

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Newness of Life

The Apostle Paul wrote many letters to churches in different cities. One of the books of the Bible is a letter Paul wrote to the Church in Rome. This book is called Romans. In his letter to the Romans, Paul talks a lot about sin.

Sin began in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. God created Adam first, and then God created a woman to be a helpmeet for Adam. Her name was Eve. God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden. God visited with them. They were allowed access to all of the beautiful things in the garden except one. God placed a tree in the middle of the garden called the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." God told Adam and Eve not to touch the fruit on this tree or they would die. A serpent appeared to Eve and tempted her with the fruit from this tree. "If you eat the fruit from this tree, you will not die. God knows that if you eat the fruit, your eyes will be opened and you will be as smart as gods," the serpent informed Eve. Eve ate the fruit and offered it to her husband. God banished the two from the beautiful garden when He found out about their sin. No longer did they have visits from God. Spiritually speaking, they were dead.

James explains that sin happens if we know to do something good and do not do it. John says that sin is disobeying the laws of God. He also says that all unrighteousness, or things that are not of God, is sin.

Ever since Eve ate the fruit, everyone has sinned in their lives, Paul told the Romans. However, Paul explains that once we accept God's free gift of salvation, we need to change our lives. Jesus died for the death that we deserve because of our sins.

"Shall we continue in sin?" Paul asks. "God forbid. Our old body is crucified with Him, so the old body of sin should be destroyed. From now on, we should not sin," Paul explains. "We should walk in newness of life."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





"...even so
we also
should
walk in
newness
of life."
Romans 6:4.

Daniel's Autism

To the passing observer, Daniel is a quiet, contented young man. Because he has a loving mother who has poured so much of her life into her son, Daniel has friends who talk to him and care for him.

Daniel has never met his father, because he left when Daniel was a baby. Right at birth, Daniel was diagnosed with Fragile X Syndrome.

"I don't know how to care for an handicapped boy," Daniel's dad had told his mother. "It will cost more than I can afford to buy all the things he will need."

"We can make it somehow, Honey," said Daniel's mother. But Daniel's dad lost faith and hope in the situation, and he left, making things harder yet on Daniel's mother, Cara.

Friends and family helped Cara with house payments, utilities, and other bills, but as Daniel grew, he also became more work for Cara. Daniel would cry out and holler when he was in crowds. Neither did he tolerate sudden sounds or loud noises. So Cara could not take Daniel shopping or to church.

"I will watch Daniel while you are gone," her sister volunteered.

"Oh, thank you so much," said Cara. "I will write down Daniel's schedule because he gets very cranky if he gets off his feeding and sleeping time."

When Daniel finally learned how to walk, he fell easily which caused big bruises. "Oh, Daniel, I am so sorry you have another boo-boo." Cara would say with hugs and kisses. "Let's ask Jesus to keep you from falling so much."

Daniel just looked at Cara with silent eyes. He did not talk and he did not show emotion, which was so hard on his mother at times. She wanted so much for her son to say, "I love you, Mama" or "Thank you, Mama" but Daniel's eyes would stare at her then look away.

Cara found help and comfort at monthly meetings with other moms and dads who had children like Daniel. "I love my son so much," Cara said. "I know he was made by God and given to me, but I want him to talk and let me know how he feels. I wish there was some way he could break his silence."

"I know what you mean," comforted another mom. "My daughter does not talk either. I know she appreciates my care, but she does not say anything. The only time I can see her eyes light up is when she is on a horse riding. She really likes riding at the stables."

"Maybe Daniel would like that," said Cara. "Who should I contact to set up an appointment for Daniel?"

So Cara called and checked about Daniel riding a horse two times or so a month. At first four-year-old Daniel was afraid of the horse, but his hand was put on the horse's nose, and Daniel began to get acquainted with this new friend. Now his eyes light up when he sits down on Smokey.

Daniel's happy face means a lot to Cara. She hopes and prays it will be a new beginning for Daniel in learning to express his feelings in a good way.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who wrote the book of Romans?
2. When did sin begin?
3. What two people did God create first?
4. Where did Adam and Eve live at first?
5. Who tempted Eve to do wrong?
6. What should happen to us because of our sins?
7. What is one definition of sin?
8. "We should walk in _____ of life."

Answers: 1. Paul. 2. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God. 3. Adam and Eve. 4. The garden of Eden. 5. The serpent. 6. Death. 7. Answers will vary. See paragraph 3. 8. Newness.

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Vol. 58, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 January 14, 2007

The Necessary Ingredient

Paul wrote several letters to the Church in the city of Corinth. One of these letters is a book of the Bible called First Corinthians. One whole chapter in the book of Corinthians is about charity. Charity has been described as love. Many people believe that it is God's love plus our love.

"If I were the smartest, the strongest, or most religious person on earth, but did not have charity, I am nothing," Paul told the Church in Corinth. "If I gave all of my things to feed the poor, or let my body be burned for a good cause but did not have charity, I am nothing."

Paul went on to describe different characteristics of charity. "Charity is long-suffering, and is kind," Paul explained. "It does not put itself up over others. It is not vain. It does not behave badly towards others. It is not easily angry. It thinks no evil."

"Charity is not selfish. Charity only rejoices to hear truth. It believes all good things about others, it endures all things. Prophecies and knowledge will be forgotten, but charity will never fail."

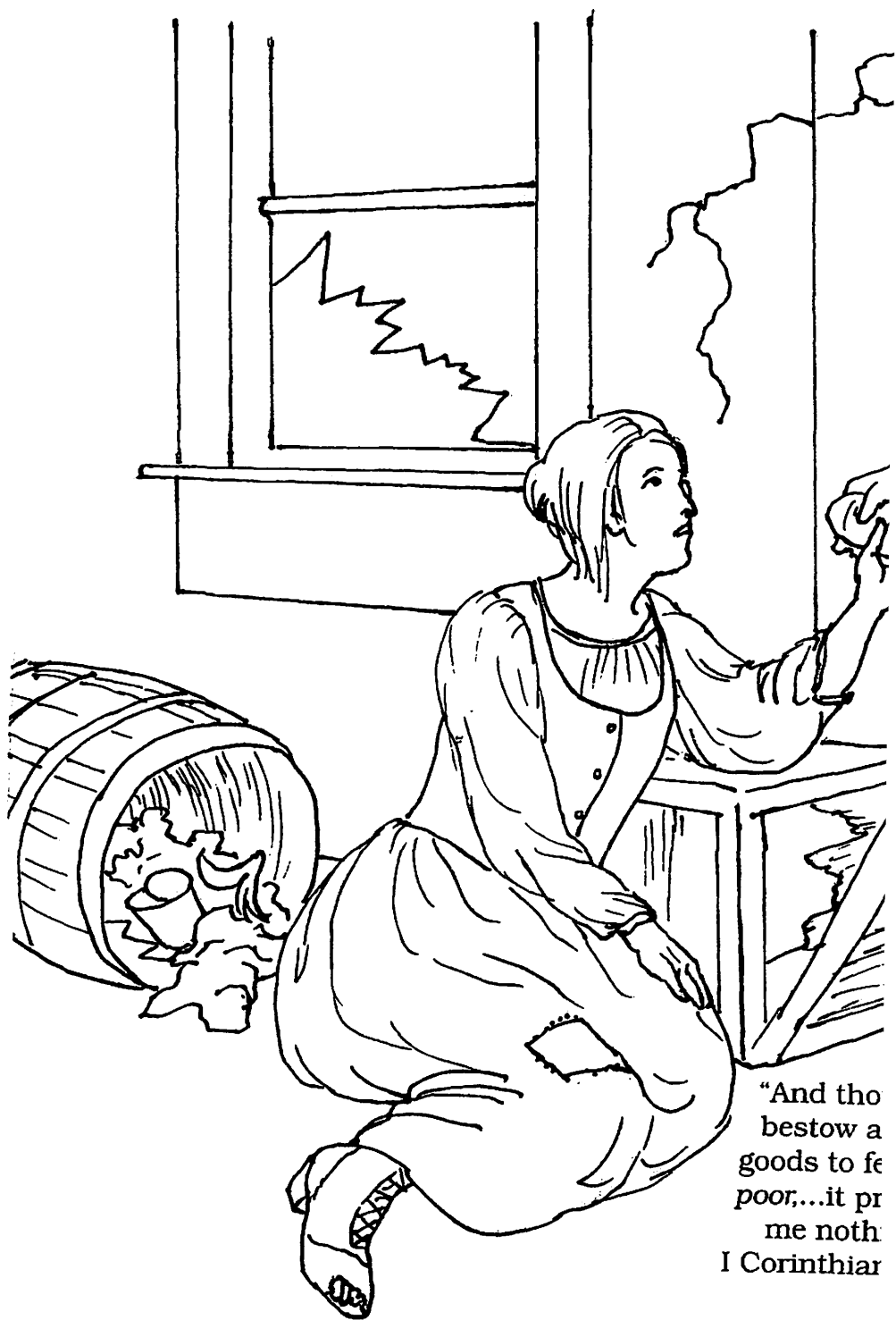
Other books of the Bible also mention love. Matthew mentions that we should love our neighbor "as ourself." Jesus says that all men will know that we are His disciples if we "have love one to another."

In a letter in the book of Ephesians, Paul told us we should "walk in love." In the book of First Peter, we are told to love one another with a "pure heart."

In the book of Galatians, love is mentioned as one of the ingredients that should appear when we have the Holy Spirit in our lives.

At the end of Paul's chapter about charity, Paul said that out of faith, hope, and charity, the greatest of those three things is charity.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"And thou
bestow a
goods to the
poor,...it profiteth
me nothing
I Corinthians



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iteth
g."
13:3.

Wesley Went Home

Twenty-five years ago, Robert and Judy had a new baby boy born to them. Right away the Doctor gave them some shocking news.

"Your son has cerebral palsy," he told them. "We cannot tell yet how severe his case will be, but he will be a slow learner, crippled, and may not live long. I have information in this folder that might be helpful. You can call this contact person who is a parent with a cerebral palsy child. She would be helpful to give you support and instruction on your son's care, if you decide to take him home."

"Take him home?!" said Robert. "Yes, we will take him home and care for him as long as God allows him to live with us."

"Very well," sighed the doctor. "I see you feel strongly about this and I will support your decision. You will need help, so I suggest you call Sheila Wilson right away and let her visit with you about family adjustments and other things."

Robert and Judy were grateful that Sheila did come and visit with them at the hospital.

"We knew absolutely nothing about cerebral palsy," Judy told another friend, but Sheila helped us know how to care for Wesley and what to expect. She was a blessing sent to us from God."

Like the doctor had said, Wesley learned slowly how to talk, but he never could walk. His legs did not grow strong enough to hold his weight, though Wesley was skinny. He would sit in his custom-made wheel chair and call out to his parents, or younger brothers and sisters when they came along.

Robert helped dress and groom Wesley in the mornings before going

to work. This helped Judy who had four younger children to care for. They grew and learned how to care for themselves, but Wesley never was able to feed, dress and groom, or bathe himself.

However, Wesley was a happy boy who laughed and smiled often. "Sometimes when we feel tired and things are going wrong," said Judy to her sister, "Wesley will laugh and say a silly word. This will cause us all to laugh, and help ease the tension we are feeling with the cares of the day. Wesley is a lot of work, but he is a blessing to our family. We are glad we chose to keep him in our home."

Wesley began to choke on his food more and more. The doctor said his food pipe (esophagus) was closing on him. One day they were not able to get help for Wesley quick enough and he passed away.

"We appreciated the few short years we had Wesley in our home," Robert told his friends. "Now we are comforted in knowing that he is at home with Jesus, his best friend since he was a baby."

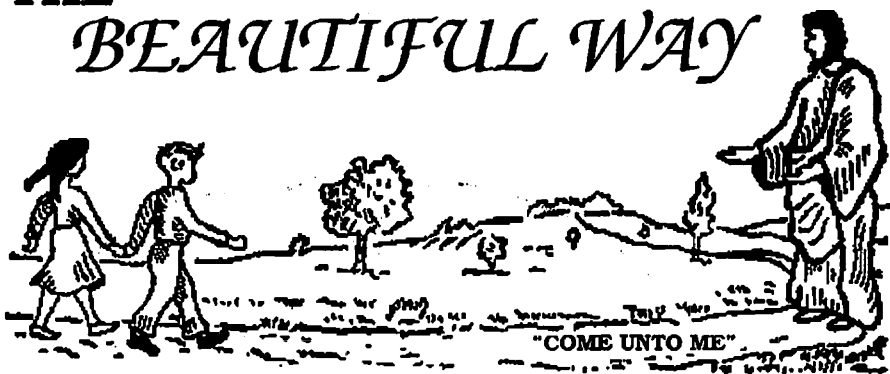
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who wrote the book of I Corinthians?
2. What is one chapter in I Corinthians about?
3. What does charity mean?
4. Charity thinks no ____.
5. Charity only rejoices to hear the ____.
6. We should love our neighbor as ____.
7. We should walk in ____.
8. Which is the greatest: faith, hope, or charity?

Answers: 1. Paul. 2. Charity. 3. God's love plus our love. 4. Evil. 5. Truth. 6. Ourselves. 7. Love. 8. Charity.

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Seasoned with Salt

"You should always use grace in your speech. It should be seasoned with salt, so that you will know how to answer every man," Paul writes in a letter in the book of Colossians.

There are many things written in the Bible about pleasant words. "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones," one Proverb writer says. Another place in the book of Proverbs tells us that a word spoken at the right time is like "apples of gold in pictures of silver."

The Bible gives us instructions about talking of things of God. "Teach them to your children," the writer of the book of Deuteronomy explains. "Talk about them when you are sitting in your house, when you walk, when you lie down, and when you wake up."

James writes a lot about the tongue. "It is only a little part of our body," James says. "But it can do the most damage to ourselves and others. A little fire can do a lot of damage. The tongue is like a fire. No man can tame the tongue. It is full of deadly poison. A wise man will show his wisdom through good conversation."

The Bible says that we should speak evil to no one, but that we should be gentle. A writer in Proverbs says that a soft answer turns away anger, but grievous words stir up anger. James says that we should speak no evil about each other. Peter writes that we should stop all evil speaking.

In the book of Proverbs, the writer mentions seven things that the Lord hates. Three of them have to do with speaking. The first one is a lying tongue. Another thing the writer says the Lord hates is a false witness that spreads lies. Last, the writer mentions the Lord hates a person that spreads discord among others.

Jesus himself warns us to be careful of our words. "Everyone will be judged by every word they have spoken on the day of judgment," Jesus cautions.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...the tongue is a
and boasteth gr
James



...tle member,
...t things...."
5.

The Runaway Bike

Though it was still winter time in Oklahoma, the snow had melted and during the day the sunshine was warm. Connie and Donnie were not coughing so badly now so Mother let them play outside when the weather was pleasant.

Connie wheeled her new red bike out of the garage. "I'm tired of riding this bike in the garage," she told Donnie, who stood by watching her. "I am ready to ride this bike on the driveway."

With confidence Connie grabbed hold of the handlebars and mounted the seat. She looked down at her feet to see that they each had a pedal to push. Yes, her feet were pushing the pedals, her hands were gripping the handle bars—Her bike was moving! Connie laughed.

Slowly, then quicker, faster, and faster, Connie's bike headed toward the little driveway hill that curved out into the big hill of Oak Street. Suddenly Connie felt her bike pull downward and swing around the curve. She screamed! She did not know how to ride so fast down the big street! How could she stop this bike?!

The bike pedals were making her feet go faster and faster! Her hands were hanging on to the handle bars for dear life!

"Stop! Stop! Stop!" She hollered at her bike but it just went faster and faster. Daddy had told her how to stop the bike, but she couldn't remember what he had said. Her bike was bossing her and making her go downhill into another busy street. A car was going to hit her and that was going to hurt.

Connie shut her eyes and screamed! THUMP! The bike hit something hard and knocked her off the seat. Her head hit the handlebars! OUCH! She opened her eyes and rubbed her head. The bike had hit the curb and stopped.

Slowly, with shaky legs, Connie climbed off of her runaway bike and sat

down on the curb. By now Mama was running to her.

"Connie! Connie! Are you okay?" Mama put her arms around Connie and hugged her.

"I'm okay," replied Connie, "but my new bike was naughty! It wouldn't mind me when I told it to stop!"

"Oh, Honey," said Mama. "Don't you remember how Daddy told you to push backwards on the pedals to stop it? I think you had better ride outside when Daddy can help you."

Mama helped Connie push the bike up the street and park it back into the garage. "Boy, you were really going fast," said Donnie.

"That bike was going fast," replied Connie. "It wouldn't listen to me at all but just took me right down the street! I think I'm going to call it Betsy after Grandpa's bossy lead cow."

"That bike doesn't have ears," said Mama, "but you do, Connie. Listen to your daddy's instructions the next time he helps you ride. Listen, remember, and obey. That's how you learn to do things."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What should our speech be seasoned with?
2. What are pleasant words like?
3. When should we discuss the things of God?
4. The tongue is like a _____.
5. How can a wise man show his wisdom?
6. Should we speak evil to anyone?
7. What kind of answer turns away anger?
8. What will we be judged by on the judgment day?

Answers: 1. Salt. 2. Honeycomb. 3. Anytime. (See paragraph 3.) 4. Fire. 5. Through good conversation. 6. No. 7. A soft one. 8. Every word we have spoken.

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Without Ceasing

Prayer is a way we can talk with God. The Lord Jesus left us an example of how to pray. "Teach us to pray," the disciples asked Jesus. "You should pray this way," Jesus responded. "Our Father, who is in Heaven, hallowed is Your name. Let Your kingdom come. Let Your will be done on earth like it is in Heaven. Give us our daily bread. Forgive us of our sins, as we forgive the ones who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but save us from evil. For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."

The Bible tells us when we should pray. "Pray without ceasing," Paul writes. Another place says to seek the Lord continually.

"If there is anyone sick around you, call for the elders of the church," James instructs. "Let them pray for him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will heal him. Pray one for another so that you will be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous man will accomplish many things."

"Elijah was a man like we are," James goes on to say. "He prayed hard that it would not rain. It did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again and it rained."

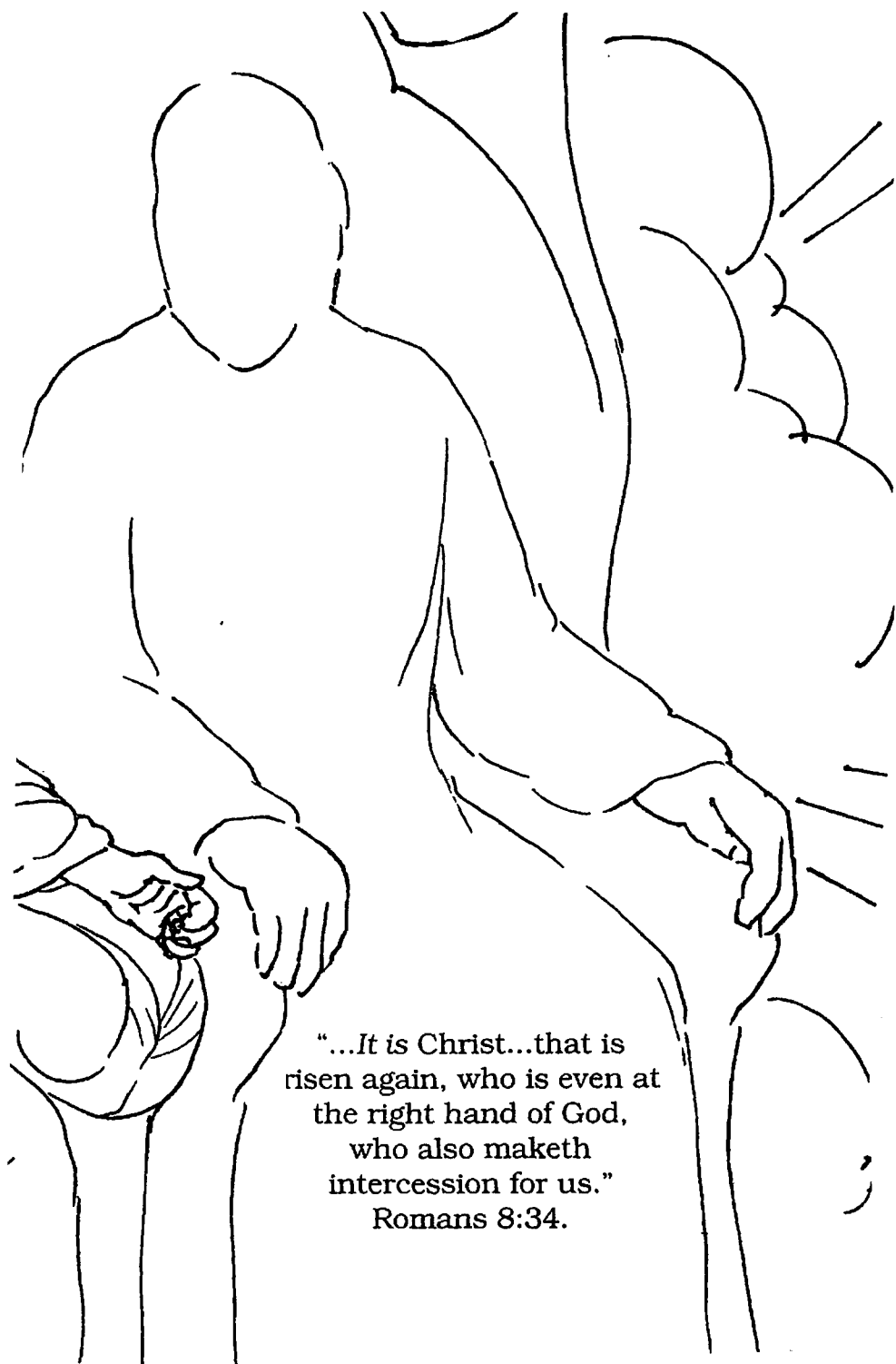
We should also pray when we are tempted. "Watch and pray," Jesus told his disciples, "that you would not give in to temptation. Our spirits may want to do the right thing, but our flesh is weak."

God will always hear our prayers. One writer tells us that if the righteous cry, the Lord will hear them and deliver them from their troubles.

If we do not know what to pray, Paul writes, the Holy Spirit will understand. He also writes that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God, hearing our prayers and making intercession for us.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





“...It is Christ...that is
risen again, who is even at
the right hand of God,
who also maketh
intercession for us.”
Romans 8:34.

No Fuss, Just Work

On Saturday morning at the Miles house, Mama would say, "Connie, help me change the bedding. You pull the sheets off of the bed on that side, and I will take them off on this side. Just leave the folded covers at the foot of the bed."

One-year-old Lonnie wanted to climb on the bed. Connie giggled as his short legs in corduroy overalls tried to swing up high enough to reach the bed top. She swooped him up in a bear hug and kisses.

"You're just a little short in the britches," she told him. "Here, sit down right here and I will shower you with sheets."

Connie set Lonnie down on the floor, then she shook up a sheet like a parachute and let it fall softly over Lonnie. He laughed at the game, calling, "More! More!" So she did it again and again with Lonnie and baby Cindy.

After all the beds had clean sheets, Mama said to Connie and Donnie, "Now I am going to the grocery store for a little bit. While I am gone, I want you all to vacuum and dust."

"I want to vacuum this time!" declared Connie.

"No, it is my job to run the vacuum," said Donnie.

"But you always get to vacuum!" exclaimed Connie.

"That's because I'm a boy and boys are better drivers than girls," replied Donnie.

"That's not true!" Connie challenged. "I can drive a vacuum better than any boy in this whole wide world and for sure better than you!"

"Children, stop the fussing!" commanded Mama. "Both of you know how to vacuum and how to dust. Both of you can't have the vacuum at the same time."

"I have a quarter," said Daddy. "Let's flip the quarter and see who gets to vacuum. Connie, do you choose heads or tails?"

"Heads!" called Connie.

Daddy flipped the quarter, let it land on his forearm, and clamped his hand over it.

Slowly he lifted his hand. "It is—tails!" he declared.

"Yeah!" shouted Donnie. Connie frowned.

Mama said, "I really am glad you are going to dust, Connie, because you are so good at it. If you both will do your jobs without fussing while I am gone, then I will bring you something special. Okay?"

"Alright!" they both agreed.

So Mama took Cindy, and Daddy watched Lonnie, while Connie and Donnie did their work. It seemed to Connie that Donnie always wanted to vacuum right where she was dusting, but she tried very hard not to fuss. Everything was done when Mama finally came home!

