

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 Jan. 2, 2005

A Girl's Song

There had been a terrible accident at the coal mines near Scranton, Pennsylvania. The thing the miners feared most had happened—a mine had collapsed and several men were buried! Three long harrowing days had already passed. Although everyone worked frantically, all efforts to rescue the buried miners had been unsuccessful.

The majority of these miners were Germans. They were all in a state of intense agitation. Each man felt deep sympathy for the wives and children of the buried men. They were frantic with despair. They had tried every way they knew to rescue the trapped men; yet their efforts had all been futile.

By the evening of the third day a great mob of ignorant men and women had assembled at the mouth of the mine. Everyone was in a condition of highly nervous tension. They could be capable of any mad and desperate action. A sullen murmur arose among them. "It is useless to dig farther," they mumbled. "The men are already dead!" Then they began yelling their outrage against the rich mine owners. It was their fault that these men had met their doom. They could have done something to prevent such a disaster!

The air was charged with the feeling of their rage. Any word or action

now could spark an explosive outbreak of fury!

Standing near the mouth of the mine was a little German girl who was perhaps eleven years old. By looking at her pale face and watching her frightened glances from side to side one could see that she fully understood the danger of the moment.

Suddenly, and with a great effort, she began to sing in a hoarse whisper that could not be heard over the tumult all around. Then she gained courage. Suddenly her sweet, childish voice rang out as she sang Martin Luther's grand old hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!"

There was silence like death. Every German knew this hymn from his cradle. Then one voice joined the girl's, and presently another and another, until the whole great multitude was solemnly singing:

With force of arms we nothing can,

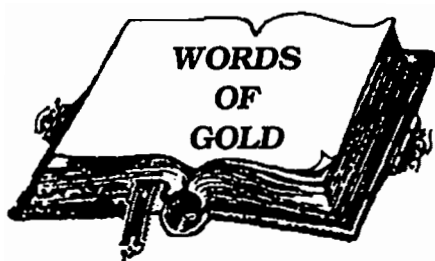
Full soon are we o'erridden.

*But for us fights the godly Man,
Ask ye His name?*

Christ Jesus is His name.

A great quiet seemed to fall upon their hearts. The words gave them fresh hope and courage. They resumed their work with fresh zeal, believing that Jesus was present to help them. Before morning there was a joyful cry from the rescuers in the pit.

The men were found—alive!



God, Our Refuge!

Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.

9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Proverbs 18:10

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,...

20 ...And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

The Message: It is safe to place our full confidence in God!

Questions:

1. Who is our strength?
2. God is a _____ help in trouble.
3. Because God is our refuge we will not _____ even though the earth should be removed.
4. What two verses in Psalms 46 are identical?
5. What must we do in order to know that God is God? (Psalms 46:10)
6. The name of the Lord is what kind of a tower?
7. The righteous run there and are _____.
8. Who said He was with us always?
9. What can we boldly say?

Verse to Memorize

...If God be for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31.

Let's



Talk . . .

A refuge is a place of shelter, protection, or safety. It is anything available for our aid, relief, or escape. God has promised to be all this to us! He did not promise those who serve and trust Him that they would never have trouble. But He did promise to be present with them in that trouble to help them just when it is most needed.

Jesus' last words to His disciples as He sent them out to preach the Gospel were, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." These words gave John Paton, missionary to the cannibals, courage even though his life was constantly in danger.

He knew that he had not undertaken this work on his own. Since God had directed him here he knew that he had God and the vast resources of His power with him. He wrote, "I was conscious that our Lord Jesus was near me and that through Him I was strong enough for any assignment that He had given or might give."

Courageously he told 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.

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 (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 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," Paton said, "I knelt down and gave myself away body and soul to the Lord Jesus, for what seemed 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. And the very 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 explains, "My faith enabled me to grasp and realize the promise, 'Lo, I am with you always.' In Jesus I felt invulnerable."

Give your life to God now while you are young. We need His strength and protection because the devil is like a roaring lion. Without God's help we are no match for him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

The powerful words of this inspired hymn actually saved the miner's lives. They had been planted in the heart and mind of this young girl with such conviction that it gave her courage to share them at the needed moment. The Lord used her hymn in that tense moment to calm the outrage of the mob and give them renewed vigor to continue their search for the lost miners. Never was a word more in season than that child's hymn.

—Selected

Rallying Cry Of The Reformation

Martin Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress", is often called the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation." It has been translated into almost every known language, and at least eighty different translations have been made into English!

The years following 1520 were dark and filled with danger for Martin Luther. He had served the Catholic church as an Augustinian priest for many years but when he wrote about the evil practices of the church, such as selling indulgences, he was excommunicated. He was even threatened with arrest and extradition to Rome for trial, but a sympathetic German official placed Luther in protective custody. He was locked in a castle near Eisenach, Germany for over a year.

Martin Luther was never one to waste time. He used this time of forced isolation to begin his translation of the Bible from Greek into German. He felt strongly that the people ought to be able to read the Holy Scriptures in their own language and also to speak directly to God through hymns in their native tongue. To this end he composed a hymn book for use by German congregations. With the translation of the New Testament into

German in 1522, the publication of a hymn book in 1524, and the completion of the Old Testament translation in 1534, Luther provided the foundation for the Protestant Reformation in Germany. In his honor German Protestants became known as Lutherans. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" draws its inspiration from the first verse of Psalm forty-six, "God is our refuge and strength." This hymn became familiar to rich and poor people alike all across Europe.

The reformation brought great hardship to those who dared oppose the powers of Catholicism. Many lost their homes, their livelihood and even their lives in their effort to learn more about God and His true worship. People forced from their homes and on their way to exile, soldiers as they went to battle and even martyrs as they went to their deaths sang the verses of this hymn and drew courage from its words. Today it is the national hymn of Germany.

After being cast out of the Catholic church, Luther married a former nun, Katherine von Bora, in 1525. Together they continued to work tirelessly for the cause of the Reformation. When he died in 1546, in his hometown of Eisleben, Germany, Luther had, through his theological writings, his Bible translations, and through his hymns, laid the foundations of a movement that would forever change the religious history of the world. In recognition of this, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was sung at his funeral and the first line of the hymn is inscribed on his tomb in Eisleben.

(Answers: 1. God. 2. Present.
3. Fear. 4. Seven and eleven. 5. Be
still. 6. A strong tower. 7. Safe.
8. Jesus. 9. "The Lord is my helper,
and I will not fear what man shall
do unto me.")

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 Jan. 9, 2005

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Since she was a very young girl, Adelaide Pollard's life had always been centered on her strong faith in God and her intense desire to work for Him. After training in Chicago, she taught in several girls' schools, later becoming active as a Bible teacher and evangelist.

But in a church prayer meeting one evening in 1902 Adelaide had to admit that she was a depressed and discouraged Christian. Her whole life had been spent endeavoring to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The greatest desire of her heart had long been to travel to Africa to minister to those who had never had an opportunity to hear the good news of the Gospel.

It seemed that things were falling into place for the accomplishment of this dream and she began working to get everything in order. But in spite of her best efforts, she could not raise the money necessary. It soon became obvious that she would not be going to Africa after all.

Adelaide was now forty years old and still single. When the way was blocked for her to become a missionary, it seemed to be the final blow in the many disappointments that had plagued her all her life!

The Lord had given Adelaide gifts of teaching and writing but she had been unable to use them in the ways she most desired. She had great dreams and ideas for ministering tirelessly for the Lord, yet her body was plagued with weakness caused by diabetes. She finally despaired of ever accomplishing something fulfilling and meaningful.

So, distressed and discouraged, Adelaide decided to attend the prayer meeting that night. Seated beside her was a frail and elderly woman whom she had never seen before. Others offered prayers and put in requests for blessings, guidance and other gifts from the Lord. Adelaide sat in silence, unable to utter even a prayer from her aching heart. It was then that the woman next to her offered a simple prayer. Instead of asking blessings from the Lord, she gave herself as a living sacrifice to Him, saying, "It doesn't matter what You bring into our lives, Lord. Just have Your own way with us."

From this simple prayer the words, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," burned their way into Adelaide's mind. Suddenly she realized that her whole life had been spent pursuing her own goals, doing what she wanted to do for God and taking little time to seek what He might want her to do.



A Chosen Vessel

Jeremiah 18:4

4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

II Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Acts 9:1-6, 9-11, 15, 17-18

1 And Saul, he went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters...that if he found any of this way...he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed,...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:...

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.

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

10 ...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 inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

15 ...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...said, Brother Saul, the Lord,...hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

18 And immediately...he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

The Message: If we fully yield to God He will make us a chosen vessel for His service.

Questions:

1. What did the potter do with the vessel that was marred?
2. How can we become a new creature?
3. Why did Saul go to the high priest?
4. What happened as he journeyed?
5. When he fell to the ground, what did the voice ask?
6. Who was speaking to Saul?
7. How long was Saul blind?
8. Who prayed for Saul to receive his sight?
9. God said Saul was a _____ vessel to bear His name.

Verse to Memorize

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

II Corinthians 5:17.

Let's



Talk . . .

In the very beginning God formed man out of the dust of the earth. We are His creation. He wanted man to be holy—just like Him. When Adam and Eve disobeyed, their lives were marred by sin. Their guilt made them unfit to stand before God and talk with Him face to face as they had before.

When God sent Jeremiah to the potter's house to watch him work, Israel was far from God. But God has never been willing to give upon His creation. He was showing Jeremiah that, just as the potter reformed the clay into a useful vessel, He could again make the Israelites a godly nation if they would repent and obey Him.

God did not give up His purpose for man even though he fell from the grand design God had for his life when he sinned. Man could be redeemed and restored but the price was high. It would require nothing less than the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus.

But He loved us that much! John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." So God sent Jesus to earth. He was pure and holy—free from all sin, just as God is holy. He came so we, too, can be holy!

Jesus was a chosen vessel to God. He was willing to leave heaven to live on earth as a common man and endured all the pain, grief and sorrow that came on man because of sin. Jesus yielded Himself to God as pliable clay in a potter's hands. Just before He died in agony on the cruel cross Jesus went to pray. He was setting the example for us. We must ask God to strengthen us and give us courage when we face trials or battles too hard for us. His prayer was, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me:

nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." Luke 22:42.

By His death Jesus paid the price necessary to redeem us from sin. Through His life He showed us how to yield our lives completely to God and live a holy life.

Jesus' disciples followed His example. All except Judas, they consecrated their lives for God to make them chosen vessels for His work. The Bible tells us how they were filled with the Holy Spirit because they belonged to God entirely. God worked such miracles through them that thousands gave their lives to God also when they heard the Gospel and saw the mighty power of God.

Paul was like a vessel that was marred. He thought he was doing God's will by trying to stamp out the Gospel. He did not believe that Jesus was the Savior and thought His followers were displeasing God.

He was vicious in his attacks. He didn't care if the believer was a man or a woman—he would have them imprisoned. Some were even put to death and Paul was there to witness against them.

With papers from the high priest he and some other men started for Damascus one day. The papers gave him authority to arrest any believers he found and bring them back to Jerusalem to stand trial.

But God saw Paul was doing all this wickedness because He did not know Jesus. So through a light so bright that it struck Paul to the ground, God spoke to him. Now he knew that Jesus really was the Savior. He was so completely persuaded that he immediately began preaching to others, telling them that Jesus was the Savior!

God told Ananias that Paul was a chosen vessel and that He had a great work for him to do. Paul repented of his sins, accepted Jesus as his Savior and gave his life completely to God.

Have you put your life in God's hands? He has a grand purpose and plan for you just as He did for Paul. You will never regret letting God work out His plan in you. It will be a wonderful, happy, prosperous life—and then the joy of living with Him in heaven for ever and ever!

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

As she walked home from the prayer meeting, the words of the woman's simple prayer rang in her ears so intensely that before Adelaide reached home she had formed some stanzas of the hymn, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," in her mind. Her steps had a wonderful new lightness. Now she saw that God was trying to work out His own will in her life.

Arriving home, she opened her Bible to the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. In the first four verses of the eighteenth chapter, she read these words:

"The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it."

Adelaide saw herself as the defective pot needing to be broken and reformed by the Master Potter after His will. As she meditated upon this thought, the remaining words of the hymn poem formed in her mind. Before she went to bed that night, she had composed all four verses of the popular hymn "Have Thine Own Way, Lord."

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still."

It was after this turning point in her life that Adelaide Pollard's teaching and speaking ministry took on a new dimension. She worked for several years educating missionaries at the Missionary Training School at Nyack-on-the-Hudson. She also spent time as an itinerant Bible teacher and lecturer.

Eventually she did have an opportunity to go to Africa shortly before World War I. When war broke out, however, she went to Scotland and continued her missionary efforts there. At the end of the war years, she returned to the United States and traveled extensively in the New England states, teaching the Bible despite her failing health.

On December 20, 1934, at the age of seventy-two, Adelaide Pollard died of a heart attack. True to the missionary zeal that marked her life, she was not at home in bed when this happened, but in a New York rail station waiting to board a train for Philadelphia where she was planning to speak.

Adelaide wrote over 100 other songs but, just how many we do not know for certain since she seldom signed them, not desiring credit. Although she wrote so many other hymns, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" is the only one still in popular use today. Perhaps that is fitting, for it was not only her philosophy of life, but her most accurate epitaph.

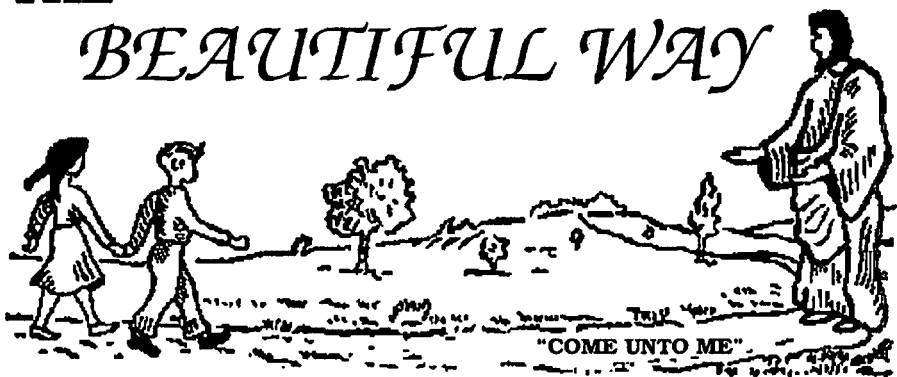
Often discouragements and heartaches come into our lives that we cannot understand. As children of God, however, we must learn never to question the ways of our sovereign God—but simply to say, as the elderly woman prayed, "Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!"

—Selected

(Answers: 1. Made it into another vessel. 2. By being in Christ (giving our lives to Him). 3. To get letters to arrest the believers. 4. A light from heaven shined around him. 5. "Why are you persecuting Me?" 6. Jesus. 7. Three days. 8. Ananias. 9. Chosen.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 Jan. 16, 2005

An Invalid's Song Of Faith

Charlotte Elliott lived a carefree and happy life as she grew up in England at the end of the eighteenth century. She was a gifted artist and became popular for her portrait work. In addition to her artistic talents, she wrote humorous verses which were published to some acclaim.

Charlotte's health began to fail when she was only thirty years old. By the time she was thirty-one, she was confined to bed. This drastic decline in her health and in her ability to enjoy the life she had always known caused her to become despondent. Month after month she suffered, unable to be out of her bed. Her family became more and more concerned, not only about her physical condition, but, noticing her despair, about her emotional health as well.

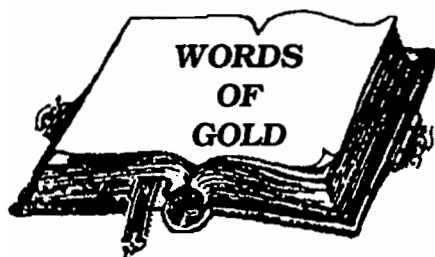
Her physical weakness made Charlotte Elliott even more aware of another battle she was having—her protracted struggle against the oppressive power of sin. At an early age, Charlotte became aware of her sinful nature and of her inability to resist sin's enticements. As she matured Charlotte realized more how unworthy she was of God's grace. She knew she was not ready to face a perfect

and righteous God if she should die. She visited many churches and accepted counsel from many pastors. All of them instructed her simply to pray more, to study the Bible more, to perform more noble deeds and to resolve to do better.

However, all such advice was no help to her. So, for seven or eight more years Charlotte continued to struggle in vain against sin. She experienced at length the condition described in Romans 7:18: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

In 1822, the noted Swiss evangelist Henri Cesar Malan was visiting the city of Brighton, England. Charlotte's father invited Dr. Malan to visit their home and asked him to speak with Charlotte. This encounter proved to be the turning point in Charlotte's life. She asked him, as she had asked many others, how she might be saved. Sensing the enormous burden weighing upon her conscience, Malan responded compassionately, "Go to God just as you are."

Charlotte asked him in amazement, "Do I not have to do better, make more progress and improve more before I believe in the Lord Jesus?"



Come, Just As You Are!

John 6:37-40

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 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.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 19:14

14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Revelations 22:17

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

I Peter 5:6-7

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Romans 8:32

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

The Message: God will accept you, just as you are, and change you into Christ's likeness!

Questions:

1. Jesus said, "He that cometh to me I will in no wise ____."
2. Jesus came from heaven to do whose will?
3. Everyone who believes on the Son will have ____.
4. Who did Jesus invite to come to Him?
5. What did He promise to give them?
6. How much did God love the world?
7. Why did God send His Son into the world?
8. We must humble ourselves under whose mighty hand?
9. How much of our care are we to cast on God?

Verse to Memorize

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

I Peter 5:7.

Let's



Talk . . .

Why do you try to read by the light of a flickering candle when there is an electric switch within easy reach? Why do you go out to the well bringing back a heavy pail of water when all you had to do is turn on the faucet and get plenty of water, hot or cold?

You don't, do you? You turn on the lights by the flip of a switch and reach over and turn on the faucet when you want water. It would be foolish to continue to carry buckets of water when you can get all you need from the faucet.

But you may be guilty of just such foolishness in spiritual things! Romans 8:32 says, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" If God loves us so very much that He would even give His only Son for us, what else could be more precious to Him than He would not give it to us? He gave the best—He will not withhold the rest!

When you struggle along trying to live on the poor primitive resources of your own human nature it is like reading by candlelight when there is an electric lamp right beside you. God has offered you all His infinite power through Jesus. There is no condition or circumstance that God does not have power over.

Peter tells us that we must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and also that we must cast all our care on Him because He cares for us! 1 Peter 5:6-7 Yet the vast majority of God's children stagger along carrying loads that are much too heavy for them. God cannot carry the load for

them until they give it to Him.

Have you ever been in so much trouble you didn't know anyone you could trust to tell it to? Did you ever wish there was someone who really understood and who wouldn't betray your trust and confidence? Whenever you don't know which way to take, wouldn't it be wonderful if you could go to someone who knew from experience how to guide you?

Yet you have just such a Friend and wise Counselor waiting to comfort, help and guide you. Strange as it is, we blunder along getting deeper in trouble and further from the right way when all we need to do is to turn to God. He yearns to help us and there is no time, day or night that He is not available to us! He invites us to "Pray without ceasing."

Why is the great power of prayer so little used? Maybe it is because it seems too simple. All we need to do is to kneel before God as a child would come to a loving Father whom he trusts, then in full confidence that He can and will help us and will work it out in the best way, to leave it in His almighty hands. Then with a great, happy sigh we can settle down at His feet perfectly assured that He is handling all that we gave to Him.

Instead we feel we must work it out ourselves. We have more confidence in our own futile efforts than God almighty! To insist on handling our own problems is like drawing our own water rather than letting the simple turn of a faucet handle bring it to us!

God's message in the song He gave Charlotte Elliott when she wrote, "Just as I Am" is that we must simply come to God admitting our weakness and insufficiency. We come just as we are. He promises to change us into the likeness of Christ, give us power to live a godly life and to always be our Guide and Helper! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Malan simply repeated this simple, precious truth: "You must come to Him just as you are." These few liberating words had a deep and indelible effect on Charlotte Elliott and later they inspired her to write her best-known hymn, "Just as I Am." Hope began to dawn through her depression. Joyfully she made a personal commitment to follow Christ. Her physical health did not change, but her emotional state improved dramatically. From that day on she celebrated what she called a "spiritual birthday" each year to commemorate the day on which she turned her life over to Christ.

In 1835, about twelve years after her conversion, Charlotte Elliott's brother, a pastor in a small Brighton parish, was trying to raise enough money to build a school for the daughters of poor clergymen—St. Mary's Hall. To assist in the fund raising, he organized a bazaar. Members of the congregation were hard at work making handicrafts and baked goods to donate. But Charlotte, home in bed, was frustrated and ill. She was unable to help, yet she longed to do something for the worthwhile cause. She felt so useless!

On the day of the bazaar, after the family had left the house, Charlotte, alone in bed, could not help thinking about her hopeless situation. Then she remembered the words of Cesar Malan and decided to write a song for others who were in her sad condition. She gathered pen and paper and began to write down the reasons why she loved and trusted in Christ. Under the title, "Him that Cometh to Me I Will in No Wise Cast Out, (John 6:37)" she wrote the hymn that we know today as, "Just As I Am." It seems that Dr. Malan's words had come to comfort her as she repeated them at the beginning of each stanza. When Charlotte's sister-in-law re-

turned from the bazaar she found the poem and, without telling Charlotte, had it printed as a leaflet in 1835. The following year it was included in a book of Charlotte's poetry titled, *Invalid's Hymn Book*.

It is interesting to note that although Charlotte had despaired over her inability to help out her brother's building project, it was her hymn, "Just As I Am" that brought in more funds than all the other money-raising projects combined! In a letter, her brother wrote, "In the course of a long ministry, I have been permitted to see some fruit of my labors, but I feel more has been done by a single hymn of my sister's."

While she was plagued with illness, pain, and fatigue for over fifty-one years, Charlotte Elliott wrote several books and over 150 hymns, many of which were especially aimed at comforting those who were ill or suffering.

Many stories are told of people whose lives were transformed by her verses. Dora Wordsworth, daughter of William Wordsworth, asked to have the lines read to her again and again on her deathbed. Sir Henry Norman, an official in British-controlled India, was saved through the hymn at a meeting led by Lord Radstock. Billy Graham used it as the invitation in his crusades.

In spite of her illness, Charlotte lived to be 82. After her death more than a thousand letters were found among her papers, written by people telling her how her hymn had touched their lives. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

(Answers: 1. Cast out. 2. His who sent Him (God's). 3. Everlasting life. 4. All that labor and are heavy laden. 5. Rest. 6. So much that He gave His only begotten Son. 7. That the world might be saved. 8. God's. 9. All our care!)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 Jan. 23, 2005

Who Was The Hero?

Billy and Jimmy reminded their father of the Roman hero story he promised to tell. "Father is nodding. He's too tired to tell stories tonight," said Mother. Jimmy pleaded, "Please, Father, just a short one."

"You studied Ancient History today, did you?" asked Father. John affirmed it. "You notice that the Romans were great sticklers for power. Portus, quite a prominent office holder in the Roman Empire, was annoyed one day because one of his subjects dared to acknowledge that there was a higher power than his," Father continued. "Seated in his stately courtyard, surrounded by servants and luxury, he gave orders. Immediately a stately but modest acting young man was ushered through a side door. His hands were tied behind him. Then he was led to a marble pillar where his hands were tied above his head."

"Will you give up your faith in this Jesus?" Portus asked.

"I cannot," was the reply.

"Strip him of his clothes. Now scourge him!" Portus ordered.

"Two powerful men, with all their might, made their long lashed whips with lashes finished with pointed steel, cut into the Christian's body. The blood oozed out of the wounds. The tormenters were ordered to stop."

"Again Portus asked, 'Will you give up your Christ?'"

"The man, nearly unconscious, shook his head."

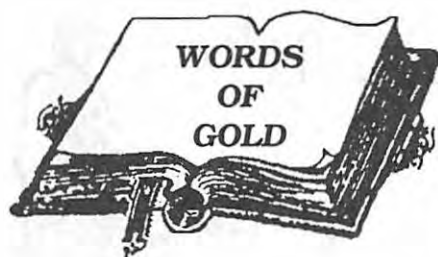
"Rub turpentine and salt into his body," was Portus next cruel order. "And when he is about healed, if this does not finish him, we'll give him another treatment!"

"Kings and men holding high offices in olden times used to go on big game hunts. Wild hogs, deer, and also lions and tigers as well as any animal which their notion demanded, was their game."

"Portus took a notion to go on a big hunt into a wild dense forest where all kinds of dangerous animals made their homes. Of course he was never in danger as he had a body guard of expert marksmen, and too, he was always careful to be on the safe side, so far as his body was concerned. Well, he decided to have that contrary fellow go along who thought more of his God than he did of him."

"After they reached the wild forest he gave his men orders to take the young Christian away into the timber and bind him to a tree for wild animals to devour. He selected the roughest characters to do the work and they did it well. Of course, they were well paid."

"The hunting-party was having a big time. They shot and captured all



More Than A Conqueror!

Luke 6:27-29

27 ...Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other:...

Romans 12:19-21

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 8:37-39

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I Corinthians 15:57-58

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,

forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

II Corinthians 2:14

14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

II Corinthians 10:4-5

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The Message: We are 'more than conquerors' when we come out of a battle stronger than we were before!

Questions:

1. Love your _____.
2. How are we to treat those who hate us?
3. What should we do for those who despitefully use us?
4. Who has promised to repay those who do us wrong?
5. If our enemy is hungry or thirsty what are we to do?
6. We are to overcome evil with what?
7. What can separate us from the love of God?
8. Who gives us the victory and causes us to always triumph?
9. The weapons of our warfare are not _____.

