed. "It is against the law for you to hit me."

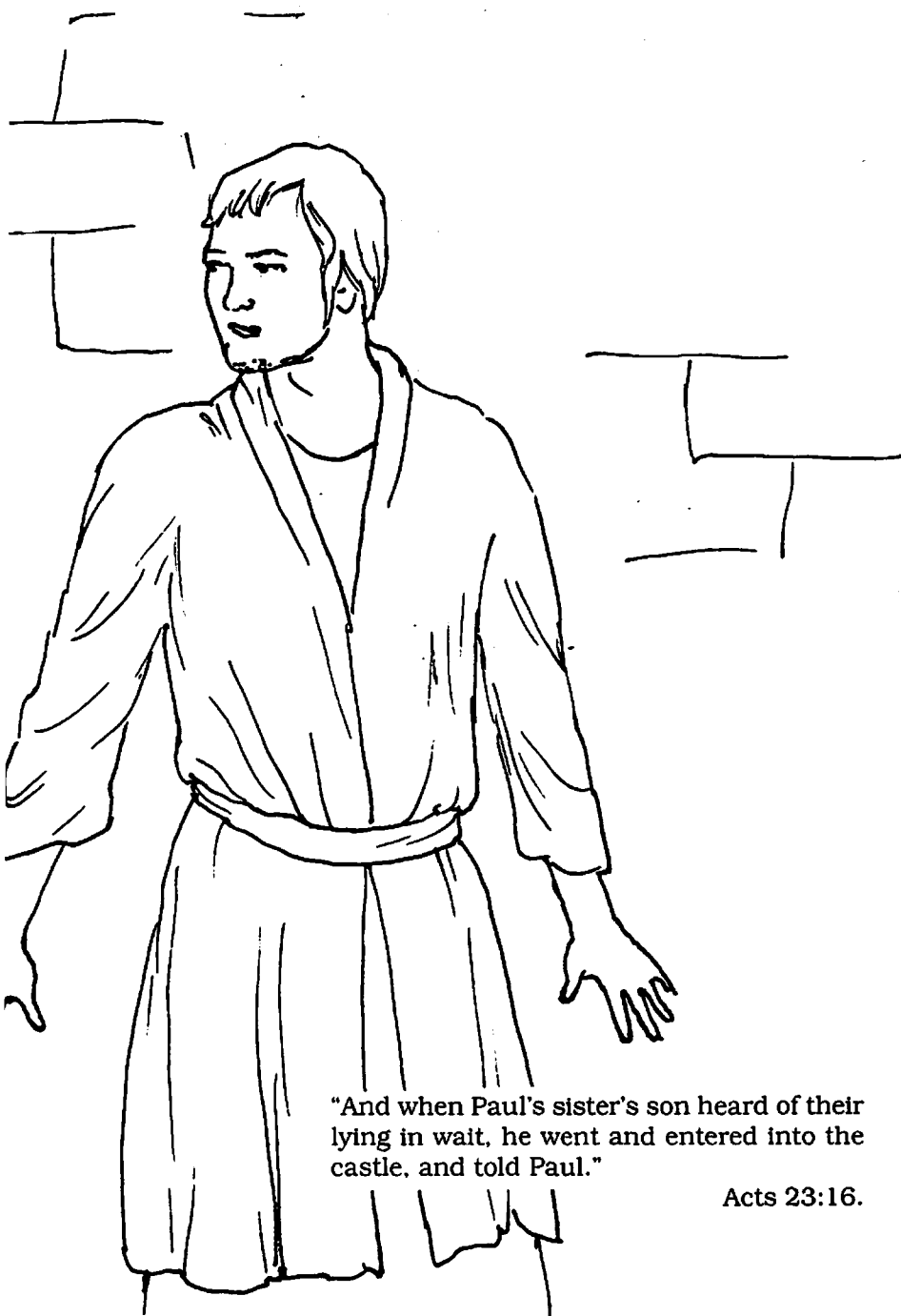
"Are you rebuking the high priest?" they asked Paul. Paul saw that there were some Sadducees and some Pharisees in the group, and he informed them that he was a Pharisee. The Pharisees thought there was no evil in Paul, and that an angel may have spoken to him. The Sadducees did not believe in angels or spirits. The crowd was divided by two different opinions. The chief captain was afraid that Paul would be pulled to pieces by the confused and fighting group of religious leaders.

That night, the Lord appeared to Paul and encouraged Paul to tell his testimony. The next day, over 40 Jews met to conspire against Paul. They decided they would not eat or drink until Paul was killed.

They were going to ask the chief captain to bring Paul over for questioning and then planned to kill Paul. Paul's nephew heard of their evil scheme. He went to the castle and told Paul about it. Paul sent him to tell the chief captain, who listened carefully to his words. The soldiers moved Paul to a safe place.

—Monica Murphey





"And when Paul's sister's son heard of their
lying in wait, he went and entered into the
castle, and told Paul."

Acts 23:16.

Autumn Colors

Connie and Donnie were helping Daddy rake the leaves in their front yard on Oak Street. The pretty leaves of red, yellow, orange and brown made them feel happy and they giggled and talked while they bagged leaves.

"Can we make a pile of leaves to jump in?" Connie asked Daddy. "Some of these leaves feel so soft like bed sheets! I think I could sleep on them!"

"Oh, that would be a change to have you take a nap!" said Daddy. "Let's make you a bed and let you try it out!"

"I want a bed, too!" exclaimed Donnie.

Soon they had two big piles made. They raced each other to the piles, dived in, and buried themselves as far as they could in the sun fresh leaves.

After a while Vickie came across the street to join their laughter and fun. Mama came out and sat on the front porch. She was trying to sew a hem in a dress for Connie but one year old Lonnie kept pulling on the dress and baby Cindy wanted to chew on the wooden spool of thread.

Daddy swooped up a giggling baby in each arm, carried them over to the leaf piles, and dumped them in it. Oh, they had so much fun rolling and crunching in those leaves!

With so much play, they soon were hungry. Mama made some ham sandwiches and lemonade and brought it outside for a picnic under the big oak tree. They sat on the grass, munching on potato chips that made Connie think of yellow leaves.

"I wish the sun would always stay just this cool," said Donnie. "Is God the one who turns the heat up or down?"

"Yes," replied Connie. "And feel this cool air blowing on your face? God also turns on the outside fan when He wants, too."

"Wow!" said Vickie. "My daddy does that in our house, but he can't do it for all the outdoors!"

"Oh, God can do anything!" replied Connie. "He healed us when we were sick with the chicken pox."

"You had the chicken pox and didn't die? I got a shot so I wouldn't have them," replied Vickie.

"See this scar right here?" asked Connie as she pointed to a place by her left eyebrow. "I had a really bad scab right there. I would pick it and it would bleed and"

"That's enough!" said Vickie. "I'm glad I didn't get them!"

"Oh, they weren't so bad," said Donnie with a shrug. "We got to lay around and drink orange juice all day long."

"Well," said Connie. "I don't mind having a scar by my eyebrow. It just shows what God can do!"

Once the sandwiches were gone, the children had some more fun in the colorful leaves God had made for them.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the chief order Paul beaten?
2. Why was it illegal for Paul to be beaten?
3. Who was Paul taken to?
4. What kind of conscience did Paul say he had?
5. What two different kinds of Jews were there?
6. Who encouraged Paul in prison?
7. How many Jews decided to kill Paul?
8. Who heard about the Jews' idea?

Answers: 1. So Paul would confess. 2. He was a Roman & hadn't had a trial. 3. The Jews who accused him. 4. A good one before God. 5. Sadducees and Pharisees. 6. God. 7. 40. 8. Paul's nephew.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 October 29, 2006

Smuggled out of Jerusalem

When the chief captain heard of the Jews plan to kill Paul, he called two centurions to talk with him. Two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen were prepared for the task of taking Paul out of Jerusalem. The chief captain wrote a letter to the governor of Caesarea. The letter explained who Paul was and why he was coming. The governor's name was Felix.

Paul had been in Caesarea for five days when Ananias, the high priest, and several other religious leaders came to visit Felix. One of the visitors was a speaker named Tertullus. He accused Paul of spreading bad ideas to the Jews and causing problems. He said that Paul was the leader of a bad group of people. The Jews listened, agreeing with what Tertullus was telling the governor.

