

*A Gift of Faith Book*

6

**Part 2**

**Prayer Works!**  
**—1800s**

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A Gift of Faith Book

6

Part 2

# 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 Francesco Moldavian

## 23.) Wood and Flour

There was an older lady who had two grown-up daughters. It was a cold winter with a big storm outside and they didn't have food anymore.

They'd used their last bits of food, and they also needed wood to keep the fire going to keep them warm.

These ladies couldn't go out while there was a storm, and they had no way of getting what they needed. They prayed and asked Jesus to help them.

The two girls, who had been sewing all afternoon, started to worry.

"Mother, how are we going to get food? God will have to bring it to us. It's too stormy. No one will even come out in this weather, I think."

The mother encouraged them to trust and have faith. She told them Jesus would provide, and to just keep sewing and trust that they would have what they needed.

At that same time, there was a man who had all that he needed in his nice, warm house, where he lived with his wife and his daughter.

While he was sitting there warming himself by his fire, he thought of this lady and her daughters. Jesus was telling him that they needed food and wood.

Even though there was a big storm happening and it was very cold outside, he was determined to go and take them what he felt they needed.

So he and his daughter packed up some flour and some wood, and loaded it onto the wagon for the oxen to pull through the cold, stormy, wintry day.



He traveled all the way to that lady's house. When they opened the door for him, and saw the wonderful surprise of the supply of their needs, everyone was so happy.

They hardly knew what to say.

God had brought the food and the wood right to them, just like they needed, even on a cold, stormy day.

It was good that the man listened to Jesus and was willing to do the difficult job. When he saw how pleased everyone was, he was glad he'd done that.



Photo by Chariane Quille

## 24.) Shoes for a Woman

A woman was at home, and couldn't go out, as she didn't have good enough shoes to wear. She was caring for her son who needed to rest. The woman couldn't afford to buy new shoes, so she prayed for Jesus to help her.

One day, when the schoolmaster came to visit her house and see how her son was doing, he noticed that she really needed new shoes. When he left he hired a horse and rode two miles to the nearest shoe store and bought her a pair of shoes.

The man wanted it to be a surprise for the woman and didn't want her to know who it was that gave the shoes to her, so he asked the storekeeper to please take the shoes to the woman's house for him.

When the woman received the shoes and tried them on, they were a perfect fit! She was very happy, and so was the kind man who had heard the Lord's leading in his heart to help her. The happy woman was able to walk to a prayer meeting that night, and joyfully tell everyone there of the answer to her prayers!



Photo by Francesco Moldavian

## **25.) Stoves for Heating**

A large house was in need of heating in the upstairs rooms, so those that were living there wouldn't be too cold in the winter.

The man responsible for caring for the needs of those who lived there, prayed for the Lord to help them get the heating stoves that were needed. He then went to the shop where those kinds of stoves were sold, to see how much they would cost.

Without knowing about this man's need, the man who ran the shop said, "That's alright. I won't charge you anything for them. You can have the heating stoves for free."

The man who had prayed and was in need of the stoves was very glad. He could now heat the house and continue to care for those living in that building who needed his help.



Photo by Francesco Moldavian

## 26.) Hail Storm

Beate Paulus was a woman who had great faith in God's care and provision, as well as His answers prayer. She was married to a German minister and they lived on the borders of the Black Forest.

One time, shortly before the harvest of their corn, she was standing at the window looking out. She noticed that a big storm was coming. There were black clouds, and it looked like there was about to be a summer hail storm.

Beate prayed for the storm not to come, for if the hail fell, it would ruin all their crops. It would be very difficult for them. God gave her faith in her heart that He could keep their crops even if the hail storm didn't pass.

Then it happened! The hail fell and there was a big storm.

When they went to check on their crops afterwards they saw to their amazement that no hail had fallen on their corn, although there had been hail all around. Soon they were able to harvest their corn and use it!



