

Treasures of the Kingdom

Casting Up a Highway for the Children of This Generation

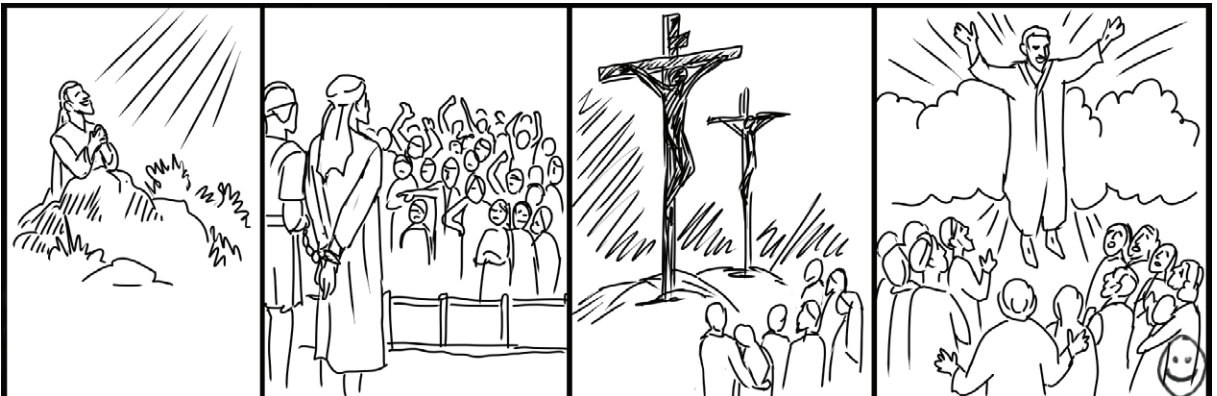
BACK TO JOY ☺



Jessie is usually happy... until something goes wrong... then Mama helps her... come back to joy!



Dale likes to have fun... but sometimes others get mad... he learns how to help... everyone back to joy!



Jesus loved His Father... but He was sent on a mission...to endure the cross...to bring all of us back to joy!

Think About It: *Getting Back to Joy*

We all like to be happy, don't we? Real, deep happiness is called "joy" and it is something God wants us to experience every day. But often we lose our joy because something goes wrong. It may be because the dog gets in our way and our drink spills. Or it might be our own fault, when we are not thinking of others and make them mad.

The children on the front cover learned that there was a path back to joy when things went wrong. Their parents helped them to find it. How did the little girl get from sad to happy again? She let her mom clean up the mess and comfort her. She was thankful for a new drink. Those are good things to remember when accidents happen and others get in our way. Instead of holding onto anger and blame, we can let the problem get fixed and be happy again. How about the boy playing with his stick? How did he get from making others angry to becoming friends? He learned to stop thinking about what he wanted and to think of a way to bless others. Giving food or drink can be a good way to be reconciled with our enemies. The Bible calls it "overcoming evil with good." When you show that you want to be friends, you will find that others want that, too! That is the path back to joy.

Sometimes the path back to joy isn't easy to find. Sometimes it is blocked by such bad things that we don't think we can ever feel truly happy again. It might be because of the wrong-doing or sin that others have done to us, or the guilt of wrongs that we have done. We can't fix these sins or do enough good things to be reconciled, no matter how hard we try. But Jesus can. He suffered and died to take away our sin and make a way back to God and His joy again. Do you know a verse that talks about that? See Hebrews 12:2. Jesus told a story that shows how we can take this path. Can you help fill in the missing parts? 😊

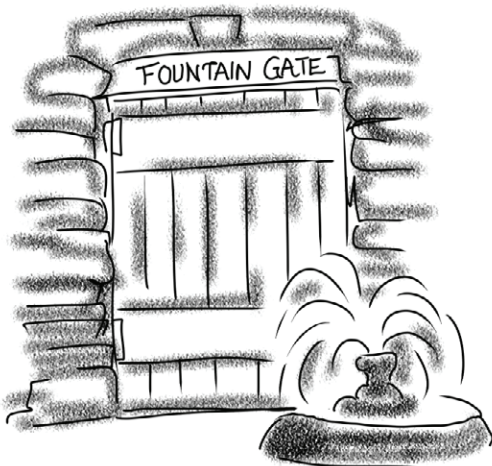


Once there was son that wanted freedom and fun. He asked his father for his _____ and went to a far country to spend it all in wild _____. But _____ times came and the son realized that he didn't have any friends or money left. He went to work for a farmer and wished that he could eat the _____ that he fed the pigs. At last he _____ about his father. He remembered how good he was to his _____ and decided to go _____. "I am not worthy to be his _____ anymore, but I will ask to be his _____," he told himself. But when his _____ saw him coming, he _____ to him and _____ him. The son confessed that he had _____ and wasn't _____ to be his son. But the father said, "Let us eat and be _____! My son was _____ and is _____ again!" (see Luke 15:11-24)



In the last issue we talked about how God sent a man named Nehemiah to rebuild the broken-down city of Jerusalem. This story reminds us that God wants to restore the things that are destroyed in our lives. In Isaiah 61 God promises to send someone who gives us “beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.” He will “repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.” And that’s exactly what Jesus came to do!

In this Bible study we will look at the last five gates that Nehemiah rebuilt in the wall. Each gate in Jerusalem had a special name and purpose. Let’s see what lessons we can learn from them!