The governor called Paul in to speak with him. Paul told the governor about the angry crowd that found him in the temple at Jerusalem and accused him of doing bad things. Paul told the governor that he had done nothing wrong. He was wrongly accused.

When Felix heard Paul's words, he decided to call the chief captain down to hear his side of the story. Paul was placed under house arrest. He was free to leave the prison, but he had a guard with him at all times and was not allowed to have any visitors.

Paul was able to witness to Felix and his wife. Felix paid attention to Paul and he trembled, but Felix continued to hold Paul under house arrest to make the Jews happy. Felix would have turned Paul loose if someone had offered money for Paul's release. But after two years, Paul was still a prisoner.

—Monica Murphey





“...Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to
Caesarea...”

Acts 23:23.

On the Road to Covington

"Connie and Donnie," said Mama from their bedroom doorway, "come and watch Lonnie and Cindy while I pack the diaper bags and get things ready to go to Grandpa and Grandma Eck's house. Daddy said we must be ready when he gets home from work at 5:00."

"Hurray!" shouted the children. They loved to visit their grandparent's farm by Covington. Quickly, they closed their color book and put away their colors in the box.

Then Connie went to find Lonnie, and Donnie played with Cindy while Mama prepared things to go on the hour and a half ride to her parents' house.

Connie watched as Mama wrapped a gift for Uncle Larry. He was just two years older than Connie but he was Connie's uncle because he was Mama's brother. Often he was teased about being a Halloween spook because his birthday was October 31.

Then Mama packed four big gallon glass jars in a box with dividers. Connie knew they would be filled with good white milk from Grandpa's cows. Mama said Grandpa had the best sweet milk and cream and Connie thought so, too.

Everybody and everything was ready to go when Daddy drove up in the driveway. While he went in the house for a little while, Connie helped Mama pack the car. Donnie helped put the babies in the middle of the back seat. The boys sat behind the driver's seat because that was the boys' side of the car, and Connie had Cindy by her behind Mama's seat. That was the girls' side of the car.

There were three different ways to Grandpa and Grandma's house. Sometimes Daddy took the narrow highway which had the Wildcat curves. Then Connie would look out the car window and see the river and the fields of grain. It helped her tummy not feel the twist of the curves so much.

Mama opened up the *Guthrie Daily Leader* and read the news to Daddy as he drove. Listening from the back seat,

Connie heard who was getting married, who had a new baby, and who had died. Daddy knew a lot of people in Guthrie because he had graduated from Guthrie High School, and so had his mother and her brothers and sisters.

Time passed quickly and soon they were all watching for the red shale road that would lead them to Grandpa and Grandma's two story white house and farm. As soon as Daddy turned his car on to the dirt road, the red mud began to slip up under the car. Daddy groaned at every splat of mud he heard.

"I don't know why the farmers on this road don't get together the money to pave this road," complained Daddy to Mama. "It is so hard to wash off that red clay on my car. If there was another road to go down that was better, I would take it but every one of these roads are red dirt and rutted."

So Daddy would complain about the road while his car went straight a mile and a half to the driveway where they would soon be greeted with hugs and kisses from Grandpa and Grandma, Aunt Lillie, Aunt Ruthie, and Uncle Larry.

Connie had her hand on the door handle, ready to jump out as soon as the car stopped rolling. How wonderful it is to have loving family to share happy times!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the chief captain plan to do?
2. What did the chief captain prepare for the governor?
3. What was the governor's name?
4. Who came to visit Felix?
5. What did they have to say about Paul?
6. Who did Paul get to witness to?
7. Why did Felix continue to hold Paul prisoner?
8. How long was Paul held prisoner?

Answers: 1. Take Paul to a safe place. 2. A letter. 3. Felix. 4. Religious leaders. 5. Bad things. 6. Felix and his wife. 7. To make the Jews happy. 8. Two years.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 November 5, 2006

Paul Before Festus

Paul still had little freedom and was waiting for Felix, the governor of Caesarea, to make a decision in his behalf. After two years of imprisonment, a new governor replaced Felix. His name was Festus.

Festus had only been in his new position for three days when he had a visitor. His visitor was the Jewish high priest, who told Festus of all the grief Paul was causing the Jews. The high priest wanted Festus to send Paul to Jerusalem so they could make plans to kill Paul there. Festus refused the high priest's request and stated that Paul was going to stay in Caesarea. Felix decided to go ahead and take care of the matter.

More than a week later, Paul found himself summoned to see the new governor. Festus was sitting on the judgement seat. The Jews who had accused him stood around the room. They told Festus of all the complaints against Paul.

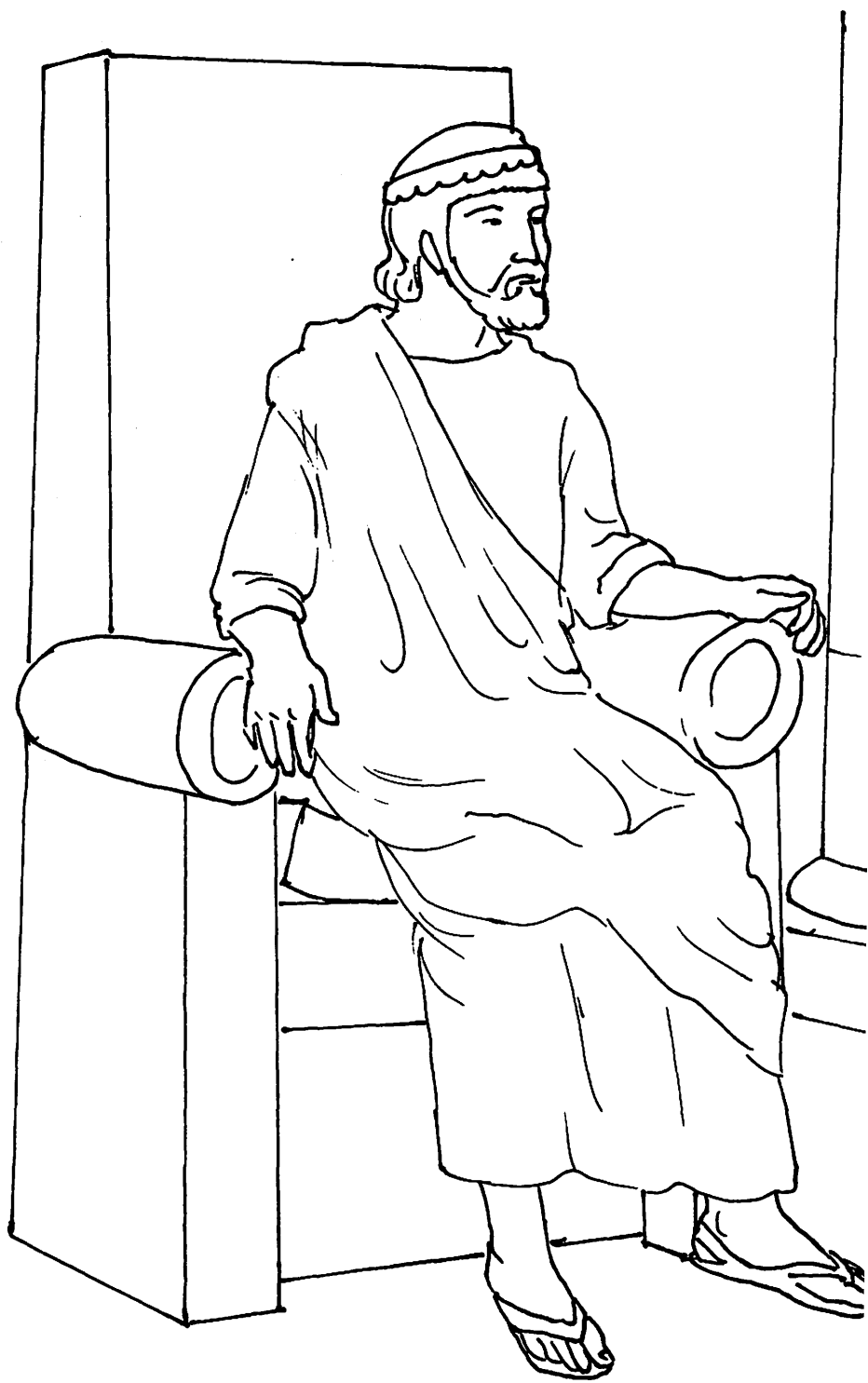
"I have done nothing against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple. I have not done anything against Caesar," Paul protested his innocence.