They hurried to help carry in the sacks of groceries and see what she had brought them. Mama gave Donnie an airplane kit, and she gave Connie an embroidery kit.

"Thank you, Mama," said Connie. "Now I can embroidery just like Grandma Eck does!" She was glad she had earned such a nice surprise.

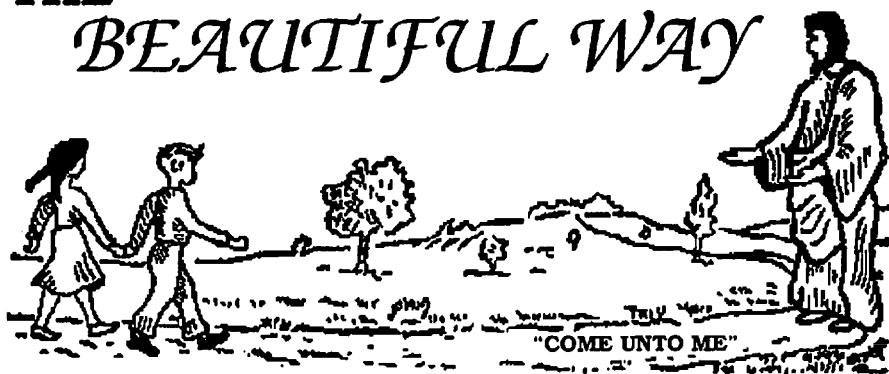
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What is prayer?
2. Who left us an example of a prayer?
3. Pray without _____.
4. Who should we call when we are sick?
5. What did James say the elders should do for the sick?
6. Why did Jesus say we should watch and pray?
7. When will God hear our prayers?
8. Who makes intercession for us?

Answers: 1. Talking with God. 2. Jesus. 3. Ceasing. 4. The elders of the church. 5. Pray for them and anoint them with oil. 6. So we will not give in to temptation. 7. All of the time. 8. Jesus.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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By Our Fruits

"I must go back to the one that sent me," Jesus told his disciples. "Because I have told you this, you are sad. It is necessary for me to go away. If I do not leave, the Comforter will not come to you. When I leave, I will send Him to you. He will reprove the world of sin and righteousness and of judgment. When the Holy Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you to all truth. He will glorify me."

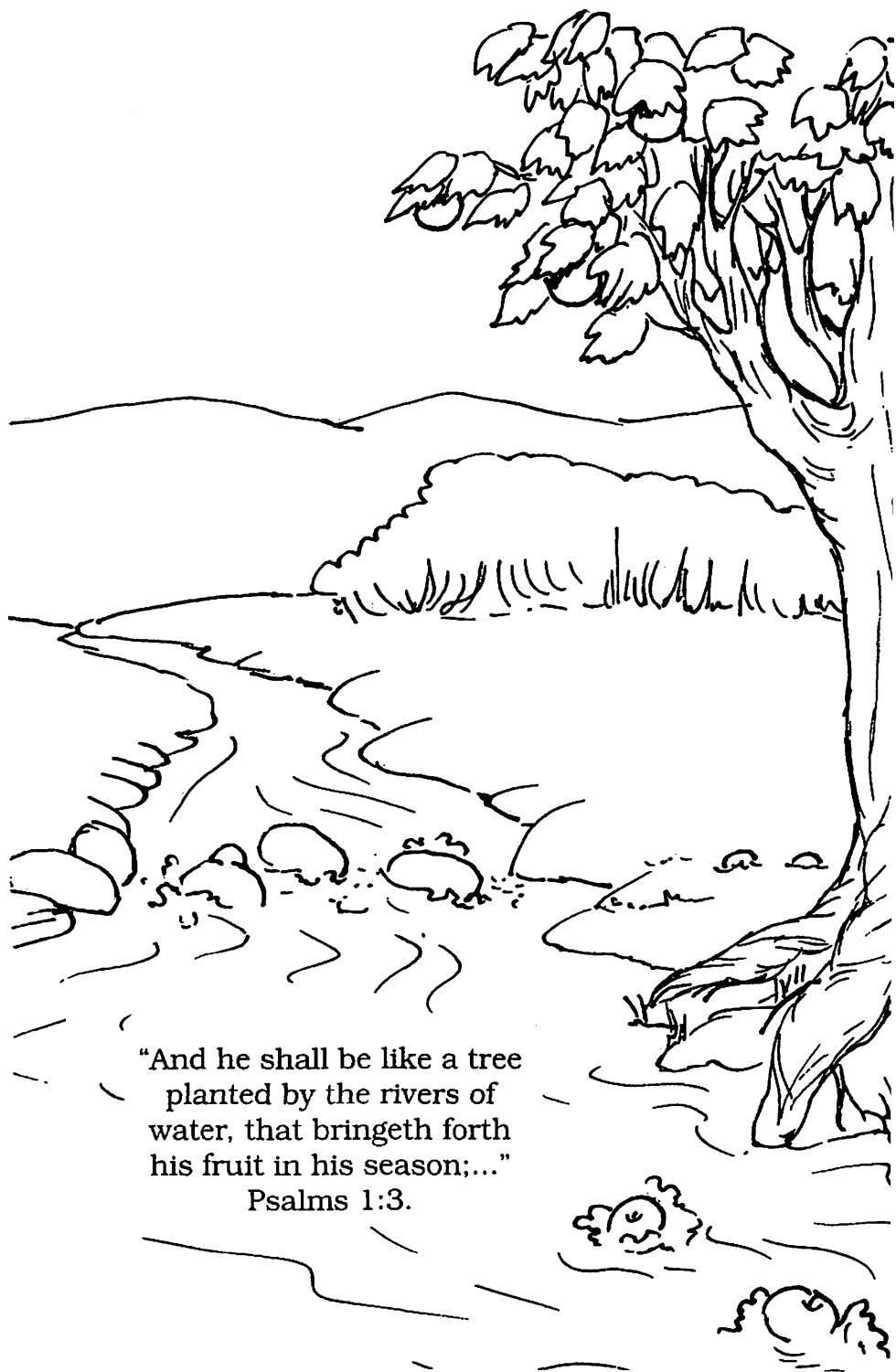
Jesus was not the only one who gave us information about the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Paul also wrote about the Holy Spirit. "It is written that our eyes have not seen and our ears have not heard what God has in store for those that love him," Paul writes in a letter to the church in Corinth. "God has revealed them to us by the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit searches all of the deep things of God. The Holy Spirit can help man understand the things of God he can never understand on his own. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to discern spiritual things."

After we get saved, are following Jesus and have been baptized, the next step to getting closer to God is to pray to receive the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is the only one that can help us do all of the things that Paul and Jesus mentioned.

After we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, the world should be able to see a difference in our lives. Jesus said that we would know people "by their fruits," or by their actions. Paul says that the fruits of the Holy Spirit are "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance."

We should "walk in the Spirit," Paul writes. In the book of Ephesians, Paul writes that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"And he shall be like a tree
planted by the rivers of
water, that bringeth forth
his fruit in his season;..."

Psalms 1:3.



The Dressed Up Baby

The next Friday night when the Miles family went to Covington to visit Grandpa and Grandma Eck, Connie tucked in her embroidery kit to show Grandma Eck. Like usual, Grandma was busy preparing supper when they arrived at the old farm house. Fresh chicken was frying in the black iron skillet. Home grown green beans and potatoes were steaming on the stove, and fresh loaves of bread were rising in the oven.

Connie helped Aunt Ruthie set the kitchen table. Then Aunt Ruthie said, "Connie, come and see my newest baby."

Aunt Ruthie took Connie out on the front porch where she had a baby buggy and doll dress laying in it.

"Where's the doll?" asked Connie.

"I'll find my baby," replied Aunt Ruthie. "Here, Fluff-o! Here, kitty, kitty, kitty!"

"You are dressing Fluff-o like a doll?" questioned Connie with a giggle. "Does she like it?"

"Yes, I finally have her trained to lay in the buggy like a good baby," said Aunt Ruthie. "Here, Fluff-o, good kitty. Show Connie how you can be a good baby and take a ride in the buggy."

The yellow and white Mama cat let Aunt Ruthie slip the doll dress over her head and put her front paws through the sleeves. She squirmed more about the bloomers going over her hind legs and her tail kept twitching out of the top of the bloomers. The girls giggled.

"O, sweet Fluff-o," cooed Aunt Ruthie as she gently stroked her head. "Would you let me put the bonnet on you? I know you don't like your ears covered, but the bonnet is so cute around your sweet little face. Please be a good kitty and let me put the bonnet on you."

Fluff-o had a contented look on her face until the bonnet began to close down around her ears, then an angry frown came into her eyes.

Connie said, "Better take it off before she runs under the wash house!"

"Okay, Fluff-o, if you don't want the

bonnet on, let's tuck you into the baby buggy." Aunt Ruthie laid the cat back side down on the cushion and tucked a baby blanket around her. Fluff-o did look very sweet. She let the girls push the buggy into the kitchen for Grandma and Mama to see.

When the boys came clomping up the porch steps, a frightened look came into Fluff-o's eyes. Connie opened up the kitchen door and said, "Be quiet, you guys, you're scaring the baby!"

Too late! Fluff-o was tired of playing dress-up. She jumped out of the buggy, slipped out the door and darted under the wash house.

"Get Fluff-o!" cried Aunt Ruthie. "She has on a good baby dress!"

Like a good girl, Fluff-o came out and let the girls take off the dress. She licked her fur, twitched her tail and watched the family go inside to eat a good supper. She knew her supper was coming later because the family took good care of her. For the moment she just wanted to rest and purr to herself.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where did Jesus say he must go?
2. Who did Jesus say he would send to the disciples?
3. He (the Holy Spirit) will guide you to all _____.
4. He (the Holy Spirit) will glorify _____.
5. The Holy Spirit can help man _____ the things of God.
6. The Holy spirit _____ us to compare spiritual things.
7. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?
8. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is all _____, _____, and _____.

Answers: 1. Back to the one that sent Him. 2. The Comforter (The Holy Spirit). 3. Truth. 4. Me (Jesus). 5. Understand. 6. Teaches. 7. Love, Joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. 8. Goodness, righteousness, and truth.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 February 11, 2007

The Whole Armour of God

Many places in the Bible compare our walk with Christ on earth as a battle. "Fight the good fight of faith," Paul encouraged a young man named Timothy in a letter. "Keep your hold on eternal life."

The devil will do all he can to shake our faith in God. "The devil is like a roaring lion," Peter warns. "He is walking around, looking for someone to destroy."

"We do not wrestle against flesh and blood," Paul writes. "We wrestle against evil powers and spiritual wickedness."

The Lord provides us ways to fight against the devil.

"Put on the whole armour of God," Paul continues. "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on God's armour so that you can stand against the evil intentions of the devil. Stand with your loins protected by truth, with the breastplate of righteousness, and with your feet wearing the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, take the shield of faith. With this, you will be able to stop the fiery darts of the wicked. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Holy Spirit, which is the word of God.

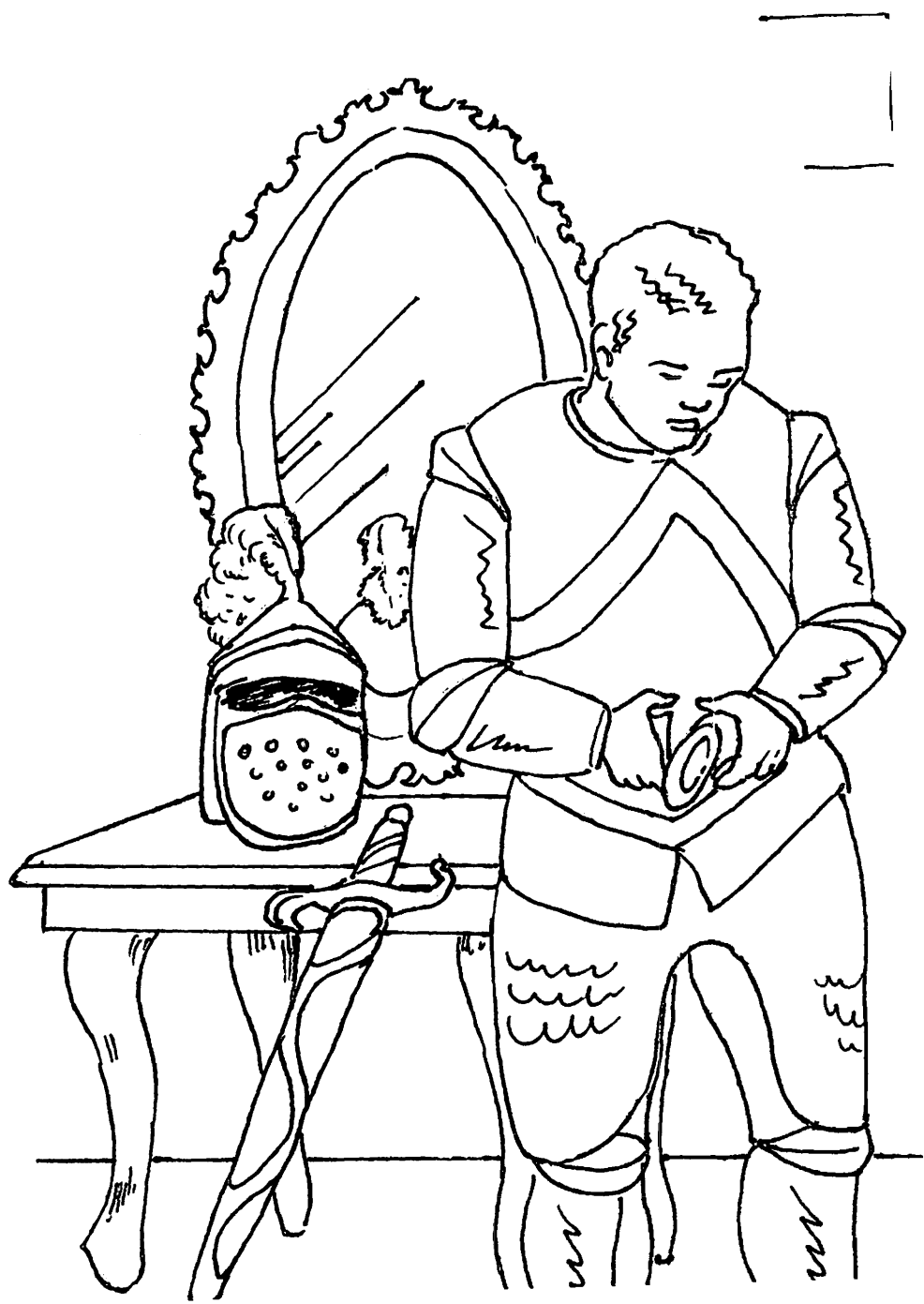
"Pray always in the Holy Spirit. Watch and pray for all saints," Paul admonishes.

"Our weapons are not earthly, but mighty through God," Paul explains in II Corinthians.

Paul explains in Hebrews that we can also use the Bible as a weapon. "The word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword," Paul says.

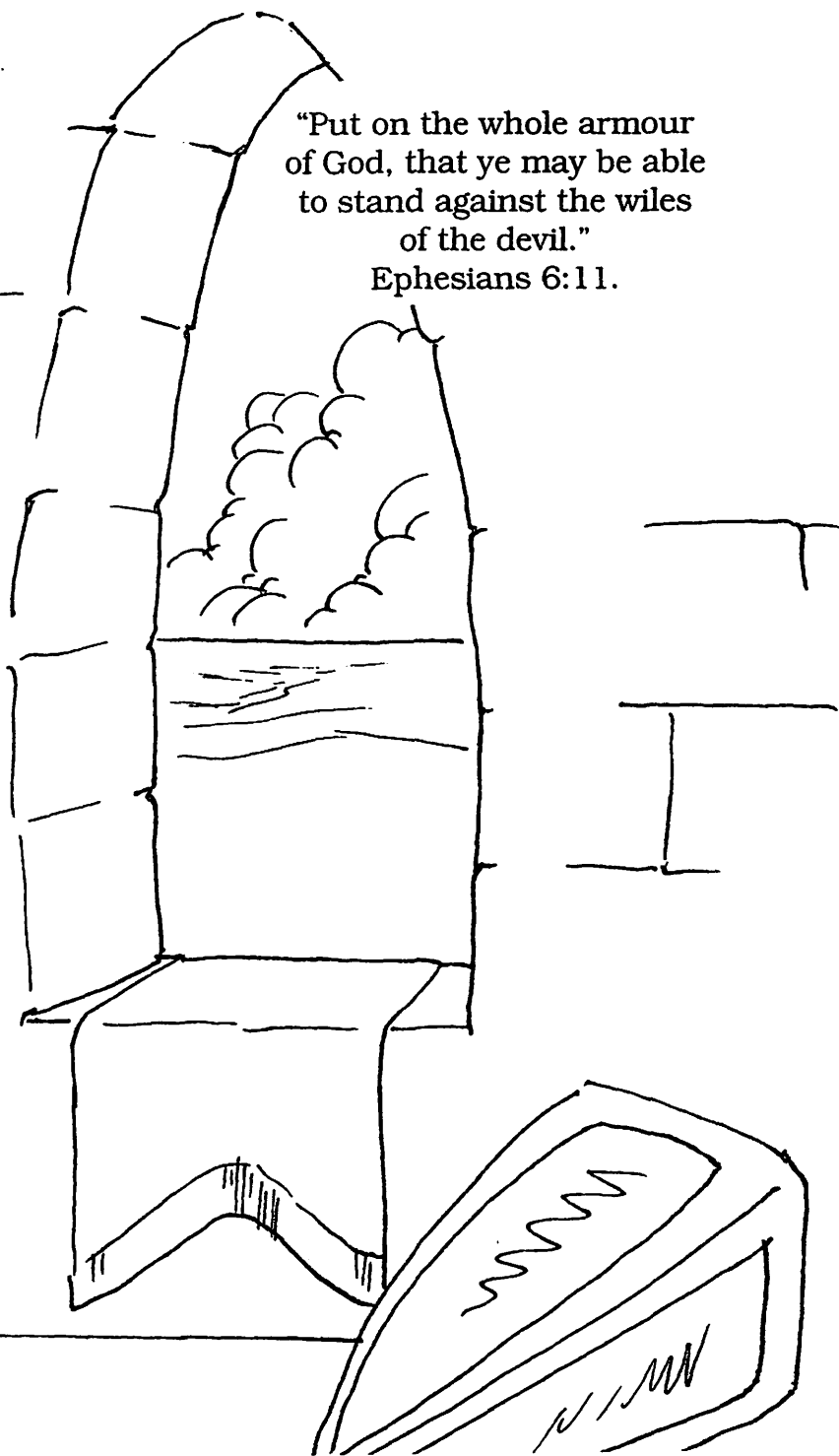
If we stand our ground against the devil and are faithful to God until the end of our lives, we will have a reward waiting for us in Heaven. "If you endure temptation," James encourages. "You will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to all of them that love Him."

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"Put on the whole armour
of God, that ye may be able
to stand against the wiles
of the devil."

Ephesians 6:11.



Embroidery Lessons

After everyone had eaten a big meal and had a piece of Grandma's pie, Connie and Aunt Ruthie washed the dishes while Grandma and Mama tidied up the kitchen. Connie liked to peek in Grandma's big flour bin, but she knew better than to dig in the flour for the sticks of spearmint gum. Grandma hid them in there to scare the weevils away and if little children were caught hunting for the gum, they were scared away, too.

Finally Grandma sat down and Connie hurried to get her embroidery kit. "Look what I have been doing," she said to Grandma as she pulled out her cross stitch square. "I am learning how to embroider like you do, Grandma!"

"Why that is nice," said Grandma. "You are making the stitches even and directly over the marks. That is very important. Now how does it look on the back side?"

Grandma flipped the embroidery hoop over and Connie was embarrassed because she knew right away what Grandma was going to say. Mama had already told her but she had been in a hurry to get as much done as she could to show Grandma.

"Hum," said Grandma. "You need to make the back side look nearly as neat as the front side, Honey. See these long stretches of thread, they will become loose in time and make the front part sag. Oh, and this knot is not tight at all. That will come loose and then your front stitches will not hold. Here, let me see your needle and I will try to help you."

Connie watched as Grandma's skillful fingers tightened up her embroidery work and tied knots better. "Now your X's on the alphabet look nice," said Grandma. "Do you know how to make the backhand stitch on these lines?"

"No, but Mama said you could show me how," said Connie.

Grandma smiled. "Well, your mama

should know how to do it, too, because I thought I taught her how. Anyway, watch what I do and do yours exactly how I do it."

Connie watched closely as Grandma took the little needle and colorful thread over the lines making a house. "Now you try," said Grandma as she handed the hoop and all to Connie. Eagerly, Connie moved the sharp needle in and out of the fabric just like she had seen Grandma do.

"You paid attention very good!" said Grandma. "Now when you get the cross stitches and the lines embroidered, bring this piece back and I will help you make the French knots. I like to do the satin stitch and you can learn that when you get older."

"Thank you, Grandma!" said Connie. "I will work on this every day until I get it done!"

"I know you will," encouraged Grandma with a hug. "You seem to like to embroider."

Grandma was right. Through her childhood, Connie embroidered lots of things but that first embroidery kit was special to her because Grandma had showed her how to neatly embroider on it.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

QUESTIONS:

1. What is our walk with Christ compared to?
2. Who does Paul encourage to "fight the good fight?"
3. "Keep your hold on eternal _____."
4. What did Peter say the devil was like?
5. What is the devil looking for?
6. What does the Lord provide for us for our fight against the devil?
7. Above all, take the shield of _____.
8. What is sharper than any two-edged sword?

Answers: 1. A battle. 2. Timothy. 3. Life. 4. A roaring lion. 5. Someone to destroy. 6. Armor. 7. Faith. 8. The word of God.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 February 18, 2007

Strangers and Pilgrims

One of the chapters in the book of Hebrews talks about faith. No one is exactly sure who wrote the book of Hebrews, although many people think it was Paul. "Faith," the writer says, "is knowing of things that we hope for and proving things we cannot see. By faith, we understand that the worlds were made. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. We must first believe that God is real and that He will reward those who seek Him with their whole hearts.

"By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice to God than Cain did. He was righteous and is still spoken of even though he is dead.

"By faith Enoch was not found after he died because God took him up to Heaven. The testimony Enoch left behind is that he pleased God.

"By faith Noah was warned by God of the coming rains, which had never been seen. He went on and built an ark, which was able to save his family.

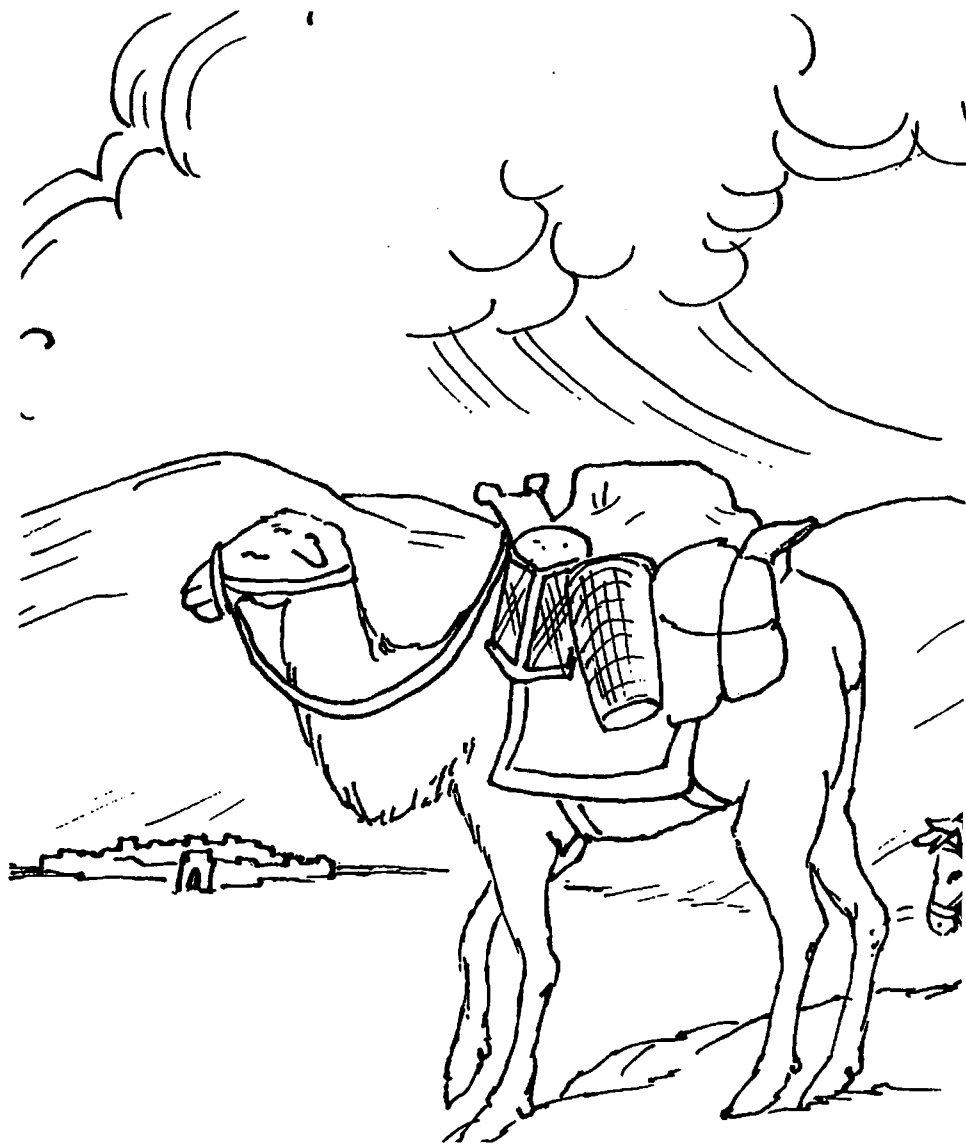
"By faith Abraham obeyed God when He told him to move to a different place where he would receive an inheritance. Abraham left, not knowing where he was going.

