

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 Jan. 4, 2009

A Time of Victory

The children of Israel had just lost their great leader, Joshua. "Who will go and fight against the Canaanites for us?" the children of Israel worried.

The Lord said, "Judah will go. I have delivered the land into his hands." "Come with me, my brother," Judah told Simeon. "Let's fight the Canaanites together." So both Simeon and Judah left the camp to fight the Canaanites.

Judah and Simeon fought against the Canaanites and the Perizzites. The Lord delivered both armies into their hands. They killed many people in battle.

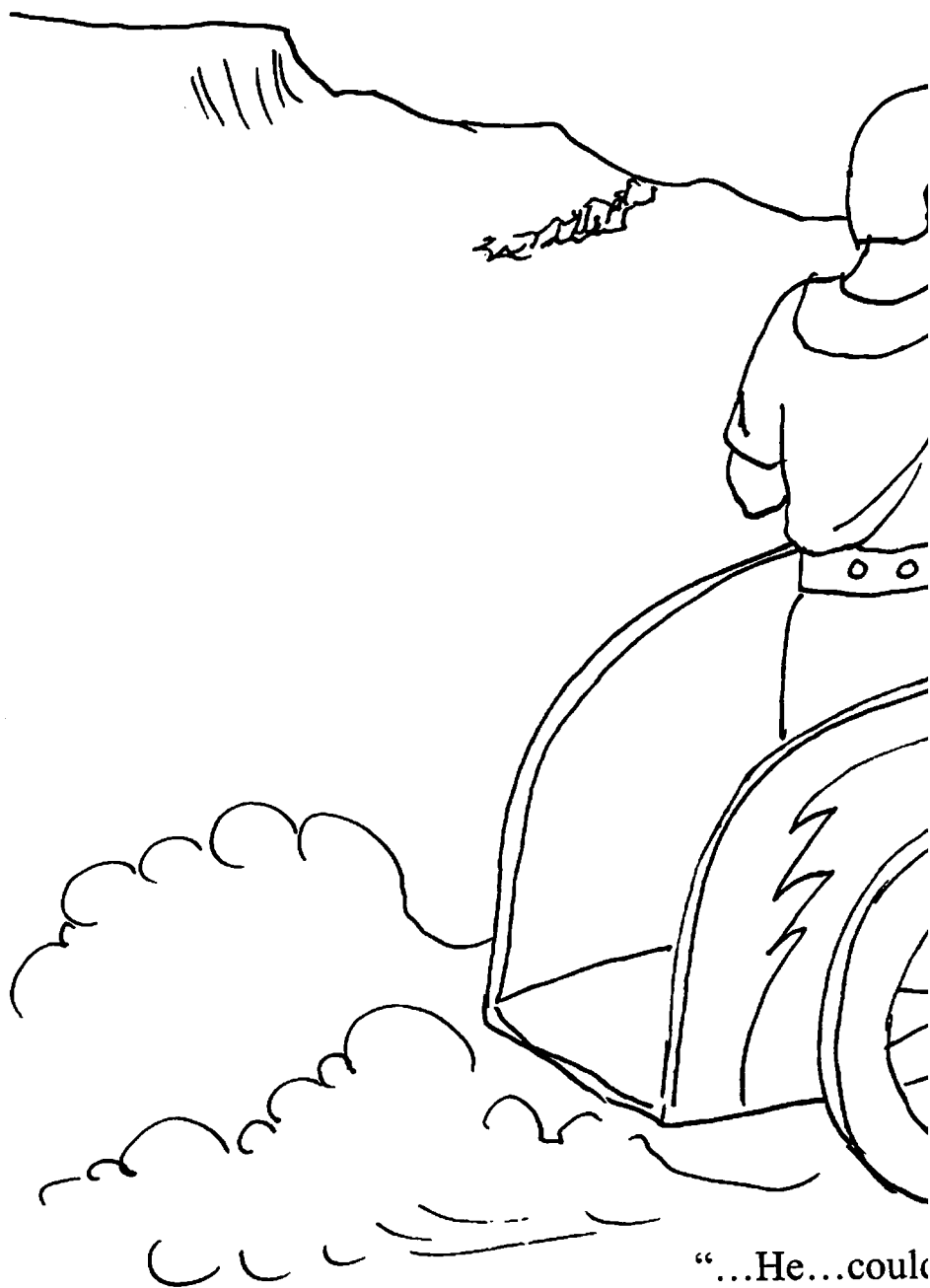
King Adonibezek had fled during the battle. Judah and Simeon chased after Adonibezek until they caught up with him. Judah and Simeon cut off the king's thumbs and great toes. Now the king was powerless. They brought the king back to Jerusalem where he died.

The children of Israel fought against Jerusalem and set the city on fire. They fought with many other tribes living in the land of Canaan and were victorious.

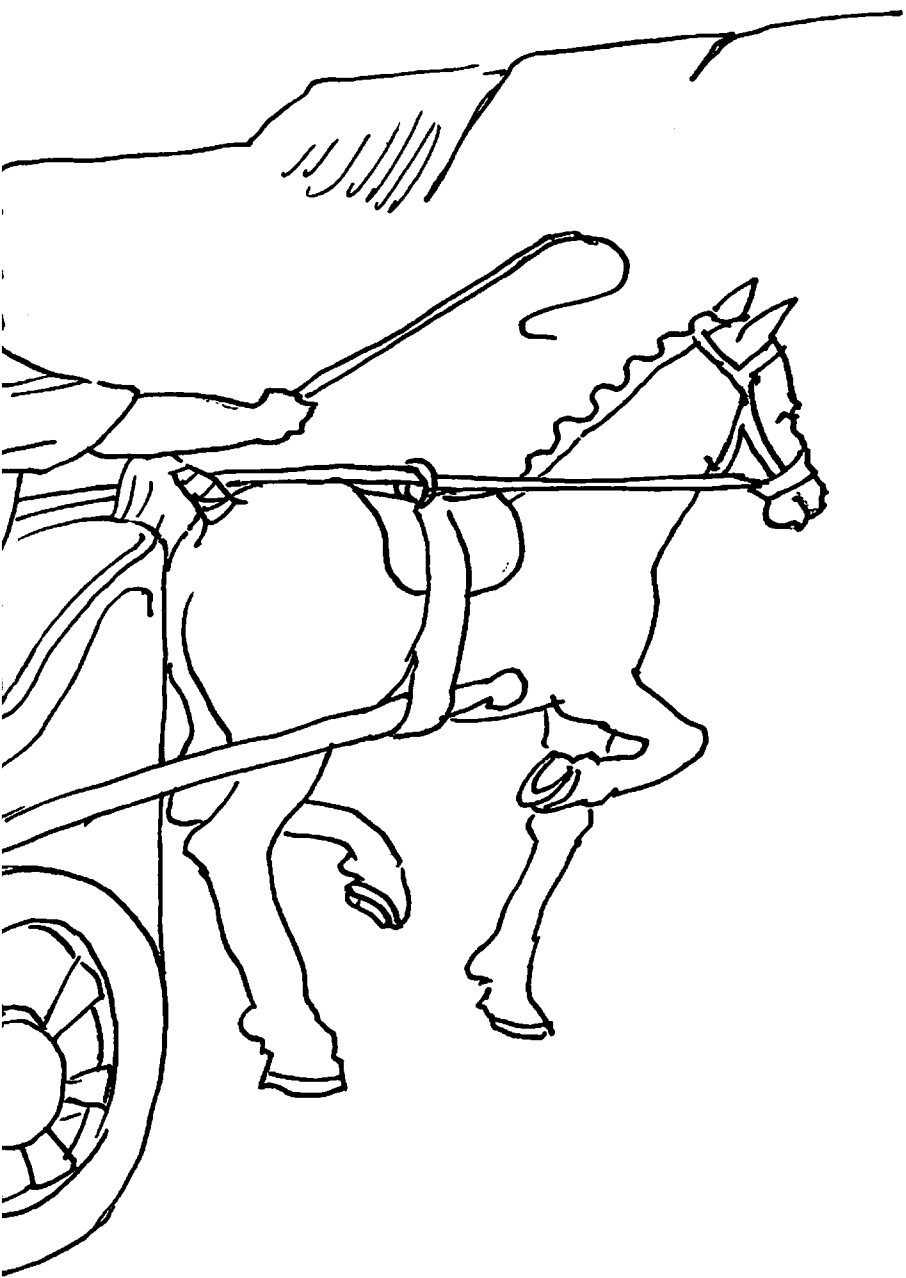
One day, Caleb came to the Israelites with a proposition. "Whoever conquers Kirjathsepher may have my daughter Achsah for his wife," Caleb offered. Kenaz fought victoriously over Kirjathsepher and married Achsah. Achsah asked her father for a favor, also. "Give me a blessing," Achsah requested. "Let me have land and springs of water." Caleb gave Achsah a field and the upper and nether springs.

The children of Israel drove out the people who lived in the mountain. They could not drive out the people who lived in the valley, because they had chariots of iron. The Jebusites still live there with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem.

Israel had a strong army. They were able to drive out most of the people who lived in Canaan. — Sis. Monica Murphey



“...He...could
because they h



drive out the inhabitants of the valley,
chariots of iron.” Judges 1:19

Greg and Christa

Though Greg was born in Minnesota, USA, he did not live there for long. By the time he was age 15, Greg had lived in South Dakota, California, Germany and then Tanzania, Africa. His missionary parents felt called of God to help build a school and hospital for the people living on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. While his parents were busy helping the natives, Greg was to care for his three year old sister, Christa.

In the morning Christa would awaken from her rush mat on the floor and call, "Good morning, Greg!"

Usually from the doorway, Greg would come right away to greet his little sister. "Good morning, Sunshine! Did you sleep well?"

"Yes, I did!" giggled Christa as she hugged her brother. Greg took two bowls and scooped out mush for both of them to eat for breakfast. Then while he did his lessons sitting on the doorstep, Christa played with sticks and stones with other toddlers in the village. Sometimes Greg had to get up and check on what the little ones were doing because they would follow the roaming chickens or some passing woman.

One morning Christa woke up on her mat, but she did not jump up like usual. "Greg, I feel so sleepy," said Christa. "I want a drink of water."

Quickly, Greg brought his sister a cup of purified water. He felt of her forehead—it was hot! He had better tell their Mom and Dad but he did not want to leave Christa alone. Greg went to the doorway of their hut and called to a woman in her language.

"Please fetch Mama Tana for me. She is needed here at once!" he said.

Soon Mama came to find Greg holding the hand of a very sick little girl. "I am glad you did not bring her to the clinic," said Mama. "She does not need to be exposed to any more diseases. We are fighting meningitis that is spreading among the children."

After Mama cared for her feverish daughter that morning, she became very worried. "Greg," she said softly after Christa was asleep. "I am afraid Christa has meningitis, too. We can only do so much, but our Lord can heal her."

Greg and his mother prayed, then because the work load at the clinic was so heavy, Mama left Greg to care for his little sister. For several days Christa hung between life and death. She would awake for water and to potty, but she was too weak to walk or even talk. Greg prayed and pleaded with God to heal his sister.

One day the fever broke, and Christa began to gain strength. It was wonderful to Greg to see his sister sit up and then walk again. However, as a result of the high fever, she was left with a permanent tremble in her hands and she sometimes had seizures. This made Greg even more protective of his sweet little sister who regained her cheerful giggle.

As Greg sat in the doorway of their hut, his sister sat on his lap with her arms around his neck. "I love you, Greg," she said, putting her curly head against his shoulder.

"I love you, too, Christa," replied Greg as he hugged her tight. "I thank the Lord that you are still with me."

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What great leader had died?
2. Who led Israel against the Canaanites?
3. Were they victorious every time?
4. Who fled during the battle?
5. What happened to him?
6. What did Caleb offer to whoever conquered?
7. What did Achsah ask of her father?
8. What tribe were the Israelites unable to conquer?

Answers: 1. Joshua. 2. Judah and Simeon. 3. No, but almost. 4. King Adonibezek. 5. He died. 6. His daughter for their wife. 7. Land and water. 8. The Jebusites.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 Jan. 11, 2009

Judges Rule Israel

The children of Israel followed God's ways while Joshua was their leader. After he died, God allowed them to conquer most of the land in Canaan. God left some of their enemies in Canaan. These people lived very close to the children of Israel. God wanted to see if His people would stay true to Him.

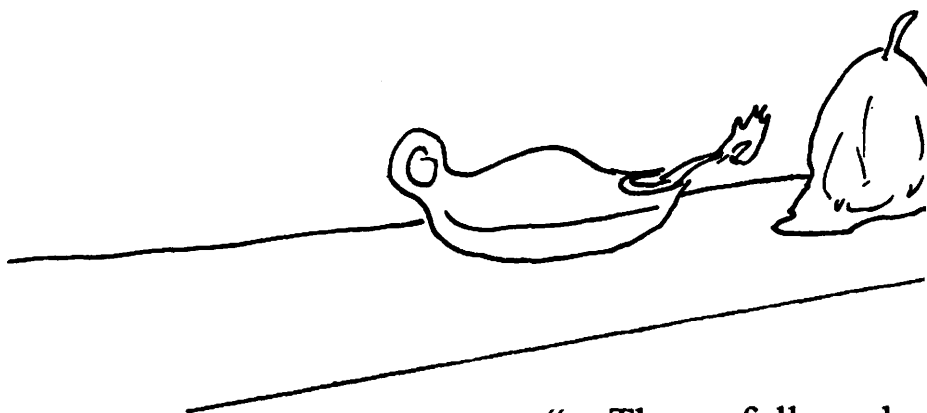
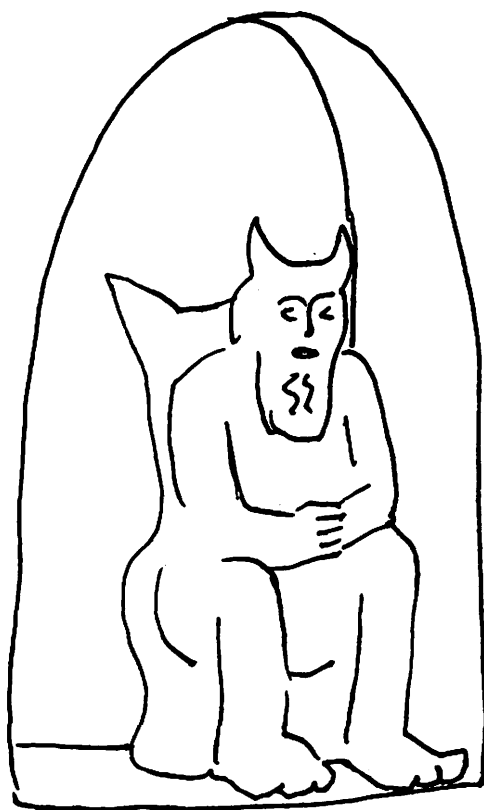
"Because my people have sinned," the Lord said. "I will not drive the nations out from before them. Through these nations I will prove whether or not Israel will keep the ways of the Lord, and walk in them as their fathers did." That is why the Lord left some nations in Canaan.

The inhabitants of Canaan were friendly towards the Israelites. When the Israelite's hospitable neighbors began asking them to come and worship their gods with them, some of the children of Israel agreed. The Israelites married their enemies, just as they had done before. They left the Lord to serve Baal and Ashtaroath. God was very angry with the children of Israel. He sold them into the hands of their enemies. God allowed people to come into their camp and spoil their goods. Evil was with the children of Israel, and they were greatly distressed. Wherever they went, the hand of the Lord was against them. The Lord stopped whatever they tried to do.

Even though the children of Israel had disobeyed God, the Lord still raised up judges to rule the people. The judges delivered them out of the hands of some of their enemies. But the people would not listen to the godly advice the judges had. They still went out to worship their false gods and turned away from the way that their fathers had walked in. The Lord was with the judge that He had set over them.

When the judge died, the people continued to practice their corrupt ways. They did not stop doing whatever pleased them.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...They...followed o



gods....” Judges 2:12

Greg Said Good-Bye

Greg's sister, Christa, grew to be a pretty young woman, but she always had trouble with trembling hands and epileptic seizures. Because of this, she was slow to dress herself, to cook or prepare food, to write letters and to do other simple duties with her hands. The family moved back to the USA, where Greg trained to be a nurse.

On his time off from work and studies, Greg delighted in taking Christa to community social events like band concerts, picnics and horse riding.

Their parents were busy with mission work in a big inner city of Minnesota, but they enjoyed time with their children, too. "You are so good to help Christa," said Mama Tana to Greg. "No one could have a more thoughtful big brother than you."

"Christa is such a pleasure to have around," replied Greg with a smile. He remembered the long hot days in Africa where Christa's sweet voice and smile had been such a sunshine to him.

Now in his thirties, Greg took Christa to fun places on vacation time. They visited many places, including the forest of stone in Yosemite. Greg loved to climb mountains, but when he was with his sister, he did things that her weak body could do with him.

For her 23rd birthday, Greg and his mother made special plans. "Let's visit the cornfields of Iowa," said Greg to his mother. "Christa would love to feel the Iowa sun and see the wind rippling through those cornfields."

Plans were made. Suitcases were packed. Then in the early morning hours of her 23rd birthday, Christa suffered from a massive epileptic seizure. Greg had to tell his little sister good-bye as she flew away to her eternal home without him. His heart was so sad that even crying did not seem to help.

From among Christa's things, Greg took a small chain of beads. They still smelled of the campfire when he

had taken her camping in Yosemite. He put the beads in his pocket. He had a plan, something he would do to honor his sister. Greg was a mountain climber and he decided to take these beads and leave them on the top of one of the highest mountains in the world.

Soon Greg told his mother good-bye. "We will be praying for you, Greg," said his tearful mother. She did not know of his plan, but she knew he was going to climb dangerous mountains with some friends.

Greg flew to Pakistan. In the Karakorum Mountain Range there was a mountain labeled K2. This steep, icy giant of a mountain is the second highest in the world next to Mount Everest. Greg had already climbed Mount Everest, but hardly anyone had ever climbed K2 because of its cold straight up and down slopes of ice. This was the mountain Greg wanted to climb for Christa. That would be one of the closest places to Heaven on earth. He also wanted a challenge to help him forget the pain in his heart.

It was a good thing that his mother was at home praying for Greg. Now he needed the Lord more than ever!

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why did God leave some enemies?
2. Why was the Lord angry with the Israelites?
3. Who did the Israelites worship?
4. What did the Lord cause to happen?
5. Who did God raise up to rule His people?
6. Did the Israelites turn to God now?
7. What good were the judges able to do?
8. What can you do that would make God angry?

Answers: 1. To prove Israel. 2. They sinned. 3. False gods. 4. Evil. 5. Judges. 6. No. 7. Give godly counsel; delivered them. 8. Sin.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 Jan. 18, 2009

In The Hands of a Woman

The Lord allowed the Israelites to be conquered by Jabin, king of Canaan. For twenty years, the Israelites were servants to the Canaanites. Soon they cried out to the Lord for deliverance. The prophetess Deborah judged Israel at this time. She sat under a palm tree and listened when the children of Israel came to her for judgment.

One day Deborah sent for Barak. "The Lord has commanded you to take an army of ten thousand men and move toward mount Tabor," Deborah informed him. "God will help you conquer King Jabin's army."

"I will only go if you will go with me," Barak said. Deborah answered, "I will go with you, but now the Canaanites will not be taken by your honor. The Lord will give Sisera into the hands of a woman." Deborah, Barak, and their army began marching towards the mountain. Sisera led King Jabin's army. He gathered his nine hundred chariots of iron together. He called for his army. "Up, Barak," Deborah said. "Today is the day that the Lord will conquer Sisera. Hasn't the Lord gone before us?"

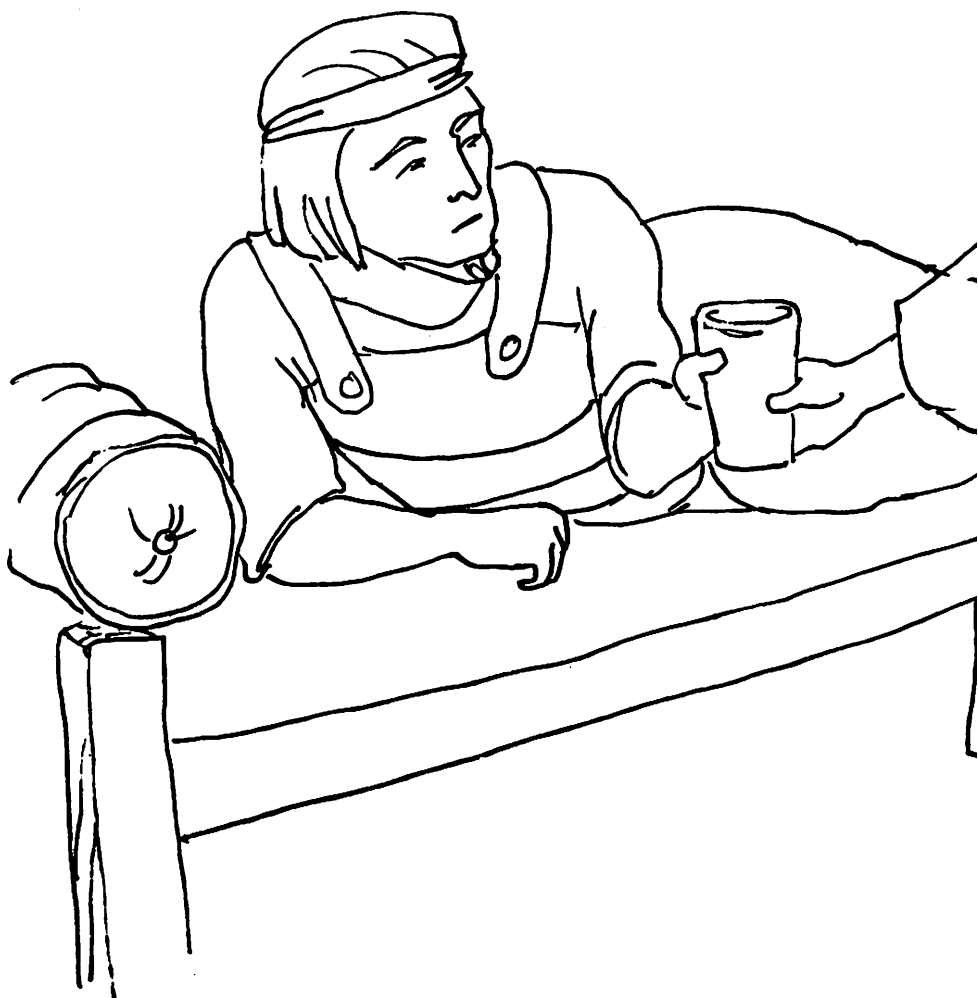
The Lord confused Sisera's army. Sisera jumped from his chariot and ran quickly away from the battle. Barak ran after the chariots and the rest of Sisera's fleeing army. Every one of their enemies was killed in battle.