"Will you go to Jerusalem and let me decide whether you are guilty of these things or not?" Festus asked.

"I ought to be judged by Caesar," Paul suggested. "If I have done something worthy of death, I will not refuse to die. I would like my case to be brought before Caesar."

"You would like to have your case appealed before Caesar? Then to Caesar you will go," Felix decided.

—Monica Murphey



1
"...and the next day sitting on the judgment
seat commanded Paul to be brought."

Acts 25:6.



Grandpa and Grandma Eck's Farm

Before the car tires rolled to a stop on the dirt drive at Grandpa and Grandma Eck's house, Connie was already jumping out of the door. "Hi, Grandma!" she called as she ran to hug Grandma, who always felt soft and fluffy, like a feather pillow.

"Hello, Connie and Donnie!" greeted Grandma as she balanced herself on the porch step and took the children into her arms. Connie took a deep breath. Grandma smelled like apple pie and hot baked bread. Her big apron had flour on it—proving that Grandma had been baking and cooking.

"Is Grandpa at the barn?" asked Donnie

"Yes," said Grandma. "'Go into the barn quietly and don't scare the cows.'"

As Connie and Donnie took off running, Grandma called out, "You all come on in and make yourself at home," she said to Mama and Daddy. "You must be tired after such a long drive.

"Oh, the time seemed to roll away quickly," replied Mama as she hugged Grandma. "What can I do to help get supper ready?"

While Mama went through the screen door into Grandma's tiny kitchen, Connie and Donnie were racing toward the big red and gray milk barn. Chickens scattered as the dog ran with them. They went to the gate but they did not have to open it. Grandpa had made a turning stall from a big drum barrel that they could slip around into the barn yard.

The cows were nearly done eating and Grandpa was cleaning out one set of milkers when the children came barging in. Uncle Larry was with him and he gave a shout and whoop!

"Children, be quiet in the barn," said Grandpa. "Peaceful cows give

better milk." Grandpa had the radio playing in the background and some of the cows would sway to the music.

"Now you children stand on this bench right here while I let out the cows," said Grandpa.

He did not have to tell them twice. Connie and Donnie stood and watched as each cow's head was released from moving slats by the hay manger. Still chewing, the cows would turn their heads and look them in the face before swaying out the wide barn door.

While they were in the milk house watching Grandpa put the fresh milk cans into the cooler, Grandma hollered, 'DA-DDEEY! COME AND EAT!'

Oh, what a delicious meal Grandma prepared—fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, hot rolls and different pies. After everyone had washed up, Grandpa thanked the good Lord for the food and his wonderful blessings.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What happened after Paul's two years of imprisonment?
2. Who was Festus' visitor?
3. What did the high priest tell Festus?
4. Who called for Paul to come and visit him?
5. Where was Festus sitting when Paul came?
6. Who was in the room besides Festus?
7. Did Paul say anything in his own defense?
8. Who did Paul say should judge his case?

Answers: 1. A new governor took Felix's place. 2. The Jewish high priest. 3. All of the complaints against Paul. 4. Festus. 5. In the judgement seat. 6. The Jews who accused him. 7. Yes. 8. Caesar.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 November 12, 2006

Festus and King Agrippa

A few days following Paul's meeting with Festus, two dignified visitors came to Caesarea to greet Festus. One of these visitors was King Herod Agrippa. Festus' other visitor was Bernice. King Agrippa had been there for many days when Festus told the king about his dilemma concerning Paul.

"There is a man here that Felix imprisoned. I was in Jerusalem when the Jewish chief priest came to me asking me to find him guilty of their accusations," Festus said.

"I told them that it was Paul's right as a Roman citizen to meet with his accusers face to face. When they came, I sat on the judgement seat and sent for the prisoner.

"The Jews did not ask Paul about the things they talked to me about, but instead asked Paul questions about religion. They asked Paul if a man named Jesus was dead. Paul said that he was alive.

"I asked Paul if he would go to Jerusalem to be judged about this. Paul wanted to appeal his case to Caesar." As Festus explained the situation, King Agrippa listened carefully.

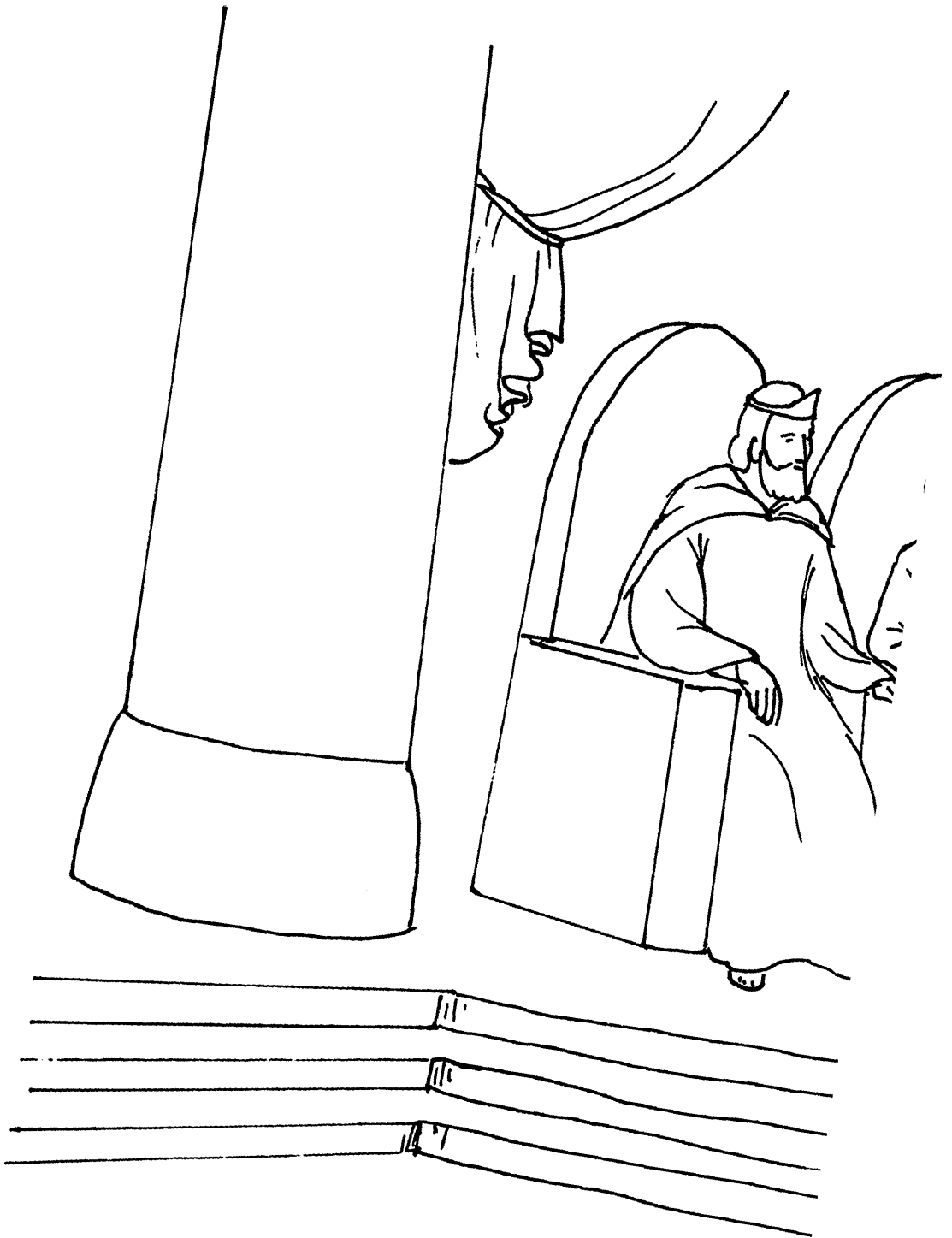
"I would like to hear the man for myself," King Agrippa commented.

"Tomorrow," Festus said. "You will hear him.

The next day, King Agrippa and Bernice came into the place of the hearing. The chief captains and the important men of the city were there already. At Festus' command, Paul was brought forward.

