

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Jan. 12, 2003

## Lisita's Grief

(Continued from last week.)

*The story to this point: Paula, a young orphan was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louis, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. Paula loves her new family but she is shocked to learn they never pray or read the Bible because her uncle will not allow it. Eventually her uncle softens in his attitude as he sees the love and power of God in Paula's life. In last week's story Paula is sent on an errand. She and Lisita see a small boy in the path of runaway horses. Instantly Paula dashes in front of the horses to save the child. Lisita fainted and was carried home.*

When I came back to consciousness I found myself on the sofa in our dining room, with Catalina bathing my face and hands with cold water.

"Where's Paula?" I cried, for I remembered at once that terrible scene in the Rue Darnetal.

"Paula is in her room," said Catalina, turning her head to hide the tears that would come in spite of all her efforts.

I tried to rise and go to our room. "Stay where you are, Lisita!" said Catalina. "You may go a bit later when you're feeling stronger."

But now a terrible suspicion

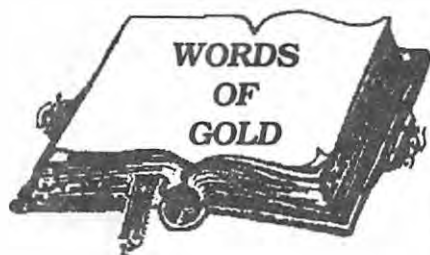
crossed my mind. "Catalina," I cried, almost beside myself with fear, "tell me the truth! Is Paula dead?"

"No, Lisita; Paula's not dead," as she tried in vain to detain me; "She is still breathing-and"—but I heard nothing more. My legs trembled strangely as I stumbled toward our bedroom. Once there, again that terrible darkness started to come over me, but it was only a momentary weakness. With an effort I steadied myself as I came near the bed where my dearest one lay so still—that lovely face so white, the lips slightly parted with just a stirring of the breath.

The room was full of people, some weeping silently, some trying to choke back their sobs. Others, like my father and Dr. Lebon, with an agony showing on their faces much more terrible than any tears.

All this I saw as in a horrible dream from which I hoped to awake at any moment. But no! I soon realized it was all too true. This was the first real grief of my life, and I had to sustain it alone for I had not yet yielded to Him who sends comfort to His children in their time of anguish. He did take pity on me, however. In the next room I hid my grief in Teresa's arms. Teresa, more than anyone else, knew the love that had united me to Paula.

"Oh, Teresa," I cried, when I found myself alone with her; "she must not



## Cornelius

**Acts 10:1-6; 21-28**

**1** There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

**2** A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

**3** He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

**4** And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

**5** And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

**6** He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

**21** Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius: and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

**22** And they said, Cornelius...was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

**23** Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

**24** And the morrow after they en-

tered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.  
**25** And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

**26** But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

**27** And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

**28** And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

**The Message: Through the vision and by his experience with Cornelius, Peter learned that when Jesus commanded to go to all nations He meant that the gospel should be preached to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.**

### Questions:

1. What job did Cornelius have?
2. Cornelius was a devout man. In what ways did he show his love for God?
3. How did Cornelius know to send for Peter?
4. When Peter went to Cornelius who did he take with him?
5. What did Cornelius do as soon as he met Peter?
6. What did Peter tell him to do?
7. Why did the Jews not keep company with those of other nations?
8. What had God shown Peter?

### Verse to Memorize

**Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.**

**Acts 10:34.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

In the city of Caesarea lived Cornelius, a captain over a band of one hundred soldiers. Now he was not a Jew but he worshiped the true God. He prayed daily and taught his family and servants to worship God also.

He was praying one afternoon about three o'clock when an angel suddenly appeared to him. Fearfully Cornelius asked, "What is it, Lord?"

"God has heard your prayers," the angel assured him. "Now send men to Joppa to the house of Simon the tanner who lives by the seaside. Simon Peter is staying there and he will tell you what to do."

The angel disappeared as quickly as he had come. Immediately Cornelius called for two of his servants and a devout soldier. He told them all what had happened and sent them to Joppa to find Simon Peter as the angel said.

It was the next day, while Cornelius' men traveled toward Joppa, that Peter saw the vision as he prayed on the housetop. Peter knew nothing about them coming and they knew nothing of his praying; but God knew both him and them. He was preparing their meeting with perfect timing....

So when the men from Cornelius knocked at Simon's gate Peter was already expecting them. Three men stood there inquiring for him, just as the Spirit had said. "I am Simon Peter," he told them. "What do you want?"

The three then told Peter about their master, Cornelius, and how the angel had commanded him to send for Peter. "Stay with me tonight and I will go back to Caesarea with you in the morning," Peter told them.

Early the next morning Peter and some other believing Jews set off with Cornelius' three servants for Caesarea. When they arrived at Cornelius' house he was anxiously waiting for them. He had invited all his kinfolk and friends to hear what Peter had to tell them. As Peter entered the house, Cornelius fell down on his knees to worship him. Quickly Peter pulled him to his feet, saying, "Stand up, I am just a man like you!"

Peter had never gone to the home of a Gentile before. Strict Jews refused to be friends with Gentiles because they knew this was how idol worship had started among their people in the past. "You know," he told Cornelius, "that it is unlawful for me as a Jew to associate with or visit a man of any other nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man unclean when He has made him clean. That is why I came here without question. Now, why did you send for me?"

Cornelius told him the story of the angel's visit. "We are ready to listen to the words of God that you bring to us," he added eagerly.

So Peter began to speak to them. "I see now," he said, "that God does not just love the Jews but that He loves those of every nation who obey Him and try to serve Him."

Then Peter told them about Jesus. As he spoke God gave them the Holy Spirit just as He had the believers on the day of Pentecost. When the Jewish believers who had come with Peter saw this they were amazed and rejoiced that God's salvation was for people of every nation.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

die! She must not! I simply cannot live without her, you know that! Oh, pray for me, dear Teresa. God will hear your prayer. He probably wouldn't hear mine. Tell Him! Oh, please tell Him Paula must not die!"

"No, Lisita," Teresa said as she dried my tears; "We must leave Paula in God's hands. He loves her more than you and I ever could. If you could see that poor broken body as I've seen it you would not ask that she should live! Yes, indeed, she was happy with us. She was to us all like an angelic messenger sent from God to draw us to Him and to show us the way to heaven. And now He's called her to Himself almost without suffering, for she appears to have become insensible from the instant that the horses struck her down. Listen to me, Lisita! Soon Paula will be in heaven at her Saviour's side—her Saviour whom she loved so well, and in her dear father's company of whom she spoke so often.

"We must think of her happiness, dear Lisita, not our own from this day forward. Paula, you remember, never thought of herself. Her thought was always for others, and it was for another that she died. She gave her life to save that little boy. So she followed in the footsteps of her Saviour, as a good soldier of the Lord Jesus who died to save all who repent and believe on His blessed name."

The voice of our old servant, so tender, so motherly, seemed to heal my sorrow. When I became calmer she told me some of the details of the tragedy. Paula had dashed in front of the horses just in time to throw the child out of danger but had been unable to escape herself. That much I understood. But from that day to this I have never been able to bring myself to ask for any more details. It seems I had fainted, and they carried us both home.

Poor Teresa, I knew how ardently she, too, loved our Paula, but courageous and unselfish her only thought, as ever, was for us. In consoling me she forgot her own sorrow. As I looked at that strong calm face lighted up as from an inner brilliance, it seemed to take on a striking likeness to the dear one whose life was ebbing away in the next room. There came to my mind a verse from a Bible story that Paula had told us once. It was this: "The spirit of Elijah hath fallen on Elisha."

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A stream of neighbors came in from everywhere. It was in those last moments as these humble friends passed before that unconscious form that we came to comprehend how many lives had been touched by the simple country girl from the Waldensian Mountains. Some remembered her just from the smile with which she always greeted young and old as she passed up and down the long street at our end of the town. Others spoke of the loving adoration of the children whom she had protected and defended. Still others mentioned the kindness she had shown them. They poured out many stories of Paula's universal love for all—other visits to the poor and sick. She had pointed many to the Savior who had died to take away their sin, bringing joy and hope and liberty into many a home where only discord and misery had reigned before.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. He was a centurion (captain over one hundred men). 2. He gave much alms and prayed to God always. 3. An angel appeared to him telling him to do so. 4. Certain brethren from Joppa. 5. Fell at his feet. 6. Stand up. 7. It was against their law. 8. That he should not call any man common or unclean.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 Jan. 19, 2003

## She Took Your Place!

(Continued from last week.)

*The story to this point: Paula, a young orphan was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louis, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. Paula loves her new family but she is shocked to learn they never pray or read the Bible because her uncle will not allow it. Eventually her uncle softens in his attitude as he sees the love and power of God in Paula's life. Paula begged Louis to deliver a letter since he was going that way but he refused. While Paula is delivering it she and Lisita see a small boy in the path of runaway horses. Instantly Paula dashes in front of the horses to save the child. The child was not hurt, but Paula is fatally injured.*

So the tears of many of our humble, friendless neighbors mingled with our own as we waited for the end.

But there was one on whom the blow fell more terribly than on any of the rest of us, for it was a bitter mixture of remorse and shame that Louis had to bear. When he arrived at the house after being summoned from our uncle's place, and came to a full realization of what had happened, for an instant he seemed turned to stone. Then a sharp cry came from him. In that short moment he seemed to

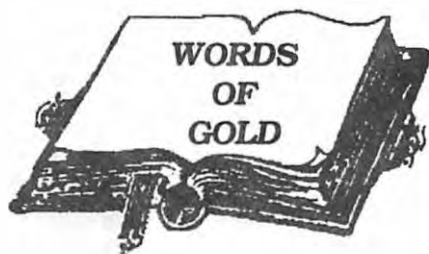
change from a careless, selfish boy to a man—a man awakened at last to his terrible need of a change and with a transforming purpose in his life from that day forward.

Louis demanded that I tell everybody present what had happened that afternoon. When I refused, he poured out the whole sorry, sordid story of his selfishness without one word of excuse, saying as he finished, "So you see, it was I who killed her, for there was no need of her stirring from the house." Then he turned to my father imploring him to punish him severely. He said he could ask no pardon, for he had done what he considered unpardonable. For answer my father took him in his arms, and I knew that at that moment my father and Louis came to understand each other better than they had ever done in their lives before.

"No, my poor boy," my father said, "you need no further punishment. Now go to your heavenly Father and ask Him to make you His child." And I know that Louis did so.

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In silence we waited. Paula was the bond of love that had united us all, not only to one another but now also to God. How wonderful, how beautiful, had been that short life, and how she had poured out her love upon us. Again the scene came back



## Prison Doors Open

**Acts 12:1-11**

**1** Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

**2** And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

**3** And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

**4** And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

**5** Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

**6** And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

**7** And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

**8** And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

**9** And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true

which was done by the angel: but thought he saw a vision.

**10** When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

**11** And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

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**The Message: God can deliver from the most impossible situation. Peter was so confident of this that he was able to sleep soundly though he faced almost certain death the next morning!**

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### Questions:

1. What did Herod do to James?
2. Why did he arrest Peter?
3. How did Herod make sure that Peter could not escape?
4. What did the church do while Peter was in prison?
5. Where was Peter sleeping?
6. Who smote Peter on the side?
7. What happened to the chains when Peter stood up?
8. What did Peter think was happening?
9. Who opened the iron gate leading to the city?

### Verse to Memorize

**...There is no other God that can deliver after this sort.  
Daniel 3:29.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

King Herod was willing to do anything to gain favor with the Jews so he made friends with their chief priests and rulers. It did not take long for him to realize how much they hated those who believed that Jesus was the Christ. To please these Jews Herod began to make trouble for the believers. First he had James, the brother of John, arrested. Later he ordered that he be killed with the sword. The chief priests and rulers were so pleased by this that Herod sent soldiers to capture Peter and put him in prison also.

So Peter was arrested. This happened during the time of the Passover feast. Herod's intention was to hold him until the feast days were over and then bring him out to his enemies. This meant certain death.

Once before, when Peter was imprisoned together with John and other apostles, an angel came at night and opened the prison doors telling them to go teach the people in the temple. The next morning when the officers came to bring them to trial they found the prison door locked and soldiers standing guard. But when they came into the prison the prisoners were gone! While they wondered how grown men could simply vanish someone came running to tell them that Peter and the others were in the temple teaching about Jesus.

Herod was determined that this did not happen again. This time he appointed four different changes of the guard to keep watch on Peter every moment. At night Peter was

chained to a soldier on each side of him. He could not possibly escape!

Now when James was killed the church felt the loss of their leader very keenly. They could not spare Peter too! Each day they met and prayed for his release. But the days passed and still Peter lay in the dreary prison. As the feast days came to an end and the time came for Herod to give Peter over to the Jews the Christians grew more intense in their prayers. Finally the last night came. They decided to meet at Mary's home. The burden was so heavy they continued in prayer all night.

About midnight that same night Peter lay fast asleep chained to his two soldiers. Other soldiers stood guard just outside the prison door. Then suddenly a bright light shone all through that prison cell and an angel stood over Peter. Striking him on the side the angel raised Peter up commanding, "Get up quickly!"

As Peter obeyed, the chains fell to the prison floor. "Get dressed," the angel said, "and put your shoes on." Peter was sure this was all a dream but he did as the angel said. "Now," the angel continued, "put your coat on and follow me."

Still thinking that he was surely having a vision Peter followed the angel. They walked right through the prison and past all those guards to the great iron gate that led out to the city. As they approached the heavy gate swung back as if it had an automatic opener. Peter and the angel stepped out into the street.

They walked down the dark street a short distance and then suddenly the angel disappeared. Peter looked all around. Where was the angel? Was he asleep or awake? Then as he took a deep breath of the cool night air he realized he was not dreaming. The Lord had sent an angel to rescue him!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

to me of that moonlit night at this same bedside, when at prayer she had seemed more like an angel talking with the One who had sent her to us, than merely the simple, honest-hearted country girl that she really was.

Suddenly the door opened slowly and a woman poorly dressed entered, leading a little boy of about three years old. When he saw us he stopped and turned to hide behind the folds of his mother's dress.

"Come in, come in," said Teresa kindly, as she led them both to the side of my dear one lying there so white and still.

"Oh, Carlito," exclaimed the poor woman turning to her little son as she dropped upon her knees beside the bed. "How I wish you could understand! This is that lovely one who saved your life! She took your place there under the horses' hooves!" Then taking Paula's two hands in her own she said, "Oh, Mademoiselle, oh, that you might hear me! Would that I might do something in return for what you have done for my boy! Oh, is there nothing I can do?"

"Yes, my dear woman," said our old servant, and her eyes were streaming, "I'll tell you what you can do. Nothing would have pleased Paula better than to have known that you had taken the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. Also you may take this dear child and dedicate and train him for God's service in the days to come."

"That," said the poor woman, "I solemnly promise to do if you will show me how."

Thus it was that our Teresa had the joy of pointing her first soul to the Saviour.

Tenderly my father cut off two locks of that beautiful hair of our dear one, and as the woman went said, "Take this one and keep it always in

remembrance of the rescuer of your little boy. And this other one," and he held out the second to her also, "keep it for him until he's old enough to understand."

Taking them from my father's hand she silently kissed them and placed them in the bosom of her dress as she and her little one glided through the outer door.

Louis had gone out on a special errand, and he soon returned, bringing with him from the factory the object of his search. The poor Breton, followed by his sons and all the other "scholars" of the night school, started to enter the room and then stopped abashed at the threshold. At the invitation of my father, however, one by one they all came to the bedside, pale and shaken with emotion.

"I'm glad you were able to get here before the end came," said my father. "Oh, if you could only know how she loved you all!"

The Breton suddenly broke down and cried like a child. When he could control himself he said, "It was but this very morning that I passed her on the street. She seemed just like a happy bird as she waved me 'good day'-and now-now-to find her dying here!"

"May the dear Lord's will be done!" said Teresa.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Killed him with the sword. 2. To please the people. 3. He delivered him to four quaternions (sixteen) of soldiers to keep him. 4. Prayed without stopping. 5. Chained between two soldiers, bound with two chains. 6. An angel. 7. They fell off. 8. He thought he was seeing a vision. 9. It opened by itself.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Jan. 26, 2003

## In His Presence

(Continued from last week.)

*The story to this point: Paula, a young orphan was sent to live with her uncle and his family which consisted of Catalina, Rosa, Louis, Lisita who tells this story, and Teresa, the faithful old servant. Paula loves her new family but she is shocked to learn they never pray or read the Bible because her uncle will not allow it. Eventually her uncle softens in his attitude as he sees the love and power of God in Paula's life. While Paula is on an errand she and Lisita see a small boy in the path of runaway horses. Instantly Paula dashed in front of the horses to save the child. The child was not hurt but Paula is fatally injured. Now friends and neighbors gather to show their love and appreciation for Paula.*

The poor Breton had buried his face in his hands, but suddenly looking up, he said humbly, "You're quite right, Mademoiselle Teresa—but, you see, Mademoiselle Paula was more to me than it seems she could mean to any one of you. I was a drunkard and a robber—a monster of iniquity! I was despised and hated and feared by everybody, and for good reason. But there in Celestina's kitchen that day, Mademoiselle was not afraid to take these rough hands—these hands that had been so often stained with crime

and violence in her own pure white ones to tell me she would help me!

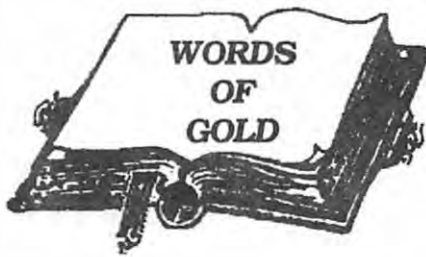
"She it was who taught me to pray. She it was who had prayed for me while I was in prison. I have seen men ground to pieces in the gears of a machine in the factory. I've looked on death in many terrible forms without shedding a tear—but this one!—oh, Mademoiselle Paula! Would that I could have died in your place!" And again quivering with emotion, the Breton turned and leaned against the wall to hide his tears.

Suddenly a convulsion shook the form of my dear one and Dr. Lebon stepped forward and took her hand. "The end is coming," he said.

My father dropped on his knees beside the bed. "Oh, Lord," he said, "I, too, would be Thine own. Is it too late for me?"

At that moment a hand was laid on his shoulder. It was the same hand that years ago had been laid on his wife's eyes to close them for the last time. That same hand had tended and cared faithfully for his children ever since.

"Monsieur! My good Master!" said Teresa, in a tone of tender love and respect such as I had never heard her use before, "It is not too late! He has said, 'Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out.'"



## **A Miraculous Answer To Prayer**

**Acts 12:11-23**

**11** And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

**12** And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary...where many were gathered together praying.

**13** And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

**14** And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

**15** And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

**16** But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

**17** But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

**18** Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

**19** And when Herod had sought for

him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

**20** And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon:...

**21** And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

**22** And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

**23** And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

**The Message: Those in earnest prayer for Peter could not believe it when God answered their prayers in such a miraculous way!**

### **Questions:**

1. How did Peter get out of prison?
2. To whose house did he go?
3. What was taking place at this place?
4. Who came to the door when Peter knocked?
5. What did she do when she recognized Peter's voice?
6. Who did the people think it was?
7. Meanwhile what did Peter do?
8. What happened to Peter's guards?
9. Why did the angel of the Lord smite Herod with worms?

### **Verse to Memorize**

**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**

**Luke 1:37.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

To suddenly be delivered from prison when he was lying bound by chains between two soldiers seemed too good to be true. It was hard for Peter to believe that it was not all a dream! Surely he would soon wake up and find that he was still a prisoner doomed to death.

Finally the reality hit him. In amazement he thought to himself, "Now I know that the Lord sent His angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews!"

After considering what he should do, he decided to go to Mary's house. Hurrying through the streets he saw a light in the window even though it was the dark hours of morning. Inside a group of Christians were still in prayer for Peter.

Peter approached the gate and knocked. Finally a young girl named Rhoda came and asked "Who is there?"

To her amazement a voice answered, "It is Peter. Let me in."

Rhoda was so surprised that she did not even stop to open the gate. She burst into the prayer meeting exclaiming, "Peter is at the gate!"

"You are crazy!" everyone answered. Peter was in prison. How could he be knocking at the gate?

"It is true! It is Peter!" Rhoda insisted.

"It must be his angel," someone decided.

Meanwhile Peter stood at the gate still knocking. At last someone went to see who really was there. They were astonished to see Peter himself standing there! Clustering around him everyone began asking questions all at once.

Peter held up his hands for them to be quiet. Then he explained how the Lord had sent an angel to lead him out of prison.

How good it felt to be out of the cold dark prison and in the comfortable home of a friend surrounded by his loved ones! But Peter knew he still was not safe. He was sure that Herod would send soldiers to find him as soon as he learned that he had escaped. So he said, "Go tell James and the other brethren what has happened." Then he went to another place to hide from Herod.

At daybreak there was much excitement at the prison. Imagine the soldier's bewilderment. The chains were still attached to their wrists, they were still right where they had been with Peter between them and everything else was just as it had been. But Peter had mysteriously vanished! The soldiers were still standing guard outside. There was no way that their prisoner could have escaped.

But God had intervened. The prayers of the saints were answered in a way far beyond what they had imagined or dared hope! Jeremiah wrote, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee!" Jeremiah 32:17.

No one knew what had become of Peter. King Herod was furious when he heard that his prisoner had escaped. He called the guards and questioned them closely but they could tell him nothing—Peter had simply disappeared! Such an answer could not satisfy Herod. Finally he commanded that the guards be put to death.

Not long after this Herod, dressed in his royal robes, made a great speech to the people. As he spoke the people began to cry out, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man!" This pleased Herod but it angered God. Immediately the angel of the Lord smote Herod. Worms invaded his body and he died.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

My father looked up. "Well, then, Teresa, I come to Him."

The dear old woman dropped on her knees and with folded hands simply said, "Thanks, dear Lord, for Thou hast answered my prayer and Paula's too!"

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The storm of wind and rain had passed. In the little gardens of the "Red Cottages" across the street, the flowers once again began to raise their heads and the birds began to sing as the sun came out once more. Suddenly there came a soft sigh from the still form on the bed. Dr. Lebon nodded as he turned away. His task was ended. The Good Shepherd had taken His tired lamb in His arms.

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Then the sound of a deep voice was heard, saying, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

I recognized the voice at once—it was Celestina's.

—*Paula the Waldensian* by Eva Lecomte  
(The end.)

## One Life For Ten

John Muir was a missionary in Alaska for many years. He told the story of an old Indian chief who willingly offered himself as a sacrifice for his tribe.

There had been a war all summer between two strong tribes. It seemed there would be no end to the fighting. One of the chiefs was old and wise. He realized that unless the war stopped soon the people would not have a chance to gather their winter supply of berries and salmon before winter set in. They would all perish by starvation!

So this wise old chief went out under a flag of truce to ask the chief

of the other tribe to stop fighting. He explained his concern that the people of both tribes were liable to die of starvation if the war continued. He would command his people to stop fighting if the other chief would agree to peace.

But the other chief would not agree. He said that his tribe would not stop fighting because ten more of his men had been killed than on the other side.

The wise old Indian chief then said to him, "You know I am the chief of our people and so you must surely think me worth at least ten of our men or yours. Kill me in place of them, and let our people go and gather enough food for the winter."

The other chief agreed to this arrangement. The sacrificial request was granted and there in front of the warring tribes the old chief stood up and was shot to death.

Later when the missionaries, Mr. Muir and Mr. Young came to preach to these tribes, the people were receptive to their message. As they told of Jesus' sacrifice of Himself for men's sins, the Indians said, "Yes, your words are good. The Son of God is chief of chiefs and is worth more than any number of men; therefore, when His Blood was shed, the sacrifice was sufficient for the sins of the whole world."

They could relate to Jesus' death and sacrifice because they had seen a living example in the wise old chief's sacrifice.

—Selected

(Answers: 1. The Lord sent His angel and delivered him. 2. Mary's. 3. Many were gathered to pray. 4. Rhoda. 5. Ran in and told them that Peter was at the gate. 6. Peter's angel. 7. Continued knocking. 8. Herod had them put to death. 9. Because he did not give God the glory.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Feb. 2, 2003

## A Calendar For Courage

The gatekeeper at our mission compound limped into the kitchen doorway, bowed crookedly, and announced, "Hsieh si-mu, pastor's wife, here is his excellency, the colonel."

I held my breath. The colonel commanded the troops currently protecting this city of Shenkiu in Central China. It was January 1941; the invading Japanese were only a few miles to the east.

