

The CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD

M a r c h • 2 0 1 1 • V o l u m e 1 5 • N u m b e r 3

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life”

Editorial

The Container

“Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, there came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat” (Matt.26:6,7).

This beautiful, Spirit-led act of worship brought the woman sad rebuke from the very ones (the disciples) who ought to have understood the suitability of her motive and love.

The alabaster box was quite valuable—carved from a stone material considered ideal for its ability to store sweet oil and spices without harming their qualities. Such an object presents a beautifully appropriate picture of the human heart, which ought to be filled with praise and worship that can be poured forth on our blessed Saviour God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yet we must honestly, with sorrow, admit that this receptacle, by nature, holds the very opposite of what those sweet ointments picture: *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies”* (Matt. 15:19). *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”* (Jer.17:9). Something must take place in order for these unsuitable, defiled containers to become useful and valuable to our God—holders of the precious ointment of praise and worship to Christ for His Person, Word, and Work; of which He is so worthy.

The first thing is that our *stony heart* of unbelief must be changed by an act of honest confession of sin and faith in Christ. The soul then finds *“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit”* (Psa. 34:18).

This new vessel, now capable of holding worthy praise and worship to our Lord is proved to be so, for *“...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”* (Rom.10:9).

It is then the praise and worship pours forth as we read in Psalms 45:1. *“My heart is inditing a good mat-*

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ter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer”. What before was a vessel holding only filthy and defiled material now has become a vessel holding that which is fit for the King. Heart and tongue join together to declare for all the hear, see and read—*“Jesus Thou alone art worthy, Ceaseless praises to receive;”* (LF #82).

That once stony, defiled and useless vessel, completely unfit to hold anything of value to our Lord, now becomes the object of His desire. Why? That He might fill it with that which will bring unending joy and delight to its owner! *“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways”* (Prov. 23:26)

“I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart...I will glorify thy name...” (Psa.86:12).



“And He Loved Her:” Musings on Marriage

Ed Note: The Jan. 2011 issue contained a young sister’s rhetorical response to Christian young men who had asked young sisters what they looked for in a young man they might consider as a future husband.

This issue contains a condensed and adapted rhetorical answer from a young brother expressing his desires and frustrations in looking for a godly young woman who might be his future wife. (*Please note that these letters have been condensed and adapted for this publication. All names have been kept anonymous. They were very recently written as part of an ongoing and wonderfully important dialog between several young brothers and sisters in Christ. Thanks to the dear young brother who made these available!*)

“Dear sister (one in whom I am quite interested),

“Your letter was quite convicting and I’m thankful to God that He led you to speak up and challenge the lukewarm attitude toward God that I have held. Your call has led me to think of a great many things in my own life, not the least of which is the question of just exactly what am I looking for in a godly helpmate. In the following I’ve shared some things which have come to mind.

You briefly mentioned sexuality in your letter...and I hope to expand on that a little (from a ‘guy’ perspective). First, please try and understand the power that you (women) exert over men in relation to sexuality. It only takes a pretty face and a well-formed body to make many sober Christian guys turn into blithering idiots.

Dear sister, you **must** understand and respect this power you have. Please don’t **abuse** it—specially by the way you dress. You see, for Christian guys its very difficult (maybe impossible) to think godly thoughts when we are looking at a very attractive young woman whose dress emphasizes her body.

I’m sorry if this make you uncomfortable, but do understand that sexuality is an incredibly strong part of a young man’s natural being. Unfortunately our sex-soaked culture targets young men and women in many different ways. It has strongly influenced Christian guys no matter how diligent their Christian parents or Christian influences have been in trying to protect them/us/me from this corrupt and immoral culture.

Please don’t misunderstand me; I’m not saying that you should be ashamed of your physically attractiveness. Be a “*good steward*” of the physical body God gave you. You are beautiful to me and I don’t want you

to be ashamed of that at all! At the same time please recognize that the enjoyment of some of your physical attributes are for you and your future husband alone find delight and to enjoy.