Verse to Memorize

...We are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Romans 8:37.

Let's



Talk . . .

The American Indians believed that every enemy tomahawked in battle sent new strength into the warrior's arm. When our lives are fully yielded to God He fights our battles. He could put us in His protective custody and not let any trouble come to us but He is much wiser than that. It is when we face great trouble or tragedy that we cannot handle that we turn to Him. It is then that we learn to trust Him. It is then that He can show His great love for us and power against all evil.

In order to survive spiritually we must learn to depend on God instead of our own strength and resources. This is the important lesson God taught Gideon. Daniel could bravely continue praying and worshipping God in spite of the threat to His life. He knew God personally and was assured that God would take care of his enemies if He was faithful.

So God allows the fierce battles that we face to make us stronger, not in ourselves but in Him. Paul experienced this. Trouble came to him and he knew just what to do. He said he prayed about it and asked God to take it away. But God's plan was greater. He told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

Paul's response was, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in perse-

cutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong!" II Corinthians 12:9-10 He was glad to put it in God's hands and receive God's grace, strength and help in return.

You are truly 'more than a conqueror' when you not only conquer your enemy but actually change him into an ally. This gives you even greater strength in future battles. The young Christian in our story dared to confess that he served the one true God. He suffered greatly for his faithfulness and it looked like only evil had come from it. But the battle wasn't over. God could have delivered him from Portus, his tormentor, but He had a greater victory in mind. He brought the young man into a situation where he could do as our lesson instructs. His faith was strong enough to help him do good to his enemy when his first impulse was to kill him. Instead he did all he could to help Portus regain consciousness.

When Portus finally opened his eyes and saw the young Christian, fear filled his eyes. Now he was at the mercy of the one he had tortured and determined to kill by the most horrible suffering possible. He was speechless but the young man spoke kindly and asked him how to help him get back to his home. This was so far from what he expected he had to ask, "Why didn't you kill me?"

Then the young Christian was able to testify even more powerfully. He answered, "Jesus would not let me!"

Portus was so convicted he became a Christian too. The young man let God fight this battle though it looked like it would cause him great suffering and an awful death. God delivered him from his enemy and made his enemy a Christian to witness to others!

— Sis. Nelda Sorrell

kinds of wild animals. All they thought about was having a good time and selfish gain, regardless of the pain they caused poor dumb creatures. They used to wear large feathers in their hats which were pulled out of the living fowls. But so long as their pride was gratified, they thought nothing of the suffering they caused. I got it from authority that the finest kid gloves are from skins taken from the animals while they are still alive! Since I heard that, I prefer wearing other material or rather go without gloves.

"Our young friend, while tied to the tree, was perfectly reconciled to his lot. Of course he prayed and tried his best to untie his rope or whatever they had fastened him with. To his great delight, he succeeded and was free! Thanking God for his deliverance and asking Him for guidance, he started away from the direction he had come. All of a sudden a man on horseback overtook him. The horse was evidently running away. Going at a terrible speed, the horse stumbled. His rider fell against a tree.

"When the young Christian examined him, he found him to be unconscious, and to his great surprise discovered that it was Portus! He suddenly raised his hand as if to slay him, but just as quickly, he dropped it. Then, laying Portus in a comfortable position, he did all in his power to help him regain consciousness.

"For a long time it seemed as though his efforts were in vain. But finally Portus opened his eyes. Terror was plainly seen in his face, as he knew the young Christian at once. He seemed speechless. But the young man spoke kindly to him, asking him what direction to go and how far he was from his headquarters, etc. When Portus saw that the young man was not angry, he asked him, 'Why did you not kill me?'

"The young man answered, 'Because Jesus would not let me.'

"The horse was grazing not far away. Portus was helped on his steed. The young man led the animal to camp. The proud Roman asked to have Jesus rule in his heart instead of pride and selfishness. The young Christian became his teacher. Many were brought to believe in our Saviour because of the loyalty of this one young man who dared to be faithful.

"Now, who do you think was the hero?" Father asked, and all voted that the young Christian was the hero.

—From *True Stories For Children*

EVERY DAY A LITTLE

Every day a little knowledge; one fact a day. How small is one fact! Only one. Ten years pass by. Three thousand six hundred fifty facts are not a small thing.

Every day a little self-denial. The thing that is difficult to do today will be an easy thing to do three hundred sixty-five days from now if it has been repeated each day. You will enjoy the great power of self-mastery if each day, looking to God for grace, you seek to practice the grace for which you pray!

Every day a little helpfulness. We live for the good of others if we truly live. At home, at school, in the street, in the neighbor's house, in the playground—we find opportunity every day to be useful!

—Selected

(Answers: 1. Enemies. 2. Love them. 3. Bless them. 4. God. 5. Feed him and give him a drink. 6. Good. 7. Nothing. 8. God. 9. Carnal.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 Jan. 30, 2005

Living The Gospel

A friend recently sent me a booklet issued by the South Africa General Mission that caught fire in my heart tremendously. It contained a very simple story. A General of the British Army told the story. He was on service in India during the time of the mutiny there. He had in his regiment a little bugler twelve or thirteen years of age, a very frail little fellow. His mother, I think, had been a Scripture reader; his father a brave man. The father died in action and the mother drooped and died shortly after, and their boy was left alone in the regiment. He was a very saint, who cared more for the prayer-meeting than for the camp games. He had a rough time of it because he was made the butt of the coarse jests of the crowd of soldiers. But he went along his way quietly, living his Master's life.

The General said in telling the story: "We had gone away some miles from the scene of action for rifle practice. It was a bad bit of country, swampy, unhealthy, and I did not want to take the boy along. He was so delicate. But the surgeon said, 'Let the boy go. The men drive him a hard life but his presence makes it so much easier to handle them. He has enormous influence. Let him go.'

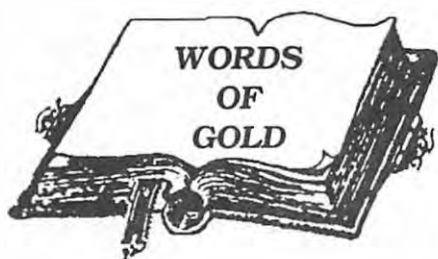
" 'All right,' I agreed, 'we'll let him go.'

"It was a very ticklish time in the regiment. They had a lot of rough men. There was a good deal of insubordination which could not be traced down to the perpetrators. One night the practice targets were thrown down and so damaged that the practice had to be set aside for several days. That was very serious, and so the General gave orders to find out who had done the mischief. He intended to make an example of the culprits.

"They traced the wrong-doing to a certain tent in which this boy was, a tent that contained some of the worst men of the regiment. They had a court-martial. It was very clear that somebody in that tent was guilty of this wrong-doing. The commander said: 'Now we know this squad of men contains the guilty man, and if the guilty one will step out like a man the rest will go free.'

"But nobody came so he said, 'If one of you men will step out and take your punishment, ten strokes of the cat, the rest of the squad will go untouched.'

"Again he waited. Nobody came. Of course they would all have to be whipped with the cat if the one man did not step out. Then, as he waited, the little bugler boy stepped out from



Dare To Prove It!

Matthew 5:14

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Philippians 2:14-16

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

I Timothy 4:12-13, 15

12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

I Peter 2:21

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

I John 2:6

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Ephesians 5:10

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Ezekiel 36:27

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

The Message: We are to be lights in the world, proving the truth and power of God's Word by our lives.

Questions:

1. Ye are the ____ of the world.
2. What city cannot be hid?
3. We are to do all things without _____ and _____.
4. We are to be an example of the _____.
5. Who left us an example by suffering for us?
6. What must we offer to God as a living sacrifice?
7. How can we be transformed?
8. What are we to prove?
9. What will God put within you to cause you to walk in His statutes?

Verse to Memorize

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

I John 2:6.

Let's



Talk . . .

Joseph, Moses, Timothy, Daniel, and countless others stand out as great men in the Bible. They possessed a faith in God which caused them to stand head and shoulders above their peers. Although they were surrounded by evil they proved that God is able to keep us faithful no matter what opposition we meet. They are proof that, by God's help, we can also be powerful tools in His hand!

One secret common to all these Bible heroes is that they purposed in their hearts while they were still young that they would always obey God. Believing that God's commandments were the highest authority, they dared to prove it though it brought them face to face with death. They faced lions, giants, and angry kings and rulers but stood boldly because they knew God was able to deliver them.

Devotion to God cannot begin too early. Little children do not need to wait until they are grown to work for God. In fact, children who do little for God while they are young are likely to do little or nothing for Him later.

Joseph had eleven brothers and all of them except one were older than him. These older brothers hated him because it was evident that Jacob, their father, loved Joseph more than all his other sons. When Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors it made his brothers even more envious of him.

Joseph told his brothers that he had dreamed that they had all bowed down to him. From that time they looked for some way to get rid of him. God had His hand on Joseph. He

prevented his brothers from killing him. Instead he was sold as a slave to Egypt. There God used him to save the lives of his hateful brothers and their families. Joseph is a much better person to idolize than one of today's sports heroes or entertainment stars that so many idolize.

The Bible challenges us to be like Joseph. His dedication to God allowed him to live righteously, even under the most trying circumstances. If your life was recorded in the Bible, would it inspire others to be faithful as Joseph's does?

Moses was very young when he was taken from his home to live in the Egyptian palace. He was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians and educated in a system of science and religion which did not reverence God. But he remained faithful to the God of his parents and never forgot what he was taught by his godly parents in those first few years of his life.

As the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses may have become the next ruler of Egypt. But the Bible tells that when Moses was grown he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Instead, he chose to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ to be worth much more than the treasures of Egypt because he knew God would reward him. (Hebrews 11:24-27.)

Moses became a strong young man and undoubtedly gained the favor of all around him. He was surrounded by idol worshipers who cared nothing about the one true God and pleasing Him. The riches of Egypt were available to him if he chose to follow their idolatry. We should admire him. In such a hostile environment, he yet stood firm in his convictions and loyal to God. Even though there is evil all around us we can honor God by our lives as Moses did! —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

the little bunch of men. He was about fourteen by this time; Willie Holt was his name, but he was very small for his age.

"He said, 'Colonel, you have given your word that if any man of this squad will step out and take the ten strokes of the cat the rest will go free. I take you at your word. I will take the ten strokes of the cat.'

"A look of disgust came into the officer's face and he said, 'You men know that boy is not guilty. Are you not man enough to come out, the guilty one, and take your punishment and not let that lad take it?'

"But there was no reply, and the boy quietly said, 'Colonel, your word is given.'

"And, sick at heart, the order was given for the boy to be tied up for the lashes. He was stripped to his waist, and tied up and the whipping began. One stroke, the second, the third; the boy made no cry. Then, as the fourth stroke came down on that back, just a moan burst from the lad's lips that his brave heart could not hold in.

"At that, Jim Sykes, the worst man in the regiment, the black sheep, came bounding out. 'Stop, Colonel! I should be there. That boy is not guilty. I am. Tie me up; let me take the stroke!'

"But the boy, his face white and tense with pain, smiled and said, 'No, Jim, the Colonel's word has been given. I have taken the punishment. You are free.' Then he fainted.

"They carried him off to the hospital and the next day the Colonel went down to see how the boy was getting along. He stepped unnoticed into the room where the boy's cot was and this was what he saw: the boy lying there, pillowed up, very frail, very weak, and on the floor, on his knees by the boy's side, this Jim Sykes, the blackguard of the regiment. He was saying, 'Oh,

Willie, why did you do it? What made you do it?'

"Smilingly the boy answered, 'Ah, Jim, I wanted you to know this. I did it that you might know that this is what Christ did for you; only He did so much more. I suffered for one sin, but He suffered for all our sins. He bore our stripes for all our sins, and He loves you, Jim.'

"Oh," Jim said, 'not the likes of me. I am a bad one.'

"Ah!" the boy was saying, 'He loves you, Jim. Trust Him. He did what I did, but so much more.' And then the boy fainted. In a few days he passed away. But Jim Sykes was utterly changed."

And as the General told the story it was plain that he, too, had been changed.

The boy *lived* the message. We must live the message! Your lips may tell the whole story, but if your life does not, your message drops in its power to the level of your life. Only as you and I follow Jesus through a commonplace life, only as we follow Him, are we giving them the message. It must be lived.

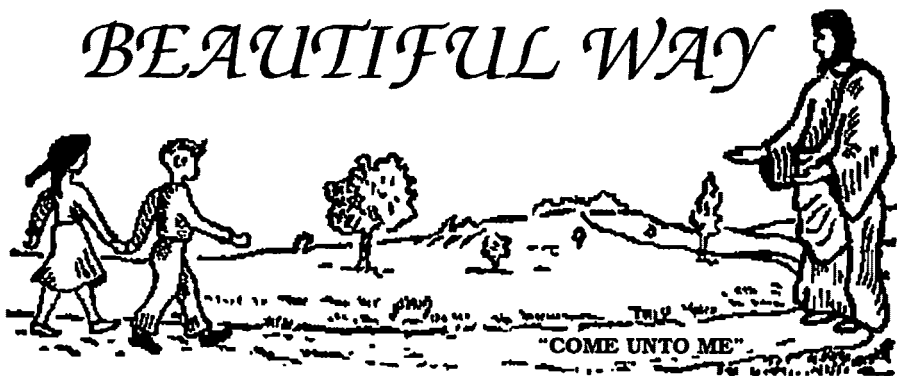
Oh! Master, burn out of our hearts this shrinking from sacrifice and this selfishness. Help us to follow Thee in the crowd, even though it means a Calvary in us. Help us to follow You. Then there will be power; then there will be a great crowd of men coming a-running to the Christ whom they find in us. Oh! Jesus, Master, help us to live Thee!

—*Quiet Talks with Workers* by S.D. Gordon

(Answers: 1. Light. 2. One that is set on a hill. 3. Murmurings, disputings. 4. Believers. 5. Christ. 6. Our bodies. 7. By the renewing of our minds. 8. What is acceptable to the Lord. 9. His spirit.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 Feb. 6, 2005

A Widow's Trust

The following story is true. The author writes in sending us the manuscript, "William, the boy in the story, is a grown man now. He told me the story with deep emotion. He regards it as a direct answer to his mother's prayers. Truly, 'To obey is better than sacrifice.'"

"O Mother, I don't want to stay in bed all afternoon; can't we get up now?" The childish voice sounded through the open bedroom door into the kitchen, where Mrs. Nevius was frying potatoes over a very small fire of chips. "I want to get up, too!" chimed in a lesser voice from the same direction.

"You are warmer in bed than anywhere else," replied Mother, "but it is almost supper time, so you can get up now. Ruth, please go into the bedroom and help Mary and John get dressed."

Ruth, who had been hugging a large cat to keep warm, dropped her comfortable burden on the floor and disappeared into the bedroom. Soon there issued squeaks and squeals as the younger children dressed for supper.

The kitchen, where they quickly joined their mother, was a pleasant room. Mrs. Nevius' face showed signs of grief and care, but her smile toward

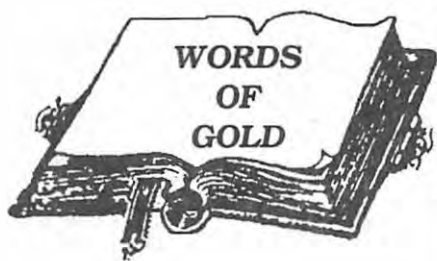
her children was cheery as she placed the meager supper of potatoes, bread and preserves upon the table.

"I'll put some bigger sticks upon the fire," she remarked half to herself and half to the children. "Our woodpile is almost gone, but I sent William down to Mr. Johnson's coal yard to order coal. I'm sorry we can't pay for it now, for your father always insisted on 'paying as you go.' But things are different now," and a tear slipped down her cheek as she spoke.

Just then the door flew open and the stalwart twelve-year-old William rushed into the room.

"Old Johnson's the meanest man that ever was!" he exclaimed. "When he found we wanted to be trusted he would not let us have a pound of coal. Said he'd been stung too many times already. He told me I was big enough to pick up all the wood we needed along the road."

"He never lost money from our family and he never will," quietly remarked Mrs. Nevius. "I'd have paid him right away, but the doctor and undertaker's bills were so big, and we had to have potatoes and flour. We won't have the money for the coal until I get a chance to help with the neighbor's housecleaning, but then Mr. Johnson would get it. However, I'm sure the Lord will provide, and we must not worry."



God Supplies!

I Kings 17:10-15

10 ...And when he (Elijah) came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her...make me thereof a little cake first,...and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the LORD.... The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail,...

15 And...she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

II Kings 4:1-4, 6-7

1 Now there cried a certain woman...unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead:...and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.

2 And Elisha said unto her,...tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy

neighbours,...

4 ...Thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

The Message: If we are living to please the Lord we can always depend on Him to supply our needs!

Questions:

1. When Elijah came to the gate of the city, what did he ask of the widow woman?
2. How much food did she have in her house?
3. What did Elijah tell the widow to do before she fixed food for herself and her son?
4. What was the creditor going to do with the widow's two sons?
5. What did Elisha ask the widow?
6. What was her answer?
7. Where was she to get empty vessels?
8. What was she to put into the empty vessels?
9. What did Elisha tell her to do after the vessels were full?

Verse to Memorize

**But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19.**

Let's



Talk . . .

God's promises are like checks made out to our name. They are useless unless we meet the conditions and accept them by faith. God loves to prove His power and fulfill His promises. He allows us to face trouble and have great needs. That is the time to prove Him by claiming His promise.

The events recorded in the Bible were written to reveal truths that would be applicable all down through the years of time. These two stories tell of two widows who were in desperate need. They illustrate to us God's great power and mercy. He does not forget those who are in dire need but promises to be right there to help them.

There had been no rain in Israel for a long time. Crops would not grow and many people were at the point of starving. God told Elijah to go to the brook named Cherith. There he had ravens bring him food every morning and every evening. But after awhile the brook dried up.

Then God told Elijah to go to a city named Zarephath where a widow would give him food. So Elijah obediently walked to that city. Just as he was going through the city gates he saw a widow gathering sticks. "Bring me a drink," he told the woman. Then as she turned to do as he asked he added, "And bring me a piece of bread also."

"I have no bread," the woman answered. "I have only a little oil and a handful of meal. I'm gathering sticks now to make a little cake out of this.

Then we will die—we have nothing more to eat."

But Elijah persisted. "Make me a little cake first. Then make something for yourself and your son. The Lord has promised that you will not run out of oil or meal."

The widow woman did as Elijah said and the Lord kept His promise. Each time she went to make bread there was more oil and more meal. Elijah ate with them for many days.

The second poor widow was left with a debt and no way of earning money to pay it. Her husband had died leaving her penniless. The creditor demanded his money and when she could not pay he said that he would take her two sons to be his servants. The widow was desperate; she could not pay the debt but neither could she stand to see her sons become slaves!

Elisha was a great prophet, mightily used of God at that time. He knew this widow's husband well because he was also a prophet. The widow decided if there was any help for her it would be through this great man of God so she went to him and told him her predicament.

After listening carefully, Elisha asked the widow if she had anything at all to pay the debt with. She answered, "I have nothing in the house except a pot of oil!"

It seemed so insignificant in comparison to her problem. Little did she dream that her little pot of oil could be turned into a fountain of wealth by God's divine power!

So, in each of us, God has invested something that, if utterly yielded to Him, can become a channel of endless wealth and blessing to ourselves and to others. We must use what He has given us, though it seems so little. It is not our ability but how fully we are yielded to God that will accomplish amazing results through His power.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

When they were seated at the table they all bowed their heads while the mother asked the blessing. Then they fell to it with a will, and the portions, small for the children's appetites, soon disappeared. The mother's portion was smaller than the others but she took equally as long to eat it.

"It's a cold night and we want a pleasant evening. William, please go to the shed and get some wood."

In a few moments William returned and threw a big armful of wood into the box. "I declare, Mother, there are only two or three more such piles out there. We don't have enough wood to last us two days."

"Well, then maybe we'd better not burn anymore this evening. I'll put the little ones to bed and Ruth and you and I can sit by what fire we have until it goes out."

A shadow of anxiety rested upon the little group. At last William blurted out, "He told me to pick up chips along the road. I guess I know where I can find some pretty big chips, enough to keep us warm all winter."

"Why, William what do you mean?"

"I mean old man Johnson's rail fences over by the canal basin. There's no moon this week and there's a heap of good wood in them. They won't be missed until spring and by that time nobody can tell where our wood ashes came from. Oh, but that's a great idea!"

"No, William," said Mother sternly, "that is not a great idea. That is a very poor idea. Your father was an honest man. You remember that the day before he died he commended us all to God's care and said that God would take care of us. No, no you must not think of such a thing." Mrs. Nevius buried her face in her hands and burst into sobs.

"Well, Mother, I don't want to be a thief but we have to get wood somewhere or we'll freeze to death before the winter is over."

Mother calmed herself in a moment, "If God wants us to freeze we'd better freeze than steal. But I believe that He will take care of us and we have tomorrow to decide what to do."

"And to pick up chips along the road," added Ruth with a faint smile.

"Well, children, Jesus said, 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' Matthew 6:34. We can't do anything tonight and worry does us no good. Suppose you study your lesson for next Sunday now."

After a few minutes Ruth exclaimed. "See, Mother dear, how our Bible story matches our case. It's about the poor widow who asked Elisha what she should do to pay her debt and how he told her to borrow vessels and pour her oil in them. And she kept on pouring until she had enough to buy everything she needed. Isn't that wonderful?"

"Bah," said William, "that's just like the Bible, but such things don't happen nowadays."

Soon Ruth spoke again, "The Bible tells about when the Israelites needed food in the wilderness. God sent a great wind that brought quail which fell around the camp, and everybody had all the meat they could eat."

After a moment Ruth turned her head toward the window, listening. "Why, the wind is rising now. Just hear how it moans in such a funny way over the canal!" she cried.

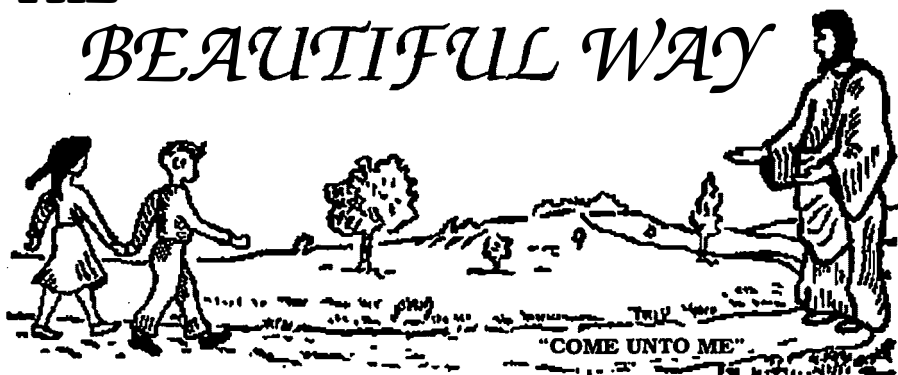
"It'll take a pretty big wind, I reckon, to blow coal or wood to us," remarked the skeptical William.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. A drink of water. 2. A handful of meal and a little oil. 3. Make him a cake first. 4. Make them bondmen (slaves). 5. "What do you have in the house?" 6. "Nothing but a pot of oil." 7. Borrow them from the neighbors. 8. The oil. 9. Sell the oil and pay her debt and use the rest of the money to live on.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 Feb. 13, 2005

A Widow's Trust

(Continued from last week.)

After the lessons were learned, Mother offered a little prayer commending herself and children to their father's God and the three left the chilly kitchen for the warmth of their beds. While the children slept, the mother heard the bleak wind whistling around the cottage. She never thought that as the wind of old was the hand of God bringing food to His children, so now the wind was God's hand bringing the means of warmth to their very door.

William, who since his father's death had felt the responsibilities of his position, was up early to build the morning fire. "I won't be able to do this many more days," he muttered as he opened the kitchen door.

"Why! Oh! Why, what's this? Wood, sticks, big and little, piled up all along the bank by the door, and the canal full of logs clear down to the turn, bobbing up and down in the freezing water! Why, I never saw anything like this in my life before!

"Mother! Ruth! all of you come here quick; just look at this."

In a moment the family was crowded at the kitchen door. As far as eyes could see the canal was full of floating driftwood. There was enough fuel at their door to last them the entire season!

"Again the wind is the hand of God," said Mrs. Nevius, sinking on her knees. "Children, get dressed as quickly as you can. Get the garden rakes and the clothes poles and pull the wood onto land."

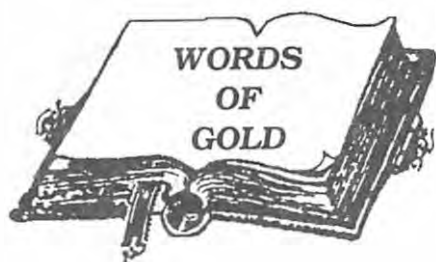
How they worked! Breakfast was forgotten in the pressure of more important business. By the middle of the forenoon the wood-house was full and the surplus of big sticks and little sticks were piled up against the southern side of the cottage.

When the dinner hour came the kitchen stove was red hot. Now they had more than enough wood to cook their meals and keep them warm. An awe-struck group of children listened to their mother's broken prayer of thanksgiving! —Mrs. Sue Reed

The Hot Water Bottle

One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward but in spite of all we could do she died leaving us with a tiny premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter. We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive, as we had no incubator. (We had no electricity to run an incubator.) We also had no special feeding facilities.

Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacher-



God Can Do Anything!

**Numbers 11:4-6, 16,
18-23, 31-32**

4 ...the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

16 And the LORD said unto Moses...

18 ...say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh:...