The sixth gate has a nice name. It is the ***Fountain Gate***. Think of the spray of a flowing fountain. Do you remember that the fifth gate was the Dung gate? That’s important to remember. When a person dumps compost out of a bucket, or has tools covered with muck, what do they use to clean up? Flowing water—probably a hose, right? In John 7:38

Rebuilding the Gates of Jerusalem

(part two)

Jesus says that whoever _____ in Him will have _____ flowing out of their life. What does verse 39 say that this living water is? _____ So we realize that after our sin is taken away by the Lord (at the Dung Gate), His Spirit comes to flow through us and gives us power to live the Christian life. Isn’t that wonderful?!

I got so excited studying about the seventh gate, which is the ***Water Gate!*** In John 15:3 Jesus talks about how we are clean by the _____ He had spoken. So I think that this Water Gate can represent the Word of God, which is the Bible. Psalms 119:9 says that we can _____ our way (our life from anything dirty or bad) by paying attention to God’s Word. Words are powerful and have an effect on our lives. Because God’s Word shows us His light and love, how important that we read it and believe it! What Bible verse are you learning or thinking about right now?





In Nehemiah's time, this gate was repaired by the Nethinims. What a big and strange name! It just means temple servants whose job was to take care of the temple. After all the walls were repaired, the leaders read the law at this very gate. Everyone had gathered there. After the sorrow of confessing their sins, there was great celebrating and praising God for His goodness of cleaning them up and putting them on the right path! An important promise is recorded in Nehemiah 8:10 - "The _____ of the _____ is your strength."



Who likes horses? Well, if you do, you will enjoy this next gate. The **Horse Gate**



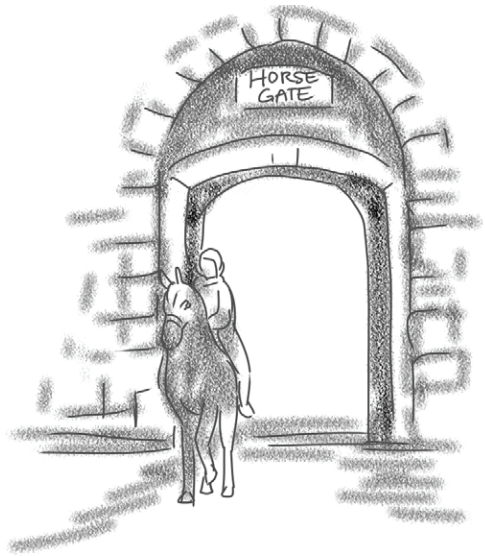
was close to the king's stables. The men of war would ride their horses in and out of the Horse gate. This gate is a picture of the spiritual warfare that goes on in the Christian



life. In Revelation 19:11 Jesus is shown on a _____ horse as a judge and general



who is called _____ and _____. One of these words is also used to describe



those that follow Jesus in Revelation 17:14. What is it? _____ How can you show that trait today?

Zadok helped to repair this gate. His name means "to be righteous and cleansed", which is what happens when we trust and follow Jesus (1 John 1:7). I just love the meanings of these names! It often describes what is going on in the repairs of the walls.

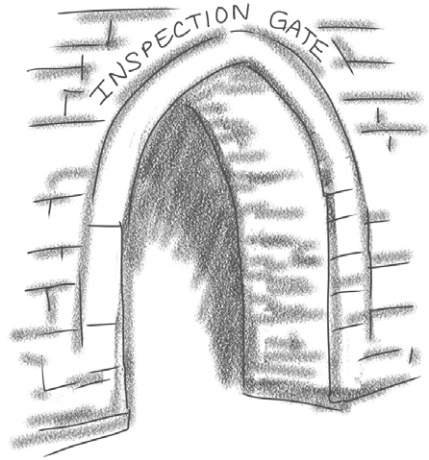
The **East Gate** is gate number nine. Shemaiah, the keeper of this gate, means "God has heard." This is the gate where the Jewish priesthood entered. Interestingly, Jesus entered through this gate on Palm Sunday, on the donkey! According to Hebrews 4:14, Jesus is our _____. What does that mean?

Today the Muslims have blocked this same gate in Jerusalem because they have heard that Christ will return here for us. They think



that if they make it so no one can get in or out, then Jesus will not be able to return! They do not know God's incredible power, do they? This gate's meaning is "sun rising" or "shine with light." This is what happens when we look to the Lord! 2 Corinthians 3:18 says that when we look at Jesus and His glory, then we are _____ into the same _____. If you love Jesus, then you will be excited when He returns! He will raise up those who belong to Him on that great and glorious day!

The *Inspection Gate* is an appropriate name for the last gate, huh? It is the gate of judgement. It is also known by "Miphkad," meaning census. This is a reminder of how the Lord will judge us before His great throne one day. In Revelation 20:11-12, it tells us that there are record books, including a special "book of life." How do we get our names written there? In John 17:3, Jesus tells us that we have eternal life when we know _____ and



_____. That is only possible if you _____ Jesus into your life and _____ in His name. (John 1:12) Another way to think of this is being saved from your sin, or _____ from the power of darkness and transported into the _____ of God's Son. (Col. 1:13)

This gate was repaired by Malchijah. He was one of the goldsmiths, and his name means "appointed by God." Do you think God has a place appointed for you in His kingdom? Does He want to use your life to be a blessing to others? He surely does! If there is anything that is broken down in your life, anything that keeps you from receiving God's goodness and love, ask Jesus to come and fix it. That's exactly what He wants to do.

We have circled the wall of Jerusalem at last! Thanks for walking with me. Even better yet, may you walk this journey with our best Friend and Saviour, Jesus.

- shared by Mama Elaine

We have an electric fence around a big blackberry patch. We want to put our goats in there to eat the bushes, but there is one problem. The fence isn't working! Do you want to come along and help me find out what the problem is?