"He lived in the land of promise, in a strange country. He looked for a city whose builder was God.

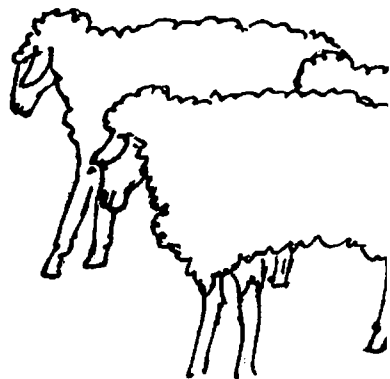
"By faith Sarah had the strength to have a child when she was old. Sarah knew God would be faithful to His promise.

"Many people were born from Abraham's seed. These all died in faith. They had not received all of the spiritual promises we have through Jesus, but they had a vision of what was to come and knew that they were only strangers and pilgrims on the earth. We can tell that the ones who say these things are looking for a heavenly country. God is not ashamed to be their God, because He has prepared a city for them."

—Monica Murphey



“By faith Abraham, when he
was called to go out...obeyed;...”
Hebrews 11:8.





Rewarding Ladybug's Patience

When Steve and Gary were boys at home, they owned a sweet dog named Ladybug. This cocker spaniel/beagle dog weighed about 20 pounds, making her the smallest member of the Richmond family.

Ladybug loved sleeping with the boys, taking handouts from the supper table and romping with the family in the den. Often she climbed into the 1953 Chevrolet station wagon with the family to make a trip. She loved to feel the wind lifting up her ears and blowing down her fur.

The Richmond family lived in a friendly, small town where everyone knew each other. Walking to town was a common thing to do, and Steve and Gary did it often—especially going to Kern's Delicatessen on main street in Altadena, California. Oh, how the boys loved the Swiss cheese, pumpernickel bread, and kosher dill pickles waiting to be eaten at Kern's Deli!

One hot afternoon in August, a couple of friends came over to visit Steve and Gary. After sitting around a while in the house, Gary said, "Let's go down to Kern's and have a snack. I think a dill pickle will cool me off!"

The other boys agreed. As they opened the door to go, Ladybug wagged her tail, pleading to go with these adventurous four. "It's awfully hot outside and Mr. Kern doesn't like Ladybug inside," said Steve.

"Aw, she wants to come. Let her come. She can wait outside in the shady doorway," replied Gary.

So Ladybug happily followed the boys about four blocks down town to Kern's. When the boys stepped inside, they told her to sit down and wait. She obeyed. Ladybug had done this many times before, and she knew it would be an hour or so before the boys would come out again.

After eating every bite on their plates, the boys came back out to find Ladybug patiently waiting in the heat. She followed them a few steps down the street to a drug store where the boys went inside to look at a funny magazine.

"Stay right here, Ladybug," said Gary, pointing to a shady spot under a park bench. While the boys laughed until they cried, Ladybug panted in the heat on the hot sidewalk outside.

"Boys, I think you had better be going home now," said the drug store owner after they had been there an hour. Quietly, they slipped outside the back door and went home.

Time passed. The friends left, Dad came home, and the family sat down to supper.

"Where is Ladybug?" asked Dad. "She will love the scraps from this meal."

Steve looked at Gary, and Gary looked at Steve. *Was Ladybug still at the drug store?* "Excuse us," they said, leaving the supper table in a hurry.

Racing to the drug store, they found Ladybug still waiting on the sidewalk where they had left her five hours ago! Her whole body wagged with her tail as she jumped up and down with joy at seeing the boys. Her patience had paid off—she knew they would come and get her for supper!

"Oh, we are so sorry, Ladybug," said Steve. "You will get an extra special supper tonight for being so patient and obedient! You are the best!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How can we understand the worlds were made?
2. Who offered a better sacrifice to God than Cain?
3. Who left behind a testimony that he pleased God?
4. Who built an ark and saved his family?
5. What did God tell Abraham to do?
6. What kind of a city did Abraham look for?
7. What did Sarah know about God?
8. What kind of country are the faithful looking for?

Answers: 1. By faith. 2. Abel. 3. Enoch. 4. Noah. 5. Move. 6. One whose builder and maker was God. 7. He would be faithful to His promise. 8. A heavenly one.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 February 25, 2007

By Faith I

One of the chapters in the book of Hebrews talks about faith. "Faith," the writer says, "Is knowing of things that we hope for and proving things we cannot see. By faith, we understand that the worlds were made. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. We must first believe that God is real and that He will reward those who seek Him with their whole hearts.

"By faith, Abraham offered his son, Isaac, up as a sacrifice when the Lord asked him to, even though the Lord had promised Abraham that he would be blessed through Isaac. Abraham had faith that God was able to raise Isaac up, even from death, if necessary.

"By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau and told of things that would happen in the future.

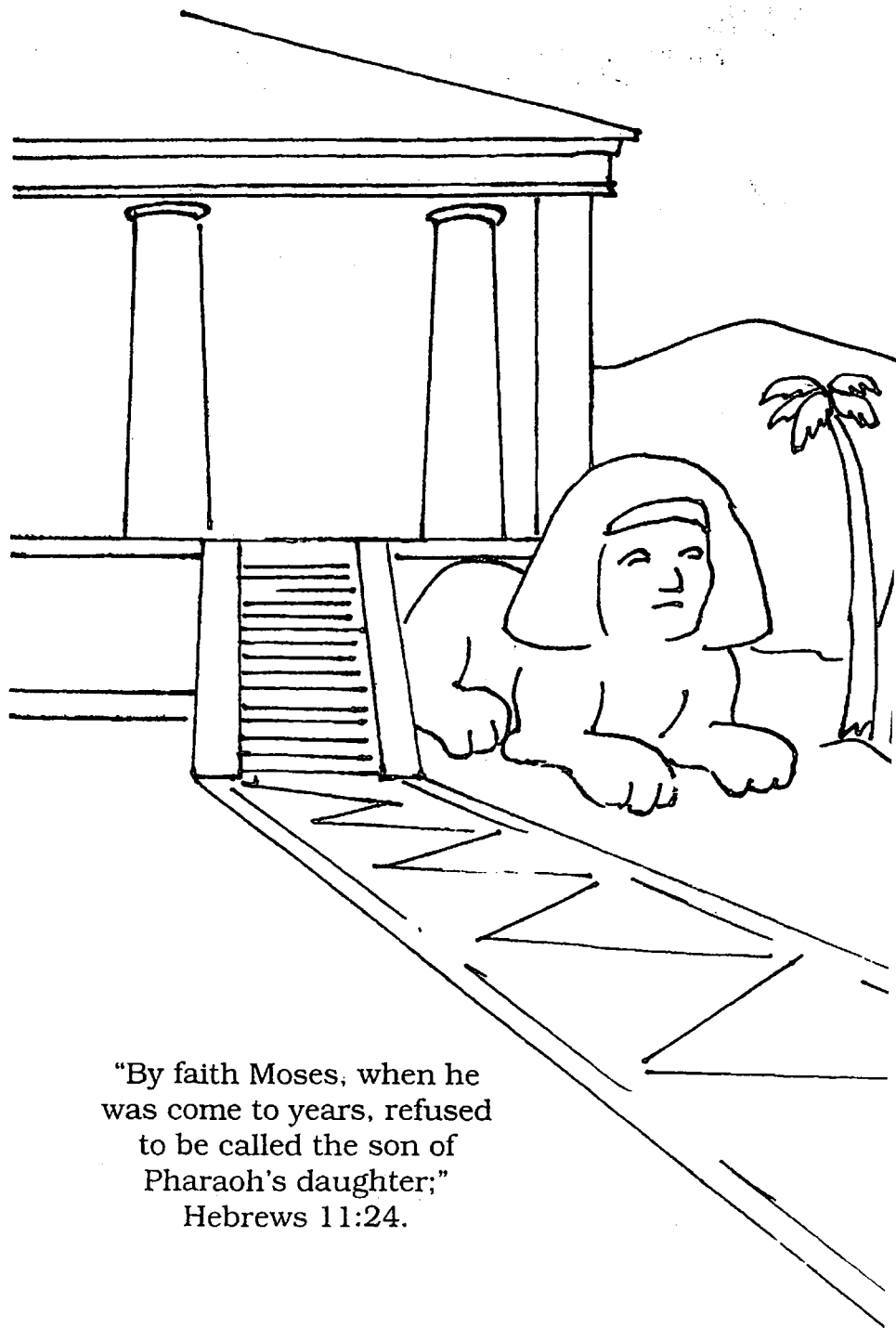
"By faith Joseph prophesied of the departing of the children of Israel from Egypt. He asked them to take his bones with them.

"By faith Moses was hidden three months by his parents when he was born. The Pharaoh had commanded for all of the babies to be killed. Moses' parents saw he was a promising child and did not fear the king's command. He was taken and raised by the king's daughter.

"By faith when Moses was old enough, he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He had been brought up by her in the palace all of his life. Instead, he chose to suffer with the people of God. Moses knew that the reproach of Christ was worth more than all of the treasures in Egypt. He had respect for the spiritual rewards.

"By faith, Moses left Egypt. He did not fear the anger of the king. Moses kept on obeying the God who was invisible."

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"By faith Moses, when he
was come to years, refused
to be called the son of
Pharaoh's daughter;"
Hebrews 11:24.



Biking and Sharing

"Daddy, can you help me ride Old Betsy?" asked Connie as she rolled out her red bike from the garage. "I want to learn how to make Old Betsy mind me."

"Okay, just a minute," said Daddy as he went over his 1958 Chevrolet with a chamois. "Now, Connie, don't you scrape my car with those handlebars. You keep that bike away from my car and don't put your hands on my car when you get on your bike. If you scratch my car with your bike, I will put that bike away for a whole week. You be careful!"

"Okay, I will," agreed Connie. She already had Old Betsy out in the middle of the front yard. She had learned in her short lifetime that, as Grandma Miles always said, *Vernon is very partic-u-lar about his car*. To Connie, that big word sounded strictly clean and sort of scary.

While Connie waited on Daddy, Vickie came over to visit. "I like your new bike, Connie," said Vickie. "My sister and brothers all have bikes, but I don't know how to ride one yet. My daddy said if I could learn how to ride one, then he would get me a bike."

"Well, that's dumb," said Connie. "How will you ever learn how to ride a bike if you don't have one?"

"I don't know," said Vickie sadly. "I guess I will never, ever learn how to ride one so I'll never, ever get a bike."

"I know what," said Connie. "After my daddy teaches me how to ride Old Betsy, then I can teach you how to ride. Okay?"

"Oh, I don't know if you could," said Vickie. "I'm bigger than you."

"Well, my daddy is strong enough to help you," said Connie. "I'll ask him if he will help you ride after he helps me and Donnie. He already told Donnie he would help him learn how to ride after me."

Soon Daddy came to help Connie on her bike. Even though it had train-

ing wheels, she still needed help in balancing, turning and stopping. Donnie and Vickie watched and cheered when Connie finally was able to ride on her own.

"Now it's my turn!" exclaimed Donnie as he ran to Connie's bike. Connie held tightly to the handle bars. She had just learned how to ride alone and she wanted to practice. It was her bike, not her brother's! She was about to push him away, when she saw how excited his face looked. She didn't want to see him cry.

"Oh, alright," she said a little grumpy. "Daddy can show you how to ride it for just a little bit then I want it back."

"I thought I was next," said Vickie.

Connie frowned. "Oh, alright," she agreed again.

In time all three of them learned how to ride on Old Betsy, and then Donnie and Vickie each got a bike. Connie learned that sharing paid off, because it was fun to ride bikes together.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who did Abraham offer up as a sacrifice?
2. What did Abraham have faith that God would do?
3. Who prophesied of the children of Israel leaving Egypt?
4. Who was hidden three months after he was born?
5. What did Moses choose to do when he was older?
6. What did Moses know was worth more than treasures?
7. Who left Egypt and did not fear the king?
8. Who did Moses keep obeying?

Answers: 1. His son, Isaac. 2. Raise Isaac up. 3. Joseph. 4. Moses. 5. Suffer with the children of Israel. 6. The reproach of Christ. 7. Moses. 8. The God who was invisible.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 March 4, 2007

By Faith II

One of the chapters in the book of Hebrews talks about faith. "Faith," the writer says, "Is knowing of things that we hope for and proving things we cannot see. By faith, we understand that the worlds were made. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. We must first believe that God is and that he will reward those who seek him with their whole hearts.

"By faith, Moses kept the Passover. He sprinkled blood so that the firstborn would not be destroyed by the angel of death.

"By faith, Moses led the children of Israel across the Red Sea after God parted the waters so they could walk on dry land. The Egyptians, who tried to follow the children of Israel across the dry path so that they could stop them, were destroyed.

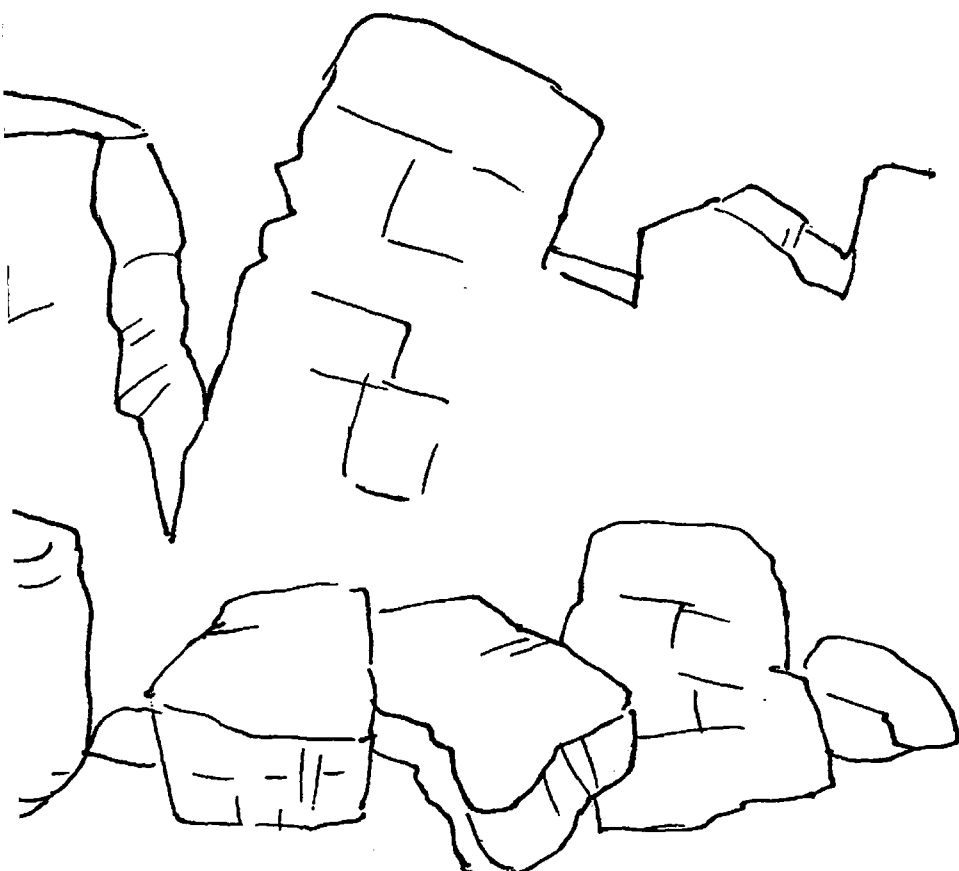
"By faith, the children of Israel marched seven times around the walls of Jericho because of the Lord's command. The walls fell.

"By faith Rahab did not die when the walls of Jericho fell. She had taken in the spies from the children of Israel and hid them so they would not be hurt. They promised her that no harm would come to her home if she hung a scarlet thread from her window.

"Many more people overthrew kingdoms, were righteous, held on to God's promises, stopped the mouths of lions, overcame fire, escaped swords, were brave in battle and fought against evil. Women had dead loved ones raised to life. Others were tortured for their faith. Others had trials and people making fun of them. They suffered from beatings, stonings, imprisonment, death. Many wandered around without any money. They did not have a place to live. All of these people have a good report because of their faith. God has provided something better for us."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down,..."
Hebrews 11:30.

Plans to Move

At breakfast time one morning, Mama told Connie and Donnie some important news. "Today Grandma Miles will stay with you all while Daddy and I go look at some houses. We need to move into a house that has three bedrooms so we can have a boys' room and a girls' room. We have prayed about moving for a long time, and now it seems like we will be able to."

Connie was quiet for a minute then she said, "See if there might be another house for sale close by. Vickie's parents might want to move, too."

Mama smiled. "I know you will miss being close to Vickie, but you can come and visit her sometime, Connie. We may not move too far from this neighborhood."

Connie frowned. "I want to move far away from the mean girls and boys on this street, but I want Vickie to move with us."

"Don't worry about it," said Mama. "Everything will work out okay. Go ahead and play for a while, but before I go, I want you to come in, Connie, and let me show you where I have things prepared for the babies."

As soon as they went outside, Connie and Donnie ran right over to Vickie's house. Vickie answered the door.

"Oh, Vickie, guess what?" moaned Connie. "We are moving away from you!"

"Yeah, we won't get to ride bikes together anymore," added Donnie.

"Oh, this is terrible," sighed Vickie. "Do you know how to use the telephone? I can tell you my telephone number and you could call me once in a while."

"But we can't play dolls over the telephone," Connie grieved. "Maybe your parents would like to move and live next door to us in our new neighborhood."

Vickie shook her head. "My Daddy said he would like to move, but my

Mama said my sister has to graduate first and that's next year."

"Connie, Mama said you could come and visit Vickie sometime," said Donnie. "But she didn't tell me that."

They talked for a while and then Connie heard Mama calling, "Vickie, I guess we will have to tell you good-bye until we can see you again," said Connie sadly.

They all said good-byes and then Connie and Donnie went back home. Later, they told Grandma Miles about telling Vickie good-bye.

"Oh, you little dears," said Grandma kindly. "You won't be moving for quite a while because your parents have not even bought a new house yet. You will get to play with Vickie for some time yet."

Connie and Donnie looked at each other and laughed. "Won't Vickie be surprised when we knock on her door tomorrow!" said Connie. "Grandma, please help me call her on the telephone and tell her."

Grandma smiled. "Okay, but next time don't tell news until you know for sure what is going on."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why did Moses sprinkle blood?
2. What sea did Moses cross?
3. What happened to the Egyptians?
4. What happened to the walls of Jericho?
5. Did Rahab die in Jericho?
6. What did Rahab hang out her window?
7. What happened to others who held on to the faith?
8. What do these people have because of their faith?

Answer: 1. To save his firstborn from death. 2. The Red Sea. 3. They drowned in the waters. 4. They fell. 5. No. 6. A scarlet thread. 7. Answers will vary. See last paragraph. 8. A good report.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 March 11, 2007

Weeping and Grinding of Teeth

"Once upon a time, there was a rich man whose clothing was purple and made out of fine fabrics," Jesus told his disciples. "He had a lot of fine foods every day. A beggar named Lazarus laid outside of the rich man's gate. Lazarus was sick and had many sores on his body. The dogs would come and lick Lazarus' sores. Lazarus asked if he could have the crumbs that fell off of the rich man's table.

"The beggar eventually died. Angels carried him to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.

"In hell, the rich man lifted up his eyes. He was being tormented. The rich man saw Abraham far away holding Lazarus. 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and let Lazarus dip the tip of his finger in cool water and bring it to me, so that I can cool my tongue. I am tormented in this flame,' the rich man cried.

"Son," Abraham replied. 'Remember that during your life you had good things. Lazarus had evil things, but now he is comforted, and you are tormented. Besides this, there is a great gulf fixed between us. We cannot pass over it.'

"Then please send Lazarus to my father's house,' pled the rich man. 'I still have five brothers. Let him testify to them so they will not come to this place of torment.'

"They have Moses and the prophets,' Abraham returned. 'They should listen to them.'

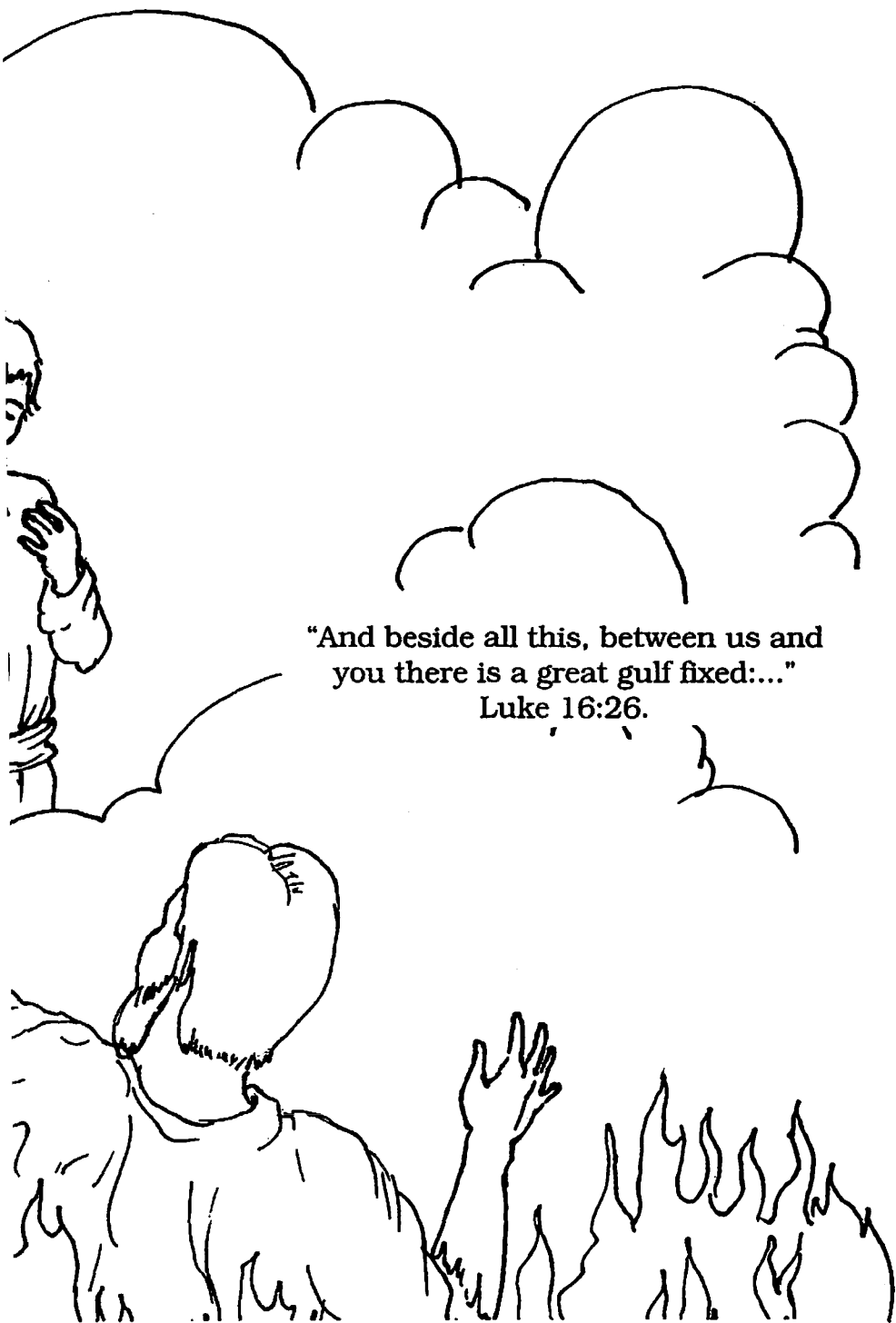
"They will not listen to them,' protested the rich man. 'But they would listen to someone from the dead and repent.'