19 Yeshallnot eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days:

20 But even a whole month....

21 And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen:...

22 Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?

23 And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD's hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.

31 And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on

this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

32 And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp.

Jeremiah 32:27

27 Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?

Luke 1:37

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

The Message: There is nothing too hard for God. With Him all things are possible!

Questions:

1. What was it that the children of Israel wanted so bad they wept?
2. What did they remember eating in Egypt?
3. The Lord said He would give them enough flesh to eat for how long?
4. How many footmen were with Moses?
5. Did Moses think it was possible for God to supply so much flesh?
6. How did God bring in the quails?
7. How long did it take the people to gather the quails?
8. For with God nothing shall be

Verse to Memorize

For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Luke 1:37.

Let's



Talk . . .

God worked so many miracles for the children Israel in order to deliver them from slavery to the Egyptians that they should never have doubted His love or His power!

Someone estimated that it would take about 1500 tons of food each day to feed that multitude of people that walked out of Egypt under Moses' leadership. It was calculated that to bring that much food each day would require the equivalent of two freight trains, each at least a mile long!

Then, too, they were in the desert. They would have to have firewood to cook the food. That would take approximately 4000 tons of wood just for one day. Yet God accomplished all this for them day after day, even though their journey lasted forty years!

Of course they had to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day. It would take a freight train with tank cars 1800 miles long to carry that much water!

God brought them across the Red Sea in one night. If they had walked double file, the line would have been about 800 miles long and would have required 35 days and nights to get across. So there had to be a space in the Red Sea about 3 miles wide so that they could walk 5000 abreast in order to get over in one night.

Each time they camped their campground would have been two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island, or a total of 750 square miles.

Of course Moses did not figure all this out before he left Egypt. He knew God was as able to take that multitude safely to Canaan as He was able to deliver them from the Egyptians. Moses believed in God. God took care of all the details for him.

After witnessing such a miracle of God's provision day after day, you would think the people would have been content with all God gave them. But some among them began to weep and complain because they had no meat. They complained about the manna that God sent every day to feed them.

God heard them wishing they were back in Egypt where they had fruit and vegetables to eat. He was greatly displeased, yet once more He gave them what they asked for. When God told Moses that He would send them enough meat to eat for a month, Moses found it hard to believe. He reminded God that there were 600,000 footmen with him. In addition there were many other men, women and children!

In effect, Moses was telling the Lord that what He had promised was impossible. God told him, "You will see whether My word will come to pass or not!"

God works in mysterious ways! This time He used the wind to accomplish His will. So many quail came that the people worked two days and a night gathering them. He brought in such an abundance there was plenty for each one to eat for a month.

Like the title of this lesson says, "God can do anything!" When you face an insurmountable problem just remember that you can trust Him to take care of all your needs and any problem you might face! God said, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" Jeremiah 32:27.

— Sis. Nelda Sorrell

ous drafts. One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool the baby would be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst. Rubber perishes easily in tropical climates. "And it is our last hot water bottle!" she exclaimed.

"All right," I said, "put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts." Your job is to keep the baby warm."

The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with any of the orphanage children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died.

During the prayer time, one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. "Please, God," she prayed, "send us a water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon."

While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, "And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?"

As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say, "Amen?" I just did not believe that God could do this. Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything. The Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for

almost four years at that time and I had never, ever received a parcel from home. Anyway, if anyone did send me a parcel, who would put in a hot water bottle? I lived on the equator!

Halfway through the afternoon a car came leaving a large package on my porch. I felt tears pricking my eyes. I could not open the parcel alone, so I sent for the orphanage children. Together we carefully opened the box.

Excitement was mounting. The children watched as I lifted out clothes and food. Then, as I put my hand in again, I felt the...could it really be? Yes, it was a brand-new, rubber hot water bottle.

I had not asked God to send it; I had not truly believed that He could. Ruth cried out, "If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!" Rummaging down to the bottom of the box, she pulled out the small, beautifully dressed dolly. Her eyes shone! She had never doubted. Looking up at me, she asked, "Can I go over with you, Mummy, and give this dolly to that little girl so she'll know that Jesus really loves her?"

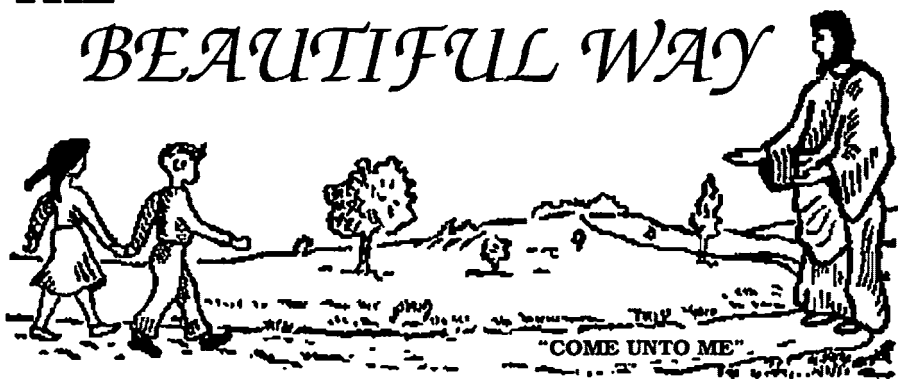
That package was sent by my former Sunday school class five months earlier. Someone obeyed God's prompting to send a hot water bottle, even to the equator. And one of the girls had put in a dolly for an African child—five months before—in answer to the believing prayer of a ten-year-old to bring it "that afternoon!"

"Before they call, I will answer!"
Isaiah 65:24. —Selected

(Answers: 1. Flesh to eat.
2. Fish, cucumbers, melons,
leeks, onions and garlic. 3. A
whole month. 4. Six hundred
thousand. 5. No. 6. By a wind.
7. All day, all night and all the
next day. 8. Impossible.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 Feb. 20, 2005

Harry The Newsboy

Ever since the death of his father, Harry Armstrong had sold papers. His home was in a small upstairs room of a large tenement building in the great city of New York. There he lived with his mother, and although the room was small and there was barely enough furniture in it to make them comfortable, Harry had never known anything better and he was happy because he had his mother to love and comfort him when he was tired, hungry, or cold.

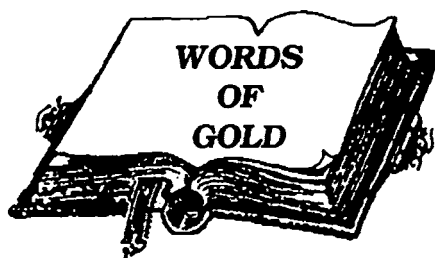
Many times after he had been out for hours, walking up and down the street, shouting to the people that he had papers to sell, he would hurry home and find a cup of warm cocoa and some bread or something else that he liked as well, waiting for him on the little table over in the corner of the room. How good the food tasted! Sometimes he wondered why his mother did not always sit with him at the table and eat, but he did not know that at those times she had only been able to buy enough cocoa and bread for her little boy after the coal and rent bills had been paid. But Harry's mother did not mind going hungry herself if her little boy had all that he wanted to eat.

Harry knew that his mother was

not very well. She had told him that the time might come, almost any day, when she should have to leave him and go to be with his father. But Harry did not think that she would go away very soon. She had also said that when that time should come he must not be afraid, for he would have to be very, very brave and strong, and that he would have to do just the things that he thought were right and best.

Now Harry had passed his tenth birthday and he knew quite well the difference between right and wrong, for he had listened to a great missionary who was interested in newsboys. This missionary had been all through Africa and had said that someday he was going back to that wild land. Harry and the other newsboys liked so well to listen to the stories that the missionary told that they went to hear him every Sunday when he was in New York. And, because the newsboys came so often, the missionary said that they could have a Sunday school where they could come and study about the Bible when he wasn't there. Harry liked to go to the Sunday school after it was started.

Harry's mother had told him that it was wrong to smoke and chew tobacco and the teachers talked about that too. So when the other



Prove Us!

Daniel 1:8-20

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Daniel to Melzar whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that

they should drink; and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 ...Then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:...

20 And...he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

The Message: Purpose in your heart to always do God's will. He will take care of you!

Questions:

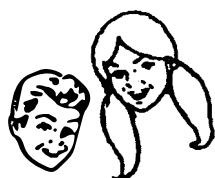
1. What did Daniel purpose in his heart?
2. Who brought Daniel into favor with the prince of the eunuchs?
3. Who was set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah?
4. How long did Daniel ask to prove his diet was best?
5. Compared to the others, how did they look?
6. What did Daniel and his friends eat?
7. God gave these four _____ and _____ in all learning and wisdom.
8. What special understanding did Daniel have?
9. How much better were these four than the magicians and astrologers?

Verse to Memorize

Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Ephesians 5:10.

Let's



Talk . . .

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, won a decisive victory over Jehoiakim, the king of Judah. He seized whatever he wanted and carried away as many captives as he chose. Among those taken captive were Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Then king Nebuchadnezzar ordered that young men should be chosen from the captives who were strong, had good countenances and intelligence so they could be taught the learning and language of the Chaldeans.

Daniel and his friends were especially smart and good looking so they were among those who were chosen. They were given special privileges and training to prepare them to be rulers. Special food was ordered for them from the king's table—all kinds of rich delicacies, truly fit for a king!

Such food must have looked tempting. These strong young men had big appetites. But Daniel knew the meat from the king's table would be some that God commanded they should not eat, such as swine or meat that had been offered to idols. They had changed his name but they could never change his love and trust in the one true God. He purposed in his heart that he would not displease God by eating the king's meat.

This took great boldness. He was only a captive—how could he say what he would or would not eat? When Daniel told the prince of the eunuchs that he could not eat from the king's table he was afraid to grant his request. He was sure that such a diet would never make these young

men as strong and healthy as eating the king's meat. And if Daniel and his friends looked scrawny compared to those who ate food from the king's table he could literally have his head cut off!

But Daniel did not give up. God had commanded that they should not eat certain foods and things offered to idols and he had it settled—he would obey God and trust Him to take care of the consequences. God honored his faith and courage. He gave him such favor with this man that he was willing to even risk his life to allow Daniel to prove that God's way was the best!

At the end of ten days Daniel and his friends were obviously in better shape than those who ate at the king's table. The steward was so impressed that he gave them only vegetables and water from then on! Not only did they look better, God gave them knowledge, skill and great wisdom for their faithfulness to Him. When we give up anything for God, He gives us so much MORE in return!

After three years it was time for all the captive boys to be brought before King Nebuchadnezzar. When the king interviewed Daniel and his three friends, he found there were no other young men like them. In fact, he found they were ten times better than any of his own magicians and astrologers in matters of wisdom and understanding!

God has not changed. When we dare to take our stand and do His will even when it is dangerous and seems impossible, He will make a way for us! Do as Daniel and his three friends did. Give your heart and life to God and get truly acquainted with Him. Talk to Him often in prayer and let Him talk to you through the Bible. You will learn that you serve a mighty God. Then when you are tested you will not be afraid to let Him prove His power, just as Daniel did.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

newsboys said that it would make him manly to smoke cigarettes, he told them that he knew better. Then, when they tried to make fun of him, he shouted louder to the people as they passed that he had papers to sell. That way he could not hear what the boys said. After that, they did not ask him to smoke. And as for telling lies and stealing—Harry had learned from his mother that it was far better always to speak the truth and be honest.

Very often his mother told him Bible stories about men who had become great because they had been good boys. What she said about Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, John the Baptist, the boy Jesus and Timothy pleased him more than anything else. Then she told him that it would be nice to try to be like these boys by being good and kind to everyone. Yet he was to remember that God had made every boy and girl different from every other person in the world so that it would be impossible to do exactly as someone else had done.

To help him understand just what she meant, she had said, "Now just suppose that when Samuel was told to serve in the house of the priest Eli he had said, 'Why, Joseph and Moses were rulers in the land, and I don't want to be just an humble servant.' God couldn't have blessed him as He did. If Samuel had refused to do the humble work that God had called him to do, his name would not have come down to us as one of Israel's rulers." And she added, "I trust that my little boy will always be willing to do the little things that come his way, for this is the way that God takes to prepare His people for a greater and better place in life. Then He helps them find their place if they will let him."

Thus wisely had Harry's mother talked to her little boy. She had also taught him to read and write and to spell, "For the time will come, Harry," she had said, "when you will need to know many things, and I want to help you all I can while I am with you." And one day, while Harry was out selling his papers, the thing for which the mother had been trying to prepare her little boy came to pass.

That night when Harry came home from selling his papers he found no warm cocoa or bread and butter upon the table in the corner of the room. Everything was so very quiet! He called his usual greeting to his beloved mother, but there was no answer. When he went close to her bed he saw that the hand that had so often caressed him was cold and helpless. Then he remembered that his mother had said that when this time should come he would have to be very brave and strong. And he wanted to be all that his mother and the good missionary wanted him to be, so he sat down beside the bed and thought and thought.

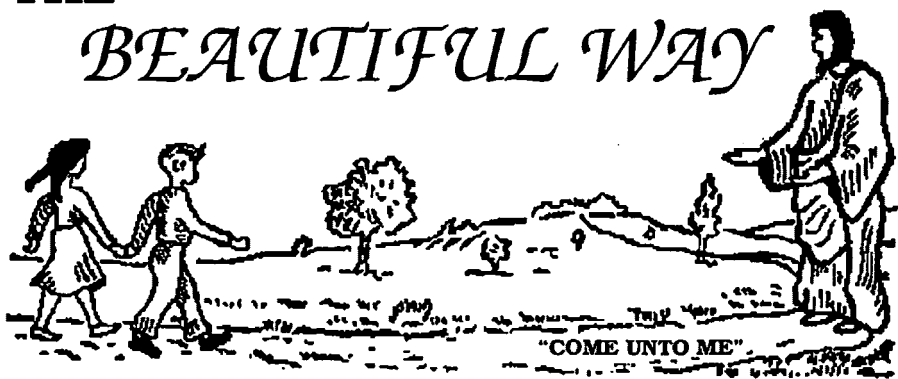
One by one, the things that his mother had told him that he would have to see about after she was gone came into his mind. Tears nearly blinded his eyes when he thought about the funeral. She had told him to see their neighbor, Mr. Harper, and let him attend to everything.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. To not defile himself with the king's meat or his wine. 2. God. 3. Meizar. 4. Ten days. 5. Fairer and fatter. 6. Pulse (vegetables). 7. Knowledge, Skill. 8. In visions and dreams. 9. Ten times better.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 Feb. 27, 2005

Harry The Newsboy

(Continued from last week.)

After his father died, ten year old Harry sold newspapers to buy a little food for himself and his mother who was not well. His mother taught Harry to always do right. She tried to prepare him for her death but Harry could not imagine living without her. It was a shock when he came home and found that she had died. He tried to control his grief and think just how his mother had told him to handle the funeral.

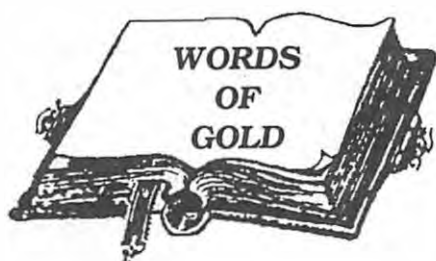
One by one the things that his mother had told him that he would have to see about after she was gone came into Harry's mind. Tears nearly blinded his eyes when he thought about the funeral. She had told him to see their neighbor, Mr. Harper, and let him attend to everything.

Once she had said that usually a tombstone with nice things written upon it was placed at the head of a grave by some friend, but that he must not try to do anything like that. He would not have the money to buy the stone. But a great desire then came into Harry's heart to place a tombstone at the head of his mother's grave after she was buried. Then he could write some nice things upon it about her. He remembered that she had told him not to try to do it be-

cause he would not have the money to spare. But he said to himself, "I can do without my cocoa just as Mother did, and perhaps with what money I have, I can buy a small tombstone."

Harry had no pocketbook in which to carry his money. But his mother, before she had become so weakened by her sickness, had made him a little bag that was very strong. Drawing the bag from his pocket, he counted all the pennies and dimes. There was just two dollars and fifty-five cents in all and he wondered if this would be enough to pay for the stone. Never before had so many things been crowded into his mind all at once. But above every other thought was the one desire to be brave and strong so that he could attend to all of the things that his mother had said that he must do.

Before going to see Mr. Harper, Harry kissed his mother's cold face and tucked the covers more closely about her. It was hard to leave her alone for even a moment, but remembering again that he was to be brave and strong, he hurried away to find his friend. Mr. Harper was very sorry when he heard that Harry's mother was dead. He was a poor man but he did all that he could for the little orphan boy. Harry's mother was placed in a pretty coffin and was



The Temple Of The Living God

I Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

II Corinthians 6:16

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

I Peter 2:5

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:10-11

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Galatians 2:20

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

I John 3:23-24

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

**The Message: Every Christian is a
living temple of the living God!**

Questions:

1. We that are saved are whose temple?
2. What will happen to anyone who defiles the temple of God?
3. Why are we not our own?
4. Why should we glorify God in our bodies and spirits?
5. Who promised to live in us and walk in us?
6. What kind of stones are we in God's spiritual house?
7. What are some of the spiritual sacrifices we offer God?
8. Who dwells (lives) in God and God in Him?
9. How do we know that He lives in us?

Verse to Memorize

**...For ye are the temple of the
living God;...**

II Corinthians 6:16.

Let's



Talk . . .

"There is a riot in the prison; the convicts are killing each other!" the Governor of the prison told Gladys Aylward excitedly. "The convicts are murderers, bandits and thieves."

"I'm sorry to hear that," said Gladys. "But what do you expect me to do about it?"

"You must go in and stop the fighting!"

"Me? I must go in there?" Gladys' mouth dropped open. "Are you mad? If I went in they'd kill me!"

The Governor stared at her. "But how can they kill you? You tell everybody that you have come here to China because you have the Living God inside you."

Gladys felt a cold chill run down her back. "The—Living God?" she stammered.

"You preach it everywhere in the streets and villages. If you preach the truth, if your God protects you from harm, then you can stop this riot," the Governor said firmly.

Gladys stared at him. Her mind raced in bewilderment, searching for some way out of her dilemma. She knew she had been preaching that her Christian God protected her from harm. If she failed to prove this now her message would seem empty and meaningless. She followed the Governor to the prison. Struggling between sheer terror and her faith in God, she finally was able to say, "All right open the door. I'll go in."

The iron-barred door swung open and Gladys was pushed inside. She heard the door close behind her and the key turn. She was locked in prison!

Stepping into the courtyard she came to an abrupt halt, rooted in horror. A fiendish battle was going on. Everyone was watching one convict who brandished a large, bloodstained chopper. As she stared, he suddenly rushed at a group of men. They scattered wildly.

For fully half a minute she stood there motionless, no one noticing her. Suddenly the man with the chopper chased a man right towards Gladys. A few feet away the man dodged, leaving the madman only a few feet from her!

Gladys could only beg God to take control. Then, hardly realizing what she was doing, she took two firm steps toward him. "Give me that chopper," she demanded. "Give it to me at once!"

The man turned to look at her. For three long seconds he glared at her with bloodshot eyes. He took two paces forward—then he meekly held out the axe! Gladys snatched the weapon from his hand and held it rigidly down by her side. She was conscious that there was blood on the blade.

—Taken from *The Small Woman*, by Alan Burgess

Gladys Aylward went to China to tell the people about her God, the Living God. She knew He had forgiven all her sins and now lived in her heart. These poor people needed to know that they too could have such a Savior. Gladys never imagined that she would be asked to face a prison riot but she knew she served a mighty God. She was willing to risk her life to prove it!

God is no respecter of persons. When your sins are washed away and your heart made clean He comes to live in your heart too! It is important that you know this, believe it and act on it. You must let God have control of your life every day. Then when you have an extreme test you will face it confidently knowing the Living God is in you and will fight your battle..

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

buried in the cemetery by the side of her husband.

When the funeral was over the neighbors who had gone with Harry to the graveyard returned to their homes in the tenement house but Harry did not go with them. Harry did not know that Mr. Harper and the sexton were friends. He did not notice them talking near the gate about the funeral.

All Harry could think about was how nice it would be if he could get a pretty tombstone for his mother's grave. Then he thought about a place that was called the Marble Yards where tombstones and monuments were for sale. The Marble Yards was only a short distance from the cemetery. He wondered if he could get a stone that was nice enough for his mother's grave with the money that was in his little bag.

Perhaps Harry remembered how he had sometimes hurried past the Marble Yards where the white and gray monuments and tombstones were kept and how cold and gloomy they had looked. He no longer felt that they were cold and gloomy. He wanted to go right in among them and find the one that was the right size for his mother's grave.

About that time Mr. Stahl was sitting in his office looking out of the window. He saw a small boy enter the yards and go over to the place where some of his best tombstones and monuments were kept. He noticed, too, that the boy was feeling of the smooth side of a certain stone and was holding in his hand a small bag. He was sure that he had met the boy somewhere and then he remembered that he was the little newsboy that he had so often met on the street and from whom he had sometimes bought a paper. As he continued to watch the boy looking at the tombstones, he thought, "I believe that he is a good

boy. I wonder why he has come to the Marble Yards today. Why is he rubbing his hand over that small tombstone in the corner?"

Harry may have thought that because that certain stone was so small it would not cost as much as those that were larger. Whatever he thought, he was soon standing in the office before Mr. Stahl and saying, "Mister, I want to get that smooth stone that is over in the corner to put on my mother's grave. You see she's dead and I want the stone so that I can write some nice things on it about her. It's all I can do for her now. If it doesn't cost too much money I think I can buy it, but I've only got two dollars and fifty-five cents. Will that be enough to pay for it, do you think?"

Now the stone toward which Harry had pointed had cost Mr. Stahl much more money than Harry had offered him, but Mr. Stahl was pleased to have Harry come to him in such a businesslike way. He answered, "Yes, my boy, you may have that stone for two dollars and fifty-five cents."

He then told the delivery man to take the pretty tombstone over to the cemetery and to see that it was properly placed on Harry's mother's grave. So, almost before Harry knew what was happening the stone was placed at the head of his mother's grave by the delivery man and the sexton. Then both of the men slipped quietly away before he had a chance to thank them for their trouble.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. God's. 2. God will destroy him. 3. We are bought with a price. 4. They belong to Him. 5. God. 6. Lively stones. 7. Prayer, thanksgiving, praise, etc. 8. Whoever keeps God's commandments. 9. By the Holy Spirit who He has given us.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 Mar. 6, 2005

Harry The Newsboy

(Continued from last week.)

After Harry's mother died his one desire was to have a nice tombstone placed on her grave where he could write something nice about her. A kind man sold a pretty headstone to Harry for two dollars and fifty-five cents—all the money he had. Two men placed the stone on the grave and left before Harry had a chance to thank them.

When Harry found that he was alone he pulled a piece of iron out of his pocket that he had found on his way to the Marble Yards. The iron was sharp on one end. Bending over the pretty white tombstone he began to form the words that had been in his mind all day. But the rock was harder than he had expected and the sun had almost set when he had finished only the word "MY."

He was so tired and weak that he could scarcely stand up as he stepped back to examine his work but he was not discouraged. He was sorry to leave his work unfinished but Harry, although he was only ten years old, had a business to look after. He had been taught by his mother to be faithful so Harry went home. He would need food and rest to be able to sell papers the next day.

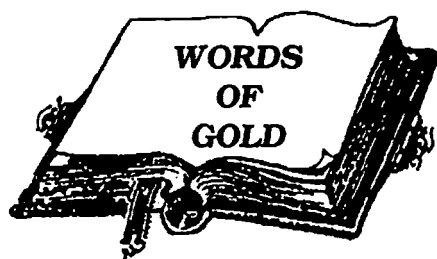
But the place where he had lived so happily with his mother did not

seem like home to him any longer. He ate some hard bread that he found in the cupboard and went to bed. He could have cried himself to sleep, but he didn't, for he was trying so hard to be brave and strong. He was still thinking about the nice things that he was intending to write upon the pretty white tombstone that was on his mother's grave.

In the morning Harry was awake very early. He felt much better after his good night's rest. After eating some more of the bread that he had found in the cupboard the evening before, he went out and sold his papers. Then as soon as the last one had been handed out he went at once to the cemetery.

And, for several days, Harry spent every moment that he could spare in the cemetery, a place that one would least expect to find a child. But he was happy because he felt that he was doing something nice for his precious mother. He was adding one letter after another upon the smooth white surface of the tombstone. Near the end of the week this is what he had printed - "MY MOTHER, THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD."

The sexton could not help noticing little Harry. He often took time to go to the grave to see what the next letter that Harry was forming was going to be. He thought often of his



Buried Talents

John 12:24-25

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Matthew 25:15-20, 22,24-29

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents,...

22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord...I have gained two other talents beside them.

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord,...

25 ...I was afraid, and went and

hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant,...

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

The Message: Unless we use the talents God has invested in us, we are as unproductive as grain that was never planted.

Questions:

1. What is necessary for a grain of wheat to be fruitful?
2. What will happen if we love our natural (self) life?
3. If we hate the worldly life, what will we gain?
4. How did the man determine how many talents to give each one?
5. How many talents did he gain that had been given five talents?
6. Which one gained two talents?
7. How much did the man with one talent gain?
8. What did he do with his one talent?
9. To whom was this one talent given?

Verse to Memorize

Give, and it shall be given unto you;...

Luke 6:38.

Let's



Talk . . .

An Egyptian mummy was discovered which was thought to be thousands of years old. It was well preserved and in its hand were several grains of wheat. All those years that grain had lain dormant. It was well preserved and, when it was planted, even sprouted. But after that many years there were still only the few grains that had been placed in the mummy's hand so long ago. It had been useless. Had they died and reproduced, those few grains could have multiplied to feed perhaps millions of people. But, wrapped in the mummy's hand, they neither increased nor served as food.