Photo by Francesco Moldavian



## **27.) God Takes Away the Snow**

It was a cold winter and there was deep snow on the ground all around. It seemed the snow would be there for a long time.

A father prayed for the Lord to take away the snow, as because of it they were unable to get wood to make a fire to keep them warm.

Others who lived in the area didn't have enough wood either and so couldn't give them any.

The next morning a wonderful surprise happened!

The snow was all gone!

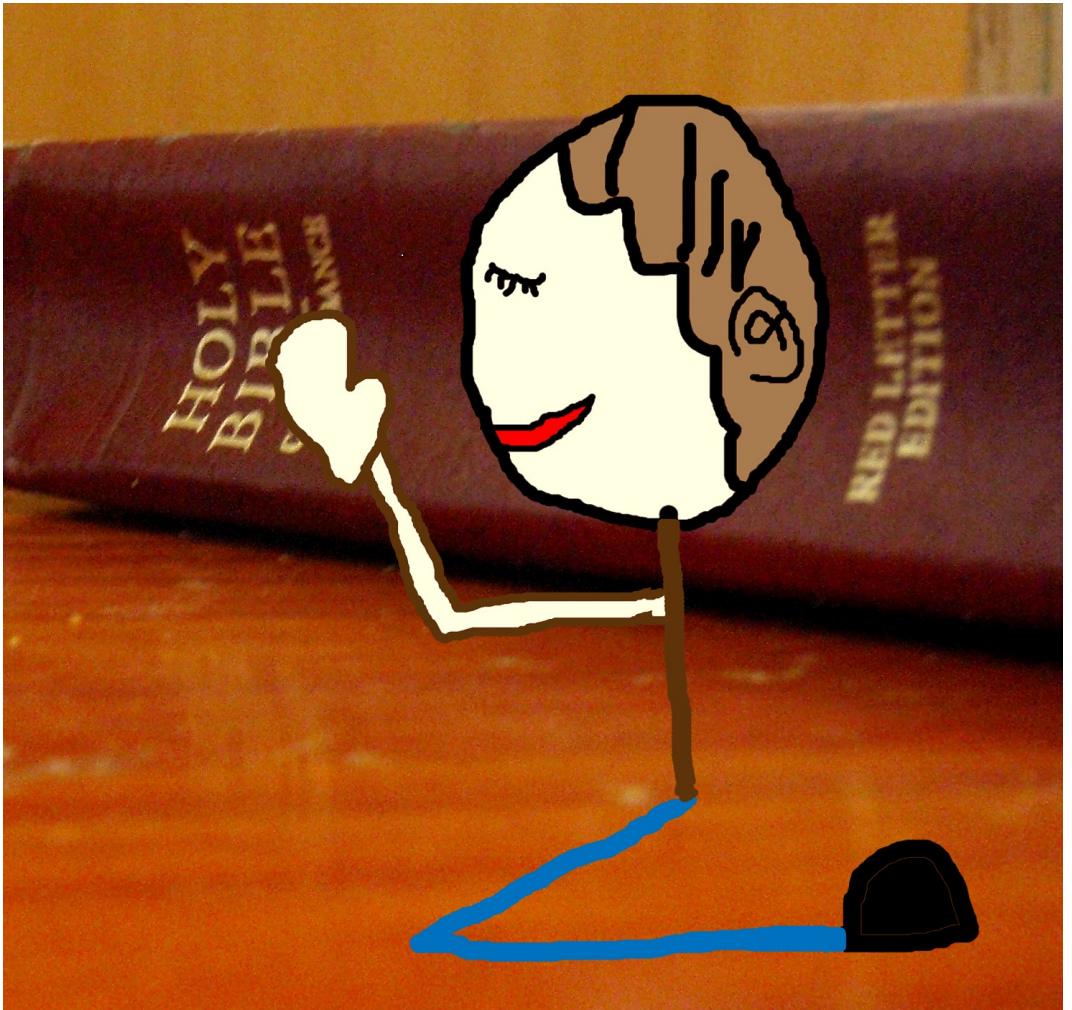


Photo by Chariane Quille

## **28.) Reading the Bible**

A boy who knew Jesus and read the Bible wanted his sister to read it too. She didn't know very much about Jesus, and he so much wanted his sister to be happier. He knew that if she read the Bible it would help her.