Let's start out by the gate. Right here are the wires connected to insulators. See how they are spaced evenly and go over to the insulators on that fence post. That is important. If a wire is touching another wire or a bush, the fence will stop working. Instead of giving an electric shock to keep the goats in, it's electricity goes into the ground. That's why we call it being "grounded." Let's look closely for any problems.



What about this? You ask, pointing to the bottom wire. *The insulator is broken on this fence post.* That is a problem, because the metal post will ground the wire. Listen, do you hear it? Snap, snap, snap. *Why is it snapping?* You ask. That's the sound of the wire "shorting out" and getting grounded. I'll turn off the electricity and we will fix it.


I'll pull off the broken insulator and you can help me put on the new one. See, it clamps onto the post like this. Now we will use these pliers and wrap the wire into the slots at the end. Perfect. *Let's see if it works now,* you suggest. Not until we check the rest of the fencing, just in case there is another one grounded somewhere. We should tighten these loose wires, too. We don't want them to get grounded, do we?





GROUNDING

 *My friend gets grounded a lot,* you say. *He's not allowed to play or do fun things when he's in trouble with his mom.* That's one way of being grounded, alright! I'm thinking there is a lesson for us, here. Do you know that the devil wants to ground you and keep you from having fun, too? *I didn't know that.* Well, think about it. God wants us to be living with peace and joy, just like these wires are suppose to be "alive" with electricity. But when a problem comes along, it makes us feel grouchy or worried instead, doesn't it? *Yes.* That's how you get grounded. All your joy and peace just get lost in the problem and disappears! That's why God has special insulators to help us keep from being "shorted out" by the problems. I'll give you a hint. One starts with "thank." *Thankfulness?* Yes, and trust and obedience, too. Next time you are worried or upset, check to see if your insulator is broken!

 We are ready to turn the fence on again. To test it out we can hold a grass blade against the wire. Be careful not to get your fingers too close—if it is working, you'll feel a little shock. *It's working!* you say. Great! Now we can put the goats in. 

 **THANK LESS**

 This attitude insulator is broken! Can you find the missing letters in the picture that can fix it?



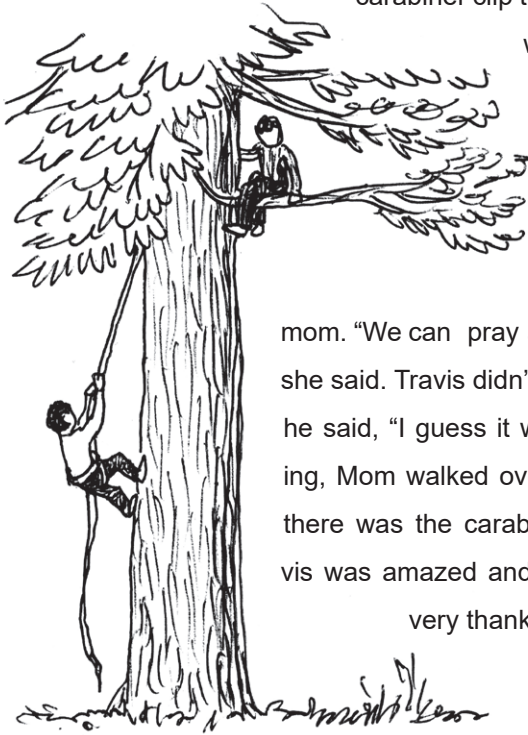


Let Me
Tell You About...

The Lost Carabiner Clip



When I was a boy, my friend Travis and I liked to challenge ourselves to do hard things. After we saw some guys climbing telephone poles and trees with spiked boots and a harness, we wanted to try it. We found a harness and rope and set up a pulley system in a big cedar tree that had branches high off the ground. One piece of our equipment was a carabiner clip that Travis borrowed from his dad. One day, when



we were high up in the branches of the tree, we dropped the clip. We climbed down and started searching, but it had totally disappeared. Travis was upset, because he knew his dad would be mad if he lost the clip.

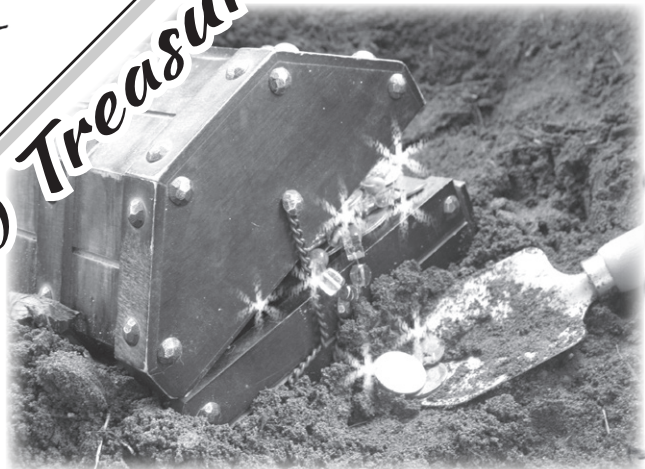
We went inside to talk to my mom. "We can pray about it and I'll help you look," she said. Travis didn't think that would help, but he said, "I guess it won't hurt." After praying, Mom walked over to the tree and there was the carabiner clip! Travis was amazed and we were very thankful.

Have you been foolish and learned an important lesson? Or needed an attitude change? Or maybe you lost something that was important to you? Read how God helped others - see what He can do for you!

I have grown up to be a man now, but I still pray when I can't find things and God continues to help me! - shared by Uncle Dylan



Buried Treasures



Love

Courage

Gentleness

Trust

Kindness

Faith

Patience
Meekness
Truth
Goodness
Peace
Joy

Let Me Tell You About...