The colonel entered briskly and made his announcement: "The enemy is advancing into Honan Province. We have orders not to defend this city. You should find refuge in one of the villages outside."

I crossed my hands over the sleeves of my wadded e-shang and bowed politely, thanking him for his gracious concern for a "miserable" woman. As the colonel left the room, the icy January blast swept through the doorway. My baby cried.

Suddenly the enormity of our danger overwhelmed me. Our Margaret Anne was scarcely two months old, Johnny just over a year. My husband was 115 miles away. I looked at the little Daily Scripture calendar on the wall: January 15. Not until early February would he be back. How would I manage without him? How

would I make the myriad decisions that now crowded upon me?

You see, I had not yet experienced the full wonder of God's power to guide us when all other guides fail. Nor did I guess that as His instrument He would use anything as prosaic as a calendar on a kitchen wall.

By mid-afternoon the army garrison in our little city was empty. The departure of the soldiers created panic. Families packed their goods and fled.

The elders of the church called on me before they left. "Come with us," they pleaded. "We will care for you while Pastor Hillis is away."

I looked at the concern in their eyes and I thought of the country homes to which they were headed. My husband and I loved these village homes because we loved the people in them. But they held death for Western babies, as too many little graves in our mission compounds showed.

How could I explain to these friends, without offending, that I could not take my children into their homes? Unheated, mud-floored huts, they crowded three and four generations together amid vermin and filth. Just a few weeks ago the six-month-old son of the nearest American family had died of dreaded dysentery.



## Saul Of Tarsus

### I Corinthians 15:9

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

### Acts 7:58; 8:1-3; 9:1-8

58 And cast him (Stephen) out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem: and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatnings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul,

Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man:...

**The Message: Saul's conversion from a murderous opponent of the truth into Paul, an apostle of the gospel, is a prime example of God's mighty power to save all who surrender their lives to Him!**

### Questions:

1. Why did Paul feel he was unworthy to be called an apostle?
2. Where did the men who stoned Stephen lay their clothes?
3. Why did the believers scatter out of Jerusalem?
4. What did Saul do to those of the church?
5. Why did he wish to go to Damascus?
6. What did he see as he got near Damascus?
7. What did the voice ask him?
8. Who was speaking to Saul?
9. What happened when Saul opened his eyes?

### Verse to Memorize

**Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

**Hebrews 7:25.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

In the past several lessons we have been studying the lives of the apostles one by one. So far we have read what the Bible says about Peter, Andrew, James and John, Philip, Bartholomew (Nathanael), Thomas, Matthew and Judas Iscariot. There were three other apostles but we know very little about them. The Bible does little more than list their names. They were James the Less who we read was the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Canaanite, also known as Simon the Zealot and the apostle with three names, Judas Labbaeus Thaddaeus.

Paul referred to himself as an apostle many times in his writings, though he confesses he was not worthy to be called an apostle because he persecuted the church of God. Yet God saw that Paul had an honest heart. He truly believed he was doing God's will when he imprisoned and killed those who believed in Jesus. Paul's conversion from a murderous opponent to one who was willing to risk his own life to preach Jesus is proof of the power of the gospel. Nothing is impossible with God. He can take my life and yours and make us just like Jesus!

Paul, who is introduced as Saul in the scriptures, was born in Tarsus, one of the great cities of the Roman Empire. As a boy Saul left his home and came to Jerusalem to study the Law of Moses under Gamaliel, a great teacher. Then, when Saul was older he became a strict Pharisee.

At that time more and more people in Jerusalem believed that Jesus was the Son of God. They did not keep the

strict commandments as the Pharisees interpreted the Law. Saul was shocked. He felt that the followers of Jesus were disobeying the Law of God. He must stop them from spreading such a gospel!

In Jerusalem Saul mistreated many believers by having them arrested. Some were even put to death for their loyalty to Jesus. While Stephen, the first martyr, was being stoned to death, Saul stood watching with satisfaction. Life became so miserable for them in Jerusalem that many believers fled to other cities for safety teaching the gospel wherever they went.

This infuriated Saul. When he heard that there were believers in Damascus he went to the high priest for letters of permission to go to that city and search for followers of Jesus. He planned to kill them or bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners.

So with the letters authorizing him to arrest any who believed in Jesus, Saul started towards Damascus with a few friends. It was about noon and they were so near the city that they could see the great wall surrounding Damascus. Suddenly a brilliant light, brighter than the sun, shone round about them. Saul fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked fearfully.

"I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting," He answered.

Saul asked, "What do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord instructed him to go on to Damascus. There he would be told what he must do. Meanwhile the men with him stood speechless, wondering what the voice and brilliant light could mean. When Saul got up he opened his eyes but he could not see anything. He was blind.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

No, my babies were chained to this kitchen where I could boil dishes, milk and water.

But these were not things I could say to Chinese friends. I bowed, I thanked them, I spoke of waiting for my husband's return, of watching the mission property, and I went to bed that night shaking with terror. When Johnny woke up whimpering in the cold, I took him into bed with me and lay awake a long time, listening to the wind rattle the waxed paper windowpanes and praying that my little boy would live to see his daddy again.

Next morning I was in the kitchen early to start the water boiling for Margaret Anne's bottle. Automatically I reached up to the wall calendar and tore off yesterday's date. The Scripture verse for the new day gleamed like sunlight. "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." Psalm 56:3.

Well, I was certainly afraid. I fulfilled that part of it. Now, indeed, was the time to trust God. Somehow the verse sustained me all through the tense day.

The city was being evacuated rapidly. Other church members came to invite me to their family huts. But the Scripture held me. I was not to panic, but to trust.

By mid-morning the next day the city was nearly deserted. Then the gatekeeper came to me, eyes blurred with fear. He must leave, he said, and begged me to find refuge with him in his village beyond the city.

Should I? What could I do without our gatekeeper? The deserted city would be an open invitation to bandits and looting.

It was noon before I remembered to pull the page off the little daily calendar on the wall. The tenth verse of the ninth Psalm read, "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not

forsaken them that seek thee."

As I bowed my head over my noon-day meal, my heart poured out its gratitude to God for these particular words at this moment.

My main concern now was food. All the shops in the town were boarded shut. Meat and produce no longer came in daily from farms. I still had the goats for the babies' milk, but the man who milked them had left for his village. Tomorrow I would have to try to milk them myself. I wondered if I could ever make the balky little beasts hold still.

I slept uneasily that night, wondering how I would feed my children, and sure of very little except that we should stay in the city and, somehow, trust God. The sound of distant gunfire woke me.

Before facing the goats, I fixed myself a bowl of rice gruel. Then I tore the old page from the calendar and read the new day's message. "I will nourish you, and your little ones," said the God of promise. (Genesis 50:21.)

The timeliness of these daily verses was becoming almost uncanny. With some curiosity I examined the back of the calendar pad. It had been put together in England the year before, but God in His all-knowing had provided the very words I needed, a year later, here on the other side of the world.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Because he had persecuted the church of God. 2. At Saul's feet. 3. Because of the great persecution against the church at Jerusalem. 4. Had them put in prison. 5. To arrest any believers he found. 6. A light from heaven. 7. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 8. Jesus. 9. He could not see.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Feb. 9, 2003

## A Calendar For Courage

(Continued from last week.)

*It is January 1941. A young missionary, his wife and two babies have come to central China to teach the people about Jesus. While the missionary is over one hundred miles away news comes that a Japanese invasion is imminent. Kind neighbors insist that the young mother bring her babies and accompany them to their homes outside the city. This would expose her very young children to deadly diseases and unsanitary conditions that she feared almost more than the Japanese guns. Urging her to come with them, her friends leave one by one. Overwhelmed by the enormity of her peril she glanced at the daily scripture on the calendar. The words of comfort and courage seemed to leap out to her as if written specifically for this moment. Each day she found the daily verse to carry a timely message giving guidance, hope and courage.*

I was still eating the gruel when a woman stepped into the kitchen. She was carrying a pail of steaming goats' milk. "May I stay and help you?" she asked. "See, I have milked your goats."

Mrs. Lee had been our neighbor for years, but that morning I stared at her as though she had dropped from heaven. She had no family living, she

explained, and wished to show her gratitude to the mission.

Late in the day a loud rapping at the gate set our hearts to pounding. Braver, Mrs. Lee was the one who went to open it.

Her face beaming, she returned leading our caller.

"Gee-tze! Gee-dan! " she cried triumphantly. "Chicken! Eggs!"

A frail, black-robed country woman came in with a live chicken and a basket of eggs. "Peace, peace," she gave the customary Christian greeting as she bobbed to us shyly. Noise of the cannons had not kept her away when she remembered that the missionaries would be hungry.

The calendar promise had come true! God would see to it that our little ones were nourished! That night my heart was full of hope. To the sound of shells bursting in the sky I prayed that somehow God would spare this city and these gentle people whom we loved.

Next morning I rushed down to the little square of paper hanging on its nail and tore off the page. "When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me," the Scripture declared. (Psalm 56:9.)

But this time it was too much to believe! Surely it couldn't be right to take literally a verse chosen just by



## **Ananias Prays For Saul**

**Acts 9:8-18, 20-21**

**8** ...They led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

**9** And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

**10** And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

**11** And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

**12** And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

**13** Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

**14** And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

**15** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

**16** For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

**17** And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that

appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

**18** And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

**20** And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

**21** But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

**The Message: Ananias saw Saul as a vicious enemy to God's people, but God looked at Saul's heart and could say, "He is a chosen vessel to me, to bear My name!" He knew the transforming power of His grace.**

### **Questions:**

1. Since Saul was blind, how did he make his way to Damascus?
2. How long was he blind?
3. Who was Ananias?
4. How did the Lord speak to him?
5. To whom did He send Ananias?
6. Why did Ananias not want to go?
7. How did Saul know the Lord sent Ananias?
8. What happened when Ananias put his hands on Saul?
9. What did Saul preach in the synagogues?

### **Verse to Memorize**

**...The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.**

**I Samuel 16:7.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

A bright light hit Saul on the way to Damascus like a bolt of lightning! When he got up from the ground everything was black. Saul realized he was blind! The men that were with him led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. There he stayed at the house of a man named Judas.

For three days Saul did not eat or drink. He could only think of the awful way he had treated Jesus by persecuting His followers. He was so sorry he could not think of eating; he wanted only to pray.

As Saul prayed in Judas' house the Lord appeared in a vision to a certain disciple named Ananias. "Get up and go into the street that is called Straight," He told him, "and ask in the house of Judas for one named Saul of Tarsus. He has been praying and has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hands on him that he might receive his sight."

Ananias was horrified! "Lord," he said, "I have heard many tell what this man did in Jerusalem. He persecutes those who believe in You. And now the chief priest has sent him here to capture all the believers he finds!"

The Lord understood his fears and said reassuringly, "Go on your way. Saul is a chosen servant of Mine. He will take My name to the Gentiles and even to the kings of the earth as well as to the Jews. I will show him what great things he must suffer for My sake."

Obediently Ananias went to Saul and found him praying as the Lord had said. Putting his hands on him

he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus Who appeared to you on the road to Damascus has sent me so you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

At that instant something like scales fell from Saul's blind eyes and he could see! The first thing that he wanted was to be baptized. His heart was now filled with the love of God instead of bitter hatred. He was eager to please God in every way.

After he was baptized Saul began to preach in the synagogues of the Jews. His message was that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He boldly preached that He had died for the sins of the world, was buried, but rose again the third day!

The Jews thought that Saul would get rid of the followers of Jesus in Damascus. Instead he became one of them and won many more to Jesus. Everyone was amazed!

"Isn't this the man who destroyed those who called on the name of Jesus in Jerusalem?" they asked one another. "And didn't he come here for the same purpose, that he might bring the believers bound unto the chief priests?" What a great change had come over Saul!

And God desires to change everyone from a life of sin and sorrow into a life of freedom and joy. Have you accepted Jesus into your heart and life? You will never have a more wonderful gift offered to you. With Him in control your life will be happy and successful. When trouble comes He will face it for you and give you strength to overcome it.

If you are praying for someone who seems to just go further and further into sin take courage from Saul's experience. God can turn them around just when it seems they will never change. Just keep praying for them. It is His will that all should be saved.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

chance for an English calendar?

As the gunfire drew closer, Mrs. Lee and I began to prepare the house for invasion. Any papers that might possibly be construed to have military or political significance must be hidden or destroyed. We searched my husband's desk and the church buildings. By nightfall the gunfire sounded from both sides of the city. We went to bed dressed, prepared at any moment to meet the Japanese invaders.

I awoke abruptly in the early dawn and strained my ears for the crunch of military boots on gravel. But only a deep stillness surrounded me. There were no tramping feet, no shrieking shells or pounding guns, only the waking murmur of little Johnny in his crib.

Misgivings warred with excitement as I woke Mrs. Lee and we went to the gatehouse, each carrying a child. She was the first to stick out a cautious head. "There is no one in the street," she told me. "Shall we go out?"

And then, we stepped through the gate and watched as the streets began to fill, not with Japanese soldiers, but with townspeople returning from their country hiding places. Had the Chinese won?

As if in answer to our question, we met the colonel. "Pastor's wife!" he greeted me with relief. "I have been concerned about you!"

Then he told us that the Japanese had withdrawn. No, they had not been defeated, nor could anyone arrive at a reasonable conjecture concerning their retreat. The enemy had simply turned back.

I stepped into my kitchen, eyes fixed on a little block of paper pinned to the wall. Oh, you could say it was just a calendar. You could say strangers had chosen those verses without any thought of China, or of the war that would be raging when those dates

fell due. But to me it was more than a calendar, and no stranger had picked those lines. To me it was the handwriting of God.

—*His Mysterious Ways* by Margaret Hillis

## One Rat

In England one little rat caused a dike to collapse in England. The rodent burrowed through the embankment of a canal. Soon water began seeping through. Slowly but surely, the original trickle became a sizable stream. Soon one bank collapsed and a 40-foot break-through let the water pour out in torrents. Three million gallons of water escaped and the canal was drained for seven miles.

As a result more than a million fish were swept away and a twenty-foot gorge was channeled through a nearby field. It took sixty men with bulldozers three weeks to shift thirty thousand tons of soil and repair the damages.

Just as one tiny rat caused this tremendous damage, so can one individual like you start a chain reaction that will either harm or benefit everyone. While it is true that "one sinner destroyeth much good" (Ecclesiastes 9: 18), it is also true that through a faithful life you may cause many to be saved. We may never fully know the far reaching good that results from a seemingly insignificant prayer, word or deed. But God knows and that is what counts.

—*Selected*

(Answers: 1. They led him by the hand. 2. Three days. 3. A disciple who lived in Damascus. 4. In a vision. 5. To Saul. 6. He knew that Saul had come to persecute the saints. 7. In a vision he saw Ananias coming and putting his hands on him. 8. He received his sight. 9. That Jesus was the Son of God.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Feb. 16, 2003

## He Took My Whipping For Me

Years ago there was a certain school which no teacher could handle. The boys were so rough that the teachers resigned.

A young, gray-eyed teacher applied, and the old director scanned him, then said, "Young feller, do you know what you're asking? An awful beating! Every teacher we have had for years has had to take it."

He replied, "I'll risk it."

Finally, he appeared for duty. One big fellow, "Tom", whispered, "I won't need any help, I can lick him myself."

The teacher said, "Good morning, boys, we have come to conduct school!" They yelled at the top of their voices. "Now, I want a good school, but confess I do not know how unless you help me. Suppose we have a few rules. You tell me and I will write them on the blackboard."

One fellow yelled, "No stealin'!"

Another yelled, "On time."

Finally ten rules appeared.

"Now," said the teacher, "a law is no good unless there is a penalty attached. What should we do with the one who breaks them?"

"Beat him across the back ten times without his coat on."

"That is pretty severe, boys. Are you ready to stand by it?" Another yell, and the teacher said, "School comes to order!"

In a day or so "Big Tom" found his dinner was stolen. Upon inquiry the thief was located—a little hungry fellow, about ten. Then next morning the teacher announced, "We have found the thief and he must be punished according to your rule—ten stripes across the back! Jim, come up here!"

The little fellow, trembling, came up slowly with the big coat fastened up to the neck and pleaded, "Teacher, you can lick me as hard as you like, but please don't make me take my coat off!"

"Take that coat off; you helped make the rules!"

"Oh teacher, don't make me!"

He began to unbutton, and what did the teacher behold! Lo, the lad had no shirt on to cover his little bony body.

"How can I whip this child?" he thought. "But I must do something if I keep this school." Everything was quiet as death. "How come you to be without a shirt, Jim?"

He replied, "My father died and mother is very poor. I have only one shirt to my name and she is washing that today and I wore my brother's big coat to keep warm."

The teacher, with rod in hand, hesitated. Just then "Big Tom" jumped to his feet and said, "Teacher, if you don't object, I will take Jim's licking for him."

"Very well. There is a certain law that one can become a substitute for another. Are you all agreed?"



## **Saul Escapes In A Basket**

### **Acts 9:20-31**

**20** And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

**21** But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

**22** But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

**23** And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

**24** But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

**25** Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

**26** And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

**27** But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

**28** And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

**29** And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

**30** Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

**31** Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

### **Galatians 1:17**

**17** Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me: but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

**The Message: When Saul gave his life to Jesus there were many who wanted to kill him just as he had destroyed the believers. When you truly serve Jesus the world will hate you just as it did Him.**

### **Questions:**

1. What did Saul do right after he was baptized?
2. What did he preach?
3. How did his listeners react?
4. What did he prove to the Jews?
5. When the Jews took counsel, what did they decide to do?
6. What did they do to prevent Saul's escape?
7. How did he escape?
8. Where did Saul go next?
9. Who befriended Saul when others feared to?

### **Verse to Memorize**

**...But because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**

**John 15:19.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The Jews of Damascus were amazed when they found Saul worshipping with the disciples of Jesus. They thought that he would rid Damascus of all believers. Instead he became one of them!

They were even more astonished when they saw him stand up before all the people in the synagogue and boldly preach that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God! The people listened and asked one another, "Isn't this the man who imprisoned and even killed many people in Jerusalem because they believed that Jesus was the Christ? Didn't we hear that he was coming to Damascus to arrest the believers and take them back to the high priest in Jerusalem?"

After some time Saul told the Christians of Damascus good-bye and disappeared into Arabia to be alone with God. He felt a deep need to know the truth for himself and be so thoroughly convinced that he could teach it to others with authority. Later Saul could write, "I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you." (I Corinthians 11:23.)

There, out in the desert, shut off from the noise and confusion of life Saul let God free him from a lifetime of wrong thoughts and the bondage of Jewish law and tradition. As he restudied the Scriptures and meditated on the great doctrines they became real and clear to him. Now he saw clearly that Jesus of Nazareth, Whom he had once despised, was indeed the Messiah! He learned the blessedness of communion with God.

This is where he became sensitive to the will of God for his life.

Now he longed to teach others, to establish churches and to strengthen them. He had killed others in his ignorance of Christ. Now with Christ in his heart he would offer his life in exchange. He would gladly face death for Jesus' sake. He felt calm and strengthened as he left the desert of Arabia to return to Damascus.

Once more in Damascus he preached in the synagogues with boldness and conviction. Even the Jewish teachers who did not believe in Jesus could not prove that Saul's teaching was wrong. Many of the Jews who listened came to believe in Jesus.

This enraged the Jewish rulers. Meeting in a secret council they made plans to kill Saul. They placed guards at each city gate with orders to kill him if he tried to leave the city. At any cost they must get rid of this traitor!

Saul soon heard about their plans. Believers urged him to run for his life. So, waiting for the dark of night, they took him to a building on top of the city wall. There they secured a strong rope to a large basket. Saul climbed into the basket and his friends slowly lowered him to the ground outside the city. This time he made his escape!

With a strong desire to tell how Jesus had changed his heart and life, Saul headed for Jerusalem. As soon as he reached the city he went to find the apostles and believers. But they remembered all too well his persecutions. They were afraid of him!

Finally Saul found a friend in kindhearted Barnabas. Barnabas took him to the apostles and told them all that had happened to Saul on the road to Damascus, how that the Lord had spoken to him and changed his life completely. After this the church received Saul gladly.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Off came Tom's coat and after five hard strokes the rod broke! The teacher bowed his head in his hands, and thought, "How can I finish this awful task?"

Then he heard the entire school sobbing, and what did he see? Little Jim had reached up and caught Tom with both arms around the neck. "Tom, I am sorry I stole your dinner, but I was awful hungry. Tom, I'll love you till I die for taking my licking for me! Yes, I'll love you forever!"

Sinner friend, you have broken every rule and deserve eternal punishment! But Jesus Christ took your scourging for you, died in your stead, and now offers to clothe you with His garments of salvation. Will you not fall at His feet and tell Him you will love and follow Him forever?

—*Pilgrim Tract Society*

## Shoot If You Dare!

Many years ago an American sailor named Haskins became hilarious when ashore in a South American port. A police officer, instead of warning him not to make a noise in the streets, drew his sword and with the flat of the blade knocked the sailor down.

The American got up and, as might have been expected, knocked the police officer down. Other officers soon arrived on the scene. The American was arrested, quickly tried, and condemned to be shot the following day.

Mr. Loring, the American Consul, pleaded with the authorities without success. He then made a formal protest in the name of the United States Government, but to no avail. In the morning Haskins was brought out to be shot.

Not far away the British Consul was preparing to hoist his country's flag (the Union Jack) for the day. He saw the crowd in the field where the execution of the American sailor was about to take place. He had heard about the unjust sentence that had been passed upon the man. He rushed

over to the American Consul and said: "Loring, you are not going to let them shoot that man? A fine or a prison term would be fair enough, but to shoot a man...!"

"What can I do?" replied the American Consul. "I have protested against it. I do not have time to appeal to Washington to get action."

"Give me your flag!" shouted the British Consul. The American flag was handed to him. Then, taking the Stars and Stripes in one hand and the Union Jack in the other, he hurried across the field and elbowed his way through the crowd. He rushed up to the doomed man, folded the American flag around him, and laid the British flag over it. Then he stepped aside a few paces, faced the officer and soldiers, and shouted: "SHOOT IF YOU DARE!"

The bullets would have gone through the flags of two powerful nations. The order to fire was withheld and, after a hurried consultation, the man was released.

The Lord Jesus offers a man or woman greater salvation and protection than that. He can wash a black heart white in His precious blood, place the soul beneath His care, and say to Satan: "Shoot if you dare!"

Let me urge you to believe in Christ, accept Him as your Saviour, then travel life's pathway beneath the bloodstained banner of the Cross. That banner has never failed yet. There is wonderful salvation and eternal protection for you. Accept it in and through Christ, your Saviour.

—*Tall Tales That Are True* by Arthur H. Townsend

(Answers: 1. Preached in the synagogues. 2. That Christ is the Son of God. 3. They were amazed. 4. That Jesus was Christ. 5. Kill Saul. 6. Watched the gates day and night. 7. At night the disciples let him down over the wall in a basket. 8. To Jerusalem. 9. Barnabas.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Feb. 23, 2003

## An Old Bible

In a certain New England home, among the treasures that have been handed down from generation to generation from the Mayflower days, is a leather-bound Bible, which far antedates the historical Mayflower period.

In the year of 1555 Queen Mary sat upon the English throne with her Spanish husband by her side. You remember how she won the title of "Bloody Mary" because of her cruel persecution of all Christians.

There lived, during "Bloody Mary's" reign, a blacksmith in the village of Harrant whose small house adjoined his shop, with a fine garden in the rear. The blacksmith's most precious possession was a leather-bound copy of the Protestant Bible, even though Queen Mary had forbidden anyone to read that Book anywhere in her kingdom on penalty of death.

The blacksmith's wife was dead, and his little blue-eyed daughter spent hours that would otherwise have been very lonely, playing about her father's shop, watching the bright sparks fly upward from the great forge, and making believe they were jewels.

This little girl's name was Elsie.

One morning when she went into the shop after her tasks were done, she found father standing behind the door with his precious Bible in his hands, reading the sacred pages with

bent head. So intent was he in this that he did not hear her as she entered.

She was greatly surprised to see that when her father had finished reading he picked up a stick that stood behind the door and touched the heavy beam above the door with it. As he did this, a block of wood fitted on hinges fell forward, disclosing an opening in the beam just large enough to hold the Bible.

The blacksmith thrust the Book in the space and pushed the block into place, leaving no sign of the opening. Then he turned and saw Elsie staring at him with wide eyes of surprise.