Sisera ran until he came to the camp of Heber the Kenite. Sisera knew that the Kenites were peaceful with King Jabin. Heber's wife Jael greeted Sisera when he came to the tent. "Come in to our tent and do not be afraid," Jael said. "Please, give me some water," Sisera pleaded. Jael opened some milk and gave him a drink. Jael covered Sisera when he wearily laid down to rest.

"Stand in the door of the tent," Sisera ordered. "If anyone asks you if someone is here, say no." When Sisera was in a deep sleep, Jael quietly killed him. Soon Barak came running towards her tent. "Come," Jael told Barak. "I will show you the man that you are looking for." God conquered Jabin that day and caused the Israelites to be victorious.

—Sis. Monica Mürphey

“...She...gave him drink, and covered hi



Judges 4:19



Greg and the Rescue

In Pakistan, Greg met up with other professional mountain climbers who had taken on the challenge of climbing K2, the icy, steep mountain of 28,267 feet. He set off on the seventy-mile trek from Askole with a team of ten English, Irish, French and American mountaineers. They hired Pakistan porters with their mules to help carry the camping gear and food needed for a six month excursion.

Standing at six-foot-four and weighing 210 pounds, Greg was a giant compared to the other men in the expedition. Though he was considered slower, he was strong and able to stretch farther than the others. Often Greg was called upon to help his fellow climbers, and with his good natured manners, Greg developed friendships as well.

One evening after more than 70 days on the mountain, Greg and his friend Darsney were at the base camp about ready to tuck into their sleeping bags when they decided to take one more look through the telescope at the West Ridge of K2.

"Look!" exclaimed Darsney. He pointed to a flickering light high on the ridge. "That must be Etienne in trouble! We must go help him!"

"I was concerned that he was traveling too fast without much gear," said Greg. "He has probably collapsed."

When climbing in cold high altitudes, a person's body must adjust to the change gradually. It is harder for the lungs to breathe, the heart beat slows down and many other things happen to the body. Too fast a climb can cause the body to weaken, collapse and die.

Greg and Darsney rested in their tent for two hours, once in a while drinking water from their canteens. Greg prayed in his heart, "Oh, God, please keep Etienne safe until we have strength to reach him and bring him back to camp."

The men prepared themselves for the rescue and soon were in a fight for survival on the steep icy slopes of the West Ridge. They finally reached their friend who was suffering from pulmonary edema, the high altitude sickness that Greg had mentioned.

They rolled Etienne into his sleeping bag, put ropes around him and began the descent, dropping him down the cliffs to the man below. It was exhausting work and very dangerous—one slip could mean death for the wrapped man or the climbers. From the start of the rescue to the end, it took 72 hours.

When they reached the K2 base camp, towing Etienne in a bag behind them, Greg and Darsney could barely walk. As they fell into their sleeping bags in their tents, the other mountaineers radioed for a helicopter to pick up Etienne. He was rushed to an emergency hospital where he revived. He lost all his toes from frostbite, but later he thanked Greg and Darsney for saving his life.

In Minnesota, USA, Greg's mother was praying for her son and the other climbers. Though she did not know it, God had answered her prayers.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who conquered the Israelites?
2. How many years were they slaves?
3. Who was the judge of Israel?
4. Who led the Israelites to battle?
5. What did Deborah predict?
6. Who prepared to meet them in battle?
7. What did Sisera do in battle?
8. What happened to Sisera?

Answers: 1. King Jabin. 2. 20 years. 3. Deborah. 4. Barak. 5. That a woman would capture Sisera. 6. Sisera. 7. Ran away. 8. He was killed.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 Jan 25, 2009

The Angel's Sign

Once again the Israelites sinned against the Lord. The Lord caused the Midianites to conquer them. The Israelites served the Midianites for seven years. The Israelites had to live in caves in the mountain. Armies came against the Israelites and destroyed their cattle and their tents. They looked like a swarm of grasshoppers to the Israelites, because the men and camels fighting against them could not be numbered. The children of Israel cried out to the Lord for help.

Gideon was working with wheat by the winepress. He was working quietly, trying to hide his goods from the Midianites. When Gideon looked up, he noticed an angel sitting under the tree. "The Lord is with you," the angel told Gideon. Gideon asked, "Where are all of the miracles our fathers told us about, O Lord?" "You will save Israel from the hands of the Midianites," the Lord told Gideon. "How could I be the one to save Israel?" Gideon wondered. "My family is poor in this land, and I am the youngest in my father's house." "I will surely be with you," the Lord answered. "You will conquer the Midianites."

"If I have found grace in your sight, show me a sign that you have talked with me," Gideon pleaded. "Please do not leave until I return with my present." "I will wait until you come again," The Lord said.

Gideon went in and cooked goat's meat, unleavened cake, and broth. He put the food in a pot. Then Gideon went outside and offered the food to the angel. "Take the meat and the cakes and lay them on this rock," the angel ordered. "Pour out the broth."

The angel put out his rod and touched the meat and the cakes. Immediately a fire rose up and completely burned up the food.

"O Lord, I am afraid, because I have seen an angel face to face," Gideon trembled. "Fear not," the Lord comforted him. "You will not die." Gideon built an altar there and called it Jehovashalom. This altar is still in Ophrah to this day.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“...Take...the...cakes, and lay them on this rock....
Judges 6:20



God Watches Over Greg

It took Greg four days to recover from the rescue of his French friend, Etienne. He laid in his sleeping bag and fingered Christa's beads. He was determined to honor his sister by placing these beads on top of K2, or The Savage Peak, as Pakistanis called this mountain glacier.

By this time most of the team had moved on, and a small group of local villagers were at the camp. Greg hired a sturdy Pakistani to carry his tent and some of his food. Mouzafer was happy to earn the \$4 a day to buy needed food and supplies for his family.

"You very tired—I carry these all for you," eagerly offered Mouzafer. It sounded good to Greg who still had weak legs from the stressful rescue. He had often been the one over loaded because of his size and strength.

The men started out on a narrow trail of snow and ice. How he became separated from the team, Greg did not know, but as the sun suddenly sank behind the great granite peaks of Muztagh Tower to the west, Greg realized he did not hear the voices of anyone around him. He cupped his hands and hollered. Only his voice echoed back to him. His friend, Darsney, would really tease him now for walking slow and getting behind!

Quickly, Greg checked his compass with his surroundings. He wasn't even sure if he was still on the right trail to lead him to the next camp. A feeling of weariness swept over his body, and for a minute he wanted to sit down, but there was no place to sit. He leaned against the icy wall beside him for a moment.

Suddenly, Greg heard the sharp, shotgun crack of a rock fall. In silence he watched a boulder the size of a three-story house bounce and spin down the mountain and across the trail he was about to cross. He heard the echo of its crash hundreds of feet below him. Greg sighed. He remembered his mother was praying for him back home in Montana, USA. Surely God had protected him again!

Greg checked the date on his watch. It was September 2, 1993. Greg was determined that date was not going to be on his tombstone. He would conquer this mountain. However, his body was already chilling from the dropped temperature when the sun disappeared. Now he wished he had not let Mouzafer carry his sleeping bag and tent. All he had was his canteen, a light wool blanket and a single protein bar. He was feeling very tired. God would have to watch over him because he would not be able to keep awake much longer.

Greg found a flat slab of rock that seemed stable. He scooped icy snow into his water bottle with ungloved hands and hugged it to his body to thaw the snow for water to drink. After eating his protein bar and drinking water, he wrapped himself in his blanket. From the rescue of Etienne, Greg's arms were injured with rope burns. He knew the cuts were infected but he did not have the clean bandages to dress them. He did not have matches nor his flare to send a message for help.

In this harsh icy climate of stone, only God knew where Greg was laying his head to rest. God was there and God never sleeps.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who had conquered the Israelites?
2. How long were they oppressed?
3. Why was Gideon hiding while he worked?
4. Who appeared to Gideon?
5. What did Gideon ask him to leave?
6. What did the Lord tell Gideon to do?
7. What did Gideon offer his guest?
8. What did Gideon build to worship the Lord?

Answers: 1. The Midianites. 2. 7 years. 3. So the Midianites wouldn't find his things. 4. An angel. 5. A sign. 6. Fight the Midianites, but to wait. 7. Food. 8. An altar

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 Feb. 1, 2009

Baal Is Cast Down

One night, the Lord spoke to Gideon. "Take your father's young bull and tear up the altar of Baal. Cut down the grove that is behind it. Then build an altar that is to be used to worship the Lord your God. Take the animal and offer it as a burned sacrifice. Make your fire with the wood from the grove."

Gideon was afraid of his father and of the men from the city. That night Gideon snuck quietly out of his home with ten servants and did as the Lord had commanded him. When the men from the city woke up the next morning, they saw that the altar of Baal was gone. They were surprised to find the grove behind the altar cut down. They also noticed that someone had built a new altar and had placed a burned offering on it.

"Who is responsible for this?" the men asked. The men began asking questioning different people around the city. Finally, they discovered their answer. "Gideon, the son of Joash has done this," someone reported.

The men of the city went to Joash's home. "Bring out your son so that he may die," they commanded Joash. Joash protested, "If Baal is god, let him defend himself. After all, someone tore down his altar," The men spared Gideon that night. From then on, Gideon was called Jerubbaal, which means contender with Baal.

Gideon called a meeting with the leaders of the children of Israel. But Gideon was apprehensive about meeting his enemies in battle. "God, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor," Gideon said. "If the fleece is wet with dew and the ground around it is dry in the morning, I will know that you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised."

When Gideon woke up the next morning, the fleece was wet with dew, and the ground around it was dry, just as he had asked. "God, please do not be angry with me," Gideon requested. "But prove to me once more with the fleece. Now, let the fleece be dry and the ground covered with dew." Gideon woke up the next morning to find that God had once again answered his request.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





it was dry upon the fleece only....” Judges 6:40

Greg Moves Forward

Greg opened his eyes. His body was stiff and his lungs ached for a good breath. He untangled his hands from the blanket cocoon wrapped around him. He reached to his face and pulled the ice away from his nose and mouth. Ah, he could breathe again! He sat up on the stone that had been his bed and he laughed. He had survived the way-below-zero night—a miracle from God! Greg was still lost and alone, but he felt unexplainable comfort. The calmness of the morning wrapped around him.

Painted by the rising sun, the peaks of the icy mountains were changing from gray, sugar colors to pink, violet and baby blue. The morning was windless and clear. High above the Baltoro, a gorak circled over head.

"That buzzard probably thought I was going to be his next meal," said Greg to himself. "By God's help, I'm going to find my way out of here."

He made himself water again by putting snow in his canteen and melting it against his body. After drinking in the beauty of the sunrise and sipping water, Greg forced his legs to stand and begin the long miles back to camp. As his numb legs walked, Greg remembered a song from his childhood in Africa. He sang and the song echoed around the stone peaks. "Yesu ni refiki Yangu, Ah kayee Mbinguni" He was singing "What a friend we have in Jesus. He lives in Heaven."

Greg was an American lost on a mountain in Pakistan, singing a German hymn in the Swahili language. God knew who and where Greg was and He understood the song. God also knew the hurting of Greg's body and heart. Greg fingered his sister's beads that he always had in his pocket. He wanted so badly to lay those beads on top of K2 mountain in honor of Christ! Maybe that would take away the aching in his breast every time he thought of his sweet sister and her cute giggle.

As Greg walked along, he looked for mule droppings, cigarette butts, matches or anything that would give him direction to where the trail was. About mid morning he spotted a cigarette butt, then droppings. He continued to follow that path and in time he heard bells tingling. Greg tried to shout but he did not have the breath and strength to make a very loud noise.

Forcing his legs to move faster, Greg walked toward an image that looked like the back of a man by a boulder. Yes, it was a man across a wide crevasse in the snow before him. When the man turned and saw Greg, he exclaimed, "Mr. Gireg!" and Greg said, "Mouzafer!" Greg was happy to see his porter, and Mouzafer was happy to see his employer.

Mouzafer jumped over the crevasse, backpack and all, and grabbed Greg in a tight bear hug. "Cha, Mr. Gireg! You need cha for strength!" said Mouzafer. He led Greg to a small cave, prepared a fire and boiled Greg a hot brew of cha.

"Allah was good to you!" exclaimed Mouzafer.

"I don't remember talking to Allah," replied Greg quietly. "But the Father of Jesus Christ was watching over me."

((To be continued))

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did God want torn down?
2. Who was Gideon afraid of?
3. What did Gideon do with the new altar?
4. What did the men want to do to Gideon?
5. What was Gideon's new name?
6. What did Gideon put outside?
7. Did God answer is request?
8. Did God answer a second time?

Answers: 1. Baal's altar. 2. The men of the city. 3. Made a sacrifice on it. 4. Kill him. 5. Jerubbaal. 6. A fleece. 7. Yes. 8. Yes

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 Feb. 8, 2009

Too Many Men

Gideon and his army were camped beside the well of Herod. The army of the Midianites was on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh in the valley. "You have too many men," the Lord told Gideon. "I do not want the Israelites to believe that they were saved by their own hands. Go to the people and tell them that if any of them are afraid, they may leave."

Gideon did as the Lord commanded. Twenty two thousand men left his army. Now he only had ten thousand men left to help him fight the Midianites. "You still have too many men," the Lord said. "Bring them down to the water and I will tell you what to do."

Gideon brought his men to the water and they began to drink. "Set aside everyone that laps up the water with his tongue as a dog does," the Lord ordered. "Do the same thing with those who kneel to drink." When Gideon divided the men, only three hundred lapped the water like a dog, putting their hand to their mouth. "By these three hundred men will I save you," the Lord told Gideon. "I will deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all of the other people go back to home."

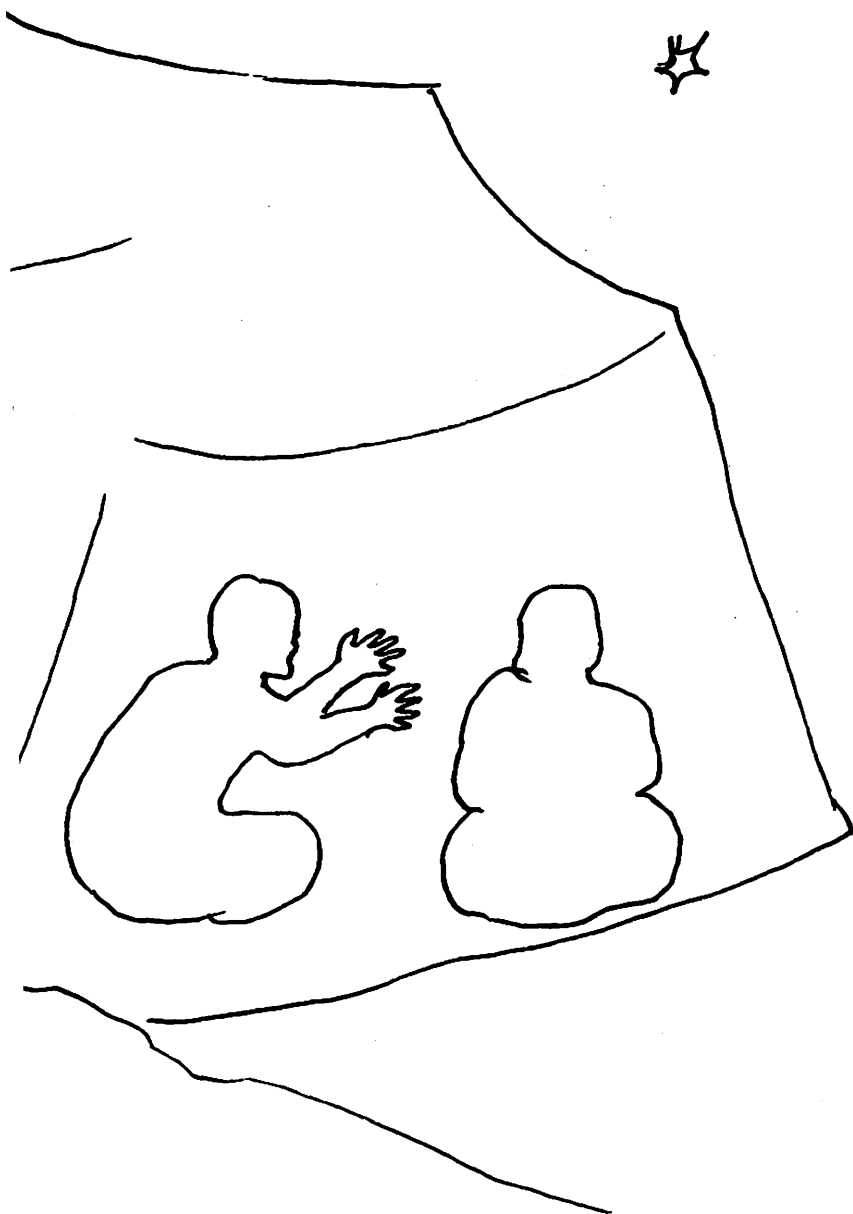
That same night the Lord gave Gideon some more instructions. "Go into your enemy's camp and listen to what they say. It will give you confidence."

Gideon and Phurah, his servant, snuck over to the Midianite camp and came to a place where the guards were talking. The two spies hid as they eavesdropped on the conversation. "I dreamed that a cake of barley tumbled into our camp," one of the men said. "It hit a tent so hard that the tent fell and turned upside down."

"That is nothing compared to what will happen to us when Gideon's army arrives," his friend answered. "God has delivered us into Gideon's hand."

When Gideon heard this, he worshipped God and went back to camp strengthened and encouraged. —Sis. Monica Murphey





Then went he down with Phurah...to the outside of the
ed men....” Judges 7:11

Greg Emerges

Greg was relieved to see his porter who kindly nursed Greg back to better health inside a small cave on K2's slope. The men were going back to Askole, a village in the valley, where they could get fresh supplies and regain their strength.

Never before fond of *payu cha*, Greg poured down three cups of the hot brew before lying down to rest. *Payu cha* is a butter tea that all Balti mountaineers feast upon daily. It is green tea boiled in a blackened tin pot; a lot of salt, baking soda and goat's milk is added. Just before serving it, a sliver of aged yak butter is sliced and stirred into the brew. Greg didn't care how badly it smelled, he was hungry, cold and tired.

For three days, Mouzafer cared for Greg who was struggling with leg cramps. Greg was also hungry to know more about the people of this region so he questioned Mouzafer about customs and practiced the language during this time. Finally, they emerged from the cave, ready to travel down to the village. It was autumn time and fruit trees were harvested of every edible fruit. Apricot trees were shining gold in the sun, a welcome sight to Greg who had not seen trees for over three months while in the mountains.

When the women saw Greg, they covered themselves with shawls and ran into their homes. However, the children were eager to see this giant white man with a long beard, unkempt hair and tattered clothes. Though it was cold, Greg noticed that many of the children flocking around him were bare foot and thinly dressed. He liked to hear their chatter and feel their warm hands as they took turns holding his.

Mouzafer left for his house and Greg walked on toward Askole with a trail of about 60 children following him. First he came to a smaller village named Korphe where the chief welcomed him through the gate of hospitality. He led Greg to a cold brook of water and let him wash his hands and face. Then they went to Haji Ali's hut for supper and rest. Haji Ali beat

a pile of bedding in the corner until its dust puffed through out the hut. He waved for Greg to stay there, which was his couch and chair during supper and his bed for the night.

No one talked as the cha was prepared. Twenty male members from Haji Ali's family quietly came into the small hut and found a mat to sit upon. Greg looked up and saw through an opening in the ceiling a ring of fifty some children who had followed him to the village. They wanted to know what this giant man was doing in their region.

Though Greg did not feel threatened by the men, he silently prayed for guidance through this ceremony of acceptance. He was glad his mother in Minnesota was praying for him.

Haji Ali rubbed old pieces of ibex jerky against leaves of a strong green chewing tobacco, then he offered a piece to Greg. By this time Greg was feeling sick from the smoke of the dung fire and weak from the lower altitude. He nearly choked at the smell of the stinky meat. Then he saw the eyes of all the men watching him. He popped the piece in his mouth and forced it down his throat. The men all nodded with approval. Greg sighed. He knew it was not his strength that washed down the nasty meat. God had helped him gain their approval.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did Gideon have too many of?
2. Why did the Lord want fewer men?
3. How many men were afraid?
4. What did Gideon ask the men who were left to do?
5. How many men were left after this?
6. Where did Gideon and Phurah go?
7. What happened to the tent in the man's dream?
8. Why did Gideon worship God?