A Little Spark

My younger brother, Caleb, and I had the job of burning the trash. It was a fun job. Sometimes we would find treasures in the trash—things that Mom threw out that we thought we could use. Sometimes we would experiment and see if a brick or dirt would burn. One day as we were burning trash we got a new idea. Nearby there was a giant fir tree—bigger around than our arms. And its bark was covered with pitch. What would happen if we put some fire near it? It didn't take more than a tiny piece of burning trash to get the pitch flaming. It was exciting! And then we got scared. The flames started going up the bark—soon the whole tree would be on fire! "Get the hose!" I yelled to Caleb. As he ran to haul it from the house, I took my jacket and began beating at the flames. They didn't go away. At last Caleb got the hose turned on and started spraying the fire. The water could barely reach the tree trunk. We sprayed water up and down until the flames disappeared. At last the fire was out!

We learned an important lesson that day about how dangerous fire can be. A little spark can create a big fire really quickly! The Bible tells us that our tongue and words are just like that. The mean words we say might seem like small things, but they can really hurt those around us. It is important to watch our words and not "play around" with them. Then we can all stay safe and happy.

- shared by Uncle Josh



Pearl is a quarterly magazine mainly directed for girls ages 7-12. Julia Dutill (almost 13) is homeschooled and has been publishing Pearl for nearly two years now. Pearl is mostly made up of stories that she writes herself or gleans from favorite books, written long ago. There are a few features that are in every magazine. "Editor's Notes," "Cute Corner," and "Scooter Dog's Adventures" are just a few.

Julia writes: Why the name Pearl? Well, my father thought of the verse in the Bible which goes like this: "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." (Matthew 13:45.) Jesus' kingdom is of infinite value. No one could even come close to "buying" his or her way in... but since Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He says that if we believe in Him, He will let us come into His kingdom! What an exchange! So this magazine is named Pearl because I hope to give the girls who read it a better understanding of God and His kingdom.

Subscription to Pearl is free, and if you subscribe, we will keep sending you issues until you tell us otherwise. If you would like a trial issue, kindly indicate that when you contact us at pearlgirlsmag@gmail.com. And if you would like to submit anything (original, please!), subscriber or not, we will welcome that with open arms!



Do you know that God cares?

Whether our needs are big or small, God wants us to talk to Him and ask for His help. When good things happen, it pleases God that we are thankful. Let's remember to pray for each other!

A Place for Prayer

Courage
Gentleness
Trust
Kindness
Faith

REQUESTS AND THANKSGIVINGS



Greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. I am a relief (substitute) teacher, and am praying for a school where I can work in a permanent position. I have applied to various schools, but I have not received any reply. Please pray that the Lord will open the way for me. I claim Jeremiah 29:11. - Manju, from New Zealand

I want to give an update since I shared in the last issue how God helped me to be willing to move. I am so blessed to be living here in Kentucky. God has blessed me with so many friends and fun life adventures! The Ark is totally awesome and so is the Creation Museum. I love Kentucky and I am so glad we came! - Paulina, 15



My eldest daughter, Sophia (17), would like to study in a Christian university in the United States, like the Bob Jones University. She would like to study music in keyboard performance and composition, and she is very gifted in playing the piano. We don't have the money for the fees they require, but we trust in God who is the giver of all good things. We are considering going to the States next year, so we need a lot of prayers. We are depending on God's guidance and wisdom. - Beth, from Germany



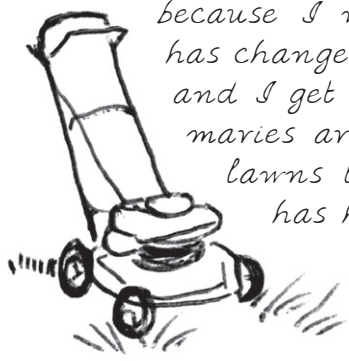
Please pray for me to not get angry so quickly at my siblings. - Mia, 12

On September 30th, I gave my heart to Jesus! Pray for me. - Liesel, 9



A Better Start

Last year, in 6th grade, I was getting up late and having a hard time doing my school joyfully and quickly. Summaries were very frustrating to me. I was often angry because I didn't get much play time because I would work into the evening. But all that has changed now. This year I get myself up at 6:15 am and I get my school done quickly, joyfully, and summaries are no problem for me! I have been mowing lawns to earn money for a few months and this has helped me to be responsible and know how to dictate my day. God has really blessed me and changed my attitude. - Mia, 12





Have you ever heard of the path of Long Patience? It is not an easy road to follow, so lots of people choose an easier path. And many who start on it don't ever finish. But if you want to come to the Land of Everlasting Joy, you have to take this path all the way to the end. There is a secret for not giving up part way, which is what I want to tell you in

My Travels to the Land of Everlasting Joy

This is my love story, about how my knight in shining armor and me, a country princess, met. We are now preparing for a wonderful future together, which sadly must mean the end of publishing this magazine. But before I say “good-bye” and “God bless and keep you,” I must tell you about the path that I have taken to the Land of Everlasting Joy. I hope that you will want to travel it, too, and find out that the Castle of Happily-Ever-After is not just in story books.

But let me start at the beginning. Once, long ago when God made the World, He planted a beautiful garden, which was the Land of Everlasting Joy. He gave it to the first man and his wife to live in and enjoy, and He gave them two things to make them perfectly happy. Every day they ate the fruit of Eternal Life and every evening they met in Faith Always to walk and talk with God. But sadly, they listened to the evil thoughts of the Enemy and disobeyed God, and so they had to leave the Land of Everlasting Joy. Now they could not be perfectly happy, but must suffer and sweat and have sadness.