"Little daughter," he said sternly, "how dare you spy upon me!" Elsie's blue eyes filled with tears and she said with sobs in her voice: "I was not spying, Father, but you did not hear me come in and I could not help seeing you hide the Holy Book. That is such a good place that I am sure that all of the Queen's soldiers could never find it."

"My dear child, see that you tell no one where it is," said the blacksmith, still sternly.

"Have no fear, Father," returned the child. "I love the good Book as you do and would guard it if necessary with my life."

Theseweredark days for the blacksmith of Harrant and all those who



## Barnabas And Saul In Antioch

**Acts 11:19-30; 12:24-25**

**19** Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

**20** And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

**21** And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

**22** Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

**23** Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

**24** For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

**25** Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

**26** And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

**27** And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

**28** And there stood up one of them

named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

**29** Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

**30** Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

**24** But the word of God grew and multiplied.

**25** And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

**The Message: When persecution scattered the believers from Jerusalem they preached the gospel wherever they went. God turned their trouble into a blessing for many.**

### Questions:

1. At first the believers who left Jerusalem because of the persecution preached to only whom?
2. Whose hand was with them?
3. How many believed?
4. Who was sent to Antioch?
5. What did he exhort the believers to do?
6. What kind of man was Barnabas?
7. Who did Barnabas look for in Tarsus?
8. Where were the disciples first called Christians?
9. Who prophesied that there would be a great dearth?

### Verse to Memorize

**....He...exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.**

**Acts 11:23.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

As persecution increased in Jerusalem, more and more people who believed in Jesus moved away. Some went beyond the borders of Palestine into foreign lands. A great number went to Damascus. Others continued until they reached Antioch, the beautiful capital of Syria, three hundred miles north of Jerusalem.

But wherever they went these believers told about Jesus. At first they told the good news to the Jews only but people of other nationalities began to inquire when they saw the joy and peace the believers enjoyed. Soon they preached to Jews and Gentiles alike and many that heard believed and turned to the Lord.

When the church at Jerusalem heard about the believers at Antioch, they sent Barnabas to visit them. It took him several days to get to Antioch. As soon as he reached the city, he hurried to meet the believers. As they came together he could not help being impressed with the great number of Gentiles who now believed in Jesus. What a great change this made in their lives! Barnabas was glad for what he saw and encouraged them to always stay true to the Lord and serve Him with all their hearts.

The believers brought their friends and neighbors to hear Barnabas preach, and many more people were won to the Lord. The church at Antioch was growing so fast that Barnabas needed more help. He remembered that God had called Saul to preach to the Gentiles. Saul was now in his hometown of Tarsus, which was not

far from Antioch. Barnabas decided he would go find Saul.

It had been years since Saul and Barnabas had seen each other and they were glad to meet again. Saul listened attentively as Barnabas told him about the great work that had begun in Antioch. The more he heard the more sure he was that this was a door God was opening for him. He agreed to leave at once.

For a year Saul worked with Barnabas at Antioch. He spoke with deep conviction and earnestness and the Lord made his preaching and teaching fruitful. It was not long before more believers lived in Antioch than in Jerusalem because the church in Antioch had peace.

People began to notice a sharp contrast between themselves and the believers. They were kind even when someone did them wrong and never returned the evil. It seemed that Christ was always the main theme of their teaching, their preaching and their conversation. Soon the people had a name for these peculiar people. It was in Antioch that the believers were first called "Christians" which means to be like Christ.

Prophets from Jerusalem came to visit the church at Antioch. They said God had shown them that there was to be a great famine throughout all the lands.

After some time a great famine did come. Word reached the church at Antioch that the believers in Judaea were hungry and in need. At once the Christians at Antioch purposed to help. Each man gave as large an offering as he could. Then the church chose Barnabas and Saul to take this offering to the saints at Jerusalem.

When the two got ready to go back to Antioch, Barnabas and Saul invited John Mark to go with them. He accepted at once and later became a fervent gospel worker.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

believed as he did. Emissaries of the Queen were sure that there was a Bible hidden somewhere in Harrant and the town was searched again and again. The people of the village stoutly refused to accept the Queen's religion, and since the blacksmith was the only one among them who could read he was thrown into prison.

"Elsie's heart was very sad and she spent lonely days in spite of the kindness of her neighbors. Her rosy cheeks grew paler and paler when she remembered the hidden Bible and what her knowledge of it and her promise to her father might mean.

One day the soldiers came again to Harrant and searched every house. "We'll burn the house and shop of the blacksmith," Elsie heard them say. "In case a Bible is hidden there it will surely be destroyed."

As the soldier approached the house, the girl fled swiftly down the garden path and out upon the moor where she lay flat upon her face trembling amid the furze bushes.

She began to breathe more freely as she heard the soldiers marching away. Then the smell of burning wood struck fresh terror to her heart. She looked up to see that the thatched roof of both cottage and shop was already in a blaze.

Swift and sure as an eagle in its flight, she sped homeward past the departing soldiers, who in the approaching dark did not see the little figure who darted past them, and entered the burning shop.

The angry flames scorched her clothing and blistered her face and hands before she reached the beam above the door where the Bible was hidden. She seized it in a firm clasp and in a few moments staggered out the door. When she reached the garden again, she sank to her knees, suffering with keen pain and choking with the smoke that filled her lungs,

but with a prayer of thanksgiving on her lips.

Then to make sure that the Bible would be safe, she slipped off her woolen skirt and wrapped it in it and, digging in the garden soil with her blistered hands, buried it from sight. Then she crawled to the spring at the foot of the garden and tried to bathe her face and hands in the cool water.

There, an hour later, the villagers found her, unconscious from the awful ordeal through which she had passed. You may be sure that they went with her to the place where she had buried the Bible, and each man pledged to guard it with his life.

Of course, you know that times grew better in England and that the people gradually achieved more religious freedom. But perhaps you do not know that many years afterward, when Elsie's great-granddaughter followed her Puritan husband across the ocean to make her home on the lonely New England shores, she carried the Bible of the blacksmith of Harrant with her as a talisman for her new home.

—*Gospel Herald*

### **The Weakest Saint**

"Little Mary knelt every night at her bedside and prayed. Mother stood nearby. One night little Mary prayed longer than usual. Finally she arose. "Mary," asked Mother, "why did you pray so long tonight?"

Said little Mary, "Today in church we sang a song that said, 'Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.' I wanted to make him tremble longer!" —*Selected*

(Answers: 1. The Jews. 2. The Lord's. 3. A great number. 4. Barnabas. 5. To purpose in their hearts to always stay true to God. 6. A good man full of the Holy Ghost and faith. 7. Saul. 8. In Antioch. 9. Agabus.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Mar. 2, 2003

## The Soldier And The New Testament

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." Hebrews 4:12.*

During the Crimean war (1855), it happened that a French regiment was ordered to Toulon in order to embark in a few days from that place for the scene of war. At the same time there happened to be an agent of the Paris Bible Society in that seaport, disposing of Bibles and New Testaments among the citizens. When he heard of the arrival of the regiment he realized that many of these young soldiers would very likely never see home again. Yes, most of them, in view of the bloody character of the war, would certainly meet their death and no doubt very few were prepared. Going to the colonel of the regiment he asked permission to speak to the men before they embarked and to offer them the New Testament. The request was willingly granted.

One morning he pointed out the way of salvation to a group of soldiers who had gathered about him in the campground. He reminded them how that they could find light and counsel and comfort in God's Word, if they would but ask the Lord Jesus with an earnest heart to open their eyes. One

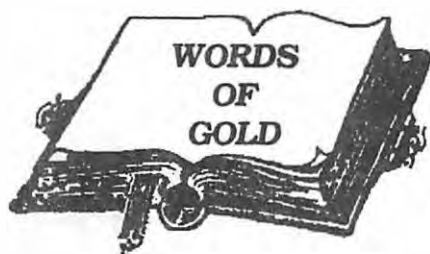
stepped up to him, a young man with an expressive, intelligent countenance, and said: "I am deeply moved by your kind, earnest admonition. I see the necessity of providing myself with the Word of God, but, alas, I haven't a penny wherewith to purchase the costly treasure."

"Well," replied the agent, "that can be remedied. If you sincerely wish to have the New Testament, my Christian duty requires me to not let you go away unsatisfied. I will freely give you a copy, although I must pay for it myself."

Then he took a small Testament out of his leather pouch and handed it to the soldier, accompanying it with a prayer for the divine blessing. But how astonished and pained he was when the young man broke out in a loud laugh, saying: "I have caught you nicely, my good man! You ought to know that I am the chief clown of the regiment, and you can see for yourself how well I succeeded in leading you around by the nose."

"Give back the book," cried the agent.

"Oh, no, no, good friend," said the soldier. "I would be ashamed to commit such an outrage upon you in the presence of all these respectable witnesses. What would they think of you should they see you taking back with the left hand the present just be-



## The First Missionaries

### Acts 13:1-12

**1** Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**2** As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

**3** And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

**4** So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

**5** And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

**6** And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus:

**7** Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man: who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

**8** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

**9** Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set

his eyes on him.

**10** And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

**11** And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

**12** Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

**The Message: As Jesus promised, the Holy Ghost was faithful to direct His followers in spreading the gospel.**

### Questions:

1. Who spoke to the followers of Jesus as they fasted?
2. Who did He say should be separated for a special work?
3. What did they do before they sent these two away?
4. Who also ministered with Saul and Barnabas?
5. The deputy, Sergius Paulus was what kind of man?
6. Why had the deputy called for Barnabas and Saul?
7. Why did the sorcerer withstand Barnabas and Saul?
8. What happened after Saul (Paul) told him he would be blind?
9. What happened when the deputy saw this?

### Verse to Memorize

**As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.**  
**Acts 13:2.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

The church at Antioch continued to prosper. It grew so large that it took several teachers to minister to the people. These teachers often met with Barnabas and Saul to pray for the work of the church. One day as they fasted and prayed the presence of God was felt in a very special way. The Holy Spirit spoke plainly telling them, "Set Barnabas and Saul apart for the special work to which I have called them." They all understood that God wanted Barnabas and Saul to go and preach the good news of Jesus' love to others.

This was a new venture and though the church at Antioch hated to see Barnabas and Saul leave they knew God had a special work for them. After a time of prayer and fasting the leaders laid their hands on the two and sent them on their first missionary trip. John Mark went with them.

The first stopping place was at the island of Cyprus. As soon as they had found a place to stay they went first to one synagogue, then to another, telling the story of Jesus to the Jewish leaders. Then they traveled on across the island until they came to the city of Paphos on the west coast.

Sergius Paulus had been sent by Rome to govern the island and made his home in Paphos, the capitol city. When the governor heard about Barnabas and Saul he sent for them hoping to hear the new doctrine they taught. Saul spoke boldly telling

how Jesus had come to save the people from their sins.

"But a sorcerer named Bar-Jesus who was also called Elymas, began to dispute the truth. Seeing that the devil was using Elymas to keep the truth from the governor, Saul, directed by the Holy Spirit, cried out against him. "You child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness, will you always oppose the ways of the Lord? And now the hand of the Lord is upon you and you will be blind for awhile."

From that moment the man could see nothing and had to ask for someone to lead him about by the hand. The governor looked on in amazement. He knew he had seen the mighty hand of God bring judgment against this rebellious man and he was convinced this was the true God.

The governor believed and was numbered with the Christians. This greatly encouraged the missionaries. God had honored their ministry already and given them the leading man of the island.

As Saul continued to work among the Gentiles he was called Paul, the Roman form of his name. "Saul" was a Jewish name and somehow stood for all he had been as a Jew and Pharisee. "Paul" stood for the new man and his new work. From this time to the very end of his life he used this Roman name in signing all his letters. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**So they, being sent  
forth by the Holy Ghost,  
departed unto Seleucia;  
and from thence they  
sailed to Cyprus. Acts 13:4.**

stowed with the right? No, we don't do such things in the French army. A present is a present, and so I will keep the book. Besides, it can be of good service to me, and without doubt that is what you wish. One does not always have paper on hand in camp, and this little book will be of excellent service in lighting my pipe."

Thereupon he saluted the agent after military style, but in the most comical manner, and went away laughing. He did not go, however, without hearing a warning voice; for the agent called after him in a solemn tone, "Young man, beware what you do for 'It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.'" (Hebrews 10:31.)

When the agent perceived that the others, in consequence of this sad scene, were likewise inclined to scoff, he hastened away, sorely grieved.

Amid many tears he poured forth his heart in intercession for the young soldier: "O Lord," he sighed, "forgive him, for he knows not what he does. O my God, let some word upon which his eye may chance to fall when he opens Thy Holy Book, with its bone and marrow piercing power, penetrate the deepest depths of his conscience, and change his heart. Lord, Lord, enlighten his mind, convert him, save him!"

Soon after, the regiment sailed for the Crimea, and the agent also left Toulon to pursue his calling in other parts of France.

One evening, fifteen months after the above incident, the Bible agent arrived at a small village more than a hundred miles from Toulon. Wary with the trying labors of the day, he sought nourishment and rest in an humble inn. Scarcely had he crossed the threshold, however, when he observed that some sorrowful occurrence must have recently taken place

there. In the dining room ten persons sat at supper, but their expression betokened deep sorrow. In the kitchen, a still sadder scene met his gaze. The members of the family and the servants went about their work in silence. At the fireplace sat an aged woman with bowed head and evidently in the greatest grief. The agent approached her and inquired with sincere sympathy of the cause of their grief, adding some words of comfort.

"Yes, I am in trouble, in deep, trouble," cried the woman, while the tears coursed down her cheeks. "I thank you for the kind words you have just spoken. They have done me good here," and she laid her hand on her heart. "You ask the cause of my grief," she continued. "Alas, but a few hours ago, the joy, I may say, the pride of my life, 'my son,' was consigned to the grave. And what a son!" Here her voice was choked with the deep emotion of her heart.

"Do not grieve so sorely, dear woman," said the agent, himself deeply moved. "Let me read a few words out of a Book which I never open without finding something which fits exactly to every condition in which I find myself." Then he drew a small New Testament out of his pouch, and read the words: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The Holy Ghost. 2. Barnabas and Saul. 3. They fasted and prayed and laid hands on them. 4. John. 5. A prudent man. 6. He wanted to hear the word of God. 7. He did not want the deputy to believe on Jesus. 8. He could not see. 9. He believed.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Mar. 9, 2003

## The Soldier And The New Testament

(Continued from last week.)

*A Bible agent tells of giving a New Testament to a soldier who then said he would use its pages to light his pipe. The agent's parting words warned him of the danger of falling into the hands of the living God. The agent faithfully prayed for the soldier's salvation. Fifteen months later the Bible agent stopped at an inn and noticed the deep grief of those present. He offers words of comfort from his New Testament.*

Scarcely had he read the passage when the woman arose from her chair, with a look of the greatest astonishment. But the young man, who did not seem to notice it, turned back a few pages and continued to read: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16.

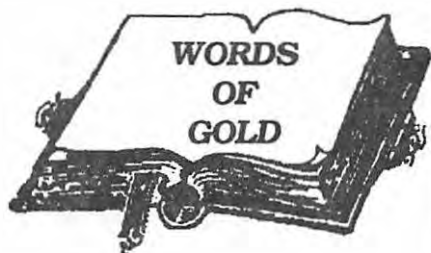
After hearing these words the woman hastened out of the kitchen,

but immediately returned with a small book in her hand. It was the legacy that her son had left; "the most precious," as he said, "that he could bestow upon them." The agent took the little book in order to see what it was. It was a New Testament of the same size and style as the one out of which he had just read. But it was badly soiled and much worn, and many leaves had been torn out. On the inside of the cover was the following inscription in large letters:

"Received at Toulon, (c)(c) 23, 1855. I at first despised and badly used it, but afterwards read it, believed it, and found in it the salvation of my soul. J. L. Fusillier, company 4, of Linien's regiment."

Judging from the condition of the little book, evidently the young soldier had torn out leaves for the purpose of lighting his pipe, as he had boasted on receiving it at Toulon.

But this work of destruction, as his mother related, came to a close one evening before a battle in which his regiment was to take the dangerous position of advance guard. On that evening, he did not know why, solemn thoughts arose in his mind. Suddenly the words of the man of whom he had received the book fell upon his conscience like a thunderbolt. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."



## Mistaken For Gods!

### Acts 14:8-15, 18-22

**8** And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

**9** The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

**10** Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

**11** And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

**12** And they called Barnabas, Jupiter: and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

**13** Then the priests of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

**14** Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

**15** And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

**18** And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they

had not done sacrifice unto them.

**19** And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

**20** Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

**21** And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

**22** Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith,...

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**The Message: Idol worship makes men act and do foolish things. God gives power and a sound mind to those who know and worship Him.**

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### Questions:

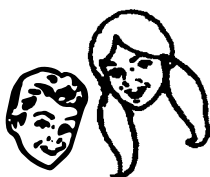
1. What was wrong with the man at Lystra?
2. Who did he hear speak?
3. What did Paul say to him?
4. What did the lame man do?
5. What did the people say when they saw what Paul had done?
6. Who did they call Jupiter?
7. Why did the priests bring oxen and garlands?
8. What did they do to Paul?
9. Why did they drag him out of the city?

### Verse to Memorize

**For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

**II Timothy 1:7.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Paul, Barnabas and John Mark left Paphos and sailed to a place called Perga in Asia Minor. It was a hard trip and they were constantly surrounded by many dangers. At times they were tired, hungry and cold. Young John Mark decided to return to Jerusalem at this time but Paul and Barnabas went on together preaching God's Word from one city to the next until they came to Lystra.

The people of Lystra listened attentively to the disciples as they preached about Christ. Many were won from their idolatry and were numbered with the Christians.

One day while Paul was speaking to a crowd and telling them about the true and living God, he saw a lame man in the throng. This man had been crippled from his birth and had never walked. Something in the sermon touched the man's heart and Paul could see that the Spirit of God was speaking to him. Suddenly Paul looked directly at the crippled man and with a loud voice said, "Stand upright on your feet!"

In a moment the lame man was on his feet, leaping and walking.

The crowd gasped in amazement. They had witnessed a miracle. "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men!" they shouted.

The news spread through the city and mobs gathered to stare at the disciples. They felt their gods, Jupiter and Mercury, had come. Who else could perform such a miracle? They called Barnabas Jupiter. Since Paul was the chief speaker they felt he must be Mercury.

Soon the priests of the temple of Jupiter came bringing oxen and garlands to the disciples. Men and women ran through the streets telling others that the gods had come down to them. A great crowd gathered at the gate, led by the priests, to offer sacrifice to these gods.

When Paul and Barnabas realized that the people were worshipping them they were appalled. They tore their garments as a sign of great anguish and ran among the people shouting. Suddenly the crowd became silent—they must hear what the gods were saying!

"Sirs, why are you doing these things? We also are men of like passions as you, and preach unto you that you should turn from these idols and serve the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein!" they told the people. With all that they were scarcely able to persuade the people that they should not sacrifice to them.

Finally the crowds disbanded. Many still were not certain just how the miracle had happened. The priests led the oxen back to their stalls in the temple. The excitement turned to disappointment. Those who had been loudest in their praise of Paul and Barnabas now began to find fault with them.

Unfortunately some travelers arrived from Antioch and Iconium. Catching sight of the two missionaries they began to say they were frauds and imposters. This was all it took to turn the crowd once more into a howling mob. Now instead of wanting to worship Paul and Barnabas the people wanted to kill them.

Barnabas escaped, but they caught Paul and stoned him. Supposing him to be dead they dragged him out of the city gate and left. But as some of the believers gathered around him Paul opened his eyes, stood up and went right back into Lystra!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

What if I should now fall into His hands," he cried in the anxiety of his soul. This thought haunted him, as he said, throughout the night. As soon as the morning dawned he took the book, which now seemed to have become his accuser, out of his knapsack.

He drew it out in the expectation of finding nothing in it but fearful threats. How astonished he was, while leafing along, to run against such passages as the following: "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that that the world through him might be saved." John 3:17.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28-29.

Especially did the last passage make a deep impression upon him. He revolved the words over and over in his mind, trying to discover their meaning, until the drum awoke him from his meditations.

He quickly put his Testament in the knapsack, took his place and rank in his regiment, and marched to meet the enemy. The engagement did not last long, but it was one of the bloodiest of the campaign. Our young Fusilier was among the many wounded that covered the field of battle. He was taken to a hospital where, for several weeks, he hovered between life and death. But the weeks were not lost to him. The Bible passages, which he had read by twilight on the morning of battle, were, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, active and powerful in his heart. A new light broke upon his soul, and

he was soon able to testify, by his own experience, to the truth of the words, John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

On being removed to another hospital further east, he suffered a relapse in consequence of which he was permitted to return to France. He arrived home about six weeks before the agent's visit. The well-soiled Testament was seldom out of his hand during his sickness. His mouth overflowed with earnest appeals to his mother and his friends, that they, too, might accept Christ and His salvation.

Even to his last gasp, he did not grow weary in exhorting all to accept the free grace of God offered us in Christ Jesus, and thus avoid falling into the hands of the living God.

While the agent listened to these words of the sorrowing mother, he could but lift his heart in prayerful thanks to the Lord, that his prayer for this young soldier had been so graciously heard and so wonderfully answered.

And so he could comfort the sad mother in the joy of his heart, over the salvation of this soul, and entertain the fond hope that she would accept the same salvation—the salvation in which her son had found the forgiveness of sins, righteousness, peace and the hope of everlasting life.

—Pleasant Hours

(Answers: 1. He was a cripple. 2. Paul. 3. "Stand up on your feet!" 4. He leaped and walked. 5. "The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men." 6. Barnabas. 7. To offer sacrifice to Barnabas and Paul. 8. Stoned him. 9. They thought he was dead.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Mar. 16, 2003

## The Conversation Of Nasi

Nasi was a bad and dangerous character. During a great illness that befell him, I ministered to him regularly, but no kindness seemed to move him. When about to leave Aniwa, I went specially to visit him. On parting I said, "Nasi, are you happy? Have you ever been happy?"

He answered gloomily, "No! Never."

I said, "Would you like this dear little boy of yours to grow up like yourself, and lead the life you have lived?"

"No!" he replied warmly. "I certainly would not."

"Then," I continued, "You must become a Christian, and give up all your heathen conduct, or he will just grow up to quarrel and fight and murder as you have done. And, Oh, Nasi, he will curse you through all eternity for leading him to such a life and to such a doom!"

He was very much impressed, but made no response. After we had sailed, a band of our young native Christians held a consultation over the case of Nasi. They said, "We know the burden and terror that Nasi has been to our dear missionary. We know that he has murdered several persons with his own hands and has taken part in the murder of others. Let us unite in daily

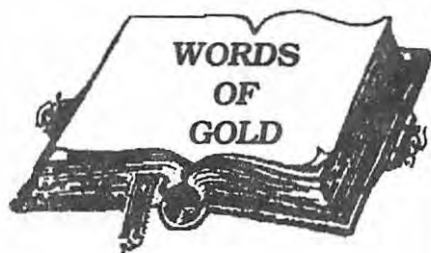
prayer that the Lord would open his heart and change his conduct, and let us set ourselves to win Nasi for Christ just as Missionary tried to win us."

So they began to show him every possible kindness. One after another helped him in his daily tasks embracing every opportunity of pleading with him to yield to Jesus and take the new path of life. At first he repelled them, and sullenly held aloof. But their prayers never ceased and their patient affection continued to grow.

At last, after long waiting, Nasi broke down and cried to one of the teachers, "I can oppose your Jesus no longer. If He can make you treat me like that, I yield myself to Him and to you. I want Him to change me, too. I want a heart like that of Jesus."

He rubbed off the ugly paint from his face and cut off his long heathen hair. He went to the sea and bathed, washing himself clean. And then he came to the Christians and dressed himself in a shirt and a kilt.

The next step was to get a book—his was the translation of the Gospel according to St. John. He eagerly listened to everyone that would read bits of it aloud to him, and his soul seemed to drink in the new ideas. He attended the church and the school most regularly, and could in a very short time read the Gospel for himself. The elders of the church took special pains in instructing him, and after due prepa-



## The Call To Macedonia

**Acts 16:9-19**

**9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

**10** And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

**11** Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia,...

**12** And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

**13** And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

**14** And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

**15** And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

**16** And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met

us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

**17** The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

**18** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

**19** And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

.....  
**The Message: The disciples were careful to follow where the Spirit led them. Their prompt obedience took them to those whose hearts the Spirit had prepared to hear the truth.**  
 .....

### Questions:

1. What appeared to Paul in the night?
2. Where was Paul asked to go?
3. To what chief city did they go?
4. Where did they go for prayer on the sabbath?
5. What woman did they meet there?
6. What did she beg the disciples to do?
7. Who met them as they went to prayer?
8. What did she do day after day?
9. What did Paul do to the spirit of divination?