"King Agrippa and all men who are here with us, you see this man," Festus intoned. "A multitude of Jews have come to me complaining about him, here and in Jerusalem, saying that he should be killed. I found out that he has done nothing worthy of death, and should be able to appeal to Augustus Caesar. I have decided to send Paul to him. However, I am not sure what to write to him, so I have brought him before you, especially King Agrippa, so that he can help me decide what to write to the emperor."

—Monica Murphey





"And on the morrow, when Agrippa was
come...at Festus' commandment Paul was
brought forth."

Acts 25:23.

The Hurt Baby Bison

A True Story.

Richmond was in the office of the Los Angeles Zoo hospital when he received a call about a hurt baby. "Could you and the doc come look at our baby bison's right front leg?" asked Ray, the bison caregiver. "It seems to be swollen with infection and he is limping pretty bad."

"I will talk to the doc," replied Richmond, "and we will be right over."

When Richmond and the doctor arrived, three zoo keepers were ready to help. "We need to plan our action who does what," said Richmond.

"Yeah," replied Ray. "This baby has a hefty mama that really protects her baby. We are going to have a hard time separating them so you can take a look at that leg."

"I think the best thing to do," said the doc, "is to put them both in the barn, then let the mama outside while we look at her baby out of her sight."

"Good plan!" agreed Richmond and the others.

With some feed in hand, Ray coaxed the 1,800 pound mama and her 225 pound baby into the barn. Then it took some tricking to get the mama out of the barn without her baby. Once she was outside, the men worked fast.

Richmond pushed the calf against the wall. Ray grabbed his head, and the two keepers pulled the calf down to the floor. Then the doc took hold of the infected hoof.

"Oh, here's the problem!" exclaimed the doc. "He has a nail jammed inside his hoof! The construction guys need to be more careful where they drop their nails!"

While he talked the doc reached into his black bag and took out some pliers. Carefully he pulled out the big two inch nail. That's when the calf let out a bellow of pain. Quickly, the doc poured peroxide then betadine on the wound. He was ready to put some medicine on the wound when suddenly the men heard boards splitting from nails

and the barn shook like a leaf in the wind.

"Look out—his mama is coming in!" shouted Ray. The men let go of the baby and ran to climb stall rails.

With her head and horns, that mama bison rammed the door again and within seconds was in the barn stall with her baby. She shook her head and bellowed with rage. No one was going to cause pain to her baby while she was around!

Seeing the doc, who was the last one climbing out of the stall, she lowered her head and charged at him. He ducked behind a feeder trough which she tore up. Richmond and the two zoo keepers grabbed shovels while Ray opened the stall gate and another barn door. The calf ran out right away but his mama wanted revenge. After charging at the stall again, she looked for her baby. Seeing him outside, she trotted out to join him.

In her rage this bison did not realize that these men had *helped* her baby. Anger is a terrible controller that causes a person to act wicked. Don't let anger control you.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What visitors came to Festus?
2. What dilemma did Festus explain to the king?
3. Did King Agrippa listen to Festus' story?
4. What did King Agrippa decide he would like to do?
5. Who came to the place of the hearing?
6. Who did Festus command to be brought?
7. To whom did Festus decide Paul should be sent?
8. What was Festus' problem?

Answers: 1. King Agrippa and Bernice. 2. Paul's imprisonment. 3. Yes. 4. Listen to Paul's story. 5. King Agrippa, Bernice, chief captains and important men. 6. Paul. 7. Caesar. 8. He did not know what to write to Caesar.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 November 19, 2006

Almost Persuaded

Paul was brought before Festus, the governor of Caesarea, and King Agrippa so King Agrippa could hear his story. Festus introduced Paul to King Agrippa and told King Agrippa the complaints that had been registered against Paul. "You are allowed to speak in your own defense," King Agrippa told Paul.

Paul stretched his hand forward. "I am happy to be able to answer all of the accusations made by these Jews," he answered. "I know you are an expert in all of the Jewish customs and questions."

Paul told of his early childhood and how he had learned about the Jewish religion. He told King Agrippa about his persecution of the Christian people. He described the voice that convicted him to stop his evil ways on his journey to Damascus. He explained how this experience taught him how great God is.

"Since then, I obeyed the voice of God and told the people in many different cities that they should repent and turn to the Lord," Paul told King Agrippa. "It was because I taught these things that the Jews have complained about me and would like to kill me. I am still able to witness because of Christ's help. The only things I am preaching is that Christ has risen from the dead and will show light to the Jews and the Gentiles."

"Paul, you are upset," Festus cried in a loud voice. "You have learned too much. It has made you crazy."

"I am not crazy," Paul returned. "I speak words of truth. The king knows that this happened."

"You have almost persuaded me to be a Christian," King Agrippa said to Paul.

The king stood abruptly. Festus and Bernice sat with him and discussed the situation. "Paul has done nothing worthy of imprisonment or death," they decided. "This man might have been set free, if he had not wanted to take his case before Caesar," King Agrippa informed Festus.

—Monica Murphey





"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself...."

Acts 26:1.

The Giving of Sacagawea

A True Story.

Just a little girl with unkempt hair and a sad face, Sacagawea was pushed along with the other captives that the Hidatsa warriors had taken from the Shoshone Tribe. She would never again see her mother and father. As a captive slave, her life was very harsh around 1800. She probably spent many nights wondering what would happen to her.

Because there is no written record of her early life, we do not know when or how she became a wife to Toussaint Charbonneau, a French Trader. He could have won her in a gambling bet with a Hidatsa warrior. Her marriage did not make her life easier.

With Charbonneau, Sacagawea went to a fort in North Dakota where Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were staying for the winter. They recognized Sacagawea was a Shoshone Indian and wanted her help as an interpreter through the west. Also, she knew many things about native herbs, roots and berries that were useful to the explorers.

In the Spring of 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 30 some men launched canoes on a river going Northwest in the United States. With a two-month-old son on her back in a papoose (baby) cradle, Sacagawea began the long journey with these explorers and her husband. She had to be very brave and strong to keep up with such sturdy men and yet care for a baby son.

One time in May, 1805, Charbonneau was guiding the pirogue (canoe with a sail) that Sacagawea, and her son were in when a high wind hit. The little boat spun around and around, nearly turning over in the fast currents of the Yellowstone River. Quickly, Sacagawea balanced herself and the pirogue, bailing out water and rescuing important papers, charts, books, compasses and other needed items. The men were very thankful to Sacagawea for her quick and skillful work—all done with a baby on her back!

Both Lewis and Clark wrote records of their trip. Each of them was thankful

that Sacagawea was with them. She helped them communicate with the Indian tribes so that they were able to get horses and food when they needed them. Also, her presence helped to keep peace with hostile tribes when they passed through their territory.

One time when Sacagawea and her husband talked with a Shoshone Indian chief, she realized he was her blood brother! They had not seen each other for several years and both were overjoyed to meet again. They talked for many hours and she learned that all her family had died but her brother and one nephew.

After suffering many hardships, Sacagawea and her son, Baptiste, finally reached the Pacific Ocean with the explorers. She was excited about seeing such an endless body of water! Her eyes shone with gratitude to the explorers for bringing her along. However, it had been Sacagawea's patient and unselfish giving that had helped the men reach the Pacific Ocean. She did for others without thinking that Americans would honor her and name many landmarks after her.

Through her life we can see that giving and doing for others with a willing attitude will make us thankful and honored to be so.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Agrippa allow Paul to do?
2. What events did Paul tell the king about?
3. Who did Paul say helped him witness?
4. What were some of the things Paul said he preached about?
5. What did Festus think was wrong with Paul?
6. What was King Agrippa almost persuaded to do?
7. Did they decide Paul was innocent?
8. Why wasn't Paul set free?

Answers: 1. Tell his story. 2. Answers will vary. 3. God. 4. Answers will vary. 5. He had learned too much. 6. Become a Christian. 7. Yes. 8. He wanted to go to Caesar.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 November 26, 2006

A Storm at Sea

After Festus decided that Paul's case should be appealed before Caesar, Paul and several other prisoners were placed on a ship bound for Italy. One of Caesar Augustus' own centurions named Julius was in charge of the prisoners.

The ship sailed slowly, stopping at different sea ports. At one city, the prisoners were transported to another ship. They sailed for many days when a strong, billowing wind made the sailing very difficult. The sailors began to worry.