When a group of people met to pray, the boy asked everyone there to please pray for his sister to read the Bible. Then, he left and went back to his house quickly.

People wondered why he did so. It was because he knew that Jesus would answer his prayer, and he wanted to see his sister reading the Bible for the first time.

And that's what happened!

When the boy entered his house, there was his sister reading the Bible.



## 29.) Jonny's Faith

A boy called Jonny lived with his mother. They were very poor, and one night they didn't have any food to eat. The mother began to cry, because she was sad that she didn't have any dinner to give to Jonny.

But Jonny said, "Don't worry mother, I'll go to sleep now and won't feel hungry, but I want you to have food, mother, because you still have to work tonight."

So Jonny and his mother prayed the Lord's Prayer together and with all their hearts prayed the part that said, "Give us this day our daily bread."

After the prayer Jonny said, "Mother, I know God will give us all we need, and we won't be hungry like this again." He soon fell happily asleep.

The mother did her sewing work that night, and felt happy inside. Praying had given her faith that God would provide all that they needed.

The next morning a man came to visit. He needed someone to live in his house and to help care for his children. It was God's answer to Jonny and his mother's prayer. Now had all that they needed, while they lived in a nice house and helped care for the children.



Photo by Chariane Quille

## **30.) Give, and God Gives to You**

There was a man who had a sick wife. He didn't have money to get what she needed, but there was someone who owed him a dollar. He went out to ask that person to please pay back the dollar he had borrowed, and he did.

So the man had one dollar then. He was planning to use that one dollar to buy what he needed for his wife.

However, there was a poor woman that he knew of, and he hadn't checked on her in a while. He began wondering if she and her children were all right. God told him to get her some food instead.

So he used his one dollar to get some food and took it to the home of the lady with her children. They were very grateful, as they had no food left. They were so glad, and the man was glad he'd heard from Jesus and obeyed.

There was a surprise waiting for him as he got home to his poor, sick wife without anything to give her. When he opened the door there was jam and biscuits, and all sorts of treats. He could never have afforded to buy that much for her.

Someone had come to visit, and brought her that food. The Lord had taken care of his wife when he had done what Jesus told him to do to help someone else in need.

