

*A Gift of Faith Book*

6

**Part 1**

**Prayer Works!**  
**—1800s**

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A Gift of Faith Book

6

**Part 1**

# **Prayer Works!** **—1800s**

**True stories of miracles through  
prayer in the 1800's**

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and contributors  
Cover photo: Francesco Moldavian

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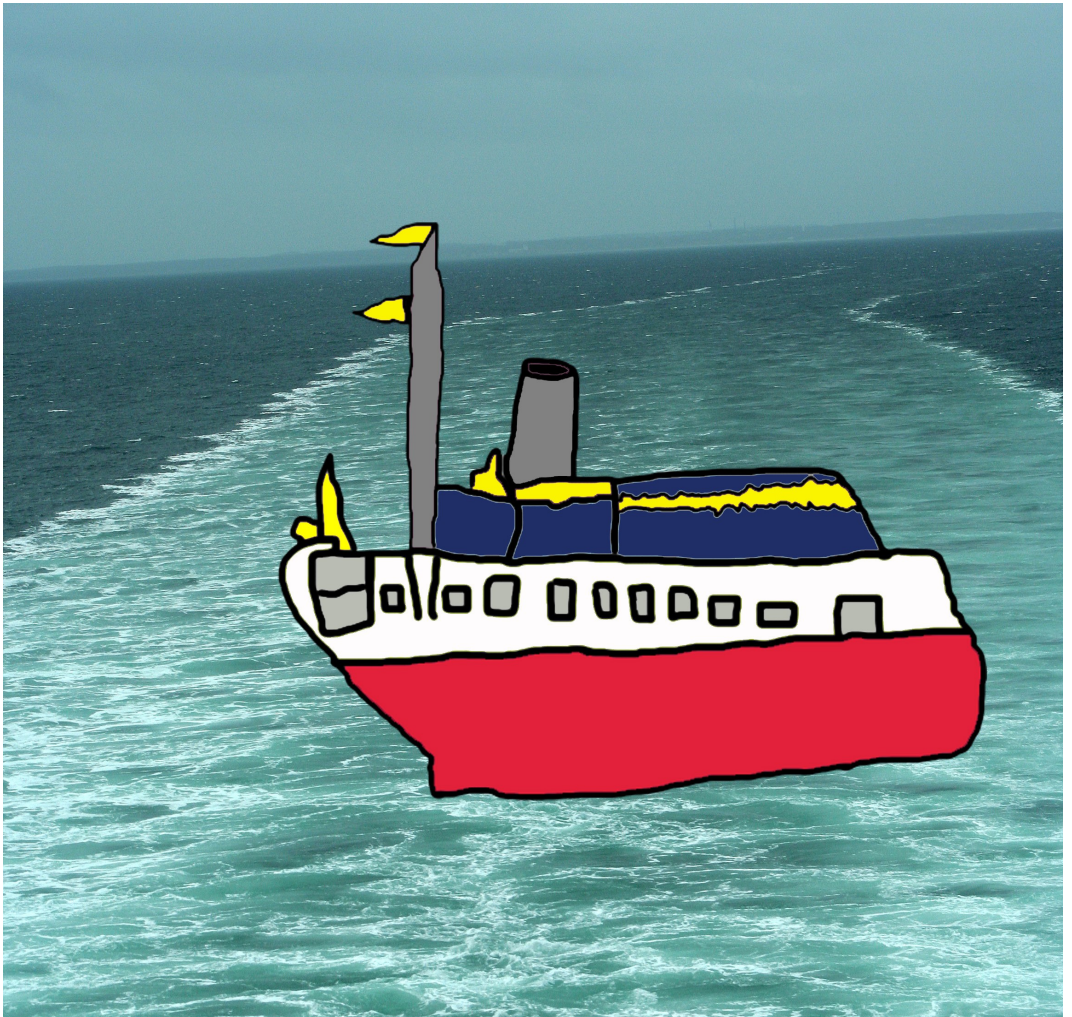


Photo by Naomi

## **1.) A Chair for a Boat Ride**

George Mueller and his wife Mary were getting ready to travel on a ship. Mary would get very sea sick on ships, and needed a special chair that was being sent to them from New York, where they had last visited.

They needed this chair for their journey so she could sit on the deck of the ship and be more comfortable.

George prayed a special prayer for their chair to arrive in time, before they had to leave on the ship. He believed it would, as God gave him faith that it would come in time.