"If we continue on this voyage," Paul warned, "You will cause a lot of damage."

However, the centurion listened more closely to the advice of the captain of the ship, who decided to continue on their journey.

Not long after this, big, black clouds began covering the sky. The waves became tall and threatening. One of the waves caught the ship in its treacherous grasp and drove the ship toward the shores of a nearby island. The island was called Clauda. If a ship does not land properly, much damage can be done to it and the passengers sailing on it. The sailors began making preparations for such a landing. Three days later, the storm was still raging on. The sun had not appeared. Paul had stayed quiet after his advice had been ignored. Now, he decided to speak up.

"If you would have listened to me, you would not have suffered such harm and loss," Paul rebuked. "Be of good cheer. Although the ship will eventually be lost, no person on board will lose his life. An angel came to me and told me these things. We will be cast upon an island."

—Monica Murphey



For there stood by me this night the angel of
God,...."

Acts 27:23.



A Snake in Hiding

A True Story.

As an authority on zoo creatures, Richmond often went to schools and talked to the students about different animals. For one of his speaking appointments, he was asked to bring a big South American redbellied boa constrictor named Samson.

At the last moment, Richmond had to borrow his mother-in-law's car to drive the two and a half hour trip to Barstow, California. Richmond picked up the Dodge Dart and loaded the slide projectors and slides into the trunk. Then he put Samson in a sturdy pillowcase and laid him in the front seat.

As he drove down the highways, Richmond would pat the pillow case once in a while to make sure Samson was okay. Together they arrived at the school.

Three young men were ready to help Richmond unload everything from the car except Samson. Carefully, Richmond took out the pillow case and patted Samson as he carried him to the back stage. He knew Samson couldn't hear but he could feel the change of atmosphere. Richmond wanted Samson to remain calm. He laid the tied pillow case down on the stage floor.

The program started with music, singing and announcements. Then the principal said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, all the way from the Los Angeles Zoo with a fascinating program is our speaker, Gary Richmond. Let's give him a warm welcome!"

The lights went out and Richmond began his slide show. The students enjoyed his pictures, then when the lights were turned on, Richmond said, "If you will relax for a minute, I will bring out a friend of mine that rode in the front seat with me."

Stepping behind stage, Richmond grabbed up the pillowcase, and stared at it. The case was empty! Samson was loose among 300 students!

Immediately, Richmond went back to the microphone. "May I have your

attention. Please stay in your seats and remain calm so I can find Samson. He will not hurt you but I want to find my boa constrictor soon."

Because Richmond remained calm, the students did not panic but acted like it was a joke. Richmond couldn't call Samson nor could he hear Samson. After hunting for a few minutes, Richmond noticed a stack of gym mats against the wall. Rushing over to them, Richmond pulled them from the wall, and there was his snake.

The students cheered and clapped, thinking Richmond had done this trick on purpose. *Let them think that, thought Richmond, But I don't want him loose again!*

After the program, Richmond put Samson back into the pillow case and tied the opening shut. Snakes are not to be trusted even if you feed them and pet them. They are coldhearted and do not have any affection.

That is the way it is with the devil. He is coldhearted and not to be trusted. Remember how he deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden? He is still deceiving people today, but if you are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, the devil cannot harm you. He is caught like the snake in the pillow case. Be thankful for deliverance from the devil.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was the ship going?
2. Who was in charge of the prisoners?
3. What made the sailors worry at first?
4. What did Paul warn them not to do?
5. What did Paul say would happen if they died?
6. What kind of weather came up after this?
7. Who came and told Paul what would happen?
8. Where did Paul say they would wind up?

Answers: 1. Italy 2. Julius. 3. Strong winds. 4. Continue on. 5. Damage. 6. A bad storm. 7. An angel. 8. On an island.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 December 3, 2006

Shipwreck!

Paul and other prisoners were on a ship headed for Italy. The ship was being turned and tossed about by a ferocious storm. Paul tried to comfort the passengers and sailors. "An angel came to me in the night," Paul informed the others. "He told me not to be afraid. We will be cast on an island, but none of us will be lost."

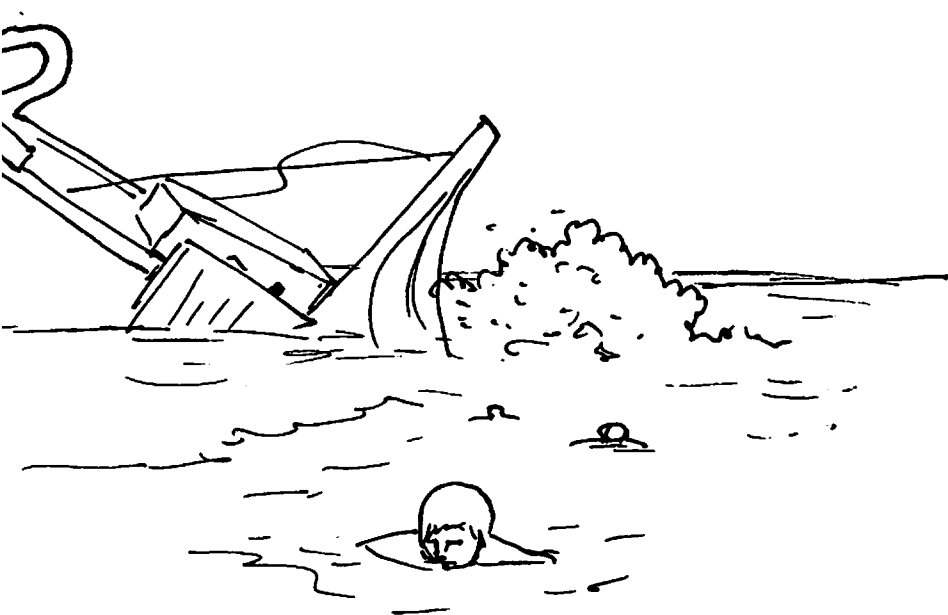
Fourteen nights of rolling waves and strong winds passed. The sailors thought the boat was close to some land. It was night time and so hard to see any distance away! They were afraid the ship would be tossed into some rocks on the shore and wrecked. The sailors threw out the ship's anchors. There were four of them. Oh, how they wished for day break! The sailors were so afraid they were about to jump out of the boat onto a smaller boat they had lowered into the water. "If you do not stay on the ship, your life will not be saved," Paul declared.

The sailors cut the ropes to the boat and let the boat fall away from the ship. Paul advised everyone to eat. The people had not eaten since the storm had started. Paul was worried about their health. Paul took some bread, thanked God for it and began to eat in front of everyone on the ship. They were comforted a little and began eating, too. After their impromptu dinner, they began throwing things off the ship to make it weigh less.

It was morning. They still had not reached land. The sailors led the ship to a creek that came off of the sea to the shores of the island. They ran up against the shore and the ship was broken into pieces. The soldiers wanted to kill all of their prisoners, so they would not get away. The centurion hated to see Paul killed, so he did not ask the soldiers to kill anyone. Instead, he told them to swim to the land. The rest held on to boards and broken pieces of the ship and were able to make it to the shore. All 276 people that had been on board the ship were still alive!

—Monica Murphey





“...and so it came to pass that they escaped
all safe to land.”

Acts 27:44



Grandma's Visit

Grandma Miles was sitting on the brown couch in the living room at Connie's house visiting with Daddy and Mama. "This year we need everyone who can work to come and get the dining hall ready for the assembly meeting," she said. "We don't have too many families in the Guthrie congregation and everyone counts."

"Well, I'll do what I can," said Daddy. "Bertha here is so busy with the children that I don't know how she can hardly do much, but I'll come on the work day."

"I can help!" Connie piped up as she sat down on the brown couch. "I've swept and dusted your office before, Grandma!"

"Oh, yes, you are a good little helper," replied Grandma with a smile. "Maybe you can help in the chapel. The work at the dining hall is for big men like your daddy."

"Okay," agreed Connie. "I can't fix and do all the things that Daddy does, but some day I may be as strong as Daddy."

"No, you won't," disagreed Donnie with a frown. "You're a girl and you'll never be big like daddy. Isn't that right, Grandma?"

"Probably so," agreed Grandma. "God made men to be stronger than women. But women can be strong soldiers for the Lord."

"That's what I want to be," said Connie. "I want to beat up the mean ol' devil who makes the neighbor girls so mean."