I have no doubt that if you really want a godly husband and you honor God in your dress and appearance, you will be given the needed faith that He will give you a husband with whom you together can relish these natural joys for the rest of the days of your lives.

So please dear sister, point me to Christ by your ways. Don’t make His beautiful daughter my idol by the way you dress. It’s impossible for me to commune with my God if you, one of His beautiful creations, fill my sight and mind with clothing and actions that just cause me to lust after you.

Another thing is the importance of submission. Yes, I said it—the dreaded “s” word. Yet, personally I am not impressed with a timid type of girl who seems to have no spirit of energy and fun.

How can such a timid, spiritless sister be a strong, courageous wife—a help in the spiritual battles and the trials of life in general we will face? I long for a wife who willingly stands on the ‘front lines’ with me, understanding and valuing the Word of God that together we can “*resist the devil*”, finding that he will “*flee from you*”.

I don’t need you to be my leader, but I do need you to be energetic in nature and strong in spirit for my sake. If you are, it will affect for good our children, your sisters, your brothers, even your unbelieving friends, workmates, and many others.

You should feel liberty to tell me when I’m not acting as a Christian ought to behave. You should correct or ‘exhort’ me when I’m disobeying the Word of God. If I’m offended the Lord will in His faithfulness correct me, but the time will come when I will thank you for taking the stand you did.

It is however (and this is where *submission* comes in) important that if I have made up my mind, you recognize that I am willing to take responsibility for the consequences of my actions, good or bad. What I need is you—standing by my side and supporting me instead of fighting against me

Remember what another young brother mentioned?: “At the heart of mature femininity is a freeing disposition to affirm, receive, and nurture strength and leadership from...a husband in ways appropriate to a woman’s differing relationships.” That, it seems to me, effectively captures the true heart of a woman

of God. Your purpose is to strengthen me so that I, in turn, can strengthen and lead you. It's kind of a reciprocal relationship—a man's weakness being complemented by a woman's strength and a woman's weakness being complemented by a man's strength.

Please read and study the Word of God. I will need and will enjoy your thoughts on the infinite depths found in the Bible. I am not saying that this enables you with authority to "teach" me. However, enjoying what you have learned from the Word of God is not insubmission or usurping authority. Furthermore, if you truly desire a godly husband (which I pray I can be), then know that if I truly am godly, nothing will give me greater pleasure than to have a wife by my side who challenges me to greater depths of knowledge and enjoyment of my Saviour God and His precious Word. Please, don't wait for me to tell you all you need to know about God and His Word. I can't do that. I want to do it together with you, my wife.

Please challenge and encourage me to seek God more and more. There is little out there that is more effective in motivating me to embrace a challenge than the possibility that I may win a sister's heart—one in whom I am so very interested.

I've shared these thoughts with marriage in mind, but these Christian attributes will be a blessing to others—a blessing outside the realm of marriage. We need to challenge one another and be examples to the younger generations who look up to us. In all these things there is a responsibility on our part to honor the roles to which God has called us. May we embrace them with joy unspeakable.

In Christ, Your brother."

Letter condensed and adapted, Anon □

Beautiful Feet

"...how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom.10:15).

"How long have you been saved?" I asked a young believer.

With a smile he answered "About fifteen months."

I continued, "How were you saved?—through a special evangelistic event or a gospel meeting?"

Again, smiling, he answered; "No, it was by means of a personal friend—a young lady—that I was brought to know the Lord Jesus as my Saviour."

"Did she share a particular verse or passage of scripture?", I continued.

"Not really. It wasn't so much what she said that first caught my attention. What impressed me was her very consistent, morally upright life. I was really impressed by her Christianity in action, and I believe that was the beginning of my being saved."

What a wonderful testimony! Gospel preachers of *that school* are desperately needed everywhere, today! May we all seek to become preachers of gospel by our actions first of all. Such preaching requires no great gift, no great intelligence, no special schooling—you and I can begin *living* our Christianity right now! A godly, consistent life will prove to be a *continual sermon* that carries real power.