When George and Mary were waiting to board the ship, they found out that the chair had still not arrived yet.

People said they didn't think it would come in time, as there was only a short while left until the ship's departure.

Someone suggested to George that he should quickly go out and buy a new chair for the trip, before it was too late.

However, George felt in his heart that God was going to answer them in time, and he didn't think he should worry and go out and get a new chair.

Nearly everyone had boarded the ship, including George and Mary. Then right at the last minute, before the ship departed, someone boarded the ship with a big smile—and a chair!

Not just any chair, but the very one that George and Mary were waiting and praying for! He gave it to them.



This man was also travelling on this ship but had to wait ten minutes longer than the others before he could board.

While he waited he saw a load of supplies arriving, and included in it was George and Mary's chair. Those in charge of the things being sent unloaded the chair and gave it to the man to pass on to George and Mary.

How happy and grateful they were when the chair was given to them, just in time before the ship left.

George Mueller took off his hat and prayed a prayer of thankfulness to the Lord, Who had made sure that they had just what they needed for the trip, in answer to their prayers.



Photo by Francesco Moldavian

## 2.) The Fur Hat

A little boy was playing outside, and he was cold. It was nearing winter time, and the other children had warm hats to wear, but he only had a straw sunhat.

He ran into the house to ask his mother for a warm hat and told her how cold he felt.

His family was very poor, but found out that God would help them when they prayed. She had faith that the Lord would help them, and told her little boy that he'd get one soon. As he went back out to play, the mother knelt down in prayer to ask the Lord for a nice warm hat for her son.

Later that afternoon a woman came to visit this family. Although she didn't know about the boy's need, she happened to bring over a warm fur hat for him, just his size.

She said to his mother, "I noticed my son's hat today in a drawer of things he doesn't need any more. Then I remembered that your son is about the right size and it would fit him. Do you want it?" How happy the mother and the boy were to receive such a wonderful answer to prayer—to get a warm hat just when it was needed.



Photo by Francesco Moldavian

### 3.) Little George

Little George lived on a farm, far out in the country with his family, and they were in need of food and other supplies. His mother was sad, and wished they could have what they needed.

Little George had faith and said, “Don’t cry mother. I just prayed for food, and I know that God will send it to us.”

Right at that time in a place a few days’ travel away, some friends got the idea to load up a wagon with food and goods and all kinds of other useful things to bring to this family.

They travelled to the farm where Little George and his family lived. How happy and thankful they were to see a wagon load of supplies being given to them!

When Little George grew to be a man he told many people about Jesus, and taught them how God answers prayer and takes care of His children—those who love and trust in Him, and pray for His help.



Photo by Chariane Quille

## 4.) A Bag of Flour

A humble family lived on a farm several miles away from the mill, where the grain was ground into flour and sold. One year the crops hadn't grown too well, so there wasn't much grain around for people to buy. And they had no horse to travel there, anyway.

The family prayed for God to supply food for them, as they had very little left. A man who made shingles out of wood—roof tiles for houses—needed a tree to make some with.

This family's farm had a pine forest on it. The man thought to go and buy a tree from their farm. As he was leaving his house the thought came to him to bring a bag of flour to give to them in return for the tree. He scooped two buckets of flour into a bag and brought it with him to the farm.

He asked them if he could have one of the trees and cut it down to make it into shingles, and to pay for it he brought flour, as he thought they might really appreciate some at this time.

The mother said, "It's the answer to our prayer!"

She told her family, "God has sent us a bag of flour!" They were all glad to see the answer to their prayers, and had enough food to eat.



Photo by Chariane Quille



## 5.) The Lost Thimble

A lady had a silver thimble that her mother gave to her. It was special to her and she used it a lot.

One day it was lost, and she looked and looked for it everywhere. The thimble was nowhere to be seen. It made her sad, so she decided to pray about it, as she knew Jesus could help her feel better.

As she was praying she heard Jesus tell her clearly, "Look on the bed."

The lady got up from praying and went straight to the bed she'd been sitting on before when she was holding a baby. The covers on the bed were now pulled back.

She looked and saw that tucked into the folds of the blanket was her missing and treasured thimble. It had fallen out of her pocket when she was on the bed earlier. Jesus knew just where it was, and told her.