### Verse to Memorize

**And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils;...**

**Mark 16:17.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

After some time Paul and Barnabas decided to return to Asia Minor to revisit the churches that had been established on their first trip. They wanted to know how these saints were getting along. They knew that the new converts needed all the encouragement that they could get.

Barnabas suggested that they take John Mark along as they had before. But Paul refused because he had deserted them on the last trip. So Barnabas took Mark and boarded a ship destined for Cyprus while Paul chose Silas to travel with him.

They did not stay long in each place. Their mission now was not to establish new congregations. That had already been done and Paul was overjoyed to see how the church in each city had grown since his first visit. He was greatly encouraged.

After visiting these churches Paul and Silas longed to move into territory where the gospel had never been heard before. However as they charted their course to go to Bithynia God let them know that they were not to go there. So Paul and Silas talked things over, then decided to go to Asia, preaching along the way. But the Spirit of God spoke to them very plainly saying they should not preach in Asia. Now they were perplexed and wondered just where God would finally lead them. They traveled through Mysia but were not given an opportunity to preach there. Coming to the port of Troas, Paul and Silas lingered there wondering where the Lord might want them to go.

Day by day Paul and Silas waited.

Then one night as Paul lay sleeping, God spoke to him in a vision. In it he saw a man from Macedonia who begged him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Paul and Silas were soon on their way to Philippi, a chief city of Macedonia.

It was their custom to go to the synagogue in each city but there was no synagogue here because so few Jews lived there. Those who did live there met each Sabbath day for prayer outside the city on the bank of a river. The group was small, consisting mostly of women. The disciples sat down and spoke with these women.

Among the group was Lydia. Her heart was touched by the gospel and she gladly accepted Jesus as her Savior. She was baptized and all her household followed her example. Then she insisted that Paul and Silas stay at her home.

All seemed to be going well when they unexpectedly ran into trouble. There was a poor slave girl who was possessed of an evil spirit. She could tell fortunes and people came to her for her to tell them what would happen in the future. Her master made much money by charging those who came to her.

This girl perceived that Paul and Silas were sent of the Lord. Day after day she would follow them through the streets shouting to the passersby, "These men are the servants of the most high God!"

One day Paul turned to her as she followed and commanded in the name of the Lord Jesus that the evil spirit come out of her. The girl stood still, astonished that she was at last free of the imposition of the devil. How free and happy she felt!

Her masters, however, were furious! These Jews had destroyed their means of livelihood. Seizing Paul and Silas they dragged and pushed them through the streets toward the marketplace.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

ration he was admitted to the Lord's Table—my brother missionary from Tanna baptizing and receiving him. Imagine my joy on learning all this regarding one who had sullenly resisted my appeals for many years, and how my soul praised the Lord who is "Mighty to save!"

During a recent visit to Aniwa, in 1886, I found that Nasi, the murderer, was now a Scripture Reader and able to comment in a wonderful and interesting manner on what he read to the people!

On arriving at the Island after my tour in Great Britain (1884-1885) all the inhabitants of Aniwa seemed to be assembled at the boat landing to welcome me, except Nasi. He was away fishing at a distance and had been sent for but had not yet arrived. On the way to the Mission House, he came rushing to meet me. He grasped my hand and kissed it and burst into tears.

I said, "Nasi, do I now at last meet you as a Christian?"

He warmly answered, "Yes, Missionary; I now worship and serve the only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Bless God, I am a Christian at last!"

My soul went out with a silent cry, "Oh that the men at home who discuss and doubt about the conversion and the new heart, and the power of Jesus to change and save, could but look on Nasi, and spell out the simple lesson—He that created us at first by His power can create us anew by His love!"

—John Patton, *A Missionary to South Sea Cannibals*

## A Bird's Eye View

Again he refused to accompany his wife and children to church that Sunday morning. In his mind the man rehearsed the doubts that caused him to reject God: "If God is so perfect and great, why would He care about helping us? If God is so powerful, why would He make His Son become a

human being? Why would He stoop so low to help us...if God is really so great."

The house was silent except for the sound of the logs crackling in the fireplace. From the other end of the house came a strange thump. The man put down his paper and walked down the hall. Outside the window huddled a group of birds. They had flown into the windowpane and fallen to the ground. Confused, they huddled together in the snow.

The man felt sorry for the birds. He thought to himself, "The birds could go in our barn and they'd be warm there."

So he went outside and opened the door to the barn. Then he waited in the cold. The birds didn't move.

"I know, I'll shoo them over to the barn door," the man thought. But as he tried the birds simply scattered.

The man had one last plan. He went back in the house and got a loaf of bread. Carefully, he tore off pieces of bread and made a path to the barn door. But the birds just huddled closer together, ignoring the gift of life that the man was offering. Stumped, the man stood looking at the birds, wondering just what it would take to get them to safety.

He thought to himself, "If only I could become a bird and lead them to safety, then they wouldn't have to die." He stopped and thought about it again. And he finally understood. That is exactly what God did when He sent His Son to earth! —Author Unknown

(Answers: 1. A vision. 2. To Macedonia. 3. Philippi. 4. Out of the city by a river side. 5. Lydia. 6. To stay at her house. 7. A girl possessed with a spirit of divination. 8. Cried after the disciples as she followed them. 9. Commanded it to come out in the name of Jesus Christ.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS649-000) Part 12 Mar. 23, 2003

## CUFF-True Story Of A Negro Slave

Cuff was a Negro slave who lived in the South before the Civil War. He was a joyful Christian and a faithful servant. His master, however, was in need of money and one morning a young planter, who was an infidel, came to buy Cuff. The price was agreed upon and the Christian slave was sold to the infidel. When parting with him the master said, "You will find Cuff a good worker and you can trust him; he will suit you in every respect but one."

"And what is that?" said the master.

"He will pray and you can't break him of it, but that is his only fault."

"I'll soon whip that out of him," remarked the infidel.

"I fear not," said the former master, "and would not advise you to try it; he would rather die than give it up."

Cuff proved faithful to the new master, the same as he had to the old. The master soon got word that he had been praying. He called him and said, "Cuff, you must not pray anymore; we can't have any praying around here; never let me hear any more about this nonsense."

Cuff replied, "Oh Master, I love to pray to Jesus, and when I pray I love you and Missus all the more, and can work all the harder for you."

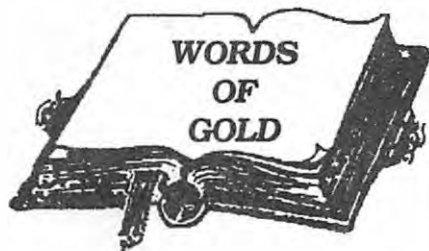
But he was sternly forbidden ever to pray any more under penalty of severe flogging. That evening when the day's work was done he talked to his God, like Daniel of old, as he had aforetime. Next morning he was summoned to appear before his master, who demanded of him why he had disobeyed him.

"Oh, Master, I have to pray. I can't live without it," said Cuff. At this the master flew into a terrible rage and ordered Cuff to be tied to the whipping post, and his shirt off. He then applied the rawhide with all the force he possessed, until his young wife ran out in tears and begged him to stop.

The man was so infuriated that he threatened to punish her next if she did not leave him, then continued to apply the lash until his strength was exhausted. Then he ordered the bleeding back washed in salt water and the shirt put on and the poor slave to be about his work.

Cuff went away singing in a groaning voice: "My suffering time will soon be o'er, When I shall sigh and weep no more."

He worked faithfully all that day, though in much pain, as the blood oozed out from his back where the lash had made long, deep furrows. Meantime, God was working on the master. He saw his wickedness and cruelty to that poor soul whose only fault had been his fidelity, and conviction seized



## Singing In Jail

**Acts 16:19-20, 22-34**

**19** And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

**20** And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

**22** ...And the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

**23** And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

**24** Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

**25** And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

**26** And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

**27** And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

**28** But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

**29** Then he called for a light, and

sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

**30** And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

**31** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

**32** And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

**33** And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

**34** And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

**The Message: When we do the will of God we can rejoice even in trouble, knowing that He has allowed it and is with us.**

### Questions:

1. What did the magistrates do to Paul and Silas?
2. Who did they charge to keep the disciples safely?
3. What did he do to accomplish this?
4. What did the prisoners hear at midnight?
5. How were the doors all opened and everyone's bands loosed?
6. Why was the keeper of the prison going to kill himself?
7. How did Paul prevent him from doing this?
8. What did the keeper ask the disciples?

### Verse to Memorize

**And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.**

**Acts 16:25.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

An angry mob pushed and dragged Paul and Silas along the city streets. As they shoved them in front of the magistrates they shouted, "These men are Jews who are causing great trouble in our city!"

Without any trial or further questions the magistrates tore off the disciples' clothes and then commanded that they be beaten. As they cringed with pain the blows fell on their bare backs until they were bruised and bleeding.

Paul and Silas were then led to the prison and handed over to the jailer. Special orders to keep these prisoners secure made the jailer extra cautious. He led them into the inner dungeon then fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight the other prisoners heard strange sounds. They were used to hearing moaning and curses, but someone was singing! While they were still trying to make out the words they suddenly heard a low rumbling sound that grew louder and louder. The ground began to tremble and soon the floor buckled and heaved. Then part of the ceiling fell with a crash and the doors were wrenched from their hinges. The stocks broke loose as the walls crumbled. The very foundations of the great dungeon were broken up!

The jailer woke up with shock and leaping from his bed wondered if any of his prisoners had escaped. His first glance confirmed his worst fears; the doors were wide open or torn from their hinges. He quickly

pulled his sword from its sheath. It was better to end it all now rather than face a trial and public execution later.

In the glow of torchlight Paul saw him put his sword to his throat. A voice out of the darkness startled the jailer. "Don't harm yourself," the voice said loud and clear, "We are all here."

Trembling, the jailer reached for his torch and sprang into the dungeon where he fell at Paul and Silas' feet greatly shaken. Bringing them out of the damaged prison he exclaimed, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Gladly Paul told him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, and all your family."

Taking them to his home where his wife and children were, the jailer washed the disciples' bloody backs. That night Paul talked to them all about Jesus. Before the day dawned a whole family had become Christians and were baptized one by one.

Returning to the jailer's home a good meal was prepared and served to Paul and Silas. Together they rejoiced knowing that their sins were forgiven. They marveled at God's great love. He had caused a terrible earthquake and because of it they heard the good news of Jesus and salvation!

At daybreak the magistrates sent messengers telling the jailer to free Paul and Silas. Quickly he gave this message to the two disciples knowing they would be glad.

But Paul's response was not as he expected. "They have beaten us publicly even though we were not condemned of any crime," Paul said boldly. "We are Romans, yet we were thrown into prison without a trial. Now do they want us to leave secretly? No way! Let them come themselves and release us."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

upon him. By night he was in great distress of mind. Such was his agony at midnight that he awoke his wife and told her that he was dying.

"Shall I call in a doctor?" she said.

"No, no; I don't want a doctor—is there anyone on the plantation that can pray for me? I am afraid that I am going to hell."

"I don't know of anyone," said his wife, "except the slave you punished this morning."

"Do you think he would pray for me?" he anxiously inquired.

"Yes, I think he would," she replied. "We'll send for him quickly."

They went after Cuff and found him on his knees in prayer. He supposed it was to be punished again.

He was taken to the master's room where he was writhing in agony. The master groaning, said "Oh Cuff, can you pray for me?"

"Yes, bless the Lord, Master, I've been praying for you all night," and he dropped on his knees and, like Jacob of old, wrestled in prayer. And before the breaking of day he witnessed the conversion of both master and mistress.

Master and slave embraced. Race differences and past cruelty were swept away by the love of God and tears of joy were mingled. Cuff was immediately set free. He never worked another day on the plantation. The master took Cuff and went out to preach the Gospel. They traveled all over the South, witnessing to the power of Christ to save to the uttermost. This is what the love of God will do for a person.

—Selected

## The Bum

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church. As I got closer, I saw a man leaning up

against the wall outside the church. He was almost lying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all gathered for fellowship for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man lying outside. People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later church began. We all waited for the preacher to take his place and to give us the Word when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit. He took off his hat and coat. My heart sank.

There stood our preacher, he was the "homeless man." No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand. "Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today." Then he started singing the words to this song. "If I can help somebody as I pass along; If I can cheer somebody with a word or song; If I can show somebody that he's traveling wrong, Then my living shall not be in vain."

—Selected

(Answers: 1. Tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten. 2. The jailor. 3. He threw them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 4. Paul and Silas praying and singing praises to God. 5. By a great earthquake. 6. He supposed all the prisoners had escaped. 7. He called out, "Do not harm yourself. We are all here!" 8. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?")

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Mar. 30, 2003

## The Pearl Of Great Price

How would you feel if you bought a \$19,300 diamond for a dollar bill? I think you would feel quite happy. You might be delirious with joy!

Mrs. Shirley Martin, whose husband is a postman, bought a dollar box of buttons from a Salvation Army thrift store in Vancouver, B.C. Two weeks later, while going through the box, she found a diamond. Gemologist Hans Reymer appraised the stone at \$19,300. It measured about three-eighths of an inch across! Late one night, while her husband was asleep, Shirley Martin discovered the gem. She went into the bedroom and woke her husband. "Look," she said, "I've found a diamond!" "Oh, you've always got some crazy idea," he said.

There is another Precious Stone—the Pearl of Great Price. You may find Him. There is no cost to you, not even a dollar bill! Jesus said, "If any man thirst (for true riches), let him come unto me, and drink." (John 7:37.)

However, when you find Him, there may be people, perhaps your own friends or loved ones, who will think you have a crazy idea. But Paul said, "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Timothy 1:7.)

Shirley Martin took the diamond to twelve different jewelers. One ap-

praised it at forty-nine cents! He told her it was a synthetic diamond made in Sweden and of no value!

Half the jewelers said it was not a genuine diamond," said Mrs. Martin. "But the others," she continued, "just shook when they held it."

Perhaps half the people who talk about Christ and appraise Him do not accept Him as the Son of God. They will not acknowledge His immaculate conception, His virgin birth, or His resurrection from the dead. But the others, those who do accept Him, tremble with sheer joy as they behold Him. They know He is genuine!

Mrs. Martin said, "All the facets of the diamond shone. It was alive! I grew attached to it." Likewise you will grow attached to Christ. There is none like Him. He is beyond comparison! He said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore,..." (Revelation 1:18.)

When Shirley Martin took the diamond to one of the jewelers, the jeweler thought it might be stolen property. He called the police. The city police investigated the find, then the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were called in. At first the police were suspicious. When they were satisfied that the diamond was not stolen, Mrs.



## Mars Hill

Acts 17:16,19-20, 22-25, 28-32

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

19 And they took him,...saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?

20 For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

The Message: Paul was anxious to introduce everyone to the true God, the Creator of all the universe. He pitied those who worshiped dumb idols that could not give them eternal life.

Questions:

1. Where was Paul?
2. Why was his heart stirred?
3. Where did Paul preach to the people?
4. What was written on one of the altars?
5. What did he tell them God made?
6. In whom do we live and move and have our being?
7. How should we know that God is not like images that men make?
8. What does God command all men to do?
9. While some mocked, what did others do when they heard of the resurrection of the dead?

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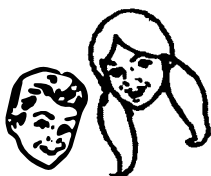
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# Let's



## Talk . . .

The believers knew Paul and Silas were in great danger, especially Paul. A band of zealous Israelites from Thessalonica had launched an attack specifically aimed at Paul because they considered him to be the leader of the believers. Fearing that he would be the victim of another vicious assault they had Paul set sail at once for Athens.

Silas felt reasonably safe so he stayed on in Thessalonica. It was agreed that Silas would join Paul in Athens as soon as his work was done.

So his friends left Paul alone in Athens, one of the most beautiful cities of the world. The people here were well educated. There were many temples and works of art. Along every street and in every square could be seen statues and altars; shrines built for the worship of many gods. Paul marveled as he read the inscriptions and admired the beauty of the statuary, much of it done by some of the greatest workmen in marble. But his heart was stirred with pity as he thought of the blindness of the Athenian people.

Here the people worshiped heathen gods and there were idols everywhere. He was grieved by the blindness of these educated people. He felt sad because the people did not know the true God of Heaven.

On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue to preach the gospel to his own countrymen first. It seemed no one was interested in hearing about the great salvation Jesus had

provided through His cruel death. Discouraged, Paul left the synagogue and began to preach in the streets and at the marketplaces where the crowds gathered.

Occasionally sincere people would ask him questions about the gospel. As he taught them a curious crowd would gather to listen. It was hard for them to understand about Jesus and His resurrection. They thought that Paul spoke about a strange god from another land. Many of them loved to argue and spent the whole day going from one philosopher to another in an attempt to hear some new doctrine that could become popular in Athens for a season.

The great men of Athens heard about Paul and wanted to meet him and hear what he had to say. These men took Paul to a hill that overlooked Athens. This place was called Mar's Hill. It was one of the most sacred spots in all Athens. Here the great men of Athens met to make important decisions. Around Paul gathered artists, poets and the wise men of Athens, all interested in hearing something new.

Paul begged God for wisdom as he said, "You men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are too superstitious. As I passed by and watched your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.' This is the God that I declare unto you!"

He had the full attention of the audience at once. They leaned forward to catch every word he spoke as he continued, "God made the world and everything in it. Since He is Lord of heaven and earth He does not live in temples of stone that men make."

Then as he went on to tell them about Jesus, the wise men shook their heads doubtfully. Others mocked, but some said, "We would like to hear more about this!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Martin was permitted to keep it. Where it came from is still a mystery!

Paul said, "Behold, I show you a mystery." The whole of the gospel story is a mystery. Who can explain God? His workings? His plan of redemption? His coming again? But the fact remains: the Pearl of Great Price is yours to have and hold. Then one day the mystery will be cleared up. John said, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2.)

What a find! A \$19,300 diamond in a box of old buttons! Yet Christ, the pearl of Great Price, has also been found in many strange places.

A diver was convicted of his sins and accepted Christ as his Saviour while working on the bottom of the ocean.

A workman who fell off a bridge received Christ into his heart while falling through the air. He lived to tell about it and was true to his testimony.