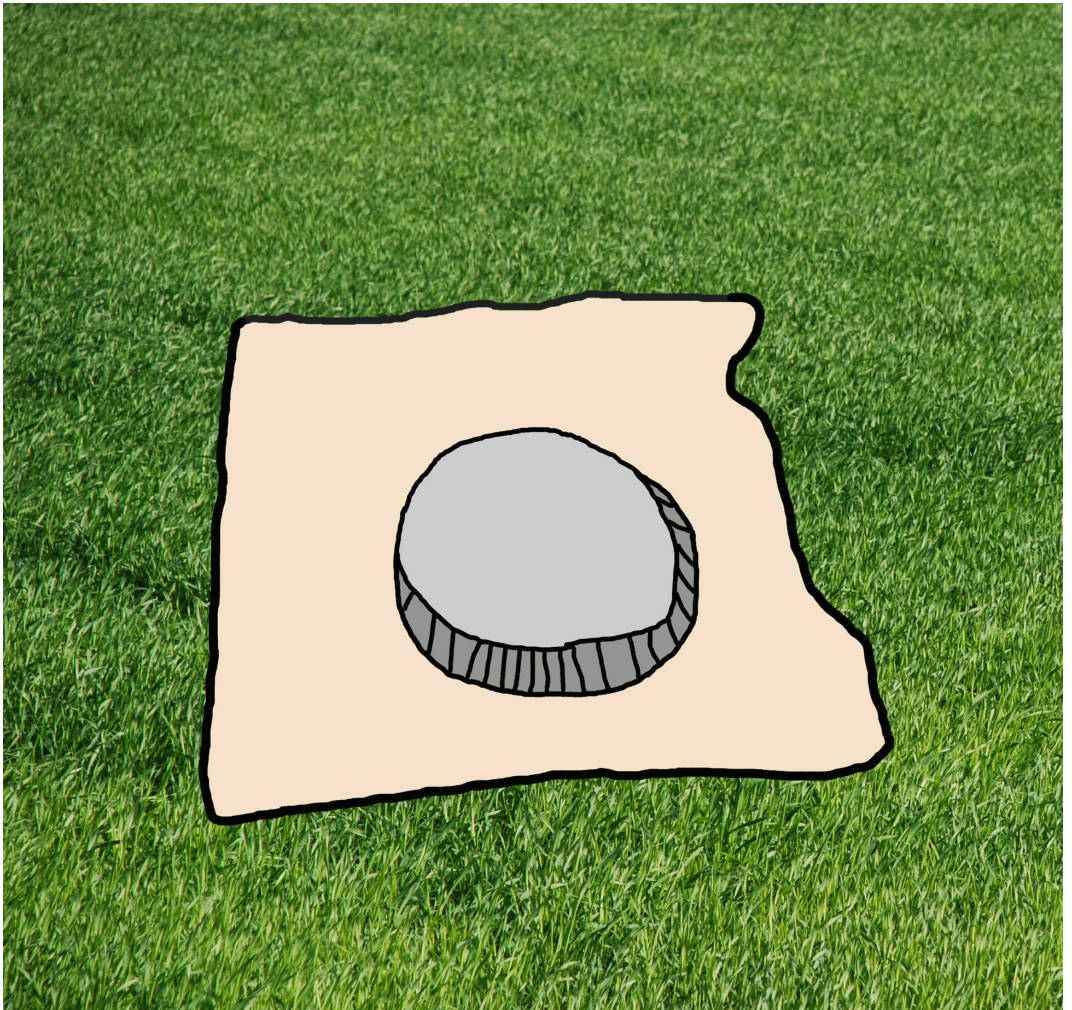


Photo by S.d.B.



## 31.) Silver Coin

There was a farm boy who worked very hard helping his family. If he ever had spare time, he would do more errands and little jobs for others in the neighbourhood, to be able to earn a few little coins.

These coins were what he wanted to use to share with other missionaries.

On the weekends when he met with others for prayer and Bible reading, he would give a little bit of money to send to the missionaries in another country, as his way of helping to reach others with Jesus' love and salvation.

However, for several months he had been extra busy working on the farm, and had no extra time to do jobs and earn some coins.

He also had to go to school, and to get there he had to walk all the way there and walk all the way back. This took up all his spare time.

One weekend he dropped his last coin into the collection to send to missionaries. He felt sad that he had no way to get any more.

He really wanted to be able to help win souls for the Lord, and that was his way of helping.

The next day, after praying and asking Jesus to work out some way for him to get some coins so he could give it away to missionaries, he saw a handkerchief lying on the ground.

In the corner of the handkerchief was a silver coin that was worth quite a bit. It would be enough for him to be able to have a little bit of money to share each weekend for seven weekends.

He wondered if it perhaps belonged to somebody. So he brought it to his teacher who asked everyone she could.

She tried her best to find the owner, but no one said it was theirs, so the boy got to keep it, and he used it all to share with the missionaries.

He was so happy with Jesus' amazing answer to his prayer.



Photo by S.d.B.

## 32.) The Watermelon Seed

There was a young girl who was eating a piece of juicy, refreshing watermelon on a hot summer day.

However, one of the seeds got stuck a bit and made her choke. She was coughing but she wasn't able to cough it out. Her parents thought she'd have to go to the doctor.