"If they will not hear Moses and the prophets,' Abraham told the rich man, 'They will not repent.'"

Jesus says that those who do not follow the Lord's way will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. In the book of Revelation, John says that all of the "fearful, unbelieving, hateful, murderers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars will have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





"And beside all this, between us and
you there is a great gulf fixed:..."
Luke 16:26.

Don't Let the Coon Get You!

A True Story.

At a pet store Julie bought a cute baby raccoon. "I will call you Bandit," she said as she held the furry ball close to her face as she spoke. "Your shining black eyes look so mischievous behind that black mask of yours. I know we are going to have so much fun together!"

True to her words, Julie found that Bandit was mischievous. He loved to ride on her shoulder and coo softly in her ear. With his front paws he would comb through her hair and pat her cheek. Julie became known as the girl with the coon on her shoulder.

Like raccoons do, Bandit liked to wash his food before he ate it. Julie would give him a strip of chicken and he would go to the sink to wash it. The tender meat would flake in his hands, and Bandit had to hurry to eat it before washing all his food away!

He did get enough to eat and Bandit grew fast. Soon he weighed 15 pounds which was quite a bit of weight for Julie to carry around on her shoulder. She said she didn't mind because Bandit was so cute to watch.

On Bandit's first birthday, Julie gave him a surprise birthday party. She invited a few good friends of theirs to come. Richmond, an assistant veterinarian at the Los Angeles Zoo, was invited to eat cake and ice cream at the grand celebration.

"How much does Bandit weigh now?" Richmond asked Julie.

"Oh, he gained another five pounds so he is 20 pounds now," she replied. "He is getting rather heavy for me to carry."

"I would keep him in a cage more now," said Richmond. "He is maturing and will get more aggressive."

"Bandit and I are very close friends," said Julie in an offended tone. "He is very tame and smart."

"But he is still an animal of habit and of the wild," said Richmond. "Don't trust him by your face and he is really too heavy for your shoulder."

"Thank you for your concern, Richmond," said Julie. "Bandit is different than other raccoons. I've had him since he was a baby and he is perfectly tame. You will see that Bandit is better than the average coon."

"Well, I will leave you with this warning," replied Richmond. "When I told the senior vet at the zoo about Bandit, he said to warn you that before he is two years old, he will make a personality change and become aggressive. He could easily attack you without warning, so be careful!"

"I will!" laughed Julie.

A few months later Richmond got a call to go pick up Bandit who was now a full grown 30 pounds. Julie was in the hospital undergoing surgery for deep cuts on her face and around her ear. Bandit had attacked his owner like all other pet coons had been known to do. Julie should have listened to the warning, but she thought Bandit would be different.

Remember that there are laws of nature that God has put in place, and if you disobey or go against these laws, you will suffer for it.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What cloth was the rich man's clothing made of?
2. Who laid at the rich man's gate?
3. What did Lazarus need?
4. Where did the angels carry Lazarus?
5. Where did the rich man end up?
6. Where did the rich man want Lazarus to return to?
7. Who did Abraham say the rich man's brothers should listen to?
8. What will be in the outer darkness?

Answers: 1. Purple fine fabric. 2. Lazarus. 3. Crumbs from the rich man's table. 4. Abraham's bosom. 5. Hell. 6. His brothers. 7. Moses & the prophets. 8. Weeping and grinding of teeth.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 March 18, 2007

No More Crying or Pain

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. "There were ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom," he said. "Five of the virgins were wise, and five of them were foolish. The five foolish virgins took their lamps, but did not take any oil to light them with. The five wise virgins took oil in containers with their lamps. While the bridegroom got ready, the virgins rested and slept.

"At midnight a cry went up, 'The bridegroom is coming. Go out to meet him!'"

"All of the virgins rose and got their lamps ready. 'Give us some of your oil,' the five foolish virgins implored. 'Our lamps have gone out.'"

"No," answered the five wise virgins. "There would not be enough for us. Go to the people selling oil and buy some more for yourselves.' While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The ones that were ready went to the marriage and the door was shut. The other virgins came, pleading, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us.' 'I do not know you,' the Lord said."

"Watch and pray," Jesus instructed. "For you do not know the day or the hour that I will come."

When Jesus returns, he will gather his faithful followers together and take them up to Heaven.

The disciple, John, was banished to the island of Patmos because of his outspokenness about his faith. While he was there, John was given a vision about the future. He also had a vision of Heaven. "God will wipe away all tears from their eyes," John wrote. "There will be no more death. There will be no more sorrow, crying or pain. The old things have passed away. I saw a river of the water of life coming out of the throne of God. The walls were made of jasper. The city was pure gold. There will be no night there. They will not need a lamp. The Lord will give them light. They will not be hungry anymore."

Jesus says that "In my Father's house are many mansions. I will go and prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto Myself."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





“...and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.”
Matthew 25:10.

Excited About Fourth Sunday

"Tomorrow is fourth Sunday at Enid and I would like to take Connie with me if that is okay with you," Grandma Miles said to Connie's parents.

"It's okay with me," agreed Daddy as Mama nodded and said, "Do you want her to spend the night with you tonight?"

"That would be good," said Grandma. "We need to leave by 8:00 in the morning to be there on time for service. The older girls can drive for me, which helps so much. Then I am not so tired to deliver the message."

Before Grandma finished speaking, Connie was already in her bedroom looking for her little suitcase to pack. Mama helped her get ready. "Now I want you to mind Grandma and remember your manners," said Mama. "Don't talk all the time while you are traveling, and don't fuss with any cousins at church. Tell Grandpa and Grandma Eck 'HELLO' for me and remember not to put too much food on your plate, because Grandpa will expect you to eat it all."

"Okay, Mama," agreed Connie. She had heard all this before when she had gone with Grandma Miles for fourth Sunday at Enid. That was where Grandma and Grandpa Eck went to church and many aunts, uncles, and cousins, too. Connie loved being with so much family without her parents. Then her aunts and uncles would ask her how her family was doing, and she talked to the grown-ups instead of her mother or daddy.

Connie was ready to go quite a while before Grandma was ready. Finally, they drove away in Grandma's lime green Rambler. It was so much fun getting ready for bed with Grandma.

"Now let's pray before we tuck in," said Grandma. Connie loved hearing Grandma talk to God. She tried to sound just like her when she prayed, but her voice did not have quite the same quiver as Grandma's. Maybe some day she would sound grown-up like Grandma.

Morning came too early, Connie thought, but she didn't complain as she hurried to brush her teeth and get dressed. The two older girls were ready to go about the same time that Connie and Grandma were. They all climbed into Grandma's Rambler and headed north for Enid.

Connie listened to the small talk as she watched wheat fields, red barns, farm houses, cows and pastures speed past her window. Soon her eyes felt droopy and she couldn't hear what they were saying. The next thing she knew they were parked by the little white wooden chapel set on a grassy mound. It was a welcome sight to Connie.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How many of the virgins were foolish?
2. What did the foolish virgins fail to take with them?
3. Who did the virgins prepare to meet?
4. What did the five foolish virgins ask the wise to give them?
5. Who came while the foolish virgins were buying oil?
6. What did the bridegroom say to the foolish virgins?
7. Who had a vision of Heaven?
8. What will Heaven be like?

Answers: 1. Five. 2. Oil. 3. The bridegroom. 4. Oil. 5. The bridegroom. 6. "I never knew you." 7. John. 8. Answers will vary. See next to last paragraph.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 March 25, 2007

Be Ready

"No man knows the day or the hour that the Son of man will return," Jesus told his disciples. "The only one that knows is my Father. The return of the Son of man will be like it was in the days of Noah.

"In the days before the flood, they were eating, and marrying, until the day Noah entered into the ark. They did not know until the flood came and took them all away. The coming of the Son will be like this.

"At that time, two people will be in the field. One will be taken to Heaven, and the other left. Two women will be working at the mill. One will be taken and the other will be left.

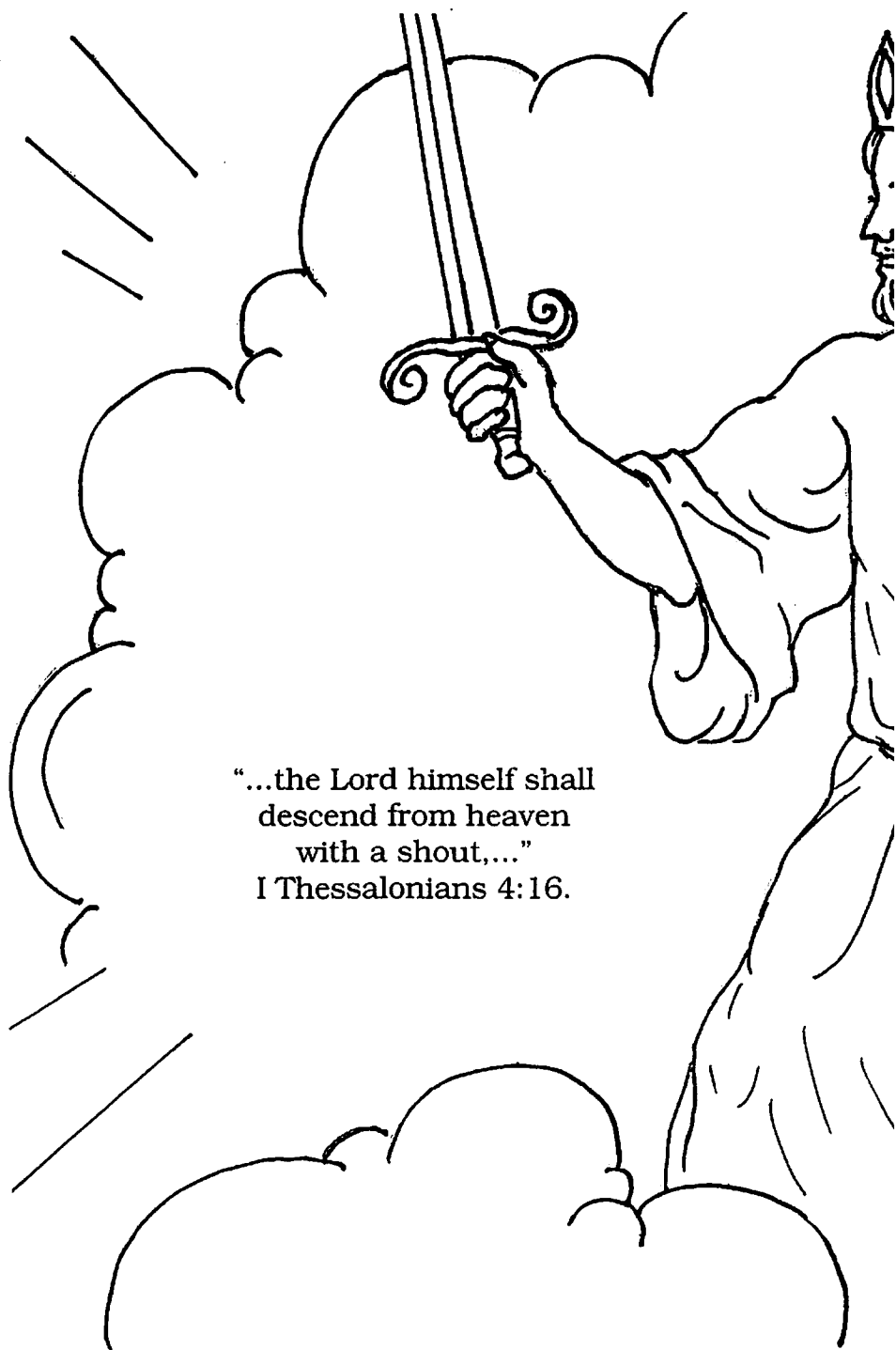
"Watch, because you do not know the hour your Lord will come. Be ready. The Lord will come at an hour you do not expect. Whomever is the faithful and wise servant will be blessed. The evil servant who hits others and is foolish will be cast out where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Peter writes more about the day of Jesus' return. "The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night," Peter describes. "The heavens will be destroyed with a great noise. They shall melt with great heat. The earth and everything in it will be burned up. Since all of these things will be destroyed, you ought to be holy with your speech and godly, looking for the day of Jesus' return. Since you look for these things, press on, so that God will find you to have peace, no spot, and blameless."

"The Lord himself will come down from Heaven," Paul writes in a letter to the Thessalonians. "He will shout with a loud voice and the trumpet will sound. The ones who died believing in Christ will rise up to meet Him first. The ones who are alive and believe in Christ will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. We will be with the Lord forever more. Comfort one another with these words."

The last words of Jesus that are recorded in the Bible are in the book of Revelation. "Surely, I come quickly," Jesus says.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...the Lord himself shall
descend from heaven
with a shout,...”
I Thessalonians 4:16.



Church Time in Enid

Connie liked the sound of dress shoes stepping on the wooden steps leading to the little white chapel in Enid. Inside the front doors, Connie glanced down the basements stairs. They looked so dark and steep. Connie took a deep breath and started climbing down. She held tightly to the hand rail and hurried. At last she reached the basement!

She found where Aunt Clara's Sunday school class was and sat down by Uncle Larry.

"Hello, Connie, it is so nice to see you," said Aunt Clara with a sweet smile. Connie smiled back and took the Beautiful Way Sunday school paper that Aunt Clara handed to her. She was familiar with this paper because Sis. Meek used them in her Sunday school class in Guthrie, and she knew Grandma Miles wrote them.

After Sunday school, all the young people and children had to climb up the stairs to the chapel. It was almost time for service to start.

"Why, hello, Connie, how are you? How are your Mama and Daddy?" aunts and uncles would ask.

"Oh, they are doing just fine," Connie would reply with a polite smile. She felt so important when the grown-ups would talk to her, but she wanted to chatter and giggle with Aunt Ruthie and the other girls.

"I think you had better sit with Grandma Eck," said Grandma Miles to Connie. "Right now is your time to go outside if you need to go because I don't want you going out during service. And don't talk during service, understand?"

"Yes, Grandma," replied Connie. "I don't need to go outside, either." The worst thing about that chapel was the outside outhouse. Connie tried to make it the last place she went before leaving for home.

Someone called a song number and the singing started. Connie went and sat with Grandma and Grandpa Eck, Aunt Ruthie and Uncle Larry. She liked to sing, but sometimes she would just sit back and listen.

Oh, how that congregation loved to sing! The flowing harmony of soprano, alto, tenor and bass rolled along the white wooden walls, floated out the open windows and drifted up to Heaven. Connie could hear Grandpa Eck's high tenor and Grandma Eck's quiet soprano.

Grandma was not big on singing like Grandpa, but she sure made the best pies! Just thinking about them made Connie's tummy rumble. She knew that after Grandma Miles preached, they would all go down to the basement for a big, wonderful dinner together.

Sitting on the bench, Connie started swinging her legs to the beat of the song. Her heart felt light and free—she was happy in the Lord!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. When will the Lord return?
2. Who is the only One who knows this?
3. What did Jesus compare the coming of the Lord to?
4. What kind of a servant will be blessed?
5. What will happen to the evil servants?
6. How should we act while we look for Jesus' return?
7. Who will come down from Heaven?
8. What are Jesus' last recorded words?

Answers: 1. No man knows. 2. God. 3. The days of Noah. 4. The wise servant. 5. They will be cast into outer darkness. 6. Holy and Godly. 7. Jesus. 8. "I come quickly."

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 1, 2007

In the Beginning

In the beginning of time, God made the heavens and the earth. The earth had no shape. It was dark. The Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters.

"Let there be light," God commanded. There was light. God saw that it was good. He divided the light from the darkness. God called the light "Day", and the darkness "Night." The evening and morning were the first day.

On the second day, God created the sky. He called it the "heavens." The evening and morning were the second day.

On the third day, God created land. The waters were brought together to form oceans, rivers, lake and seas. "Let grass grow on the earth," God said. God made the trees and things that grow in the earth.

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be lights to divide the day from night. Let them change for the seasons, for days and years. Let them be for lights in the heavens to give light on the earth." The greater light, the sun, rose during the day. The lesser light, the moon, came up at night. He made the stars also. God set them in the heaven. He saw that His work was good.

The next day, God created the fish and the birds. God saw that His work was good. The evening and morning were the fifth day.

On the sixth day, living creatures were created. Cows and creeping things and beasts now roamed the earth.

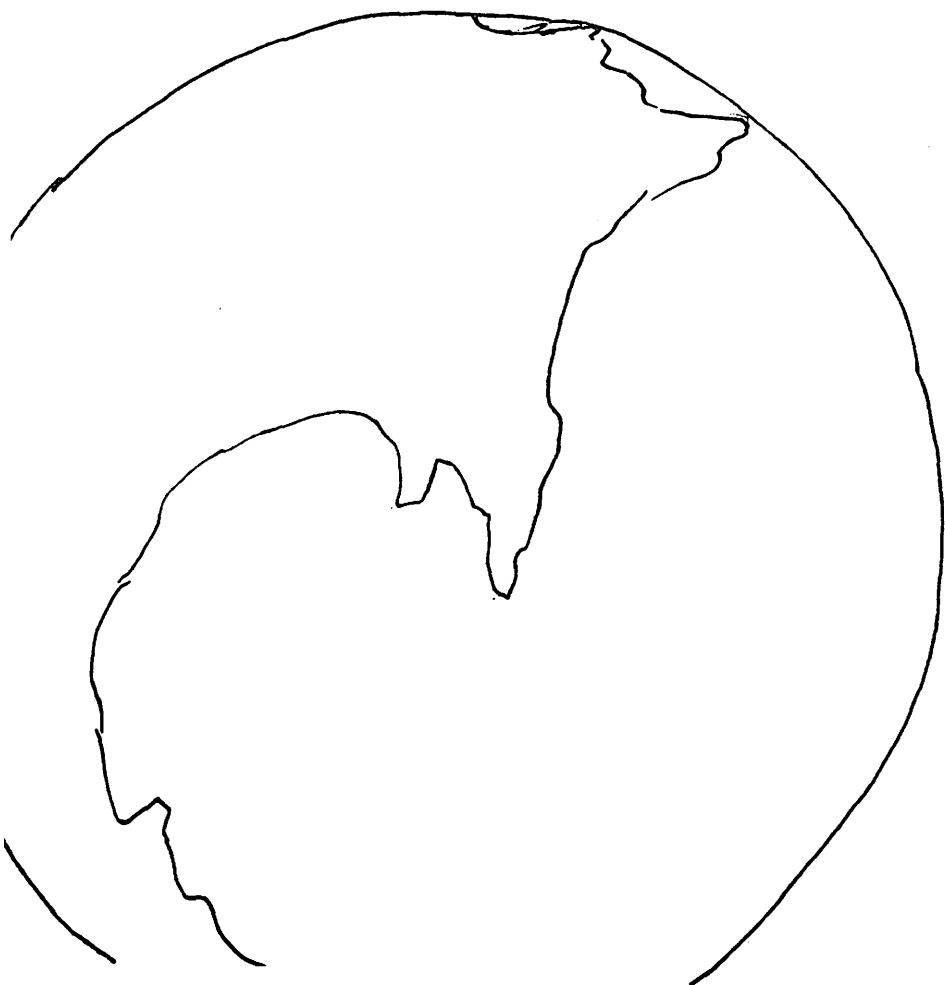
The skies and the earth were finished. On the seventh day, God rested. God blessed the seventh day.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” Gen. 1:3



Nello of Flanders

Nello and his great-grandfather lived in a tiny one-room hut by a Flemish village about three miles from the city of Antwerp, Flanders. This little region of country snuggles between France, Belgium and the Netherlands in northwest Europe. It is pretty farm land with its golden fields of flax and wheat.

In the little village of twenty houses, there was a gray stone chapel with a tall, pointed steeple and a black bell hanging in the belfry. At morning, noon and night the bell rang out to remind the villagers that God was still watching over them. Nello would bow his head in prayer just like Grandfather had taught him to do.

Across the dusty road from the chapel was the windmill. For fifty some years this windmill had ground wheat for the villagers and surrounding farmers. They felt it was their duty to bring their wheat here instead of to any bigger windmill in Antwerp. Besides the farmers and their wives had too much work to do and didn't have time to take wheat three miles away.

When Nello was two years old, his mother had died leaving him with Grandfather Jehan. At eighty years old, Grandfather was getting slower and slower, while Nello was learning to run, skip and chase butterflies. With patience and in love, Grandfather taught Nello to come when he called, and to obey him. By his faithful example, Grandfather showed Nello to pray, read his Bible and love Jesus.

One sunny morning, Nello woke up and went outside the hut. "Today the fair starts in Antwerp," he thought. "I hope Grandfather will hurry so we might have a little time to see the fair."

Nello picked up the harness to a green and white cart. "Grandfather," he called, "I will get the milk cart ready."

"Thank you, Nello," replied Grandfather as he appeared in the doorway. "You are nearly big enough to pull the cart yourself."

Nello tipped back his head and laughed, showing his clean, white teeth. "If I keep eating more crusts of black wheat bread than you do, then I will be stronger than you soon!"

"Aye, that ye will my son, that ye will," chuckled Grandfather as he put the harness about his waist. "Let's go see how much milk our neighbors have for us to haul to Antwerp today."

"Okay, Grandfather!" said four-year old Nello. He skipped along beside the two wheel cart as Grandfather pulled it to one house then to the next gathering cans of milk. When they walked between the chapel and the windmill, Nello noticed how badly the chapel needed new paint on its eaves and door. "Don't look so sad," he whispered to it. "We will visit you on Sunday!"

Careful not to spill the milk, Grandfather and Nello took the cart full of milk cans down the road to Antwerp to sell to the city people who did not have cows.

(To be continued.)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. When did God create the earth?
2. Did the earth have any shape?
3. What did God create the first day?
4. What did God call the darkness?
5. What did God create on the second day?
6. What did God create on the third day?
7. What did God make for the day and night?
8. What did God do on the seventh day?

Answers: 1. In the beginning. 2. No. 3. Light. 4. Night. 5. The sky. 6. Land. 7. The sun & moon. 8. Rested.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 8, 2007

The First Couple

Every plant of the field and every herb in the field grew. There was no man on the earth to till the ground.

"Let us make man in our image," God said. "He will rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds in the air, over the cattle, and over everything that creeps on the earth."

God formed man out of the dirt in the ground. He breathed into his nose and life came into the man. The Lord planted a garden in Eden. Many beautiful trees were growing in the garden. The Tree of Life was in the middle of the garden. So was the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden. God put the man in the garden. The man's name was Adam.

Out of the ground, the Lord formed beasts and birds and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. Adam named all of the creatures. Adam had no other human being who could help him with any of these things.