Answers: 1. Men in his army. 2. So they would not be proud. 3. 22,000. 4. Drink water. 5. 300. 6. The Midianite camp. 7. It got hit by a barley cake. 8. He was encouraged.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No.1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 Feb. 15, 2009

Trumpets and Pitchers

"Prepare for battle," Gideon ordered his men. "The Lord has delivered the armies of the Midianites into our hands." Gideon divided the three hundred men left in his army into three different companies. He gave every man a trumpet and a pitcher with a lamp inside of it.

"Follow my lead," Gideon commanded his troops. "Stand on every side of the Midianite camp. When I blow my trumpet, all of you blow your trumpets. Then shout, 'The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.'"

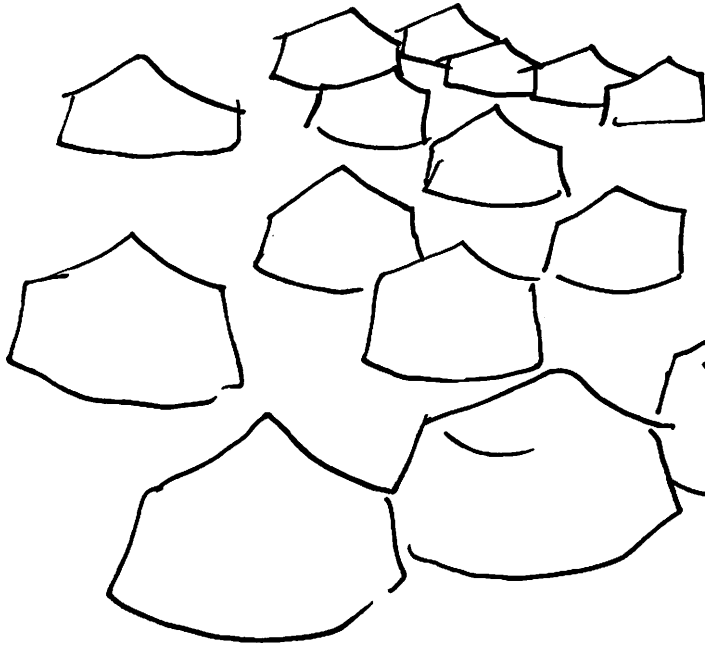
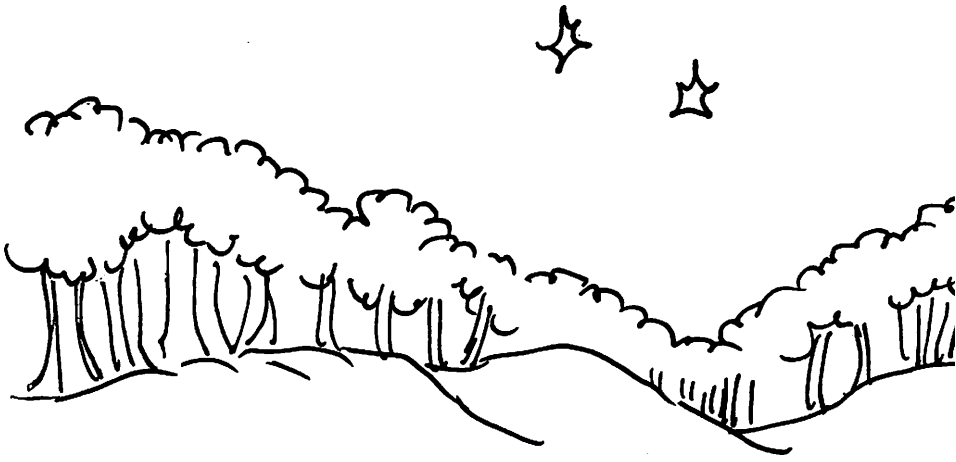
Gideon and his men quietly circled the Midianite camp. Suddenly, they blew on their trumpets, broke their pitchers, and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." The Midianites were terrified! Everyone in the Midianite camp ran for their lives! Gideon sent messengers out. "Chase all of the Midianites," the messenger reported to the leaders. The Israelites were totally victorious over the Midianites in the battle. They captured two Midianite princes.

For forty years, quietness reigned in Canaan. The Midianites did not trouble the Israelites during this time. "Be our ruler," the Israelites begged Gideon. "Then let your descendants rule after you."

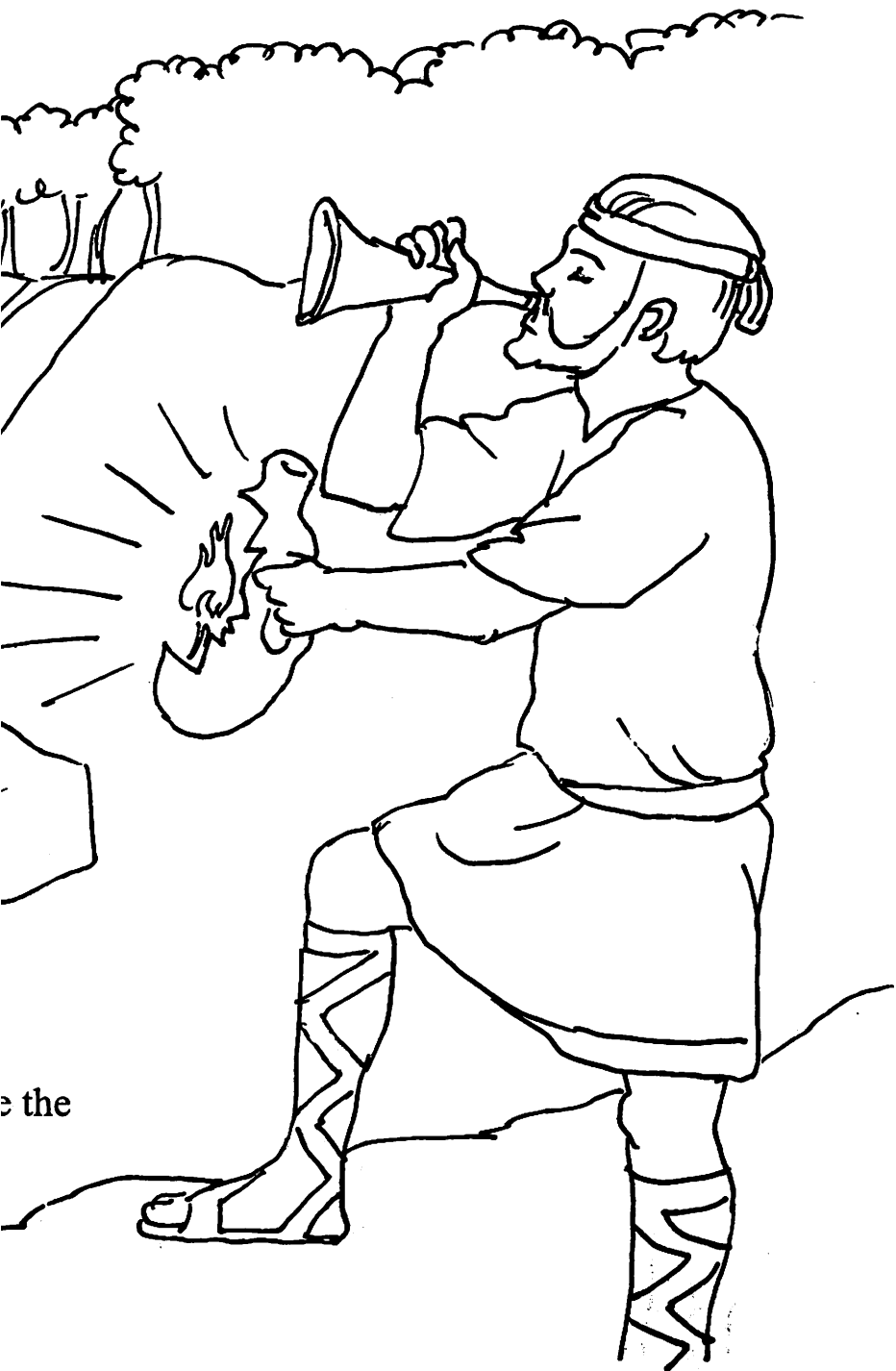
"I will not rule over you," Gideon refused. "Neither will any of my children or grandchildren. God is the one who should be our ruler."

Gideon had many sons. He lived to be very old. When Gideon died, he was buried in the tomb of his father, Joash. As soon as Gideon was dead, the children of Israel turned to other gods. They forgot that the Lord had delivered them out of the hands of their enemies. They also were very unkind to Gideon's descendants, even after Gideon followed the Lord's command and helped save them out of the hands of their enemies.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“And the three companies blew the trumpets, and
pitchers....” Judges 7:20



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Greg Feels Heart Tugs

Exhausted from his long walk, Greg fell into a deep sleep in the hut of Haji Ali, chief of Korphe. Someone had tucked a heavy quilt over him and the warmth from the hearth was luxury after sleeping outdoors all summer. Greg woke once in the night to glance around the hut. There were dark rolled forms all over the floor, and a snoring chorus filled the room. Greg just dozed off again, joining the snoring chorus.

The next morning, Haji Ali's wife politely brought breakfast to his cushion. Greg thanked her for the warm chapatti, dunked it in the lassi, and swallowed it down with cha. Sakina laughed at this huge man who was so hungry. She prepared more food and brought it to him. If Greg had known then how poor the people were, he would have politely stopped eating so much. However, he was not acquainted with them yet so he did not realize the full sacrifice this kind woman was making to try to fill him.

Stepping outside into the sunlight, Greg realized once again that he was lost. He did not remember going through this village when coming to the base of K2. He also was without his back pack which Mouzafer had carried on his back to his house for a quick visit. Korphe was built into the stone and hard ground of a mountain and about mid-day, Greg heard shouting by the cliff.

With other men, Greg ran to the cliff and saw a man pulling himself along a cable stretched between two mountains. The carriage was small and swung dangerously heavy over the canyon below it. As the man pulled closer, Greg saw that it was Mouzafer with his over ninety pound back pack. This time Greg was the one to greet Mouzafer with a huge bear hug.

"Your pack, Mr. Giregi!" exclaimed Mouzafer. "I bring it to you! We go to Askole now!"

"Yes," agreed Greg. "You also left without your pay!" Privately, he gave Mouzafer three thousand rupees, which was high wages for a porter.

The two men made their way to the bigger town and Greg enjoyed

a well-prepared meal and sleep in a comfortable bed. However, deep in his heart he felt a tug pulling him back to K2 mountain. He fingered the beads in his pocket. He had not finished his mission of leaving them on the top of K2. But something else was calling him to that region again.

Greg could still feel the children putting their warm hands in his big ones. He could see their cut bare feet exposed to the cold. He could hear their voices cheery with chatter, though their stomachs were growling with hunger.

Still weak from the stressful four months of climbing, Greg forced his legs to carry him back to Korphe where the Haji Ali welcomed him again. Greg went to his assigned cushion by the hearth where he began to learn about the lives of these sturdy but very poor people.

Greg's heart was touched by their eagerness to share with him what little they had, so he began to give to them. He had extra flashlights which he gave to the men who needed them when darkness was longer than the day. He gave his kerosene camping stove to Sakina, Haji Ali's wife who had so willingly given him three days supply of food. God was dealing with Greg's heart about the needs of these people.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How many men were in Gideon's army?
2. Who were the Israelites fighting against?
3. What did they do with the pitchers?
4. What did they shout?
5. What happened to the Midianite army?
6. What happened for forty years?
7. What did the Israelites want Gideon to do?
8. What happened after Gideon died?

Answers: 1. 300. 2. The Midianites. 3. Broke them. 4. The sword of the Lord and of Gideon. 5. They were defeated. 6. Canaan was peaceful. 7. Be their ruler. 8. The Israelites forgot God.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 Feb. 22, 2009

King Abimelech

After Gideon conquered the Midianite army, some of the Israelites came to him and begged him to be king. "God should be the king of Israel," was Gideon's reply. When Gideon died, his son Abimelech remembered that the Israelites had asked his father to be king. Abimelech went to Shechem, where his mother's relatives lived. He asked them for help. "He is our brother," Abimelech's relatives decided. "Maybe he can do things for us."

Abimelech was afraid that his brothers would revolt at the thought of Abimelech being made king. Abimelech went to his father's house and killed all of his brothers except for Jotham. Jotham hid and was able to escape from Abimelech. Abimelech's relatives gave him gold and silver that they took from the temple of one of their false gods. They gathered together and made Abimelech king.

Jotham found out that Abimelech was king over Israel. He went and stood on top of mount Gerizim. "Listen to me, people of Shechem," Jotham cried. "The trees decided they wanted a king. They asked the olive tree, 'Reign over us.' The olive tree refused, saying, 'Should I leave my position to be promoted above the other trees?' Then the trees went to the fig tree. 'Come and reign over us,' they proposed once again. 'Why should I be the one to reign over the other trees?' the fig tree asked. So the trees went to the vine and said, 'Come and reign over us.' The vine said, 'Why should I leave my spot to be over the trees?' Finally, the trees went to the brambles and asked it to reign over the trees. 'If you trust that I will be a good ruler over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow. If you do not trust me, then I will cause a fire to destroy all of the trees!' If you trust Abimelech, then rejoice. If not, let fire come from Abimelech to destroy his followers."

After Jotham finished his story, he ran and hid because he was afraid of his brother. Abimelech reigned as king for three years.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...He went a
Judges 9:7



ood in the top of mount Gerizim....”



Greg's Vision of a Need

Staying with Haji Ali, chief of the little village of Korphe, Greg learned new things daily. In every home, at least one family member suffered from goiters or cataracts. The children suffered from malnutrition and one out of every three Korphe babies died before one year old. Not only were the people not eating healthy, but they were not clean with their hands, causing much disease and death.

With his medical skills as a nurse, Greg began to clean and dress wounds, set broken bones, nurse the sick and mention cleaner habits. Each day as he grew stronger in body, he was able to climb and visit more homes. Everywhere he went, he saw eyes asking him for help.

Word soon spread that "Dr. Greg" was a kind giant who helped the sick. People from other villages would come to see Dr. Greg though he insisted he was just a nurse, not a doctor. It gave him pleasure to see the look of hope in the eyes of the elderly who had so many needs in their body. Often during the day Greg felt the presence of his little sister, Christa, with him.

"Watching the children struggle for everything just to survive makes me think of Christa's struggle to live," thought Greg. "With her trembling hands she struggled to dress herself, but she had clothes and choices of things to wear. These children barely have something to cover themselves, yet they laugh and play like my little sister did. I would like to do something special for them in honor of Christa. Perhaps I could buy them school books and supplies. They need proper training to improve their life style above their parents' way of living."

That night by the hearth, Greg told Haji Ali he wanted to visit Korphe's school. A cloud of worry passed over the old man's creased face.

"No, that is not good to do," he replied.

Greg was not going to take no for an answer so finally the chief agreed to take Greg first thing in the morning. After the usual breakfast of chapattis and cha, Greg followed Haji Ali up a steep path to a wide open ledge eight hundred feet above the Braldu. The colorful view of mountains was beautiful, but Greg did not see it for his eyes were saddened by the sight of 78 boys and 4 girls kneeling on the frosty ground, in the open. Haji Ali looked down as he spoke. "We have no school. The government not make one and a teacher cost one dollar a day so we must share teacher with Munjung. He three days in Munjung, three days in Korphe."

In his heart, Greg cried out to God for direction. How could such a little bit of money hinder so many children from learning? These children needed shelter from the weather while learning lessons, and they needed a good full time teacher. "Oh, Lord, how can I help these poor children?" Cried Greg's heart.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why did Gideon refuse to be king?
2. What did Abimelech want?
3. Who did Abimelech go to for help?
4. Why did Abimelech kill his brothers?
5. Which of his brothers escaped?
6. Which trees refused to reign?
7. What did the bramble threaten?
8. How long was Abimelech king?

Answers: 1. God should be ruler.

2. To be king. 3. His mother's relatives. 4. He was afraid of revolt.

5. Jotham. 6. Olive, fig, & vine. 7.

To burn all of the trees. 8. Three

years.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 Mar. 1, 2009

Rebellion in Shechem

The Lord caused bad feelings to grow between King Abimelech and the men of Shechem. They treated each other badly. The men of Shechem set a trap in the mountains and waited for people to pass through. When they came, the men of Shechem robbed them. The men had a party. They ate and drank and talked badly about Abimelech. "Who is Abimelech? Why should we serve him?" Gaal asked. "Is he not the son of Gideon? I wish I had people following me. I would get rid of Abimelech."

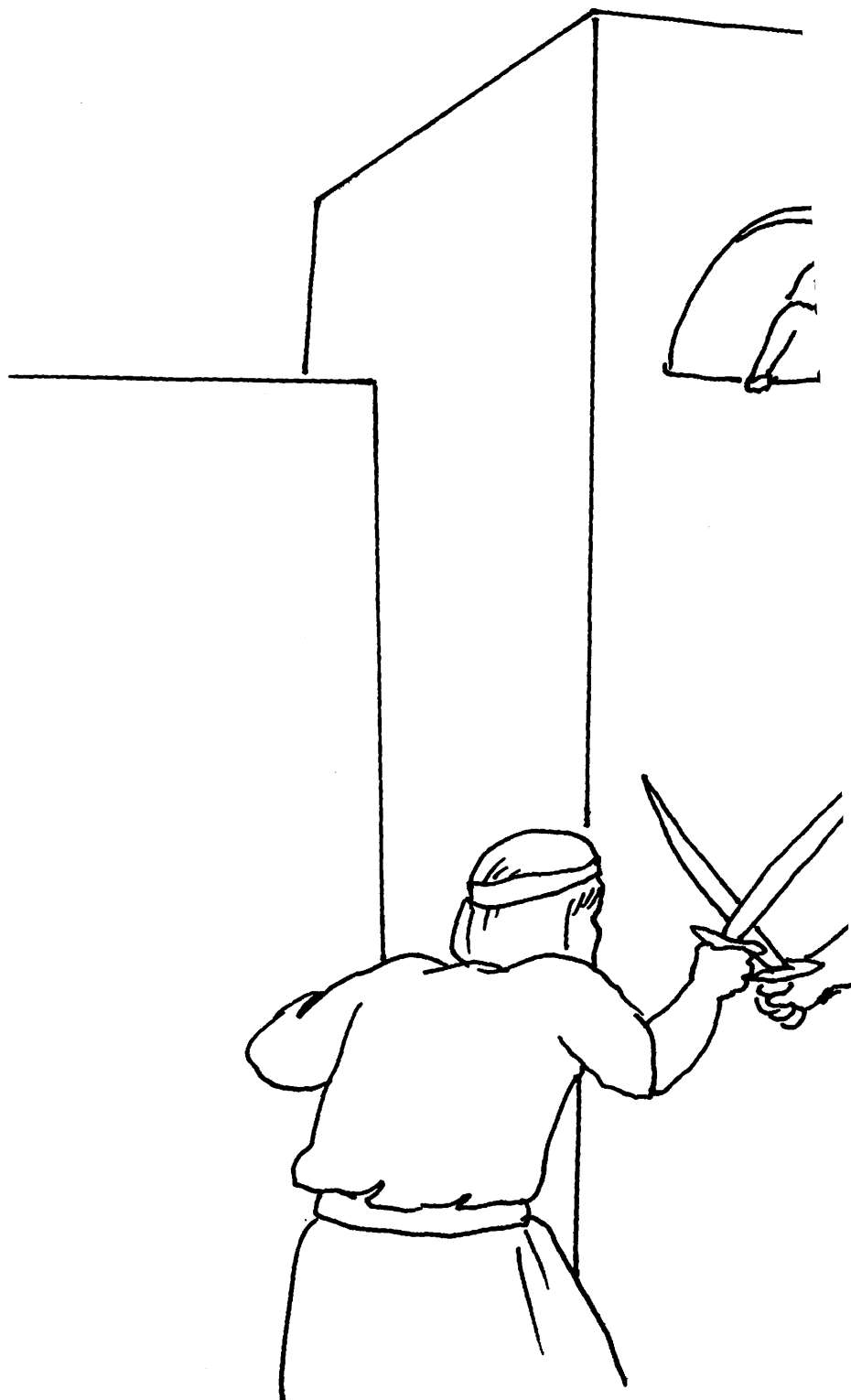
Zebul was the ruler of Shechem under Abimelech. When he heard what Gaal had said at the party, it made Zebul very angry. He sent messengers to Abimelech. "Gaal and his brothers are coming to Shechem," Zebul warned. "Lie in wait at night in the field. As soon as the sun is up, go to the city. When Gaal and his brothers come, then you may do with them as you wish."

Abimelech did as Zebul advised. The next morning Gaal and Abimelech's followers met in battle. Gaal fled from the battle and escaped from Abimelech. Many soldiers were hurt. "You will not stay in Shechem," Abimelech told Gaal and his men.

The next day, someone warned Abimelech that Gaal's men were preparing for another battle. Abimelech and his men quickly defeated them and killed everyone in the city. There was a tower in Shechem. Some of Gaal's men were there. When they heard about Abimelech killing everyone in the city, they were angry. Abimelech heard that the men were gathered together in the tower and began marching toward it, carrying tree branches. Abimelech set the branches on fire around the tower. All of the men inside the tower died from the fire. The rest of the men and women fled from the city.

Abimelech came to another city. This city also had a tower. Abimelech and his men had to fight hard to take it over. One of the women on top of the tower threw a hard object down from the tower. It hit Abimelech in the head, and he died. When his followers saw that Abimelech was dead, they left the city and returned to their homes. God had caused this bad thing to happen to Abimelech because of what he had done to his brothers.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



Abimelech came unto the tower....” Judges 9:52



Greg's Promise

Standing on a ledge eight hundred feet above the Braldu of Pakistan, Greg watched as the school children stood bare foot on the frosty ground and started their lessons with Pakistan's national anthem. Though their breath puffed in the cold air, their sweet voices did not falter as they sang.