God wanted people to live in the Land of Everlasting Joy, but there was a great canyon between them now. The way across was dangerous and long. So He made a special path called Long Patience to lead them back to the beautiful garden. He put signposts and sent messengers to tell people how to get there. Most didn't believe what He said. Some people started on the path, but when they saw the dangers of the canyon, they gave up. But some read the sign-posts carefully and prepared for the journey.

Sign-post: This path leads to the Land of Everlasting Joy. Travelers must take with them Eternal Water and the walking stick of Faith to make it to the end. These are provided to all who ask at the Wayfarer's Inn.

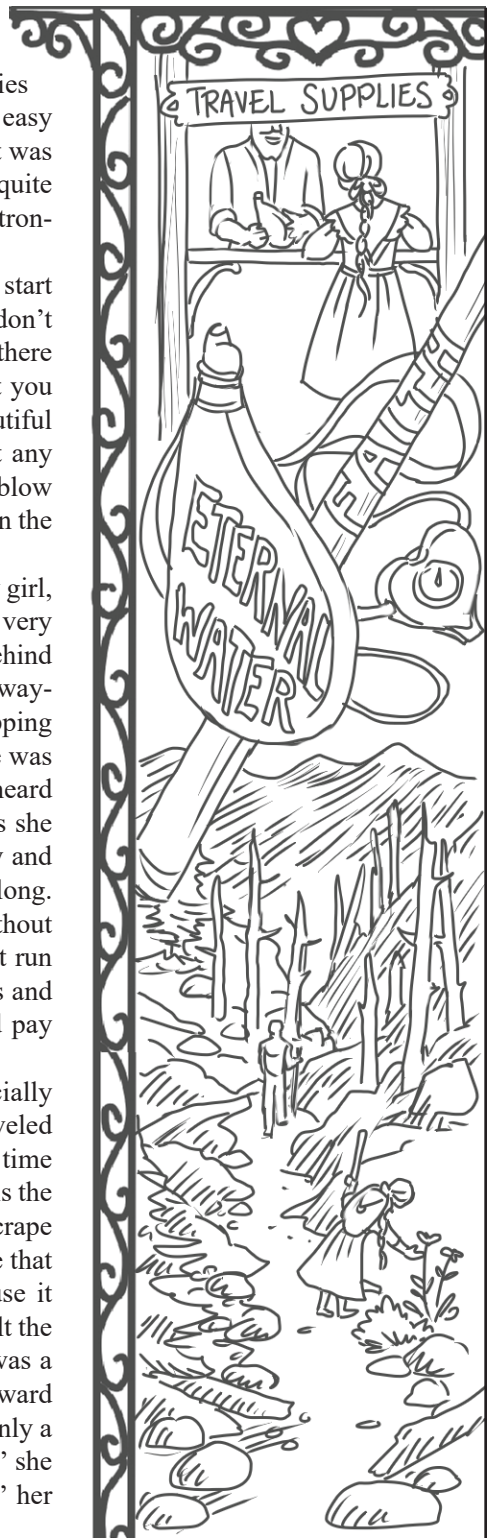
And so it was that once upon a time, over twenty years ago, a country girl saw the sign and decided to start on the path of

Long Patience. She didn't know how long it would be or how hard, but she made a good choice. She went to the Wayfarer's Inn for supplies. And what wonderful supplies they gave her! The canteen of Eternal Water was light and easy to carry—and tasted so sweet and refreshing. The best part was that it never ran out! The walking stick of Faith was also quite amazing, because the minute you leaned on it, you grew stronger and were able to leap over any obstacle in your path!

She said, "Thank you so much!" and was just about to start out, when the kind owner of the Inn stopped her. "If you don't mind, I will go with you," he said. "You are young and there are many dangers, but I promise to be your guide and get you safely to the end." Then he gave her a lanyard with a beautiful heart whistle and compass to hang about her neck. "If at any point you lose sight of me or are uncertain of what to do, blow this whistle," he told her. "The compass will always point in the direction you should take, so you will never be lost."

So they started out together. I must say that the country girl, for all the running about she was used to doing, was not very good at steady walking. Sometimes she would fall quite behind her guide, because she was distracted by a flower on the way-side or a rock in her shoe. Sometimes she would be skipping along and forget all about where she was going or who she was following, until she found herself in a rocky gully and heard coyotes howling nearby. When she was thirsty, sometimes she would even forget about her canteen and start to get dizzy and faint in the warm sunshine. Patiently her guide helped her along. She certainly wouldn't have made it a tenth of the way without his gentle reminders and even some sharp rebukes. "Don't run ahead!" he had to warn her several times. "There are cliffs and the gravel is loose." She learned to use her whistle—and pay attention to her compass—and things got better.