Grandma smiled. "Connie, we fight the devil with the prayer of faith. We can't hit him nor do we want to hit others who live for the devil. Jesus tells us to pray for them."

"Oh, I do that!" said Connie. "I pray every day that they will move away." Then she leaned close to Grandma and whispered. "And sometimes I pray for a big brother to help me chase them away."

Then Grandma laughed and glanced at Daddy and Mama who were busy with Lonnie and Cindy. She whispered back, "Oh, we had better keep that secret between you and me. Your daddy and mama wouldn't want that prayer answered, I don't think." Then she put her arm around Connie and drew her close to her.

"You know what, the Bible tells us that Jesus will be our friend who stays with us closer than a brother!" Then she drew Donnie to her. "Here is your brother that is with you a lot of time, Connie. You are each other's best friends, right?"

They nodded yes.

"Keep it that way and also let Jesus be your *best friend*. He will be with you even when a brother or sister can't. Jesus has been my best friend for many years and He has helped me with all my troubles and sorrows. Tell Him about the neighbor girls and ask Him how you can be a better neighbor, yourself."

Connie sighed. She knew Grandma was right. She would have to practice praying for the neighbors in the right way. Maybe it would help.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of weather was going on?
2. Who came in the night to visit Paul?
3. How many nights did the storm last?
4. What were the sailors afraid of?
5. What were the sailors about to do?
6. What did Paul say about their lives?
7. Did Paul's prediction come true?
8. How many people were on the ship?

Answers: 1. A storm. 2. An angel. 3. 14. 4. Shipwreck. 5. Leave the ship. 6. They would be spared if they stayed on the ship. 7. Yes. 8. 276.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 December 10, 2006

Snakebite!

Paul and his shipwrecked companions found themselves stranded on the island of Melita. The people on the island kindly accepted Paul and the others. They built a fire and gave the poor passengers shelter from the rain and cold.

Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and placed them on the fire when a snake rose up out of the flame. The snake clamped his teeth onto Paul's hand with a strong hold. The people of the island saw that it was a very poisonous snake.

"This man must be a murderer. Even though he escaped from the sea, it must be that he is not worthy to live," the people murmured to each other.

Paul shook the snake off of his hand. It fell into the fire. The islanders stared at Paul, expecting his hand to have swollen, at best, or for Paul to fall down dead at worst. After they watched for a long time, they saw that nothing bad was going to happen to him.

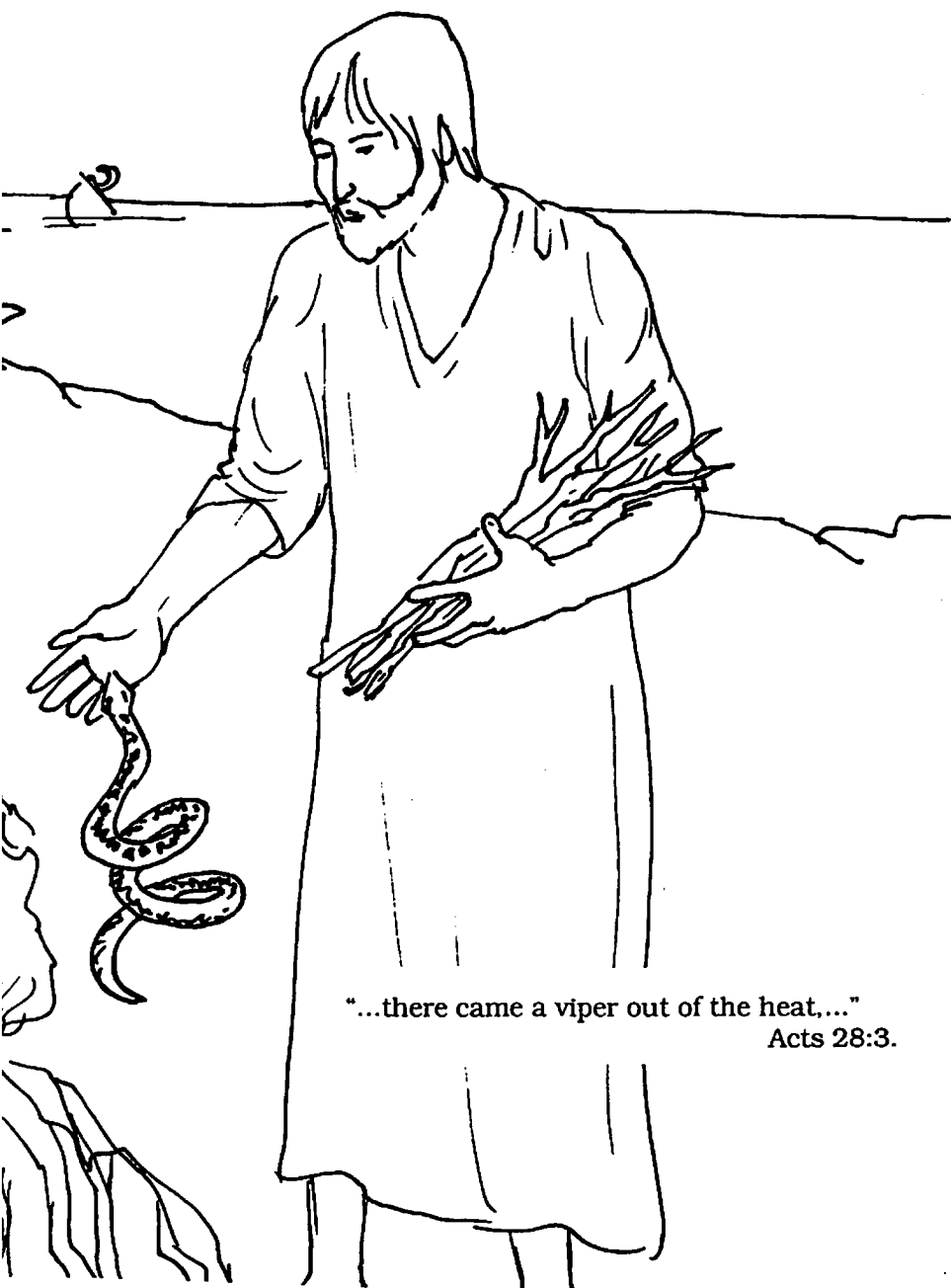
"He must be a god!" the people decided.

The leader of the island lived nearby. His name was Publius. He let Paul and his friends stay with him for three days. Then Publius took Paul to see his father, who lay sick with a bad fever. Paul came in and prayed for him. Publius' father was healed!

After hearing about this, others came with their sick loved ones, who were all healed. Paul and his companions were honored by the people and supplied with all of their needs for their journey to Italy. Once again, Paul was on a ship bound for Italy. They sailed on, stopping at a few cities. Some fellow believers lived in one of the cities. They came from far away to greet Paul. They were greatly encouraged to see Paul once again.

—Monica Murphey





“...there came a viper out of the heat,...”

Acts 28:3.

Here Comes the Cough

Daddy went to the Guthrie chapel and dining hall on Saturday to help prepare for the assembly meeting always held during the Christmas break. Connie had to stay home and help Mama with Lonnie and Cindy. Connie had wanted to go but Daddy said she would be more help at home.

The weather was cool and it seemed that Connie, Donnie and Lonnie were getting a bad cold at the same time. Mama didn't have to tell Connie to take a nap—she was very tired and took one on her own. Mama was worried and talked to Grandma about it.

"The children all seem to have a cold but it has the funniest cough. They start choking and for a moment I don't know if they will get the next breath. They seem to be choking on phlegm and can't get it out."

Grandma told what she thought they had—whooping cough! She said it could last for six weeks or so and that they should stay away from other people.

"I don't want to have the whooping cough for six weeks," grumbled Connie when Mama told her what was wrong. "I'm already tired of coughing!"

"Let's ask Jesus to heal you sooner than six weeks," replied Mama quietly. "Jesus has healed you before when you had the chicken pox. He can make you better again." So they had a word of prayer but Connie still coughed.

It was getting close to Christmas time and they were still coughing. "Mama, why can't you wrap us up in a big blanket and take us to Grandma Eck's house?" Connie begged for the umpteenth time. "We won't have to cough on anybody—I promise!"

"No," said Mama gently. "I think we will have a very quiet Christmas here at our house. We will send our

gifts to Covington, and they will send ours to us. We don't want to share this whooping cough with any one else."