The young girl went to pray and ask Jesus for help. She went into a room and prayed, "Lord, please take this seed out of my windpipe."

Shortly afterward she came running to her mommy with the seed in her hand.

"Mummy, Mummy, look! I prayed and then Jesus helped me cough a whole bunch and the seed came out!"

Jesus answered her prayers.

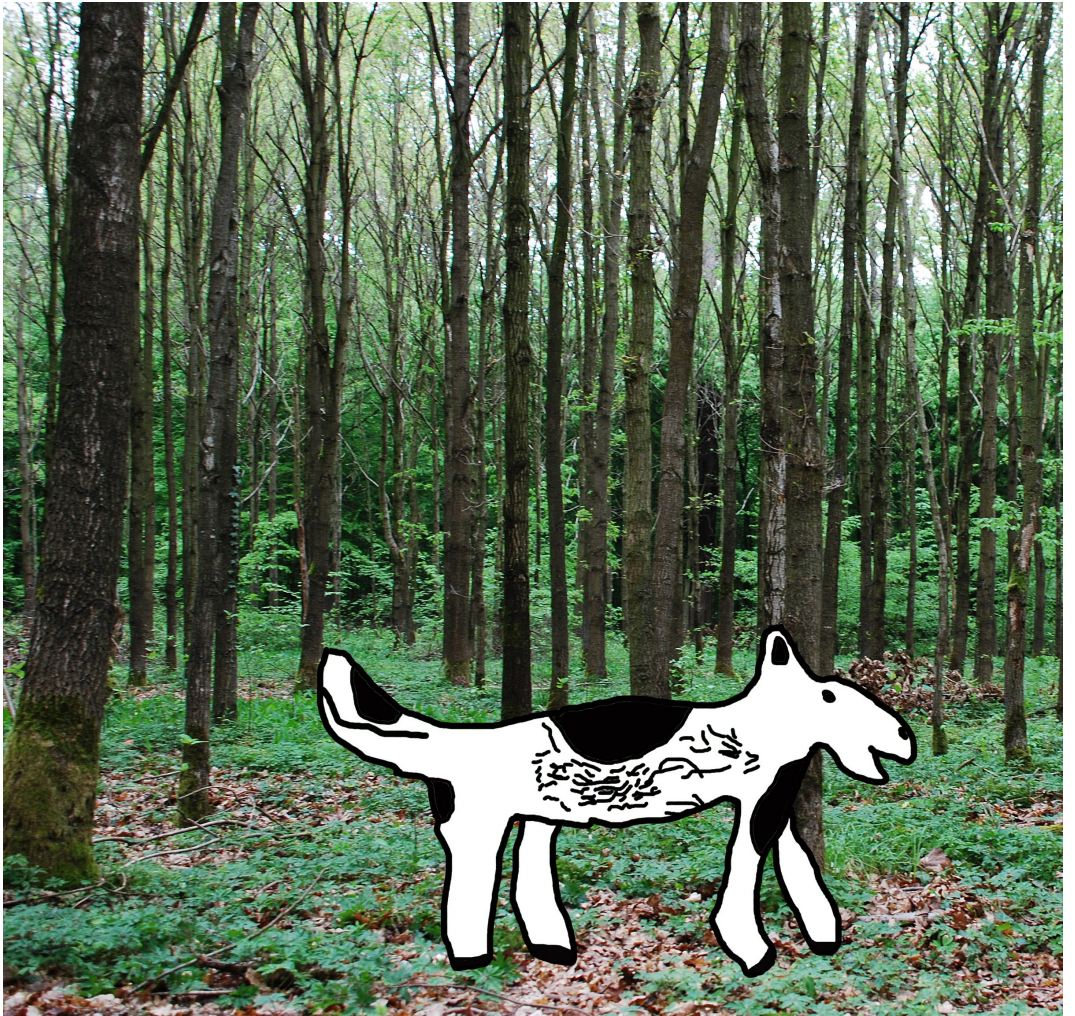


Photo by S.d.B.