Photo by Chariane Quille

## 6.) A Shoemaker's Family

There was a man who made shoes. He would walk to the town and work, returning to his family on the weekend, bringing them food and supplies. One time he was to return to his home, but had no food or goods to bring. The place he was working at didn't have any money to give him for his work that week, so he couldn't buy food for his family.

It was pouring rain, and the father entered his house, warmed by the cozy fire that was made. He told his family that he didn't have anything to give them, but trusted that God would provide.

The family knelt down to pray for God to supply the needed food. Suddenly there was a knock at the door, and a lady was standing there in the rain, with a loaf of bread.

"I baked too much today, and I thought of bringing some to you. Would you like it?" The children happily had bread to eat, along with some milk that a kind neighbour shared as well. Another man loaded up a blanket with all the goods he could spare to give to the family. God took care of them, just like they knew He would.



Photo by S.d.B.

## 7.) Fuel for a Fire

A lady and a man lived alone. Their grown-up son was living in another country. They didn't have a way to receive any news from him—no letters or telephone calls. The father was a cripple and couldn't get around. The mother worked hard to do all she could to provide what was needed.

One cold morning they woke, realizing they didn't have enough wood for fuel to make a fire to keep them warm, nor to cook with that day. "What are we going to do?" the man wondered.

"God will provide," the woman encouraged, even though it seemed like there was no way they could get the needed wood.

Then, to their surprise, their adult son in walked that morning! He was strong and went to the woods right away and cut down lots of needed wood for fuel, enough to last a long time.

What a happy day it was! Their house was warmed, and their hearts warmed too, with the joy of seeing their son again, and knowing God's amazing care. He had supplied them with what they needed.

"I'll always trust in God's care!" the father said after receiving that wonderful answer to prayer.



Photo by <http://www.bigfoto.com>

## 8.) Wagonload of Food

A farmer with some workers was going to the field to work. They'd walked part of the way there, when something in his heart and mind urged him to stop and to return home.

He sent his workers on ahead to do the work while he returned to talk with his wife about what he was feeling and thinking.

“I just feel like we must give some food to the minister and his wife, right now.”

So together they loaded up a wagonload of food and supplies to bring.

At the minister's house they had just eaten their last bit of food, and didn't know how they were to get any more. The minister went to the barn for prayer, and the wife prayed in a quiet place in the house.

When they saw the farmer coming with a wagon loaded with supplies for them, they were very thrilled!

God had answered their prayers and cared for them, as they were faithful to tell others about Jesus, and do His work.



Photo by Francesco Moldavian



## 9.) The Light of a House

A man was preaching to a crowd of people in a new city. Someone told him he had to stop and leave. He was sad and didn't know where to go.

He had no place to rest or food to eat. He prayed for the Lord to lead him to somewhere to stay the night.

After praying, he saw the light of a house in the distance. The man walked to it, and when he was close to the window he heard someone in the house praying.

That man was praying for anyone who loved the Lord and was having a hard time, to find his house, where he would give them a place to rest and some food.

The man was so glad. He said "amen" to the end of the prayer, and went into the house. The two men who believed in Jesus rejoiced for the answers to both of their prayers that night!



Photo by Chariane Quille

## 10.) Our Daily Bread

There was a very sick man who was in his home. He had a family with five children. They really needed some food, but had no way to get it.

The family prayed and said the Lord's prayer together, "Give us this day our daily bread".

Just an hour later there was a knock on the door. It was a young man, who had been sent by his aunt to bring food and other supplies to this family.

She felt strongly that the food needed to be brought to them right away.

Everyone was so glad for the miraculous timing of the supply of food.

The father also eventually got healed and lived many more years to see the Lord's wonderful care.



Photo by Francesco Moldavian

## 11.) The Coat

A man who had served the Lord needed a coat. He had saved money to get one, but then gave most of it away to someone else who really needed it. One day he went to visit his mother. She noticed, and mentioned that it looked like he needed a new coat. The man agreed, but had no way to get a new one.

His mother said, "Your brother just made a coat two weeks ago, but mistakenly made it the wrong size. It's too small for him. Perhaps it will fit you."

The man got the coat from the place where his mother told him it was. He tried it on, and it fit perfectly! It was amazing, because his brother was quite a bit bigger than he was, but for some reason the coat had been made too small—but just the right size for him.

Jesus knew that he needed the coat and heard his prayers for one, and helped his brother to make it the right size to fit the man who needed it the most. Sometimes something that seems like a mistake to one person, may be the answer to prayer for someone else. Jesus has a way of turning everything into something good for those that love Him.