Jesus used nature as a parable to show why He came to earth to die for sinners. He compared Himself to a grain of wheat. He likened His death to a grain that is planted and decomposed in the ground. His resurrection was like the blade that springs up from the dead grain. So by His death Christ gave life to thousands of living Christians. Our salvation is all owing to the dying of this "corn of wheat."

The same law applies to our life. If we love our own worldly life better than Christ, we will lose our right to eternal life. But if we hate our life in this world and prefer the favor of God, we will keep it unto life eternal. In his commentary on this scripture Matthew Henry remarked, "Many a man hugs himself to death and loses his life by over-loving it."

In the next parable of our lesson Jesus teaches us our responsibility

of improving whatever talents He gives us. As His servants we are never to be idle.

Everyone has at least one talent. Our own soul is this one talent. It will take all our time and effort to keep it pure and holy so we will be ready whenever the Lord calls us to give account of how we have lived our life. In addition to this the Lord gives each of us the responsibility of helping others. Our "Verse to Memorize" says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you" This command implies the truth that each of us has something we can give.

In II Kings chapter four we read the story of the widow whose sons were to be sold because of a debt she could not pay. When Elisha asked her if she had any resources whatever she answered, "I have nothing in the house except a pot of oil." This little pot of oil of itself was not enough to pay the debt and meet the widow's need. But, like the loaves and fishes that Jesus multiplied, God used it to produce the abundance needed.

God asked Moses what he had in his hand. It was only a rod but God used it to produce the plagues in Egypt and lead the Israelites to freedom. Dorcas' sewing needle was the instrument she used to help the poor widows. Little could she realize that generations later we are reading of her saintly charity accomplished by that little needle!

The pot of oil represents that talent which each of us has as a gift from God. It may seem small and useless to us. But if we utterly yield it to God He can make it a channel of endless wealth and blessing to others and ourselves. Humbly and prayerfully put your little talent into the hands of God. He will gladly turn it into a blessing beyond all we can ask or think! — Sis. Nelda Sorrell

talk with Harry's kind neighbor, Mr. Harper, and sometimes wished that Harry was his very own little boy. But his family was large and he was a poor man, so he said nothing about it. As Harry left the grave that night he may have been intending to print some other nice things upon the tombstone about his mother but he never had the chance. It was dark and he was very tired as the small piece of iron, that was gradually becoming smaller, was slipped into his pocket. He went out the gate of the cemetery onto the street. The sexton happened to be near enough to hear the gate click behind Harry.

Then he heard the loud honking of an automobile horn as a car came suddenly around the corner of the cemetery from another street. But the sexton did not see little Harry fall or know of the terrible accident that happened until he saw that the car had stopped. Then he heard the sound of excited voices asking if anyone could tell them who the boy was who had been run over or how it happened that he was coming out of the cemetery gate at that hour of the night.

The sexton made his way over to the excited driver and explained that Harry was the little newsboy whose mother had recently died and that he had been coming every day since the funeral to carve letters upon a tombstone on her grave.

So little Harry was buried beside his father and mother by kind friends. He was no longer an orphan—the family was at last reunited.

But Harry was not forgotten. Mr. Stahl, over at the Marble Yards, had often thought about the brave little boy to whom he had sold a tombstone. He wondered what so small a boy could think of that would be nice enough to write upon a tombstone. So one day Mr. Stahl asked his deliv-

ery man who had set the stone to show him the grave where the tombstone had been placed. They found the grave and they wondered why there was another freshly dug grave beside it.

It was the sexton who explained. When he told how Harry had worked so faithfully day after day until he had carved the little motto on the tombstone, Mr. Stahl said in a trembling voice, "How I wish that I had taken that boy home with me! He was a good boy! I was intending to keep track of him and later on hire him as an office boy. I'm sorry that I didn't talk to him about it the day that he was over to see about buying the stone. Boys like that are hard to find."

When the missionary returned to New York City and visited the little mission Sunday school, he missed Harry's bright face from among the crowd of newsboys that gathered to listen to some more of his wonderful stories and adventures among the people in Africa. But when he learned from Mr. Harper of Harry's faithfulness, he also said, "Boys like that are hard to find." And he also added, "I'm so glad that Harry would not let the other boys teach him to use tobacco and do other things that were bad." When he told the other boys about it, he said, "It would be better to be a newsboy and have clean hands and a clean heart than to be the son of a millionaire without them."

—Adapted from a story by Isabel C. Byrum

(Answers: 1. It must fall into the ground and die. 2. We will lose our (eternal) life. 3. Eternal life. 4. According to each one's ability. 5. Five. 6. The one who had two. 7. None. 8. He buried it. 9. To the one with five talents.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 Mar. 13, 2005

The Wolf Pack

(A true story.)

This story happened to me on my tenth birthday. We lived in Lapland, the northern part of Sweden. Winter days there are dark and very short.

Having a birthday was a wonderful occasion. Early in the morning my parents would tiptoe into the room where I slept. They would wake me by singing a beautiful hymn. Mother would then bring me a tray with food and lighted candles on it. Father came beside her, holding gifts. That day I received a woolen stocking cap and a sled which Father had made for me.

Before Father left for work we had our family worship. He read this Bible verse and said that it was dedicated to me: "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him." Psalm 91:15.

I was anxious to try out my new sled so I put on my new stocking cap and went out to the lake below our house. I slid on the lake all morning and then decided to try the long slope down the mountainside.

I struggled up the mountain road with my sled. Though it was only two o'clock darkness was stealing over the forest. I had almost reached the top when I heard a fearful noise.

Anyone in Lapland would know that howl. Wolves! A pack of them. They must be hungry to come near our homes before dark. Before I could turn my sled around, I saw them. There must have been six or eight. They ran at lightning speed and in a moment they would be upon me.

As I threw myself on the sled I remembered the Bible verse of the morning. I called on the Lord with all my heart and I knew that He could deliver me from those hungry beasts.

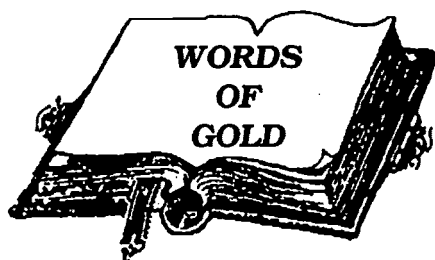
The sled sped faster and faster down the hill. I could hear the wolves not far behind. At my speed I would coast across most of the lake. I did not want to think about what would happen after that. As I crossed the lake, the answer to my prayer came. I heard a loud crash and splash.

When Mother found me a little later I was still lying on my sled. The shock had been too much for me and I had fainted. She bent over and patted my cheek.

"You are a lucky, lucky girl," she said. "Those wolves fell into the ice hole that Father cut last night. Right now they are all down on the bottom of the lake."

But my heart knew that it was not luck. My God had answered my prayer! And all these years since, He has answered my prayers and taken care of me.

—Selected



Jesus' Arrest

John 18:1, 3-8

1Jesus...went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden,...

3 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he....

6 ...They went backward, and fell to the ground.

7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he:...

John 19:1-4, 6-11

1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.

2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews!
and they smote him with their hands.

4 Pilate...saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

11 Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

The Message: Jesus loved us so much He gladly suffered the agonies of the cross so that we can be saved.

Questions:

1. Who was with the band of men and officers?
2. What did they carry?
3. What did Jesus ask them?
4. What happened when He told them who He was?
5. What did Peter do to the high priest's servant?
6. Who put a crown on Jesus and of what was it made?
7. Who found no fault in Jesus?
8. What did the chief priests and officers do when they saw Jesus?
9. What saying made Pilate more afraid?

Verse to Memorize

**...Jesus...endured the cross,
despising the shame, and is
set down at the right hand of
the throne of God.**

Hebrews 12:2.

Let's



Talk . . .

How could the Jews have so much hatred for Jesus? He did nothing but good as long as He was with them. He healed their sick, He fed them in the desert and He taught them the true way to serve God.

The chief priests and scribes were determined to do away with Jesus. These were the religious leaders. They were the very ones who taught the common people about God. And although they appeared to be holy and to love God, in their hearts there was much evil. They loved the praise and honor of men more than they loved God.

The common people followed Jesus in great crowds listening gladly to His gracious words. They felt a commanding power in the words He spoke. He taught them with authority as He told them about God and how to serve Him. It was evident; He knew God personally! His messages told of the deepest truths, yet they were so amazingly simple that even the children could understand.

It made the Jewish leaders furious to see the multitudes that gladly heard Jesus and followed Him about. They felt threatened; their power over the people was slipping away from them.

So they determined to find some way to kill Jesus. To take Him by force in broad daylight was out of the question. This could cause an uprising of the common people who loved and followed Jesus. These people would rather stone them than to see Jesus killed! They wondered how they would ever capture Jesus. Not daring to take Him in public, they did not know where to find Him in private.

Then, suddenly, the problem was solved! Judas, Jesus' own disciple, came

to the chief priests. "What will you give me and I will deliver Jesus to you?" he asked. Quickly they offered him thirty pieces of silver to lead them to Jesus by night. Judas did not bargain for more. He seemed glad to take what they offered.

The chief priests could hardly believe their good fortune! They did not even send for Judas; they would never have thought to do that. Jesus' own disciple betray Him? Never! But here he was volunteering to lead them to Jesus. The chief priests gladly agreed to pay him to do just that.

Judas knew where to find Jesus. He had often gone with the other disciples and Jesus into this garden to pray. Judas led the band of armed soldiers straight to this place. Jesus knew what was taking place. He knew the awful persecution and, finally, death that He must soon endure.

When Judas and the band of men came, Jesus went out to meet them. They did not need their weapons to capture Him. Jesus had prayed through. His purpose in coming to the world was to die for the sins of the people. He was ready to suffer so we might be saved. "I am He," Jesus boldly volunteered. He answered with such power and courage the soldiers ran backward from Him and fell to the ground.

Later, after examining Jesus, Pilate told the Jews, "I find in Him no fault at all!" Yet, to please the Jews, he commanded Jesus to be cruelly scourged and then turned Him over to the soldiers who mocked Him. Then, dressed in a purple robe and a crown of thorns on His head, Pilate told the mob, "Behold the man!" At the sight of Jesus the chief priests and officers began shouting, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

—Nelda Sorrell

(Answers: 1. Judas. 2. Lanterns, torches and weapons. 3. "Whom seek ye?" 4. They went backward and fell to the ground. 5. Cut off his right ear. 6. The soldiers, thorns. 7. Pilate. 8. They cried, "Crucify Him, crucify Him." 9. That Jesus was the Son of God.)

Carlos' Knife

Little six-year-old Carlos sat on the bank of a river. It was a rather high bank and Carlos could see quite a long distance down the river. It was a bright sunny morning and Carlos was whittling on a small stick. Whenever he could get a good shaving off of the small stick, he would throw it out into the river. Each shaving was a boat. Although it was only a small river, Carlos played that it was a big one and that its rushing, swirling waters would carry his shaving boats far off to the ocean.

Carefully he cut an extra long shaving. There, that would sail away like a real steamship! How much he did enjoy having the little knife! Grandma had given it to him last Christmas. It was bright and shining and had two blades. Such a knife would gladden any boy's heart.

Carefully he smoothed out the long shaving, then drew back his arm and gave the shaving a big fling out into the river. Oh! oh! oh! With the smooth shaving went the shining little knife. For just an instant it was a shining bright streak, then it dropped with a splash into the muddy waters.

Speechless, little Carlos watched its gleaming lines, but as it sank out of sight he realized his little knife was gone, gone down into the muddy, swirling waters of the river. With a loud and bitter cry he scrambled up the bank and ran to where his father was at work.

"Oh! My knife, my knife! It's way out in the river," he wailed, and burying his face against his father's shoulder he sobbed heart-brokenly.

His father tried to comfort him but there was no other knife or toy for the child, nor was there a mother to soothe the little broken heart. At last his father said, "Let's pray about it."

Together they knelt and asked God to comfort the boy or by some miracle let them have the knife again. When they rose from their knees the little boy said joyfully, "Oh, I'm going to have it again!"

The father thought of Elisha and the axe head and said to the child, "I'll try to find it."

They returned to the place where he had sat shaving the stick. There the father laid aside his coat and walked directly down the bank and out into the water. He walked out until the whirling water was almost waist deep. Then he said reverently, "In the name of the Lord, I'll try."

Slowly he stooped over and put down his right hand, down, down, down. At last his fingers touched the bottom of the river and he took up a handful of sand. There in his palm lay the little knife! Does not God hear and answer prayer?

—Taken from *True Stories of Children*

Honoring God

Charlie was going home with his uncle. All night they were on a boat that was furnished with tiny beds on each side of the cabin, called berths. When it was time to go to bed his uncle said: "Hurry and jump into your berth."

"May I first kneel and ask God to care for us?" asked Charlie.

"We'll be taken care of," said his uncle.

"Yes, but Mother always told me not to ever take anything without first asking for it"

Charlie's uncle had nothing to say to that, so Charlie knelt down just as he did at his bed at home, and asked God to care for them through the night. That was honoring God. It took courage but Charlie set a good example.

—Selected

(Look for "Answers" on page 3.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 Mar. 20, 2005

When The Fog Comes In

Ten-year-old Charles lived on the Atlantic seacoast. His father was a fisherman and owned several good sized fishing boats and had men to help him with the fishing. When the weather was good Charles often took a rowboat and went out alone on the water to fish. There were certain times of the year when it was not safe for him to go out very far even when someone went with him. At these seasons the danger lay in the fogs but on sunny days it was usually safe.

One sunny morning while one of the larger boats was being loaded for a fishing trip, Charles took a small pail of bait and hopped into a small rowboat and rowed out on the shining water to fish awhile. It was very pleasant out on the calm sparkling water, even if the fish didn't bite very well.

Suddenly a broad shadowed line appeared in the water at some distance ahead of him. A whole school of fish was coming straight toward his boat. Quietly Charles dropped several baited hooks over the side of the boat and made each line fast to its own little rings.

Then he got the long handled dip net ready for use. If those little fellows came close enough he meant to have several dips at them for they made fine

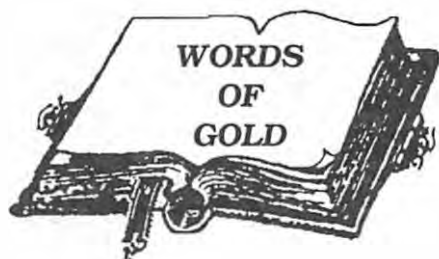
fries. Soon he was busy with his short lines and the shimmering fish came right around his boat; he could almost get them with his bare hands!

Suddenly a thick gray darkness settled down over him. The air became cold; the sea looked like a sheet of lead and the fish no longer shimmered. The fog had come in!

Hastily Charles drew in his lines and caught up the oars. Now which way was the shore and the wharf where the boats were tied up? While he fished his back had been toward the shore.

Carefully he turned the boat and rowed contentedly and steadily in the direction he supposed the wharf to be. He could not see a boat length ahead of him because the fog was so thick. Then he noticed that the water about the boat had shreds of white foam on it. That white foam meant the water had dashed over the great rocks—the rocks at the Point. Boats were smashed there!

Already he could feel the current tugging at the oars and the boat. He must get away from there at once! As he vainly tried to force the boat in another direction one oar was jerked from his hand. It floated away, out of his reach. When he tried to use the other oar for steering, it also snapped from his hands and almost tossed him overboard.



Jesus' Crucifixion

**John 19:12, 15-18, 29-30,
32-34, 36-39, 41-42**

12 ...Pilate sought to release him (Jesus):...

15 But they cried out. Away with him, away with him, crucify him....

16 Then delivered he him...to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull,...

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him,...and Jesus in the midst.

29 Now...they filled a sponge with vinegar,...and put it to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of

Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes,...

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

The Message: Jesus' great love for us caused Him to endure the shame and agony of the cross. Our love for Him should compel us to gladly bear our cross and follow His example.

Questions:

1. Who wanted to release Jesus?
2. What did the mob cry out?
3. What did Jesus bear?
4. How many others were crucified with Jesus?
5. What three words did Jesus say just before He died?
6. Why didn't the soldiers break Jesus' legs?
7. Who pierced Jesus' side with a spear?
8. Who took the body of Jesus?
9. Who brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes?

Verse to Memorize

For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled,...

John 19:36.

Let's



Talk . . .

Jesus' home was in heaven—in paradise with God, His Father. That home was more beautiful and peaceful than anything we have seen or can even imagine. God created man in His own image and, before they sinned, He loved to talk with Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden He made for them.

God yearned to be near His people. This was the very reason He had created man. He wanted them to love Him in return. But when they sinned Adam and Eve could not stand in God's presence. Their sin had separated them from their holy and just Father.

God was grieved to see His creation lost. There was one way that man could be set free from sin. It required the shedding of blood—the righteous blood of His only Son, Jesus! Could He make such an awful sacrifice? Would Jesus be willing to leave the glory and splendor of heaven to live among sinful men and endure their abuse?

Yes, they were willing! Because of His great love for us God sent His only Son from paradise to earth. Jesus knew from the beginning what it would cost Him. They had pity when They saw the awful misery sin had brought into the lives of men and women.

Jesus' first mission was to teach men how to please God and finally to give His very life to give them power to live such a life. The shedding of His righteous blood paid the price necessary to give us this power!

His was no ordinary death. Every detail of Jesus' suffering and death

had been prophesied many years before. Little did the wicked mob realize that their actions were only fulfilling these prophesies—God was in control!

When Jesus' clothes were divided among the soldiers, they cast lots to see who would get His coat. More than a thousand years before this, David wrote in Psalms 22:18, "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture (coat)."

John, an eyewitness of the crucifixion, wrote, "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst...and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:28-30. God revealed this scene to David many years before. He prophesied in Psalms 69:21, "...and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

When the soldiers came to break the legs of those who had been crucified, they were surprised to see that Jesus was already dead. So instead, a soldier pierced His side. Again David had written this would be so. In Psalms 34:20, he wrote, "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken." The prophet Zechariah wrote, "...they shall look upon me whom they have pierced..." Zechariah 12:10.

It was Jesus' great love for us that compelled Him to endure such shame and agony. He loves us so much He wants us to come to His beautiful home in paradise where we will be with Him forever and ever. He has given us a written invitation: "In my Father's house are many mansions...I go to (the cross to) prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2-3.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Helpless now and at the mercy of the waves which were rising in great swells, Charles clung to the boat and sobbed with fear. There was no way he could be saved now.

Suddenly he thought of praying. Surely he needed help now! No one could find him in this thick fog and no one could save him from the rocks. He had been so busy trying to help himself all the time that he had not thought to pray. But now he earnestly prayed to be saved from death on those terrible rocks.

He felt his boat tilt upward. The fog was so thick he could hardly see outside the boat. Then there was a long sweeping rush forward and his boat was carried completely over the first shoal of rocks and grated, crunching, on a sandy spot. As the boat became stranded, Charles leaped out and clambered quickly up over the slippery rocks to a place of safety.

His prayer was answered; he had been saved from death on the rocks and he had been delivered from the power of the sea. Charles never forgot that answered prayer.

—From *True Stories of Children*

Take-Home Chicken

Tuesday night was chicken night at the restaurant where I worked as a waitress but on this Tuesday few customers ordered it. "Take some home," the manager told me. The chicken was greasy, so I wrapped it in plastic, put it in a box and then in a bag.

The last customers lingered and we closed late. Missing the last bus, I began walking home through deserted Milwaukee streets. Unable to afford a cab, I prayed and sang a hymn. God would see me home safely.

But He didn't. A man with a knife leaped out of the shadows, pushed me down a dark side street, and spoke in ugly language of what he'd do when we reached his place on Brady Street. Why had God forsaken me?

Despite my anger, I kept praying. And then, out of nowhere I heard four words. They were very clear, very firm. "Debbie, eat your chicken." What? Was I losing my mind? "Debbie, eat your chicken!"

As I was being dragged along I pulled out a chicken breast, struggling with all the wrappings. Crying too hard to eat, I just carried it in my hand. We reached Brady Street.

Two large dogs rummaged in spilled trash cans. Suddenly the dogs perked up their heads and sniffed the air. Growling, baring their teeth, they charged at us. My attacker fled.

The dogs did not lunge at me. They fixed their eyes on the chicken in my hand. I tore off meat and threw it down, where they fought hungrily for it.

Dropping pieces every few yards, I got the stray dogs to follow me home. By the time I was safely inside I'd begun to understand. "Debbie, eat your chicken." The chicken had been wrapped too thickly to be smelled by even a dog. But in my hand God was able to use it to save me!

—Deborah Rose

What Is That In Your Hand?

Today when I am old
I look at my hand,
Wrinkled, arthritic,
Trembling, empty.

But God says,
"What is that in your hand?"
I hold it out and look again.
And it is so filled with His gift
That I cup my two hands together,
And still they overflow
With His love for me
To share with others.

—Dorothy A. Stickell in *His Mysterious Ways*

(Answers: 1. Pillate, 2. Crucify Him!
3. A cross, 4. Two, 5. "It is finished," 6. He was already dead.
7. A soldier, 8. Joseph.
9. Nicodemus.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 1 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 Mar. 27, 2005

A Soldier's View

Cassius stood at rigid attention in front of the commanding officer of Jerusalem's army. "Centurion," the officer barked, "explain yourself! One of your squads was assigned to guard a tomb, a dead man. What could be so hard about that? Now I'm hearing rumors that the body is missing? Tell me this is all a mistake!"

"Sir, the story actually began weeks ago," the centurion replied. "Ever since this Jesus began preaching around Jerusalem we thought He might be some kind of revolutionary bent on stirring up the people with His talk of the Kingdom of God. But I went and listened to Him, sir. He was no threat. Thousands would sit in rapt attention as He would talk about His Father and loving your neighbor, forgiveness from past sins and beginning a new life.

"The next I saw him, we had been ordered to stand guard outside the Governor's official residence. The crowd was getting ugly. Pontius Pilate was sitting up there on the judgment seat and Jesus stood before him.

"Finally," Cassius continued, "Pilate motioned for silence. 'I find no crime in this man,' he called out. Then he tried to set Jesus free. But Jews from the ruling Sanhedrin were shouting, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' The

rabble took up the cry. It was touch and go for a minute there, sir. Then Pilate called for a basin and began to wash his prissy little hands"

"Centurion, I'll allow no disrespect," the Officer said sharply.

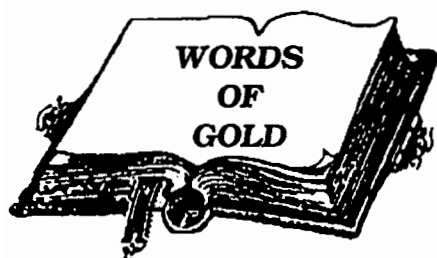
"Yes sir, but you know Jesus was innocent. He had just offended some powerful priests. But when Pilate saw how the wind was blowing he went along, I thought Rome was about law and justice, not expediency!"

"Ruling is sometimes dirty business, Centurion," interjected the Officer.

"So is soldiering, sir. On your orders one of my squad was picked to scourge the man. Few times in my career have I been sickened by blood and I've crucified hundreds in my time, but this man was different. He didn't curse. He didn't whimper. He was half-dead already from the beating and he fell on the way to Golgotha. He was just too weak to carry the cross so we conscripted a strong Cyrenean to carry it. Then we crucified Jesus."

"All men die the same."

"Not like He did," replied Cassius. "We spiked him to the cross-bar and hoisted it onto the upright, but I'll never forget His prayer: 'Father forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.' Sir, I was responsible for killing him and He forgave me!"



Jesus Lives!

John 20:1-2, 4, 10-20

1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark,...and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2 Then she runneth,...to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple,...and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre,...

4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

11 But Mary...as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting,...where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith... Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned...and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman,...whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith...Sir,...tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She...saith unto him,...Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father,...

18 Mary Magdalene came and told

the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken...unto her.

19 Then the same day at evening,...when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled... came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

20 And...he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

The Message: Jesus comforted the disciples and proved that He was alive by appearing to them numerous times.

Questions:

1. Who came early and what did she see at the sepulcher?
2. To whom did she run to tell the news?
3. Who stooped down and looked into the sepulcher?
4. Who was sitting where Jesus' body had lain?
5. What did they ask?
6. Who did Mary think Jesus was?
7. What did Mary tell the disciples?
8. Who appeared to the disciples through closed doors?
9. What did Jesus show the disciples?

(Answers: 1. Mary Magdalene; that the stone was taken away. 2. Simon Peter. 3. Mary. 4. Two angels. 5. "Woman, why weepest thou?" 6. The gardener. 7. That she had seen Jesus and that He spoke to her. 8. Jesus. 9. His hands and His side.)

Verse to Memorize

But now is Christ risen from the dead,...

I Corinthians 15:20.

Let's



Talk . . .

Today is Easter, the day set aside to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Savior. This was a most wonderful event. But an even greater event took place at Christ's resurrection. God showed His exceedingly great love and power when He raised Jesus from the dead after He had lain in the tomb three days. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and followers in miraculous ways as positive proof that He was indeed alive.

Though Mary saw that the tomb was empty, she could not leave. She must find the body of Jesus. Her eyes were blinded by grief. When she turned and saw Jesus standing nearby she did not recognize Him but thought He must be the gardener.

"Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked kindly.

"Sir, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away," she pleaded.

Then Jesus lovingly spoke her name. Instantly Mary knew it was Jesus!

That same day two disciples were sadly discussing Jesus' death. As they walked along the road to Emmaus, Jesus caught up with them and walked with them. "What are you talking about that makes you so sad?" He asked.