Among the children standing tall, Greg saw seven year old Jahan whose mother had died at her birth. She was her father's joy which explained why she was at school. Most girls were not allowed to attend, as schooling girls was considered a waste of money.

When the last words of the anthem echoed over the deep valley, the children sat down in a neat circle and began to write their math lessons in the dirt with sticks they had brought. Just a few children had slate boards to write upon with mud.

Watching them, Greg marveled, "In America I can't imagine a class room of fourth graders starting their class without a teacher, and then setting to work on their lessons without being told to get busy. These children have to struggle so hard just to learn a few things. Oh, how this reminds me of the struggle Christa had to just write with her trembling hand. I must do something to help these needy children!"

Greg fingered Christa's beads in his pocket. He had not succeeded in placing those beads on top of K2 in her honor. Perhaps there was a better way to honor Christa. Beads on top of a mountain wouldn't benefit anyone, but helping boys and girls with a school would be meaningful.

Soon Greg would have to go back to his place in California, USA. He had just enough money to pay for his return trip—he was not a wealthy man by any means. However, he lived so much better than these poor children who had so much zeal to learn, like

he had been privileged to do. Making up his mind, Greg put his hand on Chief Haji Ali's shoulders.

"I'm going to build you a school," he said to the old man in Balti. "I will build a school. I promise."

For the first time on the ledge, the chief looked up into Greg's face. "Cost more rupees than we can pay and who can pay for a teacher?"

"I will work all that out," said Greg. "I just need you to get workers to build."

Haji Ali smiled. "We know how to work," he replied.

As he left that high ledge above the village of Korphe, Greg felt light, peaceful and free inside his heart. He did not get to place Christa's beads on the second highest peak in the world, but by God's help he would place something much more valuable on those icy, steep granite mountains.

Greg did not know how or where the money and the supplies would come from, but he was going to trust God to talk to the right people to help. In a few days, Greg was on a jet flying back to his family.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How did the citizens feel about their king?
2. What did the men do in the mountains?
3. Who led the rebellion against Abimelech?
4. How did Abimelech know Gaal was coming?
5. What happened to the first tower?
6. What did Abimelech do to everyone in the city?
7. Did Abimelech take over the second tower?
8. How did Abimelech die?

Answers: 1. Badly. 2. Robbed people. 3. Gaal. 4. Zebul had heard what Gaal said. 5. Abimelech burned it. 6. Killed them. 7. No. 8. Something fell on his head.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 Mar. 8, 2009

Who Will Be the Next Ruler?

After Abimelech died, Israel had several different leaders. First Tola ruled for twenty three years over Israel. Jair was Israel's next leader. Jair had thirty sons, so he placed each of them as rulers over cities in Israel. Jair's thirty sons rode on donkeys as they ruled their territory. Jair ruled for twenty two years and was buried in Camon. When he died, the Israelites once again served false gods.

The children of Israel forgot to worship the Lord. The Lord was hot with anger against Israel and caused the Philistines to be triumphant over them. The Philistines and the Ammonites oppressed the children of Israel. The Philistines and the Ammonites fought against the Israelites. This caused great distress among the Israelite camps.

"We have sinned against You, Lord," the Israelites cried. "We have forsaken You when we turned to false gods."

"Did I not deliver you time and time again from the hands of your enemies?" the Lord asked. "I delivered you from the Egyptians, the Amorites, and the Philistines. And you still left me for other gods. I will not deliver you anymore. Go cry to the gods that you have chosen to serve for help in this time of tribulation."

"We have sinned," the children of Israel admitted. "Do whatever you like among us. Only please deliver us soon." The Israelites put away their false gods and served the Lord. This caused the Lord to be compassionate toward the Israelites during their time of misery.

The children of Israel gathered together in Mizpeh. "Who will fight against the children of Ammon?" they asked. "The man that will do this will be our next leader." —Sis. Monica Murphey

“...What man...will fight against...Ammon?...”



ges 10:18



Greg's Determination

In Berkeley, California, Greg sat in his old burgundy Buick which he called La Bamba, and stared at the door of Self-Storage stall 114. Behind that door were all his earthly possessions. His future spread before him like a wilderness without a path. The memories he had of K2 in Pakistan seemed like a dream far away in place and time.

Greg climbed out of La Bamba, opened the door with his key and began to put away his climbing gear. He hung his harness, his ropes, his crampons, carabiners, hexbolts and Jumar ascenders neatly on hooks, where they rested between his climbing trips. These tools had helped Greg climb to the top of several mountains in many different countries, but he had a new mountain to climb now. What tools did it take to raise money for a school in Korphe, Pakistan?

Greg went to the library, found a book that listed the richest 100 persons in America and started typing letters to them. He was not a good typist and it took him many days to send out letters to all of them. Between work shifts at the emergency work at the hospital, Greg was either at the library typing letters or at the gym called City Rock where he exercised and showered. Then Greg slept in the back seat of La Bamba. He did not want to pay rent for an apartment, as he wanted to save money to build the school. He figured it would cost about \$12,000 dollars to complete a one story, five room building with windows and doors.

One day Greg went to Lazer Image to copy some letters. Syed, the attendant, saw a copy of Greg's letters. "So you want to build a school in Korphe?" he asked with his eyes shining. "I was born in Bhawal Pay, Pakistan. This is a wonderful thing that you want to do."

"Thank you," replied Greg. "I am

so slow at typing and it is taking me weeks to get letters sent off."

"Why don't you use a computer?" asked Syed. "This is 1993 and every one is sending out messages by computer now."

"I don't know how to use a computer," replied Greg quietly.

"Then I will teach you how!" exclaimed Syed. "You need to get letters out faster than this old slow way!"

Greg was pleased at how much faster he was able to complete letters with the computer.

"My village in Pakistan had no school so I know how these children are suffering," said Syed. "I am so grateful I came to America where I can learn and study all I want. It is a wonderful freedom and privilege to have books and materials to learn with. I wish you Godspeed, my friend."

Greg was amazed that God put a Pakistani in his life to teach him about computers so he could use this tool to raise money for a Pakistan school. There were more surprises for Greg on the horizon.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did Israel do after Jair died?
2. How did this make the Lord feel?
3. Who oppressed the Israelites?
4. Were the Israelites sorry for forsaking God?
5. Why did the Lord refuse to deliver them at first?
6. Did the Israelites keep serving false gods?
7. Why was the Lord compassionate towards them?
8. What question did the Israelites have now?

Answers: 1. Turned to false gods. 2. Angry. 3. The Philistines and the Ammonites. 4. Yes. 5. They had turned to other gods. 6. No. 7. They put away the false gods and worshipped the true God. 8. "Who will be our next leader?"

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 Mar. 15, 2009

An Outcast Leads Israel

"Who will help us fight against the Ammorites and the Philistines?" the children of Israel wondered. The elders from Gilead remembered Jephthah. He was a mighty man of honor, but he was the son of a dishonorable woman. The rest of his family cast him out. "You will not inherit anything that belongs to our family," they said. So Jephthah fled from his family and lived in the land of Tob. He became a great leader there.

"Come and be our captain," the elders begged Jephthah. "We are preparing to fight against the Ammonites. We need your help."

"Did you not hate me, and throw me out of my father's house?" Jephthah asked. "Why are you coming to me now?"

"We turn to you now to ask you for help and to be our leader during battle," the elders explained.

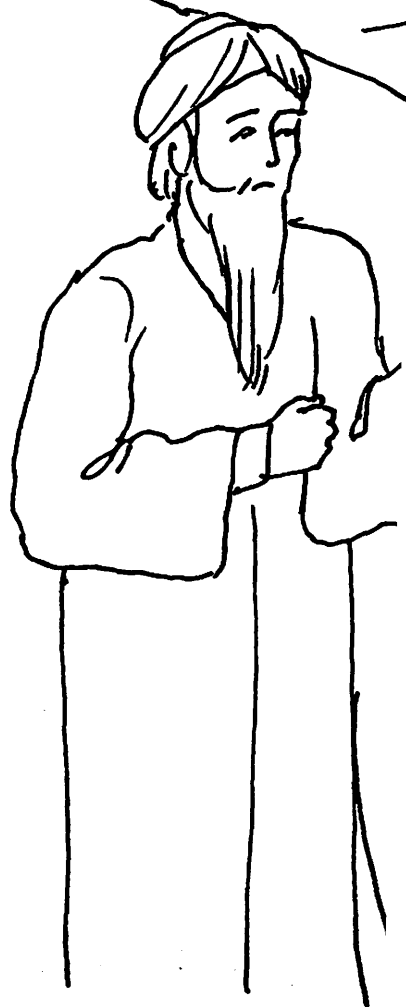
"If I return to my home and fight with you, will you make me your leader permanently?" Jephthah asked. "We will do so," the elders promised. Jephthah went with the elders of Israel. They made him leader and captain over them.

Jephthah sent messengers to the king of Ammon. "Why are you persecuting Israel?" he asked. "Because Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt," the king sent back his reply. "Now you have a chance to restore these lands to us peacefully." "Israel did not take over your lands," Jephthah protested. "They tried to pass through them and were denied the right to do this. Then the Lord delivered these lands into Israel's hands. We have not sinned against you. You have sinned against us. The Lord will be the judge of Israel and Ammon."

The king of Ammon and Jephthah were not able to come to a peaceful solution. Jephthah began moving his armies towards the Ammonites.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...The elders of Gilead went to
land of Tob.” Judges 11:5



Jephthah out of the



Pennies for the Project

By phone, Greg talked to his mother who had an idea for his fund raising for the building of a school in Korphe, Pakistan.

"Why don't you come to the West-side Elementary School and talk to the children about your project," said Tana. "It would be good for you and for them, too."

So Greg made the trip from Berkeley, California to River Falls, Wisconsin to visit his mother and speak to the children. Tana was principal of this school. After her husband died in 1981, Tana had gone back to college to get a degree in education. Now she was devoting her time to the discipline of American children.

Greg found it easy to talk to the children about his project. When he showed the pictures of the Korphe children sitting on the frosty ground writing their numbers in the frost, the American children were shocked. There wasn't even a teacher there to make the children behave or to work!

About a month after Greg returned home, he received a letter from his mother. "The kids here became active for your project," she wrote. "They put out two forty gallon trash cans and began a "Pennies for Pakistan" drive. They had those two cans full when they counted the pennies. There were 62,345 pennies total. Enclosed is a check for \$623.45."

"What do ya know!" exclaimed Greg, holding the check in his hand. "Children have sent me the first money for the building and they did it with pennies! But pennies can move mountains!"

From all the 580 letters sent out about his project, only one check came in for \$100. It was from another man who loved to climb mountains. At the hospital, Greg told the night emergency doctor that he wasn't getting much money after six months of letter sending.

"I know there is an American Himalayan Foundation," said Dr. Vaughan. "I read their magazine. I'll write an article about your trip to K2 and your vision for a school there. If they publish it, you may receive donations from some of the readers."

"Hey, that sounds good to me! Anything to help is fine," agreed Greg.

The story was published with a picture of K2 and Greg's team. However, days passed and no mail came in. Greg was discouraged. Why wasn't anyone interested in helping these children?

One night at work Dr. Vaughan handed Greg a note. "This guy read the article about you and called. Here is his phone number—he wants you to call him back."

The next morning Greg changed a ten dollar bill for quarters and called the number from the library's pay phone. He did not know who Dr. Jean Hoerni was, but he was soon to find out. God tends to work in mysterious ways, you know.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What question did the Israelites ask?
2. Who did the elders remember?
3. Why was Jephthah cast out of the family?
4. What did the elders ask him?
5. What did Jephthah ask in return?
6. What did Jephthah ask the king?
7. What had the Ammonites refused?
8. Did they come to a peaceful solution?

Answers: 1. "Who will lead Israel?"

2. Jephthah. 3. His mother was dishonorable. 4. To be their captain. 5. To be their leader. 6. "Why are you persecuting Israel?" 7. Passage for the Israelites. 8. No

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 Mar. 22, 2009

Jephthah's Promise

Jephthah was preparing the Israelite army to fight with the Amorites. The Ammonites had oppressed the children of Israel for many years. The Israelites had come to Jephthah for help and made him their leader. The Spirit of the Lord was with Jephthah. Slowly Jephthah moved the Israelite armies toward Ammonite territory. Jephthah wanted to be sure of God's help and protection over the Israelite armies, so Jephthah made a vow, or a promise, to God. "If you will deliver us from the children of Ammon, the first thing that comes out of the doors of my house to meet me will be yours," Jephthah vowed.

The armies of Israel attacked the children of Ammon. The Lord delivered all twenty cities of the Ammonites into the Israelites' hands.

Victorious and triumphant, the Israelites returned home. Jephthah was approaching his house when his daughter came out to meet him, playing musical instruments and dancing for joy. Jephthah had only one child. He had not been able to have other sons or daughters.

How sad Jephthah was when he remembered his vow. Jephthah tore his clothes and grieved. "My only daughter!" he cried. "I have promised you to the Lord, and I cannot go back on my word."

"My father," Jephthah's daughter replied. "If you have promised me to the Lord, follow through with your promise. For the Lord has kept his part of the bargain and taken vengeance on your enemies. Let me go up the mountain for two months to mourn the fact that I will never be able to marry."

Jephthah's daughter was away for two months. When this time was up, she returned to Jephthah, and Jephthah did what he had promised the Lord. It became a custom in Israel for the women to remember Jephthah's daughter at a certain time each year and mourn because of what had happened to her. Jephthah judged Israel for six years.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...his daughter came out to meet him with timbals and dances....” Judges 11:34



nd with



Showers of Blessings

Greg held the pay phone receiver to his ear listening to the dial tone on the other end. "Hello, this is Greg M---. Is this Dr. Jean Hoerni?"

"Yes."

"Dr. Tom Vaughan gave me your phone number. I am calling because..."

"You want money," finished the man on the other end. "Tell me, if I send you money for your school, you're not going to Mexico, smoke dope and live with a girl on a park bench like a bum, are you?"

"No, I am honest...." began Greg.

"How do I know?" quizzed the man with a French accent.

"These children in the Karakoram of Pakistan really need our help. I want to...."

"I know they do. I climbed those mountains when I was young," interrupted Dr. Hoerni.

"Were you with a team or..."

"Never mind. So how much money are you needing?" asked Dr. Hoerni.

"I met with an architect and a contractor in Skardu and priced out the materials," continued Greg. "I want the school to have five rooms, four for classes...."

"What's the cost?" snapped Dr. Hoerni.

"Twelve thousand dollars," said Greg nervously. "Whatever you would like to contribute would be greatly appreciated..."

"Is that ALL the cost?" asked Dr. Hoerni. "You know this amount as a fact?"

"Yes, sir," replied Greg.

"What is your address?" demanded Dr. Hoerni.

Greg gave him his Post Office box number then hung up the phone. "Well, that man was certainly rude! Even if he sends a \$20 check, it would be worth the call," thought Greg. He thought nothing more about the call until a week later when he opened his Post Office box and found a letter from Dr. Jean Hoerni. Inside the envelope there was a check for twelve thousand dollars, sent through the

American Himalayan Foundation. An attached note read, "I will know if you lied to me. Regards, J.H."

Greg felt like he was walking on clouds! While he waited for the check to clear, he bought a plane ticket. Then he began to sell his things for money to support him while in Pakistan. He kept in storage only a few items that tied him to the past. Then the morning before his flight, he took La Bamba—his car and bedroom—and parked it at a used car lot in Oakland. They paid him \$500 for the burgundy Buick.

Greg was sad to say good-bye to La Bamba but he was anxious to be in Korphe, Pakistan. After a year of letter writing, talking, praying and planning, Greg had carried the burden of his promise for a long time, it seemed to him. With the money to build, Greg was ready to fulfill his promise to Chief Haji Ali and to God.

Greg was nervous about carrying so much money on his person, but he trusted God to protect him and keep the money safe. Just help me not to look nervous, prayed Greg. Finally, in Islamabad, Greg asked for the cheapest room at the Khyaban Hotel. He was not going to spend much money on his own comfort.

(To be continued)

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who was with Jephthah?
2. What did Jephthah promise God?
3. How many cities did Israel defeat?
4. Who came out of Jephthah's house?
5. How did Jephthah feel?
6. Did his daughter want him to keep his vow?
7. Where did his daughter want to go?
8. What do the women mourn each year?

Answers: 1. The Spirit of the Lord.
2. The first thing that came out of his home. 3. 20. 4. His daughter.
5. Sad. 6. Yes. 7. Up the mountain.
8. The fate of his daughter.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 1 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 Mar. 29, 2009

A Son is Promised

For many years, the children of Israel did evil in God's eyes. The Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. Manoah was a descendant of Dan. He and his wife had been married for many years and had not been able to have any children.

One day, a man appeared to Manoah's wife. "Soon you will have a son," the angel informed her. "He will deliver Israel from the Philistines. You must never cut his hair. This will be a sign to everyone that he belongs to God." Manoah's wife did not realize that the man was an angel.

She told Manoah about the visit. "You will have a son," Manoah replied. "We will do as the angel commanded us."

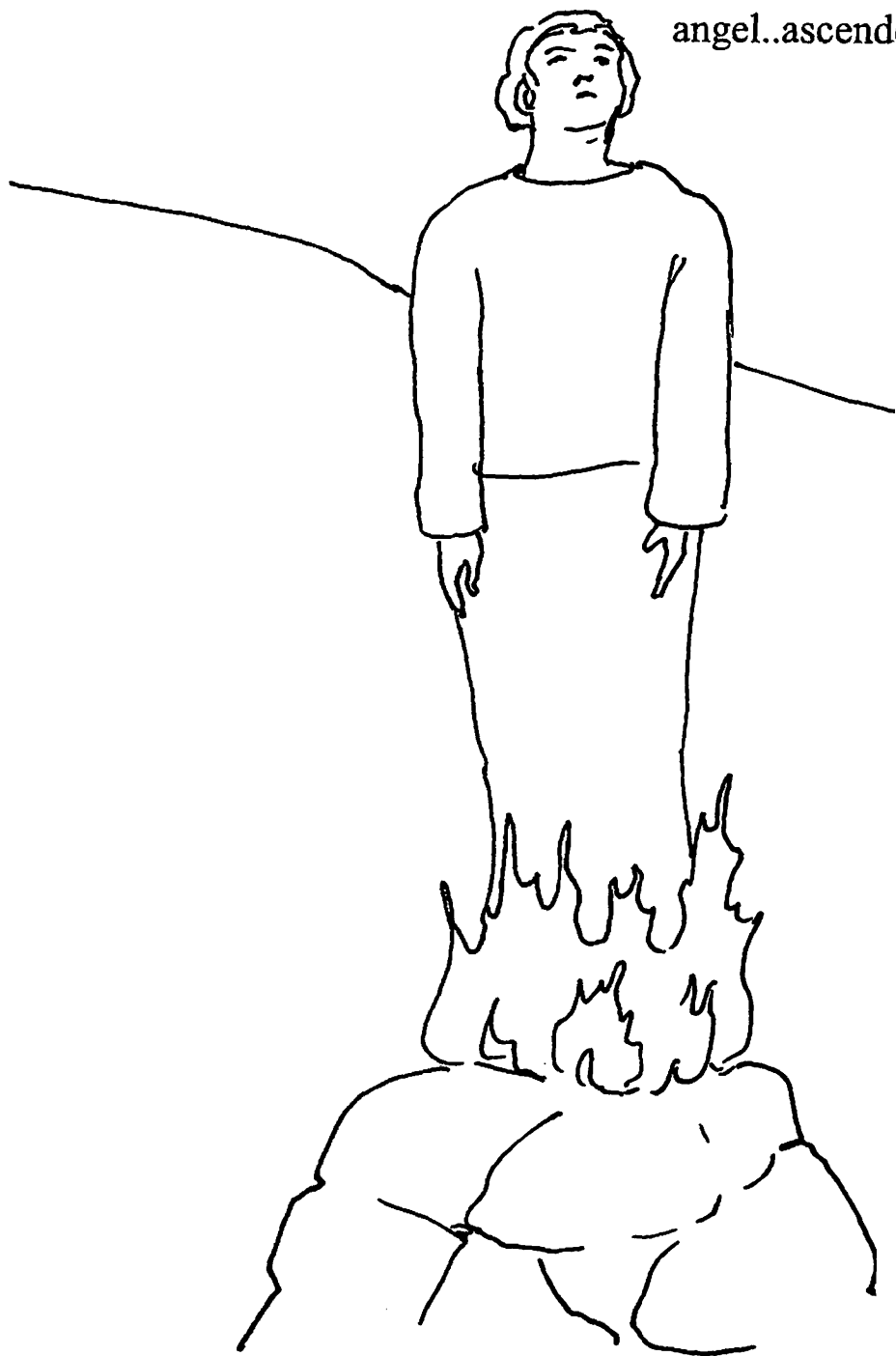
"Oh, Lord, send the angel to us again," Manoah requested. "Teach us what we should do to this child that will be born."

The Lord heard Manoah, and the angel appeared to the woman again as she sat in the field. She ran to get her husband. "Here is the man that came to me the other day," she said. "Are you the man that spoke to my wife?" Manoah asked. "I am," the angel replied. "Do all that I told your wife to do." "Please stay and eat with us," Manoah said. "I will not eat with you," the angel said. "If you want to offer a burnt offering, do it to worship the Lord."