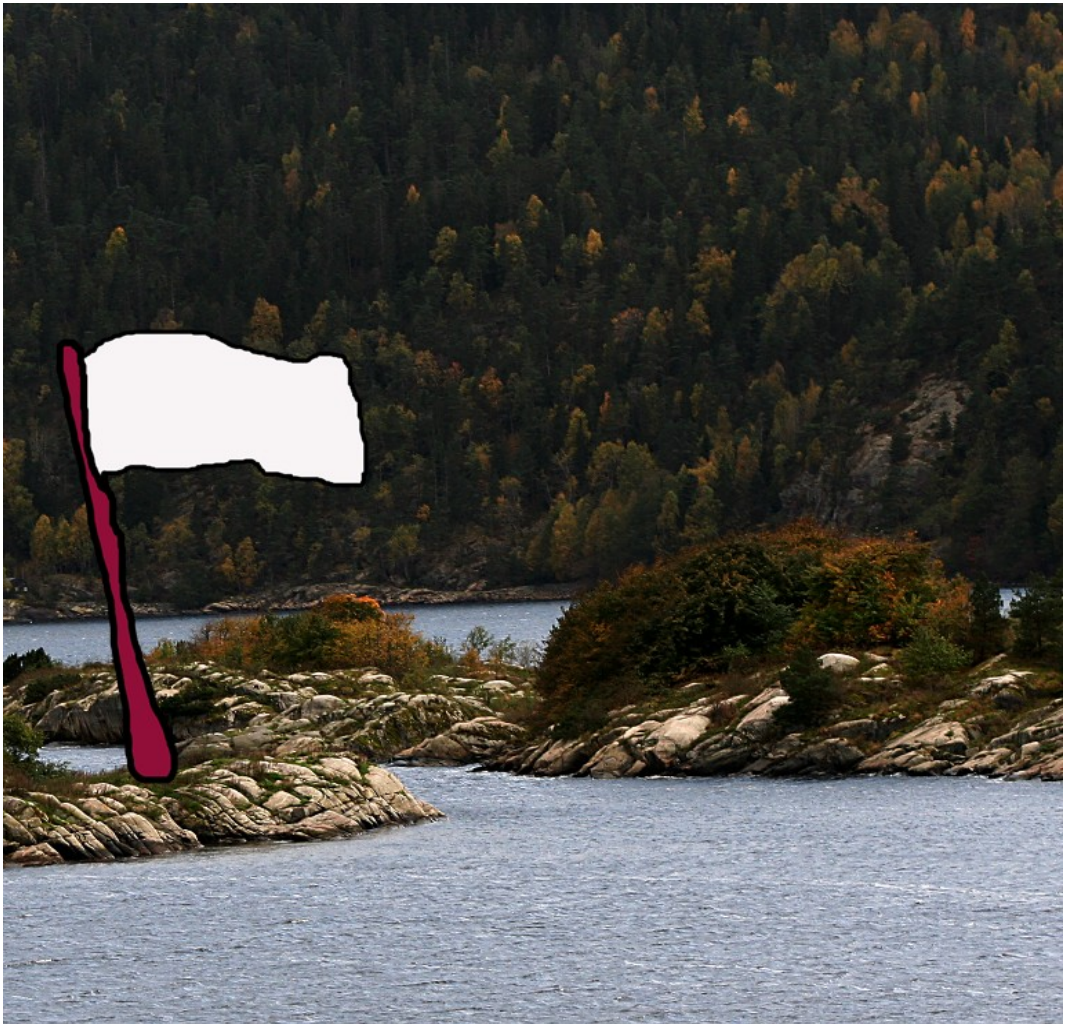


Photo by Naomi

## 12.) Ship Rescue

Admiral Sir Thomas Williams was sailing his ship near an island. It was uninhabited. Ships didn't go there, except to find turtles once in a while. It wasn't where he was planning to go either.

He continued sailing his ship and was to soon pass the island, when he suddenly felt very strongly that he was to go to the island. He wondered what those on his ship would say when he asked them to go a different direction.

The sailors said, "We're about to eat dinner, and if we go there it will make our trip a lot longer." However, Admiral Sir Thomas Williams felt they must go to that island. So everyone did as he asked.