"Are you a stranger in Jerusalem? Don't you know all that has happened there the past few days?" they asked in surprise.

When Jesus asked, "What things?" they told them about the crucifixion. "We trusted that He was the One who would redeem Israel," they confided. Then they told Jesus how some women

went to the sepulchre and found it empty.

Jesus responded, "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things?" Then, starting at Moses He proved that Jesus was indeed the Savior they looked for.

When they got to Emmaus, the disciples still did not recognize Jesus. It was getting late so the disciples insisted that He spend the night with them. When supper was prepared they sat down to eat. Not until He blessed the bread did they recognize that it was Jesus. Immediately He vanished out of their sight.

The two disciples were too excited to keep the news to themselves. Returning to Jerusalem that very evening they found the eleven disciples gathered together with others. Then, as the two related to the other disciples how Jesus had appeared to them, He suddenly stood in the middle of them! "Peace be unto you," He told them lovingly. But they were terrified! They were sure it must be a spirit.

"Why are you troubled?" Jesus asked. "Look at the nail prints in my hands and my feet." As they looked, they believed. Jesus was alive!

But Thomas, one of the disciples, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him excitedly, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas doubted.

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

Eight days after this the disciples, with Thomas, were in a room with the doors all shut. All of a sudden Jesus was standing among them. Speaking directly to Thomas He said, "Look at my hands and touch them. Put your hand into My side. Do not be faithless; believe!"

"My Lord and my God!" Thomas humbly acknowledged.

Jesus answered, "Thomas, because you have seen Me you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Haven't you been a soldier too long to be troubled by a guilty conscience, Cassius?"

"About noon," Cassius continued, "the sky grew dark. Everyone saw it and felt the cold chill when He cried, 'My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?' He spoke scarcely a word until three in the afternoon when He shouted, almost triumphantly, 'It is finished!' And, if you listened closely, you could hear Him whisper, 'Into Your hands I commit My spirit.'"

"At that very moment the ground began to tremble and roll," Cassius continued, "and then the darkness began to lift. I tell you, Officer, that was no mere man we crucified; He was the Son of God!"

"A few freak coincidences and you're willing to declare him divine? He's just as dead as anyone."

"No, Officer, He's not! The chief priests and Pharisees insisted that Pilate guard the tomb so Jesus' disciples wouldn't steal the body."

"I know. I ordered it."

"We posted three men around the clock, relieved every eight hours as required. I sealed the tomb before they began. It was secure."

"So, what's this rumor that the body is gone?"

"It is gone, sir."

"I'll have your hide, Centurion!" the Officer shouted, rising to his feet. Cassius stood, too, but went on. "About seven o'clock Sunday morning, sir, the three soldiers on duty came running into the barracks like they'd seen a ghost. 'Centurion! Centurion!' they shouted, 'He's alive!' I got them calmed down and made them tell me every detail."

"Their shift began about midnight. They had been wide awake all night. Then, just before dawn, they said the garden tomb lit up as if it were high noon and an angel with garments like lightning came and rolled the stone

away from the tomb. They just sat there trembling. Then one of them got up and looked in the tomb. The body was gone and the grave clothes were lying on the limestone shelf wrapped round and round, but there was no body in them!"

"Do you expect me to believe that?" the Officer sneered disdainfully.

"I questioned them closely. Each looked. Each saw the same thing. The body was gone."

"They must have fallen asleep and told a story to cover themselves."

"They were battle-hardened veterans, sir, not some green troops. I know those men. No, they were telling the truth all right."

"What do you expect me to tell people, Centurion? That He rose from the dead?"

"I don't know what you're going to tell them, Officer, but that's what happened. He's alive. I tell you, He's alive!"

"We'll tell the soldiers to say they fell asleep and His disciples stole the body," suggested the Officer.

"What soldier is willing to say He fell asleep?" asked Cassius shaking his head.

"We'll pay them to say it," said the Officer. "The chief priests owe us. They'll come up with a goodly sum to bury this story.... I'll take care of it from here on out, Centurion. You didn't see anything. You don't know anything. Got it?"

"But I do know, and I did see, Officer. I can't change what happened. Jesus is out there alive—more than alive!"

"Forget this ever happened, Cassius."

"Forget it if you can, sir. But with all respect, Jesus is alive, and that changes everything for me!"

—Adapted from *A Soldier's View of the Tomb* by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Look for "Answers" on page 2.

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 1 April 3, 2005

Gladys Aylward —The Little Woman—

Gladys Aylward's one big ambition in life was to go on the stage. She had very little education but she could talk and she loved to act. Brought up in a Christian home, Gladys went to church and Sunday school as a child. But as she grew older she lost interest in anything to do with religion.

Like many girls of her age Gladys got a job as a maid. In the evenings she went to drama classes. She was determined to eventually become an actress. Then one night, for some reason she could never explain, she went to a religious meeting. There, for the first time, she realized that God had a claim on her life. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour.

When Gladys read an article about China it made a terrific impression on her. To realize that millions of Chinese had never heard of Jesus Christ was to her a staggering thought and she felt that surely something ought to be done about it.

First she visited her Christian friends and talked to them about it, but no one seemed very concerned. Then she tried her brother. Surely if she offered to help him he would gladly go off to China!

"Not me!" he said bluntly. "That's

an old maid's job. Why don't you go yourself?"

Old maid's job, indeed! She thought angrily. But she got the message. Why should she try pushing other people off to China? Why didn't she go herself?

She began to ask how to prepare to go to this country thousands of miles away. She knew practically nothing about China except that they needed people to tell them of God's love for them. She was told that she must offer herself to a certain missionary society.

This she did, attending the society's college for three months. But by the end of that time the committee decided that she could not qualify to be a missionary to China. Her education was too limited; they decided that the Chinese language would be far too difficult for her to learn.

Gladys was stunned. She left that committee room in silence, all her plans in ruins. Looking back later she did not blame them. She realized how ignorant she must have seemed then. The fact that she learned not only to speak, but also to read and write the Chinese language like a native in later years, was to her one of God's great miracles.

The committee chairman followed



The Call Of God

Genesis 12:1-2, 4-8

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

Hebrews 11:1, 8-10

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

The Message: God is calling each of us to follow Him. If we obey, He will always be with us to bless and protect and make our lives a blessing to others.

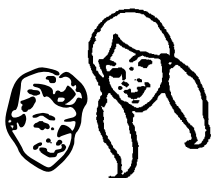
Questions:

1. Who told Abram to leave his own country?
2. What land was he to go to?
3. Name some of the things God promised Abram.
4. Who went with Abram?
5. How old was Abram when he left his home?
6. What did Abram build after he pitched his tent near Bethel?
7. What is the evidence of things we cannot see?
8. Abraham obeyed and went out _____ where he went.
9. He looked for a city whose _____ and _____ is God.

Verse to Memorize

...Abraham believed God,...
Galatians 3:6.

Let's



Talk . . .

We owe much to those who promptly obeyed when God called them. Noah built the ark just as God instructed him. As a result he and his family were saved along with the animals. His obedience saved the lives of all his family and the generations that would follow.

When God called Abram to leave his country and the idol worship all around him, he obeyed. God did not map out his journey for him; He simply told Abram to leave his home and go to a land that He would show him. Abram obediently started out not even knowing where he was headed. But he knew God was leading him and that he could trust His love, wisdom and protection to take him safely.

We are blessed today because Abraham obeyed God. Through him God established a nation of people who worshipped Him, the One True God, rather than idols.

When Moses finally agreed to go stand before Pharaoh God used him to lead His people out of bondage. As they journeyed through the desert God called Moses up into a high mountain where He talked with him. He taught Moses; he in turn taught the people how to worship God and live in a way that pleased Him. He gave them laws to govern their lives that brought happiness and prosperity as long as they obeyed them.

Jesus was willing to leave His beautiful home in heaven to come to us. He knew that nothing less than His blood could free us from the bondage of sin. Sin can never enter heaven. Jesus wants us to live with Him through all

eternity so He came to give His life and make the way for us.

Now God is calling each of us. He wants us to leave our old selfish ways. He wants to lead us to the place where He can have complete control in our lives. Satan works through self to ruin our lives and destroy us in the end. God's will is to bless our lives so richly that we will be a blessing to others.

Gladys Aylward realized that God had paid an awful price so she could belong to Him; He had a claim on her life. She accepted Jesus as her Savior and gave her life to God. Immediately she began looking for ways to use her life to serve God.

Reading an article about China left a deep impression on her. To think that there were millions of Chinese people who had never heard of Jesus was more than she could bear. Something should be done to teach them!

This was Gladys' call. Others could not or would not go to China. She was determined to go herself. She was confident that God would make a way even though it seemed impossible. She would put everything in His hands and let Him make the way!

It is wonderful how God protected Gladys through many dangerous places and eventually took her to China. She worked there for twenty years and taught the people about Jesus. Her life was like a bright light in their awful, heathen darkness. Eventually many were saved.

God has a wonderful purpose for your life. It may not be in a foreign country but He has a work for you wherever you live. He wants to live in you and bring hope and joy to others through you. The peace, happiness and eternal destiny of others depends on you! Your choice affects others. Will you let God make you a blessing? Will you teach others about Jesus and His power to save by answering God's call to follow Him? —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

her out. "What are you going to do, Miss Aylward?" he asked kindly.

"I don't know," she replied, "but I am sure God does not want me to be a maid again. He wants me to do something for Him."

"In the meantime, would you like to help two of our retired missionaries who need a housekeeper?"

"Where are they?"

"In Bristol. Will you go?"

"Very well, but first I would like to say thank you for the kindness of everyone here. I'm sorry I haven't been able to learn much at the college, but I *have* learned to pray, *really* pray as I never did before, and that is something for which I'll always be grateful."

So Gladys went to Bristol to look after a Dr. and Mrs. Fisher. She learned many lessons from them; their implicit faith in God was a revelation to her. Never before had she met anyone who trusted Him so utterly, so implicitly and so obediently. They knew God as their Friend, not as a Being far away, and they lived with Him every day.

They told Gladys stories of their own lives overseas. "God never lets you down. He sends you, guides you and provides for you. Maybe He doesn't answer your prayers as you want them answered, but He *does* answer them. Remember, 'No,' is as much an answer as 'Yes,'" they told her.

"How am I to know if He wants me to go to China or to stay in Bristol?" she asked.

"He will show you in His own good time. Keep watching and praying."

The old missionaries helped her and strengthened her faith but she still longed to be "about her Father's business."

Next she went to work for the Christian Association of Women and

Girls. She enjoyed this work and felt it was something worthwhile, but still the thought of China tormented her. Always it was China! She could not rid herself of the idea that God wanted her there.

Finally she decided that if no missionary society would send her, perhaps she could go out with a family who needed a children's nurse. She went to London to ask advice but everyone was against such an idea. "Put the thought of China out of your head," they insisted. "Carry on with the grand rescue work you are doing."

She started back depressed and dejected. On the train she pulled out her Bible. "I don't really know enough about this to start preaching to other people," she said to herself as she turned over the pages. "Maybe I ought to set about really getting to know it."

So she started to read at the very first verse and read on until she came to Abraham. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will...make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing" (Genesis 12:1-2.)

Gladys was deeply impressed when she read this account of how God called Abraham. Here was a man who had left everything—his home, his people, his security—and gone to a strange place because God told him to. "Maybe," she thought, "God is asking me to do the same thing."

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. God. 2. The land that God would show him. 3. To make him a great nation, to bless him, to make his name great and to make him a blessing. 4. Lot. 5. Seventy-five years old. 6. An altar to the Lord. 7. Faith. 8. Not knowing. 9. Builder, maker.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 2 April 10, 2005

The Call To China

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys felt that God was calling her to China to tell the people about His great love for them. She was willing to go but it seemed every way was blocked. While she waited for God to open a way she decided she should really get to know the Bible so she could teach it to others.

She was greatly impressed when she read how God called Abram to leave everything and go to a strange land. This seemed to be what God was asking her to do!

Then she read the story of Moses. Here again was a man who did something with nothing. She admired his great courage in starting out with a crowd of people who had already shown themselves most difficult to deal with. What faith he must have had to obey God and defy all the might of Egypt and Pharaoh himself! But at God's call Moses knew he must make the move; he had to leave his quiet home in the desert.

This, Gladys knew, was a most important message. If God was calling her to go to China, He would, Himself, take her there. She would have to be willing to move and to give up what little comfort and security she had. Thinking it over she decided to return to London. She would get a

job as a maid and earn enough money to pay her fare to China.

On the third day of her new job she was sitting on her bed reading her Bible. She read in Nehemiah. She felt very sorry for Nehemiah and understood why he wept and mourned when he heard about Jerusalem in its great need and could do nothing about it. He was a sort of butler and had to obey his employer just like she did. Reading on, she turned to the second chapter. "But he did go!" she exclaimed aloud. She stood up feeling a surge of inspiration. "He went in spite of everything!"

As if someone was right in the room, a voice said clearly, "Gladys Aylward, is Nehemiah's God your God?"

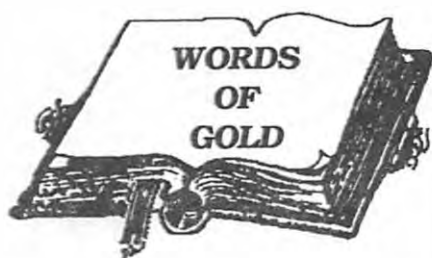
"Yes, of course!" she answered.

"Then do what Nehemiah did, and go."

"But I am not Nehemiah."

"No, but assuredly, I am his God." That settled everything for her. She believed these were her marching orders.

She put her Bible on the bed, beside it her copy of *Daily Light* and, at the side of that, all the money she had—two and a half pence (about two and a half cents). What a ridiculous collection it seemed, but she said simply, "O God, here's the Bible about which I long to tell others, here's my



This God Is Our God!

Joshua 1:8-9

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

II Chronicles 32:7-8

7 Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him:

8 With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Nehemiah 4:14

14 ...Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible,...

I Samuel 17:37, 40, 45-46

37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine....

40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand:

and he drew near to the Philistine.

45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee....that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

The Message: When we are acquainted with God we know He will always be with us to help us in any danger we face in living for Him.

Questions:

1. In what should we meditate day and night?
2. If we obey its commands we will have _____.
3. We are commanded to be _____ and of a good _____.
4. Who will be with us wherever we go?
5. The Lord delivered David out of the paw of a _____ and a _____.
6. What weapons did David carry?
7. What were Goliath's weapons?
8. David went to fight in Whose name?
9. David wanted the whole earth to know what?

(Answers: 1. The law of the Lord. 2. Good success. 3. Strong, courage. 4. The Lord thy God. 5. Lion, bear. 6. Five smooth stones and a sling. 7. A sword, spear and shield. 8. The Lord of hosts. 9. That there was a God in Israel.)

Verse To Memorize

And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Psalms 9:10.

Let's



Talk . . .

David speaks from experience in our "verse to remember." He says that if we really know the Lord we will not hesitate to trust Him. To trust someone means to rely on their integrity, strength and ability; to put our confidence in them.

The many songs David wrote prove that he knew God well. He spent the long lonely days talking to God while he watched over his sheep. All the wonders of nature around him were proof to him that God was wise and powerful. David cried to God for help when he was suddenly faced with great danger. God wonderfully protected him. This convinced David that God loved him and that He was right there with him.

Saul told David he was no match for Goliath. This giant was a man of war. Saul could see that David was very young. He wore his shepherd clothes while heavy metal armor protected Goliath's body.

But David insisted on fighting the giant. Goliath dared to defy the God he trusted; he was certain that God would deliver this enemy into his hand. He told Saul that the Lord had delivered him once from the paw of a lion and another time from the paw of a bear; he was sure He would deliver this enemy into his hand also. He would go against the giant, not with heavy armament but in the strength and confidence that God would fight for him. God did not fail him.

Moses knew God well after the long years of leading the Israelites out of Egypt. He was amazed time after time as God worked miracles to pro-

vide the needs of this vast army of people walking through an unknown land. God had caused the water to stand up in heaps so the people could cross the river on dry land. He supplied water out of a rock when there was nothing for them to drink. He sent manna every morning so everyone had plenty to eat and did many other wonderful works to provide for His people.

When Moses died Joshua took his place. God spoke to Joshua just as He had talked to Moses and told him to take the children of Israel over the Jordan River. He assured him that He would be with him just as He had been with Moses. Assuring him that He would always be with him and would never forsake him, He commanded, "Be strong and of a good courage!"

From experience Joshua knew he could trust God. He would fight their battles as long as they obeyed Him. They must study the law of the Lord and think about it day and night so they would know its commandments. Then there would not be a king or any army that could withstand the Israelites. God promised them success; they would go in and possess the land that He had promised them!

In II Chronicles 16:9 it says, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.... This same God who was so real to David, Moses and Joshua is our God. He has not changed; His power is as great as ever. He wants to reveal His love and power in our lives.

Gladys did not have anyone to encourage her to go to China and barely enough money to just get there. But God spoke to her and assured her He would be with her just as He had been with Nehemiah. She must do as Nehemiah had done—go, and trust Him to make a way for her.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Daily Light that every day will give me a new promise and here is all the money I have. If You want me, I am going to China with these."

At that moment another maid put her head in at the door. "Are you clean crazy, Gladys, gabbing away to yourself like that?" she asked.

But Gladys did not care. She felt that God was making her move and she was ready to obey. The bell rang; it was her mistress calling her. "I always pay the fares of my maids when I employ them. How much did you pay to get here?" she asked.

"It was two shillings and nine pence from Edmonton, madam."

"Then take this three shillings, and I hope you'll be happy here, Gladys."

"Thank you, madam."

So, in a few moments, her two and a half pence had increased by three shillings!

She worked on her days off in other homes as a maid, sometimes earning ten shillings or a pound for helping at a dinner. Sometimes she worked through the night at a society party and earned up to \$7.50. She saved it all.

Now she was ready to see about getting a ticket. Going to the shipping offices, Gladys inquired about the fare to China. Ninety pounds seemed to be the lowest until a clerk said, "If you want the cheapest, of course, it is the railway overland through Europe, Russia and Siberia."

From there she went to a ticket clerk. "How much will it cost for a single ticket to China?" she asked.

The booking clerk's eyes almost popped out. "China! China, did you say? Now, come on, miss, we haven't time for jokes. What do you want?"

"I want to know how much it will cost for a single ticket on the railway to China."

"Well, I never! All right, I'll find out for you if you will call again in a day or two."

The ticket was to cost 47.10 pounds from London to Tientsin, but she was strongly advised not to try it because there was fighting in Manchuria and there was no guarantee that she would ever get through.

"It's far too much of a risk," the clerk insisted.

"I'm the one who is taking the risk. Will you let me save for that ticket?"

She put three pounds down and every time she saved a pound she took it to Muller's. At first, saving the fare had seemed almost an impossibility, but in the next few months strange things began to happen.

One day her mistress was going to a garden party with one of her society friends, but at the last moment the friend was ill and could not attend. Her mistress sent for her and calmly announced, "Gladys, I want you to accompany me instead of my friend."

"But I can't go to a smart garden party."

"Why not?"

"Have you seen my best clothes?"

"Oh, if that is all, here is the key of my wardrobe. Help yourself to everything you need."

When they returned, she was about to take off her borrowed finery, but her mistress said, "You looked very nice this afternoon. I want you to keep everything you have on."

So here she was, provided with clothes such as she could never have afforded herself. She wore these until she went to China.

Instead of taking three years to save the fare, because of many almost miraculous little happenings like this one, she had already paid the entire fare by autumn!

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 3 April 17, 2005

Off To China

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys saved the full amount for her fare to China much sooner than she had expected. Now the question was where in China was she to go? It was about this time that a pastor called at her mother's house and asked Gladys to help in a campaign at his church.

It was at one of these meetings that an old lady stopped her and said, "I'm interested in China too, because a friend of mine has a friend who has just gone back to that country. Her name is Mrs. Lawson. She is seventy-three and has been a missionary in China for years. She came home after her husband died, but could not settle, so she's gone out again in spite of her age. Now she has written to my friend saying that she is praying earnestly that God will lay it on the heart of some young person to go out to China and carry on the work that she can only begin to do."

"That's meant for me, all right," Gladys said and immediately she set about seeking the friend who had the letter. She wrote to Mrs. Lawson and after a long wait the reply came: "I will meet you at Tientsin if you can find your way out."

That settled it for Gladys. The railway was to take her to Tientsin; Mrs. Lawson was to meet her there.

Then hasty packing began. Her father insisted that she go home for a few days and all of them did their best for her. A friend who also worked as a maid gave her a badly needed suitcase. Her mother sewed secret pockets into her coat for her tickets, passport, Bible, fountain pen and two traveler's checks worth one pound each. Another friend gave her an old fur coat and, between them, the family fitted her out with warm clothes.

Looking back, Gladys could see what a great sacrifice her parents made in allowing their daughter to go off alone to a place thousands of miles away, knowing full well that they would probably never see her again. She felt ever so thankful that they did not try to hold her back.

In her suitcase she had crackers, cookies, tins of corned beef, baked beans, fish, meat cubes, tea and hard-boiled eggs. In an old army blanket she carried her other odds and ends, such as a few clothes, a bedroll, a teakettle, a saucepan and a small stove which completed her equipment. She had no money to buy food on the way so she intended to live on what she had with her. The suitcase was heavy, but at least it would grow lighter the farther she went.

Gladys set off from Liverpool Street Station at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, 1932. As the train drew



Obedience

Ephesians 6:1, 3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Genesis 37:13, 17-18, 21, 27-28, 39:2, 21-22; 41:39; 50:19-20

13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

17 ...And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph,

and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

The Message: Our happiness and safety depend on our obedience to our parents, to authorities and to God.

Questions:

1. Who must children obey?
2. What does God promise those who obey?
3. When his father wanted to send him to his brothers, what was Joseph's answer?
4. Where did Joseph find his brothers?
5. What did his brothers conspire to do?
6. Who delivered him out of their hands?
7. What did they do with Joseph?
8. Who was with Joseph?
9. What good did God work through Joseph?

Verse To Memorize

Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:20.

Let's



Talk . . .

God loves children. Because of His great, loving concern He gave a commandment specifically to them: "Children obey your parents." To this He adds a special promise of long life and well-being. Obedience, then, is a child's most important lesson. Learning to be immediately obedient to parents and those in authority is the necessary foundation of a truly happy and successful life. The younger this lesson is mastered, the better.

Joseph was an obedient son. He was sorry when he saw his older brothers doing evil and told his father about it. His brothers were not willing to change their wicked ways and they did not appreciate Joseph's reports to their father.

Jacob, Joseph's father, loved Joseph very much and he made the mistake of showing that he preferred Joseph above his brothers. This made his brothers even more angry. They hated Joseph!

One day Jacob told Joseph to go see about his brothers. They had taken the flocks to find good pasture for them. Joseph willingly set off to find his brothers so he could report back to his father as Jacob asked him.

Jacob could not know that it would be many years before he saw Joseph again. But God watches over those who are obedient to a father and mother. He regards a falling sparrow (Matthew 10:29); He will surely be mindful of an obedient child. He numbers the hairs of the head (Matthew 10:30); He will certainly bless the child that honors Him by obeying a father and mother.

His brothers saw Joseph coming a long way off. It was easy to recognize him in his coat of many colors. They began to plan how they could kill Joseph. Reuben was not willing to kill him. He suggested they put him in a pit instead. Later he planned to rescue Joseph and take him back home to their father.

While Reuben was away, merchantmen taking spices to sell in Egypt came by. Judah suggested that they sell Joseph instead of killing him. All the others agreed. Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver and carried off to be sold again as a slave!

But the Lord didn't forget Joseph. The Bible tells us that when he was a slave in Potiphar's house the Lord was with him. When he was wrongfully accused and thrown into prison it says, "The Lord was with Joseph." Then, when Pharaoh told his dreams, God showed him their meaning.

God gave Joseph wisdom to store food during the plentiful years. Because of this many people, including his own family, were saved from starvation. Joseph saw God's hand in it all and did not blame his brothers or hate them for their wickedness.

Colossians 4:5 teaches us to "redeem the time." This means we are to make the most of every opportunity. When Paul wrote to the young minister, Timothy, he instructed him how to be "prepared unto every good work." (II Timothy 2:21.) Now is the time to prepare yourself to be your very best for God and His service. Use your young mind for prayer, reading and memorizing God's Word and listening as the Gospel is preached. By this you will develop enduring faith, strength and wisdom. God will keep you from the snares of the devil. Then your life will be an honor to your parents and to God, as well as a great blessing to others.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

out and she caught the last glimpse of her loved ones, she felt very small and alone. Like Abraham and Moses, she had left all behind her. She was moving out into an unknown place with only God to help her.

The journey began well and she spent a good deal of her time writing a sort of diary-like letter home. They crossed from Harwich to Flushing, then began the train journey through Holland.

When she had stood on Liverpool Street Station with her family, she had especially noticed one couple who was boarding the train. She did not see them again until she entered the carriage at Flushing when she found herself seated opposite them.

The lady smiled at her. "You are the little girl who had such a crowd seeing you off at Liverpool Street, aren't you, my dear?"

"Yes, those were my parents and friends."

"And where are you going?"

"I am going to China."

"To China! Oh, I suppose you have a young man there and are going to be married."

"No, I have not got a young man. I am going to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Both of them stared at Gladys more closely, but at that moment an attendant appeared at the door. The lady spoke in French and a few moments later the attendant reappeared, carrying a tray containing three cups, a jug of chocolate and a plate of cookies.

"Now you must join us, my dear," the lady said firmly. Gladys was glad to do so.