Connie laid down on the brown couch in the living room. She looked out the front window and saw the pretty white snow covering all the ugly places. She couldn't even go outside to play in such wonderful snow. She sighed. What a bad time to be sick! The assembly meeting would be over before they were well and all her friends would be gone home. Why even have Christmas if you couldn't be with Grandmas and Grandpas and all the family? It just wasn't fair!

Christmas morning, they all got out of bed late. When Connie came into the living room, she couldn't believe her eyes! There setting by the pile of Christmas gifts was a red, girl's bicycle! It had a bow and a tag with CONNIE written on it.

Connie was so excited that she forgot all about missing Christmas with her grandparents. She wanted to ride that bike in the garage!

"Thank you, baby Jesus, for being born so we can celebrate Christmas," prayed Connie. Life seemed a little more fair to Connie now.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What island was Paul on?
2. Were the people there kind?
3. What came up out of the fire?
4. What did the people think would happen to Paul?
5. Who did the people decide Paul was?
6. Who did Paul stay with?
7. Who got well from a sickness?
8. Was Paul honored by the people?

Answers: 1. Melita. 2. Yes. 3. A snake. 4. He would die. 5. A god. 6. Publius. 7. Publius' father. 8. Yes.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 December 17, 2006

Paul In Rome

When the ship carrying Paul on his long voyage finally arrived in Rome, the prisoners were all handed over to the captain of the guard there. Paul was allowed to stay by himself, but one soldier was watching him at all times.

Three days after Paul's ship had landed in Rome, Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. "I have done nothing against the people or our customs," Paul explained. "But I was taken prisoner in Jerusalem and placed into the hands of the Romans. The Romans would have let me go. They saw that I had done nothing deserving of death. The Jews thought I should remain a prisoner, so I decided I wanted my case brought before Caesar."

"We have not received any letters from Judaea about you," the Jews replied. "We want to know what you think about the Christians. They are badly spoken of everywhere."

They made an appointment with Paul. Many Jews came to Paul's home on the appointed day to hear what Paul had to say about the Christians. Paul was able to give his testimony and tell the Jews about the kingdom of God. Some of the Jews heard and believed Paul's words but some did not.

Paul saw that the Jews were confused. "The Holy Ghost spoke well through the prophet Esaias. He said, 'Go to these people and tell them that after they have heard, they will not understand. What they see, they will see and ignore. The heart of the people is deteriorating and their ears are hard of hearing. They have closed their eyes so they cannot see. I should heal them. But God's salvation will be sent among the Gentiles. They will hear it.'"

The Jews all left after hearing these words. They could not agree on what they believed.

Paul stayed in this home for two years. He was able to preach the gospel to many people. Paul wrote many letters to churches during the different times he was imprisoned. Many of these letters are now books in the New Testament of the Bible.

—Monica Murphey





“...there came many to him into his lodging;
to whom he expounded and testified...”

Acts 28:23.

The Chimp's Escape

A True Story.

Deep in the heart of the Los Angeles Zoo of California lived eight chimpanzees in a moated exhibit. That meant that they were kept in an outdoor cement "cage" surrounded by water. The chimps liked to climb on bars and swing out to the other side of their home. With their strong arms they could climb up a lot of things they should climb and somethings they shouldn't.

One day a zoo keeper accidentally left a green garden hose hanging over the outside wall of the chimps' exhibit. It wasn't long before the oldest chimp discovered the "new rope." Toto took hold of it and tugged. The hose stayed in place. So Toto began to climb up the hose and he quickly reached the top of the wall.

The other seven chimps saw that Toto had made it to the top and they began to climb the hose also. Within five minutes there wasn't one chimp in the exhibit. All eight of them were walking around with the visitors.

Richmond, one of the zoo keepers, answered his buzzing cell phone. "What?!" he exclaimed. "All eight of the chimps are out with the crowd? Yes, I will be right there to put them back in. Just announce to the crowd not to pet them, feed them, or be afraid of them. Just let them mingle with the visitors until I get there!"

Grabbing his dart gun and some tranquilizer darts, Richmond rushed out to his waiting cart and took off to the ape exhibit. When he and his partner arrived, no one had been hurt and no one seemed scared. The chimps were busy exploring and getting acquainted with the people.

One adult female named Jeanne was inspecting a young baby in a stroller. Richmond held his breath as Jeanne's strong fingers patted the baby's hands and tugged on her clothing. Jeanne must have wondered why this baby needed such loose "skin" because her babies never needed any.

Then Jeanne pulled at the baby's bonnet which made the baby laugh. Jeanne looked at the baby's mouth and shook her head. *No teeth! She must have thought.*

Richmond sighed with relief when Jeanne left the human baby and went to find her own baby. He was afraid Jeanne would bite the baby. The baby's mother had not acted scared so Jeanne had not been upset. The crowd was keeping calm so the chimps were quiet.

That is, the chimps were quiet until they saw Richmond walk down the sidewalk. At the moment, his zoo keeper's uniform meant two things: I will be shot with a dart gun and I will be put back into that exhibit.

When Toto saw the gun, he began to call the females to himself. Then he grabbed the garden hose and led three females back home. Two of the baby chimps ran to Richmond's helper for protection. Only Jeanne and her friend, Anne, made a run for it. Their rebellion caused them more pain than the others had. Take if from the chimps: It is better to repent and do good than to rebel and pierce yourself with many sorrows. (1 Tim. 6:9-11.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. To which city did Mary & Joseph go?
2. Where in the city did they take Jesus?
3. Who was waiting in the temple to see Jesus?
4. Who did Simeon bless?
5. Who else thanked the Lord for Jesus?
6. Who did Anna tell about Jesus?
7. Where did Mary and Joseph settle down?
8. What was Jesus filled with?

Answers: 1. Jerusalem. 2. To the temple. 3. Simeon. 4. Jesus and Mary. 5. Anna. 6. Everyone who wanted salvation. 7. Galilee. 8. Wisdom and God's grace.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 27 December 24, 2006

Christ as a Baby

Caesar Augustus was the Emperor of Rome. While Jesus was alive, Rome had control of most of the world. Caesar Augustus decided that he wanted to know how many people were under his leadership so that they could be taxed. He sent out a decree demanding everyone to return to the city where they were born and report to the soldiers in charge of the census in the city.

In the city of Nazereth in Galilee lived a carpenter named Joseph. Joseph and Mary were descendents of King David, so they had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted. When they got there, the city streets were filled with people. It was hard to find a place to stay.

Joseph went from inn to inn asking if there were any available rooms. At every single inn, Joseph got the same answer. "We do not have any room left," each innkeeper would reply.

Joseph was worried. His wife was going to have a baby. She did not feel well. Finally, a kind innkeeper saw their problem. The innkeeper offered them a place to stay in his barn. Mary gave birth to a very special boy that night in the stable. Angels had told both Mary and Joseph that Mary would have a boy. This was God's own son. Mary and Joseph named the baby Jesus, just like the angel had told them to do.

Outside of the city, shepherds were watching their sheep. Suddenly, a bright light pierced the darkness of the night. The shepherds were afraid! It was the angel of the Lord!

"Do not be afraid," the angel said. "I have good news for you. Christ the Lord has been born this very day in the city of Bethlehem. You will know my words are true when you find the baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."

The shepherds went quickly to the city. They found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. They told many people all of the strange things that had happened.

—Monica Murphey



"And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,..."
Luke 2:9.





A Visit on Christmas Day

"Let's tidy up the house," said Mama. "Grandpa and Grandma Eck are coming over to visit when afternoon church service is over."

"Hooray!" shouted Connie and Donnie. "Are Aunt Ruthie and Uncle Larry coming over, too?" they asked.

"No," replied Mama. "they don't need to be exposed to your whooping cough. They will stay at the chapel and have supper there. Now I don't want you children to get in Grandma and Grandpa's faces and don't cough in the living room where they will be. You want to be mannerly even if you are sick."

Mama had everyone take a bath and dress in nice clothes. She washed and combed their hair. By the time their grandparents came, Connie felt like she had been to church with them.

Finally, Grandpa's white Chevy pulled up into the driveway. Connie and her brothers peeked out the front window to see if they had any packages in their hands. They watched Grandpa go to the trunk and pick out a few packages.