They sailed towards that island looking with their spy glasses to see what they could see on the island. Why did God say they needed to go?

Then they saw a white flag; sixteen men were on the island. They were hoping and praying for a ship to come by to rescue them as their ship had been wrecked. Admiral Sir Thomas Williams' ship was the answer to their prayers. Everyone was rescued!



Photo by Francesco Moldavian



## 13.) The Potatoes

A family with four children lived far out on the prairie. They only had a small amount of corn that was just enough for their breakfast the next morning. Besides that, they had nothing else in their house to eat.

While they were standing around their fire, warming up and thinking about their situation, the mother said, "The Lord will provide something!" One of the children said cheerily, "I would really like to have some potatoes!"

After the children went to bed, the mother stayed awake. She couldn't sleep. She was wondering what to do and praying for the Lord to supply and to help them. All of a sudden she felt peaceful. She fell asleep and had a wonderful night's rest.

The next morning she woke and was going to go down to the brook to wash. When she opened the door of her house she was so surprised! There on their porch were two pails and one sack. The sack was full of flour, one pail was full of potatoes, and the other pail was full of meat!

She let out a sound of rejoicing and all the children came running to see. They were overjoyed! God had sent them food. They brought the food in and put it in their house, washed out the pails, returned them to the porch for whoever they belonged to.

The next morning, mysteriously, the pails and the sack were gone. They were so happy. They felt Jesus very close. The family knew He was caring for them.



## 14.) Prayer in the Woods

A young man who couldn't walk very well and had no one else to help or care for him, depended on Jesus. He knew that Jesus would take care of him.

One time he wanted to go to a certain town many miles away. He had no way to get there and no money to buy a ticket to go on the train. He went to the train station to ask if he could get a ride on the train anyway, but they did not agree to it.

So he went out to the woods nearby, knelt down by a stump to pray to his friend Jesus. He knew that Jesus can provide all that His children on Earth need.

The young man said, "Lord, please either give me some money to travel, or some other way to get to that town."

When he was done he felt the Lord had answered his prayer. He was filled with joy and praise. He exclaimed, "Bless the Lord!"

As he was walking out of the woods he heard someone say, "Hello!"

He turned around to see who it was. He hadn't noticed anyone there before. This man said, "You prayed a wonderful prayer. Do you need some money?"

He handed the young man some money for his trip right then, and encouraged him, saying, "That's the best way—to go to the Lord and to trust Him to open the way." The young man was so thankful, rejoicing that God supplied all his needs.



Photo by <http://www.bigfoto.com>

## 15.) The Horse Ride

There was a preacher who was to go to another town to preach to a crowd of people. They were expecting him.

A short distance beyond that town, there was to be another meeting that he was to lead in the afternoon.

This preacher wanted to make sure he kept his appointments, and that he would make it to those two places where people were waiting for him to tell them about the Lord the next day.

However, the train he was going to take to the town that night couldn't go, and it was also stormy and rainy.

He wouldn't be able to get there by train. He couldn't imagine how it would be if he didn't make it to those meetings.

Crowds of people would be waiting for him the next day, and he wanted to get there in time to tell them about the Lord, so he thought there must be a way.

He decided to hire a horse—a good strong horse that could travel long distances. However, this man didn't know the way to the town.

It was dark and stormy, and no one around knew which road he was to take. He asked Jesus to lead the horse and tell the horse where to go.

The man got on the horse, prayed, and galloped off into the stormy night. The horse kept choosing this road and that road, and at last he found he had arrived in the town he was meant to go to for the first meeting.

There was a huge crowd waiting for him. He was very glad he had been able to get there. This man talked about the Lord to everyone there and in the other town too! It was a wonderful day!

When it was time to return to his own town, the horse didn't automatically know the way back. They even got lost a bit trying to find their way!

Finally he made it home where the horse could be returned. That showed this man that it wasn't just the horse that knew the way to the town he went to preach in, but that it was the Lord who had led the horse, just as he prayed.



Photo by Chariane Quille



## 16.) A Powerful Dream

There was a minister of the Gospel who was very sick, lying in his bed. He had a large family of young children who were depending on him. They only had one dollar left. All night the father was praying to God to help them in this emergency.

That same night, not too many miles away, another man was sleeping peacefully. However, he had an important dream. In his dream there was a minister who was sick and needed help for his family.

As soon as dawn came the man who had that impressive dream began asking around, "What was the name of that minister? He came here a while ago. Where does he live?"