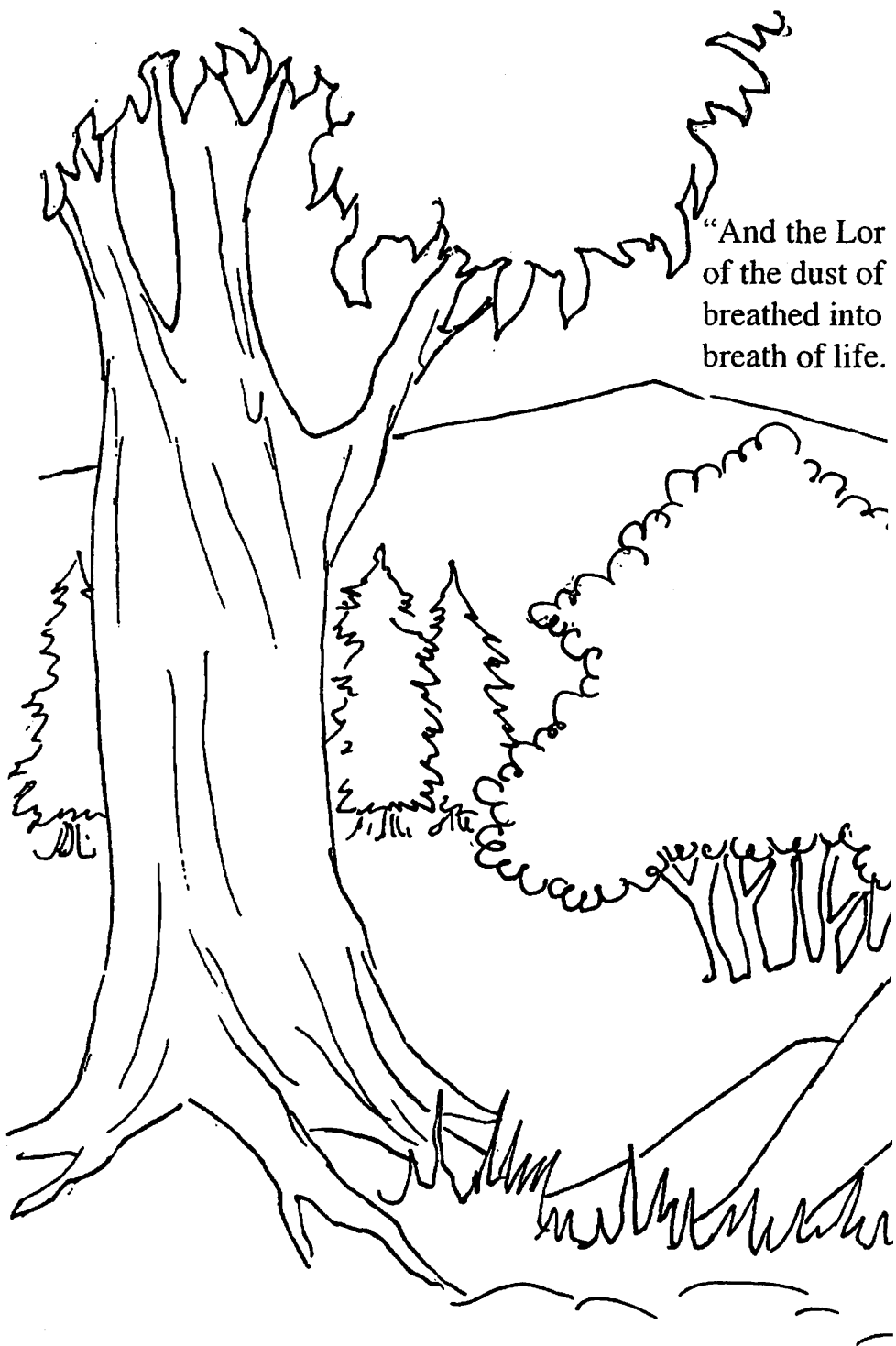
"It is not good for man to be alone," God decided. "I will make a helpmeet for him."

The Lord caused Adam to fall asleep. As Adam slept, God opened Adam's side and took one of his ribs. Then He closed up the flesh. He made a woman out of the rib and brought her to Adam.

"This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She will be called Woman, because she was taken out of man," Adam said.

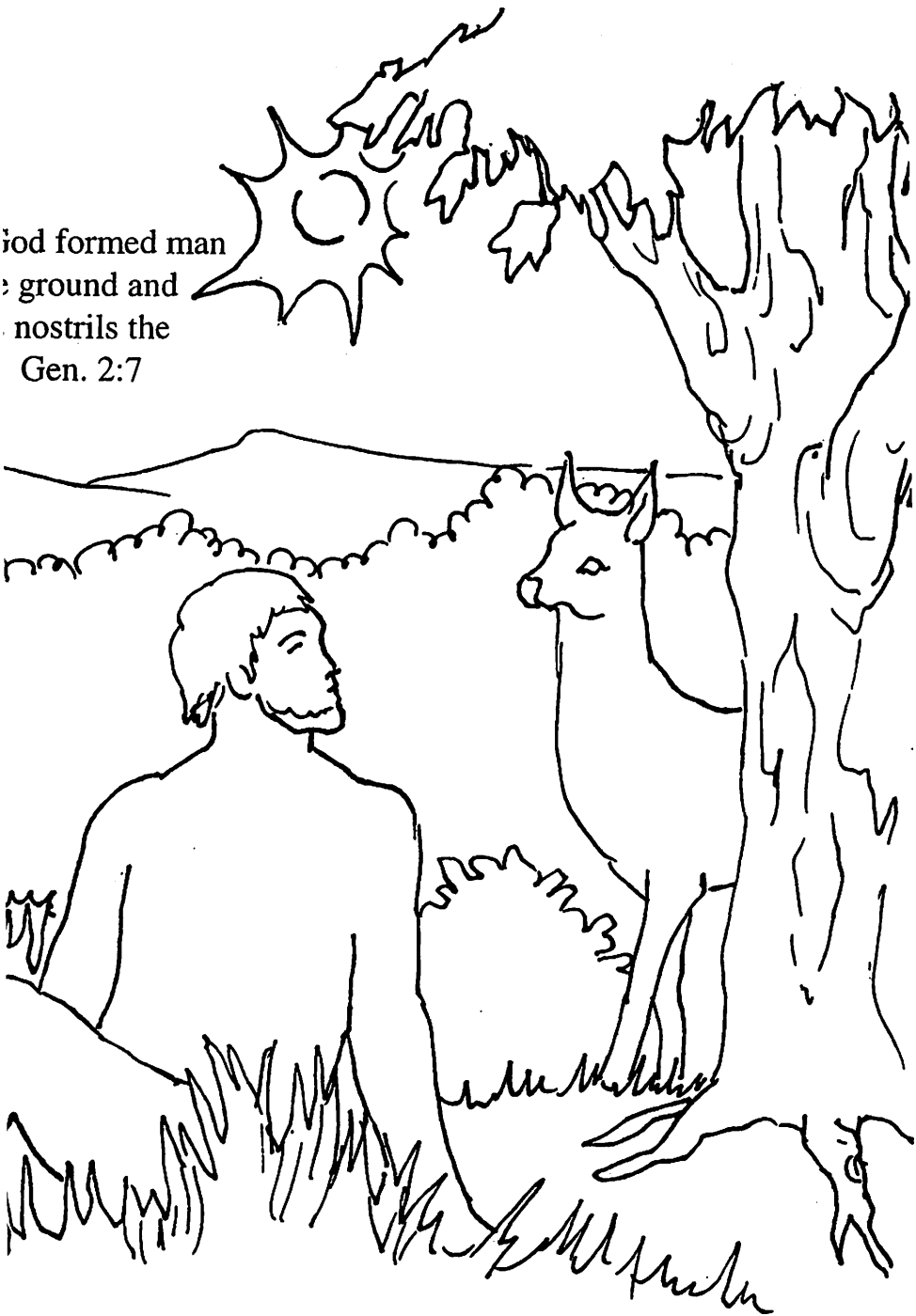
"A man should leave his father and mother and be one with his wife," Adam decided.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"And the Lor
of the dust of
breathed into
breath of life.

God formed man
from the ground and
breathed into his
nostrils the
breath of life.
Gen. 2:7



Finding a Friend

(continued)

After delivering all their milk, Grandfather Jehan and Nello did walk through the fair, but they did not see anything they wanted to buy with their hard earned money. While they were at the fair, a peddler was traveling the same dusty road they had traveled earlier that day. He also had a cart, but it was pulled by a big, black dog born in Flanders.

This heavy, sturdy dog was taught from puppyhood to pull big loads in the sun, through the rain, or over ice. He had learned to never sit down or try to get a drink while in the harness because his harsh master would whip his nose for such laziness. His master drank too much liquor and did not care if his poor dog went a day without food. He still expected the dog to pull and work for him whether fed or not.

On this day to the fair, the big black dog had not eaten nor drank all morning. He was tired and thirsty, but if he slowed down a little his master slapped the whip on his back and cursed him. Moving one sore paw in front of the other, the dog kept his head down from the hot sun and moved toward the city of Antwerp.

After another sip or two from his bottle, the master decided his dog was moving too slowly. With his big stick he began to hit the dog, yelling at him to trot. "I will never get to the fair in time to sell my wares at the rate ye slothful thing are moving!" he hollered.

These hard blows were too much for the dog. Thirsty and hot, he began to slip in the harness, then he fell over, foaming at the mouth. The master was furious but his blows and screams could not make the tired dog get up. Finally, the cruel man dragged the dog to the side of the road, then took hold of the harness and pulled the cart himself.

Travelers passing by saw the big dog by the side of the road.

"Poor thing!" some said, shaking their heads.

"He probably won't live 'til morning," declared some, clicking their tongues.

"Such a pity!" exclaimed some with a sigh.

Coming home, Grandfather Jehan and Nello saw the poor dog laying in the dust.

"Poor doggie!" exclaimed Nello running to him. "Grandfather, he is still breathing! He needs our help!"

Grandfather bent over the big dog. "If you can help me put him in the cart, we will take him home," he said.

The two struggled to put the big dog into the cart, and he was a load to pull home. Carefully, they dropped water into his mouth and cleaned his wounds. From their small amount of food, they gave the dog a little bit to eat.

Nello was delighted to have the big black dog to nurse to health. Tenderly, he patted and talked to the dog when he could. From all this love, the dog gained strength and became a blessing to his new masters.

(To be continued)

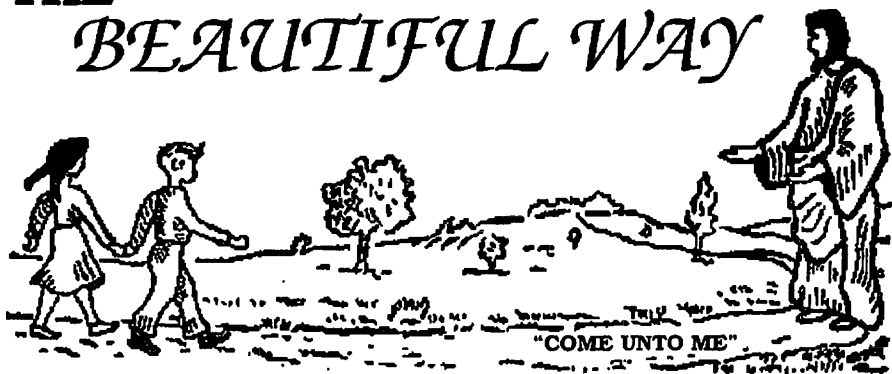
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What was needed to till the earth?
2. Whose image did God make man of?
3. What was man formed out of?
4. Where did God place the man he had formed?
5. What was the man's name?
6. What did God take out of Adam's side?
7. What did God make with it?
8. Who did Adam say a man should leave to be one with his wife?

Answers: 1. A man. 2. God's. 3. Dust. 4. In the Garden of Eden. 5. Adam. 6. A rib. 7. Woman. 8. His father and mother.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 15, 2007

The First Deception

Adam and Eve were the first man and woman on the earth. God planted a beautiful garden in Eden and placed Adam and Eve there. A river flowed through the garden. Pleasant fruit trees blossomed and grew. Among these trees was the Tree of Life. There was also a tree called "The Knowledge of Good and Evil."

"You may eat anything off of any of the trees in the garden except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," the Lord commanded Adam and Eve. "If you eat fruit from this tree, you will die."

The serpent was more cunning than any other animal of the field that God had made. One day, the evil serpent paid Eve a visit. "Has God said you should not eat of every tree in the garden?" the serpent asked.

"We may eat the fruit from any of the trees except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said we should not eat it or touch it, or we would die," Eve explained.

"Surely you will not die," the serpent replied. "God knows that when you eat the fruit from the tree your eyes will be opened and you will know as much as the gods and know all about good and evil."

Eve examined the fruit and saw that it would be good for food. It looked good to her. She wanted to be wise, so she took a piece of fruit from the tree and ate it. Eve gave some of the fruit to Adam, and he ate it, too. Their eyes were opened. They knew they had done wrong.

During the cool of the day, Adam and Eve heard the Lord walking in the garden. They hid among the trees. "Where are you?" the Lord called. "I heard your voice and I was afraid. I hid myself," Adam replied. "Have you eaten of the tree after I commanded you not to?" the Lord asked. "The woman that you gave to me gave me fruit from the tree and I ate it," Adam answered. "The serpent tempted me, and I ate," Eve told him. "Because you have done this," the Lord told the serpent, "You are cursed above every animal. You will crawl around on your belly in the dust for the rest of your life." Adam and Eve were sent from the garden because of their sin. They had to work hard for their food and for their lives.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and g
Gen. 3:6



also unto her husband....”

The Gift of a Dog

(continued)

The big black dog that Nello named Patrasche lay in a corner of the hut and watched Great-grandfather Jehan arrange the harness to the green milk cart. Patrasche remembered the cart he had pulled for his old drunken master. He had been beaten and forced to work hard without much food or water. Now he was fed enough, had plenty of water and was cared for very tenderly.

"It is time to gather the milk, Nello," said Grandfather. "Patrasche, you rest and care for our place here."

But Patrasche had other plans for the day. He stood up and stretched his long strong legs. His wounds had nearly healed and he felt strong this warm sunny day. Patrasche walked quietly to the milk cart and put himself between the handles, ready for the harness.

"Look at Patrasche!" exclaimed Nello. "He thinks he can pull our cart!"

Grandfather patted Patrasche's head. "Do you think you are well enough to work, my dear Patrasche? It is a heavy load to pull, you know."

Patrasche nodded his head as if to say, "I know how to pull heavy loads." Then he licked Grandfather's hand to say, "thank you for all your care."

"Grandfather, the cart is getting too heavy for you to pull," said Nello. "If Patrasche wants to do it, then we can let him try."

"We will let him," agreed Grandfather as he carefully arranged the harness to fit Patrasche's chest and back.

As the three walked down the dusty road, little bells jingled on the harness so that the housewives would know when the cart had arrived at their door for the milk.

"What a big fine dog you have!" some of them said.

Grandfather Jehan smiled and said, "Yes, Patrasche has been a gift

from God. We are thankful to have him."

Nello noticed that they traveled the three miles much faster when Patrasche pulled the cart. As for Patrasche, he thought the load in the cart was not nearly as heavy as he had been forced to pull by his old mean master. Now he was working because he loved his new owners. Working for someone because of love and respect is so much better than obedience from fear and cruelty.

In time, Great Grandfather Jehan was not able to walk so far every day. Nello was strong enough to pick up the milk cans and load them onto the cart, so Grandfather would stay at the little hut and rest every day but Sunday.

On the Lord's day, Grandfather Jehan and Nello would go to the little gray stone chapel in the village and hear about the love of Jesus. That day, Patrasche stayed home and rested. Oh, how thankful they were to have each other!

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who were the first people on earth?
2. Where did God put them?
3. What tree could they not eat from?
4. Who tempted Eve to eat the fruit?
5. Who did Adam and Eve hear in the garden?
6. What did they do when they heard the Lord?
7. What happened to the serpent because of his evil?
8. What happened to Adam and Eve because of their sin?

Answers: 1. Adam and Eve. 2. Garden of Eden. 3. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 4. The serpent. 5. The Lord. 6. They hid. 7. He has to crawl on his belly in the dust. 8. They had to work hard for their food and lives.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 22, 2007

The First Murder

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they had to leave their beautiful home in the Garden of Eden. God placed cherubims and a flaming sword to watch over the tree of life.

Adam and Eve had a hard way of life because of their sin. Thorns and thistles now grew in the earth. They could not just pick fruit from the beautiful trees in the garden. They had to work hard to grow and harvest their food. Soon, Adam and Eve began having children. First, Adam and Eve had a son they named Cain. Eve had another son named Abel. Cain worked hard to till the ground and plant foods in the fields. Abel was a shepherd.

Abel brought the best of his flock to sacrifice to God. The lamb he brought was the fattest and best. Cain brought fruit as an offering to the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abel's offering, but was not satisfied with the offering Cain brought to Him. This made Cain very angry and his face fell.

"Why are you upset?" The Lord asked. "If you do well, shouldn't you be accepted? If you do not do well, doesn't that show that sin is in your heart?"

While Cain and Abel were in the field, Cain killed his brother. "Where is your brother Abel?" the Lord asked Cain. "I do not know," Cain answered. "Am I my brother's keeper?" "What have you done?" the Lord asked. "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. Now, you are cursed from the earth. When you till the ground it will be hard and tough. You will be a wanderer on the earth.

"My pain is greater than I can bear," Cain protested. "You have driven me away from the earth and I will be hid, and everyone that finds me will kill me."

"If anyone kills you," the Lord promised. "Vengeance will be taken on him. I will set a mark on you so that no one will kill you."

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock....”



en. 4:4



The Art Secret

(continued)

In the village right across from the gray stone chapel was a windmill where farmers brought their grain to be ground. Here it was in the evenings on the way home that Nello liked to stop and visit a girl named Alois. In the summer they would run out in the fields with Patrasche running and barking beside them. They would skip stones in the cool brook or watch lazy cows chewing their cud.

What Nello really liked was when Alois had an extra piece of chalk and she gave it to him to draw pictures. He would find a smooth piece of wood or bark and then draw something that caught his attention. Alois and Patrasche would watch as a copy of a setting would appear under Nello's fingers.

God had given Nello the gift of drawing, but he was so poor that he did not have the pencils, chalk, paint, brushes and other supplies that he needed to be an artist. Many times Nello cried and prayed to his Heavenly Father about this need. Grandfather Jehan had told him that His Father owned the cattle on a thousand hills, so Nello knew such a wealthy Father would also own all the art supplies. In time He would give a trusting child of His what he needed.

One summer day Alois had made a poppy flower wreath for Patrasche. The dark red poppies looked so handsome on the big black dog who had his head on the girl's lap. Nello quickly found a piece of smooth wood and began to sketch this lovely picture before him. Neither one of the children noticed the father of Alois as he came upon them in the field of flowers.

The children were playing peacefully, but Mr. Cogeze did not like seeing his rich daughter with such a poor, uneducated boy. He thought, *What if they fell in love and wanted to get married—that would be terrible! He has nothing to offer her but poverty! I will not tolerate this!*

"Alois!" said Mr. Cogeze sternly. "You must go to your mother at once! She needs your help in the kitchen!"

Alois looked up, startled. "Yes, Father," she replied, arising. "I haven't been here long and I did not know that Mother needed me."

"And you, young man," continued Mr. Cogeze. "I never gave you permission to draw my daughter. You do not have permission to do this again, do you understand?"

"Yes, sir," replied Nello with his cheeks burning red from embarrassment.

"Mr. Cogeze took the picture from Nello's hands. 'This is a good picture of Alois,'" said her father. 'I will buy it from you and give it to her mother.'"

He handed Nello a coin, but Nello shook his head. "No, keep the picture as a gift from me," said Nello as he and Patrasche turned to walk home.

From then on, Grandfather Jehan noticed Nello and Patrasche came home earlier in the evenings. Nello did not want to trouble his Grandfather about what the miller had done, but he wanted so badly to draw more. He began to lay aside a penny here and there to save for art supplies. Most important of all, Nello prayed.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why did Adam and Eve leave the garden?
2. Who did God put to watch over the tree of life?
3. What kind of life did Adam and Eve have?
4. What was the name of their first son?
5. What was the name of their second son?
6. What did Abel bring as a sacrifice to God?
7. What did Cain bring as a sacrifice to God?
8. What made Cain angry?

Answers: 1. They disobeyed God & had to leave. 2. Cherubims and a fiery sword. 3. A hard one. 4. Cain. 5. Abel. 6. His best lamb. 7. Fruit. 8. God was not pleased with his offering.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 April 29, 2007

Destroyed by a Flood

People began to multiply on the earth. There were giants on the earth. They had children who grew to become mighty men who were well known.

God saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth. Man's imagination was continually thinking of evil things. The Lord was sorry He had ever made man. God's heart was saddened. "I will destroy the men who I have created. I will wipe every man, beast, creeping thing and bird from the earth. I am sorry I have made them," the Lord reflected.

The Lord found one man who pleased Him. This man's name was Noah. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah was perfect. He walked with God. Noah had three sons named Shem, Ham and Japheth.

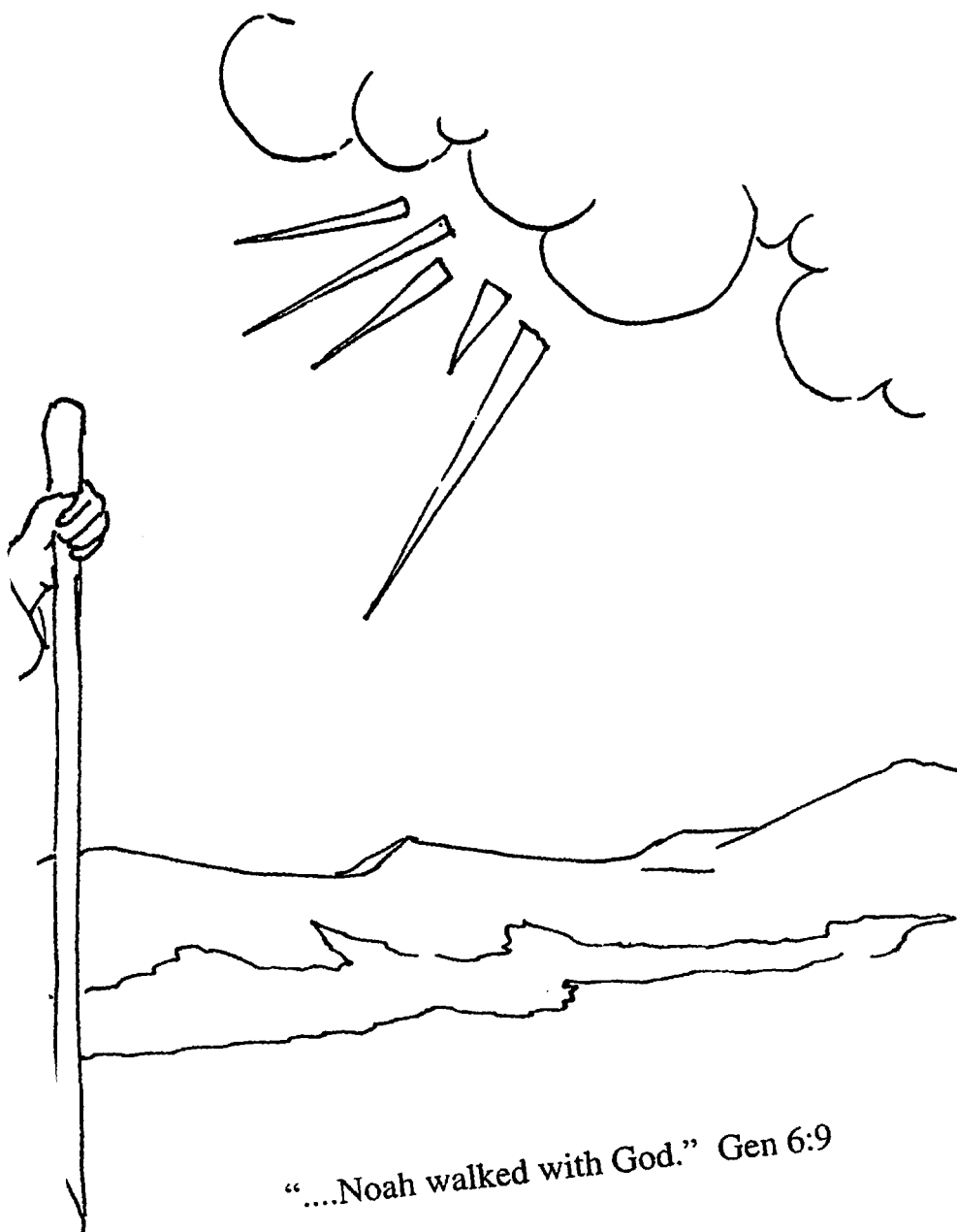
The earth was filled with violence and evil. God saw that men had brought this on earth and were not following the Lord's plan.

"I am going to destroy all of the earth," the Lord informed Noah. "The earth is filled with violence. Make an ark out of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark. Build the ark thirty cubits high. Put one window in the ark. Put a door in the side of the ark. It should have three stories. I will destroy all flesh on the earth. But I will make a covenant with you. You will go into the ark. You will take your wife and your sons and their wives with you. Keep two of every living thing alive in the ark with you. Take food for you and the animals to eat."

Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





“....Noah walked with God.” Gen 6:9

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A Picture of Hope

(continued)

Seasons came and passed over the land of Flanders. Great-Grandfather Jehan was now very weak and not able to leave the hut even for church services at the old gray stone chapel in the village. Nello and Patrasche walked the milk route six days a week, but they did not have the pleasure of stopping by the mill house for play time with Alois.

Nello was able to find pieces of chalk and other things to draw with and he continued to draw every day. However, Alois only saw the one hanging by the family hearth. It was her picture on a sanded piece of wood. She wondered why her father liked Nello's work of art, but did not want her to be with him. She missed playing with Nello, also, and sometimes would carry out a bone or some treat to Nello and his dog when they passed by.

When Nello was twelve years old, a great announcement was made. All young artists were challenged to paint a drawing of their choice to enter a contest. The artist who had the winning picture would be given two hundred francs a year while he studied art in Europe for two years. Oh, how Nello wanted to win this contest!

In a shed by the hut, Nello created a sturdy easel from crude wood. With carefully saved pennies, he bought canvas and paint. Many evenings Patrasche laid at the doorway of the shed and watched Nello paint on his picture of Michael the woodcutter. Nello wanted the face to have expression, the back ground to look right and the colors to be accurate.

The contest entries had to be in the first day of December. That morning, Nello took brown paper and string. Carefully he wrapped his finished painting and tied it. After the milk route he would drop it by at the City Hall in Antwerp where the entries were to be taken.

Nello sighed as he put the precious parcel in the green cart. "Well, Patrasche, we have done our best on

this painting," he said. "Now we must pray that our Heavenly Father will have mercy on us."

The cold winter wind beat on the two as they trudged along the icy road. Patrasche was getting slower with age now and winter was hard on him. Carefully, and with a prayer, Nello left the wrapped painting at the entry desk.

On the way home, Nello saw something bright by the side of the road. He went over to see what it was and pulled out a wooden puppet from the snow. He showed it to his best friend.

"See how shiny it is, Patrasche?" he exclaimed. "I think it was bought to be a Christmas gift but some sad shopper will not find it when she gets home. Let's take it back to the shop from where it was bought. The keeper may remember who bought it."

So Nello and Patrasche left the pretty puppet with the shop keeper who was to find the owner. One week passed and no one claimed the puppet, so the shop keeper told Nello he could have it.

"Thank you very much!" exclaimed Nello as he hurried out the door. He knew who he was going to give this puppet to.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did God see was great on the earth?
2. What was man's imagination always thinking?
3. Why was the Lord sorry he had created man?
4. Who pleased the Lord?
5. Noah found ____ in the eyes of the Lord.
6. What did the Lord decide to do to the earth?
7. What did the Lord tell Noah to build?
8. Who was Noah supposed to take onto the ark?

Answers: 1. The wickedness of man. 2. Evil things. 3. They were violent and evil. 4. Noah. 5. Grace. 6. Destroy it. 7. An ark. 8. His family and two of every living thing.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 6, 2007

Alone on the Earth

The Lord told Noah to build an ark. Noah was supposed to find two of every unclean animal to take on the ark with him and his family. The Lord told Noah to take seven males and females of the clean animals and birds. Clean animals are animals that have divided hooves and chew their cud.

It took Noah one hundred and twenty years to build the ark and prepare for the flood. Before this, no one had ever seen rain.

"Come and bring your family in the ark," the Lord told Noah. "I have seen that you are righteous. Bring the animals into the ark."

"It will be seven days before it rains. Then, I will cause it to rain for forty days and forty nights. Every living thing that I have made will be destroyed from the earth."

Noah did everything that the Lord commanded. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters covered the earth. Noah and his family went into the ark and waited. The animals also came two-by-two into the ark.

The Lord shut the door behind them.

After seven days, the windows of heaven were opened and rain began to pour down and cover the earth. The waters rose and lifted the ark high above the earth. The ark moved about on the waters.

All of the hills were covered with water. The mountains were covered with water. All of the living things that moved about on the earth were destroyed by the water. Only Noah, his family and the animals on the ark remained alive.

The waters stayed on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

— Sis. Monica Murphey



“...and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with
Genesis 7:23



a in the ark."



Nello's Fiery Trial

(continued)

With a pretty wooden puppet in his hand Nello walked down the icy road to the stone mill in the village. He knew which window went to Alois' bedroom and he wanted to hand the puppet to her by himself.

Walking to the back of the house, Nello tapped on her window. She answered, surprised to see him.

"I wanted to give this puppet to you for Christmas, Alois," said Nello.

"Oh, Nello, I am sorry we can not be together any more," said Alois. "I thank you so much for this lovely gift! This and the picture by the mantel will always remind me of you and our good times together!"

Nello nodded. "Good-bye, Alois! God be with you!"

Nello left quickly but not before Mr. Cogez saw him. "Alois!" he called sternly from the den "Why was that beggar here?"

Alois walked into the den, her face sad because of her father's attitude toward Nello. "He is not a beggar," said Alois. "He works for his living and he is a good boy. Maybe some day you will see his goodness like I do."

"Never!" declared Mr. Cogez. "Don't speak about him to me like that again, young lady!"

Alois went back to her room very sad. Just because Nello was poor and did not go to school did not mean he was bad. He was very kind and courteous. Oh, how she prayed that her father would change his mind about Nello!

That night something dreadful happened. The barn behind the mill caught on fire and nearly burned to the ground. The horses and other animals barely escaped alive, but their winter supply of hay was totally burned up.

Of course, the question is, *How did this fire start?*

The devil whispered into Mr. Cogez's ear, "Remember seeing that poor boy at your place last night? He is really mad because you won't let him visit Alois."

"I think I know who the culprit is who started this fire," Mr. Cogez said. "That poor beggar who runs the milk cart did it! I saw him here last night!"

Oh, what a terrible fire Mr. Cogez started with his tongue! He falsely accused Nello without even letting the boy defend himself. Most of the village people believed Mr. Cogez's word without thinking how fair Nello had always been to them. They did not want to lose business at the mill, so they were willing to side with Mr. Cogez against Nello who was very shocked when he heard the bad rumor.

No one asked Nello if he had started the fire, they just assumed he did. One by one the housewives told Nello that someone else would take their milk to Antwerp. They did not give him treats for Patrasche any more. This terrible blow right before Christmas was very hard for Nello to bear, but he continued to pray about his painting in the contest. That would be such a blessing to win!

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How many of each kind of clean animal was Noah supposed to bring on the ark?
2. What are clean animals?
3. How many years did it take Noah to build the ark?
4. Had it ever rained before this?
5. Where did the Lord tell Noah to go?
6. How old was Noah at the time of the flood?
7. Who shut the door of the ark behind Noah's family?
8. How many days did they wait in the ark before the rain started?

Answers: 1. Seven males and females. 2. Animals who have divided hooves and chew their cud. 3. 120 years. 4. No. 5. Into the ark. 6. Six hundred years old. 7. The Lord. 8. Seven.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 13, 2007

The Sign of the Rainbow

Noah, his family and the animals were the only ones in the world who were still alive. The Lord sent a great flood to destroy the rest of the earth because the people had become violent and evil. Noah and his family did not know what was going to happen next. They waited in the ark for the Lord's command.

God remembered Noah and all of the living things that were with him on the ark. God caused a wind to pass over the earth. The rains stopped. The waters began to dry up.

On the fortieth day, Noah opened the window in the top of the ark. He sent a raven out to see if there was any sign of dry ground. The raven flew to and fro until the waters dried up. Next, Noah sent out a dove. The dove could not find a place to rest her weary feet. She flew back to the safety of the ark, because the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. Noah held out his hand and caught the dove and brought her back into the ark.

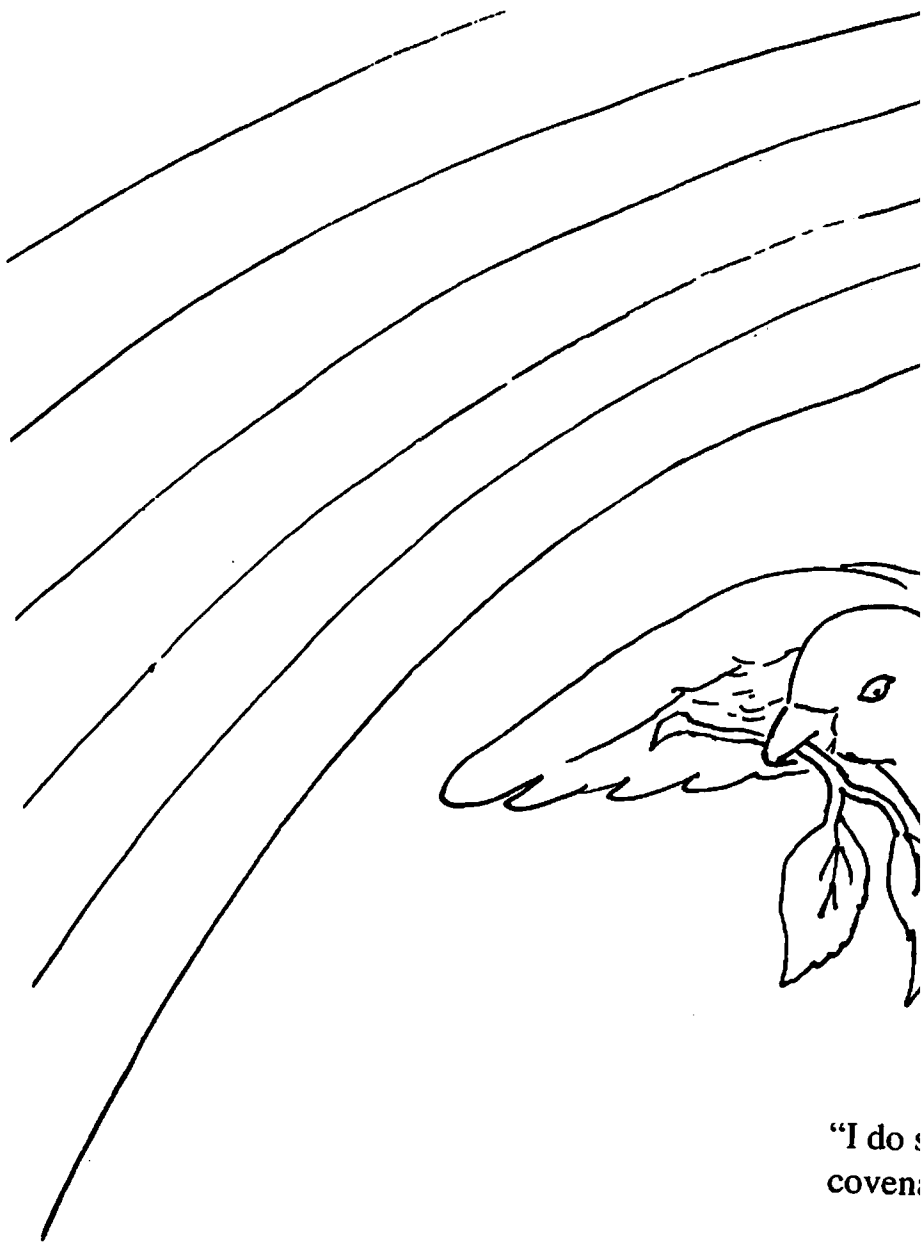
Noah waited seven days and then sent the dove out again. On the same evening, the dove flew back to the ark with something in her beak. It was an olive leaf! Now Noah knew that the waters had been lifted from the face of the earth.

The waters kept decreasing until during the tenth month, the mountaintops could be seen. The ark had found a resting place on the top of a mountain called Ararat. Noah was six hundred and one years old when he finally lifted the top off of the ark. When he looked, he saw that the ark was resting on dry ground!

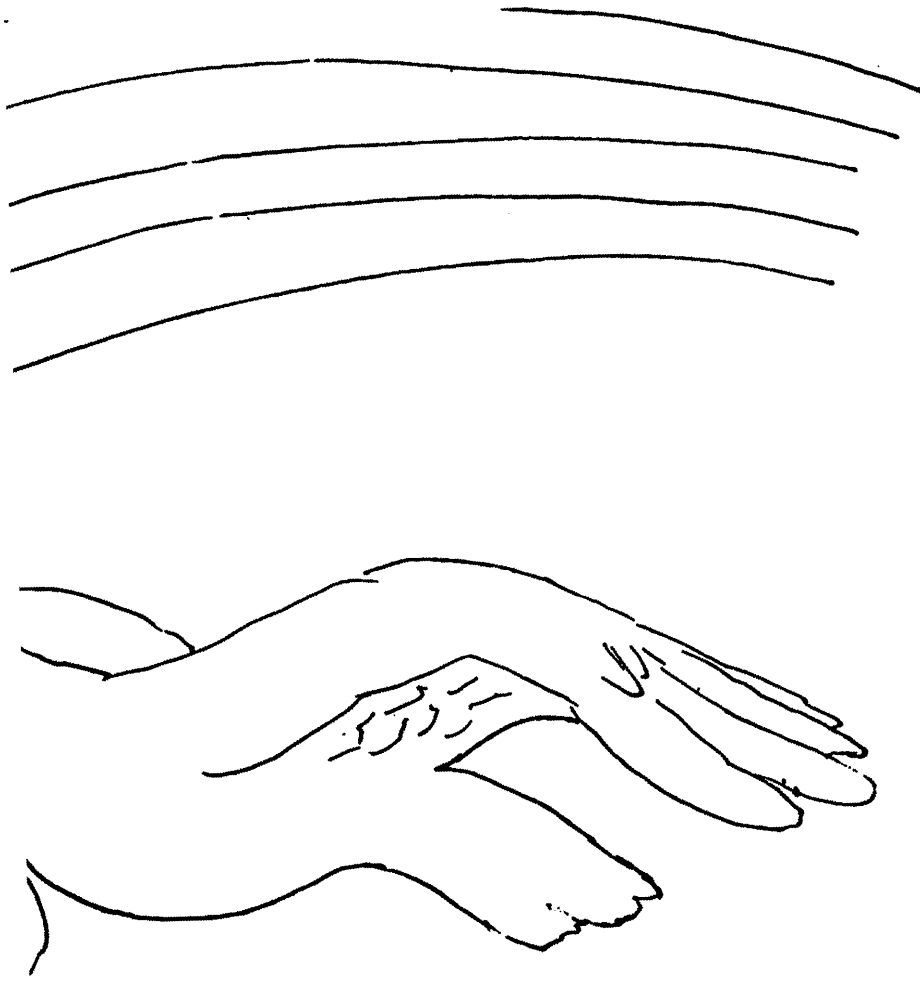
"Take your family and leave the ark. Bring out every creature. Multiply on the earth," the Lord told Noah.

Noah, his family and all of the animals finally left the ark after their long adventure. "I will not ever destroy the earth again because of something man has done," the Lord said. "I have set a rainbow in the cloud as a sign of my promise. I will look at the rainbow and remember the promise I have made. The earth will never again be destroyed by a flood."

—Sis. Monica Murphey



"I do s
coven



at my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a
it between me and the earth.” Gen. 9:13

Frozen Hearts

(continued)

Falsely accused about starting a barn fire, Nello lost one milk client after another. They could not explain why they were shunning Nello because he had never cheated them, but they wanted to keep friends with Mr. Cogez who ground their grain at the mill.

The false rumor also grieved Alois. She knew in her heart that Nello was innocent, but she was not able to explain this because her father had forbidden her to talk about Nello. It seemed to Alois that her father's heart was colder than the north wind that was bringing snow and ice to Flanders.

In their little hut Nello shivered as he tried to help Great-Grandfather Jehan drink a little warm milk. He barely had enough food to keep the three of them alive, and Grandfather seemed so cold. Surely if Nello needed help it was now. Instead, he was rejected and shunned by the village people. He had not told Grandfather about the rumor. Grandfather was too weak to hear much of anything now.

But that night, Grandfather heard the angels singing when Jesus called him to go home. In the morning when Nello realized Grandfather was gone, he laid his head on Patrasche's neck and cried and cried. Then the two of them went to visit the pastor who lived by the little stone chapel in the village.

The pastor and his wife kindly helped Nello bury his grandfather. They were the only ones at the funeral service where the pastor spoke of Great-Grandfather Jehan's love for Jesus and his faithfulness to care for Nello.

After eating a meal, Nello and Patrasche went back home. The hut was very cold, lonely and bare of any food but it was shelter from the wind and snow. It was the only home Nello had ever known.

Then the day after Grandfather's passing, the shoe cobbler came to the hut and told Nello he had to move out. "Your Grandfather never owned this land but rented it from me," he said. "You are behind in payment and I don't think you will get any more business because of the naughty trick you played on the miller. You must leave today."

Poor Nello! He did not have any place to go! Sadly, he and Patrasche left the hut and started down the icy road to Antwerp. He had great hope in winning the art contest and the 200 Francs. Most of all, he wanted to let the village people know that he did not have revenge in his heart. Though others about him had cold, frozen hearts toward him, Nello wanted to keep his heart warm, friendly and free of hate.

Please, Lord, help me to do your will, prayed Nello as he walked along with his best friend. The Lord was listening to Nello's prayers.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who were the only people on earth alive?
2. What destroyed the rest of the earth?
3. What did Noah send out of the ark on the 40th day?
4. Why did the dove come back to the ark?
5. How many days did Noah wait before sending out the dove again?
6. What did the dove bring back to the ark?
7. What mountain did the ark land on?
8. What did the Lord put in the sky as a sign of his promise?

Answers: 1. Noah & his family. 2. A flood. 3. A raven. 4. She could not find a place to rest. 5. Seven. 6. An olive leaf. 7. Ararat. 8. A rainbow.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 20, 2007

Language Barriers

Several generations after the flood, everyone on the earth spoke the same language. People could visit from any part of the earth and understand each other's speech. The people found a plain in the land of Shinar to live in. All of the people on the earth lived in the same area and spoke the same language. They were united.

Nimrod was one of Noah's grandchildren. He became a mighty leader in the land. Nimrod was a great hunter. He reigned over many cities in the land of Shinar, including the city that would be called Babel.

One day, some of the people had an idea. "Let's make brick," someone suggested. They developed a system to make bricks and used slime as a mortar to hold the bricks together.

"Let's build a city and a tower whose top reaches all of the way up to heaven. In case we get scattered on the earth, we will always remember the city is here," they decided.

The Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

"All of the people are united. They have one language. Now, nothing will stop them from what they have decided to do," the Lord said. "Let us go down and confuse their language so that they will not understand each other."

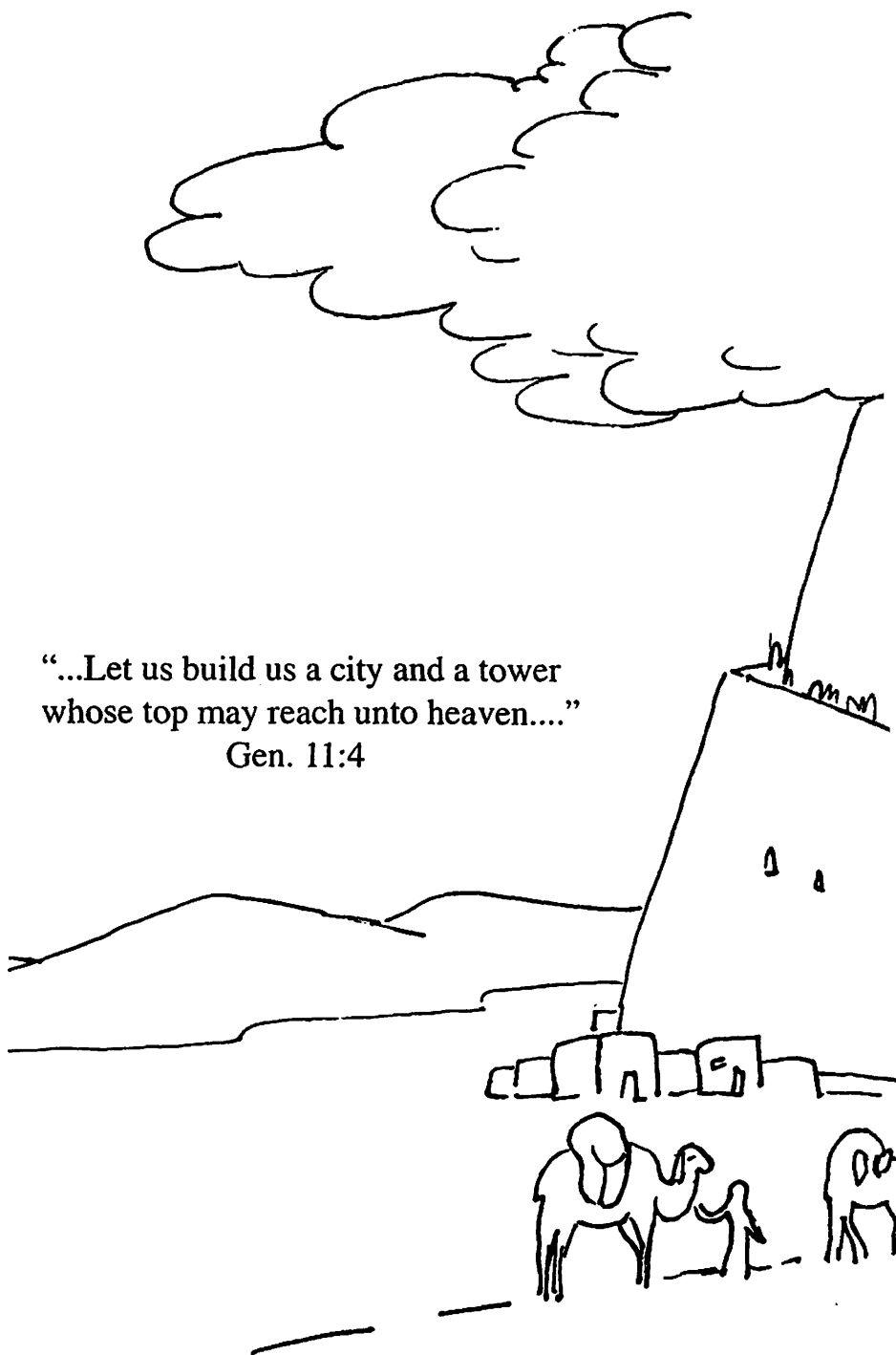
The people were frustrated because they could not understand each other. They scattered to different places around the world. Their fabulous tower remained unfinished.

The name of the city was called Babel, because it was at this city that the Lord caused people to begin speaking in different languages, and because it was from this city that the Lord scattered people and caused them to live in different regions on the earth

— Sis. Monica Murphey

**“...Let us build us a city and a tower
whose top may reach unto heaven....”**

Gen. 11:4





Nello's Reward

(continued)

Walking along the cold, icy road to Antwerp Nello was praying for mercy and favor. He wanted his painting to win the contest for three reasons: (1) that the village people would know he was honest and upright; (2) that he would have the 200 Francs; (3) that he would be educated in the school of art where he could draw and paint to his heart's content.

When these two cold and hungry travelers reached the courtyard of the public auditorium, they stood on the outskirts of the large crowd of family and friends gathered there. Nello saw many other boys his age waiting for the door to open at noon. Each one of them wanted to see his painting on the easel for all to cheer and praise.

Finally, the big doors moved open and the crowd surged forward. Nello was pushed along with them. He stood on his tippy-toes trying to see if his picture was on the easel. Then Nello glanced toward the easel, and his heart nearly stopped beating.

Nello's picture was not on the easel! He slipped out of the crowd and into an alley beside the auditorium. Why had God disappointed him so? What was he going to do about a home, food, clothes? Again Patrasche's neck was wet with Nello's tears. No one stopped to ask him if he needed help.

All Nello knew to do was to return to the kind pastor and his wife, though they were poor, too. Maybe he could work for his keep. As he and Patrasche sadly trudged along the road back to the village, Patrasche suddenly stopped in front of a black thing in the snow. Nello reached down and pulled out a wallet that was almost hidden in the snow. Right away, Nello checked to see who the owner was so he could return it.

Engraved in gold letters was the name: B. Coge. It was Alois' father's wallet! It was fat with many large bills inside. *Here is your chance, whispered the devil to Nello. Take the*

money and go to Europe! The Lord allowed you to find this money because Mr. Coge has been so cruel to you.