It is this kind of testimony that the Apostle Peter refers to in the third chapter of his first epistle. There he speaks of a believing wife with an unbelieving husband. She is very restricted in *speaking* the gospel to her husband because He will not allow her to do so. So it is that her manner of life itself becomes the tool of powerful preaching—wise, discreet, with so much of Christ interwoven into her life. The unconverted husband is won—*not driven, but won*.

Christian men, women, boys and girls, in every station of life, who by God's grace will preach such sermons from January to December, are greatly needed.

Christian Truth, Adapted from Gems, N.H. □

Broken Hearts

"Casting all your cares upon Him; for He careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7).

The heart of Christ is with us in the very least trial. We must, however, learn that all is to be received at the hand of the Father. His loving discipline shows us what His hand truly is in the correction of evil as we pass through this wilderness.

Until our heart gets broken, and we see the folly of our own wisdom, we do not much care for the sympathy of Christ. It is when we find wave upon wave of grief, sorrow upon sorrow flooding our souls—then will our hearts look out for some anchor of peace and rest.

It is a horrid discovery we have to make of the slowness there is about us to take our place under the yoke with Christ (*His yoke is easy, His burden light*). He lets all things roll in upon us, and much as we would like, our souls cannot get away. He touches us to the very quick, because He loves us and must teach us the lesson we need.

G.V.W., Adapted—Gems □

Under Attack: ‘Family’ Meditations

1 John 1:7

v 7 “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

Here we find three crucial principles that must characterize a Christian home if it is to be kept safe from the attacks of Satan to destroy Christian families.

(1) *Light* (moral light from God through personal parental prayer and Bible reading). How soon, Dad and Mom, your precious children will come in contact with the terrible moral darkness of this *present evil world!* The only true light by which you can see to safely guide yourselves and your precious lambs, is daily, in every circumstance, walking in the wonderful, moral Light that comes from God. When you walk that way this is the result; “*To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace*” (Luke 1:79).

(2) Parental encouragement and development of loving *fellowship* with *each* child in the family—**from both Dad and Mom**. Such fellowship between parents and children is *not automatic!* It is a condition of love in which the child, as it grows older, willingly draws closer in love and common thoughts with its parents. But the *parents* (walking in communion with God and following a path illuminated by His Light), *must be the source of developing and nurturing* this vital fellowship.

(3) The basis of having light from God is rooted and based in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, shed on Calvary’s cross when the soldier pierced the Saviour’s side and *forthwith came there out blood and water*. Believers’ sin (*what we are by nature*) has been dealt with once forever in the death of our Saviour. Our sins (*what we do*) have been cleansed by His precious blood; this being the basis of our communion with God.

How vitally important that each dear child in your family, Dad and Mom, constantly are made to feel and joy in the realization that though sinning is a grief to your hearts, there is forgiveness. Discipline may be required for disobedience, but if administered clearly, lovingly, without harshness in light of the value of the blood of Christ, happy restoration to joy and fellowship between parents and child will be quickly restored.

“*Let love be unfeigned; abhorring evil; cleaving to good*” (Rom.12:9, JND Translation).

□

Hide and Seek

“*But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*” (Heb.11:6).

Did you play ‘Hide and Seek’ as a kid? Odds are that you did. We spent countless hours playing it in our neighborhood. Often adults and kids still have fun playing this timeless game. The children were asked this question in a recent Sunday School: ‘What does “seek” mean?’ The answer soon came out that it meant “to look for”.

Then the question was asked, “When you’re looking for something, how long do you look?” Right away there was an answer, “Until you find what you’re looking for.” Good questions – good answers!

Dear reader friend, what is it that you’re seeking? Let’s all ask ourselves “what am I seeking?” Each should make an honest assessment in the beginning of this new year (2011). Ask yourself (as I ask myself): “Am I seeking only material things, or am I giving thought to seeking what would satisfy my soul? What will it take to satisfy my soul?” Let’s seriously think about that today, seriously.