When he found out the name of the man and where he lived, he got on his horse immediately and rode to the minister's house. He knocked on the door just as the family was waking up and opening the curtains, and he handed them an envelope with a gift for them. It was some money for them.

They were so thrilled. God had used a dream to answer their prayer and help them in their time of need.

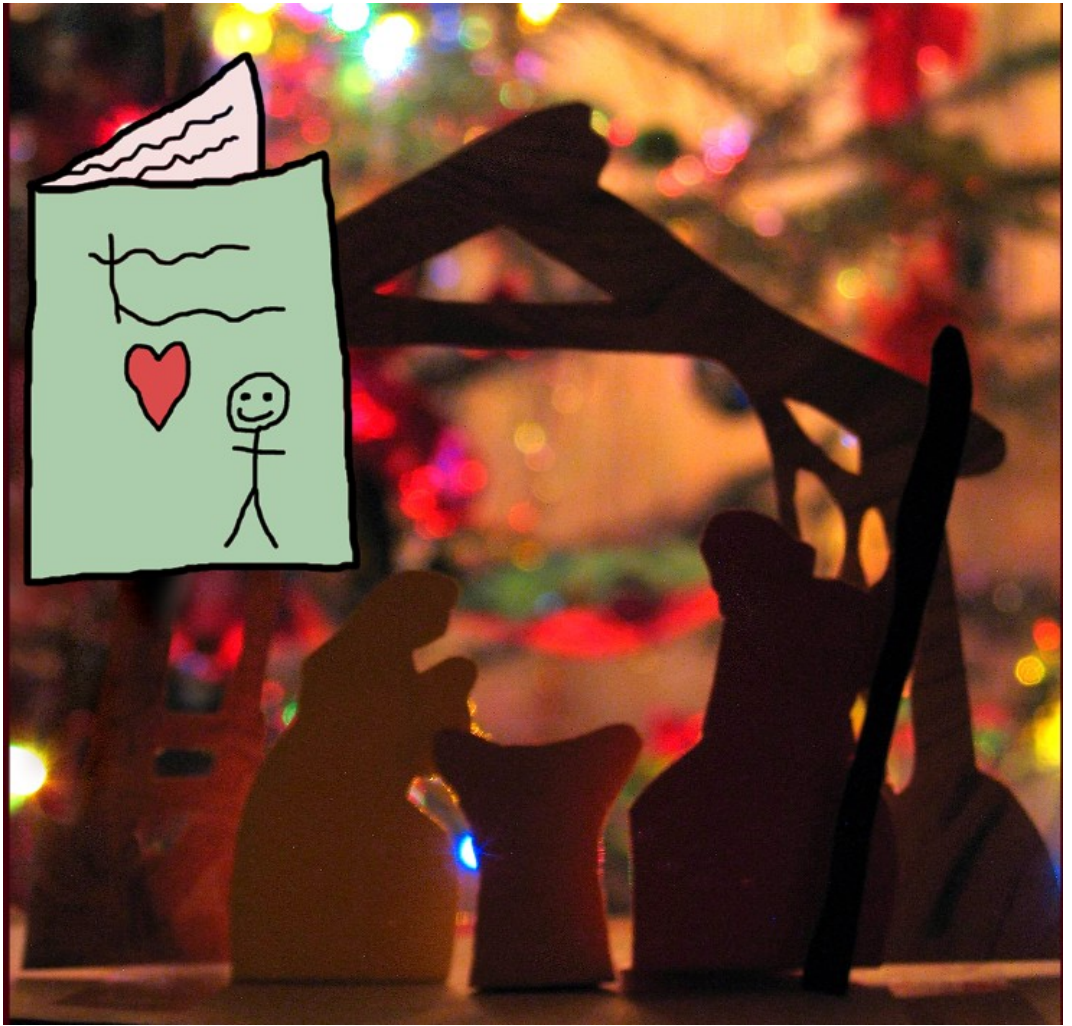


Photo by Francesco Moldavian

## 17.) A Children's Magazine

One mother had taught her children to read, and she really wanted a special magazine that was being written just for children.

So she prayed and asked the Lord to help them be able to receive it.

She had no way to pay for the subscription for it.

—A subscription is the money paid in advance to have the magazine sent to their house every time a new magazine was sent out.