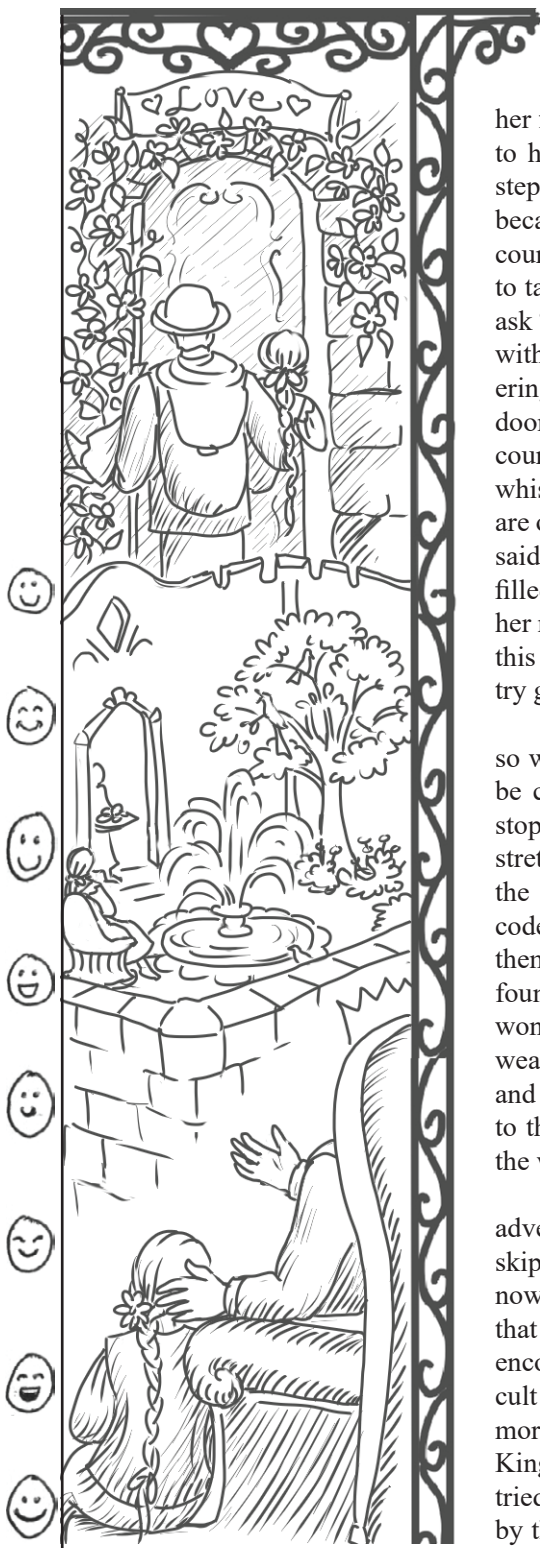
There were many things to learn along the path. Especially about how to get over obstacles. As the country girl traveled along, she found that the way got rougher and steeper. "It is time to use your walking stick more," her guide pointed out. "It is the only way to get across this part, because these rocks will scrape you up if you try to climb over them." She began to realize that the walking stick of Faith was an interesting tool, because it never worked quite the way you expected it to. Once she felt the ground shake and a boulder began sliding toward her. It was a frightening moment, and she swung her walking stick forward to protect herself! Suddenly there was no boulder at all—only a tiny pebble on the path in front of her. "What happened?!" she asked in surprise. "Faith shrinks problems down to size," her guide told her with a smile.



The best part was when she discovered the password to the Castle. The country girl had been trudging along for miles and even leaning on her walking stick only lifted her feet a few inches. "I don't want to give up," she said at last to her guide, "but I am out of strength and can't go another step. Can you please carry me?" It was a moment of surrender, because she always liked to be able to do things herself. "Of course," her guide said, scooping her up easily. "It is my delight to take weary travelers to the Castle to rest." Before she could ask "what castle?" they were standing before a giant stone wall with a carved wooden door. It was surrounded by fragrant flowering vines and a banner of Love waved overhead. When the door opened she could see a splashing fountain in a beautiful courtyard. It took her breath away for a moment, and then she whispered, "I have always dreamed of being a princess." "You are one, and very precious to the King of this Castle," her guide said, as he set her down on a soft cushion inside. Happiness filled her heart as birds sang and smiling serving girls offered her refreshments to eat. It was like the best story book, because this was the Castle of Happily-Ever-After and she, a little country girl, was actually a princess!

After that the country girl-turned-princess was never quite so weary on her journey down the path. She learned to ask to be carried more often, and so there were many special rest-stops which filled her heart with joy. And when she had long stretches of walking on the path to do, she would try to sing the Castle songs that she was learning. They were the secret code of Happily-Ever-After, because whenever she would sing them, it felt like she was back with the birds and the splashing fountain. The country princess realized that she was part of a wonderful kingdom, with a great King who cared for all the weary travelers of the World and wanted them all to know Him and live in His Castle. This journey wasn't just about getting to the Land of Everlasting Joy, but learning all about it along the way!

This story would be very, very long if I told you of all the adventures the country princess had on her travels. So I must skip many parts and bring you closer to the Meeting Place. By now she had been on the path of Long Patience for so long that she never thought of any other life. She lived to walk and encourage other travelers along. There were some very difficult stretches of the path where she had to use her Faith stick more than her feet. It was then that she learned to know her King. She used to be a bit afraid of Him in all his royalty, and tried very hard to please Him. But when she was overwhelmed by the hard times, her guide would set her down at the King's