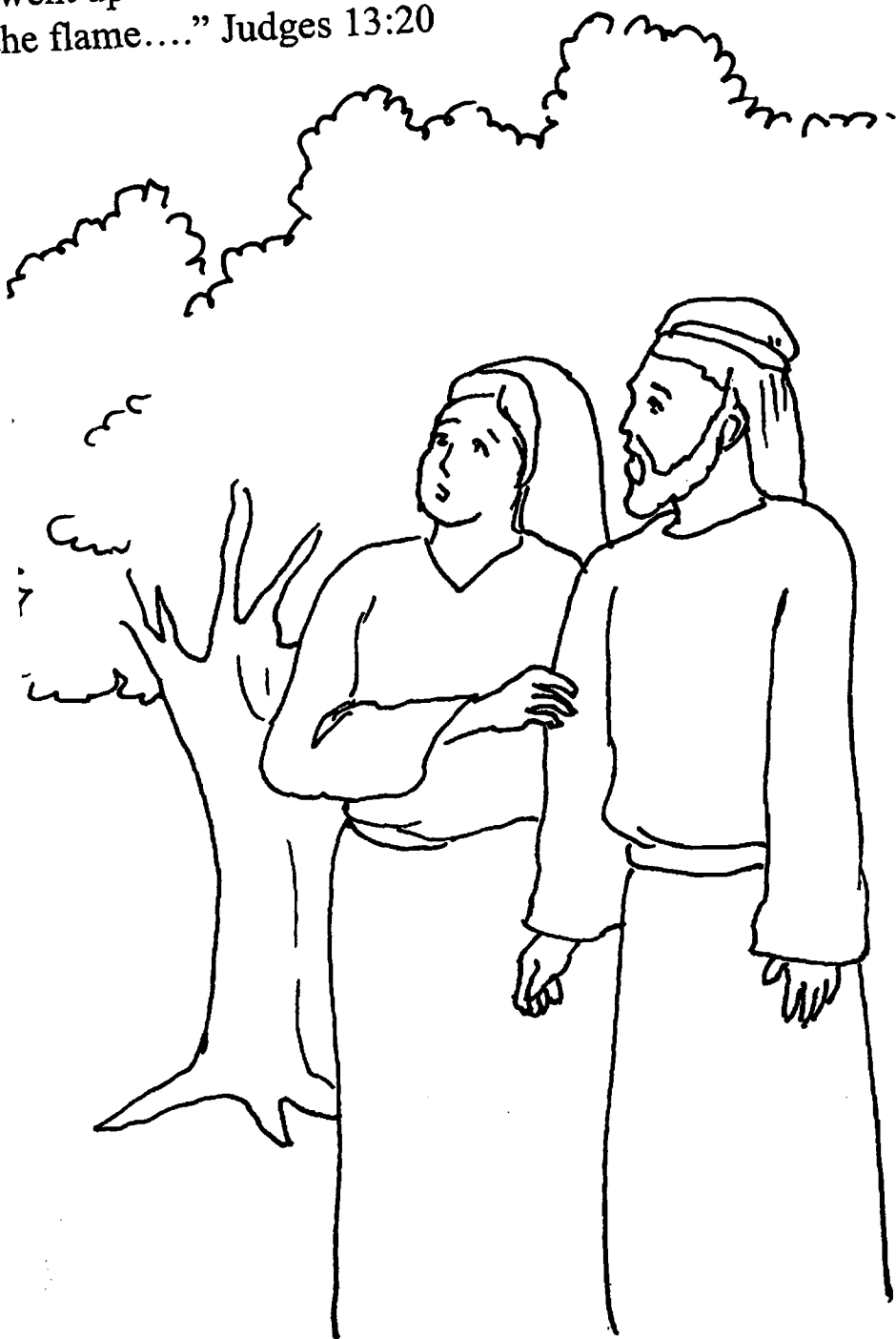
Manoah offered a sacrifice and worshipped the Lord. When the flame from the fire began to flicker towards the heavens, the angel went up to heaven in it. Manoah and his wife watched in awe and then fell on their faces to the ground. Manoah and his wife now knew that they had seen an angel. "We have seen God," Manoah cried. "We will surely die." "If the Lord wanted to kill us, he would not have shown us all of these things," the woman said. Manoah and his wife had a son. They named him Samson. The Lord blessed Samson as he grew. Samson's parents were never visited by the angel again.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“...when the f
angel..ascende



went up toward heaven...the
he flame...." Judges 13:20



Greg Keeps his Promise

In a cheap room in the Khyaban Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, Greg slept like a baby from the exhaustion of the trip. When he finally opened his eyes and stepped out of his tiny room, the hotel watchman, Abdul, was waiting for him. "Good morning, Mr. Gireg," he greeted. "I will get you a cup of tea."

Greg accepted a chipped porcelain cup of sticky sweet milk tea. As he sipped the tea, Abdul watched him with his one good eye. "Mister Gireg, why did you come back?" he asked.

"I've come to build a school," replied Greg.

Abdul looked at Greg's frayed running shoes and worn jacket. "You a rich man?" he asked.

"No," replied Greg. "but people in America gave some money to buy material."

After Greg had explained his mission, the robust Abdul was convinced Greg was serious. "I will help you find bargains," he told Greg. "We will start tomorrow. You let me bicker with the merchants. I get good prices on supplies."

That was music to Greg's ears! He had worried about dealing with merchants who like the most from their wares. Under Abdul's guidance, Greg found an architect who drew up the blueprints and knew what kind of materials were needed to make the building sturdy. They were able to buy supplies and hire the army jeeps to take the lumber and cement to the base of K2. Abdul stayed with Greg as they traveled the Karakoram Highway, but when the line of jeeps stopped and the material was unloaded, he said good-bye to Greg.

At a nearby village, Greg hired porters to carry the supplies on their backs up the rugged slopes of the mountain. It was a tired but pleased Greg who walked into Korphe late one evening. Chief Haji Ali hurried to greet his friend. Seeing the porters with their burdens, Haji Ali was stunned.

"You have come to keep your promise!" This little man hugged his large American friend in a firm squeeze.

"I thought everything we needed to build a school," said Greg. "All the wood, cement and tools. It's all here."

"We will begin building right away," replied the chief. However, there were many problems to see about first. The ground on the ledge wasn't sturdy enough to hold such a large building. A bridge had to be made to cross to another location for the school. All this took more money and more time. However the people of Korphe were not discouraged. They had hope because someone was helping them. Greg had hope because he knew God would see about their needs.

Finally, on the afternoon of December 10, 1996, Greg crouched on the roof of the Korphe School, and with a happy crowd of children and construction men watching, he pounded in the final nail to complete the building.

Chief Haji Ali cheered and the people rejoiced to see a dream come true. Though there were still books to buy, a teacher to hire and other details to work out, the building was ready to use.

That night in Haji Ali's hut, Greg lay down on his cushion by the hearth, which was burning yak dung, and he thanked God for helping him keep his promise.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What happened for forty years?
2. What did Manoah not have?
3. What did the angel promise?
4. What were they not to do?
5. What did Manoah offer the angel?
6. What did Manoah build instead?
7. What did the angel go up to heaven in?
8. What did they name their son?

Answers: 1. Israel was oppressed by the Philistines. 2. Children. 3. A son. 4. Cut his hair. 5. Food. 6. An altar. 7. A flame. 8. Samson.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



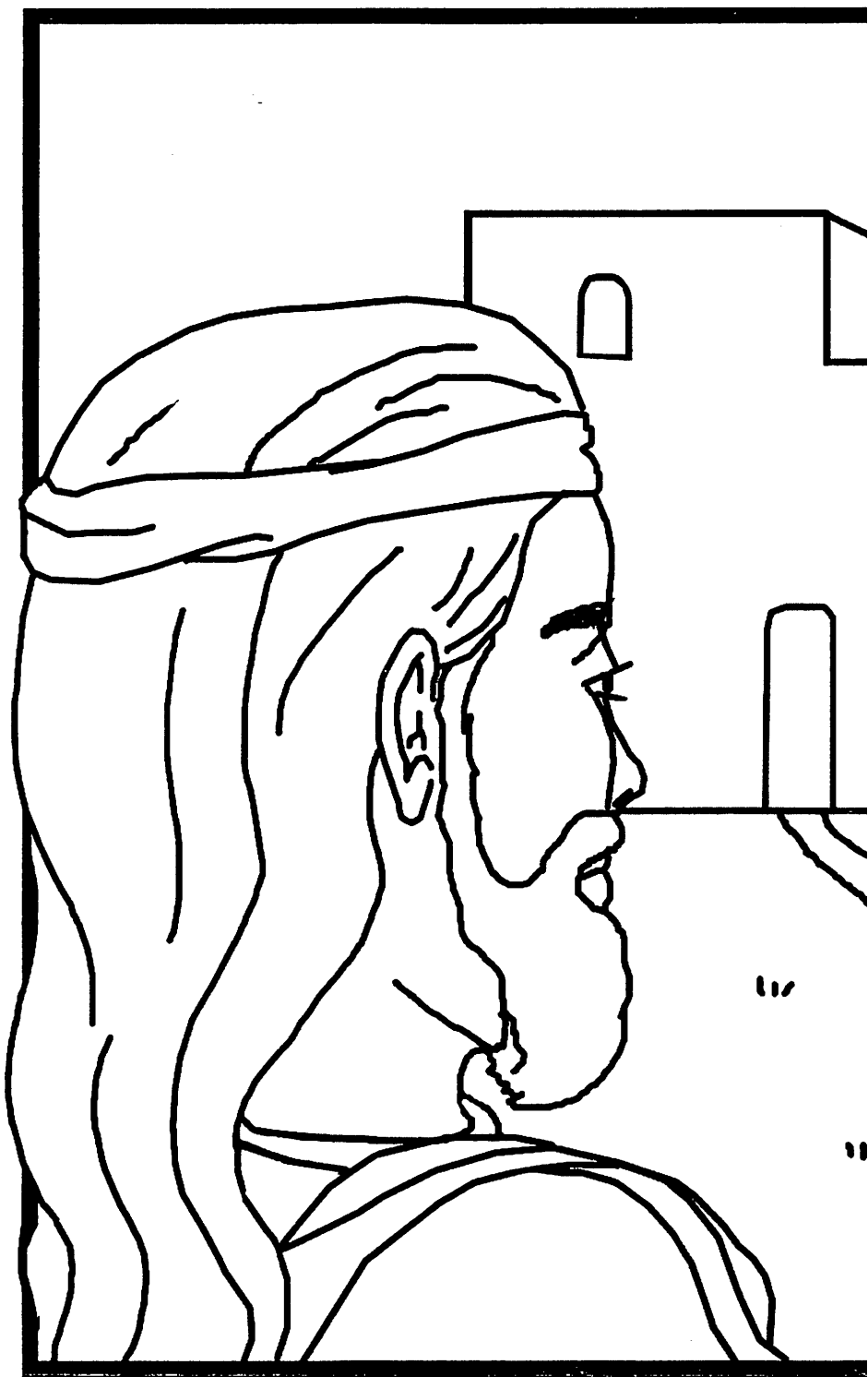
Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 14 April 5, 2009

Samson Finds a Wife

As Samson worked among the Philistines, he saw a beautiful Philistine woman. "I have seen a Philistine woman that I want for my wife," Samson told his parents. "Isn't there a woman among our own people that you wish to marry?" Samson's parents asked. "I want to marry her," Samson returned. "She will make me happy." His father and mother were disappointed in Samson's decision. They knew that the Lord would not be happy with it. While Samson and his parents were on their way to meet Samson's intended bride, Samson came upon a fierce lion. The Spirit of the Lord came down on Samson. Samson was able to kill the lion with his bare hands, but he did not tell his parents what had happened. He turned away, but when he looked again Samson saw honey inside the dead lion.

Samson's father went down to meet the woman. Samson and thirty Philistine men began to prepare a feast to celebrate Samson's marriage. "I have a riddle for you," Samson told them. "If you can tell me the answer in thirty days, I will give you thirty sheets and thirty new outfits. If you cannot tell me the answer, then you must give me thirty sheets and thirty outfits." "Tell us your riddle," the men said. "Out of the eater came meat, and out of the strong came sweetness," Samson replied. The men thought very hard. After three days, they still did not have the answer to Samson's riddle. On the seventh day, the Philistines went to Samson's wife. "Trick Samson into giving you the answer to the riddle," the men requested. "If you do not, we will burn you and your father's house." When Samson came home, he found his wife crying. "You do not love me anymore," she wept. "You have given my people a riddle and have not told me the answer." "I have not told it to my father or mother," Samson said. "Why should I tell it to you?" For seven days Samson lived in misery while his wife wept and tried to get him to tell her the answer to his riddle. Finally Samson told her the answer. That evening the Philistine men came to him. "What is stronger than a lion?" they said. "And what is sweeter than honey?" Samson was very angry that they had found out the answer to his riddle. The Spirit of the Lord was on him. He killed thirty men in the city and took their clothing. He came back and gave the clothes to the men who had explained the riddle.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





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“... I have seen a woman in Timnath ...”
Judges 14:2

The Music Lesson

The warm Spring sun was shining in Guthrie, Oklahoma when Connie sat down in her assigned seat in the music room of Fogarty School. She idly gazed at the pictures of Beethoven and Mozart on the wall in front of Mrs. Wagoner's piano.

"Class!" exclaimed Mrs. Wagoner, tapping her desk loudly with a ruler. Connie jumped with all the other students. "I want you all to sit up straight and take a deep breath from way down here." Mrs. Wagoner patted her slim tummy and smiled. Connie liked her smile. She breathed deeply with all her classmates.

"Good! Now you all look alive and ready to sing! We must polish up the three songs we have been preparing for the school cooks' convention. We will sing for them on the Tuesday of Spring Break. I have prepared a note for your parents to ask them if you can come. Someone will need to bring you and come get you because the buses will not be running. This is an honor for us to sing before all central state cooks, and I hope your parents will be willing to bring you."

Connie had already told her mother and she knew she could come. That was her birthday, and she thought it would be nice to sing for the cooks on her birthday.

"Now let's do some practice scales with the piano," said Mrs. Wagoner as she took her place on the piano bench. Her quick fingers went up and down the piano keys and the children's voices followed. Mrs. Wagoner bent her head down and listened. "Someone is singing too low and dragging behind," she said.

Mrs. Wagoner stood up and the children stopped singing. "Now I want to tune each one of you." She said.

Connie felt a lump drop into her throat. She so dreaded humming with Mrs. Wagoner—what if she was out of tune? Mrs. Wagoner found Timmy needed tuning. She had Timmy stand up and hum. Then she had Timmy

stand on his chair. The students giggled, but Timmy grinned and stood up tall on his chair. Connie was glad it was Timmy and not her.

"Toot-Toot!" sang Mrs. Wagoner, tugging at Timmy's hair to raise his voice. Connie never understood how tugging at someone's hair could get a person to sing better. Soon Timmy's toot-toot sounded the same pitch as Mrs. Wagoner's. Then all the students went to the risers. Connie's place was on the second step of the risers, at the end.

On the piano, Mrs. Wagoner played "Let's Put the Rooster in the Stew." Connie sang with all her might, though, Gloria, the girl standing in front of her, kept turning and frowning at her. Connie made a face at her, and Gloria raised her hand. "Mrs. Wagoner," said Gloria. "Connie is singing out of tune! I don't want to stand in front of her!"

"Is that so?" asked Mrs. Wagoner as she walked over to the girls. Connie felt the hair on her head stand up. "Then you can trade places with Timmy," she said to Gloria and she smiled at Connie.

Connie sighed. Timmy wouldn't know if Connie was singing in tune or not. That embarrassment caused Connie to not sing loudly and for a long time she was angry at Gloria, which was sinful. Connie would have been happier if she had forgiven her.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did Samson find?
2. Why were his parents disappointed?
3. What did Samson kill?
4. What did he find in the lion?
5. What did the Philistines make Samson's wife do?
6. Did Samson tell his wife the answer?
7. How did Samson feel about this?
8. Did Samson keep his promise?

Answers: 1. A wife. 2. She was a Philistine. 3. A lion. 4. Honey. 5. Get him to tell her the answer. 6. Yes. 7. Angry. 8. Yes.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 15 April 12, 2009

Fires and Foxes

After a while, Samson was sorry he had been so angry with the men at his wedding. Samson took some goat's meat as a gift and went to see his wife. "You may not go in," Samson's father-in-law told him. "I thought that you hated my daughter, so I let your friend marry her. Why don't you marry her younger sister instead?"

Samson was very angry. He caught three hundred foxes and set them in pairs of two. He tied each of the pairs of tails together with a burning torch tied to each set of foxes. Then Samson turned the foxes loose into the Philistines' corn fields.

The Philistines came out to find the corn that was ready to harvest burned to the ground. Their olives and vineyards were also burned. "Who has done this?" they asked. "Samson did this," they decided. "He was angry because his father-in-law gave his wife to his friend." The Philistines killed Samson's wife and her father because of the trouble they caused.

The Philistines went to Judah to tie Samson and take him as their prisoner. When the men of Judah found out the purpose of their mission, they went to Samson. "Why did you destroy their property?" the Israelites asked. "Don't you realize that they rule over us?" "I only did to them what they did to me," Samson replied. "We have come to tie you up, so that we can give you to the Philistines," the Israelites said.

The Israelites tied Samson with strong cords and marched him to the Philistines. When they came close, the Philistines began shouting insults at Samson. The Spirit of the Lord came on Samson and he was able to break free from the cords that bound him.

Samson killed many men that day. He judged Israel for twenty years while they were serving the Philistines.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... And they bound him with ... cords ...”

Judges 15:13



A Rainy Birthday

It was a rainy day when Daddy took Connie to the Guthrie High School to sing for the Cooks' Convention.

"You be back at this same door at 12:00," said Daddy to Connie as she got out of the car. "Okay, Daddy, thank you," replied Connie.

Quickly she joined some friends and hurried through the front doors to get out of the rain. The cheery atmosphere of the cafeteria made her feel better. She was sure it was March the 6th, but no one had told her Happy Birthday. She had thought about reminding her parents, but the down pouring rain made her gloomy. Maybe they were ignoring her birthday on purpose. Mother was probably tired of decorating chocolate cakes—this would be number nine—and Daddy didn't like to shop for girl things so they probably were ready to forget this one.

Oh, well, it looked like neither Gloria nor Timmy had come to sing. Connie would not have to fret about them. Only a few came to sing, so Mrs. Wagoner had the students come together in the middle of the risers.

Mrs. Wagoner smiled at her students. "There may not be as many of us, but we can still sound good and loud," she said. "Now let's stand up straight and tall and take a deep breath. We will practice humming the scale with the piano."

Mrs. Wagoner sat down at the piano, struck a note and began to take the students' voices up the scale. She was smiling until they reached the top, and then a little frown crossed her face. "Let's do this scale," she said changing the key.

Suddenly Connie panicked. What if I am out of tune? What if Mrs. Wagoner has me sing toot-toot in front of all these cooks and pulls my hair to get me in tune? Connie let her voice disappear and she just pretended to hum. She was careful to not sing

loudly in the round. "Let's Put the Rooster in the Stew" and sometimes she just mouthed the words and did not make a sound.

The cooks clapped and smiled at the students after the songs were done. Connie had looked forward to singing that day, but now she was glad it was over. She was ready to go home to her bedroom and read a good book. Forget the rain. Forget the singing. Forget her birthday. A good book would take her far away from the problems of today.

Connie met Daddy at the front door at 12:00. She rushed into the car, trembling from the cool breeze. "So how was the singing?" asked Daddy.

"Okay," replied Connie dully. Her chattering teeth did not want to talk. Besides, Daddy sang good bass and he wouldn't understand what it was like to sing out of tune. For some reason Daddy did not want to park the car in the garage, so they dashed to the front door. In the entrance hall, Connie heard voices start singing, "Happy Birthday to You." She went into the living room, and there sat Grandma Miles, her sister, Aunt Frances, and Bro. and Sis. Stover. Connie was so surprised, she just started crying. Her family had not forgotten her birthday after all!

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Who did Samson want to see?
2. What did his father-in-law refuse?
3. How did this make Samson feel?
4. What animal did he catch?
5. What was burned up?
6. Why did the Israelites tie Samson up?
7. What was Samson able to do with the cords?
8. How many years did Samson judge Israel?

Answers: 1. His wife. 2. To let him in. 3. Angry. 4. Foxes. 5. The Philistines crops. 6. To deliver him to the Philistines. 7. Break them. 8. 20.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 16 April 19, 2009

Tricked By a Woman

Before Samson was born, an angel appeared to his parents and told them that they must never cut Samson's hair. As long as Samson's hair was long, the Lord would be with him and cause him to be strong. One day Samson met a woman who lived in Gaza and became friends with her. One midnight, Samson left Gaza and took the gate of the city with him, carrying it away on his shoulders.