"We have just been to the Keswick Convention," she went on. "Now we are returning to The Hague where we have our home. I am English, but my husband is in the Dutch Parliament. We have had a wonderful week of

blessing and are going back much refreshed spiritually."

Gladys' heart beat with joy. Here were two more people who loved her Lord.

They talked quietly together and after a time the lady said, "My dear, I am going to make a pact with you. For as long as I live, every night at nine o'clock, I am going to pray for you. I want you to write your name in my Bible and let me write mine in yours. If we never meet again on earth, someday we will meet above."

When they got out at The Hague, the lady kissed Gladys with real affection and there were tears in her eyes. They had only met for so short a time, yet they had felt strangely drawn to each other.

The gentleman stood at the window and held her hand as he said reverently, "God bless you very richly, my dear, and keep you ever near to Him."

As the train drew away, Gladys looked after them for as long as she could. They seemed to be the last link with the home and people she had known. It was only when she sat down again that she became conscious that she was holding something in her hand. She looked down and found she was holding an English pound note.

"Strange that he would give me that," she thought. "He knows I am going where English money is no good." However, she hid it in one of her special hiding places, and, thousands of miles farther on, that pound note helped her out of a very difficult place. One might almost say it saved her life!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Their parents. 2. That it will be well with them and they may live long. 3. "Here am I." 4. In Dothan. 5. Kill him. 6. Reuben. 7. Sold him into Egypt. 8. The Lord. 9. Many lives were saved from the famine.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 4 April 24, 2005

Gunfire!

(Continued from last week.)

As she sat on the train bound for China, Gladys Aylward felt truly alone. All around her were people wearing different clothes and speaking a medley of languages she could not understand.

When they entered Germany, a railway official tried to ask her questions. She could not understand a word he said. Eventually a German girl came to her rescue. She could speak a little English and she explained that this man wanted to know if she had anything to declare at customs.

The German girl was very kind and took Gladys to her home to stay the one night she was forced to spend in Berlin. And the next day she showed her around the city before she set off on the long journey via Warsaw, Moscow and Lake Baikal to Harbin.

Of course, there was much that went on around her in the stations that she could not understand, but Russia depressed her terribly. The people were poor and dirty and the women seemed to do much of the rough work, even carrying heavy loads.

Always there were crowds of people waiting in the stations surrounded by bundles that seemed to contain all

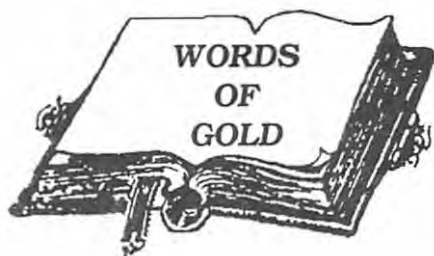
their household goods. The Russians looked haggard and unhappy. Even the children worked hard, for she saw quite small boys and girls staggering along under heavy loads.

As she sat in the great Moscow station she saw dozens of soldiers, but how different they were! They were dirty and untidy and carried bread under their arms. As they walked about they broke off lumps and chewed them.

She was, by this time, feeling very much alone—a small woman in a very foreign land. But in spite of this there was a great peace in her heart as she looked back on all that God had done for her so far. She truly believed He intended her to get to China to work for Him there.

The days of travel were sometimes monotonous because she could not speak to anyone. But so far she had suffered no actual discomfort. She was managing very well on her rations and sometimes at night she was able to rent a bed—a feather mattress from which feathers floated all over the place when she unrolled it.

Her only exercise was to walk along the corridor, except when the train stopped to take on a supply of wood for the engine. Then everyone got out and walked about while the train staff sawed up the wood!



A 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.

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: We will meet with trouble even while we are following God's directions. But He will be with us in the trouble to deliver us!

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

...I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;...

Psalms 23:4.

Let's



Talk . . .

One night, while Paul was being held as a prisoner in Jerusalem, the Lord appeared to 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.) The very next day more than forty men conspired to kill Paul. They bound themselves with a curse saying that they would not eat nor drink until he was dead! But God intervened; He said Paul must go to Rome and He would take him there!

After hearing about the plot the chief captain arranged for soldiers to safely escort Paul out of the city. Then Paul appealed to Caesar. This meant he would be sent to Rome where he could hope to have a fair trial.

A gentle south wind was blowing when the ship carrying Paul toward Rome left the harbor at Fair Havens. They did not aim to go far but Paul had warned them that they should not try to sail further. Against Paul's advice, the captain of the ship set sail.

They had scarcely left the harbor when hurricane-force winds swept down upon them. They could not turn back; nor could they make any headway. The ship was tossed like a cork by the angry waves. It seemed it would be torn to pieces at any minute!

Day after day the storm howled around them. They did not see the sun or stars for many days. This dense darkness made the tempest all the more terrible. The sailors had nothing to guide them, making their situation all the more hazardous. Now

they lost all hope of being saved from certain death.

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 will 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 stormiest 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.

Gladys Aylward was willing to leave her home and everything familiar to her to take the Gospel to the people of China. She had very little money and was warned that there was fighting along her route. But she was so convinced that God had called her to China she felt confident He would make a way for her.

Hearing that the trains were being held up at the border, Gladys began to worry. What would she do if she was stranded here, thousands of miles from anyone who could help her? Then she thought, *I am failing my God. He isn't thousands of miles away. He is right beside me. Why should I worry about my journey when God is helping me all the time?*

So, as He did for Paul, God revealed Himself in wonderful ways to take Gladys to China safely. She met many dangers along the way as we will see in future stories. But God never failed her. —Nelda Sorrell

As they traveled farther across Russia, water became very scarce. Her small teakettleful had to last her all day.

The country became wilder and the train jolted badly at times. She found that she lost her appetite and did not feel so well, but this she put down to lack of proper exercise.

On Saturday, October 22, her seventh day since leaving home, they crossed the border into Siberia. She had to change trains and now they were in a snow-covered land. She did not think it was possible that there could be so much snow in the world. The sun shone brilliantly and she sat and marveled at the beauty and wonder of this country with its tall trees, great mountains and wide flat steppes. Yet, she still had to say, "Poor Russia!" It was very, very cold at night and it was hard to keep even slightly warm.

On Monday, the 24th, a man who could speak a little English entered her compartment. They managed to carry on a rather difficult conversation, but it was good to have someone to talk to. They asked each other many questions and, through him, the conductor was able to tell her that the trains were not running to Harbin, so she would probably be held up at the border. This, of course, gave her a very anxious night. What would she do if she was stranded here, thousands of miles from anyone who could help her? Then she thought, *I am failing my God. He isn't thousands of miles away. He is right beside me. Why should I worry about my journey when God is helping me all the time?* Even if she could have done so, she declared to herself, she would not have turned back, for she believed God was going to reveal Himself in a wonderful way.

The train was by now packed with soldiers going to the frontier but, on

the whole, she was treated very well. She had known before she set out that Russia and Japan were at war and that the railway service in Manchuria would probably be affected. The soldiers confirmed her fears. They told her she could not reach Harbin, the junction where she had to change to the Manchurian railway, because a train had been captured by the Japanese and the line was blocked. Later a Russian railway official came to the door of her carriage and spoke to her, but, of course, she could not make heads or tails of what he said.

He gesticulated, pointed and shouted but it was no use; so finally he shrugged his shoulders and departed. The train went on all that day, but during the evening it stopped again. All the soldiers tumbled out, but, having no idea what was happening, Gladys sat still in her corner. After an hour or so, she walked along the corridor and found the train absolutely deserted! The lights were out, even in the station.

Suddenly the sound of gunfire startled her and she realized that she had come to the fighting line and that the train would go no further. Hurriedly she stuffed her belongings into her suitcase and old blanket and, carrying these, together with her little stove, teakettle and handbag, she climbed onto the platform. She had to move carefully because her teakettle had some water in it and this was far too precious to spill.

(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. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 5 May 1, 2005

Be Not Afraid

(Continued from last week.)

It was bitterly cold. The wind howled around her, bringing with it fine, powdered snow. Gladys Aylward sat on her luggage—miserable, cold and hungry—somewhere near the Manchurian border with not a soul in sight! She thought she would freeze to death and for the first time real doubts came to her mind.

"O God, is it worth it?" she cried.

Like a flash came the answer: "Be not afraid, remember I am the Lord."

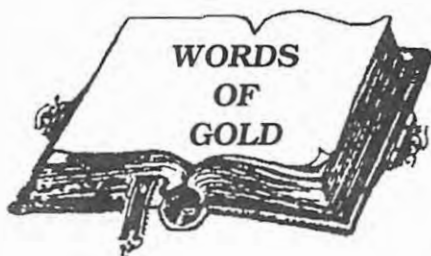
So she prayed that God would show her what to do and deliver her—and He did. She decided that she could sit still in the open no longer, so she stumbled around the deserted station until she found a small hut. Inside she was surprised to find four men—the guard, the engine driver, the fireman and the station porter.

They recognized her because they had tried to make her leave the train at Chita. Once more a pantomime of gesticulation began. They pointed up the line and made popping noises like guns; they pointed to the train and shook their heads to show it would not be moving. At length she gathered that it would wait to take the wounded back, but they had no idea when that would be. Then they pointed down

the line and showed her that she would have to walk back. They imitated her carrying her bundles and her teakettle and they laughed; so she laughed too, though actually there was little about her present situation to laugh at. Eventually they made her a cup of strong coffee, which she drank gratefully, and bade her farewell. She tied her bedroll across her shoulders, gathered up her bundles and the precious teakettle and set out to walk along the railroad track back to Chita. She was forced to keep to the track because of the deep snow, but even then it was hard going. On each side towered great forests of pines, their branches creaking under their heavy load of snow.

About midnight she was exhausted, so she pulled herself and her luggage off the track, ate a few stale crackers, boiled water for a hot drink, and then lay down on top of her suitcase with her old fur coat wrapped around her.

She heard a great deal of barking and howling not far off, and wondered why anyone had let so many dogs out at that time of night. Never for a moment did it occur to her that the noise was made by packs of hungry wolves. This was one time when her ignorance proved a blessing in disguise.



Shipwrecked!

Acts 27:30-44

30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship....

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 ...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...made toward shore.

41 And falling into a place where two seas met....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 has not promised a trouble-free life. He has promised to always be with us and make a way for us as we follow Him.

Questions:

1. What were the shipmen about to do?
2. What did Paul tell the centurion?
3. What action did the soldiers take?
4. While they waited for daylight, what did Paul beg them to do?
5. How many people were on board the ship?
6. What happened to the ship when they came to a place where two seas met?
7. What was the soldiers' counsel?
8. Why did the centurion keep them from their purpose?

Verse to Memorize

...For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5.

Let's



Talk . . .

The ship taking Paul to Rome was caught in a fierce storm. They had not seen the sun nor the stars for many days. Since they used these to determine their direction they had no idea where they were. They had lost all hope of being saved.

Then, in the night, an angel appeared to Paul and said, "Fear not, Paul. You must be brought before Caesar. And God has given you all them that are with you."

Paul was anxious to share this good news. Calling everyone together he told them the angel's message, adding, "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me! However we will be shipwrecked onto a certain island."

The storm continued to rage but finally about midnight one night the shipmen sensed that they were getting close to land. Fearing they would crash into rocks in the darkness they threw out the anchors and waited for daylight.

As day began to dawn the shipmen saw they had little chance of getting to land safely. Some of the sailors decided to escape in the small life boat. They planned to lower the boat and board it under the pretence of casting anchors out of the bows. Paul, learning of their plan, 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.

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. But they were safe—just as the angel had told Paul! They gathered on the beach and watched the ship break up by the pounding of the mighty waves. They were bruised, tattered, half-drowned and shivering in the rain, but they were safe at last!

—Nelda Sorrell

She did not stay there long for it was too cold. Long before dawn she set off again and trudged along that entire day, only stopping for short rests, until at last, late in the evening, she saw the flickering lights of Chita far down the line.

With a last desperate effort she dragged herself and her belongings onto the platform and sank down wearily on top of them. People came to look at her and, indeed, she must have looked a sorry sight. She was dirty and very tired. She sat for hours getting colder and stiffer, but no one seemed to bother.

Just as she was deciding that the best thing she could do was to make some kind of a commotion so that they would arrest her and take her somewhere out of the awful cold, a soldier arrived to make her move on. But she just sat there unmoved. Then three more came and, at last, an official in a red hat appeared. Seeing that she would not move without her luggage they picked it up and marched her off to a place so filthy that she could not describe it. The stench was so bad that she almost fainted.

She showed them her passport, and said, "British!" So they railed her off from the other people, but all around her were men and women in a horrible condition of filth. She felt ill and almost petrified with fear at the misery she saw everywhere. She thought that was the end of her and she could eat nothing. Many of her secret pockets had been searched and almost everything of value was taken from her, as well as her luggage; only her little pocket Bible was left. She took it out and held it up to the dusty little light to try to read it, but the light was too dim. However, as she held it up, out dropped a piece of paper—a leaf torn from a daily calendar. And because the print was large

and black, she could read, "Be ye not afraid of them—I am your God," a verse from Nehemiah.

How that page got there she did not know, but through all the years she kept it with her. To her it was a special message sent to her from God in her direst need. That was her promise; her God would be with her whatever happened. These people could not harm her unless God allowed it. For some hours she must have been half-unconscious until a man grabbed her and marched her out and along a corridor. They passed a Russian soldier who was just having a drink. He pushed the mug into her hand and she gulped down the cold tea. This revived her and made her realize that she was faint with hunger.

She was taken before an official to be questioned. Another man who was supposed to be able to speak English was brought in, but she had great difficulty in understanding him. Nothing was done for her that day. She was left under guard, so all she could do was lie down and go to sleep.

All the next day they kept questioning her. Her passport had been stamped showing that she had left Chita so why had she come back again? Of course she found it almost impossible to explain. Also, it seemed that they thought she had something to do with machinery. They told her they needed people like her and tried to persuade her to stay and work in Russia.

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Leave the ship. 2. "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." 3. They cut the ropes and let the boat fall off. 4. To eat. 5. Two hundred seventy-six. 6. It was broken in pieces. 7. To kill all the prisoners. 8. To save Paul's life.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 6 May 8, 2005

"You Stay In Russia"

(Continued from last week.)

The officials seemed determined that Gladys Aylward would stay in Russia. This terrified her and she prayed desperately for help. Among her belongings they had found a photograph of her brother in the dress uniform of the army band and this seemed to have impressed them very much. Evidently they thought she was of some importance. Finally she pulled out her Bible and showed them a little picture text she had in it. They seemed to understand. They gave her a new visa and another ticket for the next part of her journey.

On Friday she was taken around the town of Chita, evidently with the idea of showing her what a fine place it was. Then she was given her luggage and put into the train with instructions to get out at Nikolshissur Junction, get another train from there to Pogranilchnai, and thence to Harbin. It was the best they could do for her and she was grateful to them for their efforts to help her.

When she reached Pogranilchnai, there was no train to take her further. The Japanese had closed in and there was no way through.

She had to spend all that night at the station. In the morning she saw a

train coming the other way going back to Chita and looking out was a face obviously not Russian. In desperation she cried, "Can you tell me how to get to Harbin?"

Wonder of wonders, he replied in English, "You can't, it's blocked. Go to Vladivostok!"

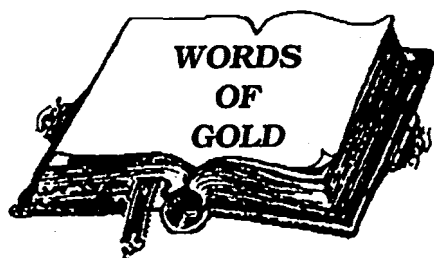
The next train was so crammed full that she could not get on. But she managed to push her way onto the next one after that and sank down hoping that eventually she would arrive in Vladivostok.

When, at length, she found herself in the Vladivostok station she had no idea what to do or where to go. She sat down and prayed. Into her mind came an advertisement she had often seen, "See Russia through Intourist."

She got up and went to first one and then another saying, "Intourist." Most of them looked as if they thought she was mad, but at last, a man who said he was an interpreter took her to an office and from there to an hotel.

The interpreter took her passport, saying it would have to be stamped. He seemed pleasant and kind at first and it was a great joy to be able to have a real wash, to change clothes and to sleep in a proper bed.

Her interpreter offered to show Gladys the town but she was appalled



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,...

Mark 16:17-18

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe:...

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

The Message: God led Paul through the terrors of shipwreck and the bite of a deadly viper to show His power and bring the Gospel to the people of Melita.

Questions:

1. They made their escape to what island?
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 then think about Paul?
6. How did Paul react when he was bitten?
7. What did the people finally decide about Paul?
8. Who was Publius?
9. What did Paul do for Publius' father?

(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.)

Verse to Memorize

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28.

Let's



Talk . . .

Clinging desperately to pieces of wood and other debris Paul and those with him struggled toward the shore of the strange island. The natives 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. Paul did not realize that a deadly viper was clinging to the wood. As it felt the sting of the fire the viper suddenly jumped for safety, fastening itself upon Paul's hand. For a second it clung there. A cry of fear went up from the horror-stricken islanders. With one quick motion Paul shook it off and it dropped back into the fire.

The islanders quickly reasoned, "Here is a prisoner who has escaped the sea. But the vengeance of the gods has followed him and his hour has come." They knew the deadly poison of the viper and the speed with which it acts. They expected to see Paul fall dead in a matter of minutes. They were sure he had committed some terrible crime to meet death by so sudden a stroke. They watched in horror.

But Paul was not afraid. He believed God and was confident that he

would preach the gospel in Rome as God had said. The minutes sped by. Paul calmly prodded the fire, moving closer to it to dry his clothing and to warm his body. The islanders watched him closely. As each moment passed they were more and more astonished. He did not seem pale nor did he look like a dying man!

Finally the superstitious islanders concluded that he must be a god in disguise. This made the people look on Paul with wonder and gave him 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, Publius. His house and outbuildings were large and he was very kind. He made provision for them all for three days. Publius had an aged father in his home 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. Many came to Paul, hoping to be healed. And so for three winter months, while Julius and his prisoners waited for the sea to become navigable again, Paul and his friends, Luke and Aristarchus, preached the gospel of Christ. God confirmed their words by healing and working miracles.

Special honors were given to Paul and his friends when they left. 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

by the sordid squalor all around her. Long lines of people stood waiting for black bread. There was no pavement, and the streets had great holes in them.

The people were very like the Japanese, dark-skinned with tiny eyes. The women were shockingly thin, scantily clad and usually had heavy babies tied on their backs, as well as great bundles on their shoulders.

After some days she began to feel desperate. She asked the interpreter for her passport but he tried to put her off. "Why do you want to leave?" he asked. "You have no money to buy tickets. You cannot get to China. Stay here and help us."

"Why do you want to keep me?" She asked. "Why do you follow me about and watch my bedroom?"

"We need people like you in this country—our new country—new civilization—a land free from the fetters of capitalism."

"No, I will not stay," she replied quickly. "I have seen all I want to; thank you—all the dirt, the squalor, the bad roads, the thin, underfed women, the awful poverty."

"But we will alter all that. That is why we need people like you—men and women who know how to handle machines, who can work in factories and train our people."

"But I am a missionary! I am going to China; I know nothing of machines."

He looked at her so strangely that a cold chill ran over her. "China is far away. You stay in Russia; we will look after you!"

The conversation alarmed Gladys, but what could she do? Without her passport it was impossible for her to move. Utterly miserable, she felt she must get away by herself for awhile. She left the hotel to walk to the seashore. As she went out, a girl came from behind the door and whispered

urgently, "I must speak with you at once. I have waited until the Intourist man left you. Walk along, I want to talk."

They walked for a short distance. When no one was near, Gladys said, "Who are you and what do you want?"

"That does not matter," she replied in clear but guttural English. "You want to leave this place? Well, if you don't get out now, you will never get away."

"But what can I do?"

"You must do just what I say. The authorities have no intention of letting you go. Get your things together and be ready. When an old man knocks at your door, be ready to follow him. Do not ask questions, just follow him."

The girl left and she went back to her room. What was she to do? How did she know that this was not a trap? Whom could she trust?

She was lying on the bed, her head throbbing with anxiety, when there was a knock at the door.

She opened it and there stood the man who had taken her passport. He held it in his hands but did not offer it to her.

Suddenly she grabbed it from him and threw it behind her into the room, at the same time saying far more boldly than she felt, "You are not coming in here!"

"Why not?"

"Because this is my bedroom."

"I am the master; I can do with you what I wish."

"Oh, no, you cannot. You may not believe in God, but He is here. Touch me and see. Between you and me God has put a barrier. Go!"

He stared at her, then shivered, and, without another word, turned and left her.

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 7 May 15, 2005

Narrow Escape

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward sat down on the bed, shaking all over. After the encounter with the man intent on keeping her in Russia she knew she had to get away. When she had calmed down a little she picked up her precious passport and stared aghast at what she saw: "Gladys Aylward, British subject; Profession—machinist." They had altered the word "missionary."

Now she knew that she had to do as the girl said. She had been right about them wanting to keep her. Hurriedly she bundled what was left of her belongings together and knelt down to pray during the time of waiting.

In the early hours of the morning there was a gentle knock on the door. She opened it a crack and saw an old man standing there. He said nothing but held out his hand for her suitcase while she took the bundle and the teakettle.

Then they trailed up and down what seemed to her to be miles of streets, stumbling over the uneven cobbles and at last came to the docks. They sat down in a dirty little shack until it was light and then he left her. She sat alone wondering what was going to happen next. Suddenly she found the girl who had spoken to her the previous day standing beside her.

"Have you anything of value?" she asked.

"Nothing. Everything of value has been taken from me."

"Have you any money?"

"No."

"Then all you can do is to go into that hut and throw yourself on the mercy of the captain. Plead with him; beg him to take you. You must get on that boat at all costs."

"Why have you helped me like this?"

"You need helping."

"What can I give you? I have no money."

"Have you any clothes?"

"Only what I am wearing. But take these gloves. They are old but they are warm—and these darned stockings. Please take them."

She took them and disappeared.

Gladys went up to the wooden hut and slowly pushed open the door. A Japanese captain was sitting there alone.

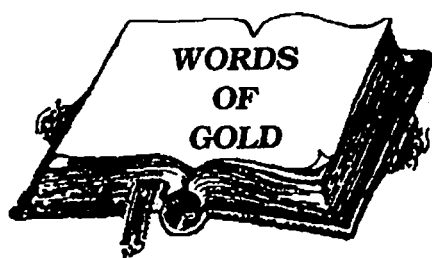
"Are you the captain of that boat, sir?" she asked, hardly daring to hope he would understand English. "I must get on it; I must get on it!"

"Speak slowly, please. Good morning. What can I do for you?"

"I want you to take me to Japan, but I have no money."

"You have no money. Have you valuables?"

"No, nothing at all."



Jesus Calls Peter

John 1:40-42

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon,...

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Luke 5:1-11

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other

ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

The Message: Peter obeyed Jesus and let down his nets though it seemed futile. Great blessings come from immediately obeying all God's commands.

Questions:

1. Who did Jesus see as He walked by the Sea of Galilee?
2. What were they doing?
3. What did Jesus tell them to do?
4. Why did the people press upon Jesus?
5. Why had the fishermen left the two ships?
6. Whose ship did Jesus get into?
7. What did He tell Peter to do after He got through speaking?
8. Why did Peter fall down at Jesus' knees?
9. What did they do when they got their ships to land?

Verse to Memorize

...Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Jeremiah 7:23.

Let's



Talk . . .

Andrew was first a disciple of John the Baptist. One day John the Baptist saw Jesus walking by. Interrupting his conversation with Andrew and another one of his disciples John exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

Andrew had deep respect for John the Baptist and listened carefully as he spoke of the coming of the Savior who would soon come to teach men the ways of God. When John called Jesus the Lamb of God, Andrew was so impressed he decided to follow Jesus and see just what John meant.

Jesus saw Andrew and the other disciple following. Turning to them He asked, "What are you looking for?"

The disciples answered, "Master, where do You live?"

"Come and see!" Jesus invited them. So they went with Jesus and listened intently to every word He spoke. Andrew was soon convinced that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. He could not wait to find his brother, Simon, to tell him the good news.

Now Simon Peter was also known as Simon Bar-jona, which meant the son of Jona. Both Peter and Andrew were fishermen by trade and worked together with James and John. Peter was married and lived in Capernaum. As soon as Jesus met Peter He gave him a new name, Cephas. By interpretation Cephas means "a stone." Jesus gave him this name because He could foresee the future. Although Peter was far from being settled now, He knew that one day Peter would become as stable as a rock. Peter was quick to speak his mind, constantly struggling between his own strong will and his desire to please and obey Jesus.

Some time passed from the day that Peter first met Jesus and was renamed Cephas until Jesus gave him a more definite call to follow Him. It happened while Jesus was preaching by the lake of Gennesaret. The eager crowd pressed closer and closer to catch every word Jesus spoke. Jesus saw that He was in danger of being thronged. Two ships lay anchored nearby so He got into the one that belonged to Peter. From the ship Jesus finished teaching the multitude.

Then Jesus told Peter to launch out into the deep and put down his nets for a large catch of fish. Now Peter was a fisherman by trade. He knew there were no fish in that area of the lake because he had been fishing all the previous night and had caught nothing. Though he argued at first with Jesus about the uselessness of such an idea, he respected Jesus too much to not obey.

Imagine Peter's amazement when so many fish filled the nets that they began to break! There were so many fish that Peter called for his partner to bring his ship. Both were filled until they were in danger of sinking.