Great-Grandfather Jehan had taught Nello better than to steal or have revenge for evil done to you. He taught him how to pray. Nello bowed his head. *Oh, Heavenly Father, please let me make peace with Mr. Coge when I return his wallet. Amen.*

When Nello reached the mill house, he saw a light in the family room. Mrs. Coge answered his knock. "Oh, Nello!, come in!" she exclaimed. "Please forgive Mr. Coge and his anger toward you! I am afraid the Lord is punishing him for how he has treated you! Mr. Coge is out this very hour looking for his wallet!"

While she was speaking, Nello placed Mr. Coge's wallet into her hand. Patrasche found this on the road side, Mrs. Coge," said Nello. "Please care for Patrasche and feed him for returning the wallet. Do not let him follow me!"

Before Mrs. Coge could stop him, Nello had slipped out the door and was gone into the cold, wintry night.

(To be continued)

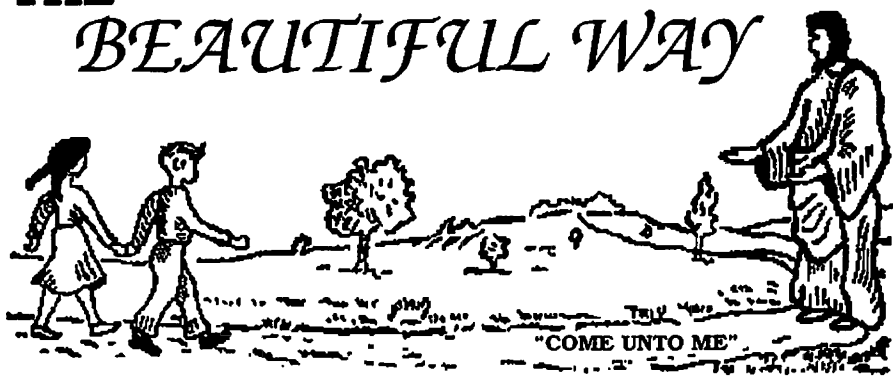
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How were all of the people alike?
2. What plain did all of the people live in?
3. Who was a leader in this region?
4. What did the people decide to make?
5. How high was the building to be?
6. Who came down to see the city?
7. What did the Lord do?
8. What was the city called?

Answers: 1. They had the same language & lived in the same area. 2. Shinar. 3. Nimrod. 4. A city and a tower. 5. High enough to reach into heaven. 6. The Lord. 7. Confused their languages. 8. Babel.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 27, 2007

Abram Leaves His Home

"Leave your country, your family and your father's home, and go to a land that I will show you," the Lord told Abram. "I will make your name great. I will bless them that bless you and curse the ones that curse you. Through you all of the families of the earth will be blessed."

Abram left his home and took his nephew Lot with him. Abram was seventy five years old when he left the land of Haran. Abram also took his wife, Sarai. They brought all of their possessions that they had obtained while staying in Haran and left their home. Abram and his caravan came to the land of Canaan.

"I will give your offspring this land," the Lord promised Abram. Abram built an altar in Canaan to the Lord.

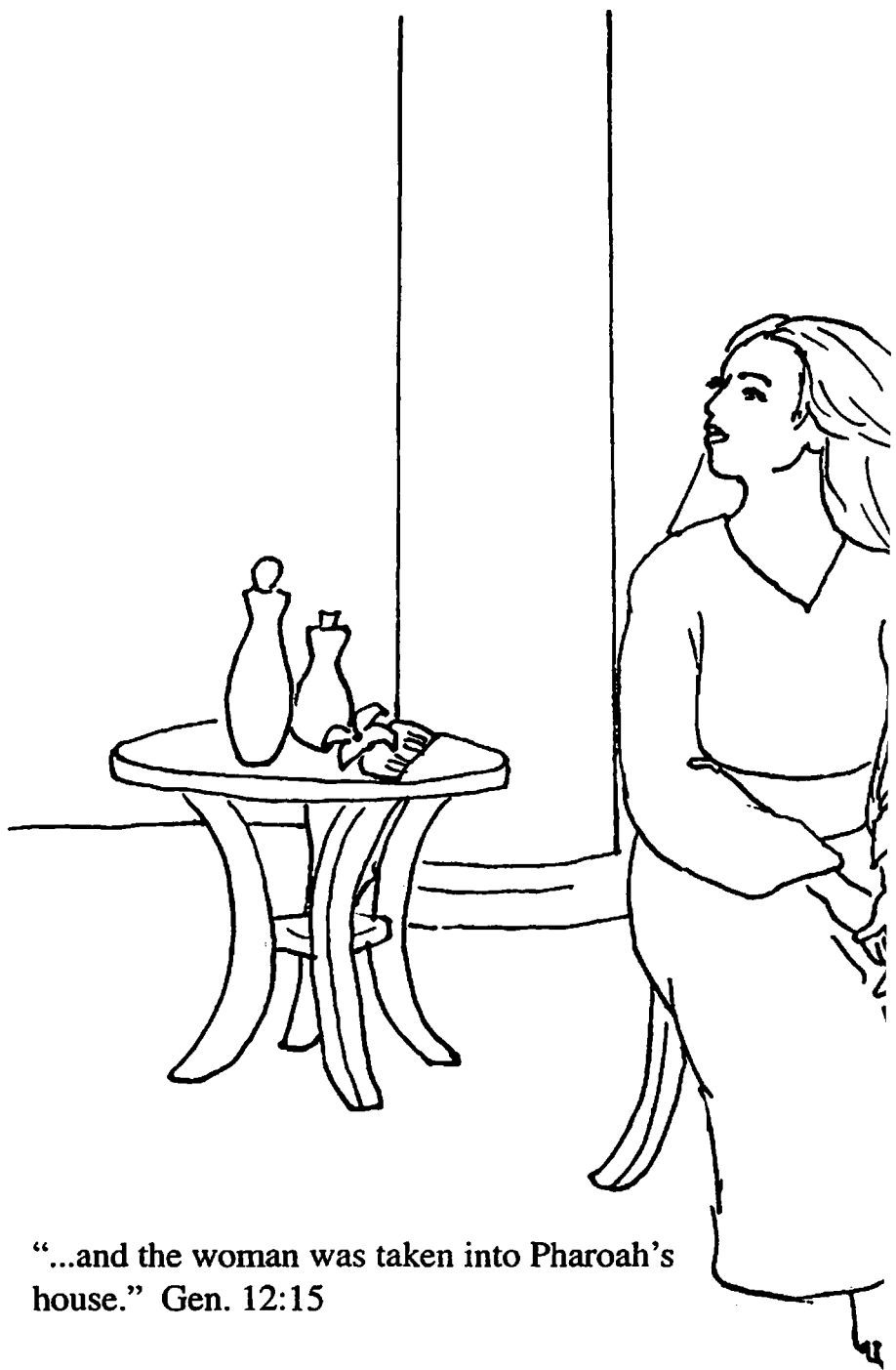
Abram went on his journey, continuing to go southward. There was a famine in the land that forced Abram to stay for a time in Egypt.

"You are a beautiful woman," Abram told Sarai. "When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife,' and they will kill me, but will keep you alive. Please tell them that you are my sister, so that I will be spared from death."

Abram's prophecy came to pass. The Egyptians did notice Sarai's beauty. The princes of Pharaoh also saw Sarai and told the ruler about the beautiful woman in his land. Sarai was taken to Pharaoh's house. Abram was well treated because of Sarai. He owned sheep, oxen, donkeys, servants, and camels.

During Sarai's stay at the home of the Pharaoh, the Lord caused several people in the Pharaoh's home to become sick. Somehow, Pharaoh figured out that Sarai was not Abram's sister but his wife. "Why did you not tell me she was your wife instead of your sister. Take her and leave," Pharaoh commanded Abram. Abram took all of his things and left Egypt.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...and the woman was taken into Pharoah’s house.” Gen. 12:15



On the Altar of God (continued)

After Nello left the mill house, Mr. Cogez came home. "My wallet and all the money has simply disappeared!" cried Mr. Cogez sadly, shaking his head. "Why did I put so much money in my wallet! Now it is gone!"

Quietly, Mrs. Cogez put the wallet into her husband's hand. "Where did you find it?" he asked in astonishment.

"Nello and Patrasche found it and brought it to us," replied Mrs. Cogez. "Nello disappeared and Patrasche won't eat but keeps begging to go outside. Oh, dear Husband, if Nello had started that barn fire in spite, why would he return your wallet that is full of money? He has been innocent of all wrong doing."

Mr. Cogez put his head in his hands. "Yes, Nello has been more noble than I! Where did you say the boy is?"

"I do not know," replied his wife. "Nello left after giving me your wallet."

"If he is out in this cold, snowy night, I can not find him without getting lost myself."

Swosh! The front door opened and Patrasche rushed out into the night. He was determined to find Nello by following his nose and common sense. Sure enough, Patrasche found Nello lying on the altar in the old stone chapel. Nello was glad to feel the warmth of his friend lying beside him. The fire was out in the furnace and Nello was very hungry. Soon the two drifted into a deep sleep.

Early the next morning, Mr. Cogez was out looking for Nello. He learned that the cobbler had thrown them out of the hut. Tracing his steps back home, Mr. Cogez saw the old stone chapel across the road from his mill. Acting on a hunch, he climbed the steps and looked inside. There he saw the two resting on the altar, a blanket over them both.

Coming in behind Mr. Cogez, the pastor put his hand on his shoulder. "It has been a long time since I have seen you in this chapel," he said to Mr. Cogez.

"I know," sighed Mr. Cogez. "I should be the one at the altar instead of this innocent boy. Is he alright, Pastor?"

Yes, he is just sleeping but he needs a good meal when he wakes up. My good wife is preparing something for him now."

"Here, take this money for feeding and sheltering the boy and dog," said Mr. Cogez, handing the poor pastor more money than he had seen all month. "This young man did a very kind deed for me and I owe him much more than this. After he is awake and fed, please have him come see me. I want to thank him in person and stop a rumor I had so wrongly started."

The pastor smiled. "I will be glad to send him to you, sir," he replied.

Soon word spread all through the little village that Mr. Cogez had apologized to Nello for starting the false rumor about the barn fire. Nello gladly forgave Mr. Cogez. He was so thankful that he had returned the wallet, and not kept the money for himself. All the money in the world would not have made Nello as happy as knowing his name had been cleared of such evil.

(to be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did the Lord tell Abram to leave?
2. Who did Abram take with him?
3. What land did the Lord promise to Abram's offspring?
4. Why did Abram stay in Egypt?
5. What lie did Abram ask Sarai to tell?
6. Where was Sarai taken?
7. What did the Lord cause to happen at Pharaoh's home?
8. What did Pharaoh tell Abram to do?

Answers: 1. His home and his family. 2. Sarai and Lot. 3. Canaan. 4. A famine. 5. She was his sister. 6. Pharaoh's house. 7. Sickness. 8. Leave.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 3, 2007

Lot's Choice

Abram left Egypt and continued to travel into the south. He was a very rich man. Abram had many heads of cattle, silver and gold. Abram's nephew, Lot, also had flocks and herds of animals. Abram and Lot came to the land of Canaan. When they set up their tents close beside each other so that their families could be together, Abram and Lot began having problems. There was simply not enough land to hold all of their herds.

Lot's servants began to fight with Abram's servants over whose animals should graze where. The conflicts between Abram's servants and Lot's servants bothered Abram. He loved Lot and did not want walls to form between them or their servants.

"Do not let there be hard feelings between us or our servants," Abram pleaded to Lot. "We are family. Do you not see all of this land before us? Let's separate. If you take the land on the left, I will take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, I will take the land on the left."

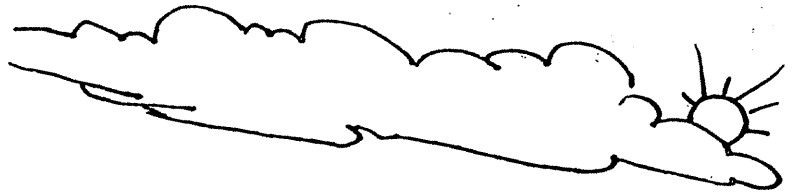
Lot looked around at the plains of Jordan. It was well watered. It reminded Lot of the land of Egypt or of a beautiful garden. Lot chose to live in all of the plain of Jordan. He took his belongings and journeyed to the east.

Abram let Lot go his way and stayed in the land of Canaan. Lot set up his tent facing the land of Sodom. The men that lived in the city of Sodom were very wicked.

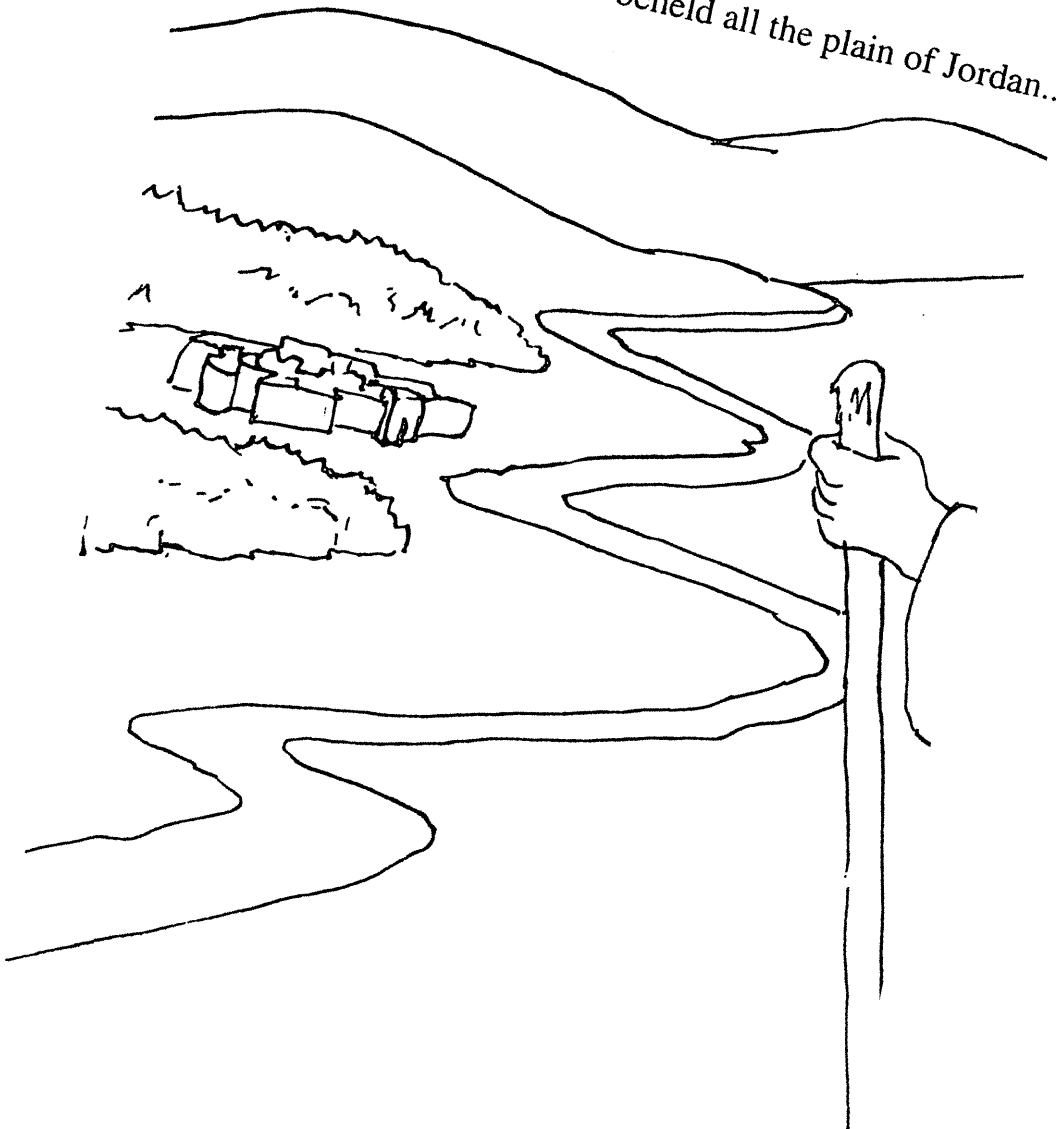
"Look to the north, and the south, and the east, and the west," the Lord told Abram. "I will give all of the land that you see to you and your offspring. You will have as many descendants as the dust on the earth. Walk through the land that I will give to you."

Abram moved his tent to the land of Hebron and built an altar there to the Lord.

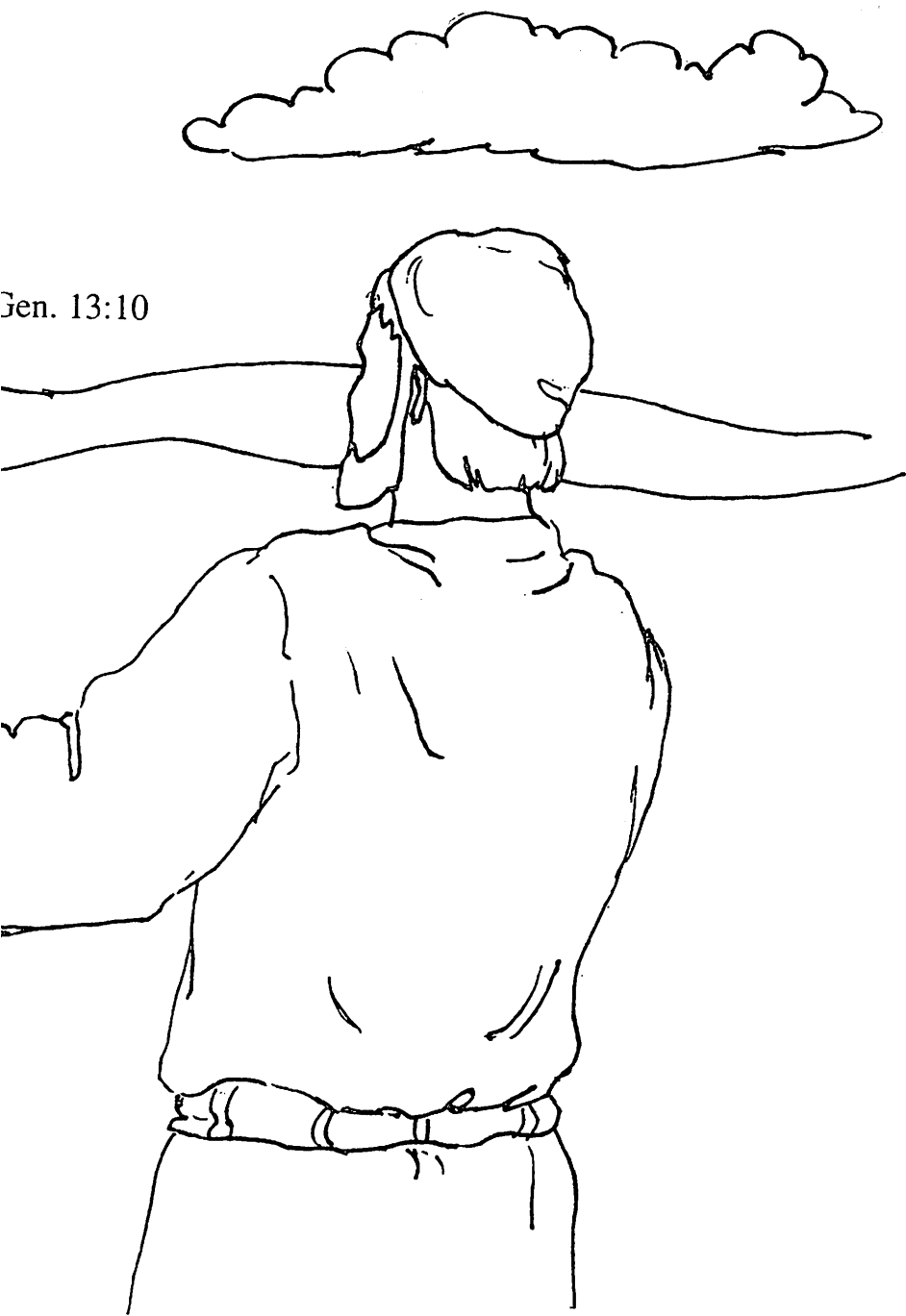
—Sis. Monica Murphy



"Lot lifted up his eyes and beheld all the plain of Jordan..



Gen. 13:10



Nello's Art Future

(continued)

Traveling from Antwerp three miles to a little village, a respected man of art made his way through the snow and ice of Flanders. The first building that he noticed in the village was an old stone mill and the house nearby. He walked up to the door and knocked. A kind looking lady opened the door.

"Good day, Ma'am," said the man as he nodded to her. "I am in search of a young artist in this village who entered a detailed piece of art in the recent contest at Antwerp."

Mrs. Cogez smiled and opened her door wider. "Come right on in, sir," she welcomed the man. "I think I may be able to help you."

When Alois heard her mother talking to the famous artist, she went right to the mantel and took down the picture that Nello had drawn of her and Patrasche.

"Here, sir," she said as she put the smooth piece of wood in his hands. "Do you think the same artist drew this picture who did the painting you have with you?"

The artist looked at the charcoal sketch of Alois. Then he smiled. "Yes, I think it is the same artist. Do you know where this young man lives?"

Alois laughed with happiness. "Right across the street at the pastor's house," she replied. "He really is a good artist. I have always known he has talent."

"Thank you," replied the famous artist. "I shall contact this promising young man immediately."

Alois watched from the front window as the artist made his way to the pastor's house. Then she was so excited for Nello that she jumped for joy.

When Nello met the artist, he did not actually jump for joy, but his heart did. The famous artist had an offer for Nello. "I thought your painting was the best in the contest," he told Nello. "but I was out-voted. So I have searched for you myself. I would like for you to go with me on a tour of training. I believe you have talent that will make you well-known."

Nello bowed his head. "It is all from God, sir," he said humbly. "I know the Lord has blessed me."

The pastor agreed to care for Patrasche who was the only one sad to see Nello leave. Tenderly, Nello told Patrasche good-bye not knowing it was the last time to see his faithful friend.

In time, Nello painted beautiful pictures and soon he was making money to buy a little cottage of his own. His works of art became known all through Europe and sold for good money. However, the work that he did for the old stone chapel was always free.

Nello's social status pleased Mr. Cogez who agreed that Nello could marry his daughter. They were a happy couple, attending church services at the newly painted stone chapel in the village. Sometimes Nello would visit two lovely stone markers he had placed on two graves beside the stone chapel. One marker said, *Here lies the greatest Great Grandfather in the world,* and the other one said, *My Good Friend, Patrasche.*

God always stayed Nello's best Friend.

The End

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

—Adapted from *A Day of Flanders*

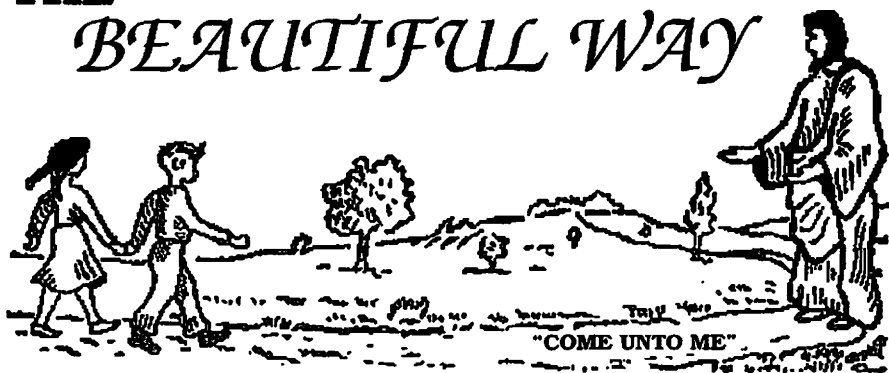
Questions:

1. Was Abram a poor man?
2. What did Lot own?
3. What problem did Abram and Lot have?
4. What bothered Abram?
5. What did Abram tell Lot to choose?
6. Where did Lot choose to live?
7. Where did Abram live?
8. What did the Lord promise Abram?

Answers: 1. No. 2. Herds & flocks of animals. 3. There was not enough land for all of their animals. 4. The fighting between Abram's & Lot's servants. 5. Land to live in. 6. The plain of Jordan. 7. Canaan. 8. All of the land he saw, and many descendants.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 10, 2007

Lot's Rescue

When Lot and Abram decided to separate their families and possessions, Lot chose to move into the plains of Jordan. He set up his tent close to the city of Sodom. Later, he and his family moved into the city of Sodom.