"Oh, let's help Grandpa with the door," said Connie. They swung open the door as Grandpa stepped onto the porch. "Why, how are my grandchildren doing?" exclaimed Grandpa.

Everyone talked as their company sat down on the brown couch. Grandma gave them each a brown paper sack with their names written on them. Connie peeked into her sack. Like last Christmas her sack had nuts, an apple, an orange, peppermint candy canes and Christmas ribbon candy.

"Now I have a little gift for you," said Grandpa. "It isn't too much because your grandpa is a poor man, but Grandma thought we ought to get you all a little something."

"Oh, Daddy," sighed Grandma. "Don't say it to the children like that! We wanted to get this for them."

"Well, Grandpa gave Grandma the money and she went shopping," said Grandpa. I think she had a lot of fun spending the money but anyway, she wanted to."

"Oh, course I did!" exclaimed

Grandma. "Go ahead and give the presents to the children and don't keep them waiting."

"Well, don't you think we ought to read the Christmas story and have a word of prayer first? Did you do that yet with the children?" Grandpa asked Mama and Daddy.

"Yes, we sang a few Christmas songs and told the Christmas story," replied Mother.

"But you didn't have prayer?" Grandpa rubbed his big calloused hands together. "We need to bow our heads then and thank God for sending his son, Jesus, to save us from our sins."

So the family knelt and prayed together. After Grandpa prayed, he started to sing. One by one the children had to go out of the room to cough and come back in. Also, they were getting a little tired of waiting.

"Grandpa, I think you ought to give the children their gifts now," said Grandma.

Thank you, Grandma, for telling Grandpa that, thought Connie.

Finally, Connie opened up her package. She had a new purse! She thanked her grandparents for what they had given her, and, so did Donnie, Lonnie and Cindy.

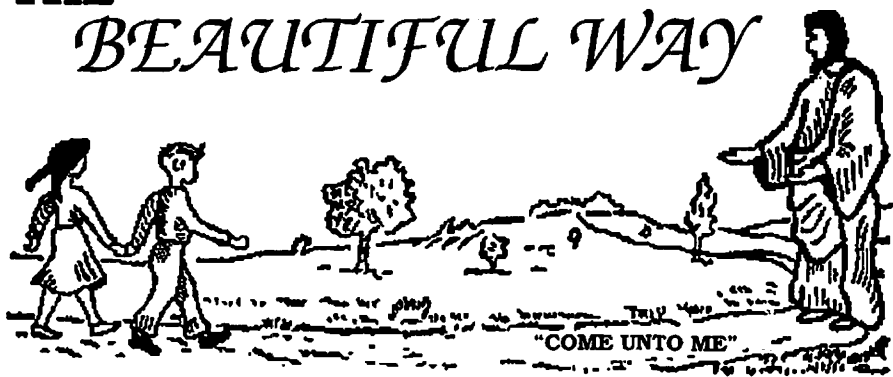
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. Was Paul free when he got to Rome?
2. Who did Paul call together to speak to?
3. What did the Jews want Paul to tell them about?
4. Was Paul able to give his testimony to the Jews?
5. How did the Jews take Paul's message?
6. Who did Esaias say would hear God's salvation?
7. How many years did Paul stay here?
8. What happened to some of the letters Paul wrote?

Answers: 1. No, a soldier watched him at all times. 2. The Jewish leaders in Rome. 3. The Christian beliefs. 4. Yes. 5. They were confused. 6. The Gentiles. 7. Two years. 8. They are books in the New Testament.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 57, No. 4 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 28 December 31, 2006

Jesus in the Temple

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to Jerusalem. It was the Jewish custom to have all babies brought to the temple and presented to the Lord. Parents were supposed to offer a sacrifice in praise for their young one's birth. The law was very specific about this sacrifice. Two turtle doves or two young pigeons were supposed to be offered up to the Lord after a child's birth.

There was a man waiting in the temple for the Holy child's arrival. He was filled with the Holy Ghost, who had told him that he would see the Saviour before he died. This man's name was Simeon. He came to the temple every day looking for the Christ child.

When Simeon saw Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, he took Jesus in his arms and praised God for the miracle he had brought to pass.

"Lord, now your servant can die in peace," Simeon proclaimed. "My eyes have seen your salvation."

Joseph and Mary were amazed at the older man's words. Simeon blessed baby Jesus and Mary.

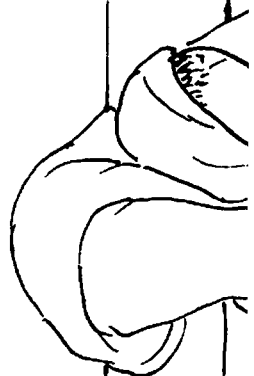
At the same time Simeon finished speaking, a woman entered the temple. She was a widow. She came to the temple and served God by praying and fasting. Her name was Anna.

When she saw baby Jesus, she gave thanks to the Lord for his blessings. Anna told all of the people that wanted to be saved about Jesus.

Mary and Joseph returned to Galilee with Jesus. As Jesus grew, his parents noticed that he had a strong spirit. He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God.

—Monica Murphey

"Then took he him up in his
arms, and blessed God,..."
Luke 2:28.



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A Quiet Christmas Evening

After Grandpa and Grandma Eck left, Mama fixed a light supper. No one really wanted very much to eat because the whooping cough made their stomachs sick.

"We have another surprise for you all," said Mother with a smile. "Grandma Miles said she would come and spend the evening with you all while Daddy and I go to church."

"Yeah!" cheered the children. Christmas Day was getting better and better!

"I want her to see my new bike!" said Connie. "When will Grandma be here?"

"Any time now," said Mama. "Connie, I want you to help Grandma with the babies. The bottles are ready and in the refrigerator right here." She showed and told Connie how to help Grandma, which made Connie feel grown-up.

"Now, I want you children to obey Grandma," said Daddy. "If I hear that any of you disobeyed her, you will get it from me. Do you hear?"

Connie and Donnie nodded meekly. Lonnie was just laying on the brown couch too tired to fuss with anyone.

Soon Grandma came in the front door with a rush of cold, snowy air. "My, but it is a cold winter night!" she exclaimed. "Make sure you bundle up, Bertha. Vernon, you need a warmer jacket than that. You don't want to catch a cold, Son."

"Oh, I'll be alright," Daddy shrugged.

"No, you need this heavy coat, Vernon. It is cold out there," insisted Grandma.

Connie and Donnie listened and watched as Grandma made Daddy mind her. They thought it was funny how Grandma could tell *their strong* Daddy what to do.

After Daddy and Mama left, Grandma sat down on the brown couch with baby Cindy in her arms. "Connie, is Lonnie okay? Does he need a bottle or anything?"

"No, I'll just rock him to sleep," said Connie. She braced her legs against the couch and pick up Lonnie. It was a good thing the rocker was only a few steps away or Connie may have dropped him,

but she managed to sit down and hold him close for she knew he liked that. Lonnie loved to rock and he would go to sleep every time he was rocked.

"Well, I brought some new books for you children," said Grandma. "I thought I would read a few stories from them and maybe you could learn to read a few words too. After we get the babies to sleep, we will read."

Cindy wasn't so easy to go to sleep. She wanted to walk around things and pull down what ever was within reach.

"Do you think baby Jesus liked to break things?" Connie asked Grandma.

"Oh, I don't know," replied Grandma. "He was a normal baby, I suppose. He obeyed his parents except for one time. We don't know much about his babyhood and childhood."

"He probably was a neat brother to have around," said Connie. "When his brothers or sisters were sick, Jesus could just ask God, his Father, to heal them. They never were hungry either because he could make food last and last."

"No, Connie, Jesus did not begin his ministry of miracles until he was 30," said Grandma. "Let's go ahead and read in the books that I brought to you. I believe we will learn some of these things as we read." And they did.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What country controlled most of the world?
2. Who was the Emperor of Rome?
3. What did the Emperor want to find out?
4. Where did Mary and Joseph go?
5. What problem did Joseph have?
6. Where did Mary and Joseph end up staying?
7. What did Mary and Joseph name the baby?
8. Who saw an angel that told of Jesus' birth?

Answers: 1. Rome. 2. Caesar Augustus. 3. How many people were under him. 4. Bethlehem. 5. He could not find a place to stay. 6. In a stable. 7. Jesus. 8. Shepherds.