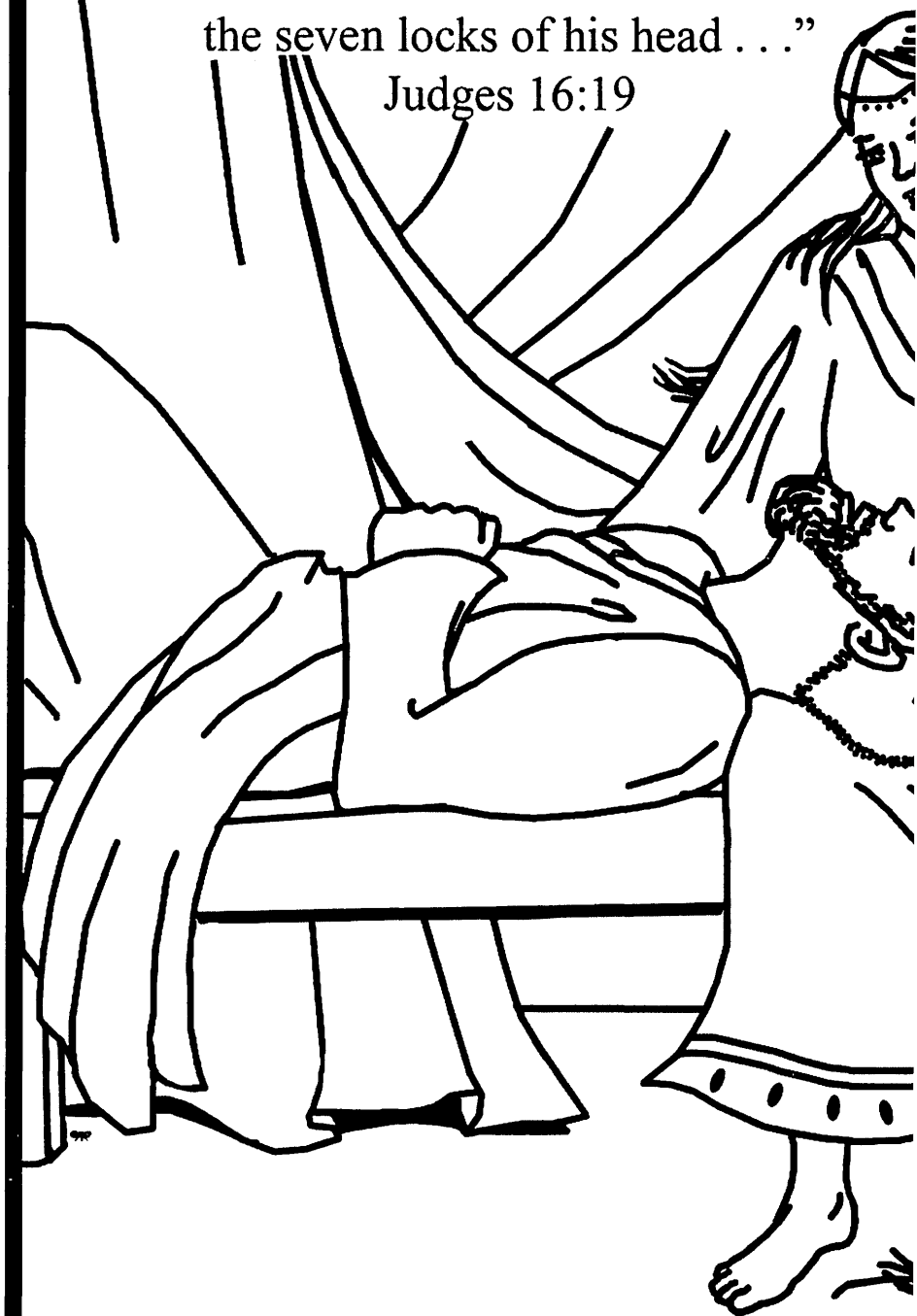
Soon Samson fell in love with the beautiful woman named Delilah. The Philistines approached Delilah with an evil proposition. "If you can find out what makes Samson so strong we will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver," they offered. When Delilah asked Samson what made him so strong, Samson said, "If they bind me with seven green vine tendrils, then I will be as weak as any other man." So the leaders of the Philistines brought Delilah seven vines. Delilah tied them tightly around Samson while Samson was asleep. Some of the Philistines were hiding nearby. Delilah called, "Samson, the Philistines are coming." Samson woke up and broke the vines as easily as if they had been a piece of thread.

"You tricked me," Delilah wiled. "Now please tell me what will make you weak." "If they tie me tightly with new ropes I will be as weak as any other man," Samson revealed. Once again Samson fell asleep, and Delilah tied him tightly with new ropes. "The Philistines are coming, Samson," Delilah cried. Samson didn't know it, but there were Philistine men hiding in the house. Samson was able to break the strong ropes just as easily as before. Samson tricked Delilah again, telling her that he would be weak if she wove material into his hair. After this, Delilah said, "How can you say you love me when you lie to me that way? Tell me where your strength lies." For days and days Delilah tried to get Samson to tell the truth until he was very annoyed. Finally, Samson told her the truth. "My hair has never been cut," he admitted. "If it is, I will lose my strength." Delilah called for the Philistine lords and waited until Samson was asleep. While he slept, a man cut Samson's hair. "Samson, the Philistines are coming," Delilah called. Samson could not fight them, and the Philistines took him as their slave.

—Sis Monica Murphey

"... she called for a man, ... to shave off
the seven locks of his head ..."

Judges 16:19





A Birthday Surprise

Connie was so surprised when she walked in the front door of her home and saw the circle of birthday greeters. Grandma Miles had brought Bro. and Sis. Stover and Aunt Frances. Mother had made a lovely birthday cake stacked on a plate, smoothed over with creamy chocolate icing, decorated with pink rosebuds and pretty green leaves.

It just broke the gloomy mood Connie had been under with the rain and the tense singing. After crying over the shock of the surprise, Connie washed her face and put on a smile. She was happy to see Bro. Stover who once had been the pastor at the Guthrie Church of God. His round, kind face and snowy white hair still made her think of God. She was sure the Lord couldn't look more dignified, sitting on His great gold throne in the clouds. Sis. Stover looked like Bro. Stover. They could pass as brother and sister, Connie thought. Connie always liked to hear Aunt Frances laugh. She was such jolly company.

Of course, Donnie, Lonnie and Cindy were there and Mother and Daddy—everyone to make the party happy! And there were presents around the cake! Her family had not forgotten her birthday—she had been gloomy for no reason at all.

Connie stood behind the table so Grandma could take her picture with the cake and presents.

"I want you to open that big present," said Cindy pointing to a certain gift.

"Let Connie save that one until last," said Mama as she held a sharp knife over the cake.

"Oh, that cake is just too pretty to cut," said Grandma Miles. "Bertha, you always make such lovely birthday cakes."

"Thank you," replied Mama. "I had quite a time getting the icing just right because of the damp weather."

"Well, it just looks lovely," stated Grandma. "Connie, let your mama teach you how she decorates. Maybe some day you could decorate like she does."

Connie smiled and nodded. She was already opening a present. Grandma Miles usually gave her some good books to read and Mama always knew what she would like. Finally, she came to the last big package. Her brothers and sister were by the table watching.

"She's going to be surprised when she opens this one," whispered Cindy to Lonnie.

"Sh-sh!" replied Lonnie. "Don't tell her what it is!"

"There's nothing in there," said Donnie.

Lonnie and Cindy looked angrily at Donnie. "Mama!" exclaimed Cindy. "Donnie told Connie about the empty present!"

"Sh-sh!" repeated Lonnie. "Don't tell her what it is!"

Connie laughed as she pulled off the paper and opened the lid. She looked through the tissue paper—it was empty! Then she found a piece of paper that said, "GO LOOK IN THE GARAGE." Connie hurried to the garage and switched on the light. There by Daddy's work table was a beautiful, sparkling green bicycle. It was a banana seat, three speed bike with hand-brakes. Even though it was wet outside, Connie wanted to ride it right away. That night Connie went to bed feeling loved and contented. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What was Samson never to do?
2. What did Samson take from Gaza?
3. Who did Samson fall in love with?
4. What did the Philistines want Delilah to do?
5. What did the Philistines offer Delilah?
6. How many times did Samson trick the Philistines?
7. Was Samson able to break through the rope?
8. Who took Samson for their slave?

Answers: 1. Cut his hair. 2. The city gate. 3. Delilah. 4. Find out why Samson was strong. 5. 1100 pieces of silver. 6. Three. 7. Yes. 8. The Philistines.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 17 April 26, 2009

A Second Chance

The Philistines captured Samson and used him as a slave. He was bound with chains and was made to turn a heavy stone that ground wheat into flour. Samson was blind now, because the Philistines had put out his eyes. Eventually, Samson's hair began to grow back and he felt his strength return.

The Philistines were ecstatic that they had finally captured the great Samson. They met together to celebrate and to offer a sacrifice to their false god Dagon. Dagon was an idol and very ugly. His face and hands looked like a man, and his body was like a fish. "Our god has delivered Samson into our hands," the Philistines said. "He was the destroyer of our country. Samson killed many Philistines."

The Philistines rejoiced and felt merry and happy. "Bring Samson to us, so that we can have some fun with him," the Philistines requested. The guards brought Samson out to the guests. He stood between two pillars as the guests insulted him and mocked him.

A boy was there to help Samson. "Lead me to the pillars, so that I can lean upon them," Samson said. The house was full of men, women, and Philistine leaders. Three thousand people were there, laughing and scoffing at Samson.

"Lord, remember me, I beg you," Samson prayed. "Let me have vengeance against your enemies. Please give me strength. Let me die with the Philistines."

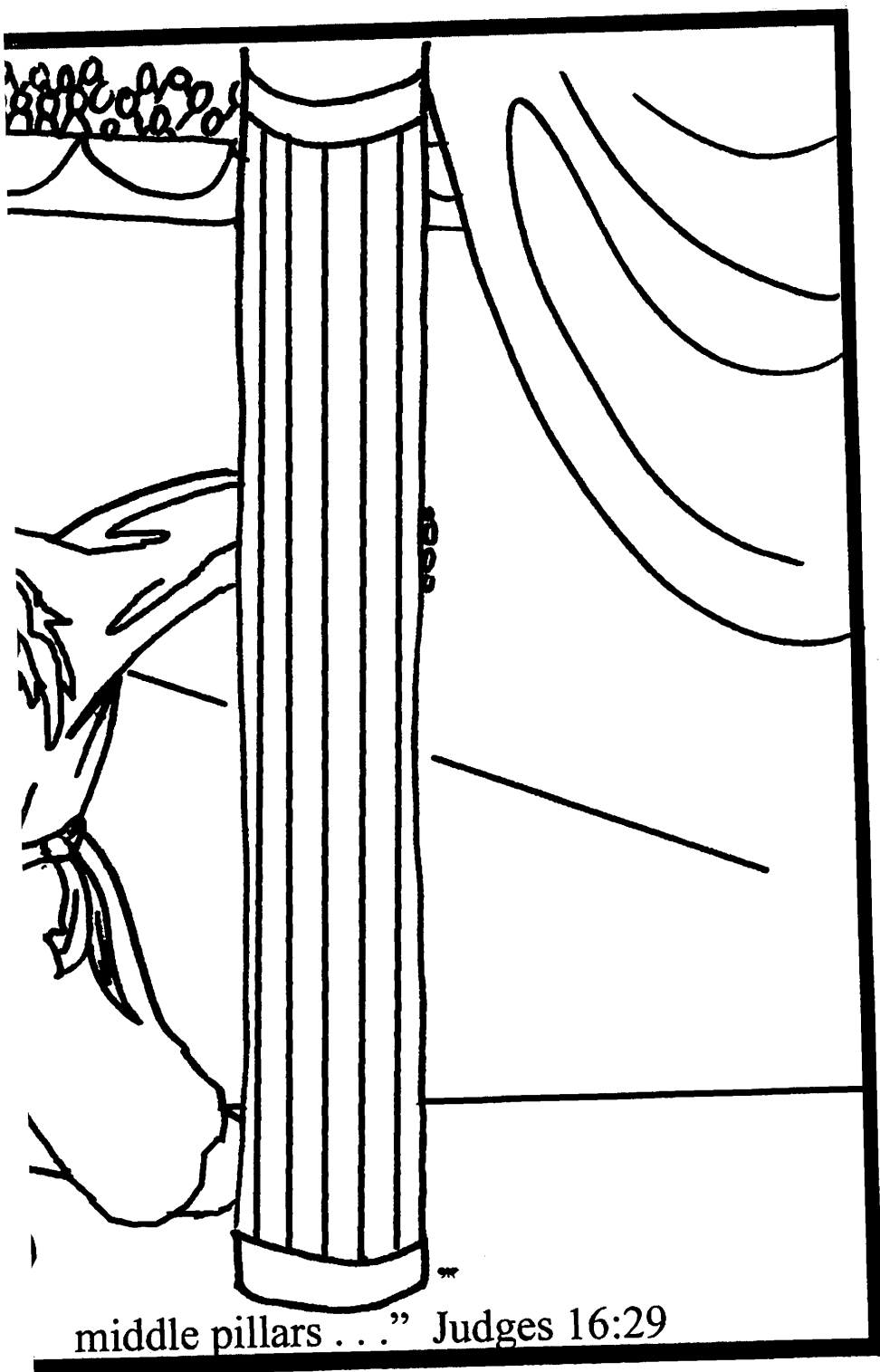
Samson took hold of the two pillars that held up the house and pulled them together with all of his might. The house fell on all three thousand of the men, women, and Philistine leaders who had been making fun of Samson and worshipping a false god. Everyone in the house died. Samson was able to kill more people when he died than he had the whole time that he had lived.

Samson's relatives came to claim his body. They buried him with the rest of his family.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... Samson took hold of the two



middle pillars . . .” Judges 16:29

Birthdays at Covington

Once again the Miles family were in their car going to Grandpa and Grandma Waldo Eck's house to visit. They were going to celebrate birthdays. Connie's birthday was March 6th. Lonnie's birthday was March 12th. Cindy's was the 13th and Donnie's birthday was April 1.

Uncle Larry was down by the low bridge waiting for their car to come down the hill. He waved to Daddy through the cloud of dust the car made on the dirt road.

"Hey, Vernon!" he called to Daddy. "Let me run beside your car door and tell me how fast I am running!"

"Okay," replied Daddy. "We'll see if you can pass your last record."

Uncle Larry took off running and Daddy drove slower up the hill to the farm. "Well, you went 6.5 miles per hour," said Daddy. "Boy, you better run faster if you plan on winning at track."

"That's pretty good!" exclaimed Uncle Larry.

Connie jumped out of the car and patted the farm dog. "Don't let Ole Shep see you running by the car," she told Uncle Larry. "That's a dangerous habit for a dog!"

"Come on in!" called Grandma from the front porch. She had her red bandana handkerchief tied on her head from working in the garden.

"Do you have new green beans and potatoes to eat?" Lonnie asked Grandma.

"No, it is too early for fresh veggies," replied Grandma. "But we will have fresh fried chicken and gravy."

"Yum! Let's eat!" declared Lonnie. All the family agreed. They filed up the cement porch steps and through the kitchen door of the farm house. Oh, that fresh fried chicken did smell so good! Grandma's little kitchen always had inviting smells and the children were eager to follow their noses to find their favorite food.

"I made each of the children their favorite pie," said Grandma Eck as she took off the tee towel covering several pies on the counter top. "I know Connie likes egg custard pie. Donnie likes cherry, and Lonnie and Cindy like apple. We have some ice cream to go with the pies. Oh, I hear the chicken

is ready to turn in the skillet!"

Grandma rushed over to take care of the frying chicken and the children moved closer to the pies.

"Let's put the tee towel back over them," said Mama. "Out of sight, out of mind."

"In the mouth, to the tummy," teased Connie.

"Will be yummy in the tummy," agreed Donnie.

"You know dessert always comes last," said Mama. They knew that.

Grandma Eck liked to make pies, so they did not have birthday cakes as much at Grandma's. Soon Grandpa Eck came in from milking the cows. He brought a fresh gallon of milk with cream still rising to the top. Sometimes they stirred the cream in and drank it with their homemade bread, mashed potatoes and fried chicken. Grandma often skimmed the cream off the top and made butter with it.

When everyone had gathered around the table, the room became quiet. They bowed their heads to pray. Grandpa asked the Lord to bless Connie, Donnie, Lonnie and Cindy with many more happy birthdays. Connie felt warm and happy. Thank you, God, for giving me such a wonderful Grandma and Grandpa, she prayed in her heart.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What happened to Samson's eyes?
2. What did Samson do in prison?
3. What happened to Samson's hair?
4. Why were the Philistine's celebrating?
5. What false god were they worshipping?
6. Why did the Philistines ask for Samson?
7. What did Samson do with the two pillars?
8. How many people died that day?

Answers: 1. They were put out 2. Ground wheat into flour. 3. It started growing back. 4. They had captured Samson. 5. Dagon. 6. To make fun of him. 7. Pulled them together. 8. 3,000.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 18 May 3, 2009

Micah's Idolatry

Micah's mother had eleven hundred pieces of silver stolen from her. Now he delivered it back into her hands. "Here is the silver that was taken from you, Mother," Micah said. "May the Lord bless you, my son," Micah's mother said.

Micah's mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to the founder, who made a false god for them to worship. Soon Micah had a house full of idols and religious icons that were used in worship to false gods. Micah had a ceremony and made one of his sons a priest in this new religion of his. One young man from Bethlehem had stopped by Micah's house on a journey. "Where are you from?" Micah asked him. "I am a Levite from Bethlehem," the young man answered. "If you stay with me as one of my priests, I will give you ten shekels of silver every year, as well as food and clothing," Micah offered. The Levite took Micah up on his offer. Levites were very special in Jerusalem and were high officials in the temples of the Lord. Micah was proud to have a Levite for one of his priests.

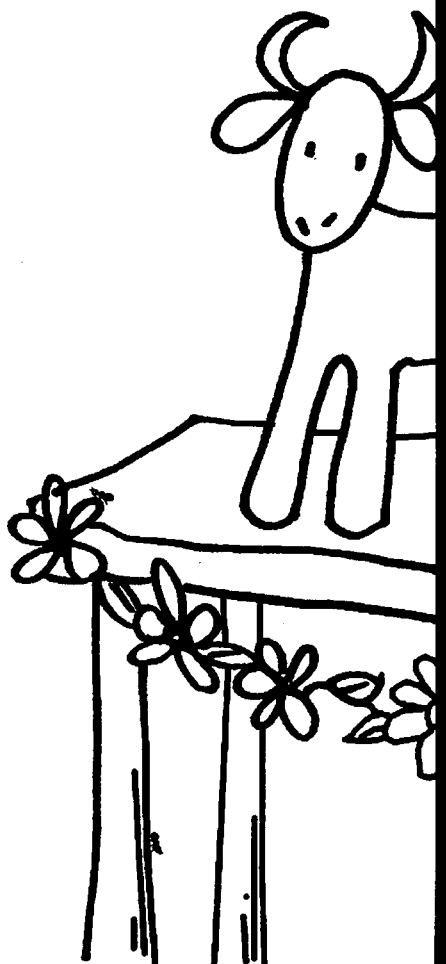
The children of Dan did not think they had received their rightful inheritance. There was no king to rule the people and tell them what they should do. The elders in the tribe of Dan picked out five honorable men to spy out the land and decide where they wanted to settle.

When the five spies reached Micah's house, they recognized the voice of Micah's Levite priest. "Why are you here?" the spies asked. "Micah hired me to be his priest," the Levite said. "Ask God if our way will be prosperous," the spies entreated. "Go in peace. The Lord will go with you," the priest replied. The five men came to Laish. They found that the people of Laish were very careless, with little to protect them and no leader. "The land is very good, let us possess it," the spies reported back to their leaders. The tribe of Dan prepared for battle.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... Micah had an house
of gods ...” Judges 17:5



Preparing for the Test

Spring fever was in the air and it seemed all of Connie's classmates in her third grade had it. Who wants to add numbers or spell words when birds are singing outside the open school window? One entire wall of the classroom was big windows that opened at the top and at the bottom. It was like a big picture screen, showing cars and farm trucks going up and down Highway 74. When a big semi-truck rumbled by, Mrs. Logsdon's words would be lost in the rumble. It made a great excuse to say, "I didn't hear what you said."

"Class, look up here at the blackboard," said Mrs. Logsdon for the umpteenth time that day. "I'm going to show you again how to borrow and carry from the hundred's place."

Connie really did try to watch and listen though numbers weren't her favorite thing. Then a bee came buzzing through the window. "Ah-ah! Get that bee out of here!" someone hollered. Student jumped out of their seats, some to hide and some to swat at the bee. Mrs. Logsdon was not very happy. After the bee made his live escape, she shut down all the lower windows.

"I want all of you to sit down, put your head on your desk and shut your eyes," she said. "If this type of uproar happens again, you all will be staying inside this room an extra 15 minutes of your lunch time."

"I want you to listen to me. I am preparing you for the final exam you will be taking tomorrow. It is a progress exam. Remember when you started third grade, you took a test. You did not know the answers to very many of the questions because you had not learned them. Tomorrow you will take the same test. This time you should know most all the answers. This test will show if you have learned very much this year."

"I want all of you to make a good grade on this test. All of you are smart and can learn if you want to. This test will let us know just how smart you are."

Oh, that statement rang a bell in Connie's mind. Her mother was very smart and had graduated valedictorian of both her high school and college classes. Grandma Miles said Connie was just as smart as her mother and

could do the same thing if she tried. But Mama liked numbers. She kept the books for the print shop and did a perfect job at it. Connie had a hard time getting the right answers in her addition problems. She always seemed to have one number wrong.

Connie liked words, but spelling wasn't her favorite thing either. And "i" and an "e" were easy to mix up, and sometimes she put in a letter that wasn't supposed to be in the word. Why did common words have so many uncommon rules!

"Class, sit up now and look at the blackboard," repeated Mrs. Logsdon. "I want to review a few more things with you before lunch time."

Connie really did try to listen. But she also began to pray. "Oh, Lord," she prayed, "if you will help me to make a good grade on this test, I will get saved and live for you when I am twenty-one years old."

"I can live my teen years having fun," thought Connie. "When I get to be 21 years old, I will have to settle down and act grown up. Then I will live for you, Lord, and maybe help Grandma with her writing."

Connie knew if she made a promise to the Lord, she would have to keep it.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What was stolen from Micah's mother?
2. What did Micah give his mother?
3. What did Micah's mother do with it?
4. What did Micah do with his son?
5. Who else did Micah ordain to be priest?
6. What did the Dannite tribe want?
7. What did the Levite priest tell the Dannites?
8. What report did the spies take home?

Answers: 1. 1100 pieces of silver. 2. The stolen silver. 3. Had it made into an idol. 4. Ordained him to be priest. 5. A young Levite. 6. Their inheritance. 7. God was with them. 8. That Laish had good land.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 19 May 10, 2009

A New City

The children of Dan wanted their inheritance, so they sent five spies to search Canaan for a place for them to settle. "The country around Laish is very good, and the people are careless," the spies reported. "God has given it into our hands."