### 33.) Faith in the Lord's Prayer

In July 1864, a father, mother and their two children were travelling and in need of a place to stay. They were walking over the hills on a long trip trying to get to their destination.

Eventually they got very weary as they had no food left. They sat down wondering what to do. It didn't seem like there would be anyone who could help them where they were.

The father felt very discouraged. He walked to a nearby tree to rest, think and pray. Then his daughter came running up to him very happy. She said, "Father, I was reading *The Lord's Prayer* in my little New Testament that I brought with me, where it says, 'Give us this day our daily bread.' I think God will help us."

The father hugged his daughter and was so glad for the encouragement from God's Word. They knew if they prayed, the Lord would take care of them and give them what they needed.

Right at that moment a dog came up to them and was barking so loudly. The master of the dog came over to find out what was going on. He was a farmer who had been looking for his cows.

He found the family, found out that they needed food, and he said, "Come to my house. I have plenty!" Gratefully they went to the farmer's house and he took care of them and gave them what they needed.



Photo by S.d.B. & Naomi



## 34.) Neddy's Daily Bread

There was a little girl named Neddy living with her mother. Her mother was sick, and that day they had no more food to eat. She knelt down and prayed, "Lord, give us this day our daily bread."

Then she thought, "I wonder where God keeps his bread?" So she went out to the street and saw the baker's shop filled with lots of bread. "This is where God's bread is," she thought, and said to the baker, "I've come for it."

He said, "For what?"

"I came for my daily bread," she said pointing to the rolls. "I'll take two please. —One for my mother and one for me."

"All right," said the baker, putting them into a bag and giving it to the little girl. At first he thought she was going to pay for them, and questioned her about why she didn't.

The girl explained that she and her mother didn't have any food, and were too poor to buy any. She said to him, "When the prayer said 'Give us this day our daily bread,' I thought God meant for me to come and fetch it, and that's what I did."

The baker said, "I'll give it to you for free, and I'll give you even more bread than that." The kind-hearted man gave her a whole basket full of bread to take home with her.