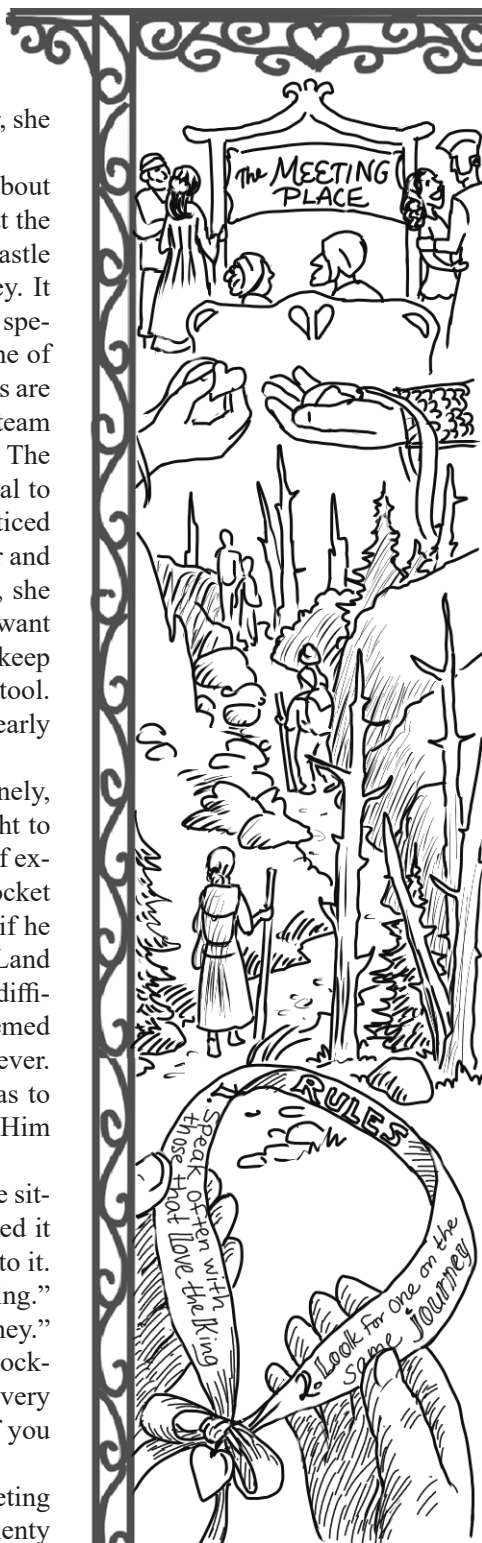
footstool and she would rest her head on His knee. As she told Him her woes and fears, she felt the comfort of His presence and the tenderness of His hand stroking her hair. And as she listened to His thoughts and desires for her, she began to realize how much He cared for her happiness.

It was one of those times when the King talked to her about the Meeting Place. The country princess had seen others at the Meeting Place—it was a laughing, exciting spot near the Castle where people chose a traveling companion for the journey. It was a good plan that the King had made, and it included a special two-piece locket. Each princess had one piece, and one of the traveling knights would have the other. “Once the pieces are locked together,” the King explained, “they are now one team for the rest of the path so they can help each other along.” The country princess had often thought it would be very special to have her own knight to travel with. Except, she had noticed that many of the new teams weren’t always happy together and had more troubles on the path of Long Patience. Besides, she didn’t know any knights around the Castle that she would want to walk with. So she had decided that it was safer just to keep close to her guide and find her comforts at the King’s footstool. She hid her locket piece at the bottom of her bag and nearly forgot about the Meeting Place.

One day when she was telling him about feeling lonely, the King brought up the subject. “Would you like a knight to travel with?” He asked. The country princess felt a tingle of excitement. Did the King really think she should share her locket piece with a traveling knight? Then she was afraid. What if he didn’t turn out to be trustworthy, or as eager to get to the Land of Everlasting Joy as she was? Life could be much more difficult than just being lonely. The Meeting Place suddenly seemed a bit frightening, because it could change her journey forever. But when she looked up and saw how eager the King was to take her there, she slipped her hand in His and followed Him across the Castle lawn.

“Show me your locket piece,” He said, when they were sitting on one of the benches at the Meeting Place. She pulled it out of her bag and He carefully tied a “ribbon of rules” onto it. The first one said, “Speak often with those that love the King.” The second said, “Look for one that is on the same journey.” The King carefully tied the ribbon around her neck so the locket piece could easily be seen. She was ready to meet her very first knight! The King smiled down at her. “I’m nearby if you need me for anything,” He reminded her.

And the country princess certainly did, because meeting knights didn’t turn out to be so easy. Oh, there were plenty



coming and going to the Meeting Place all the time— tall ones and short ones, ones that marched and ones that danced. It was boggling. Who should she talk to? She read her ribbon rule one, and started paying attention to the ones that were coming from the Castle. “If they love the King, they will spend time with Him,” she told herself. She saw a tall knight approaching and asked, “How was your visit with the King?” “Oh, fine,” he said with a nod, and passed by. She tried several more times, but the conversations never got very far. It was getting discouraging. When she talked to the King about it, He took her to the balcony and pointed to the canyon before them. “This is the path of Long Patience, my dear. Use your supplies and keep your ribbon tied tight.”

The country princess learned a lot during the long months she spent at the Meeting Place. She learned to stop looking at how tall or interesting the knights were, but how they walked. Did they use their walking stick of Faith very often, or depend on their own strength to get over obstacles? She had several good visits with some that spoke highly of the King. They liked to hang about the Castle yard “doing important work for the kingdom,” they said. But she rarely saw any of them when she was traveling down the path of Long Patience. The country princess touched the ribbon around her neck and remembered Rule number two. She couldn’t give her locket piece to any of them.

One day she saw a new knight at the Meeting Place. He had a shiny silver helmet and was striding quickly, but when he noticed the country princess on her bench, he stopped and smiled. “Did you have a good visit with the King?” she asked sweetly, making room on the bench for him. They soon were deep in conversation, and the country princess was happy to hear how much he loved the King and spent time with Him every day. “Let us continue our visit another time,” he said, bowing politely as he stood. “I must be back to duty now.” The country princess often met with the knight with the shiny helmet after that, and learned many things about him. He was very kind to other travelers. He had also been on the path of Long Patience for a long time. He told her about his many adventures and listened as she told about hers. She noticed that his walking stick of Faith was well-used from all the boulders and gravel and quicksand he had leapt over. He was a friendly and faithful knight, and she liked him.