However, later on she received a note that said a friend had sent, as a Christmas gift to their family, a subscription to the very magazine she'd prayed for.

They were so happy! The Lord knew exactly what they were thinking and praying for.



Photo by Chariane Quille

## 18.) Clothing for the Children

A mother of seven children didn't have sufficient clothing for her children. She prayed and asked the Lord what to do, and how to get the clothes.

That very week a large package arrived with clothes that had been sewn for her children and were just the right sizes and types that her children needed.

It had been sent from someone she never would have expected receiving anything from.

How happy they were!



Photo by M. McNally

## **19.) Oxcart Load of Wood**

There was a woman at home alone with her two young children, while her husband was away travelling.

It was a very cold winter and they needed to keep a fire burning to keep them warm. But they needed more wood. She cast her last stick into the fire, not knowing what to do.

This mother walked through the cold to the town nearby to see if anyone had wood she could buy to bring home. No one else had enough wood either.

There hadn't been enough cut and made available, and even if she could only afford to buy a small amount, the man who drove the oxen that pulled the wagon to bring wood to people's houses, said it would be too much trouble to bring it to her house for such a small amount of wood.

So she went home sad, and she prayed and asked God to provide for her.

She remembered the story of Abraham where God had provided for him. She looked out her window expecting God to bring wood to her and her young children.

When the house was getting colder, she bundled up her children with warm clothes and said, "Let's go to a neighbour. Maybe we could stay in their house for a while. They have warmth."

Then just as they were leaving their house to stay in the neighbour's house they noticed an oxcart pulling a huge load of wood that seemed to be coming towards their house.

Nearer and nearer it came until at last it stopped at their door.



The lady said, "I didn't order any wood."

The man said, "A friend got this for you."

The mother was so happy! She cried tears of joy. God had provided for them.

Not only did this man bring the wood, but he worked hard to cut it up into just the right size and stack it up in their woodshed. He was a very hard-working, good man.

She was so grateful, and every time she went to her woodshed and looked at that huge pile of wood she was reminded that God provides.