And you, too, may find Christ, the Pearl of Great Price, while going through your button box or while working in the garden. Just sincerely believe and you will find Him! He will find you! —Selected

~~~~~

A German lady visited in our home. She had been born in Germany and the doctrines of Anti-Semitism under Hitler had been instilled in her in early youth. She hated the Jews. She said she so despised them she felt she could spit in their faces. They were despicable, intolerable to her. Racial hatred was burning like a fire in her heart, and the people she hated most were the Jews. Then, later, a wonderful transformation came into her life.

She gave away her jewelry, in-

cluding her wedding ring, to a mission to the Jews to be turned into currency for Jewish relief work and evangelization. What had brought to pass such a right-about-face, such a drastic change in the heart and life of the woman? Nobody had instructed her. She had not been advised to sell her possessions of jewelry.

Instead of hatred—love! Instead of bitterness—compassion! Instead of unkind and cruel words—words of blessing! What had done it? The gospel of Jesus Christ! Although at the time of her conversion she was living in Canada (a democratic land), there had not been a change in her heart and life until Christ had come to abide. Then the miracle had taken place overnight! Instantaneously!

You tell me Christ does not change lives and I present to you our German visitor. Perhaps you question whether or not there is anything to the Christian faith. Show me anything (or anybody) that can change a heart from bitterest hatred to love overnight—love so compelling that the most cherished possessions are freely given to the people once hated—and I will believe. Won't you? The gospel can and does do it! God's atomic force is love!

Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16.)

—*Tall Tales That Are True* by Arthur H. Townsend

(Answers: 1. At Athens. 2. He saw that the entire city worshiped idols. 3. On Mar's hill. 4. TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. 5. The world and everything in it. 6. In God. 7. Because we are made in His image. 8. Repent. 9. They said they wanted to hear more about this.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 April 6, 2003

## Missionary To The Cannibals

There are real heroes of history who were spiritual giants. In addition to those recorded in the Bible there are many others that, through a life fully consecrated to God, were used by Him to defy death and demons and overcome powerful enemies. Through their faithfulness God was able to prove His mighty power and overthrow the powers of darkness and evil. They trusted God to fulfil His promises and He never failed them. The first such man that we will study is John G. Paton.

John G. Paton was born in Scotland on May 24, 1824. He was the oldest of eleven children. When still less than twelve years of age he started learning his father's trade of making stockings. He worked from six in the morning till ten at night with an hour off at dinnertime and half an hour off for breakfast and again at supper.

These spare moments he devoutly spent studying every day. Even at that young age he had given his life to God and purposed to become a missionary or a minister of the Gospel.

Operating a stocking frame was hard work for a boy so young but Paton himself said that what he learned making stockings was not

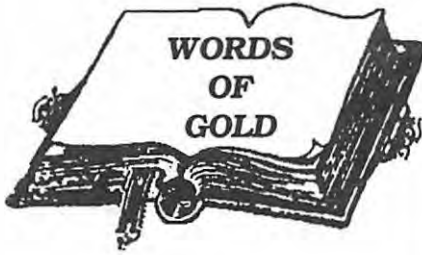
wasted. The skill of using tools and of watching and keeping the machinery in order was of great value to him when he was on the foreign mission field.

Paton was blessed to have a godly father. From him he learned to love and trust God while he was still very young. When he was older he told how his father, James Paton, would go into his "prayer closet" three times a day. When he came out his face seemed to shine.

Family worship was a special time for Paton. His father would gather the family around him and read the Bible. Then they would kneel in prayer asking for God's protection and thanking Him for His many blessings. He wrote, "As we rose from our knees, I used to look at the light on my Father's face and wish I were like him in spirit."

Paton's mother also taught the children the power of a godly life. There was a time when the family, along with all their neighbors, was in deep need. The potato crop had failed and the other crops were poor. They had no food and no money to buy from others.

Their father had gone off with stockings to sell in a distant town. He planned to return by the next evening with money and supplies. But meanwhile there was no food. Their mother did not want to let any one know or



## The Tentmakers

**Acts 18:1-5, 8-11, 18-19, 24-26**

1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth:

2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla;...

3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

5 ...and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

18 And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila;...

19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

---

**The Message: Paul gave his whole life to the spread of the gospel. Although he was an educated man and a mighty preacher yet he was also a tentmaker. He was willing and able to work for his own living when it was necessary.**

---

### Questions:

1. Where did Paul go after he left Athens?
2. Who did he meet there?
3. What was their occupation?
4. What did Paul testify to the Jews every Sabbath?
5. Who believed on the Lord with all his house?
6. Who spoke to Paul one night by a vision?
7. What did He tell Paul?
8. How long did Paul stay in Corinth?
9. Who was "mighty in the scriptures?"

### Verse to Memorize

**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

**I Corinthians 15:58.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Paul left Athens and went to Corinth, the capital of Achaia. While he waited for Timothy and Silas to come to him he looked for a job. Paul was raised up to be a strict Pharisee and had Gamaliel, the best teacher in Jerusalem, for his instructor. It was the custom of the Jews to teach all their children some trade by which they could earn a living. So along with his religious training and education, Paul learned to be a tentmaker.

Walking along the streets of Corinth he found the workshop of a tentmaker and went in. The owner's name was Aquila. He was a Jewish refugee who was forced to leave Rome when the Emperor Claudius Caesar banished all Jews from that city. Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, had established their tentmaking business in Corinth only a few weeks before Paul walked into their shop.

Aquila was glad to have extra help and because Paul was a Jew, Priscilla let him have a place to stay in their home. After some days together, Aquila grew to like Paul and to admire his skill in his work. He could listen hour after hour as Paul told of the wonderful experiences he had passed through and how God had brought him safely over many rough places, even delivering him from prison!

It was amazing to Aquila and his wife that this man sitting in their workshop had once been a rabbi who bitterly persecuted the followers of Jesus. The more they learned

about him the more they admired his courage and dedication to God. As they worked they talked about the power of the gospel and all that Jesus accomplished through His life and death. The Lord definitely led Paul to this wonderful couple. Years later he referred to them as "my helpers in Christ Jesus."

Paul was glad when Silas and Timothy finally joined him in Corinth. He was led by the Spirit to speak more boldly in the synagogue declaring to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. But when the Jews withstood him and raised great opposition to him, blaspheming the name of Jesus, he turned from them with the warning that their blood would be upon their own heads.

"From henceforth," he told them, "I will go unto the Gentiles!"

However, there were some Jews who believed. He had the great joy of winning Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, to Christ. It was encouraging to see him come with his wife and children to be baptized publicly as a sign to his friends that he had surrendered his life to Jesus.

Then the Lord appeared to Paul to further encourage him. One night a vision of the Lord appeared to him. "Be not afraid," the Lord said, "but speak, and hold not thy peace. For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee. For I have much people in this city."

Paul diligently obeyed the Lord. For a year and a half he preached the gospel in Corinth to all that would listen. Many believers were added to the church.

Finally Paul decided to return to Jerusalem. When he got ready to sail, Aquila and Priscilla went with him as far as Ephesus. There they proved a blessing to the believers.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

ask anyone for help. She insisted that the children go on to bed, assuring them that she had told God everything and that He would send them plenty in the morning.

And she was not disappointed. The next day a present came from her father who knew nothing of their need. God had impressed him to send a "love-offering" to his daughter and it came just in the nick of time. It was a bag of new potatoes, flour and home-made cheese. Their need was well supplied!

When his mother saw the children's surprise at such an answer to her prayers she took them around her knees and thanked God for His goodness. Then she said to them: "O my children, love your heavenly Father, tell Him in faith and prayer all your needs and He will supply your wants so far as it shall be for your good and His glory."

So it was not some minister or evangelist or Sunday school teacher but his own parents who led Paton to God. Most importantly they taught him the reality of the text, "Lo, I am with you always" by their own lives. Through his whole life and career Paton relied on that one promise. He proved its power and validity to the utmost.

Paton was still young when the Lord said to him, "Go across the seas as the messenger of My love," adding the precious promise "Lo, I am with you." Christ was leading him into a wider sphere of work and training, and he was determined to follow.

It was hard to leave the happy home but finally the day came that he must leave. It was about forty miles to the place where he would take a train to Glasgow. He could not afford to travel by stagecoach so he walked that forty miles. All his possessions were tied up in a large handkerchief but he did not think of himself as

poor. He had his Bible and he knew that his Lord was with him.

His father walked with him the first six miles. Paton never forgot his father's words of counsel mingled with tears that he gave as they walked along. At length they both lapsed into silence. The father carried his hat in his hand, praying silently while hot tears flowed freely. When they reached the appointed parting place, they clasped hands and the father said with deep emotion, "God bless you, my son! Your father's God prosper you and keep you from all evil!" Unable to say more his lips kept moving in silent prayer. In tears they embraced then turned to go their separate ways.

Continuing down the road past a curve, Paton climbed the dyke for one last look at his dear father. His father had also climbed the dyke hoping for one more glimpse of his boy. The old father's eyes were so dim they could not see his son so he climbed down and started for home, his head still bared and his heart offering up fervent supplications.

"I watched through blinding tears," Paton said in his autobiography, "till his form faded from my gaze and then, hastening on my way, vowed deeply and oft, by the help of God, to live and act so as never to grieve or dishonor such a father and mother as He had given me." Even years later when Paton was tempted to do wrong just the thought of his godly father served as a guardian angel to keep him from evil.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. To Corinth. 2. Aquila and Priscilla. 3. They were tentmakers. 4. That Jesus was Christ. 5. Crispus. 6. The Lord. 7. "Be not afraid." 8. One year and six months. 9. Apollos.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 April 13, 2003

## Called To Be A Missionary

(Continued from last week.)

It was hard for John Paton to leave his home and family but he felt that God was calling him to work for Him. This meant that he needed special training, especially if he was called to go as a missionary to some foreign field.

So he left his home to study in Glasgow. Along with his studies during the following years he was also very busy distributing tracts, teaching school and working as a city missionary in a degraded section of Glasgow. He realized that simply going to a foreign land would not turn him into a missionary. To be a missionary means, above all else, to be a soul-winner.

Paton was constantly seeking to win the lost around him. Among those he led to Christ from the slums of Glasgow were eight boys who later became ministers.

Young Paton kept hearing about the plight of the perishing heathen in the South Seas. For two years the church had been advertising for a missionary to go to the New Hebrides to join the missionary who was working in that needy field. He felt a deep desire to offer himself for that work and felt God was leading that way so he made it the supreme subject of his

daily meditation and prayer.

The Lord kept impressing him, "Since no one better qualified has volunteered, rise and offer yourself" He had an almost overpowering impulse to answer aloud, "Here am I, send me." But he was dreadfully afraid that he might be mistaking his mere human emotions for the will of God. He resolved to make it a subject of close deliberation and prayer for a few days longer—he must be very sure that God would be with him if he accepted such a dangerous mission!

Paton realized that his experience and studies had specially qualified him in some ways for the foreign field. Carefully considering all the facts he was finally convinced that it was indeed the voice from God encouraging him to go as a missionary to help with the work in the New Hebrides Islands.

When Paton offered himself to go, Dr. Bates, secretary of the Heathen Missions Committee, cried for joy. He went back to his room with a lighter heart than he had enjoyed for some time. He said, "There is nothing that so clears the vision and lifts up the life as a decision to move forward in what you know to be entirely the will of the Lord."

When he saw his friend, Joseph Copeland, he told him, "I have offered myself as a missionary for the New Hebrides."



## Seven Sons of Sceva

Acts 19:1-6, 8-10, 13-17

1 ...Paul...came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months,...

9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to

call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them...so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 ...And fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

**The Message: There is a sovereign power in the name of Jesus, which could not be imitated by these lying exorcists. The name of Jesus must never be used lightly!**

### Questions:

1. What did Paul ask the disciples at Ephesus?
2. Who baptized with the baptism of repentance?
3. In whose name were these disciples baptized?
4. What happened when Paul laid his hands on them?
5. What did the exorcists say to the evil spirit?
6. What did the evil spirit answer?
7. What did the man with the evil spirit do to the seven?
8. What did the seven do?
9. Whose name was magnified?

### Verse to Memorize

**Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**

**Exodus 20:7.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

When Paul arrived in Ephesus he was happy to find so many that believed in Jesus. He asked them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?"

"We did not even know there was a Holy Spirit," the people answered. When they heard that they must be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus they were glad to obey. Paul then laid his hands on these twelve believers and prayed. The Holy Spirit came on them, enabling them to speak in different languages so they could witness to others also.

For three months Paul boldly preached that Jesus was the Son of God in the synagogue in Ephesus. But many were not willing to believe in Jesus and change their wicked lives, and they were determined that others would not believe either. They said many evil things against Paul, Jesus and the way of salvation.

These enemies were so disruptive Paul saw it would be best to teach the people somewhere else. So leaving the synagogue he took the believers to a school nearby. Here he taught them every day for two years. Under his teaching the church in Ephesus flourished and grew until the gospel of Christ Jesus became known throughout the entire city and the country round about. Many believed in Jesus and were baptized.

For hundreds of years Ephesus had been the site of the beautiful temple of Diana.

In the center of this great temple was a secret chamber that contained

the wooden figure of a woman, black with age. This was Diana the goddess of the Ephesians. The story had been passed from generation to generation that this idol had fallen down from the sky! The idol was hideous to look at but it was kept hidden out of sight behind a great curtain and millions of people actually believed the idol had come from heaven and worshipped it!

While Paul taught in this town of idol worship he worked miracles in the name of Jesus. He healed many that were sick. Some were too sick to be brought to Paul so their friends brought handkerchiefs and aprons for Paul to touch. Then they took these back and prayerfully laid these on those who were sick and the sick were made well! God gave Paul authority to do these things to show the people that His mighty power was greater than the magic of Diana or her followers.

The people were amazed at God's great power. Many wished they could also do such wonders. One day seven brothers who were magicians watched as Paul healed the sick and cast out evil spirits. They quickly learned the words he used. At the first opportunity they tried to imitate him. When they found a man with an evil spirit they said, "We command you to come out in the name of Jesus whom Paul preaches."

But the power of God was not in their words and instead of the evil spirit leaving it spoke, saying, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"

Then, with the superhuman strength of the devil, the possessed man jumped on the seven magicians and tore their clothes from their backs, bruising and beating all seven of them in his fury! The terrified men ran out of the house to escape with their lives.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

After a long and silent meditation in which he seemed lost in far-wandering thoughts, his friend answered, "If they will accept of me, I am also resolved to go!"

This seemed too good to be true! Quickly they sat down together and wrote a letter stating that he was also willing to go to New Hebrides as a missionary.

Next morning Dr. Bates called on them early. After a long conversation he commended them and their future work to the Lord God in fervent prayer. Then, at a meeting of the Foreign Missions Committee held immediately after this, they were both formally accepted on condition that they successfully passed the usual examinations required of candidates for the ministry.

Almost everyone else, however, thought it was very foolish for promising young men to go to live among the cruel and uncivilized natives of the islands of the South Pacific. One old man exclaimed, "The cannibals! You will be eaten by cannibals!"

"Mr. Dixon," John Paton answered boldly, "you are advanced in years now and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave there to be eaten by worms. I confess to you that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether my body is eaten by cannibals or by worms."

On April 2, 1858 John Paton married Mary Ann Robson. Only 14 days later, accompanied by Mr. Joseph Copeland, they both said farewell to their home in Scotland and set sail for the South Pacific in spite of the news that the previous missionaries had been murdered and eaten by cannibals. In Paton's heart a song kept singing that included the precious words, "Lo, I am with you all the way."

I committed my future to the Lord God of my father," he says, "assured that in my very heart I was anxious to

serve Him and to follow the blessed Saviour."

The new missionaries first landed on the island of Tanna in the southern part of the New Hebrides, on November 5, 1858 and built a small house at Port Resolution. In those days this was a purely cannibal island. Surrounded by painted savages whose lives were ruled by superstitions and the cruelties of heathenism at its worst, Paton's faith in his text was severely tried. But God had promised to always be with him—even on this island.

Soon after landing they saw scores of armed men rushing by in great excitement. They had feathers in their twisted hair and their faces were painted in the most grotesque manner. The discharge of muskets in the bush near by and the horrible yells of the savages soon made it clear that they were engaged in deadly, bloody fighting. The next day the missionaries were informed that five men had been killed, cooked and eaten by the victorious party!

These Tannese natives worshiped hosts of stone idols and sacred charms. Their worship was altogether a service of fear. Not knowing the true God Who is love, they were constantly trying to appease some evil spirit. They felt they must do this in order to prevent calamity or else to get revenge on some enemy. They also offered frequent gifts to their sacred men, wizards and witches believing that these men were able to remove sickness or to cause it.

(To be continued in Part 4.)

(Answers: 1. "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" 2. John. 3. In the name of the Lord Jesus. 4. They received the Holy Ghost. 5. "We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth." 6. "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" 7. Leaped on them. 8. Ran out of the house naked and wounded. 9. Jesus.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 April 20, 2003

## Nan's Easter Lily

"An Easter lily! An Easter lily!" Nan kept repeating it softly to herself as she left the broad, clean street where the church stood and entered the crowded tenement district where the place she called home was located.

This had been her first day at Sunday school. As she climbed the stairs that led to the room she and her mother occupied at the very top, her mind was far away from the dirt and poverty all around her. She was thinking of the sweet-voiced lady who had told them about Easter and of a wonderful Being who had died on the cross in order that other lives might be made purer and sweeter.

"Did you ever see an Easter lily, Mother?" Nan asked as she slowly crossed the room to where her mother was preparing their frugal dinner.

A far-away look came into the tired eyes of the woman as she raised her head from the pan in which she was warming over some scraps of meat and potatoes.

"Yes, I saw one once," she said slowly, "but it is so long ago that I had almost forgotten it. I only remember that it was a beautiful white blossom that stood between green leaves and that smelled very sweet."

Nan's eyes glowed and she clasped her hands together almost as if in prayer. "I'm going to have one next

Sunday, Mother; one of those beautiful white blossoms," she exclaimed in a low, awed tone. "It's going to be in a flower pot and I'm going to set it in the window."

Nan's mother had turned again to her task of preparing dinner and to lay a strip of white cloth over the table.

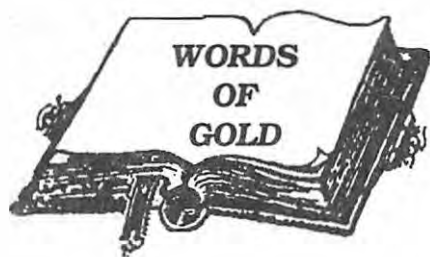
"I've got to earn that lily," she said at last, voicing her thoughts aloud. "What can you do to earn it?" her mother questioned.

"I've got to get another child to go to Sunday school," Nan answered. "Jimmie Kane, maybe. The teacher said the lame and the blind used to crowd to hear the man she called Jesus. Sure, Jimmie's lame enough. I hope it will be one of his well days so he can limp there. He has broken his crutch, you know."

The day that Nan carried Jimmie his invitation was not one of his "well days," however, and he lay in bed with a red spot on each hollow cheek.

"I'll be there, Nan, if I have to crawl," he promised, his eyes shining. Although he might not have a lily for his own, he could see them and smell their fragrance, Nan assured him. "The reason I'm to have one will be 'cause I got a new Sunday school scholar," she explained.

Fortune favored Jimmie, however, and he made a very respectable entrance into Sunday school with his



## Jesus Is Risen!

### Mark 16:1-14

**1** And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

**2** And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

**3** And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

**4** And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

**5** And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment: and they were affrighted.

**6** And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen: he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

**7** But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

**8** And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre: for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

**9** Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

**10** And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

**11** And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

**12** After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

**13** And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

**14** Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

**The Message: Jesus told His disciples He would be raised from the dead. As proof He appeared to them many times after His resurrection.**

### Questions:

1. What time of day did the women come to the sepulchre?
2. What had covered the door of the sepulchre?
3. What did they see when they entered the sepulchre?
4. Where did he say they would see Jesus?
5. Why did the women run from the sepulchre?
6. Who did Jesus appear to first?
7. What had Jesus done for Mary?
8. To whom did Jesus appear next?
9. Last of all He appeared to whom?

### Verse to Memorize

**And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.  
Luke 18:33.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Today is Easter, the day on which Christians commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We celebrate the birth of our Savior at Christmas. This was a most wonderful event. But Christ's resurrection was an even greater event. God showed His exceedingly great love and power when He raised Jesus from the dead after He had lain in the tomb three days.

Jesus told His disciples that He would be crucified, adding that after three days He would rise again. They could not bear the thought of their Master being taken away from them so they pushed His words from their minds; forgetting that He had added, "After three days I will rise again."

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and followers numerous times and in miraculous ways. He gave them positive proof that He had indeed risen from the dead and was alive.

Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus after He arose from the grave. She hurried to tell the others but they did not believe her words. Next Jesus came up to two disciples as they walked into the country. They too rushed to tell the others the good news. They had seen the Lord! But they did not believe them either.

Finally Jesus appeared to the eleven apostles as they were eating. He scolded them because they did not believe the others when they told them they had seen Jesus. Finally they realized that Jesus was indeed alive!

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*Bishop Thoburn was once asked*

*by an unbeliever, "Surely you do not accept the theory that a Jewish teacher, dead for nearly two thousand years, is alive today?"*

*The bishop quietly but confidently replied, "I know He is, for I have been talking with Him this morning."*

*To him the most convincing proof of the resurrection was daily communion with the living Savior.*

\*\*\*\*\*

I was going down a street in Chicago when in a window I saw a very beautiful picture of the crucifixion. As I gazed spellbound at the vividly pictured story, I suddenly became conscious that at my side stood a street urchin. He, too, was gazing and his tense expression made me know that "The Crucifixion" had really gripped his little soul. Touching him on the shoulder, I said, "Sonny, what does it mean?"

"Doncha know?" he asked, his face full of marvel at my ignorance. "That there man is Jesus and them others is Roman soldiers and the woman that's cryin' is His mother, and," he added, "they killed Him."

I was loath to leave that window but I could not tarry always at the world's tragedy so I turned and walked quietly down the street. In a moment I heard pattering footsteps at my heels and there stood my little street urchin. "Say, mister," he breathlessly announced, "I fergot to tell yer, He rose again!" —Selected

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Jesus promised, "Because I live, ye shall live also." (John 14:19.) If we have given our hearts to Him and He lives within we will have our "Easter morning" by the same divine power.

I Corinthians 6:14 says, "And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power." Of us, too, it shall be said, "He is not here!" This is our faith; this is the great hope of Easter morning.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

broken crutch. As he gazed admiringly around the picture-lined room, Jimmie decided that it would be a pleasant place in which to spend other Sundays besides Easter.

As they walked home together, Nan noticed that he cast an occasional longing glance towards the beautiful Easter lily that she hugged so closely, almost as if she feared she would lose it.

The idea came to Nan then but she immediately put it from her. Give the fragrant, pure, white flower that she had just gained possession of to Jimmie Kane? To be sure it was only by his willingness to be her guest at Sunday school that she had acquired it but what of that? The lily was hers and this was the way she had earned it.

She was perfectly willing that Jimmie should enjoy its beauty with her, yes, indeed! She would invite him to come every day and look at it and smell its fragrance—every day until it faded. Then there was another bud that would soon unfold. She had discovered it by chance when she was reveling in its beauty. Why, Jimmie would get almost as much pleasure out of the flower as she would, without being bothered with the care of it, either.

Nan nodded her head to her mental advisor in a very satisfied manner and forthwith stuck the lily up to Jimmie's nose, just as if he had not been delightedly sniffing its fragrance all the way.

Then this little inward tormenter began to quiz her. "What about the days when Jimmie cannot climb the stairs; when the fever burns his cheeks and he has to lie quiet on his cot and look at the bare walls of his sunless room—what then? Will Jimmie be getting as much pleasure out of the flower then as you will?"

Nan's steps came to a halt so quickly that Jimmie imagined she might be thoughtfully seeking to give him a rest, and he said; "I ain't tired, Nan. Better get your lily home 'fore it freezes; seem's if it was growin' colder."

The hot tears burned Nan's eyelids and her voice choked as she said, thrusting the lily towards him, "Here, Jimmie, you take the lily and keep it for me." Then realizing that the crippled boy could not bear its weight, she snatched it back, saying: "I'll carry it into your house and set it on your window sill. Our room's too high up for it to do well. I'll come and see it ev'ry day. But you must promise to keep it well watered," she cautioned.

Jimmie stood aghast at the wonderfulness of it all. He did not remonstrate; somehow he could not. He silently limped along beside Nan, opened the rickety door and followed her into the room.

"There, doesn't that look fine," she chirped, bravely swallowing a rising sob as she arranged the lily on the windowsill close to Jimmie's little cot. "I'll come tomorrow and see how it's doin'. Good-bye."

Nan was flying down the alley like a wild thing before Jimmie had hardly grasped the fact that she had really given him her precious Easter lily.

"I reckon it's like the cup of cold water 'in His Name' that nice lady was tellin' us about awhile ago," she murmured as she climbed her narrow stairway with a smile chasing away her tears.

—*Light and Life Evangel*

(Answers: 1. Very early in the morning. 2. A great stone. 3. A young man clothed in white. 4. In Galilee. 5. They were afraid. 6. Mary Magdalene. 7. Cast seven devils out of her. 8. Two of them as they walked. 9. The eleven.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 April 27, 2003

## Danger And Sorrow

(Continued from Part 2.)

John Paton's heart was filled with both horror and pity as he saw the awful darkness and evil in these heathen people he hoped to teach about Jesus. Sometimes he was almost driven to despair. Had he done the right thing to give up the work in Glasgow that he loved so much and the people that were so dear to him to consecrate his life to these degraded creatures? He sometimes wondered if it was possible to teach them right and wrong, to Christianize or even to civilize them!

He was soon reminded, however, that he had not undertaken this work on his own. God had directed him and he had the vast resources of God's power with him. Later he wrote, "We were conscious that our Lord Jesus was near us and that through Him we were made strong for any assignment that He had given or might give."

This renewed his strength and courage. He began to tell the natives plainly of their wickedness. He faithfully pointed them to the Lamb of God who is able to save from sin. In every possible way he showed them the contrast between their evil ways and the Christian way of living.

Whenever two parties were about to go to war, he would run in between

them and call upon them to stop. How was he enabled to face such dangers among these savages who thought nothing of killing a man? He explains, "My faith enabled me to grasp and realize the promise, 'Lo, I am with you always.' In Jesus I felt invulnerable. These were the moments when I felt my Saviour to be most truly and sensibly near, inspiring and empowering me."