Six hundred men from the tribe of Dan prepared for war against Laish. Soon the spies came to a house that they recognized. "The man Micah, who lives inside this house, has many idols and religious items," the spies informed the other men. The six hundred men stood at the gate with their weapons while the five spies went into the house and took Micah's idols.

The Levite priest who lived there asked them, "What are you doing?" "Do not say anything," the spies said. "Go with us and be our priest. Is it better to be a priest for one man, or for a whole tribe?" The priest was glad to go with the Danites.

The Danite army had been gone for a while when Micah and his men caught up with them. "You have taken my gods and my priest," Micah accused. "Lower your voice," the children of Dan warned. "It may make the men in our army angry and want to harm you." Micah saw that the army was too strong for him, so he turned and went back to his home.

The children of Dan took their new possessions to Laish and burned the city. They built a new city and called it Dan after the father of their tribe. The children of Dan set up the idol that they had taken from Micah and worshipped it, forgetting that they should worship their true God at the temple in Shiloh.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“And the children of Dan set
up the graven image . . .”

Judges 18:30





Taking the Test

Connie's stomach was upset the next morning before school.

"You don't have a fever," said Mama when she checked Connie's temperature with a little glass thermometer.

"Yes, I do," replied Connie. "Mrs. Logsdon said spring fever is going around and I think I have come down with it. Bad, too."

Mama smiled. "If that is all you have, then you will be okay soon. I want you to finish combing your hair while I get your hot chocolate ready. That should make you feel better."

Slowly, Connie went to the bathroom to comb her hair. Donnie was combing his hair using the same mirror. He made a face at Connie and she smiled back weakly.

"You do look sick," he said. "But then, that's nothing new."

Connie tried to hit him with her hair brush but he ducked out of the bathroom too quickly. "You still hit pretty hard even when you're sick," he called back and they both laughed.

Every morning Mama made warm Ovaltine milk for Connie and Donnie. Connie loved how it was so smooth going down. Then one day she happened to see Mama shake the two eggs and blend them into the warm Ovaltine milk. At first she was not going to drink it again, but Mama had been putting the eggs in there for a long time, and she did like it. So she just forgot there was a raw egg in her warm chocolate milk, and she drank it all every morning.

It did settle her stomach. Connie and Donnie walked to school because Fogarty School was just through the back woods, around the hill, and down the road from their home. It was fun walking in the spring time, but they had to hurry. While they were still on the road, the first bell rang. Connie was in her seat right before the second bell rang. She was on time again.

After the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and repeating the Lord's

Prayer, Mrs. Logsdon told the class to prepare to take the Improvement Test. Connie's stomach had butterflies fluttering in it—spring fever, she thought. While the tests were being handed out, she reminded the Lord of her promise. "If you will help me make a really good grade on this test," she prayed, "I promise I will get saved at 21 years old. Please help me to get most of the answers right! Amen!"

"Okay," said Mrs. Logsdon. "Everyone has a test. You may all turn your test over now and begin. It is not timed, but you should be finished before first break."

At first Connie's mind froze and she panicked. Then she felt a warm, relaxing feeling come over her and she saw the questions clearly. Answers began to come. She was done just before first break.

"Very well," said Mrs. Logsdon. "You all finished on time. I will grade these papers today and have your scores back soon."

Later, that evening, Mrs. Logsdon handed back the graded papers. Connie could not believe her eyes—she had made 100 on the test! She was so excited—the Lord had helped her! Then she remembered her promise.

"Thank you, Lord," she prayed in her heart. "You kept your part and helped me do good on this test. I will get saved at 21 years old. I promise. Amen!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did the children of Dan want?
2. How many men prepared for war?
3. What did the men take from Micah?
4. Who chased after the Danites?
5. What did the Danites do to Laish?
6. What did the Danites build?
7. What did the Danites set up?
8. What did the Danites forget?

Answers: 1. Their inheritance. 2. 600. 3. His idols & religious items. 4. Micah. 5. Burned it. 6. A new city. 7. Micah's idol. 8. To worship God.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 20 May 17, 2009

A Faithful Daughter-In-Law

In the days when judges ruled Israel, there was a famine in the land. Elimelech took his two sons and his wife Naomi and moved from Bethlehem to Moab. Elimelech's sons, Mahlon and Chilion both eventually married women from Moab.

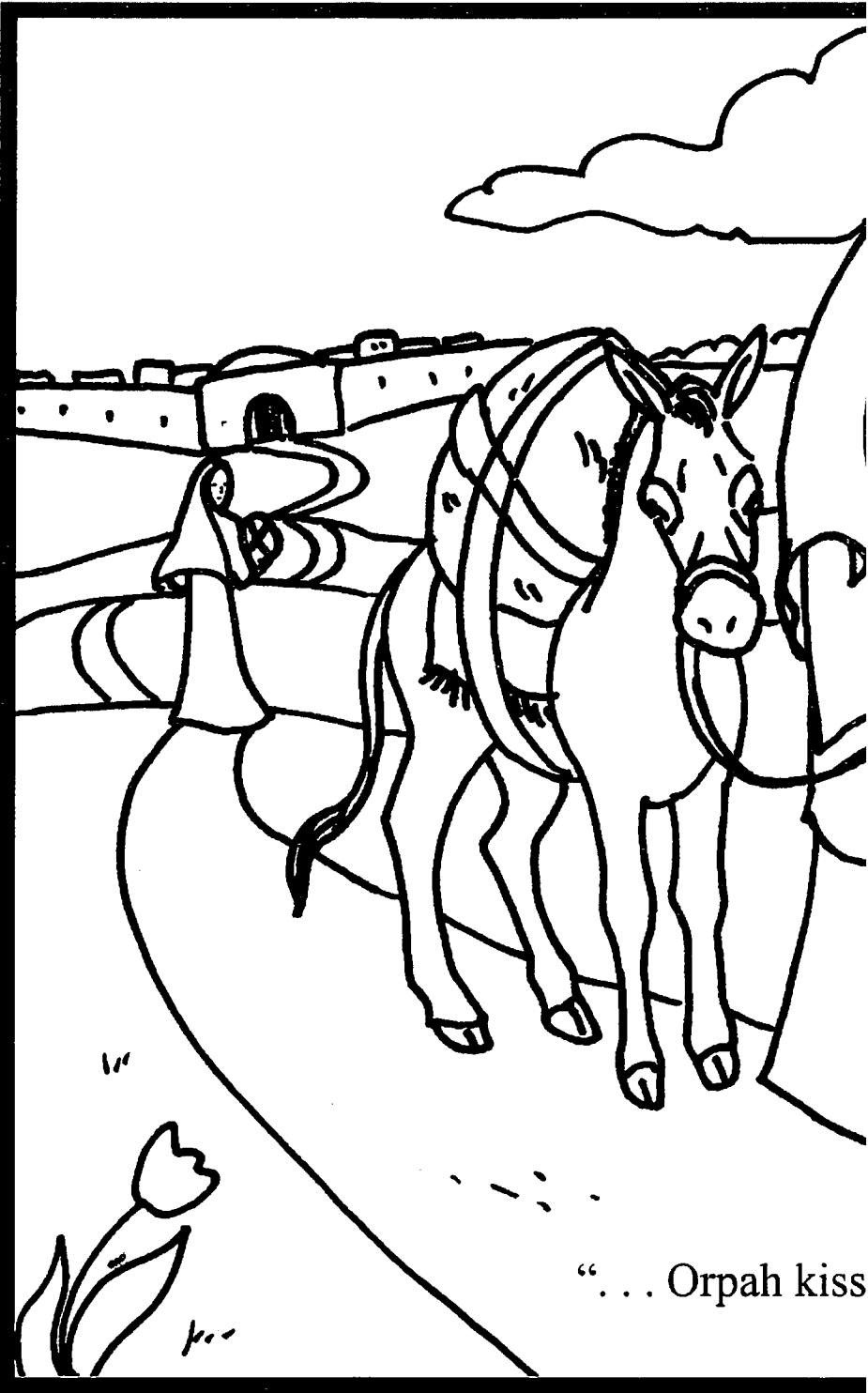
Sadly, Elimelech, Mahlon, and Chilion died, leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, widowed. Their family had lived in Moab for ten years when Naomi decided to go back to her old country, Bethlehem, to stay with her family and friends. She had heard that the Lord had blessed her people during their harvest, and that they had plenty of food. So Ruth, and Orpah started on the journey to Judah with Naomi. After they had traveled a little way, Naomi stopped them.

"Return to your mother's house," Naomi told Ruth and Orpah. "May the Lord bless you as you have blessed my sons and me." Both of the girls lifted up their voices in protest. "We will go with you to your people," they said. "Why will you go with me?" Naomi asked. "I have no more sons for you to marry." Orpah was very sad. She still did not want to leave her mother-in-law, but after Naomi's words, Orpah kissed her and returned to her family.

Ruth decided to stay with Naomi. "Do not ask me to leave you," Ruth insisted. "Wherever you go, I will go. Where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die, and I will be buried there." Naomi saw that Ruth would not change her mind, so they continued on their journey until they came to Bethlehem.

"Is it you, Naomi?" Naomi's family and friends asked. "Do not call me Naomi any more," she answered. "Call me Mara instead, because the Lord has sent bitter disappointments into my life."

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... Orpah kiss



er mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.”

— — — Ruth 1:14

Sweet Old Stories

"Daddy, what are we going to read about tonight in family worship?" asked Karen as she climbed upon her daddy's knee. "I want to hear some more stories about Jesus and how He healed little children."

"That sounds good to me," replied Daddy, kissing his little girl on the cheek.

"Oh, I don't want to hear those stories any more," said Jerry. "I've heard them so much I know them backwards. Let's read something with a little more adventure, like about cowboys and Indians."

"During worship service?" questioned Mother, who was clearing the table from supper.

"Well, there were men who were missionaries to the Indians," said Daddy. "We could read about them and their great adventures. However, I don't think the stories of Jesus are that boring. I'm much older than you, Son, yet every time I read about Jesus, I see something else great and interesting in His life or ministry. I don't like to know that you are tired of hearing about Jesus."

"Well, I'm not really tired of hearing of Jesus," mumbled Jerry. "It's just that, well, I like to hear of new things that Jesus did instead of the same stories over and over again."

"Okay," said Daddy. "I'll tell you what we will do. Since Karen is younger than you, she likes to hear these stories because some of them are new to her. So tonight, you can tell us a story about Jesus from the New Testament. Then tomorrow night we will have a story about one of God's missionaries. Fair enough?"

Jerry nodded with a grin. So in family worship that night, Jerry told about the woman of Canaan who

came to Jesus and desired Him to heal her daughter of an unclean spirit. At first Jesus would not listen to her, and He said, 'It is not for me to help anyone but an Israelite.' But she pleaded and worshiped Jesus. Then He said, 'It is not right to take God's children's things and give them to the dogs.' So she humbled herself, and said, "Truth, Lord, but the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the masters' table." Jesus told her she had great faith and He healed the daughter.

"That was very good, Jerry," said Daddy. "What does that story teach us?"

"We must humble ourselves to get an answer from God," he replied.

"Yes, and repeating over and over often gets results," said Daddy. "Did the little girl get healed, Karen?"

"Yes, and I'm glad," said Karen.

"Good," Daddy agreed. "Children, when you grow up to have homes of your own, I want you to tell these stories to your children because they will be new to them. The stories of Jesus grow sweeter each time they are told." —Sis. Connie Serrell

Questions:

1. Where did Elimelech live?
2. What women did Mahlon & Chilion marry?
3. What happened to Elimelech, Mahlon, and Chilion?
4. What did Naomi decide to do?
5. What did Naomi tell Ruth & Orpah to do?
6. What did Orpah decide?
7. What did Ruth decide?
8. What did Naomi say her new name was?

Answers: 1. Moab. 2. Ruth & Orpah. 3. They died. 4. Move back to Israel. 5. Stay with their families. 6. To go to her family. 7. To go with Naomi. 8. Mara.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 21 May 24, 2009

Ruth's New Husband

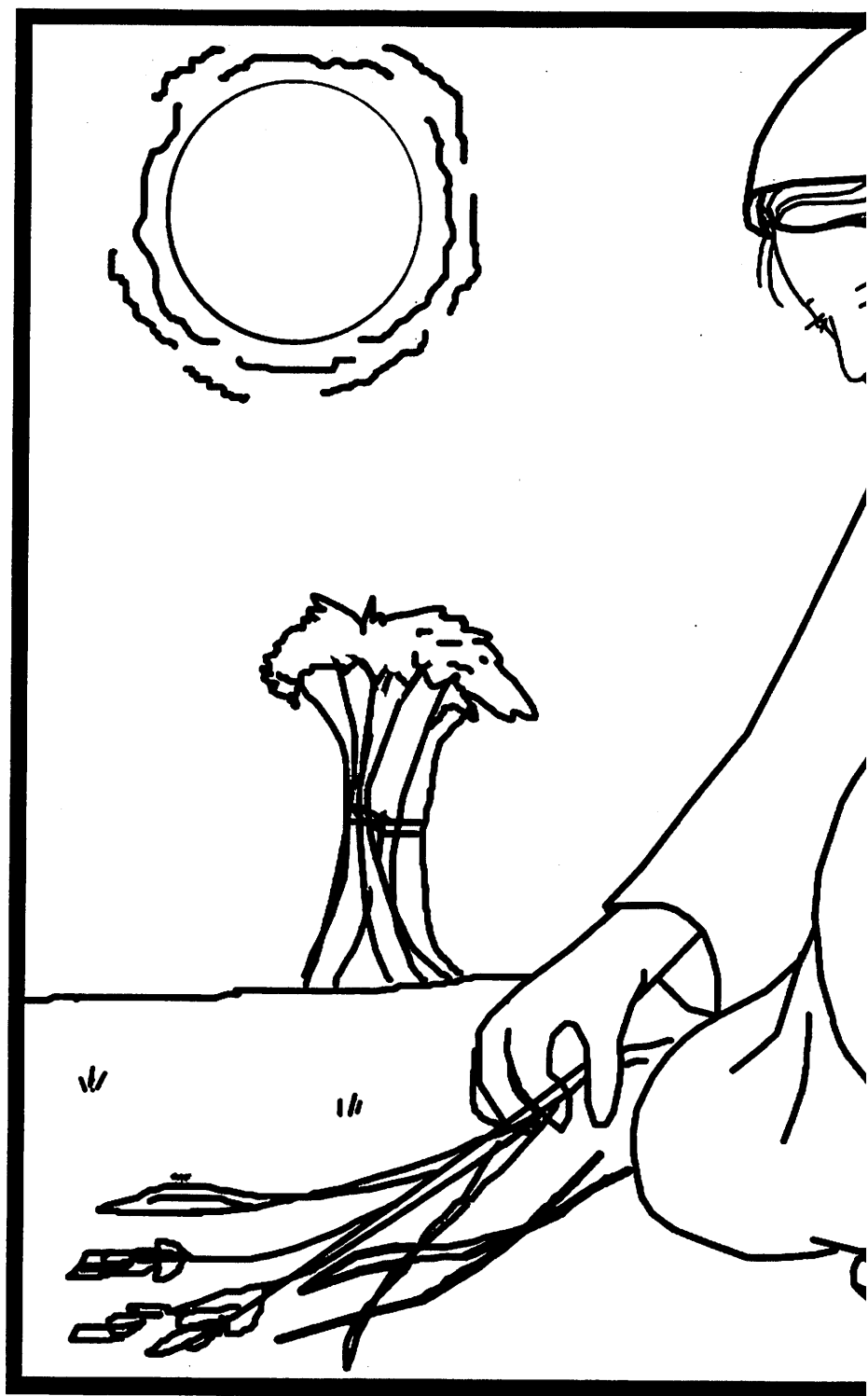
Ruth and Naomi had returned to Bethlehem at the time of harvest. During the harvest, it was a custom for those who had been blessed bountifully by God to share some of their produce with the poor. The poor would come behind the reapers and pick up the crops the reapers had missed. Naomi had a very wealthy cousin named Boaz. "Let me go to Boaz's field," Ruth asked Naomi. "I will pick up the ears of corn his harvesters have dropped." Naomi approved of Ruth's plan.

One day, Boaz saw Ruth working in his field. "Who is this girl?" Boaz asked. "It is the Moabite woman who came back with Naomi," his servants answered. "She asked permission to pick up the leftovers from our harvest. She has been coming and working hard every day."

"Do not work in anyone else's field," Boaz told Ruth. "When you are thirsty, drink some of the water that my servants have prepared." "Why are you so nice to me?" Ruth asked. "I am a stranger." "I have been told how you have stayed with your mother-in-law after your husband died and have been faithful to her," Boaz said. "May the Lord bless you for your work. Come and eat with my servants when it is time for dinner."

"Let her have some of the best of the crop," Boaz quietly told his servants. So Ruth worked hard until the sun set. She took her crops to the city and showed Naomi. Naomi was glad that her kinsman had treated them so kindly. It also gave her an idea. "Go to Boaz and lay at his feet," Naomi instructed Ruth. "He will tell you what to do." Soon, Boaz and Ruth were married. They had a child named Obed. Naomi was very happy to have a baby to help take care of again. Obed had a son named Jesse, who was the father of King David.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... let me glean and gather
after the reapers ...”

Ruth 2:7



An Indian Missionary

Tonight we get to hear a new and exciting story in family worship," said Jerry as the family gathered in the living room at evening time.

"I'm going to tell you a story about a man who you may not have heard about before," said Daddy. "He didn't live very long, died in his early twenties, and there aren't many things written about him, yet he loved the Lord and did quite a bit of missionary work in our own country. Jerry, did you say last night you wanted to hear about cowboys and Indians?"

"Are you going to tell us about them?" Jerry was interested now.

"I'll tell you about a man who helped the Indians before our country became the United States in 1776. This man, named David Brainerd, felt the call of God to tell the heathen Indians about God and His Son, Jesus. Down along the Appalachian Mountains David rode alone on his horse to different Indian tribes. At first, the Indians did not like David and they threatened to kill him. They were tired of fur trappers cheating them of furs and killing wild game on their tribal grounds. The Indians thought David was just another fur trapper."

"How did he make them understand that he was their friend?" asked Jerry.

"He spoke softly to them and he prayed for them and they somehow understood he meant them no harm. One time while David was camped alone in his tent and writing in his diary, several Indian braves circled his camp. One Indian quietly walked to David's tent and slipped a poisonous snake in beside David. Just as quietly, David did not stir but let the snake slither out of his tent. Then the Indians thought he had some special power, and that tribe wanted to hear his Gospel message. He had slowly learned their language and

he told them about the true God who had made them and sent His Son for their sins."

"Did all the tribe get saved?" asked Jerry.

"No, sorry to say, the Indians just shook their heads and turned away. David felt so badly. He wasn't well in his body either. He was suffering from consumption but he was determined to reach as many Indians as he could before he died. The fur traders did not like David because he was teaching the Indians. They wanted the Indians to stay ignorant so they could continue to cheat them. When the Indians realized David was more their friend than the fur traders were, they began to listen to him. Before he died, he had a few Indians who believed in Jesus."

"Oh, it's too bad that he died so young," said Jerry. "Maybe more of the Indians would have been saved."

"His brother, John Brainerd, took his missionary route and did see more Indians saved," said Daddy. "Men like David Brainerd are wise in that they quietly fight their battles with the Word of God." —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What time of year was it in Bethlehem?
2. Where did Ruth gather crops?
3. What was Naomi's cousin's name?
4. Why was Boaz impressed by Ruth?
5. What did Boaz allow Ruth to do?
6. What happened to Ruth and Boaz?
7. What was the name of their son?
8. Who was their great, great grandson?

Answers: 1. Harvest time. 2. Boaz's field. 3. Boaz. 4. She was faithful to Naomi. 5. Eat and drink with his servants. 6. They were married. 7. Obed. 8. King David.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 22 May 31, 2009

Hannah's Vow

Hannah was sad. She had been married to Elkanah for many years, but the Lord had not blessed them with children. Elkanah loved Hannah very much, and showered her with gifts and attention, but her greatest desire was to have a child.

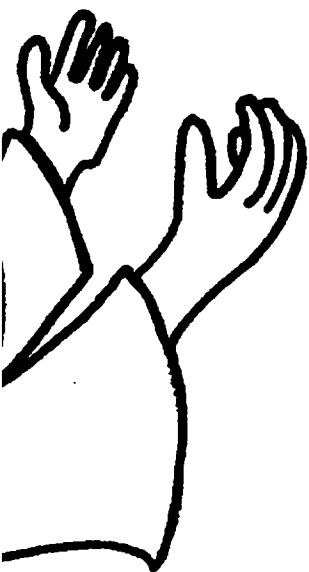
Every year Elkanah went to worship and make sacrifices to God in a city called Shiloh. The Ark of the Covenant was in Shiloh, and all of the men were expected to journey there to worship God at a certain time of the year. Hannah fasted and prayed for a child while her husband worshipped God. One day, Hannah wept and cried out silently to the Lord for a son. Hannah made a vow to God. "If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you, to serve you for the rest of his life," she promised.

Eli, one of the priests in the temple, saw Hannah and thought something was wrong. Her lips were moving, but she was not making any noise. Hannah told Eli about her prayer. Eli blessed Hannah, saying, "Go in peace. May the Lord answer your prayers."

Soon Hannah's prayers were answered. Hannah had a son. She named her son Samuel, which means "asked of God." Samuel lived with his parents while he was a very small child. However, Hannah did not forget the vow she had made to God. When Samuel was old enough, Elkanah and Hannah took Samuel to the tabernacle to serve God and learn from Eli the priest. "I am the woman who stood here and prayed for a child," Hannah reminded Eli. "The Lord has answered my prayers, so I am lending Samuel to the Lord, to serve Him as long as Samuel lives." The Lord blessed Hannah and Elkanah richly for their sacrifice. Later they had three more sons and two daughters.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





“... she ... prayed unto the LORD,
and wept sore.” I Sam. 1:10

The Rude Neighbors

Jerry and Karen watched the new neighbors move into the house across the street.