Peter was greatly astonished at this miracle. He realized that this was the Son of God! Immediately he sensed his own unworthiness and sinfulness in the presence of such a holy One and begged Him to leave him. But instead of departing as Peter requested, the Lord invited him to be a disciple, with the promise that he would "catch men." Peter obeyed instantly. He, along with Andrew, James and John, forsook everything and followed Jesus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

(Answers: 1. Peter and Andrew. 2. Washing their nets. 3. Follow Him. 4. To hear the Word of God. 5. To wash their nets. 6. Peter's. 7. Launch out into the deep and put the nets down to catch fish. 8. He was astonished at the great number of fish they caught. 9. They left their ships and followed Jesus.)

"Are you British?"

"Yes, sir. Here is my passport. Please take me with you."

Slowly he examined her passport and then nodded his head. "I see you are in trouble. That will not do. Will you put yourself under my protection and become my prisoner?"

She felt she would far rather be with the Japanese than the Russians so she willingly agreed.

"You must sign these papers and then you will be safe," he said "We leave at once."

Just as she was going up the gangway some Russian soldiers seized her and pulled her back. The sailors stood on the ship, looking down, but they could give her no assistance because they dared not cause trouble.

Desperately she threw her suitcase and bundle onto the deck of the ship and, on an inspiration, pulled out the English pound note the member of the Dutch Parliament had given her at The Hague.

"Look, I buy myself off!" she cried. The soldiers stared at the note and relaxed their hold. She leaped onto the boat which was just beginning to move, leaving part of her coat in the hand of the soldier who had grabbed her. But, at least, she was now under Japanese protection. That Japanese captain was a true gentleman. He was clean and polite and treated her well.

Some time later, when she had calmed down after her ordeal and had managed to tidy herself up a little, she noticed a woman huddled in a corner, looking desperately ill and miserable.

"Are you feeling ill?" she asked

"She replied in English, "Yes, very ill."

"Is it because you have been seasick?"

"Oh, no, nothing like that! It is because of what has happened. The Russians stripped us of everything we possessed. My husband is a tea planter. We have been home on fur-

rough and were returning to Shanghai. Every bit of our luggage and money has been taken; we are lucky to be alive."

They talked for a little while but she did not see this woman again because she had to stay on a different part of the ship.

Eventually the boat reached Japan and here she found she was the first off because, being a prisoner, she was handed over to the British Consulate. A young man arrived to get her and told her she was the biggest fool he had ever met! Even to think of setting out on such a journey was crazy! He bought her a good meal, however, and a ticket to Kobe.

She knew she would find help at Kobe and when she arrived she made her way to the mission hall in a rickshaw. This was her first experience of such a strange mode of transportation.

When she reached the house she was bowed to and her shoes removed. This was very embarrassing for she had a hole in her stocking.

A lady called Miss Santee took her to her home and how good it was to be in an ordinary, civilized house again! She took a hot bath in a large, wooden tub then went to bed in a pretty room with a white bed and a blue blanket on it. The room was lit by a lantern with a red and blue shade.

The next day, Saturday, November 5, she left Kobe after having her ticket exchanged for one to Tientsin. Her friends from the mission escorted her to the steamer and explained about her to the captain, so again she was well looked after. She found the food strange and hard to digest.

There were no chairs to sit on and, after removing their shoes, as was customary, they all sat cross-legged on straw mats on the deck. This made her very tired and her back ached.

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 3.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 8 May 22, 2005

Yangcheng At Last!

(Continued from last week.)

As Gladys Aylward sailed on the Japanese boat toward China they passed through beautiful country. High mountains in the distance were covered with snow while the nearer hills were alight with bright green and glorious red trees. The houses were quaint and decorative, for their gables and gates were hung with flags and banners.

On Tuesday, November 8, the captain sent for her toward evening and told her that over there was China. Away on the horizon, across a muddy, yellow sea, she saw China at last!

Two days later she actually set foot in China, at Tientsin, and immediately made her way to the missionary headquarters. It was bitterly cold but she was made very welcome and they all joined together in thanksgiving. She sang, "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven" with a very full heart!

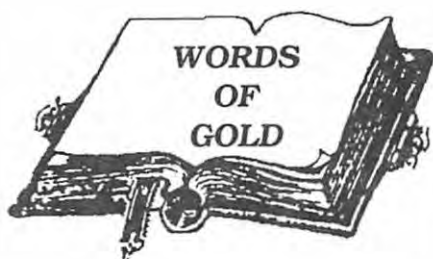
She had expected to meet Mrs. Lawson at Tientsin but she was many miles away in the mountains. Instead she had sent an escort called Mr. Lu for her. So on Saturday they traveled by train to Peking. The trains were very uncomfortable. Each compartment held about forty or fifty people who were jostled about by the lurching train. They stayed overnight in

Peking at a Chinese inn but the dirt and discomfort were appalling.

The next morning they left Yutse by bus as the railroad ended at Yutse, which is the border of Shansi Province. The bus rocked from side to side and she was amazed that a bus could travel on such roads—up and down mountains, through brooks and rivers—nothing seemed to trouble the drivers. The first night they stopped at Tsinchow, and the following one at Teshchow, where there was a mission station. From here it was two day's journey by mule to Yangcheng where she was told Mrs. Lawson was living. They crossed three mountain ranges and forded numerous rivers and she never forgot that first journey with a mule litter. She thought she would be broken in little pieces before they reached Yangcheng and every bone in her body ached and protested.

When, at last, Mr. Lu stopped the mules before a gateway and said, "This is Yangcheng," she fell off her animal's back and tottered painfully forward.

Mrs. Lawson came to the gateway, and she bowed, feeling very humble and insignificant. She knew she was dirty, untidy and wilting with fatigue. How would this woman, who had toiled in China for so many years, regard the raw, ignorant recruit who had come to join her?



Peter Walks On Water!

Matthew 14:14, 19-20, 22-33

14 And Jesus...saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And...he went up into a mountain apart to pray:...

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit: and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come

unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

The Message: Jesus can enable us to do great things as long as our eyes and faith are fixed on Him!

Questions:

1. What did Jesus constrain His disciples to do?
2. Where were they to go?
3. What did Jesus do after He sent the multitude away?
4. Why did He go there?
5. What happened to the ship in the middle of the sea?
6. How did Jesus go to the disciples?
7. Why did His disciples cry out for fear when they saw Him?
8. What did Peter say after Jesus said it was He?
9. Why did Peter begin to sink?

Verse to Memorize

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

Jesus felt the need of getting away from the crowd of people. He told His disciples, "Come; we will go to a desert place and rest awhile."

Secretly they all set sail for a quiet retreat. But the people saw them leave. They seemed to know just where they were going. People from all the cities ran to that place, so when Jesus and His disciples pulled to shore there was a whole multitude of people waiting anxiously for Him.

Jesus seemed to forget His tiredness. He looked out over them and thought of sheep who had no shepherd. His heart was touched and He taught them all day long.

Finally the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a desert place and it is getting late. Send the people away so they can go to the villages and buy food. They have nothing to eat."

Jesus answered simply, "Give them something to eat."

The disciples looked at Him in disbelief; where could they get enough money to buy food for such a crowd? "How much bread do you have?" Jesus asked.

Andrew reported, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two small fish. But what good will they do for so many people?"

"Bring them to Me," Jesus commanded. Then He told the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the loaves and fish in His hands He looked up to heaven and blessed the food. Breaking it into pieces He gave some to each of the disciples who then gave it to the people. Everyone ate until they were full and still there was food! At Jesus' command they gathered up the scraps

and found that they had twelve baskets full of leftovers!

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the ship and sail to the other side. He would send the multitude away to their homes.

For awhile there was smooth sailing. Then suddenly a strong wind hit the ship. Even those who were experienced fishermen saw the danger. They all watched anxiously as the water heaved up in threatening waves all about them.

Then they saw something even more frightening! It looked like a man walking toward them—it must be a ghost! They were so scared that they cried out with fear.

Jesus saw that they were terrified and called out to them, "Don't be afraid. It is I!"

Peter immediately answered, "Lord, if it is You bid me to come to You on the water."

When Jesus said, "Come!" Peter quickly stepped out of the ship onto the water and walked toward Jesus.

But then he looked at the sea boiling up in treacherous waves all around him. He was so scared he started to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried desperately.

Jesus reached out and caught him. As soon as they were in the ship the wind stopped blowing and all was calm.

Our verse to remember says, "I can do all things" and that statement is qualified by the words, "through Christ which strengtheneth me." Do you want to see and experience great things in your life? Then get so well acquainted with Jesus that you know that He can do anything. Then you will have confidence and courage to do whatever He asks you to do. This may put you in dangerous situations. But as you see that only Jesus can save you, you will learn Paul's secret—"When I am weak, then am I strong." Then you will see that it is Jesus' strength and not your own that enables you.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Actually, she seemed to be very pleased to see her but Jeannie Lawson was Scottish and never showed emotion so her first greeting was certainly not effusive. As she bowed she said, "And who are you?"

"I am Gladys Aylward who wrote to you from London."

"Oh, yes. Well, are you coming in?"

Gladys had an irresistible desire to laugh but managed to turn it into a cough. She had come thousands of miles to join her and here she was asking, "Are you coming in?"

However, she went inside and took a quick glance at what, she hoped, was to be her future home. It was scarcely attractive. The gateway led into a huge courtyard from which doors into various rooms opened on all sides but the whole place was littered with fallen masonry, pieces of paper and other rubbish.

"I suppose you will be hungry."

Mrs. Lawson remarked and disappeared into the kitchen. A few moments later she returned with a bowl of some strange concoction. She looked at it, smelled it and only good manners stopped her from turning away in disgust. Gingerly she tasted it and thought it was horrible, but it was either that or nothing and she was very hungry. So, with a great effort, she managed to eat half the bowlful. They talked for some time and Mrs. Lawson explained that the house was very old and in a poor part of the town but that she had come to live here because it was empty and it was cheap. The rent was about thirty cents a year! No Chinese would live in it because they believed it was haunted by devils. Mrs. Lawson remarked calmly that she had driven them away; at least she had never seen any since she had lived there! She was trying to get the place cleaned up but she could not do much at a time.

As she did not suggest taking

Gladys to her room, after some time, she timidly asked if she might go to bed as she was very tired after the trip.

"Oh, yes, of course, you do just what you wish," Mrs. Lawson replied.

"But where do I sleep?"

"Oh, anywhere!" she said, waving her arm around vaguely. "Anywhere you like."

So Gladys chose one of the rooms, swept the litter on the floor to one side and put down her bedroll. Then she looked around. There were no curtains, no glass in the windows and no door in the doorway. She approached Mrs. Lawson again.

"Where do I undress?"

"Why do you want to undress?"

"Because I want to go to bed."

"Oh, I wouldn't bother to undress. It is so much safer to keep all your things on in bed; then they cannot be stolen. As you see, we have no doors to lock."

So she got into bed with her clothes on and all her things gathered around her and for the first time went to sleep in the place that was to be her home for many years. In the morning when she awoke she was very glad she had followed Mrs. Lawson's advice. Every window was crowded with curious yellow faces. Evidently word had gone around the town that a foreigner had arrived and they had come to inspect the strange sight. It would certainly have been very embarrassing if she had had to dress before so many spectators!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. To get into a ship. 2. To the other side of the sea. 3. Went up into a mountain. 4. To pray. 5. It was tossed with waves. 6. Walking on the sea. 7. They thought He was a spirit. 8. "Bid me come to thee on the water." 9. He took his eyes off of Jesus and looked at the stormy wind.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 9 May 29, 2005

Among The Mules

(Continued from last week.)

Gladys Aylward discovered that Yangcheng itself was beautiful—a little Chinese town set in a valley between high, bare mountains. It had a wall all around, many narrow winding streets and numerous temples which must have been hundreds of years old. There were no real roads in that part of China, only the muddy, uneven mule tracks and every day long mule trains passed through or at night stopped in the inns.

There were few trees in Yangcheng and the mountains were brown and bare but there was great beauty nevertheless. In winter there was deep snow and it was very cold.

It was nearing the end of November when Gladys arrived at Yangcheng—five and a half weeks after setting out from Liverpool Street Station, but how much had she seen! How much she had learned in those weeks! And above all how much she had to worship her God!

Mrs. Lawson had a little money of her own but Gladys had nothing and they had to exist somehow. Soon after her arrival Mrs. Lawson explained her purpose in living in such a place.

"You see, Gladys, I intend to turn this place into an inn."

"But how, and who will come?" she asked.

"The muleteers will come as they do to other inns in the town. You know what Chinese inns are like?"

She agreed with feeling. She would never forget those in which she stayed on the way to Yangcheng.

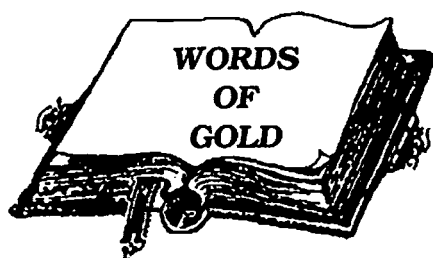
"All the muleteers require is a night's lodging, a place on the *kang*—the long brick bed that is built down one side of the dormitory—an evening meal of millet and flour strips and some fodder for their beasts. We can hire a Chinese cook for a few pence a week. Then when the men have had food and are resting in the courtyard, we can talk to them. That will be the beginning."

"But how will we get them to come here?"

"You have seen a Chinese landlord standing outside his inn smiling a fat welcome? Then, as the first mule in the mule train passes him, he grabs the animal's head and drags it into the courtyard and, of course, the rest of the beasts follow. Once he has got them inside, he tells the muleteers what a good inn this is and the muleteers are usually too tired to argue. That will be your job!"

"My job? To grab a mule's head and drag him inside?"

"Yes. You will bring them in, and then I will talk to them."



Peter's Great Change

John 13:37-38

37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

**Acts 2:4, 14, 22-23,
32-33, 37-38, 41**

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

14 ...Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

22 ...Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the

apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

The Message: Jesus said they would receive power after the Holy Ghost came upon them. Peter's great change demonstrates this truth.

Questions:

1. What did Peter say he would do for Jesus' sake?
2. What did Jesus answer him?
3. What did the people do after they were filled with the Holy Ghost?
4. Who stood up and preached to the people?
5. Who did God raise up (from the dead)?
6. What did the listeners ask Peter and the other apostles?
7. What did Peter tell them to do?
8. What gift would they then receive?
9. How many gladly accepted the truth and were baptized?

(Answers: 1. Lay down his life. 2. He would deny Him three times before the cock crowed. 3. Began to speak in other tongues (languages). 4. Peter. 5. Jesus. 6. "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 7. Repent and be baptized. 8. The Holy Ghost. 9. Three thousand.)

Verse to Memorize

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...

Acts 1:8.

Let's



Talk . . .

Peter was a natural leader. When a question was asked or a decision needed to be made among the disciples Peter was usually the spokesman. Jesus asked the disciples who they believed He was. It was Peter who boldly answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

But fear gripped Peter when he saw the soldiers and mob that had come to arrest Jesus. He grabbed his sword and came so close to cutting a man's head off that he did cut off his ear. As they led Jesus away, Peter feared he too would be arrested. Yet he must see what would become of Him! So he followed, staying far enough behind that no one would see him.

Then, when a mere girl asked him if he was one of Jesus' disciples, this big bold fisherman was afraid. "I am not!" he declared. Two others asked the same question and each time Peter denied he even knew Jesus. Then he heard the cock crow and he remembered what Jesus had told him. He rushed out and cried bitterly, realizing what he had done.

But after Jesus returned to heaven there was a great change in Peter! Jesus told them they would receive power after they received the Holy Ghost. That power was immediately evident in Peter. Again he was spokesman for the group. When some mocked saying the one hundred twenty were speaking in other languages because they were drunk, Peter boldly stood up where everyone could see him. With a loud voice he announced, "Men of Jerusalem and all Judea, we are not drunk as you suppose. We have

received a great blessing from God. The prophet Joel said, 'In those days I will pour out my Spirit on my servants and on my handmaidens and they shall preach.' God has given us this Holy Spirit as He promised. This is what you are seeing and hearing today."

So Peter spoke as the Holy Spirit gave him the words to say. The multitude listened intently as he told them about Jesus, the many signs and wonders He worked and how God allowed Him to be delivered into the hands of His wicked enemies. He spoke of Jesus' crucifixion, assuring them that God had raised Him from the dead.

The words touched the hearts of the audience. They knew Peter spoke the truth. They felt so condemned they cried out, "What shall we do?" Peter instructed them to repent and be baptized. Then they too could receive the greatest blessing of all—the gift of the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit made Peter a solid, courageous apostle for Jesus. As we study his life we will see what great miracles and wonders the Holy Spirit worked through him. But best of all, he could now live a steady, consistent holy life just as Jesus did.

This good news is also for us! The Holy Spirit will make a steady Christian out of anyone who will receive Him into their heart and obey His leading.

You may sometimes do things you know Jesus does not approve of even though you want to please Him. You repent but then find you are not strong enough to resist temptation the next time it comes. Jesus has provided something much better for you! Just surrender your whole life to Jesus and ask the Holy Spirit to come into your heart. As you yield to the Holy Spirit, He will guide you every moment and give you power to say, "No!" to the tempter. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"But do mules bite?"

"Not if you grab the right part."

So they started to get the inn cleaned up and ready for their customers. They got an old man who could cook, after a fashion, and then Gladys stood outside, shaking with fright.

The cook had taught her what to say. As she saw the first mule approaching, she yelled loudly, "Muyu beatcha—muyu goodso—how—how—how—lai-lai-lai." That simply meant, "We have no bugs. We have no fleas. Good, good, good. Come, come, come!"

She felt something like a man at the circus shouting, "Come one, come all, come to the fair!"

The first mule she pulled in was fortunately old and docile but its owner was so frightened that he ran away. He returned later when he found that his companions had come to no harm.

Soon the inn became known from Hopeh to Honan. Muleteers were the newsmen of North China and they made it known that the inn of the foreign ladies was clean, the food was good and at night they had long stories told free of charge.

At first Mrs. Lawson or Mr. Lu told the Bible stories while Gladys listened. She was trying very hard to learn the language, but for the time being the most useful job she could do was to look after the mules. She fed them and scraped the filthy mud off them so the owners could sit at ease listening to the stories.

Besides the work in the inn, Mrs. Lawson and Gladys went out to the villages. On Sundays they got up early and, as soon as the city gates were opened, they went to a strange village. Crowds of people would rush out to stare at them. They had never seen a white person before. Then they would choose an open space and Mrs. Lawson would start to speak.

Everyone would stop what they were doing and stand outside their homes. Then after awhile Mrs. Lawson would let them ask questions.

"Why have you come?" they would ask. "Where do you come from?" "How old are you?" "Is she your daughter?" And so on. Then they would feel their clothes, lift up their skirts to see what they had underneath and talk excitedly about their feet. Every Chinese woman had bound feet at that time and their big feet always caused much interest.

For several months Gladys struggled with the language. She gave out tracts. She sang to the people and at night she scraped mud off the mules and helped to look after their rough and none-too-sweet-smelling owners. This was not at all the sort of life she had pictured for herself when she had been in England, but it was a splendid "battle course" for what was to follow.

Mrs. Lawson was, at times, far from well. Gladys wondered what would happen if she were to die. Never were two people more unlike thrown together in a strange land. Jeannie Lawson was old, dour and dogmatic while Gladys was young, full of enthusiasm and also had a strong mind of her own. There was only one thing they had in common and that was the firm belief that God had sent them to this place and had some special work for them to do.

Gladys longed to be able to speak to these people as Mrs. Lawson did. She set herself to learn several of the Bible stories by heart. By the end of the year she could understand most of what was said to her and she could make herself understood. And her repertoire of stories, which she tried out on the muleteers each night, was growing.

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 10 June 5, 2005

Gladys Meets The Mandarin

(Continued from last week.)

At the end of that year Mrs. Lawson became seriously ill. Her body was simply worn out. Gladys had to nurse her to the best of her ability. Near the end she said, "God called you to my side, Gladys, in answer to my prayers. He wants you to carry on my work here. He will provide. He will bless and protect you."

She died soon after that and Gladys was left alone—the only European in that part of China. But at least God had allowed Mrs. Lawson to live long enough to teach her how to carry on her work.

She kept the inn going and they held services regularly in the mission hall. She visited houses and gave what aid she could to those in need and she went out into the villages with Mr. Lu to preach in the market places.

But Gladys soon found that the inn did not bring in enough to pay Mr. Lu, the cook, and keep her in food. They only needed a small amount of money a year but, now that Mrs. Lawson's small, private income had ceased, the standard rate they were allowed to charge for a night's lodging was not enough.

Also, Gladys was very lonely and her position was no easy one. She was only a young woman and every night her inn was crowded with rough, peasant muleteers. Certainly she could speak their language now, in fact, it was the only kind of Chinese she could speak, for she had learned most of it when listening to them each night. She prayed anxiously but the way seemed beset with difficulties. She wondered if God was telling her she had to move on from Yangcheng. She had no idea where else she could go.

One morning the old cook said, "You ought to go and bow to the mandarin."

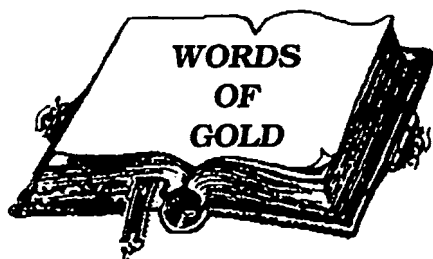
"But why should I bow to the mandarin?" she demanded.

"The mandarin is a very important person. He can order your head to be cut off."

She certainly did not relish that prospect so she asked, "But how do I bow and what do I say?"

The cook could not tell her, as he had never bowed to the mandarin himself. He suggested that he would go out and ask some of the townspeople what to do.

A long time later he came back. "I have asked many people," he said. "They cannot tell you what to do because you are a foreigner, but they all say you must put on your best clothes."



The Lame Man

Acts 3:1-12, 16

1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly

wondering.

12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

The Message: Peter and John had something far better than silver or gold to give the lame man.

Questions:

1. Where were Peter and John going?
2. What was the name of the gate where they laid the lame man?
3. How long had the man been lame?
4. Why did they carry him to the temple every day?
5. What did the lame man do when he saw Peter and John?
6. What did Peter say he did not have?
7. In whose name did Peter command him to rise and walk?
8. When Peter took him by the hand and lifted him up, what happened?
9. What did all the people see the lame man doing?

(Answers: 1. Into the temple. 2. Beautiful. 3. From birth. 4. To ask for alms. 5. Asked for alms. 6. Silver and gold. 7. In the name of Jesus Christ. 8. His feet and ankle bones received strength. 9. Walking and praising God.)

Verse to Memorize

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 3:6.

Let's



Talk . . .

It started as just another dreary day for the lame man. It would be the same routine as the day before and the many days before that one. He waited patiently, knowing someone would come soon to carry him to the temple where he would sit by the wayside and ask alms of anyone going into the temple.

From the day that he was born—over forty years ago now—he had never taken a step or even stood on his feet! His ankles and feet had never grown strong like the other children's.

How vividly he remembered sitting where he could watch as the children laughed and ran and played nearby. If only he could be like them!

Then, as he grew older, he saw other boys his age working hard, lifting and carrying loads to help about the home. All he could do was to sit and watch. He knew he was a burden to his family and it made his heart ache. What a joy it would be to have strong legs, to work hard and make life easier for his dear parents!

Since he could not work, the only way he could get a little money for food was by begging. Each morning his family or friends would carry him to a gate of the temple that was called "Beautiful." This had been the daily routine for so many years that the people expected to see him there. Each evening he would be carried back to his home.

Then one day Peter and John were going into the temple to pray. They saw the beggar sitting on the ground. He held out his cup and

asked for alms as he did from everyone who walked by. Suddenly Peter felt powerfully drawn to this beggar. He realized that God wanted to do something very special for him.

Looking at him intently Peter said, "I have no silver or gold. But I do have something to give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!"

As he spoke, Peter reached out and took the man by the hand and lifted him up. Instantly his feet and ankles were made strong. He leaped to his feet and began to walk. He went into the temple with Peter and John walking and leaping and praising God.

This made such a commotion that the people looked to see what was happening. They could not believe their eyes—it was the lame beggar who always sat at the Beautiful gate of the temple. But he wasn't lame anymore! In fact he kept jumping for sheer joy of being able to walk and stand.

More and more people gathered, amazed and wondering at what they were witnessing. The lame man held Peter and John as if he could not let them go. These two strangers had given him what he had dreamed of all his life—he could walk! As the crowd grew, Peter spoke to the people telling them it was Jesus who had healed the man. It was not by any power of their own.

When we know Jesus and have Him living in our heart we have a greater treasure than all the diamonds, silver, gold or other riches of earth! God wants to work through us just as He did through Peter. He will use us to be a blessing to everyone we contact.

Perhaps you have hard circumstances in your life. Trust in Jesus. Then you can face each new day expectantly knowing He will work it all out in the best way possible.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Gladys looked down at the old things she was wearing.

"Then that settles it," she replied thankfully. "I cannot put on my best clothes because these are all I have." So there the matter seemed to end, but she felt uneasy because the mandarin was all-powerful in the province. He was a kind of local ruler or magistrate, responsible for law and order in all the villages of the district. It was just three days after her conversation with the cook that there was a great commotion outside her gateway. She went out to investigate and saw the mandarin himself entering her courtyard!

He was dressed in beautiful clothes with a wonderful headdress on his head. But what alarmed her most was the great, long, curved sword at his side. And behind him were three soldiers also with long, curved swords.

Her cook's warning about heads coming off made her approach her visitor very apprehensively. Then began the formal bowing and salutations and expressions of sympathy over the loss of her companion. Finally the mandarin came to the reason for his visit.