One morning when Paton went out at daybreak he found that armed men surrounded his house. These warriors were muttering fiercely that they had come to kill him at once!

These natives had one strange habit. They always made a speech before taking action. So the savage warriors would not kill Paton until their chief had made the following speech: "Missi (this was their name for missionary), we love the ways and practices of our fathers, which you and other missionaries oppose. We killed the last foreigner that lived in Tanna before you came here. We murdered the Aneityumese teachers and burned down their houses. Now we are determined to kill you because you are changing our customs and we hate the Jehovah worship."

"Seeing that I was entirely in their hands," says Paton, "I knelt down and gave myself away body and soul to the Lord Jesus, for what seemed



## The Goddess Diana

**Acts 19:19, 24-29, 34-35, 37-41**

**19** Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

**24** For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

**25** Whom he called together...and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

**26** ...this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

**27** So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised....

**28** And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

**29** And the whole city was filled with confusion:...

**34** ...All with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

**35** And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of

the great goddess Diana,...

**37** For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

**38** Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another.

**39** But if ye inquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly.

**40** For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar,...

**41** And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

**The Message: God proved His mighty power through the name of Jesus. The devil knew he was no match so he tried to turn the people away from this power through ignorance and confusion.**

### Questions:

1. What did the people burn?
2. How much were they worth?
3. Who was Demetrius?
4. How did he earn his living?
5. What was Paul telling the people?
6. What did the people cry out?
7. What filled the whole city?
8. How long did the people continue to cry out?
9. How did the townclerk stop the confusion?

### Verse to Memorize

**I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.**

**Isaiah 42:8.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

When the seven sons of Sceva tried to cast the devil out of a man using the name of Jesus the possessed man jumped on them and gave them a severe beating.

News of this spread like wildfire throughout Ephesus. Some had seen it with their own eyes. Even those who merely heard about the incident gained an even greater respect for the power of Jesus and praised God.

This incident made the people realize that the magicians really had no power. They merely fooled the people through trickery. Many of these people had practiced magic themselves. Great throngs of the former wonder-workers confessed their wrong and turned away from their superstitions. They brought their books of magic and heaped them high and set the huge pile on fire.

This was a mighty demonstration of their changed hearts, which were now filled with new power since they believed on Christ. The books they burned were worth about ten thousand dollars!

The gospel continued to spread through all the towns and villages near Ephesus and throughout Asia. So many confessed their sins and turned away from idolatry that the tradesmen who sold silver images of Diana began to feel the loss in their business.

They were greatly alarmed and called a meeting. Demetrius was the chief spokesman. He told them, "You men know we make a lot of money by

our work. But Paul has turned many people away from Diana not only here in Ephesus but also throughout the province of Asia. He says there are no gods that are made with hands. Soon we will have no business left. Not only that, but people will no longer come to worship at the temple of Diana."

These words excited and angered the silversmiths. At once they began shouting, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" As they went through the streets shouting these words other people joined in the shout. No one but the silversmiths knew what this was all about. The city was filled with confusion.

The silversmiths dragged two of Paul's faithful friends into the great open theater. When Paul heard what had happened he wanted to go to rescue the two but his friends would not let him. They were afraid the people would tear Paul to pieces if they could lay their hands on him.

Though they didn't even know why they were there the people in the theater kept shouting, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," for two hours! They only knew that somehow the power of Diana had been questioned and they must cry out in her defense.

Finally one of the city officials stood up before the people and motioned for them to be quiet. He said, "Men of Ephesus, people everywhere know we worship the goddess Diana. So you ought to be quiet."

"You have brought these men here who have not robbed any temples or even spoken evil about our goddess. If the silversmiths want to bring charges against these men let them take it to court. All of you are in danger of being arrested for breaking the peace." With those words the city official dismissed the people and sent them home. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

the last time on earth." The savages grew strangely quiet when they saw him kneel in prayer. When he got up off his knees he told them again about Jesus' great love for them. Then they turned and walked away, muttering that he would yet be killed if he did not leave the island at once!

Several days later, while a large number of natives were assembled, a man rushed furiously at Paton with his axe and attempted to take his life. The next day a fierce-looking chief followed him around for four hours, frequently pointing his loaded musket at him as if to shoot. Paton quietly went on with his work silently praying for God's protection. What was the secret of his great courage? It was his faith in the promise of God's presence!

He tells us: "Life in such circumstances led me to cling very near to the Lord Jesus. With my trembling hand clasped in the hand once nailed on Calvary, and now swaying the scepter of the universe, calmness and peace abode in my soul. Trials and hairbreadth escapes strengthened my faith and seemed only to nerve me for more to follow. Without that abiding consciousness of the presence and power of my dear Lord and Saviour, nothing else in all the world could have preserved me from losing my reason and perishing miserably. His words, 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world,' became very real to me and I felt His supporting power. I had my nearest and dearest glimpses of the face and smile of my blessed Lord in those dread moments when musket, club, or spear was being leveled at my life."

When he and Mrs. Paton landed on Tanna they were both healthy and full of enthusiasm as they anticipated a happy life together teaching the poor savages about the love of

God. Three months later, when a little son was born to them, it seemed that their joy was complete. But the happiness soon faded.

For two days or so both the mother and child seemed to do well. But then his wife was struck down with fever. She suffered with this about two weeks and then died suddenly. Paton was shocked and numb with grief and loneliness. When, only seventeen days later, his dear baby boy died it seemed more than he could bear. The grief-stricken missionary had to dig a grave with his own hands for both his young wife and his baby boy.

"Let those," Paton wrote later, "who have ever passed through similar darkness, as of midnight, feel for me. I was stunned and my reason seemed almost to give way. I built a wall of coral round the grave and covered the top with beautiful white coral, broken small as gravel; that spot became my sacred and much-frequented shrine during all the years that, amidst difficulties, dangers and deaths, I labored for the salvation of these savage islanders."

"I was never altogether forsaken," he added. "The ever-merciful Lord sustained me to lay the precious dust of my loved ones in the same quiet grave. But for Jesus, and the fellowship He vouchsafed me there, I must have gone mad and died beside that lonely grave!"

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Their books about magic. 2. Fifty thousand pieces of silver. 3. A silversmith. 4. He made silver shrines for Diana. 5. The gods made with hands are not gods. 6. Great is Diana of the Ephesians. 7. Confusion. 8. For two hours. 9. He dismissed the assembly.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 May 4, 2003

## Divine Protection

(Continued from last week.)

John Paton continued his work among the savages in spite of his awful grief from losing his wife and infant son. At times his work looked hopeless—these people seemed to love their evil ways!

On New Year's Day, 1861, the missionaries to Tanna realized their lives were in danger. Hundreds of the natives had become sick with a deadly type of measles. The missionaries had worked all day taking supplies, food and water to the sick. But in spite of their kindness they realized the superstitious natives believed that they were the cause of their trouble.

Most of the natives who took care of themselves as the missionaries instructed recovered. But most of them preferred to try their own methods. Many of them, burning with fever, plunged into the ocean trying to get relief. The result was almost instant death. Others dug holes in the earth the length of their bodies and several feet deep. When they laid down in the deep holes the cool earth felt good to their fevered bodies. Hundreds of them died there, literally in their own graves. They were buried where they lay.

That evening the missionaries knelt in the mission house in fervent prayer. After reconsecrating their lives

to Christ they pleaded for the salvation of the cannibals among whom they lived. Solemnly they begged God for His protection. They knew that fierce savages armed with clubs, killing-stones and muskets might be surrounding the house even then. The natives believed that the missionaries and their God had brought this disease, hurricanes and other troubles on them. They vowed that they would kill and eat them!

After prayer a younger missionary stepped out of the door to go to his own house close by. Instantly he was attacked and fell to the ground screaming, "Look out! They are trying to kill us!"

Rushing to the door John Paton shouted at the savages, "Jehovah God sees you and will punish you for trying to murder His servants." Two black men swung their deadly clubs, barely missing him. Then the band of savages ran away.

The younger missionary was not injured badly but the shock of the attack effected him so that night after night he could not sleep. He was so afraid that he would be killed and eaten by the savages that his mind gave way under the strain. In three weeks he was dead!

John G. Paton had already survived many such attacks on his life. He was able to survive many more



## The Boy Who Slept In Church

**Acts 20:7, 9-12, 18-19,  
22-25, 36-38**

**7** And upon the first day of the week...Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

**9** And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

**10** And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

**11** When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

**12** And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

**18** And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

**19** Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

**22** And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

**23** Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

**24** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**25** And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

**36** And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

**37** And they all wept sore,...

**38** Sorrowing most of all...that they should see his face no more.

**The Message: Paul knew his life would soon be taken away. He could face death fearlessly because he had served the Lord faithfully.**

### Questions:

1. Who was the preacher?
2. How long did he preach?
3. Where was Eutychus sitting?
4. Why did he fall out the window?
5. How far did he fall?
6. What did Paul do?
7. How was everyone comforted?
8. What did the Holy Ghost witness about Paul?
9. Why were the people so sorrowful?

### Verse to Memorize

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24.

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Paul was on his way to Jerusalem. It was the first day of the week so the believers met together in Troas to break bread in memory of the last supper Jesus ate with His disciples before He was crucified. Paul knew he would never see these dear people again and he had so much to tell them. Hour after hour Paul preached to them, answering their questions and strengthening their faith.

Many hanging lamps burned in the room so they could have plenty of light. But this also made the crowded room hot and stuffy. So the open window looked like the best seat in the room to one young man. Now we don't know how many people dozed during that long, long service but we do know that this young man, Eutychus, went so sound asleep that he slumped down and fell out of the window!

Paul's sermon was suddenly interrupted as a terrifying cry pierced the air followed by a sickening thud as Eutychus hit the ground three stories down. Men rushed down the stairs to see what had become of Eutychus. Everyone was awake now as the word was passed from one to another, "Eutychus fell out of the window and he's dead!"

A lantern held high in someone's hand showed where the body lay and a crowd quickly gathered around it. Nobody could see much in the dim light.

Then Paul pressed his way through the crowd until he came to Eutychus. Falling on the young man he embraced him just as Elisha had embraced the dead son of the

Shunammite woman many years before. And the power of God brought Eutychus back to life just as the Shunammite's son was raised from the dead! Rising to his feet Paul told the sorrowing people, "Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him."

You might think that this would have brought the meeting to a close. But, no! After a little break Paul continued to talk to the people. When the sun came up Paul was still preaching and the people were still listening. This was their great opportunity and they did not want to miss a word.

Paul's next farewell meeting was with the leaders from Ephesus who had come to the seacoast to meet him. They remembered the three years he had lived and preached among them and they loved him dearly. The meeting was joyous yet there was a feeling that this was a final farewell.

Last words are always solemn and important, especially when spoken by one such as Paul. He urged them to stand fast and be strong whatever might come to discourage them in the future.

He said, "You know how I have worked and lived among you. I have taught you publicly and in your homes. I have testified to both the Jews and the Greeks. I feel that I must go to Jerusalem but it is hard to tell what will happen there.

"In my heart I think chains and suffering wait for me but this does not make me afraid. It does not matter how long I live just so I finish with joy the work the Lord Jesus has given me.

"I know I shall see you no more but I will pray for you. Take good care of the church of God over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers."

Together they knelt and prayed. They threw their arms around Paul and wept because they realized this was probably the last time they would ever see him. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

because he lived in the presence of his Lord. He knew he had nothing to fear because God was with him. He was convinced that nothing could destroy him until his work was accomplished and the Lord was through with him.

In the year 1862 a new crisis arose. Hundreds of frenzied natives vowed that they would kill the missionary without delay. Nowar, a friendly chief, urged him to run for his life. It was dark so the chief told him to run to a large chestnut tree. Paton took his advice, climbing the tree and hiding high up among the leafy branches. From his perch he could see and hear the savages below beating the bushes in their frantic search for him.

Later Paton wrote about this terrifying experience: "I heard the frequent discharging of muskets and the yells of the savages. Yet I sat there on one of the branches, safe in the arms of Jesus! Never, in all my sorrows, did my Lord draw nearer to me and speak more soothingly to my soul. Alone, yet not alone! Had I been a stranger to Jesus and to prayer my reason would verily have given way, but my comfort and joy sprang from the promise, 'Lo, I am with you alway.'"

In writing about this experience Paton asked his readers, "If you were alone, all alone, in the midnight, in the bush, so very close to death, do you have a Friend who will not fail you then?" He had such a Friend and he proved that in His presence there was divine protection as great as his need.

The savages of Aneityum had readily accepted Christianity. Many of them had become missionaries to the other islands to spread the gospel. They were true witnesses and suffered much for Christ's sake—some were even killed. Several of these Aneityumese Christians were helping Paton in his efforts to evangelize the Tannese.

One day he received information that he and his Aneityumese teachers were destined to be the victims of a feast that the natives were planning. When they looked out of the window they saw a band of armed killers coming. They were cut off from all human hope but they knew where to go for help. They fell on their knees in prayer.

For many hours they heard the savages tramping around the house, threatening to break in or set the place on fire. As they prayed their hearts were quieted with the assurance that He who was for them was greater than all their foes. Paton says: "Our safety lay in our appeal to the blessed Lord who had placed us there, to whom 'all power had been given' in heaven and on earth. This is strength, this is peace—to have sweet communion with Him. I can wish my readers nothing more precious than that."

It was the scripture found in Matthew 28:18-20 that again brought needed strength and comfort in the face of impossible odds. It told him: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore,...and, lo, I am with you." He accepted the promise as a message from God and proved that it was true.

The Hand that "reassured" the missionary "restrained" the enemy! Finally the killers disappeared back into the forest. God had preserved the lives of His missionaries.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Paul. 2. Until midnight. 3. In a window. 4. He went to sleep. 5. From the third loft. 6. Fell on him and embraced him. 7. The young man came back to life. 8. That he would have bonds and afflictions. 9. They would not see Paul again.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 May 11, 2003

## Divine Deliverance

(Continued from last week.)

John Paton, missionary to the South Sea Islands, kept several milk goats near the mission house. One day he heard an unusual bleating among the goats, as if they were being killed or tortured. He rushed out to their pen. Instantly he was surrounded by a band of armed men who sprang from the bush. He had fallen into their trap!

Each man carried a heavy club. Lifting them threateningly they said, "You have escaped from us many times but now we are going to kill you!"

Paton knew there was no hope of escape. Lifting his hands and eyes toward heaven he committed himself and the situation to his Lord. As he prayed he felt the Divine Presence of God overshadowing him. His heart was filled with a tender reassurance that all was well. The cannibals seemed to sense God's presence also—silently they slipped away one after another!

"Thus," affirms the missionary, "Jesus restrained them once again. His promise is a reality. He is with His servants, to support and bless them, even unto the end of the world!"

On another occasion when Paton was preaching in one of the villages

three sacred men stood up. They declared to the people that they could kill the missionary by witchcraft. All they would need was any piece of fruit or food that he had taken a bite of!

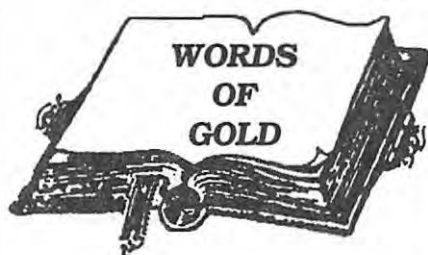
Paton accepted the challenge. He resolved, with his Lord's help, to strike a blow at the tremendous evil power of these witchdoctors. First he took a bite out of each of three plums. Then he handed one of them to each of the sacred men.

The natives were amazed at his action and expected to see him fall over dead any moment while the sorcerers went through their rituals and chants. They rolled the three plums up in leaves, muttering and gesturing wildly. Then they kindled a sacred fire and burned them.

"Stir up your gods to help you," urged Paton. "I am not killed. In fact I am perfectly well."

Finally the witchdoctors said that they would call all the sacred men together and that they would kill Missi (their name for missionary) before the next Sabbath. Paton told the people he would meet them at that same place the next Sabbath morning.

The next Sabbath morning he was there, in perfect health. He told the people, "Now you must admit that your gods have no power over



## A Riot In The Temple!

### Acts 21:26-36

**26** Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

**27** And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

**28** Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.

**29** (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

**30** And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

**31** And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

**32** Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.

**33** Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him

to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

**34** And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle.

**35** And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

**36** For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.

**The Message: Those who would not accept the truth that Jesus was the promised Savior, hated Paul for preaching and spreading this truth.**

### Questions:

1. Where was Paul when the Jews of Asia saw him?
2. What did they do after they pulled Paul out of the temple?
3. What did they intend to do to Paul?
4. Who rescued Paul?
5. What did the Jews do when they saw the chief captain and soldiers?
6. What did the chief captain do when he came to Paul?
7. Where did the chief captain command Paul to be taken?
8. Why did the soldiers carry Paul?
9. What did the people who followed cry out?

### Verse to Memorize

**Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. John 15:20.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The day after Paul arrived in Jerusalem he went to the elders of the church to tell them about his work. He told how God had worked through him among the Gentiles.

The elders glorified God. Then they said, "You see, brother, many thousands of Jews believe in and still keep the law of Moses. They think that you tell the Jews in other countries to pay no attention to the law of Moses. What shall we do? The people will find out you are here."

Finally the elders decided that Paul should prove to the Jewish believers that he honored the law of Moses. For this reason Paul went to the temple and performed the ceremony of cleansing as Moses had commanded.

About a week later a group of Jews from Asia were also gathered to listen to one of the rabbis as he taught about the law. Suddenly one of them tugged at his friend's sleeve and asked, "Isn't that the Christian leader, Paul, over there? What can he be doing in the temple?"

The little group turned quickly to identify the man they had opposed bitterly when he preached Christ in their synagogue. They remembered very well how this man's preaching had upset the synagogue and divided their Jewish families. He had spoken against their national worship and their customs. This is the man they had run out of town, and here he was in the temple!

Someone remembered that he had seen Paul in Jerusalem with Trophimus the Ephesian. Without proof they decided that Paul had profaned the holy place by bringing a Gentile into the temple.

Jumping to their feet they rushed toward Paul crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man that teaches men everywhere against the people, the law and the temple."

Men came running from all directions. The crowd grew and rumors flew thick and fast. Even outside the temple the news spread that a traitor to Israel had been caught and was to be put to death. The streets were soon full of people running to the temple to see the excitement.

In the temple the surging mob had grabbed Paul and was beating him with sticks and fists. They dragged him out of the temple and shut the doors behind them, preparing to kill him.

But someone ran to the Roman captain and reported the trouble to him. The captain took soldiers and ran to find out what was happening. When he got through the crowd, he saw Paul. Supposing him to be some great criminal he commanded that Paul be bound with two heavy chains. Then he asked the crowd, "Who is he and what has he done?"

Some cried one thing and some another. The captain could not make sense of the confusion so he gestured to his men to surround Paul and bring him into the castle. Seeing that he was being taken away the crowd grew more bold. The shouting and jeering increased. The mob pressed so close to the prisoner that the soldiers had to lift Paul off his feet and literally carry him to the steps of the castle. The mob followed close behind shouting, "Away with him!"

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

me and that I am protected by the true and living God. He is the only God who can hear and answer prayer. He loves all human beings, despite their great wickedness, and He sent His dear Son, Jesus, to save from sin all who will believe.

Paton was shocked to hear that the natives had killed a missionary and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were serving on another island. When the Tannese heard this they shouted to one another: "Our love to these brave men. They have killed their Missi (missionary) and his wife while we only talk about it."

Several native teachers from another island worked with Paton to bring the gospel to the savages of Tanna. But after one of them was murdered they decided to return to their own island. Only one stayed. This was Abraham. This brave man had once been a bloodthirsty savage but now he was a true hero of the cross. In spite of the danger and almost certain death he decided he would stay with Paton!

And soon they were in grave danger. As hundreds of furious cannibals shouted for their death, the two knelt in prayer. "O Lord," Abraham prayed, "make us two strong for Thee and Thy cause and if they kill us let us die together in Thy good work, like Thy servants, Missi Gordon the man and Missi Gordon the woman."

The savages encircled them in a deadly ring and kept urging each other to strike the first blow or fire the first shot. Presently a killing-stone, thrown with great force, grazed Abraham's cheek. The dear old saint looked toward heaven and said, "Missi, I was nearly away to Jesus."

"In that awful hour," writes Paton, "I saw Christ's own words, as if carved in letters of fire upon the clouds of

heaven: 'Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.'"

As he stood praying he saw the Lord Jesus hovering close by watching the scene. An assurance came to him, as if a voice from heaven had spoken. He knew that not a musket would be fired, not a club would strike, not a spear thrown, no arrow shot nor killing-stone would be thrown unless Jesus Christ permitted it. He rules over all—even the savages of the South Seas!

Somehow the savages were prevented from killing them. It was a miracle and an evident proof of the protecting presence of his Lord. Paton wrote, "If any reader wonders how they were restrained, much more would I, unless I believed that the same Hand that restrained the lions from touching Daniel held back these savages from hurting me."

On several occasions, when ships came into port, Paton was urged to sail away to safety. In each instance he refused, hoping that he might yet win the Tannese for Christ. But finally, when the mission house was broken into and everything he had was either stolen or destroyed he realized that if he stayed longer he would likely be killed and eaten by the cannibals or else die from slow starvation.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. In the temple. 2. They shut the doors. 3. Kill him. 4. The chief captain. 5. Quit beating Paul. 6. Commanded him to be bound with chains and demanded who he was and what he had done. 7. Into the castle. 8. To protect him from the violence of the people. 9. "Away with him!")



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 May 18, 2003

## Divine Provision

(Continued from last week.)

Leaving Tanna for awhile Paton made his way across the island. It was a treacherous trip but finally he reached the mission station occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Mathieson.

He was completely worn out and soon fell into a deep sleep. About 10 o'clock his faithful little dog, Clutha, jumped on him and woke him up. Looking out, he saw that savages surrounded the house. Some had blazing torches; the rest were armed with various weapons.

In horror he watched them set fire to the church close by and then to the reed fence that connected the church and the mission house. In a few minutes the mission house, too, would be in flames! Meanwhile the infuriated men waited. They knew the missionaries would try to escape. As soon as they came out they would kill them!

Humanly speaking, the situation was hopeless. Kneeling in prayer, the missionaries committed themselves to the Lord Jesus. Then, in a desperate move, Paton opened the door and rushed outside to cut the reed fence. Instantly he was surrounded by a company of savages with raised clubs shouting, "Kill him! Kill him!"

"They yelled in rage," says Paton, "but the invisible Lord restrained them

and delivered me. I stood invulnerable beneath His invisible shield."

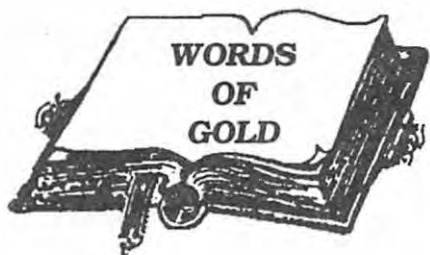
Just at that moment a rushing, roaring sound came from the south. An awful tornado of wind and rain was coming fast! If it had come from the north, the flames from the church would have quickly reached and burned the mission house. Instead, the wind blew the flames away from the house and soon a torrent of rain was falling. The natives were terror stricken! They ran away shouting: "This is Jehovah's rain! Their God is fighting for them and helping them."

Their fright was short-lived, however. Early the next morning they returned, determined to kill the missionaries this time. They came closer and closer shrieking wildly.

There seemed no hope for escape. Then suddenly the shrieks turned to cries of, "Sail O! Sail O!" The missionaries were afraid to believe their ears. But it was true: a ship was sailing into the harbor just when all hope seemed lost!

The missionaries were soon rescued and taken to Aneityum. "In joy we united our praises," says Paton. "Truly our precious Jesus has all power. Often since have I wept over His love and mercy in that deliverance."

Jesus claimed, "All power is given unto Me" and promised, "Lo, I am with



## The Sermon On The Stairs

**Acts 21:40, 22:3-7,10,  
14, 18, 21-23**

**40** ...Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them...

**3** I am verily a man which am a Jew,...brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel,...and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

**4** And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

**5** As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.

**6** And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me.

**7** And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

**10** And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

**14** And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see

that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

**18** And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

**21** And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

**22** And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.

**23** And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,

**The Message: By the amazing grace of God, Paul, the persecutor, was instantly changed into one who gladly suffered great persecution for his Lord.**

### Questions:

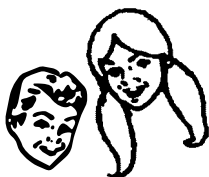
1. Of what nationality was Paul?
2. How did he persecute the believers?
3. Saul got letters of permission to go to what city?
4. He intended to bring those who were bound to what city?
5. What time of day did Saul see the bright light?
6. What did the voice say to Saul?
7. To whom did the Lord say Paul would be sent?
8. What did his audience say when they heard where the Lord sent Paul?

### Verse to Memorize

**For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.**

**Acts 9:16.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

The soldiers were afraid that the angry mob would tear Paul to pieces so they surrounded him and finally picked him up and carried him on their shoulders to the stairs of the castle.

When they reached the safety of the castle stairs Paul turned to the captain who had saved his life. "May I say something to you?" he asked respectfully.

"Can you speak Greek?" the captain asked.

And when he found that he did understand it he asked, "Aren't you that Egyptian who made an uproar and led four thousand men who were murderers into the desert?"

Now this Egyptian, whose name is not known, pretended to be a prophet, and told his followers that the walls of Jerusalem would fall down before them if they would assist him in making an attack on the city. He gathered four thousand men and marched toward Jerusalem getting as far as the Mount of Olives. But Felix, the Roman governor, made a surprise attack on them with a large Roman army. The mob quickly scattered, four hundred were killed and two hundred taken prisoners.