"I wonder if they have any children," Karen said. The children watched and watched but they never saw any sign of a child. It was just an older couple and their big black dog.

"I wonder if they like children," said Karen. "I want to go and visit them as soon as Mama lets me."

"Oh, just leave them alone," said Jerry. "They probably don't want us to pester them."

In a day or so, Mother and Karen took some cookies to the new neighbors. As they stepped on the porch, that big black dog came to the backyard gate and growled.

"He certainly isn't very friendly," remarked Mother just as the neighbor lady opened the door.

"Hello, my name is Ruth Alton," said Mother. "We are your neighbors across the street and we wanted to come and welcome you to our neighborhood."

"Oh, thank you," mumbled the neighbor lady. "My husband and I can't eat cookies but Rhett will enjoy them. Thank you." Then she shut the door leaving Mother and Karen to quietly walk back home.

"I don't like that lady," Karen said to Mother. "She wasn't very friendly."

"She wasn't very friendly," agreed Mother, "but we must still like her. Maybe she isn't well or has terrible problems in her life. Whatever the case, we must keep ourselves free from bad attitudes."

A few days later, Karen and Janet were playing jump rope down the front sidewalk. The big black dog growled and circled his pen. Suddenly he jumped right over the fence and raced toward the girls. Janet screamed

but Karen just froze with fear. With a few long leaps, the dog was upon the girls when Jerry came running from the garage where he had seen the dog charge.

Within a moment, Jerry had Karen's jump rope wrapped around the dog's neck and head. About that time, the new neighbor lady saw their dog was out."

"Rhett! Rhett! Come here, boy," she called to him. The dog obeyed, taking Karen's jump rope with him. The girls were so shaky that they went inside to relax while Jerry went across the street to get Karen's jump rope.

"I'm sorry about what happened," the neighbor lady said. "Rhett is not used to children and he was just wanting to play. However, I will have our son make that fence higher when he comes to visit. My husband is so weak and frail that he can do hardly a thing any more. Tell the girls I am sorry."

Jerry was polite and said he would. Later, the new neighbor came to visit Mother. As time went by, they became friends because Jerry and Karen were taught to overcome rudeness with politeness. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Why was Hannah sad?
2. Why did Hannah and Elkanah visit the temple?
3. What did Hannah pray for in the temple?
4. Who saw Hannah praying?
5. What vow did Hannah make to God?
6. Did God answer Hannah's prayers?
7. What did Hannah and Elkanah name their child?
8. What does the name Samuel mean?

Answers: 1. She had no child. 2. To worship God. 3. A child. 4. Eli. 5. To give her son to God. 6. Yes. 7. Samuel. 8. Asked of God.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 23 June 7, 2009

The Voice in the Night

Samuel was still a young child when his mother brought him to live at the temple. One night, after all of the lights had been put out and the tabernacle was still and quiet, Samuel heard a voice calling his name. "Samuel," the voice said. Samuel ran to where Eli was sleeping, thinking that Eli wanted him. "Here I am," said Samuel. "You called for me." "I did not call you," Eli replied. "Lie back down."

"Samuel!" He heard his name called again! Once more, Samuel went to Eli. Once again, Eli told Samuel that it was not him that had called. "Go back to sleep, my son," Eli told Samuel.

As Samuel was lying in bed, he heard his name called for the third time. Samuel still thought that Eli had called for him. This time, Eli knew it was the voice of the Lord calling for Samuel. Eli said, "Go lie down. If God calls you again, say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'"

So when the voice of the Lord called Samuel's name for the fourth time, Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord, for Your Servant hears."

God did not have good news for Samuel. Eli had two very bad sons. Eli had not even tried to punish them for their wicked deeds. God told Samuel that he was going to bring judgement on Eli's sons. Eli was sad, but he said, "Let it be so." He knew his sons were evil and deserved to be punished. Later Eli's sons were killed during a battle against the Philistines. The Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant and took it out of Israel. The news was too much for Eli. He was very old. When Eli heard his sons were killed, he fell over and died. Eli had been a judge in Israel for forty years.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... the LORD called Samuel:
and he answered, Here am I.”

I Sam. 3:4



Mother's Scissors

"Mother, where are your scissors?" Jerry asked Mother as she walked into the kitchen where he was trying to open a box of cereal.

"I don't know where my kitchen scissors are," sighed Mother. "You children do not put them back where they belong and sometimes I cannot find them when I need them."

"Linda probably has them. I'll go look in her bedroom," Jerry said as he skipped out of the kitchen.

He was back in a minute, the scissors in his hand and Linda close behind.

"Mother, Jerry just came into my bedroom without asking and took off with these scissors. I was using them and he didn't even ask to borrow them."

"Now wait a minute," said Mother with her hands up to stop the fuss. "Jerry, you should have been more polite when asking for the scissors. Linda, you didn't even ask me about them; besides, I don't want these scissors out of the kitchen because I need them so much and they belong in my kitchen. If you have craft things to cut, use your own scissors."

"But I can't find mine!" wailed Linda. "That's why I had to borrow yours!"

"I'm sorry, but I don't want mine lost either. Do not take these scissors out of my kitchen again. Do you both understand?" Each child nodded 'yes' then Linda went to look for her scissors and Jerry opened his cereal box.

Later that day, Grandma came by to visit. "Linda and Jerry, would you like to go with me for awhile?" she asked them. Of course they were ready to go and raced to Grandma's car.

"Where are we going?" Jerry asked.

"Tomorrow is Mother's Day," said Grandma. "I thought we would shop for your mother."

The children were excited as they looked at different things a mother would like. Finally, they came upon a ceramic holder for scissors.

"I want to get her this!" exclaimed Jerry. "Mother always likes her scissors put back in the same place after we use them. She can hang this holder in the kitchen."

"I will get her another pair of scissors," said Linda.

The next day, Mother's Day, the children were anxious for Mother to open their gifts.

"Oh, a pretty scissor holder!" exclaimed Mother. "And new scissors to put in my holder. Thank you!"

"The good thing is that we will always put your scissors back in the holder after we use them," said Jerry.

"Yes," said Mother as she hugged her children, "that is a good thing."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did Samuel hear?
2. How many times did Samuel hear the voice?
3. Who did Eli say the voice was?
4. What did Eli tell Samuel to do?
5. Did God have good news for Samuel?
6. What did God tell Samuel?
7. What did Eli say when he heard the news?
8. How many years did Eli judge Israel?

Answers: 1. God calling his name. 2. Three. 3. God. 4. Say, "Speak, Lord..." 5. No. 6. Eli's sons would be punished. 7. "Let it be so." 8. Forty.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 24 June 14, 2009

The House of Dagon

The Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant to the temple of one of the idols that they worshiped in the city of Ashdod. They called the idol Dagon. They thought Dagon was a god. Dagon was part human and part fish. The ark was set beside Dagon. When the Philistines woke up early the next morning, Dagon was on his face on the ground in front of the ark. The Philistines set Dagon back up in his place.

When the Philistines came to the temple the next morning, Dagon had fallen again, and Dagon's head and both of his hands were cut off. Only Dagon's body was left. The priests and the people who worshiped Dagon were afraid and would not go back into his temple.

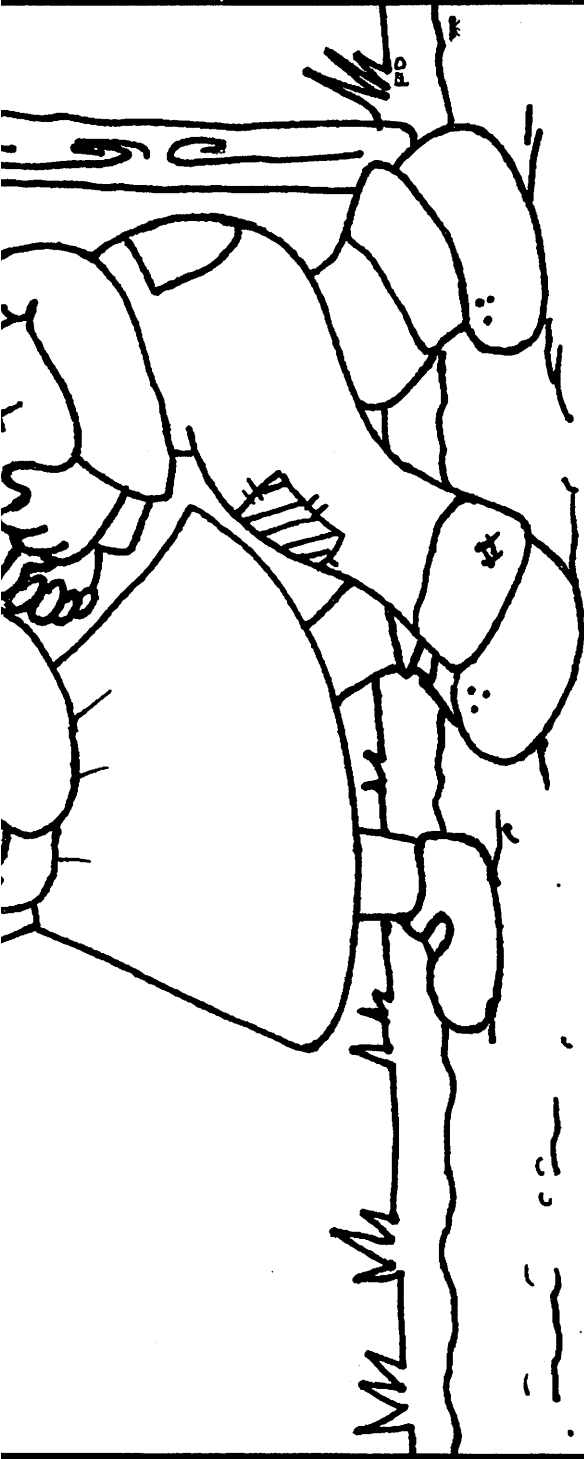
The Lord punished the people that lived in the city of Ashdod until they were afraid. "The ark of the God of Israel cannot stay here. His hand is against us," the people cried.

All of the important people of Ashdod met together and decided, "We will take the ark of the God of Israel to Gath." The Lord punished the people that lived in the city of Gath. They were afraid, so they sent the ark to Ekron. The people of Ekron cried, "They have brought the ark of God here to kill us!"

All of the important people of Ekron met together and decided, "We will send the ark of God back to Israel." They put the ark on a cart and took it to Bethshemesh. The men of Bethshemesh looked inside the ark. Only the sons of Levi were allowed to touch the ark. These men died because they did not obey God's law. This scared the others who lived in Bethshemesh. They sent for some men to come and get the ark. The men took the ark to Eleazar. The ark stayed in Kirjathjearim for a long time.

—Sis. Monica Murphey





“... Fear God, and keep his commandments . . .”
— Mr. —
Ecclesiastes 12:13

A New Surprise

"Ronnie, come and see what we have at our house," Timothy called excitedly.

"Why? What is it?" asked Ronnie as he came running over to his neighbor's house early one June morning.

"It came in the night while I was asleep," continued Timothy. "Daddy woke me up this morning and wanted me to see it before he went to work. I guess we will be having a lot of company come for the next few days."

"Well, let me see it," panted Ronnie. "Is it in the living room?"

"I don't think so," said Timothy as he brought Ronnie into the front entrance hall. "Mother, Ronnie is here. He wants to see what we have new. Is it okay if I show him?"

"Just a minute," Mother called from the bedroom.

Right then a car drove into the driveway and Timothy rushed outside to greet his grandmother. Ronnie watched from the doorway as Grandma hugged Timothy. They both were smiling and seemed so happy. Now Ronnie's curiosity was really stirred.

"Timmy, hurry up!" he called. "At least you can tell me what it is!"

Mother opened her bedroom door. "Okay boys, you may come in," she said. "Be very quiet."

"We will," said Timothy. "Here it is, Ronnie, asleep on Mother's bed. This is my new baby brother!"

"Oh, he's so little!" exclaimed Ronnie. "People sure do start out small, don't they?"

"I know," said Timothy. "but isn't he cute? He has a fuzzy bit of hair, a bump for a nose, and these two cracks are his eyes when he is awake. Right now he is quiet, but when he

opens his little mouth, a great big noise comes out. I'm going to teach him to talk as soon as possible so he doesn't have to cry for everything."

By now Grandma was bending over the baby. "Oh, let me see this big fellow," said Grandma. She picked up the baby as the boys watched.

"He looks kind of little to me," said Ronnie.

"He isn't little for a newborn," said Grandma. "Every new baby is a miracle from God. According to the Scriptures, each one is planned by God and has a special place to fill in life. You two boys are special. Some day each of you will grow up to be a man God will want to use. Now, Timothy, what is your baby brother's name?"

"He is Titus Monroe," replied Timothy. "You know Titus comes right after Timothy in the Bible."

Grandma laughed. "Yes," she said. "And you must set a good example, because Titus will always follow Timothy."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. Where did the Philistines take the ark of the covenant?
2. What happened to Dagon while the Philistine's slept?
3. What happened the next night?
4. What did the people of Ashdod decide?
5. Were the people of Gath happy to get the ark?
6. Where did the people of Ekron send the ark?
7. What did the men of Bethshemesh do?
8. Why did these men die?

Answers: 1. The temple of Dagon. 2. He fell on his face. 3. He fell and broke. 4. To take the ark to Gath. 5. No. 6. Israel. 7. They carried it to Israel. 8. They didn't obey God.

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 25 June 21, 2009

Defeated by Thunder

The Ark of the Covenant was brought to the house of Abinadab. Eleazar, his son was sanctified by the priests to keep the ark safe. The ark stayed in this house for twenty years. The Philistines ruled Israel. During this time, the children of Israel worshipped false gods and turned away from the one true God.

"Put away your strange gods," Samuel told the people. "Serve only the Lord and he will deliver you out of the hands of the Philistines." The Israelites listened to Samuel's advice. They put away their idols and turned back to the Lord. Everyone came to Mizpah to fast and pray for the Lord's deliverance.

The Philistines heard that the children of Israel were together in Mizpah and an army was organized to go and fight the Israelites. The lords of the Philistines and others were marching towards them as they fasted and prayed. The Israelites were afraid.

"Do not stop praying," Samuel instructed. "The Lord will save us out of the hands of the Philistines." Samuel burned an offering in worship to the Lord and cried out in prayer for deliverance for Israel. God heard him.

As Samuel was burning his offering, the Philistines drew near the Israelites' camp and were preparing for battle. Suddenly loud thunder clapped through the Philistines' camp. God caused the thunder to continue until the Philistines were confused and afraid. Because of this, the Israelites were able to beat the Philistines in battle. The Philistines ran away with the men of Israel running close behind them.

After the battle, Samuel took a stone and set it up in worship to the Lord, saying, "The Lord has helped us." The Philistines did not come to Israel again while Samuel was alive.

—Sis. Monica Murphey

“... the LORD thundered with a great thund

I Sam. 7:10





Beautiful Music

(A true story)

Early one warm June morning of 1987, Jeriel's mother heard music. At first she thought the radio was playing in one of the four children's bedrooms, but as she laid in bed and listened, she realized the music was special. It was beautiful. Quietly, she climbed out of bed and checked each child's bedroom.

Mother found her two-year-old Jeriel wide awake and kneeling by his bedroom window.

"Jeriel, what are you doing?" she asked softly.

He turned toward her, his blue eyes shining. "Mommy, I hear songs," he said. "Listen—listen to the boo-te-full music!"

Mother knelt beside Jeriel and he gently pointed her face in the direction of the music. Together they looked out over the family's back yard. Because they were upstairs, they could see their three leafy tree tops outlined by the full moon. They could see the evenly cut hedge growing by the chain-link fence which marked their back yard boundaries. Silently, the roses by the back porch were drinking in the moonlight. The water in the back yard swimming pool was crystal clear and motionless.

"Mommy, do you hear the music?"

Mother nodded. "Yes, Sweetheart, I hear the music. It is beautiful guitar strumming and a choir is singing."

"Who is singing? Where are they?" Jeriel asked.

"I-I don't know," Mother sighed. "Sweetheart, let's go back to bed."

As Mother carried Jeriel to his bed and lovingly tucked him in, she

wondered if they had heard angels singing. Surely both of them were not dreaming.

Mother went to wake up Daddy but he was so tired. He said he did not hear the music and he did not want to get out of bed. Mother tiptoed back to Jeriel's bedroom where the music sounded more clearly. The music sounded louder and then stopped. A lovely high-pitched voice began to sing and Jeriel's mother clearly heard the words:

*"In all things give Him praise,
In all your days give Him your praise.
He alone is worthy of your praise.
Though you be racked with pain,
Still proclaim He is Lord
And give Him praise..."*

The angels were singing a special message to Jeriel's mother. They knew that within two months, Jeriel would come be with them. Jeriel's mother would miss him very, very much, but Jeriel would be happy singing with the angels.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. How long did Eleazar keep the ark?
2. Who was ruling the Israelites?
3. What did Samuel advise them to do?
4. Did the people listen to Samuel?
5. Why were the Israelites in Mizpah?
6. What did Samuel say to not stop?
7. What did God use to confuse the Philistines?
8. What did Samuel set up in worship to God?

Answers: 1. 20 years. 2. The Philistines. 3. Turn back to God. 4. Yes. 5. They were praying for deliverance. 6. Praying. 7. Thunder. 8. A stone.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 59, No. 2 Primaries (USPS549-000) Part 26 June 28, 2009

Saul Becomes King

When Samuel was old, the elders of Israel met with him. The Israelites wanted a king. God was displeased. He wanted to be the one to reign over Israel. However, God told Samuel to go ahead and do as they asked. Samuel tried to warn the Israelites that a king would want all of their sons in his army and all of their daughters for his servants. The people still insisted that they wanted a king to lead them in battle and judge them.

Saul, the son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin, was one of the best men of Israel. He was also very tall—taller than anyone else in the country. One day, Saul lost his donkeys. Kish said to his son Saul, "Take a servant and try to find the donkeys." Saul looked for the donkeys in many places for three long days, but could not find them anywhere. They stopped in the city of Zuph, where his servant suggested, "There is a man of God in this city. Everything he says is true. Maybe he can tell us which way we should go." So the men went to the house of Samuel. The day before, the Lord had spoken to Samuel. "Tomorrow, I will send a man to you, at about this same time. He will be king over Israel, and will save Israel from the hands of the Philistines." When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said, "This is the man that I was speaking of."

Samuel invited Saul to eat and spend the night. Samuel said, "The donkeys that were lost three days ago have been found." Saul ate with Samuel. Samuel took Saul to the city and anointed him with oil. "The Lord has anointed you to be king over His people," Samuel told Saul. Everything happened according to Samuel's words.

Samuel called all of the tribes of Israel together. They drew lots to see which tribe their new king would be from. The tribe of Benjamin was taken. Again, the families drew lots, and the family of Matri was chosen. The final lot fell to Saul. But where was he? He had hidden! When he was found, Saul went before the people. Samuel said, "See whom the Lord has chosen?" Saul was the first king of Israel.

—Sis. Monica Murphey



“... Samuel took . . . oil, and
poured it upon his head . . .”

I Sam. 10:1



Hungry Crocodiles

Deep in the heart of Africa, close to the equator, the Grumeti River crawls with huge, ugly crocodiles. Nearly one thousand crocodiles live in this river.

Some of the big granddaddy crocodiles have lived here for 70 years or more. They weigh a ton and measure 18 feet long! Because crocodiles have big, crooked mouths with many sharp teeth, baboons and warthogs stay far away from the crocodiles. Even though crocodiles look lazy as they stretch on a rock in the sun, they can move like lightning!

When the summer becomes hotter, many little lakes and pools dry up, leaving only the Grumeti River with water for the animals to drink. That is when the large herd of wildebeests or gnus come to the river side. A wildebeest looks like an ox in the face with his big, sturdy horns but he has a mane and tail like a horse and slender legs like a deer.

The old wildebeests know that crocodiles live in the river. Nervously, they stand on the river bank and look at the water. The crocodiles see the wildebeests and they slyly duck under the water. The only part of the crocodile showing is his little, cold eyes staring at the thirsty wildebeests.

Now if the wildebeests would be careful and only sip water at the edge of the river, the crocodiles might need to find another meal. However, the wildebeests become forgetful that the crocodiles are watching. They feel so thirsty. Suddenly, one old bull dashes into the river for a

long drink. He is followed by the rest of the herd, with the little calves going first because they do not know that crocodiles are there.

This is what the crocodiles are waiting for. Quickly, quietly, they swim toward the herd. Jump! Grab! Then the huge crocodiles drag bleating calves deeper into the river. Soon the little calves drown and become a meal for the crocodiles.

Those crocodiles are just like the devil. Any time the devil finds someone careless toward sin, he quickly grabs that person. Then if he can, the devil will pull him farther and farther into sin. It is a miracle for a soul who is lost deeply in sin to ever escape the deadly grip of the devil. It is wise to not go near the devil's wicked ways.

Remember to never smoke anything nor drink beer or liquor. Be careful who your friends are, that they do not lead you into temptation. Can you think of other wicked things to guard against?

— Sis. Connie Sorrell

Questions:

1. What did the elders of Israel want?
2. Did this make God happy?
3. What did Saul lose?
4. How many days did Saul look for his donkeys?
5. What did Saul's servant advise him to do?
6. What did Samuel tell Saul?
7. What did the people do to decide who was king?
8. Why couldn't the people find Saul?

Answers: 1. A king. 2. No. 3. Donkeys. 4. Three. 5. Ask Samuel for advice. 6. His donkeys had been found. 7. Drew lots. 8. He hid.