Several kings of the nearby cities, including Sodom and Gomorrah, were at war. After an intense battle, these kings were beaten. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were afraid and ran away. The soldiers that were left fled to the mountains.

Soldiers from the winning kingdoms came into the cities they had conquered, taking whatever they found that they wanted. They also took people to be their servants and slaves. Lot and his family were among the people that were captured. They took all of Lot's possessions and left for their own camp.

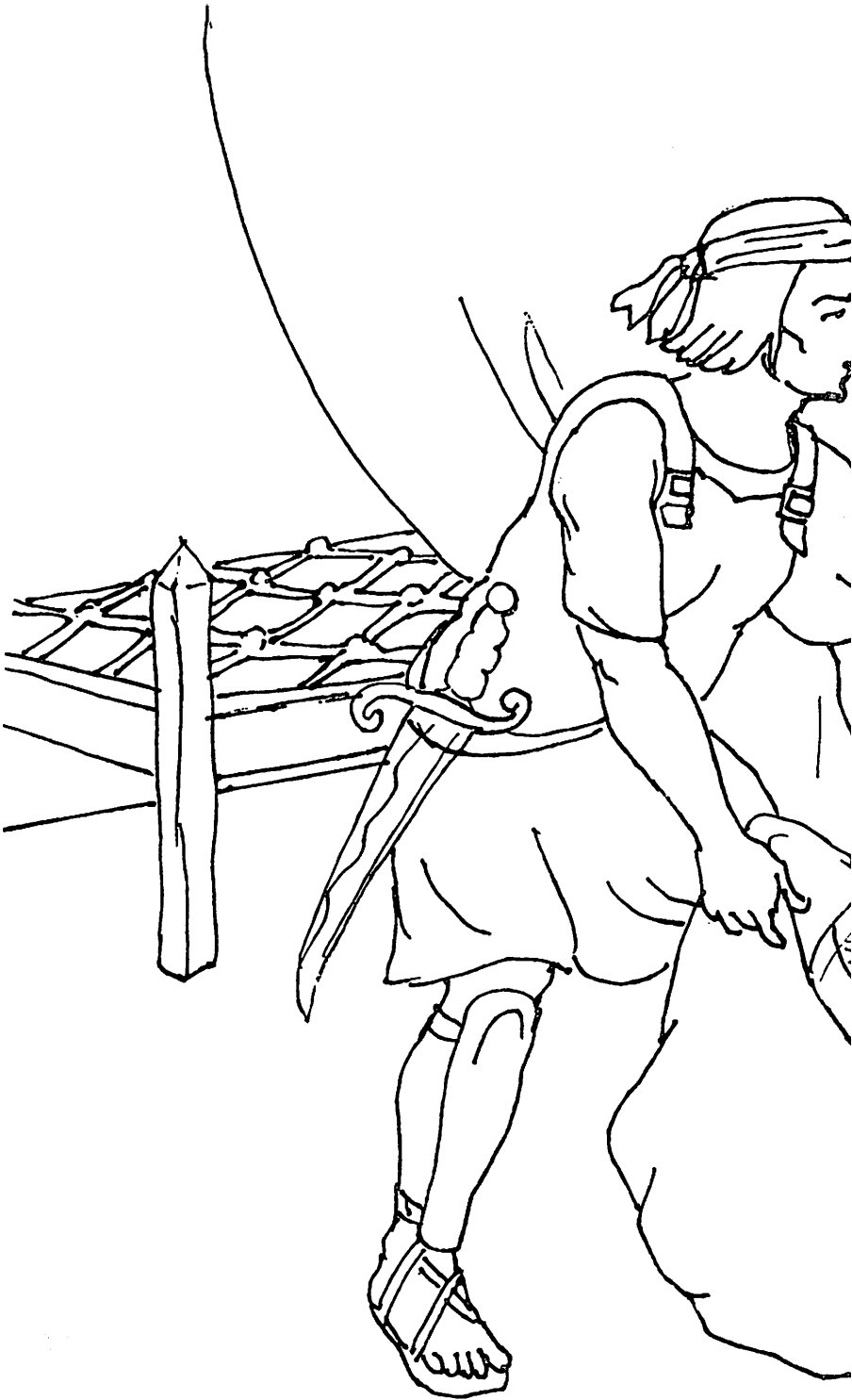
One of the people that had been captured escaped and ran quickly to tell the horrible news to Abram. Several of the people involved in the conflict were friends with Abram. When Abram heard that his family had been captured, he called his servants and gave them weapons. Abram led three hundred eighteen servants across the plains to the enemy's camp.

When the darkness of night covered the earth, Abram was ready. He and his servants attacked the camp. They caught their enemies by surprise and were able to retrieve Lot and his family as well as all of their belongings.

The kings who had been defeated in the battle came to meet Abram. Melchizedek, the king of Salem, was one of the kings who met Abram after the battle. He served God and was a respected priest. "Blessed be Abram, a follower of the most high God, who has delivered the enemies into your hand," Melchizedek proclaimed.

Lot and his family stayed in Sodom and enjoyed their restored home and belongings.

—Sis. Monica Murphy





“And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals and went on their way.” Gen. 14:11

The Big Moving Day!

Through the spring, Daddy and Mama looked for a new house while Grandma Miles visited with Connie and her two brothers and sister. Finally a house was bought. Mama said the new house wasn't too far from their old house so that Connie could visit Vickie sometimes. That sounded good to both girls.

Connie liked riding Ole Betsy, her red bike, whenever Mama would let her, which was usually in the evenings when Daddy was out in the driveway working or cleaning on his car. The big neighbor girls had put a chalk mark about half way down the street and told Connie she could not ride her bike above that line. But Connie would ride past the line when they weren't looking and Daddy was out in the driveway. Boy, would she be glad to get away from those mean girls!

The big moving day was exciting! It took grandpas and grandmas, aunts and uncles to get everything packed and loaded onto trailers. Connie wanted to help more than she got to because she had to watch Lonnie and Cindy all the time. The babies tried to unpack things and get in the way of the men moving furniture.

"I think this is the last load we need to take," said Daddy as he tied down some mattresses.

"Can I ride Ole Betsy to the new house now?" asked Connie. This was the one thing she had looked forward to all day long.

"Yes, you can ride Ole Betsy now," said Daddy. "Ride next to the curb and I will follow you."

In a split second Connie was on Ole Betsy and rolling down Oak Street. She rounded the corner and began riding her bike up Hill Drive for the first time in her life.

"Hurry up, slow poke!" called Donnie from the car window. "This car is barely crawling—you are going so slow!"

Connie's hands were gripping the handle bars and her eyes were on the edge of the street. She didn't have any spare breath to call back to Donnie. Riding in the car, the two houses seemed close together but now she knew they weren't. Besides, there was a bridge on Hill Drive and on each side was a very, very deep gully. Connie couldn't shut her eyes when she went over the bridge because Ole Betsy would probably go right over the edge if she did not guide her.

Finally, Connie turned her bike onto Magnolia Court and rolled down the hill to their new house. She jumped off Ole Betsy and shouted, "We made it!" to Donnie who came running to see if the bike was okay. "I don't think those big girls will ever come over here," she told her brother. "It is really a long way. I guess we will just have to call Vickie because I'm not riding over there too often."

"That's okay," said Donnie. "We can still ride bikes together."

Yes, Connie was thankful that God had given her a brother to ride bikes with. They were good playmates.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where did Lot live?
2. Who was beaten in the war?
3. Who was captured?
4. Who told Abram the news?
5. How many servants went with Abram to battle?
6. When did Abram attack?
7. Were they able to rescue Lot?
8. Who blessed Abram?

Answers: 1. Sodom. 2. The kings of Sodom & Gomorrah. 3. Lot & many others in these cities. 4. One who had escaped. 5. 318. 6. At night. 7. Yes. 8. Melchizedek.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 58, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 17, 2007

Promise of a Son

Abram had a vision. "Fear not, Abram," God told him in the vision. "I am your shield and your reward."

"Lord, what will you give me. I am childless. You have not given me a child to inherit my position, and I do not have an heir in my house," Abram replied.

"You will have a son," the Lord promised Abram. "Look up at the sky. Try to count all of the stars. You will have so many descendants that they cannot be numbered. I have brought you out of the land of Ur to inherit this land."

Sarai, Abram's wife had not had any children. She had a servant named Hagar. Hagar and Sarai did not get along very well. One day, Sarai became so angry at Hagar that Hagar fled from their home in fear.

Hagar was alone, wandering about in the wilderness, when an angel found her by a fountain.

"Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where will you go?" the angel asked.

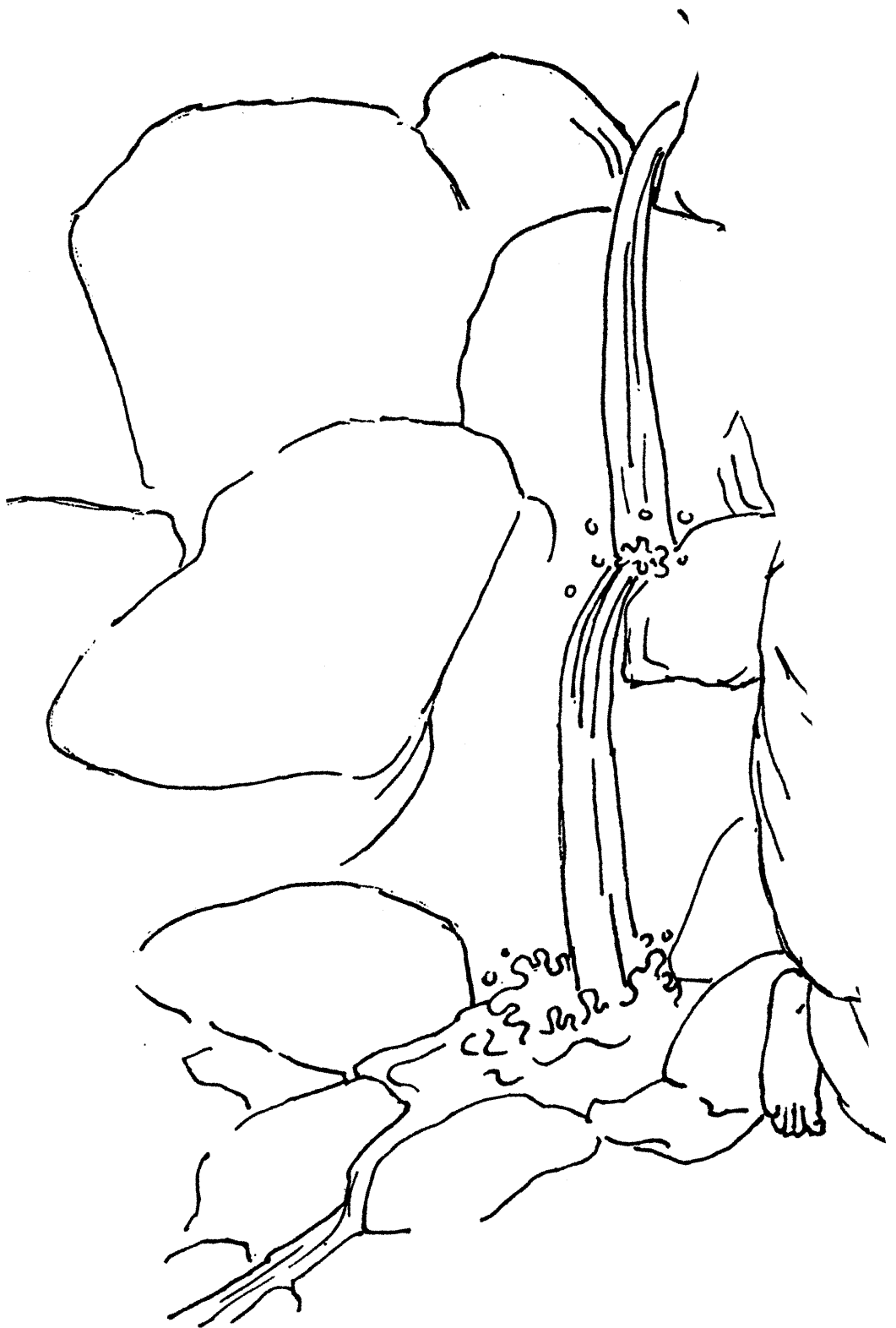
"I have fled from the face of my mistress, Sarai," Hagar replied.

"Return to your mistress, and obey her," the angel commanded. "You will have many descendants. You will have a son, and will call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has heard your affliction."

Hagar called the name of the Lord that spoke to her, "Thou God seest me." The fountain where Hagar met the Lord was called Beerlahairoi. This means *a well of the Living One who sees me*.

Hagar had a son. Abram called him Ishmael, which means, "God hears". Abram was eighty six years old when his son, Ishmael, was born but Ishmael was not the son that God had promised Abram.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“And the angel of the Lord found her
by a fountain...in the wilderness....”

Gen. 16:7



Playing House in the New House

(continued)

The new house on Magnolia Court was really big. Connie and baby Cindy had a whole bedroom to themselves, and Donnie and Lonnie had a smaller room for their own. Daddy and Mama had a bathroom from their bedroom, but they were the only big people in the house so they got the best room.

Daddy had taken the bunk beds apart and now Connie slept on one, and Donnie slept on one in his room. Before, she had slept above his bed and the babies had not been able to climb up and get to her colors and colorbook she kept on her bed. Cindy slept in a baby bed in her room, and Lonnie still slept in the bigger baby bed.

"I think we need to buy better furniture for the bedrooms," said Daddy to Mama. "This little dab of furniture looks lost in these bedrooms."

"Oh, Honey," said Mama. "I think we should wait. We haven't even paid the first house payment yet, and the utilities will cost a lot, too."

"I guess we will have to wait," replied Daddy.

That's why the grown-ups decided that the girls could have Grandma Miles' old bedroom set, and the bunk beds were stacked in the boys' room for them.

"Our bedroom is big enough to make some of it into a play room," Connie told her little sister. They set up a cardboard cabinet, sink, and stove in a corner along the walls. The sturdy table and chairs were placed before the cabinet, and the doll beds were close by. How Connie enjoyed playing in her own little house!

Sometimes the boys played house with the girls. Donnie was the daddy, and Connie was the mama. Lonnie was a happy child if he had a rocker to rock in. Cindy had to learn how to feed the dolls without making them cry.

"Don't hold the doll by the head like that," Connie scolded one-year-old Cindy. "Here let me show you how to give the baby her bottle."

Connie took the doll from Cindy who started crying.

"I think that baby right there needs a daddy's attention," said daddy Donnie as he sat Cindy down in a chair. "Now you sit here and stop that crying."

"Okay, Cindy, hold the baby doll like this," said Connie as she put the doll in Cindy's arms. "Put the bottle in her mouth like this. See, you can feed the baby doll without dropping her!"

Cindy wanted to feed that baby for a long time, so Connie played with another doll. She let that dolly rest in the bed while she made her little family something to eat on her play stove with her little pans. Lonnie would "eat" anything, but Donnie told her she burnt the toast or the green peas were mushy.

"Just eat them anyway!" Connie told her pretend daddy. "That's why we pray over our food before we eat it—so we won't get sick!"

Laughing and sharing, the four children enjoyed playing house in the new house that God had provided for them.

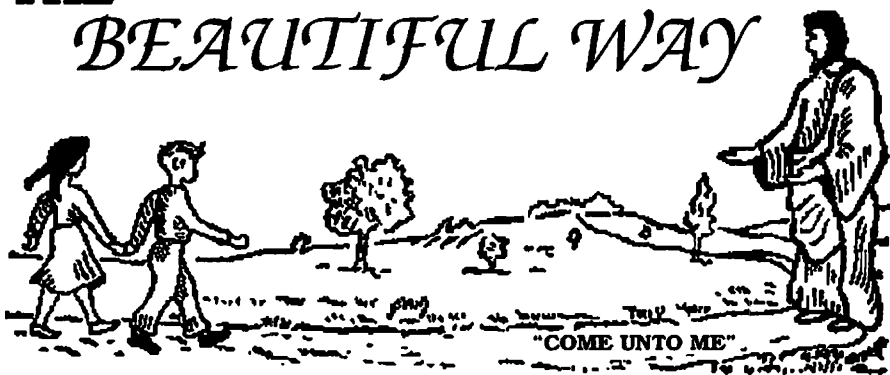
—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did the Lord promise Abram in his vision?
2. How many descendants did God say Abram would have?
3. Why did Hagar run away from Abram's home?
4. Who met Hagar by a fountain?
5. Where did the angel tell Hagar to go?
6. What did the angel tell Hagar would happen?
7. What did Abram name his son?
8. What does the name Ishmael mean?

Answers: 1. That he would have a son. 2. Too many to count. 3. She was afraid of Sarai. 4. An angel. 5. Back to Sarai. 6. She would have a son. 7. Ishmael. 8. "God hears."

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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A New Name

Abram was ninety nine years old when the Lord appeared to him. "I am the Almighty God. Walk with Me and be perfect," the Lord encouraged Abram. "I will make a covenant with you. You will have many descendants.

"Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, because I will make you the father of many nations. Your descendants will be kings and the leader of nations. I will make my covenant with you and every generation in your family. I will be a God to you and to them. I will give you all of the land of Canaan for your possession. Your part of the covenant is to follow My desires.

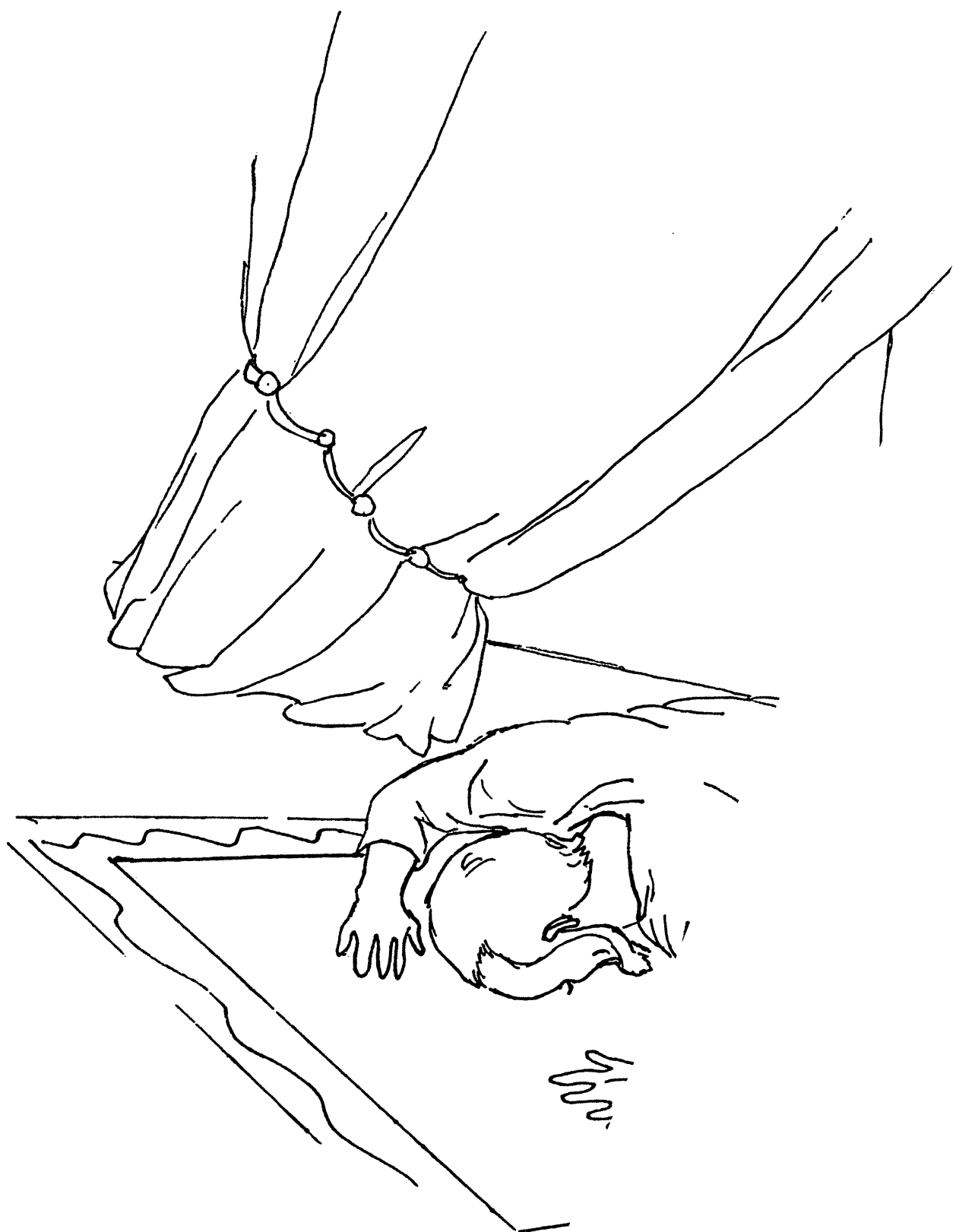
"You shall no longer call your wife Sarai. Her name will be Sarah, which means *Princess*. I will bless her and you will have a son together. She will be a mother of nations."

Abraham fell on his face and laughed. "Shall a child be born to a man who is almost one hundred years old? Will a son be born to Sarah, who is ninety years old?" Abraham asked in his heart. Aloud, he said, "I wish Ishmael could be the one you speak of."

"Sarah will have a son," God replied. You will call him Isaac, which means *laughter*. I will establish my covenant with him and his descendants, also.

"I have heard your wishes for Ishmael. He will also be blessed and will have many descendants. I will make him a great nation. But my covenant with you will be brought through Isaac. He will be born at this time next year."

—Sis. Monica Murphey





"Then Abram fell upon his face, and laughed...." Gen. 17:17

Connie's New Friend

Connie was in the front yard of her new house playing with her brother when she saw a girl up the street who looked about her size. Connie hopped on her bike.

"Race you up the street," she called to Donnie. Away they ran up the hill to the corner where Connie had seen that girl. She was out in her front yard helping her mother wrap Morning Glories on strings connected to a trellis.

Connie pulled up by the curb with her bike and watched this new girl and her mother who turned to look at Connie. "Hello, what is your name?" she asked.

"My name is Connie, and my brother's name is Donnie."

"Well, we are the Drake family," said the lady. "My name is Mrs. Drake, and this is Cara. She has a big sister named Christy, a little sister named Carla, and a baby brother named Eddy. We are glad to have you as neighbors. I want to come and meet your mother soon."

"Oh, our Mama would like that," said Connie. "She gets tired of changing baby diapers and cleaning up messes."

"So you have babies at your house, too?" said Cara with a smile. "How old are they?"

"My brother Lonnie is two years old, and Cindy is one."

"That's how old my sister and brother are!" exclaimed Cara. "Except that my little sister is older than my brother."

Wow! Connie already had something in common with Cara! Now came the important questions. "How old are you, Cara?" she asked.

"I'm going to be six in July," replied Cara.

"Oh, I was six in March!" said Connie, excited that she and Cara were the same age. "I will go to school when the school buses start picking up children again."

"I get to go to first grade, too," said Cara as she turned away. "But I am

used to school because I went to kindergarten. So I don't get too excited about school now."

Connie did not reply. *I thought this girl was going to make a good friend,* she thought. *But I don't like rude girls!*

"Come on, Donnie, let's go," she said.

"Wait, please," said Mrs. Drake. "Take these cuts to your mother and tell her to keep them in water for a few days to take root. Then she can plant them where they get the east sunshine. That's because they open up with the first rays of sunlight and close when the day gets warm. They are Morning Glories."

"Okay," replied Connie as she took the cuts.

"If you come in the morning, you could see our Morning Glories all opened up," said Cara. "They are really pretty!"

Then she smiled and Connie smiled back. *Maybe Cara did not mean to be rude,* thought Connie. *I think I will come to see her Morning Glories in the morning.*

Connie and Donnie raced their bikes down Magnolia Court. By now she had learned to stop her bike at the end of hills.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How old was Abram in this story?
2. "Walk with me and be _____."
3. What covenant did the Lord make with Abram?
4. What land did the Lord promise Abram's family?
5. What was Sarai's new name?
6. What was Abram's new name?
7. What did the Lord tell Abram to name his son?
8. Which son was the Lord's covenant to be brought through?

Answers: 1. 99. 2. Perfect. 3. That he would have many descendants through his son. 4. Canaan. 5. Sarah. 6. Abraham. 7. Isaac. 8. Isaac