The Egyptian himself, with some of his most faithful friends, escaped. He had never been captured or heard of after that. With the people causing such an uproar the chief captain thought Paul must be this Egyptian or some other great criminal.

But Paul assured the captain saying, "I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus. I beg you, let me speak to the people."

With the captain's permission, Paul motioned to the people that he would like to speak. When the mob was quiet he began speaking to them in Hebrew. The Jews loved their native language so they listened closely.

Paul began by telling them about himself. "I am a Jew born in Tarsus but I was brought up here in Jerusalem. Gamaliel taught me the strictness of the Law. I was just as eager to follow God's way as you are. For a time I even persecuted the believers, binding them, putting them in prison and having some killed. The high priest and the rulers know this to be true, for they gave me letters of permission to arrest the believers who had fled to Damascus.

On the way to Damascus a great light from heaven shone around me. As I fell to the ground I heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Then I answered, "Who are you?" And the voice said, "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you persecute." Those who were with me saw the light but they did not hear the words.

"The Lord told me to wait at Damascus until He showed me what I was to do. I could not see but my friends led me into the city. There Ananias came to me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight,' and my eyes were opened. Ananias said that I was chosen to be a witness of Jesus Christ to all men of what I had seen and heard. Then he baptized me in the name of the Lord.

"When the Jews at Jerusalem wanted to kill me for believing in Jesus the Lord told me, 'Depart, for I will send you to the Gentiles.'"

When the people heard Paul mention the Gentiles they would listen no more. They shouted, "Away with this fellow from the earth. He is not fit to live." The mob threw their coats down and threw dust into the air in their mad frenzy. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

you." John Paton's life and miraculous experiences proved the truth of this wonderful promise!

Paton intended to work on his translation of the Bible in Tannese while in Aneityum and then to return to Tanna as soon as possible. But after consultation with the other missionaries, he agreed to go first to Australia, then to Scotland, to arouse greater interest in the work of the New Hebrides. He hoped to recruit new missionaries and especially to raise a large sum of money for the building and upkeep of a sailing ship. This would be a great help to the missionaries in their work of evangelizing the islands.

Paton remembered the time in his childhood when the potato crop failed and the other crops were poor. The Paton family, like other peasants, was in great want. They ran out of both food and money while his father was away on a business trip. The trusting mother took the matter to the Lord in prayer and assured the children that He would supply their needs in the morning.

Sure enough, a basket of food arrived from an unexpected source the very next day. Gathering the children around her the mother said, "My dear children, love your heavenly Father. Tell Him in faith and prayer all your needs, and He will surely supply them, so far as it shall be for your good and His glory."

Besides this experience in his childhood Paton knew the Lord had been with him during his days in Tanna. He had guided, protected and miraculously delivered him with a mighty hand. He was confident that God would also supply the material needs of the Mission. And he was not disappointed. The gifts of money poured in after the people heard Paton's thrilling account of his experiences and the great need of the work.

While in Scotland, Paton was married to Margaret Whitecross. Together they sailed back to the South Seas. They reached Aneityum in August, 1866.

Mr. and Mrs. Paton established a new mission station on Aniwa, the nearest island to Tanna. By God's help they would lead the Aniwan to Christ while waiting for the day when they could return to Tanna. They built a house for themselves and two houses for orphan children. Later a church, a printing house and other buildings were erected.

But the Aniwan were just as brutal and uncivilized as the Tannese. They were cannibals with the same superstitions and mentality. They often stole the missionaries' belongings and tried to kill them many times.

One day while Paton was working quite a distance from home his axe slipped and cut his ankle severely. He begged some of the native men to carry him to his hut. They demanded that he pay them something before they would help so he gave several fishhooks to one of the men. This man took him a short distance, put him down and ran away. Paton begged a second man for help but he refused until he was paid. When Paton gave him some fishhooks he carried him only a few steps then put him down and ran away. This happened several times before he finally got back to his home. Meanwhile the wound bled profusely and Paton suffered intensely.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. He was a Jew. 2. He bound them and put them in prison. 3. Damascus. 4. Jerusalem. 5. About noon. 6. "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" 7. To the Gentiles. 8. "Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.")

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 May 25, 2003

## God's Power To Transform

(Continued from last week.)

One day while John Paton was serving as missionary on the island of Aniwa he needed some tools from his hut. He wrote a note on a piece of wood and handed it to a chief named Namakei asking him to take the piece of wood to Mrs. Paton.

"But what do you want?" the old chief asked.

"The wood will tell her," Paton replied.

Namakei thought this was some strange sort of joke but he did as Paton asked. He was amazed when Mrs. Paton sent just what her husband wanted.

The missionary took advantage of this opportunity to tell him about the Bible through which he could hear God "speak" to him. The old chief seemed to understand.

This made Namakei wish to have the Word of God printed in his own language. He did everything he could to help Paton with the translation and was a great help. Meanwhile he saw that he needed to learn to read. When the first section of the Bible was finally printed he asked eagerly: "Missi, can it speak? Does it speak my language?"

"Yes, it does."

"O Missi, make it speak to me!"

Paton read a few verses to him and the chief exclaimed joyfully, "It does speak! It speaks my own words! Please give it to me." After pressing it to his heart he handed it back disappointedly saying, "Missi, it will not speak to me!"

Paton explained that he must first learn to read, then he could make the book speak. Noticing that the chief's sight was poor, he found a pair of glasses to fit him and Namakei cried with glee, "I have gotten back the sight I had when I was a boy. O Missi, make the book speak to me now!"

Namakei studied hard. As soon as he could read he would say to the people: "Come and I will let you hear how God's book speaks our own Aniwan words. Listen to these beautiful words telling why the Missi came to live among us wretched people and of his Friend Jesus who always goes with him to make him strong in all his work."

Somewhat haltingly he read the words: "Go and make disciples of all nations. And lo, I am with you always." So little by little the savages learned that the missionary was not alone. They could see by his life that God was working through John Paton. And now God's precious promise could be read in their own language!

Paton wrote, "Among the heathens every true convert becomes at once a



## Paul's Nephew

**Acts 23:11-12, 14-22**

**11** And the night following the Lord stood by him (Paul), and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

**12** And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

**14** And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

**15** ...Signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to-morrow...and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

**16** And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he...told Paul.

**17** Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

**18** So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

**19** Then the chief captain...asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

**20** And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou

wouldest bring down Paul to-morrow into the council, as though they would inquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

**21** But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

**22** So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

**The Message: The Lord told Paul he would witness for Him at Rome. God fulfilled His word in spite of the vow of forty men to kill Paul before he could leave Jerusalem.**

### Questions:

1. Who stood by Paul one night?
2. Where did He say Paul would bear witness for Him?
3. What was the curse that the Jews bound themselves with?
4. Who did they tell about the curse?
5. What did they intend to do when the chief captain brought Paul?
6. Who heard they were lying in wait for Paul?
7. Who did Paul send him to?
8. How many men were lying in wait for Paul?
9. What did the chief captain tell the young man?

### Verse to Memorize

**And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome. Acts 23:11.**

# Let's



# Talk . . .

The second night after his capture Paul lay on the hard floor of the castle. Suddenly he saw the Lord standing by him. "Be of good courage, Paul," the Lord told him. "Just as you have spoken boldly for Me in Jerusalem, you are to speak boldly for Me in Rome also."

These words encouraged Paul. He did not know how this promise would be fulfilled but he was assured God would take him to Rome. He had wanted to visit Rome for a long time and now this was to be granted. God was not through with him yet!

Paul's enemies were not satisfied to have him in prison. They wanted him killed. So over forty of them vowed that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. They hurried to tell the chief priest and rulers about their plan.

"We have bound ourselves under a great curse," they told them. "We will eat nothing until we have killed Paul. We want you to help us. Tomorrow ask the chief captain to bring him to you as if you wanted to question him. Then as soon as he comes we will be ready to kill him!"

That same day a young man hurried to the castle and asked to see Paul. Since he was a relative, the guards led him to Paul's cell. It was a pleasant surprise when Paul looked up and saw his nephew, his sister's son, standing there.

"Uncle Paul," the young man said excitedly, "there is a plot among the Jews to kill you! I overheard it so

have come to warn you. Tomorrow the chief priests plan to ask the chief captain to bring you to the council again, saying that they want to ask you certain questions. But the band of over forty men will be lying in wait. As soon as the guards turn you over to the temple authorities they will kill you."

Paul asked a centurion to take the young man to the chief captain because he had something to tell him. So he took him and brought him to the chief captain and said, "Paul the prisoner asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to say to you."

Kindly the chief captain took Paul's nephew by the hand and took him to a place where they could talk privately. "What do you have to tell me?" he asked.

Encouraged by the captain's kindness, Paul's nephew said, "The Jews have agreed that tomorrow they will ask you to bring Paul down to the council as if they wanted to question him about something."

"But do not do it because more than forty of them have bound themselves with an oath saying that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed Paul. They will soon come and ask you to promise to do as they ask."

The chief captain looked very grave as he listened. "Make sure that you do not tell anyone what you have just told me!" he warned the young man.

Paul's life was in great danger. This was apparent to the chief captain. He must get him out of Jerusalem. He decided to send his prisoner to Felix, the governor of Caesarea. That was the Roman capital of Judea and the danger of riot would not be so great in this distant city with a strong Roman garrison. He would send Paul away that very night!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

missionary. The changed life, shining out amid the surrounding darkness, is a gospel in largest capitals which all can read."

Namakei turned out to be an excellent exhibit of "the new creature in Christ." Water was very scarce on the island of Aniwa. The little water that was available caused terrible disease because it was not fresh. So Paton decided to dig a well. When he told Namakei, the old chief thought the Missi had lost his mind.

But Paton was determined. He worked hard for many days in spite of the severe heat. The well caved in one night but he cleared it out again.

Namakei tried to persuade him to stop this mad and stupid project. He informed him that water comes only from the sky. If he should strike water by digging in the ground he would surely drop through into the sea and be eaten by sharks! Paton listened to his reasoning but kept right on digging.

Eventually he came out of "Jehovah's well" with a jug full of water. Namakei hesitantly took the jug, tasted the water, then cried: "Rain! It is rain! The world is turned upside down since Jehovah came to Aniwa!" Cautiously he and the others peered into the well to see "Jehovah's rain" springing up below.

"Is this well just for you and your family?" they asked.

"No, all of you may come and drink as much as you need." Paton assured them.

Namakei asked Paton, "Missi, may I help you in the service next Sabbath? I'd like to preach a sermon on the well." Paton readily agreed.

A large crowd was at church the next Sabbath because they had heard that their chief, Namakei, would be the preacher. He delivered a powerful and eloquent message, closing as follows: "Friends of Aniwa, something here in my heart tells me that the invisible God

does exist and that I shall see Him some day when the heaps of dust are removed which now blind my old eyes, just as we saw the water that had so long been invisible, when the dirt and the coral were removed in making the well. From this day, my people, I must worship the God who has opened for us the well. Let every man who thinks as I do go now and fetch the gods of Aniwa that they may be destroyed. Let us stand up for Jehovah God who sent His Son Jesus to die for us and to bring us to heaven."

After this message, many followed their chief's example. They turned from their heathen idols to serve the true God.

After many requests Namakei finally got permission to go to Aneityum with Paton to attend the yearly meeting of the missionaries. He was now very old and feeble. At the meeting he was delighted to hear that people from various islands were accepting the gospel and turning from their heathen ways. "Missi," he said, "I am lifting up my head like a tree. I am growing tall with joy."

After a few days on Aneityum the old chief became sick as he was resting under the shade of a Banyan tree. "O Missi," he whispered, "I am near to die! Tell my people to go on pleasing Jesus. O Missi, let me hear your words rising up in prayer. My dear Missi, I will meet you again in the home of Jesus."

So he died victoriously. Under the transforming power of the living Lord this chief who had once been a cannibal became a new person!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. The Lord. 2. At Rome. 3. They would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 4. The chief priests and elders. 5. Kill him. 6. Paul's sister's son. 7. The chief captain. 8. More than forty. 9. To tell no one what he had told the chief captain.)



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 June 1, 2003

## Faithful Unto The End

(Continued from last week.)

John Paton knew that God was with him in his effort to bring the gospel to the savages on the islands of New Hebrides. He was fearless in facing the dark forces of evil because he knew God's power was greater still!

Six of Paton's ten children were born while they continued in their missionary work on the island of Aniwa. Four of these died in early childhood or in infancy.

While Paton learned the language and reduced it to writing, his wife worked with the native women. She taught a class of about fifty women and girls who became experts at sewing, singing, plaiting hats and reading. Their lives were busy training teachers, translating the Scriptures, ministering to the sick and dying besides holding worship services every Lord's Day.

After enduring many years of hardship and danger, Paton's efforts began to produce results. One after another accepted the Lord as their Savior until the entire island of Aniwa professed Christianity. In 1899 he saw his Aniwa New Testament printed. And there were missionaries on twenty-five of the thirty islands of the New Hebrides!

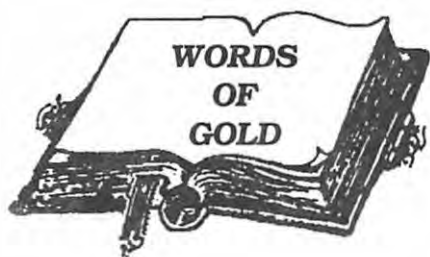
Paton felt it was worth all the hardship and sorrow just to see one life changed from the dark ways of heathens to the joyful happy life of a Christian!

Naswai was one whose life was transformed. He was the teacher of the school in his village and a happy Christian.

One day some visitors came to see for themselves what the gospel had accomplished on Aniwa. After showing them the mission and its school Naswai told them, "When you return tell your people how we of Aniwa have been changed. As heathens, we quarreled, killed and ate each other. We had no peace, no joy, in heart or house or land. Now Jehovah has changed all our black hearts and we live as brethren, in peace and happiness."

Namakei, the old chief who led his people to the Lord, had a daughter named Litsi. The missionaries had taught Litsi from the time she was a small child and she became a noble example of Christian womanhood. Since she was the daughter of the most important chief on the island she was called "the Queen of Aniwa." In time she married a man named Mungaw. One night Mungaw was shot and killed by Nasi, a chief from Tanna.

Some time after this Litsi went to Tanna. But she did not go to get revenge. She went to tell the very



## Almost Persuaded!

**Acts 24:10, 24-25; 25:13-14,  
22-23; 26:1, 24-29**

**10** Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself:

**24** And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

**25** And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

**13** And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus.

**14** And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix:

**22** Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself. Tomorrow, said he, thou shalt hear him.

**23** And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice,...at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth.

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

**24** And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice,

Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

**25** But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

**26** For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him;...

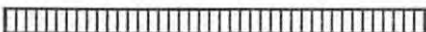
**27** King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

**28** Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

**29** And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.



**The Message: Felix trembled when he heard the gospel and Agrippa was "almost persuaded" but so far as we know neither ever repented of their sins.**



### Questions:

1. Who beckoned for Paul to speak?
2. Of what nationality was Felix' wife?
3. Concerning what did Paul speak to Felix and Drusilla?
4. What did Felix do as Paul spoke of judgment to come?
5. What did Felix tell Paul?
6. Who told Festus that he would like to hear Paul's testimony?
7. Who told Paul that he was mad?
8. What did Agrippa tell Paul?

### Verse to Memorize

**Then Agrippa said unto Paul,  
Almost thou persuadest me  
to be a Christian.**

**Acts 26:28.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

After Paul's nephew told the chief captain about the Jew's plot to kill Paul, he sent him to Caesarea that very night. There he was turned over to Felix, the Roman governor.

Since Felix' wife, Drusilla, was Jewish she knew about the Christians and how the Jews hated them.

Five days later the high priest, Ananias, and the elders of Jerusalem came to accuse him. They brought Tertullus, a skillful lawyer, with them.

At the trial Tertullus was first to speak. He flattered Felix, telling him how thankful they were to have him as their governor. Then, pointing an accusing finger at Paul, his tone changed as he lashed out, "We have found this man Paul to be a terrible troublemaker. We captured him to judge him according to our law but the chief captain came and took him away from us by force."

Turning to those who had hired him with a sweep of his hand, Tertullus asked them if these facts were not so. One by one they nodded their assent.

Now Felix wanted to hear Paul's side of the case. He motioned Paul to speak.

Paul said, "I speak for myself more cheerfully, honorable Felix, because you have been a judge of this nation for many years."

Then he explained that just twelve days before he had come to Jerusalem to bring his offerings and was in the temple when Jews from Asia started the riot. "The real issue," Paul explained, "is my teaching that Christ was resurrected from the dead."

Felix understood. "We will hear you further when the chief captain has come," he said.

A few days after this Felix came with his wife Drusilla and sent for Paul. He wanted to hear more about his faith in Christ. Paul was glad to testify for his Lord. He spoke with such persuasion about righteousness, temperance and the coming judgment that Felix was deeply convicted of his sins. He trembled with fear at his words.

But he didn't repent! Instead Felix shook off conviction saying, "Go away for now. When I have a more convenient time I will send for you." So far as we know he never found that "convenient time" and was lost!

After two years Festus replaced Felix as governor. The Jews asked him to bring Paul to Jerusalem for trial but Paul appealed to Caesar, knowing the Jews would kill him if he went to Jerusalem.

While he waited to be sent to Rome, King Agrippa came to visit Festus and asked to hear Paul's testimony. Gladly Paul told Agrippa how he had been changed when Jesus appeared to him on the way to Damascus. Paul's words were earnest and convincing. Deeply moved, Agrippa said, "Paul, you almost persuade me to be a Christian!"

Paul's heart went out to this poor man who needed to be saved. If only he would yield while God was inviting. "Almost" was not enough!

Have you ever "almost" got to the bus in time or to the store before it closed? As you watched the bus leave without you or saw the store manager lock the door for the night it really didn't matter whether you were just one minute too late or an hour. You missed it!

How much worse to neglect salvation and to be lost eternally! The devil is expert at convincing people that there will be a better time to give up their sins and be saved. No doubt millions have been lost who had the best intentions of getting right with God before they died.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

people whose chief had killed her husband about the love of Christ! Other Christians from Aniwa joined her to help spread the gospel.

So even though Paton was driven away from Tanna, the prayer he prayed so often at that sacred spot where he buried his wife and baby was being answered. He said: "Whenever Tanna turns to the Lord and is won for Christ, men will find the memory of that spot still green. It was there that I claimed for God the land in which I had buried my dead with faith and hope."

What faith? What hope? Faith in the promise! Hope in the text! "Lo, I am with you alway." Assured of that sweet and abiding Presence, Paton knew that mighty transformations would take place—that savages would become saints and murderers would become missionaries!

Tanna was finally reached by the mighty power of the gospel and claimed for Christ. It was some of Paton's converts on Aniwa who accomplished this. God did not forget the blood of martyrs that was shed on the Island of Tanna. Through the gospel He caused good to triumph over evil. The naked, murderous, brutal slaves of Satan were set free to serve God joyfully and sing His praises!

Paton challenged the atheists and infidels to visit this island. He knew they would have to know there was a God when they saw the changed lives of these native people. They were not only civilized by the gospel but truly converted like the Thessalonians who "turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." (I Thessalonians 1:9.)

It was a happy day when Paton himself revisited Tanna. Old Nowar, the friendly chief, was overjoyed to see him and Mrs. Paton and urged them to come back to the island to live. He promised them food and protection

though he realized that what he had to offer was both inadequate and unnecessary. He knew the missionaries had God as their Protector! He remembered many times that Paton was saved from certain death.

Telling of this visit Paton wrote, "Then he led us to that chestnut tree in the branches of which I had sheltered during that lonely and memorable night when all hope of earthly deliverance had perished and said to Mrs. Paton with a manifest touch of genuine emotion, 'The God who protected Missi in the tree will always protect you!'"

John G. Paton was a true hero of faith sent by God. Even savage eyes could see that the unfailing Presence of his omnipotent Lord was with him.

We salute such noble soldiers of the Cross. They leave us a challenge to trust in the unchangeable and faithful God. His son, F. H. Paton, wrote: "In his private conversation and in his public addresses my father was constantly quoting the words, 'Lo, I am with you alway,' as the inspiration of his quietness and confidence in time of danger and of his hope in the face of human impossibilities. So much was this realized by his family that we decided to inscribe that text on his tomb in the Boroondara Cemetery. It seemed to all of us to sum up the essential element in his faith and the supreme source of his courage and endurance."

John Paton passed away in Australia, January 28, 1907 at the age of 83.

(The end.)

(Answers: 1. The governor. 2. Jewish. 3. The faith of Christ. 4. He trembled. 5. "When I have a convenient season I will call for you. 6. Agrippa. 7. Festus. 8. "You almost persuade me to be a Christian.")

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 June 8, 2003

## Missionary To Africa

Mary Slessor was one of the most amazing missionary women ever. Her life seemed like one great adventure with God. From her earliest memories Mary longed to be a missionary in Africa.

As a child, her mother taught her about Calabar, the deadly coast of Nigeria, known as "the white man's grave." Like other Scottish children, Mary donated her precious pennies to help the mission work.

Mary's father, Robert Slessor, was an alcoholic. He would spend his money for liquor then come home ready to abuse anyone who got in his way. The mother protected the children as best she could but they soon learned to stay out of his sight until he fell into a drunken sleep. This caused much suffering. Finally Mary's mother had to go to work to try to support the family.

At the age of only eleven Mary, too, went to work as a common mill hand, preparing jute and flax for the weavers. Because she was just a little girl the long hours of work left her exhausted. Yet in the evenings she attended school. She learned reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, sewing, knitting and a little music. If she was too tired to follow the arithmetic problems, the teacher punished her by making her stand during class.

The Slessor family lived in a rough and rundown area. In winter it would be dark when she left school. It was dangerous as she dodged drunks and thieves walking home alone to do her chores and face her father. And facing her father was not something to look forward to!

Mary described herself as a tomboy who loved to run barefoot, jump and climb trees. But one day an old widow gathered Mary and some friends around her hearth. Pointing to the fire blazing in it, she warned them that unless they repented and believed in Christ, their souls would burn in the fire of hell for ever and ever!

The words went like arrows to Mary's heart; she could not get the vision of eternal torment out of her mind. Finally she decided that it would be best for her to make her peace with God. She "repented and believed." She would sometimes say that it was hell-fire that drove her to the Lord. But once she found the Lord she found Him to be full of love and tenderness and mercy.

Mary enjoyed reading the Bible. She read it as a message addressed to her personally. She found it contained important news that was of great personal interest to her. It made God very real to her—One who was actually close to her at all times. He



## Paul Journeys Toward Rome

**Acts 26:31-32; 27:1-13**

**31** And when they (Agrippa and Festus) were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

**32** Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

**1** And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

**2** And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

**3** And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

**4** And when we had launched from thence, we sailed under Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.

**5** And when we had sailed over the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.

**6** And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein.

**7** And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not

suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;

**8** And, hardly passing it, came unto a place which is called The fair havens; nigh whereunto was the city of Lasea.

**9** Now when much time was spent, and when sailing was now dangerous, because the fast was now already past, Paul admonished them,

**10** And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.

**11** Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul.

**12** And because the haven was not commodious to winter in, the more part advised to depart thence also, if by any means they might attain to Phenice, and there to winter; which is an haven of Crete, and lieth toward the south-west and north-west.

**13** And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, loosening thence, they sailed close by Crete.

**The Message: Though he went as a prisoner, it was the will of God that Paul should go to Rome. God had a work for him to do there.**

(Look for "Questions" on page 3.)

### Verse to Memorize

**And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome. Acts 23:11.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

"This man has done nothing to deserve death or even imprisonment," King Agrippa and Festus concluded. "He could be set free if he had not appealed to Caesar!"

But Paul knew he had made no mistake in appealing to Caesar. While in Jerusalem, the Lord stood by him the night following his imprisonment and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul. As you have testified of me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness of Me in Rome also." This was good news to Paul. He had desired to go to that city for a long time so he could preach the Gospel of Christ there.

Not long after it was determined that Paul must appear before Caesar, he and other prisoners were delivered into the care of Julius, a Roman centurion. Festus ordered Julius and his soldiers to take the prisoners safely to Rome and deliver them to Caesar. So finding a ship sailing toward Italy, Julius put the prisoners on board. As the ship left Caesarea, Paul no doubt knew he would never see his beloved homeland again. It was a great comfort to have Luke and Aristarchus sailing with him.

The next day the ship stopped at Sidon. By this time Paul had won the respect of Julius. He gave him permission to go ashore to visit his friends. Paul, Luke, Aristarchus and a soldier guard had time for a short visit with the Christians at Sidon. This greatly refreshed them.

The ship docked at Myra, its last stop. Julius found another ship ready to sail for Italy. He had the soldiers and their prisoners board this ship. It set sail and soon they were back in the great Mediterranean Sea.

But sailing was not good. The winds were strong and from the wrong direction so they could only sail slowly for many days. Finally they reached a harbor named The Fair Havens on the island of Crete.

Winter was coming on and sailing was already dangerous. Julius was so anxious to get back to Rome he ignored the danger. Paul told him and the owner of the ship, "Sirs, this will be a dangerous voyage. If you sail now there will be injury and much damage."

Because The Fair Havens was not a good place to spend the winter, the owner and Julius ignored Paul's warning. They decided to go farther south before stopping for the winter. When a soft south breeze blew, they figured this was a good sign they could sail. The ship glided out of the harbor and into the broad sea.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

### Questions:

1. What did Agrippa and Festus decide after hearing Paul's defense?
2. Why could they not set him free?
3. It was determined that Paul was to sail to what country?
4. Who was Julius?
5. What courtesy did Julius show Paul?
6. Why were they forced to sail so slowly?
7. Who warned that the trip would be dangerous and with much damage?
8. Who did the centurion believe more than Paul?
9. Why did they decide it was safe to sail?

was overflowing with love and compassion and ready to listen to her, to heal and guide and strengthen her. It was wonderful! She diligently read her Bible to learn all God had to tell her so she could always do His will.

Mary loved the story of Christ most of all. It was His love, so strong, so tender, so pitiful, that won her heart and devotion and filled her with happiness and peace that suffused her inner life like sunshine. In return she loved Him with intense love. She felt that she could not do enough for the One who had done so much for her. As the years passed she surrendered herself more and more to His influence. Her great love for Christ made her ready to do anything she could for Him, no matter how humble or difficult it might be. It was this passion of love and gratitude, this abandonment of self, this longing for service that made Mary a successful soul winner in Africa.