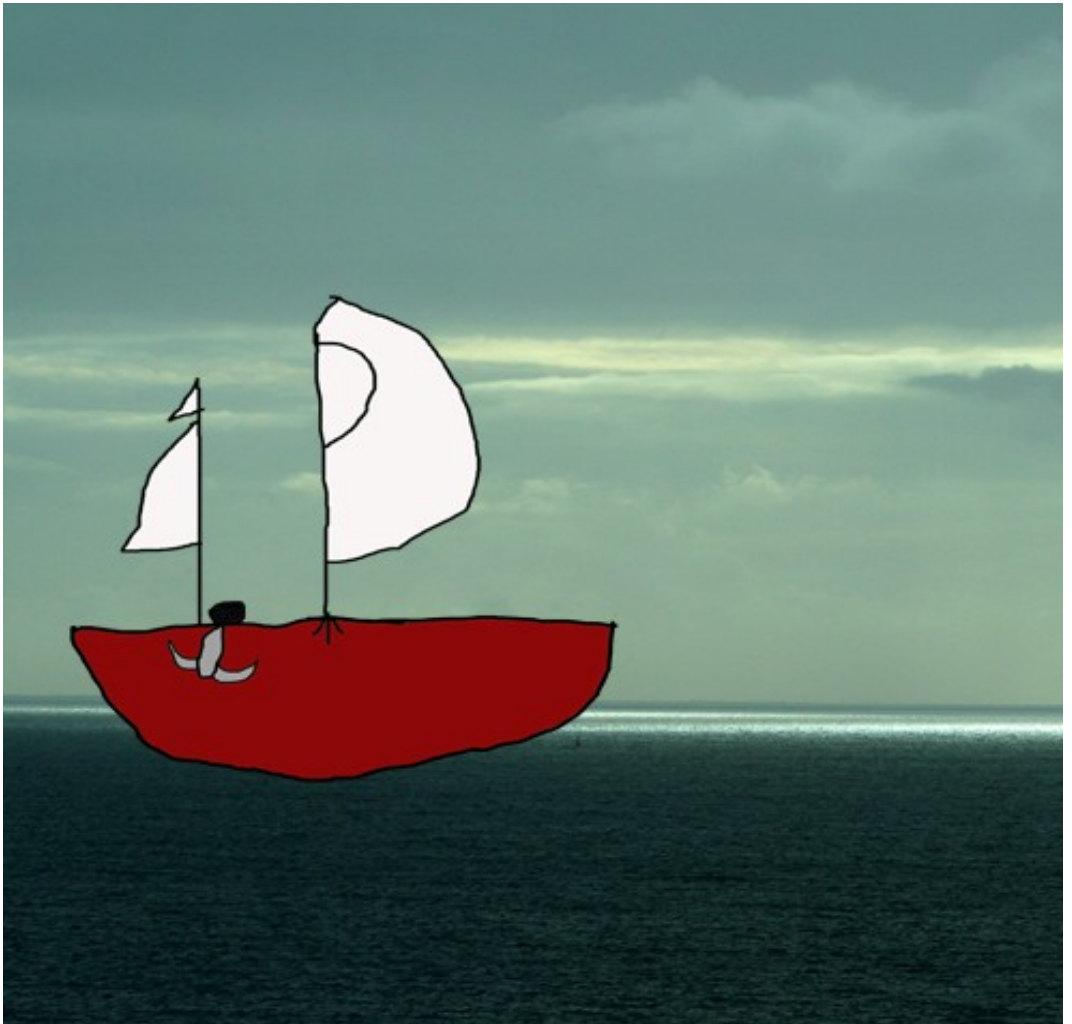


Photo by Naomi

## 20.) The Sea Captain

A sea Captain was going to go on a voyage. It was said that there was going to be a hurricane. He prayed a lot before going on his trip, and he asked God if he should still go ahead and travel. God told him to go, and he felt it was right to. So they set sail on October 19th, 1876.

The most interesting thing happened. They were sailing, and it seemed they were journeying at the right speed. One time they thought they travelled thirty or forty miles, but they checked, and they had only gone three or four miles!

For days their boat seemed to stay in the same general area of the sea without going forward at their normal pace. They didn't know what was happening. It seemed like they were travelling, but they didn't go very far.

Eventually the ship started sailing properly again, and they made it to their destination safely. When they arrived, someone asked them, "How did you make it safely through the storm? It was a terrible hurricane!"

The Captain said, "We didn't see any hurricane."

They were safe because God had kept them in the same location of the sea where it was calm.

They didn't know it at the time, but fifty to a hundred miles away, in a circle all around them, was the terrible storm, and they weren't harmed at all. When it was safe to travel, God brought their ship safely to its destination.



Photo by Chariane Quille

## 21.) A Pair of Boots

A man who wanted to learn more about the Lord was attending some meetings, but he really needed a pair of boots.

His boots were so old, that his toes were sticking out the ends of them. He prayed for some, but they hadn't arrived yet.

This man didn't know if he wanted to attend a meeting with his boots in such poor condition, yet he went ahead. He happened to sit beside a kind and generous man who chose to help him.

After the meeting that man said,

"Do you need another pair of boots? Why don't you go to the shop and choose whatever pair you need and I'll pay for it."

His prayer had been answered, and he got a wonderful pair of boots.



Photo by M. McNally

## **22.) Help in a Snow Storm**

A man named Henry was about seventy years old. He was a good man. Everyone in the village looked up to him.

One time he and his wife were in their house without any food to eat. There was a storm and snow all around.

They were very poor and the only one who could help them, who had helped them before, was their grown son. However, their son got sick and couldn't do much but rest.

Instead of going to bed that night, Henry and his wife decided to pray, and to pray again and again for the Lord to supply their food needs.

They stayed awake for quite a while asking for God's supply.

Meanwhile, about two-and-a-half miles away, there lived a man named Joseph who had a nice house and food to eat. He was warm in the middle of that cold, stormy night.

At about twelve o' clock, in the middle of the night, during the snowstorm he woke up. Joseph started thinking of Mr. Henry for some reason. He had the feeling that Henry and his wife really needed food to eat.

Joseph woke up his wife and said,

"I think we need to help Mr. Henry get some food."

His wife said, "Well, if he needs help we should do it."

So they got out of bed that cold night, packed up some food, and through the storm, in the middle of the night, Joseph bravely carried the food to the house of Henry and his wife, who at that time were in the middle of praying for just that—for food!



Joseph knocked on the door and Henry's wife opened it and invited Joseph in. They were so glad and they praised God for the supply of the food they needed.

Henry and his wife were able to tell Joseph more about the Lord, and that's how he came to know about Jesus.

**Continued in Part 2**