There was one thing that bothered her though, and she spoke to the King about it one day. “He said he came from a village up in the hills, and so he has a strange accent that makes me uncomfortable sometimes. I wish he would just speak nor-



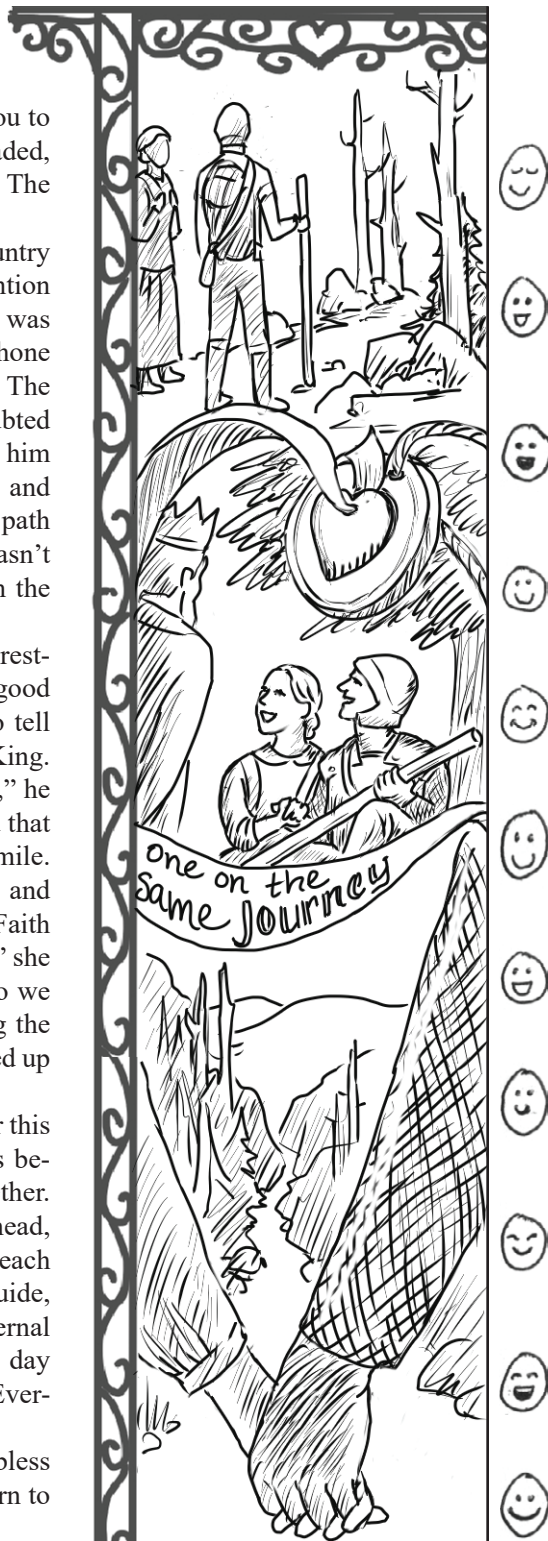
mally, like I do.” The King looked at her soberly. “Do you think that you speak normally? What if you are the one with the strange accent?” The country princess hung her head. But the King had instructions for her. “I want you to spend more time looking at his armor and where he is headed, than bother about his accent and where he came from. The knights who have shiny armor are the ones I trust.”

Shiny armor was a sign of being trustworthy? The country princess hadn’t thought of that. Now she paid more attention when the friendly knight stopped by the Meeting Place. It was true! Not only his helmet, but his breastplate and girdle shone brightly from being polished often at the Castle armory. The country princess blushed. How could she have even doubted his worth? After that she began to feel quite safe around him and his strange accent didn’t bother her anymore. More and more she noticed that they met up as they traveled on the path of Long Patience, and that she enjoyed his company. It wasn’t long before she was sure that she would like to give him the locket piece that hung by the ribbon around her neck.

Her opportunity came quite soon. They were both resting in the shade along the path of Long Patience after a good stretch of walking. The knight in shining armor began to tell the country princess how he had been visiting with the King. “He says you are a good pick for my traveling companion,” he said, “but I want to know what He has told you.” “He said that I can safely trust you,” the country princess said with a smile. The knight in shining armor picked up his walking stick and tapped it on the ground. “I have nothing but my stick of Faith to face the path ahead of us,” he said. “That is all we need,” she replied. “Well then, will you give me your locket piece so we can be a team?” he asked. “I’d love to!” she said, pulling the ribbon from her neck and laying it in his hands. They looked up and saw the King smiling down on them.

Yes, the path of Long Patience is a wonderful place for this country princess and her knight in shining armor. That is because they are set to go to the Land of Everlasting Joy together. They know that there will be boulders and gravel slopes ahead, but their walking sticks of Faith will get them safely over each one. By looking at their compass and listening to their guide, they won’t get lost. The path is hot and long, but the Eternal Water in their canteens keeps them refreshed. And every day they spend time with the King in the Castle of Happily-Ever-After, which is just as lovely as I’ve told you about.

So, good-bye to all you dear travelers. I pray God bless and keep you as you seek His secret for happiness and learn to never give up on the path of Long Patience! 😊





Treasures of the Kingdom

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Dear Reader,

We are excited to share this issue with you, which tells in “A Golden Parable” of how God has brought a “knight in shining armor” into Laura’s life. A testimony from Dylan’s boyhood can be found in “Buried Treasures” as well. Because of their upcoming marriage, this will be the last issue of the magazine. We pray that you will be encouraged and thank you all for your prayers for us!

It is hard to say good-bye to all of you, but we know God is able to supply all your needs according to His riches and glory. He is our Source of everlasting joy!

We are a family who loves Jesus: Rick and Krista Erickson and their daughters, Laura and Amanda. The publishing of *Treasures of the Kingdom* is mainly done by Laura and Amanda, as we look to the Lord to provide content and direction.

We are glad to receive your letters and emails. All the back issues of this magazine, as well as other literature, are available at timelesstruths.org.

In the King’s service,
The Editors

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SEND TO:

*How many happy faces can you find?
There should be at least 108 including this one:*



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golden pages