"Miss Aylward, I have come for your help."

"My help!" she repeated foolishly.

"Yes, I have come about your feet."

"Not my head?"

"Of course not, it is because you have big feet."

She looked down in astonishment. After all, she only took a size three! "I do not understand, Mandarin."

"I have received a letter from the government—from the new government—and I am much troubled by it. It informs me that by government decree the ancient custom of the binding of women's feet must cease throughout China."

"That is a good thing," she replied.

"The poor women are crippled by it."

"The government is holding me personally responsible for stamping out this ancient custom in this part of the province of Shansi."

"Oh, I see."

"Ah, but you do not see! The government makes the decrees, but how can I enforce them? A man cannot inspect women's feet; a woman must do it. And in all this district there is no woman with unbound feet except you."

"But what can I do, Mandarin?"

"Will you become the inspector of feet? It will mean traveling all over this part of Shansi. The government will provide a mule and two soldiers to accompany you. The salary, however, is very low—only one measure of millet a day and a farthing to buy vegetables."

She could hardly believe her ears. Was this God's plan for her? Was this how He was providing for her simple needs?

"I will do as you wish, Mandarin, but you understand that I have come to China to tell your people about the God I worship. If I inspect the women's feet, I shall use the opportunity to preach in all the lonely villages."

"I understand and I acquiesce. A man's gods are his own affair; I have no religious bias. Also, from the standpoint of this government decree, your teaching is good, because if a woman becomes a Christian she no longer binds her feet."

"Then I gladly accept your offer."

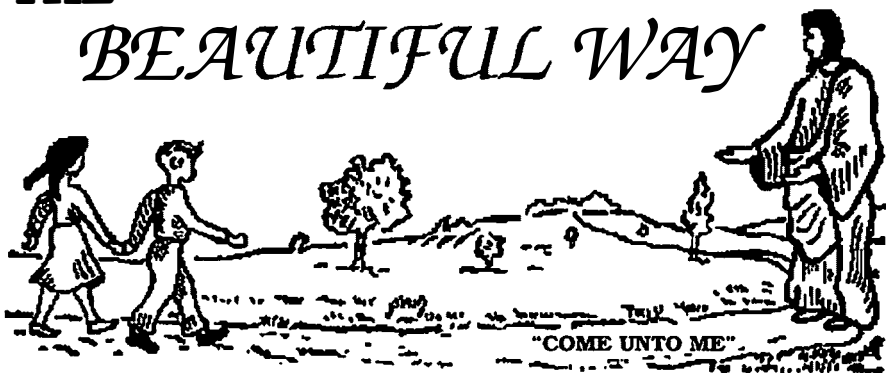
The mandarin made his farewell and with much bowing he departed. She went into her room and fell on her knees in humble worship and thanksgiving. The way was clear. Her place was here; God's plan for her life was unfolding before her.

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 11 June 12, 2005

Ninepence

(Continued from last week.)

Yangcheng remained the center of Gladys Aylward's work. Mr. Lu and the cook carried on the work of the inn because sometimes Gladys was away for a week or more at a time. She and her two soldiers would set out in the morning with their mule carrying a good supply of dried food. They would travel all over that mountainous province.

When they came to a village, the soldiers went on ahead and summoned everyone to the village clearing. Then they repeated the mandarin's instructions, announcing that the foot binding was now illegal and a punishable offense.

The men liked their women to have little feet; it was a sign of beauty. Then the soldiers would shout, "If any child's feet are bound, her father will be taken to prison. This is the government foot inspector; she must see the feet of every woman and child. Any woman who refuses to have her feet examined will be punished."

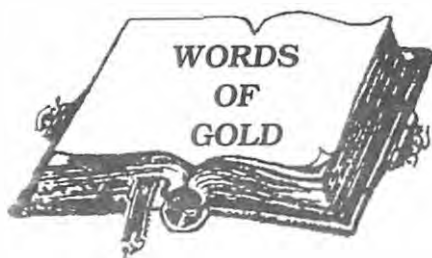
Then Gladys would start to talk to the people. She would tell them a story. She would get them all laughing and happy and teach them to sing a chorus. Then she would tell them about their feet.

"You know that boys' feet and girls' feet are all alike. If God had wanted girls to have little, stunted feet He would have made them like that. But instead He made them all the same. And now the government says the feet of girl babies must be allowed to grow naturally. They must not be bound. Any women who bind their babies' feet will be punished. If you men let your daughters' feet be bound, the soldiers will take you away."

It was too late to do anything to help the older women but something could be done for girls in their teens. She made them unbind their feet and ordered them to wear shoes that were big enough for them. They hated the idea at first and thought that it would ruin their chances of getting a husband. But the soldiers told them, "You can either unbind or go to prison. Please yourself, little sister; it is very uncomfortable in prison."

Sometimes, in the evenings, the villagers would come to the inn where Gladys was lodging for the night and ask her to tell them more stories and teach them more choruses. She became known and welcomed and made many friends. She was called "The Storyteller" and the villagers never tired of hearing the Old Testament stories told over and over again.

Gladys was amazed at the way God opened up opportunities for service.



Peter And John In Prison

**Acts 4: 1, 3, 7-10,
13-14, 18-19, 21, 23, 31**

1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day:...

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said...

9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken

unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing worthy to punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

The Message: Jesus makes all the difference in our lives. When we spend time with Him others will notice just as they could tell Peter and John had been with Jesus.

Questions:

1. What did the chief priests and others do to Peter and John?
2. What did they ask the apostles?
3. With whom was Peter filled?
4. By whose name was the lame man healed?
5. What kind of men were Peter and John?
6. What did they command them not to do?
7. What did they do before they let them go?
8. What did they tell their own company?
9. What happened when they had prayed?

Verse to Memorize

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13.

Let's



Talk . . .

As the lame man who had been healed clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them. Everybody knew this poor man. They had seen him begging at the Temple gate for years—since he was a boy. For more than forty years he had been lame. Yet here he was walking and leaping about in the most amazing way. What a miracle!

When a great crowd had gathered Peter saw another opportunity to tell about Jesus. "Men of Israel," he cried in a voice that could be heard above the hubbub, "why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?" Then he pleaded with the people to repent of their sins and give their hearts to Jesus.

As he spoke, more and more people joined the crowd, until almost everybody in the Temple was there. Many of the priests came to listen too and they were anything but pleased—the disciples of Jesus were claiming that their leader had been raised from the dead! This must be stopped at once!

They called the Temple guard who forced his way through the crowd and arrested both Peter and John and led them away to prison. But he was too late. The people had heard the message. As they went to their homes that night many more decided that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

The next morning there was a big meeting of the Temple leaders. Annas and Caiaphas were there, the very ones who had presided at the trial of

Jesus. Presently Peter and John were called before them. "By what power, or by what name, did you do this?" asked the high priest.

Without a trace of fear Peter replied, "By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man is standing before you well."

"And there is salvation in no one else," he added, "for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

As Peter told about Jesus he spoke so boldly that the priests and rulers were astonished. They couldn't understand how a poor, uneducated fisherman could talk like this. Nor could they deny that there had been a great miracle. Not only was the man who had been healed known to every one of them, but here he stood near the two apostles, ready to speak up for them if need be.

The chief priests and rulers did not know what to do so they sent Peter and John out while they discussed the matter. Finally the prisoners were led back and commanded to teach no more in the name of Jesus, but Peter and John would not promise to obey.

They said, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right for us to obey you rather than God. We cannot keep from telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard."

Before letting the two go the rulers threatened to punish them severely if they were caught teaching in Jesus' name.

At once Peter and John went to their friends and told them what had happened. As they prayed for God to give them boldness to preach about Jesus, the place where they met was shaken. Again the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke the Word of God boldly. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

She had longed to go to China, but never, in all her wildest dreams, had imagined that God would make a way that she would be given entrance into every village home, have authority to banish a cruel, horrible custom, have government protection and be paid to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ as she inspected feet!

Gradually a few were converted in each village and little groups gathered—the beginning of small churches. Gladys now lived exactly like a Chinese woman. She wore Chinese clothes, ate their food, spoke their dialect and even found herself beginning to think as they did. This was her country now; these northern Chinese were her people. She decided that she would apply to become a naturalized Chinese subject. In 1936 her application was granted.

Though she had made friends among the Chinese, Gladys still longed for fellowship with someone of her own kind. One day she was feeling utterly depressed. On her way to make her report to the mandarin she noticed a woman with a child sitting by the roadside. The sun beat down mercilessly upon the child's bare head. She was thin, horribly dirty and covered with sores.

"That child shouldn't lie out in the sun like that," Gladys said.

"She is my child. It is no business of yours what I do with her."

"Woman," Gladys said sternly, "it is my business. If you do not attend to that child she will die."

"Well, if she does I can get another to take her place tomorrow, or maybe the day after."

Gladys stared from the woman to the child in horror. Stories she had heard of children being bought and sold must have been true! As she stood gazing at the child, her eyes filled with tears. The woman leered at her and said in a whining voice, "You can have her if you like for half a crown

(about 35 cents)."

"No," Gladys answered, scarcely able to speak.

"Two shillings (about 28 cents), then," she wheedled.

"I haven't got two shillings," Gladys replied angrily. "And you should be ashamed of yourself. You know very well that in another couple of hours in this sun that child will be dead."

"A shilling, (about 14 cents) lady," she said. "You can have her for only a shilling."

Again Gladys looked at the thin, miserable, unwanted scrap of humanity and her heart ached for her sufferings. She put her hand into her pocket and found that all she possessed was five Chinese coins, about the equivalent of ninepence in English money. She held them out.

"This is all the money I have."

The woman grabbed the coins. "She is yours, lady. I knew you had a kind heart."

So Ninepence came into Gladys' life and helped to fill the aching void. Here was someone she could love and care for—someone whose eyes lit up when she approached. She washed her and fed her and within a few days she was a different child and was making the place seem like a home.

A few months later Ninepence brought in a little boy from the streets; he, in turn, brought in two more. Before long she had about twenty children dependent on her. Now she could not complain of being lonely. Indeed, she often craved for a few moments of peace!

(To be continued next week.)

(Answers: 1. Put them in hold (prison). 2. "By what power have you done this?" 3. The Holy Ghost. 4. By the name of Jesus Christ. 5. Ignorant and unlearned. 6. To not teach in the name of Jesus. 7. Threatened them. 8. What the chief priests had said to them. 9. The place was shaken.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 12 June 19, 2005

Mrs. Ching

(Continued from last week.)

The road was especially rough and stony, for it led straight across the mountain. Gladys Aylward was hot, tired and dirty and would have liked a bath and a comfortable bed. They had traveled a long way since leaving home. But just ahead lay a village with a bad reputation. She had more important things than baths to worry about.

The two soldiers who had been appointed to act as bodyguards walked solidly along beside the mules. They scarcely spoke, but she believed they were secretly proud to be in charge of this strange foreign woman. They had found that although she was small they had to do as she told them. They had also found that she always told them the truth and that she treated them kindly.

As they entered Yuan Tsun no one was in sight until a muleteer shouted and out ran the innkeeper. They were taken into a filthy dark room smelling horribly of animals. The innkeeper looked at Gladys askance when told why she had come.

"I will see the women tonight," she said.

"Wait until tomorrow," the innkeeper suggested.

"If I do, word will get around the village and the women will have time

to hide the little girls. We will begin at once," she replied firmly.

So she and her two soldiers started out. She told the soldiers to hurry. She felt sure that the innkeeper was already sending messengers around the village. They saw several women and inspected the children and ordered that there must be no more bound feet. Then they came to a house where there was no glimmer of light. She felt that here there was going to be a struggle.

She knocked and called. There was absolute silence. Then one of the soldiers banged on the door, shouting, "Open up! We have been sent by the mandarin."

Still silence.

"Call and tell them that I am coming in through the window if the door is not opened," Gladys ordered.

The door opened a crack and a tiny, frightened face peered around it. Immediately Gladys pushed the door wide and stepped inside.

"Now woman," she said boldly, "I know what you are hiding because the God I worship has told me all about it. So bring those little girls out at once or I will search and find them myself."

The woman scuttled away and returned with a poor, thin, terrified little creature about four years old. She could not stand for her little feet were



The Great Escape

Acts 5:12, 15-23, 25-29

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people:...

15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

16 There came also a multitude... bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him,...

18 And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

19 But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

21 And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came....and sent to the prison to have them brought.

22 But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

23 Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

25 Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

26 Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,

28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?...

29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

The Message: Like Peter we must have our hearts settled to always obey God no matter what the consequence.

Questions:

1. What were worked by the apostles' hands?
2. Who did they bring into the streets?
3. What did they hope might overshadow some of them?
4. How many of them were healed?
5. After their arrest where were the apostles taken?
6. Who came and opened the prison doors?
7. What did he tell the apostles to do?
8. Where did the officers find the apostles?
9. Who should we obey?

(Answers: 1. Signs and wonders. 2. The sick. 3. Peter's shadow. 4. Every one. 5. To prison. 6. An angel. 7. Go to the temple and teach the people. 8. In the temple teaching the people. 9. God.)

Verse to Memorize

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:29.

Let's



Talk . . .

The threats of the chief priest and rulers did not keep the disciples from preaching about Jesus. Meeting with other believers they prayed God to give them more boldness to preach the gospel and more power to work miracles. God answered prayer in a mighty way. The apostles were filled with the power of God. Each day more believers were added to the church until it numbered many thousands.

The people were much impressed by the miracles that the apostles did in the name of Jesus. They brought their sick and laid them in the streets where Peter walked. God gave him such power that even his shadow passing over them made the sick people well. The sick were brought from many cities and towns round about as well as from Jerusalem. And God worked so mightily that every one that came was healed! It was just like the days when Jesus had been there!

The priests and rulers were alarmed when they saw the multitudes coming to be healed and hear about Jesus. Somehow they must stop these men. Once more they had them arrested and put in the common prison.

Night came and the rulers went home to rest. They thought their worries were over since the apostles were behind bars. But while the rulers slept, an angel opened the iron doors of the prison and brought the apostles out. Then the angel told them, "Go back to the Temple and teach the people all the words of life."

Everything was quiet as they stepped into the street in the cool night air. They went to their homes. Early in the morning they went to the Temple to teach the people as the angel said. And there they went on witnessing for Jesus just as though nothing had happened.

Now the priests knew nothing about the apostles' great escape. They sent officers to bring them from prison. But the officers returned alone! "We found the keepers standing guard outside the locked doors," they said, "but when we went in, we could find no one."

They wondered what this could mean! While they were trying to find out what had happened, someone came from the temple with more news. The man said, "The men you put in prison are in the temple teaching the people."

Now what could the Jewish rulers do? The people would stone them if they tried to seize the apostles in the Temple. Finally the rulers ordered their officers to take the apostles quietly and bring them to the council room.

When the apostles were brought in, the rulers asked angrily, "Didn't we strictly order you not to teach about Jesus? Then why do you continue to fill this city with your teaching? Why have you told the people that we are guilty of Jesus' death?"

Peter and the other apostles stood up boldly and answered, "We should obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up this Jesus whom you killed. And God has made this same Jesus a Prince and a Savior to give forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

When the rulers heard this, they were furious. They planned how they could kill the apostles.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

in the process of being bound and her eyes were full of tears. She crouched pitifully on the floor.

Gladys picked up the child, the tears now streaming down her own face at the sight of her misery.

"Is all well?" shouted the soldiers at the door.

"All is well," Gladys replied and sat on the brick bed with the child on her knee and quickly unbound her tiny, hot, aching feet.

"Fetch some warm water in a bowl," she ordered.

"Oh, that is good," the child murmured. Her tears turned to smiles as Gladys massaged and bathed her feet. She started singing quietly and the child relaxed sleepily in her arms. Suddenly she started up.

"What about Precious Pearl and Jade Lily and Glorious Ruby and Crystal?"

"They will come too," Gladys said gently as she put her down.

"Bring the other children," she ordered the woman who stood staring at her all this time.

"There are no other children," she declared. "That child talks stupidly."

Going to the door, she called to her soldiers. "There are other little girls, but this woman will not bring them out."

"There are no more children," she shouted.

"Then we will search," the soldiers said firmly.

"Very well, I will bring them," the woman said sulkily and brought out four others.

Gladys unbound all their tiny feet and bathed each one, singing to them and loving them. At first they were terrified but gradually their fear disappeared. Before long all five little girls were peacefully asleep.

Feeling that she dared not leave these children because she did not trust the woman who had charge of

them, Gladys told the soldiers to fetch their belongings from the inn. The soldiers made themselves as comfortable as possible in the outer room while she shared the brick bed with the five children and the frightened, grumpy woman.

A little lamp containing peanut oil was left burning so the room was not in complete darkness. In the middle of the night Gladys awakened to see the woman sitting up, weeping bitterly. Creeping over to her, she asked her what was the matter.

"I am frightened of my master," she sobbed. "He will kill me when he returns."

"I will deal with him," Gladys said boldly. "I have been sent by the government and my two soldiers will see that he does you no harm."

"You cannot understand," she moaned. "He is wicked and cruel. He bought me and now he has bought these children. As soon as their feet are ready he will sell them to whoever will pay the most money for them."

"I know Someone who will take all your fear away," she replied. "Jesus Christ has sent me to help you. I will tell you about Him and He will comfort you."

Lying beside this poor, frightened, lonely woman, who had been bought like a mule and was now kept like a slave, Gladys told her the story of God's great love for poor creatures like herself. She told her about Jesus, who loved her and died for her, and she told her how happy she could be. This wonderful news seemed too good to be true. Never had she heard anything like this before. How much she longed for this Jesus to help her and to save her from the terrible beating her master would give her when he returned.

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)

THE

BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 56, No. 2 Juniors (USPS549-000) Part 13 June 26, 2005

A New Home For Mrs. Ching

(Continued from last week.)

Fortwomoredays Gladys Aylward went from house to house with her soldiers to inspect feet. Each night she returned to the home of the five little girls where Mrs. Ching was living in dread of the moment when her master would return.

On the third morning, Gladys roused them all as soon as it was light. "I am going to take you all to live with me in the city in my mule inn where I have other little boys and girls," she told Tiger Lily, Precious Pearl, Jade Lily, Glorious Ruby and Crystal. "You will learn to read and to sing and to love Tien Fu (your heavenly Father), who sent me to look for you."

"What about Mrs. Ching?" they asked. They did not love this woman, for she had been cruel and unkind to them but they knew what would happen if she were left behind.

"Mrs. Ching will go with us too," Gladys replied.

The children rushed around excitedly on their unbound feet, full of happy expectation. Already they looked very different from the cowed, grubby little waifs she had first seen. The soldiers seemed quite glad to

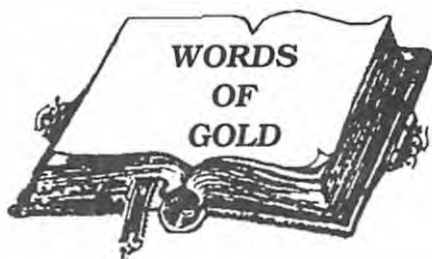
take such a large crowd under their protection and all of them, with the exception of Mrs. Ching, set off gladly for home. She, poor woman, believed she was being taken to prison. To her the city was an awful place. There would be no one to speak for her. Her master would follow her because he had paid money for her and he would either leave her in prison or drag her back to the village and beat her continually.

On reaching the city it seemed as if hundreds of children rushed out to greet them. Actually there were only twenty-four, but they jumped and shouted and knocked each other over in their efforts to be the first to reach Gladys. The old man, who acted as cook, looked calmly on. He was just as glad to see them as the children but he was too old to shout and run.

Precious Bundle, the youngest, somehow reached her first and she took him up in her arms. She was as delighted to see her dear children as they were to see her.

Gradually they quieted down, and politely, one by one, she introduced the newcomers. Then she handed the five awed little girls over to a "big sister" who took them away to be washed and fed and put to bed.

Mrs. Ching watched all this in silence. Now she came nearer and



Tabitha

Acts 9:32-43

32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha,

arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

Luke 9:2

2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

The Message: God worked mighty miracles through Peter.

Questions:

1. Who came to the saints who lived at Lydda?
2. How long had Aeneas been confined to bed?
3. What was wrong with him?
4. Who did Peter tell him had healed him?
5. Where did Tabitha live?
6. What happened to her?
7. Who did the men send for?
8. What happened when Peter told Tabitha to get up?
9. What did Jesus send His disciples to do?

(Answers: 1. Peter. 2. Eight years. 3. He was sick with palsy. 4. Jesus Christ. 5. In Joppa. 6. She got sick and died. 7. Peter. 8. She opened her eyes and sat up. 9. To preach and to heal the sick.)

Verse to Memorize

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:2.

Let's



Talk . . .

In cities and villages throughout the land there were many disciples or saints who met to worship the Lord. The apostles went from city to city. At each place they met with the disciples, preached to them and encouraged them to serve the Lord.

On one trip Peter came to Lydda, a city near the Great Sea, to visit with the saints. Here he saw a man named Aeneas who was sick with palsy. For eight years Aeneas had not been able to leave his bed.

Peter looked at the poor man with pity. Then he said, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ makes you well! Get up and make your bed."

In glad surprise Aeneas heard these words. Because he believed he was healed he tried to rise up. At once strength filled his body and he was perfectly well!

Throughout the city and round about it was told how Aeneas had been healed. Many people came to see Peter and hear him preach the gospel. And many turned to the Lord.

In the city of Joppa was another company of believers. Among them was a woman named Tabitha whose nickname was Dorcas. This wonderful woman was always thinking up new ways of showing kindness to others. The Bible says she was "full of good works" meaning that she spent all her time caring for the sick, the poor and the needy. No wonder she was loved dearly! No wonder that the whole church was plunged into sorrow when she suddenly got sick and died. How could they get along without her?

It was the custom in those days to bury a dead person right away, but the people of Joppa couldn't bear to part with their beloved Tabitha. Lovingly they washed and dressed her, then laid her in an upper room.

Somebody said, "If only Peter were here!"

Then someone remembered hearing that Peter was at Lydda which was just a few miles away. They had heard how he healed Aeneas there. Immediately they sent men to find Peter. When they found him they told him about Tabitha and begged him to come at once. He agreed so they hurried back to Joppa as fast as they could.

Peter came into the room where the body of Tabitha was lying. The room was full of weeping widows whom Tabitha had helped during her lifetime. They showed Peter coats and other garments she had made for them.

Peter knew what Jesus would have done in a time like this. He knew how Jesus was touched with the sorrow of others. Gently he asked them all to leave the room. Then he knelt beside the bed and prayed. As he rose from his knees he turned toward the body and said, "Tabitha, rise!"

The woman opened her eyes and when she saw Peter, she sat up. How surprised she was to see Peter standing by her! Then she saw him hold out his hand to help her get up; she took his hand and got up.

Joyfully Peter called the saints and widows who had been waiting anxiously outside and presented Tabitha to them, very much alive! They could hardly believe their eyes and their happiness knew no bounds.

News of this miracle spread throughout all Joppa very quickly. Many people came to see and hear Peter and many believed in the Lord. For a long time Peter stayed in Joppa at the home of Simon, the tanner.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

said, "When are you going to send me to prison?"

"Prison!" Gladys exclaimed. "I am not going to send you to prison. This is going to be your home. You will have to sleep with me. I am afraid, as the inn will be full tonight."

Mrs. Ching stared in amazement. "You mean you want me to live here with you? You know how mean and cruel I was to those little girls? I refused your God, I was rude to you, yet you still want me?"

"Yes, I want you because my God wants you," Gladys replied.

Mrs. Ching turned away and stumbled into the kitchen where Chang, the old man, was stirring a huge pot. Gladys followed and stood near the door, wondering how Chang would treat this newcomer.

"You can stir this," he said without looking up. "I want to make a little pot of nice thick porridge for my dear one."

"Your 'dear one'! An old man like you has a 'dear one'?" Mrs. Ching exclaimed.

"Yes, I am sixty-eight and I love for the first time in my life and not even one of my own race. But I am not ashamed. I love her because she told me about Jesus.

"I was a lonely, bad-tempered old man until she came to my village. I listened to her stories and her songs and I was interested. I learned that she needed a cook and here I am. I cannot cook, but that does not matter. I do my best. I love these children. Oh, yes, sometimes they are naughty, but she says God loves naughty, wicked people so we must do the same."

At that moment the children swarmed in from the other doorway holding up their little bowls to be filled. Then standing around they sang a song. Just as they were finishing

eating there was a commotion outside the inn and in came a crowd of muleteers with their dirty, tired mules. Mrs. Ching stared in bewilderment as these rough men settled down with their bowls of food.

It was almost dark when Gladys went out into the crowded courtyard and began to talk to the children and men who were gathered there. They sang a chorus, she said a short prayer, and then she told the old, old story of God's great love for man. They sat there in the twilight, listening intently. Only the stamp of the mules disturbed the peace of the evening.

Then the children hurried off to bed and, one by one, the men fell asleep. Gradually the inn settled for the night. Only Mrs. Ching and Gladys, in their little room, were awake. Suddenly Mrs. Ching burst into tears.

"I have been a wicked woman," she sobbed, "but I want to be different. Teach me how to live for the Jesus you talk and sing about. Ask Him to forgive my sins and give me peace."

Together they knelt down and prayed to the loving Savior who had seen this poor woman's misery, and soon she was radiant with joy.

After a great struggle, they were able to buy Mrs. Ching from her horrible master. Soon she was telling other women like herself how Jesus Christ had saved her and changed her life from one of misery to one of joy.

"My heart was bound up tight with sin, like I bound up the feet of the little girls," she said. "Now I am free and my heart can grow big with happiness."

(To be continued next week.)

(Look for "Answers" on page 2.)