Yes, there are so many things that would satisfy my wants and desires for health, financial security, recreation, etc. But what about my never-dying soul?

Dear reader, God is not playing hide and seek with us! He loves us and wants us to find Him. But we must want Him, we must seek him diligently; and we find Him by faith, willing to confess our sins and need of Him. Think seriously about Proverbs 8:17: “*I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me*”.

As we begin 2011, how important it is to *make sure* we’re *right* with God, and then to make sure we are walking in and doing His will.

How important dear reader to pray asking the Lord to be your Saviour now. Remember, the Lord Jesus Himself said: “*...the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19:10).

Then daily each who know Him as Saviour may pray this prayer: “*Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth...*” (Psa.86:11).

F.P., Adapted, Lifelines □

His Work

It is hard to believe that God is doing your business in this world. It’s much easier for us to *do* Christ’s work than to *believe* He has done ours. *J.G.B.* □

Four Pillows

Jacob's Pillow

“And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep...And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it” (Gen.28:11,17,18)

Jacob was running away. Having deceived his father, robbed his brother of his birthright and his father's blessing, he could not be at peace. He was afraid. The place, even though it was the house of God and the gate of heaven, was dreadful to him. We each learn that there is no peace outside of communion with God nor can there be unless our thoughts and actions are in conformity with His holiness, love and righteousness. The stone pillow perhaps depicted that unrestful lack of peace that resulted from the stony heart towards Jehovah of all Israel in their history.

Samson's Pillow

*“And it came to pass, when she (Delilah) pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man. And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines...**And she made him sleep upon her knees**; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head...And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him” (Judges.16:16-20)*

Samson was so deceived that he rested his head “upon her knees”, not upon the pillow of God's rest and peace. He lost not only his strength but his discernment as well. Then he lost his sight. Oh! How sad when the lusts of the old nature take us away from communion with God and with the current of His thoughts. Let us diligently watch unto prayer that it may not be so with us!

The Lord's Pillow in Life

“And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.” (Mark 4:37-39).

The blessed Lord Jesus in perfect communion with His father and with perfect confidence in His Father's love and power was at rest, not on a stone pillow but a soft one. He was at perfect peace even in the midst of Satan's powerful display by means of a great wind with and waves beating into the ship. How wonderful that a believer today also have sweet communion with faith in God, even during times of Satan's onslaught. *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). “...the God of peace...” (Rom.16:20).*

The Lord's Pillow in Death

“Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: 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” (Jn. 19:29,30).

One has said; “there was no sudden jerk, no jolt, no slumping of the head; Jesus just gently, in full control, **pillowed** His head as if in rest and yielded up His Spirit. He died in total control of His own death; He was no victim. No one took His life from Him; He willingly yielded it. Death could not surprise our Lord Jesus.”

Another states that; “He bowed His head,” is not the helpless dropping of the head after death, but the deliberate putting of His head into a position of rest”

This is very lovely, very remarkable for naturally speaking the Lord Jesus would have been without any human power. He was, however, in complete control physically, giving up His life, none taking it.

There is something more in the precious fact that He was at complete rest and peace with His Father for He had completed the work the Father sent Him to accomplish. *“...I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do” (Jn.17:4).* There was perfect communion between Father and Son. The Son of Man finally had a place to *lay His head.* (see Matt.8:20).

E.F., Adapted □

“I Believe God”

“I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me” (Acts 27:35).

“I believe”—but, do I? Am I sure?
Can I trust my trusting to endure?
Can I hope that my belief will last?
Will my hand forever hold Him fast?
Am I certain I am saved from sin?
Do I feel His presence here within?
Do I hear Him tell me that He cares?
Do I see the answers to my prayers?
Do no fears my confidence assail?
Do I know my faith will never fail?