After she became a Christian, Mary tried to help children whose lives were as bleak as her own. She held Bible classes to tell them of the friend she had found in Christ Jesus. She took her classes of boys into the countryside for picnics where they raced and played games.

Some toughs did not want to hear what Mary had to say. They jeered and slung mud at her. On one particular occasion, a gang of teenage boys got hold of her and forced her to stand still while one of them swung a piece of sharp metal on the end of a length of string around his head, gradually letting out the string so that the metal whizzed closer and closer to her face. He said, "Tell me you'll go home and forget this foolishness, and I'll let you go."

Mary said, "Do what you want, but you'll not get me to give up my Bible teaching!" The boy kept swing-

ing the string and asked her if she was ready to give up. Mary kept silent. The metal cut across her forehead and blood flowed down her face but she didn't take her eyes off the boy who stopped swinging the string and dropped the weight.

She said, "Now you've had your fun, won't you come in and see what this is all about?" Confused by her reaction, the gang of boys followed her in and later that day gave their lives to Jesus. Years later, that same boy, now a man, sent Mary a framed photo of himself with his wife and family, telling her that her classes were the turning point in his life. Mary proudly hung that picture on the wall of her mud hut in Africa.

Another boy, a bully, used to stand outside the hall with a whip in hand driving the young fellows into "Mary Slessor's meeting," but refusing to go in himself. One day Mary faced him. "If we changed places what would happen?" she asked.

"I would get this whip across my back," he replied.

She turned her back. "I'll bear it for you if you'll go in," she said.

"Would you really bear that for me?" he asked.

"Yes, and far more—go on, I mean it."

Instead he threw down the whip and followed her in to the meeting. That very day he gave himself to Christ.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Paul had done nothing worthy of bonds or of death. 2. Because he had appealed to Caesar. 3. Italy. 4. The centurion in charge of Paul and other prisoners. 5. He gave him liberty to go to his friends and refresh himself. 6. The winds were contrary. 7. Paul. 8. The master and owner of the ship. 9. The south wind blew softly)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 June 15, 2003

## Africa At Last!

(Continued from last week.)

Mary Slessor knew that working for God in Africa would be much harder than her work among the rough boys at the mission. The poor people of Africa were frequently described by such words as: "bloody," "savage," "cruel," "cannibals," "murderers." Certainly this was not the kind of people you would naturally choose to work with!

But, Mary reasoned, such were we when God sent His Son to save us. Jesus looked down from heaven and saw the awful wickedness yet He was willing to leave His beautiful home and come down to work among such evil men.

Mary would never hesitate to do anything that she thought her Master would do. Instead she welcomed the hardest tasks and considered it an honour and privilege to do them to please Him.

Mary knew from reading her New Testament that Christ meant for His disciples to spread His Gospel throughout the whole world. She knew, too, that this was a command to every one who loved Him. So with the assurance that this was what God wanted her to do she quietly pursued her dream of becoming a missionary. She told no one but patiently prepared for the coming change. In the factory she took

charge of two 60-inch looms. This was hard work for a young woman but she needed the money. She felt it was worth all her effort in order to reach her goal.

Early in 1874 the news of David Livingstone's death created a wave of enthusiasm for missionary work. When the call for workers for Africa came Mary was inspired into action. She told her mother of her hopes and plans. Her mother gave her glad consent even though she knew she might never see her beloved daughter again. She would gladly make any sacrifice for the gospel to be taken to those who had never heard of Jesus.

Eventually Mary asked the Presbyterian Church to send her to Calabar. In 1875, her answer came in the mail. "Dear Miss Slessor, I take great pleasure in informing you that the Board of Foreign Missions accepts your offer to serve as a missionary and you have been appointed teacher to Calabar."

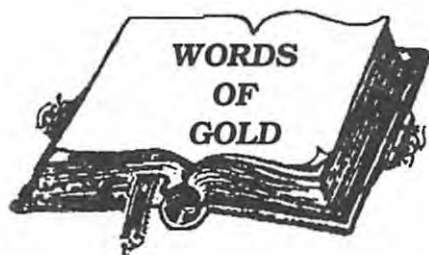
Mary, now twenty-seven years old, read the words joyfully.

Through the years she had given her hard earned wages to help support the family.

Would her family be able to make it without her income from the factory?

She reviewed the situation and decided that her sisters could now make it without her support.

In December the Board asked her to come to Edinburgh. There she would



## Storm At Sea

### Acts 27:14-28

**14** But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

**15** And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive (drift).

**16** And running under a certain island which is called Claudia, we had much work to come by the boat:

**17** Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.

**18** And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

**19** And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

**20** And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

**21** But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

**22** And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

**23** For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

**24** Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

**25** Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

**26** Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

**27** But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country;

**28** And sounded, and found! it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms.

**The Message: For Paul's sake the lives of all two hundred seventy-six persons would be saved. The lives of the wicked are often spared because God interposes to save the righteous.**

### Questions:

1. What was Euroclydon?
2. Why did they let the ship drift?
3. Why did they lose all hope of being saved?
4. What did Paul tell them they should have done?
5. How many lives would be lost in this storm?
6. What would be lost?
7. Who had stood by Paul that night?
8. How would they be saved, according to Paul?
9. On what night did the shipmen discover they were near land?

### Verse to Memorize

**Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.**

**Acts 27:24.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

A gentle south wind was blowing when the ship carrying Paul toward Rome left the harbor at The Fair Havens. They did not aim to go far, but only to another port of the same island, called Phenice, to spend the winter there. So, against Paul's advice, the captain of the ship set sail. But they had scarcely left the harbor when a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon, swept down upon them. Now there was no turning back. Nor could they make any headway against the hurricane-force wind. The ship was tossed like a cork by the angry waves. It seemed it would be torn to pieces at any minute! The owner of the ship could not help remembering Paul's advice and warning.

Since the sailors could not make it back to shore it was safest to keep as far from it as possible. So heading out into the open sea, the ship was left to run at random driven by the fierce wind. Doing all they could to save the ship they strengthened it by passing four or five turns of a cable-like rope round the hull or frame. This, they hoped, would enable the ship to resist the violence of the seas. Then they began throwing the cargo overboard. On the third day the tackling of the ship was thrown out. Now they could only wait anxiously for the storm to pass.

Day after day the storm howled around them. They saw neither sun nor stars for many days. This dense darkness made the tempest all the more terrible. When they could see

neither sun nor stars the sailors had nothing to guide them, making their situation all the more hazardous. Now all hope of being saved from certain death was gone.

But God was still in control and right through the storm He had His eye on Paul and those with him. One morning Paul called everyone to him. Above the roar of the storm he told them, "Sirs, if you had listened to me, this would not have happened. But be of good cheer; even though we shall lose the ship, no one will lose his life. Last night an angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve, stood by me saying, 'Fear not, Paul. You must be brought before Caesar. And God has given you all them that are with you.' I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me!"

The angel's message assured Paul that he would come safely to Rome. The rage of the most stormy sea could not prevail against God's purpose. Paul's work was not finished. He must be preserved in this danger, for he was reserved for further service.

Paul's words were comforting but still the storm raged on. Two weeks passed. Then one night, about midnight, the sailors discovered they were nearing land. No one knew where they were, since they had drifted on the waves for many days. They had no idea what latitude they were in, much less how to steer their course. They did not even know whether they were nearing a rocky coast or a sandy beach. Yet God, for Paul's sake had undertaken to bring them to an island that would prove to be a refuge for them.

Fearing they would be wrecked on a rocky shoreline in the darkness, the sailors threw the anchors overboard and waited anxiously for morning to come. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

receive special preparation for the mission field at their expense. The night before she left Dundee, in March 1876, she tearfully told a friend, "Good-bye." Then she added passionately, "Pray for me!"

Mary was a total stranger in Edinburgh but she made friends quickly. Some of the other students asked why she would go to a place so dangerous that it was known as "the white man's grave." Her ready reply was that since it was a post of danger, it was therefore also a post of honour. Since few would volunteer to serve there this is where she wished to go because the Master needed her there.

When Mary had any leisure time from her studies she helped at the mission. Her one desire was to always be busy for the Lord. Finally the Committee was satisfied that Mary was ready for the mission field and decided to send her to Calabar at once.

Mary was now twenty-eight years old. She was mature in mind and strong in body. Timidly, yet with high hopes and unshakeable faith in God, she faced the fulfillment of her lifelong dream—she was going to Africa as a missionary!

Two of her friends went with her as far as Liverpool. Then, on August 5, 1876, she sailed from Liverpool on the steamer "Ethiopia." Seeing a large number of casks of whiskey being loaded on the same ship, she exclaimed ruefully: "Scores of casks of rum and only one missionary!" Mary's father had been a drunkard so she knew the suffering caused by whiskey. This made her more determined to tell the natives that they could escape a drunkard's life and have the peaceful Kingdom of God living in their hearts!

When she arrived in Calabar Mary quickly learned about cruel gods carved of wood and stone. The natives sacrificed humans to these gods. A person suspected of doing wrong might be forced to eat poisonous beans or boil-

ing oil might be poured over him. The gods were supposed to protect the innocent from harm, but of course they didn't. Every one tested by these methods was "guilty."

These savages enslaved and branded each other. Slaves were expendable, and when a chief died dozens were killed. Other evils included throwing unwanted babies into the bush to be nibbled by insects or gobbled by leopards. Twins were believed to be a great evil. One had the devil as its father, said the natives, but since no one knew which one both were buried alive or thrown into the forest. Their mother was driven away to die. The tribes fought and danced and got drunk. Sometimes they ate one another. Everyone lived in fear.

Mary could see why this was known as the "white man's grave." Only a fool could come here without being afraid. The land, just a few miles from shore was still unexplored. Killer elephants and lions, swarms of insects, witch doctors and cannibals lived there. To enter that land would surely mean death!

Had she committed herself to an impossible work? What could one frail, timid woman do, confronted by such a frightful situation? Overwhelmed and depressed, she knelt and prayed, "Lord, the task is impossible for me but not for Thee. Lead the way and I will follow."

Rising, she said courageously, "Why should I fear? I am on a Royal Mission. I am in the service of the King of kings."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. A tempestuous wind. 2. They could not bear up into the wind. 3. They had seen neither sun nor stars for many days and there was still a great tempest. 4. Listened to him and stayed in Crete. 5. Not one. 6. The ship. 7. An angel. 8. By being cast onto a certain island. 9. The fourteenth.)

# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 June 22, 2003

## Conquering Cannibals

(Continued from last week.)

Mary Slessor was the only woman aboard the steamer that carried her to her mission field in Africa. A small boat from the mission came alongside the steamer and took her to shore.

It was immediately obvious to Mary that this strange, wild land was far different from her home in Scotland. She saw huge, hideous alligators sunning on the mud banks and swimming in the streams. She saw some of the natives who had been captured. They were kept in pens until the slave-ships arrived to take them far away from their homeland. Those who survived the treacherous journey would be sold as slaves.

Mary's first assignment was to Duke Town. Here the missionaries had built a school, hospital, orphanage and chapel. On any Sunday there were several hundred natives in services. It was encouraging to see the effect of the gospel on these natives as they stopped some of their heathen practices.

Mary was anxious to work directly with the natives so she made up her mind to learn their language as quickly as possible. Soon she spoke their language so well that the natives admitted that she could speak it better than they could. Now Mary could go among the people without a translator. She

was warned that it was dangerous to travel alone but she found that she could get to know the people better this way.

Sometimes at night Mary would lie awake on a dirt floor in some coastal village. "Oh Lord," she prayed, "I thank Thee that I can bring these people Thy Word. But Lord, there are other villages back in the jungle where no white man has gone. They need Jesus, too. Help me reach them!" Then, whenever she had an opportunity, she would ask another missionary or a native if she could go to these villages. The answer was always the same: "No. You would be killed. They cannot be reached."

Her worst enemy was the tropical disease that hit her so suddenly. Many times it looked like she would surely die. It would have been easy to just give up and leave this unhealthy mission field and go back home to the cool mists of Scotland. But Mary had come for a purpose; she was determined to reach as many as she could and teach them about Jesus.

But when she caught malaria she became extremely sick. As soon as she was able to travel she was sent back to Scotland for a yearlong furlough to get her strength back. When she did return Mary was overjoyed to find that she had been posted further upstream in a place called Old Town and could



## Shipwrecked!

**Acts 27:29-44**

**29** Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

**30** And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,

**31** Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

**32** Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

**33** And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing.

**34** Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

**35** And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.

**36** Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat.

**37** And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls.

**38** And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea.

**39** And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship.

**40** And when they had taken up the

anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore.

**41** And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves.

**42** And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape.

**43** But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land:

**44** And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

**The Message: God displayed His great power and wisdom to the two hundred seventy-six people who sailed with Paul on this tempestuous voyage. No doubt this brought a fear of God on them and probably through this many were saved.**

(Answers: 1. They feared they would fall upon rocks. 2. They were trying to escape. 3. "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." 4. They cut the ropes and let the boat fall into the sea. 5. To eat. 6. 276. 7. The forepart stuck fast and the hind part was beaten in pieces by the waves. 8. To kill all the prisoners. 9. To save Paul's life.)

(Look for "Questions" on page 3.)

### Verse to Memorize

**But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land.**

**Acts 27:43.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

Up in the bow of the ship a conspiracy was taking place. Some of the sailors were laying a plan to escape with the small boat that had been hauled up on the deck. They planned to lower the boat and board it under the pretence of casting anchors out of the bows. Thus they would escape to land and abandon their friends to the raging sea. Paul became aware of their plan and quickly called the centurion and his soldiers.

"Unless these men stay, we cannot be saved," he warned.

Julius sprang into action. A quick command sent one of his soldiers to the side of the ship with drawn sword. He brought it down sharply on the rope and severed it and the little boat disappeared in the darkness. Without a boat they were even more helpless but the plot was ended.

The captain of the ship thought it might be possible to steer the ship into the mouth of the creek and beach it. He gave his orders quickly. The rudder was unlashed, the anchor ropes at the stern were cut, a light sail was hoisted to the mast and the battered ship lumbered toward the shore. They did not get very far, for the coast was unknown to them, and in a place where two currents met the vessel grounded on a sandbar, and with a grinding noise her bow stuck fast.

As the breakers beat upon the stern of the boat, they could all see that there was no hope of her getting off the bar. The waves were still

rolling in fury, and the planks of the ship were loosening. Up in the bow of the ship the Roman soldiers, knowing that their own lives would be forfeited if they lost their prisoners, went to their commander saying, "Sir, we cannot be responsible for our prisoners any longer. No man can swim through these angry waters chained to another. Would it not be wise to kill them all now?"

But Julius had come to know and love Paul, so for his sake he ordered that the prisoners' chains be loosened and all who could swim should make for the shore. Those who could not swim caught up planks and broken pieces of wood to which they clung as they slid or jumped over the side and were carried by the waves to shore.

They were a miserable band of men, weak and exhausted, who gathered on the beach and watched the ship break up by the pounding of the mighty waves. But they were all there to a man—bruised, tattered, half-drowned and shivering in the rain; but they were safe at last!

—*The Life and Journeys of Paul*  
by Charles Ferguson Ball



### Questions:

1. Why did they cast out anchors and wait for daylight?
2. What were the shipmen really trying to do when they let down the small boat?
3. What did Paul tell the centurion?
4. What action did the soldiers take?
5. While they waited for daylight, what did Paul beg them to do?
6. How many people were on board the ship?
7. What happened to the ship when it ran aground?
8. What was the soldiers' counsel?
9. Why did the centurion keep them from their purpose?

live in her very own mud hut. Her first view of the place was of a human skull swinging from a pole in front of the town meeting house!

Mary gradually won the trust of the local people by fearlessly living with them, speaking their own language, treating their sicknesses, teaching the children and giving advice and care to anyone who asked.

One morning she found a newborn baby on her doorstep. She suspected that it was either unwanted or one of a twin. Over time she raised many babies. She wove baskets for each of them. She would then hang these from the ceiling. Attached to each one was a length of string. At night, if she heard one of them crying she would pull the string and rock the baby back to sleep. Throughout her mission life she received and cared for hundreds of babies. Most of them died, but she cared for them and loved them, and tried to show the people that every life is important.

Mary soon became known throughout the area for her wise, fair counsel. There was a Christian chief, King Eyo Honesty the Sixth, who often asked Mary for advice in dealing with white men. She, in turn, asked him for help in working with the natives.

Mary wanted to leave the coast and live in the interior, in the midst of the head-hunters and cannibals. When one of the men missionaries went into this district to seek permission to settle, he was captured and narrowly escaped with his life. Nevertheless, Mary determined to go. "I must go forward and onward," she declared.

King Eyo tried to discourage her but she was determined. She had already started going alone to villages on foot, singing loudly so as not to startle the leopards, lions, snakes and hippopotami on the way. By now she had a reputation among the natives. They called her the "White Ma" whose head was on fire because of her red hair.

King Eyo offered her the use of his best royal canoe and paddlers to take her to the village of Ekenge. The parting words from her friends in Old Town were "Be careful. Don't trust them. If they kill you we promise to avenge your murder!"

On the third of August 1888, she stepped into the canoe with five native orphans, children she had rescued from death. The oldest child was a boy of eleven, the youngest a baby in her arms. It was a miserable day because it rained all day long! Night had already fallen when the canoe was pulled up in the riverbank and it was still a four-mile walk through the forest to Ekenge!

Mary took the baby in her arms and bravely struck out along the forest path. The children were terrified! They knew deadly snakes, leopards and other vicious animals lurked all around them in the dark. She had to urge them to follow her.

It was understood that the men would follow her with the bundles of food and clothing. Soaking wet, hungry and exhausted Mary and the children waited for the loads to arrive. After awhile news reached her that the men were tired and had gone to sleep in the boat!

Although she was exhausted she was forced to go back the way she had come, this time barefoot because she had pulled off her boots to rub her swollen feet and could not get them back on. When she got back to the canoe it was too far out on the river to reach from the bank, so she had to jump into the crocodile-infested river to get to it, wake the men and persuade them to bring the boxes to the village.

Thoroughly exhausted, Mary again retraced the four miles through the forest and brought them all on to Ekenge by midnight.

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)



# THE

# BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 54, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 June 29, 2003

## On To Okoyong!

(Continued from last week.)

Mary Slessor was deeply burdened for the remote Okoyong tribe that had never heard the gospel. How could she bring the love of Christ to these people as well? She knew God was leading her there. Mary was willing to trust God to show her how to win these savage people to Christ.

At last, in June 1888, she quietly announced that she would go upriver alone and find a place to settle. "You will die. You will die," her friends told her. They wept at the prospect of her leaving. Nobody expected Mary to survive for long.

The farther they went, the more her twenty paddlers wanted to turn back. They feared the Okoyong. But the Lord was with the group and they arrived safely. The Lord had also prepared the heart of the chief of the first village they found.

The chief liked Mary's brave spirit and gave her permission to stay in the village. She soon made herself quite at home among the people. With her own hands she helped build a mud-walled house. It seems unbelievable but Mary walked barefoot, lived on native food, drank unfiltered water, slept on the ground and did many other things that would have quickly brought death to any ordinary person. She trusted God to protect her and He did!

This area was far more wicked than any Mary had seen. The people respected only vengeance and cruelty. To a people who did not know what love was, Mary brought the love of Christ.

In the first few days she was there one of the local boys was put on trial by the tribe. He was charged with deserting the ancient customs because he helped Mary clean and arrange her hut rather than go on a raiding party to a neighboring village. As a punishment, boiling oil was poured over his hands and arms. Mary was not able to stop it but she angrily challenged the chief. He finally agreed to let her take the boy and care for him.

On another occasion, Mary challenged a warrior who was about to carry out a similar punishment on a woman. He danced around her carrying a ladle full of boiling oil. Mary stepped forward to intervene and instead he began to dance towards her. They got closer and closer until their faces were almost touching. The whole tribe was watching and waiting for the warrior to pour the oil over Mary. But she didn't flinch.

Suddenly the warrior cried out in disgust, threw down the ladle and stepped back. The crowd gasped. A white woman had challenged local customs and won! The tribe was in



## Bitten By A Viper!

### Acts 28:1-11

1 And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

2 And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

4 And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

6 Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

7 In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously.

8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul

entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

9 So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed:

10 Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.

11 And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux.

**The Message: Had it not been for the shipwreck, the inhabitants on the island of Melita would not have heard the gospel and seen the power of God.**

### Questions:

1. To what island did they escape?
2. How did the island people show them kindness?
3. How did Paul help?
4. What fastened itself to his hand?
5. What did the people think about Paul?
6. How did Paul react when he saw it hanging from his hand?
7. What did the people finally decide about Paul?
8. Who was Publius?
9. What did Paul do for Publius' father?

### Verse to Memorize

**And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.  
Acts 28:5.**

# Let's



## Talk . . .

The plight of the shipwreck had attracted the natives. They watched anxiously from the shore. As soon as they were near enough many of the natives ran to help the strangers, lighting fires so that they might warm themselves. It was then that the shipwrecked men learned where they were. They had landed on the island of Melita, only sixty miles from Sicily, a Roman possession.

As soon as Paul got to shore, he joined the others in bringing sticks for the fire. With an armful of brushwood, he approached one of the fires and laid his burden in the flames. Suddenly a viper, which had been clinging to the wood, unseen by Paul, was stung by the heat and jumped for safety, fastening itself upon his hand. For a second it clung there and a cry of fear went up from the horror-stricken onlookers. With one quick motion Paul shook it off and it dropped back into the fire.

Here was a prisoner, they thought, who had escaped the sea but the vengeance of the gods had followed him, and his hour had come. They knew the deadly poison of the viper and the speed with which it acts. They expected to see Paul sicken and fall dead in a matter of minutes. With horror in their faces they watched him—sure he had committed some terrible crime to meet death by so sudden a stroke.

But in Paul's mind there was no such thought. He was not afraid, for he believed God and was confident that he would preach the gospel in Rome as he had been promised. The minutes sped by and Paul prodded

the fire, moving closer to it to dry his clothing and to warm his body. Closely they watched him and as each moment passed their amazement grew even greater. He did not seem pale nor did he look like a dying man.

One by one the superstitious islanders nodded their heads and concluded that he must be a god in disguise. This, combined with what followed in the next few days, gave Paul an opportunity to preach the gospel of the one true God, who can protect his servants from every evil.

The islanders took the shipwrecked people to the governor, whose residence was close to the scene of the disaster. His house and outbuildings were large and his heart was larger so he made provision for them all for three days. Publius, the Roman governor of Melita, had an aged father living in his residence, who was sick with a fever. When Paul heard of this, he asked to see him and, receiving permission, he laid his hands on the old man. Lifting his eyes to God in heaven, the apostle prayed fervently that a miracle would be done and that this man might be healed as a testimony to the power of God and the truth of the gospel.

The Lord heard that prayer and the governor's father was made well. Publius heard the good news and so did many of the sick. By the score they came, hoping that the man Paul might heal them, too. And so for three winter months, while Julius and his prisoners waited until the sea became navigable again, Paul and his friends, Luke and Aristarchus, preached the gospel of Christ and God confirmed their words by miracles.

Special honors were given to Paul and his friends. They had won the love and confidence of many people. Those of high degree and low had seen the mighty power of God and some believed. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

shock for days. They understood from this that the God of the white woman was stronger than their tribal gods. Bystanding up to the spiritual powers in courage and faith, Mary was able to give them the gospel and many received it.

Meanwhile in a village far from where Mary lived a chief was ill. His people waited in dread because they knew that if he died many of them would be killed to be his attendants in the spirit world.

A woman from another village happened to be there. She told the chief's wives, "Through the forest at Ekenge there lives a white Ma who by her magic can cast out the demons who are killing your chief. She saved my own child. Why don't you send for her?"

The very lives of the chief's wives depended on the chief getting well. They quickly told the chief about the strange white woman. "Send for her at once," he ordered.

When the messengers finally reached Mary's house she was ready to go with them.

She knew that it would be a long, dangerous journey but she also knew that if the chief died many other people would die also.

When the local chief heard about the messengers, he warned her, "There are warriors out in the woods and you will be killed. You must not go."

So all through the night she lay awake, wondering if she should go on such a journey with so many risks and only a possibility of saving the sick chief's life. Early in the morning she knelt, praying that she might know the will of God in the matter. Assured in her heart that her Lord would accompany her, she set out at dawn.

After more than eight hours of walking, she staggered into the house of the sick chief. She was wet, ex-

hausted, hungry and aching all over from fever. Mary did not lie down for even a moment's rest but went immediately to the chief who lay unconscious on a mat on the mud floor. She did what she could for him and prayerfully watched him.

To everyone's amazement the chief regained consciousness the next day and was able to eat! Some days later he was quite well and all the people laughed and sang for joy, knowing that no one would be killed.

They gathered around Mary in gratitude and wonder asking about her magic powers. She told them, "I have come to you because I love and worship Jesus Christ, the Great Physician and Saviour, the Son of the Father God who made all things. I want you to know this Father and to receive the eternal life which Jesus offers to all those with contrite and believing hearts. To know Jesus means to love Him and with His love in our hearts we love everybody. Eternal life means peace and joy in this world and a wonderful home in the next world. My heart longs for you to believe in Jesus, to walk in His paths and to know the blessings of eternal life through Him."

As the years passed by Mary became known as "the white Ma." Her name was known far and wide. They knew that she was good and brave and kind but they thought she had very strange ideas. Many of them, however, began to realize that her brave and loving spirit came from the great God of whom she spoke so much.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Melita. 2. They built a fire. 3. By gathering sticks for the fire. 4. A viper. 5. That he must be a murderer. 6. He shook the viper off into the fire. 7. That he was a god. 8. The chief man of the island. 9. He healed him.)