“I believe”—ay, do I! I believe
He will never fail me, never leave;
I believe He holds me, and I know
His strong hand will never let me go;
Seeing, hearing, feeling - what are these?
Given or withheld as He shall please.
I believe in Him and what He saith;
I have faith in Him, not in my faith;
That may fail, tomorrow or today,
Trust may weaken, feeling pass away,
Thoughts grow weary, anxious or depressed;
I believe in God—and here I rest.

Annie Johnson Flint

Self Pleasing

“But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.” (Jn.5:42)

There is one sin which leads men to the commission of all others—the desire to please themselves. Once acted on, a man is a sinner, just as the breach of one law of the land stamps a man a criminal. He need not transgress every law in order to charge him as guilty. Having broken one law, no further proof is needed.

While acting then on this as a principle of man before God, we are spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. There is no life, no love, in us; as our Saviour said to those by whom He was surrounded; “I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.” Now this is the real fact. There is no assimilation to God in man’s natural state; rather the very contrary principle; hatred, enmity.

J.N. Darby □

Loving as He Loves

“To know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Eph.3:19).

The three cardinal principles of the Christian life are *faith, hope, and love*, with love as the greatest (1 Cor.13:13). These virtues, when viewed in action in a person’s life, are the most convincing evidences of a real and personal relationship with Christ.

True faith must always lead to a life of love for God and for souls. Faith also gives purpose for this life and the glorious hope of spending eternity with our Lord Jesus Christ. Our relationship of love with others should be characterized as *sacrificial, sensitive and sharing*. We ought to follow the example of our Lord Jesus in the way He related to others. He loved individuals simply for themselves. He met and accepted them in all their personal need. Anon □

“Love divine, all praise excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down!
Bless us with Thy rich indwelling,
all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Saviour, Thee we’d still be blessing,
serve Thee here as soon above,
Praise Thee, Saviour, without ceasing,
glory in Thy dying love.”

Charles Wesley, Hymn

Myself or Himself

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov.16 :25)

Self-love and self-will lead into self-deception, whatever be the honesty of heart that would oppose a conscious wrong. We must, therefore, always look to Him who is greater than our heart. “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things” (1 Jn.3:20). In looking to Him for guidance, we have a wisdom that is far above ourselves.

How terrible to have trusted what one rather should have judged, lest, to any soul following that way that *seemed right*, its end should be only a way of death! He that hears and knows and follows the voice of Jesus—the Good Shepherd— finds Him to be not only the *way* but *the truth and the life*, as well.

Nor can one be too simple in listening to His words which are open to all. This is the Christian highway, a pathway where there is *peace and joy*, whatever the suffering and danger that might be experienced.

W.K., Adapted, *Gems from My Reading* □

Mark, Chapter Four

vv 3,4 *“Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.”*

It is the Lord Jesus Christ who instructs those to whom He spoke to *hearken* to what He was about to say (‘listen so as to understand’). How solemn for any soul who does not listen to our Saviour God! With Him alone is found knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

In the days in which our Lord spoke this parable, planting seed was a simple process done by a person walking through a plowed field and by hand scattering the seed from a bag tied around their waist.

In this first instance, some of the seed did not alight in the prepared field, but rather beside the unprepared edge of the field where the grass and soil had been tread into a path (“wayside”). This seed was quickly devoured by birds—a picture of evil spirits who steal away the Word of God from a needy soul.

In the JND translation it is “**one**” (*one seed*) that fell by the wayside. Prepared sermons may be used of God to the salvation of souls, and we are thankful for that. But just **a word** as led by the Holy Spirit, spoken to a needy soul can take root and produce fruit for eternity.

Satan well knows the infinite power of God’s Word for he was totally defeated by three verses quoted by our Lord when He was tempted of the devil in the wilderness.

Satan has, we may say, flocks of wicked spirits (*fowls of the air*), each ready to swoop down and snatch away the good Word of God scattered by the sower for the eternal

The first letters of the following responses tell us the name of a champion from Gath who met his match. [1] Numbers in brackets give the number of words in the answers, which are found in the King James Version Bible.

1. When the Philistines captured the ark of God, Gath was one of the places it resided in the seven months it was among them. After great plagues came upon them they sent it back to Israel, along with images they had made for a trespass offering. What were these images made of? [1]

2. “Publish it not in Gath” were the words of David when he heard of the death of Saul. He was distraught that the shield of the mighty Saul had been vilely cast away, as though he had not been anointed with what? [1]

3. Apparently Goliath of Gath had four brothers who were eventually slain by David’s men. One nearly took David’s life, but he was rescued by Abishai. David’s men were concerned about what being quenched when they told him, “Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle”? [3]

4. “Declare ye it not at Gath” were the words of the prophet Micah as he mourned the demise of Samaria. What word did he use to describe her wound? [1]

5. A king of Gath David fled to because he was afraid of Saul. [1]

6. Though Shimei had cursed his father, Solomon allowed him to live, as long as he stayed in Jerusalem. How many years transpired before he slipped away to Gath to retrieve two of his servants who had run away, a move that cost him his life? [1]

7. Uzziah was a king that prospered as long as he sought the Lord. He was successful in many military exploits, and broke down the wall of Gath. He had impressive instruments of war, invented by cunning men, but he also had milder interests. What did he love, which led him to dig many wells and employ a number of vinedressers? [1]

— Answers To February 2010 Bible Challenger —

- Tarshish Jonah 1:3
- Alms Acts 10:4
- Beasts Acts 10:12
- Italian Acts 10:1
- Tanner Acts 9:43
- Huram (or Hiram) 2 Chronicles 2:11-16
- Aeneas Acts 9:34

*“Now there was a Joppa a certain disciple named **TABITHA**, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did”* (Acts 9:36). J.S. □

blessing of needy souls. Believers need to be faithful, earnest, and constantly spreading/scattering the good seed (the *Word of God*). We need not be concerned about results. If it is the Word of God, though it may seem to accomplish nothing, it *will not return void* to our God! □

Feed The Flock _____

“Angels Unawares”

Two dear Christian missionaries, Ned, from Australia, and Steve, from Scotland, were in Bolivia to share the gospel. When they arrived they took a bus to the area they planned to visit. When the bus finally stopped, they got off and began hiking into the isolated area. It was almost evening before they reached the first village and they were very hungry. Seeing a hotel restaurant, they decided to stop for a meal. The lady who ran the hotel knew they were Christian missionaries. She was very unhappy they had come and curtly told them, “I have no food to serve you”.

They quietly left, wondering what to do. Walking down the street they met a policeman and asked if he knew where they might buy some food.

The policeman answered, “Come with me” and took them right back to the hotel. He confronted the woman telling her, “You fix these men a meal”.

She frowned, but nodded, “come back in a half hour”.

When they returned she served them each a plate of fried potatoes and cooked lung! Ned just couldn't bring himself to eat the lung. So Steve offered to eat all the lung and Ned could eat all the potatoes. They

did, paid the woman for the meal, and left the hotel.

Almost immediately Ned began feeling a strong, burning sensation in his throat and stomach. Steve realized something was terribly wrong. He watched Ned begin to stagger and then collapse in pain, beginning to lose consciousness. The woman had evidently put rat poison in the fried potatoes Ned ate!

Very sick, almost unconscious, Ned lay in the street while Steve, not knowing what to do, prayed.

Just then a very tall dark haired man approached them, carrying a bowl. Giving the bowl full of white liquid to Steve he said, “Give this to your friend. Make him drink all of it. It's goat's milk”.

Steve finally was able to swallow a little of the milk. Almost immediately he began to feel better and was able to finish all the milk. Later he felt strong enough to continue on their journey. They looked for the man to thank him, but he was gone. Leaving some money under the pot on the street, they left.

On their return sometime later they asked some men of the village where they could find the tall man with dark hair to thank him for the goats' milk. All of the villagers said, “There's no one like that lives here and besides, no one has any goats either”. □

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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