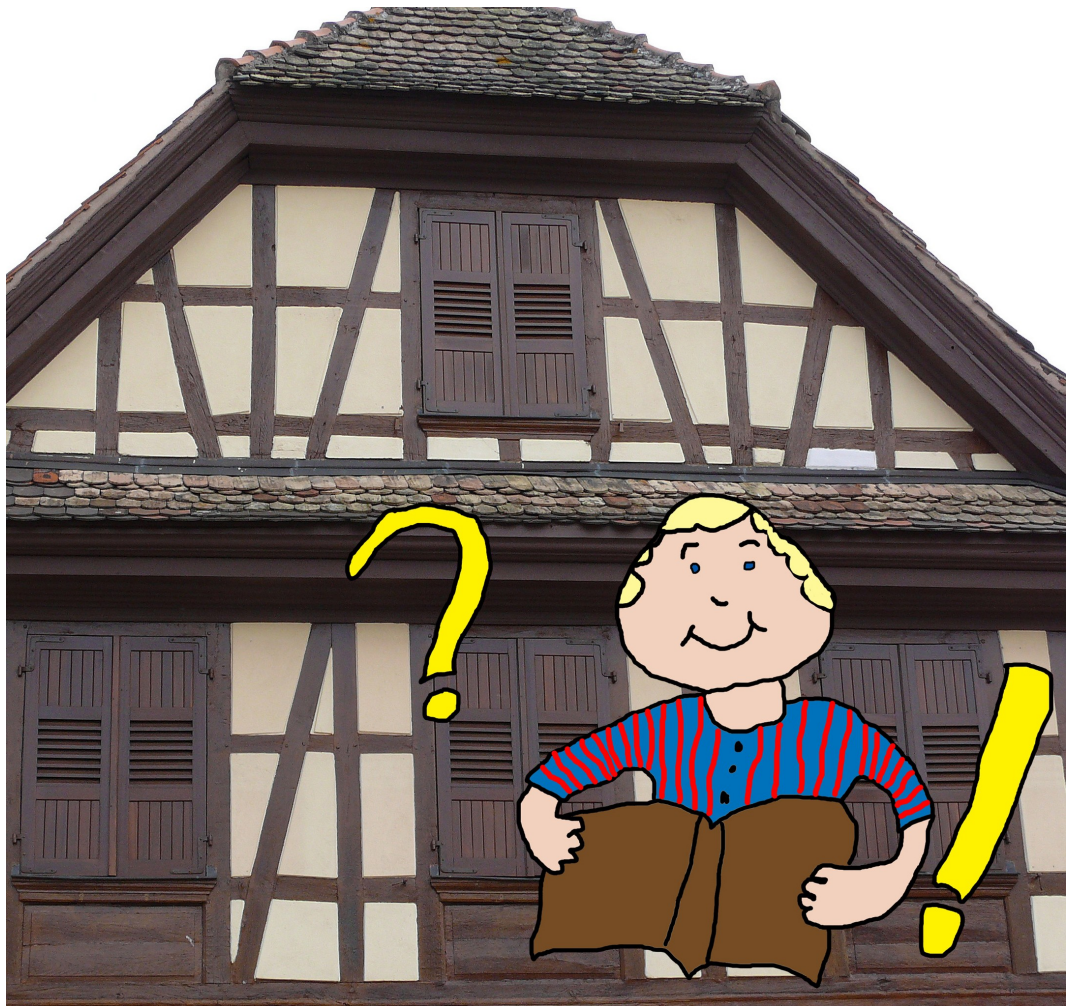


Photo by S.d.B.

## 35.) Learning Something

There was a little boy who liked learning his schoolwork and he did well, but one time he was having a hard time learning something.

He went to his mama for help, and she tried to explain to him what he couldn't figure out, but he still didn't understand. It was very hard for him for some reason.

His mother encouraged him, "Well, it might seem hard now, but don't worry about it. Later you will understand it. It will be alright. Later it will seem easy."

However, he really wanted to understand and learn it right then, so he went to his room and prayed.

Then he came back to his mama with a smile on his face and he said, "I asked Jesus to help me, and now I think I understand it! He always helps us when we ask Him."

His mommy showed him again what she had been trying to explain before and that time he understood it! —Because he had prayed and asked the Lord to help him.



Photo by Naomi

## 36.) Rain

There was a village that didn't have enough rain. For about three months there was no rain at all. The clouds that tried to form didn't rain down on the land. Instead they seemed to gather over the lake, and rain on it.

The lake didn't need more water, but the land was very dry and in great need of rain. So a man called Mr. Finny wanted to ask the Lord to do a miracle. The people in the town were getting discouraged, wondering if God could make the rain come. They needed it so much.

Mr. Finny went down on his knees and he told the Lord about it. He said, "Please, Lord, do a miracle and make it rain on the land."

When he prayed the clouds were hovering over the lake. It looked as if it was going to rain on the lake once again. Then before he got up from his prayer, he heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind. He looked out to see the whole sky was filled with black rain clouds, and it poured rain all over the land for the next two hours.



Photo by S.d.B.

### **37.) A Fallen Fence**

When Mr. Moody was a young boy, he remembers the first time he prayed and experienced Jesus answering him.

A heavy fence had fallen on top of him. He couldn't push it off and he couldn't get out. He was yelling for help as loud as he could, but no one could hear.

No one was around.

Then he remembered to ask Jesus to help him, and he prayed. Right after he prayed for Jesus to help him get out from under the fence, he pushed on it.

By a miracle he was able to move the whole fence and escape. He was safe and free again!

He remembered as he grew up how Jesus answers prayer, and that really helped him because later he became a wonderful witness for the Lord.

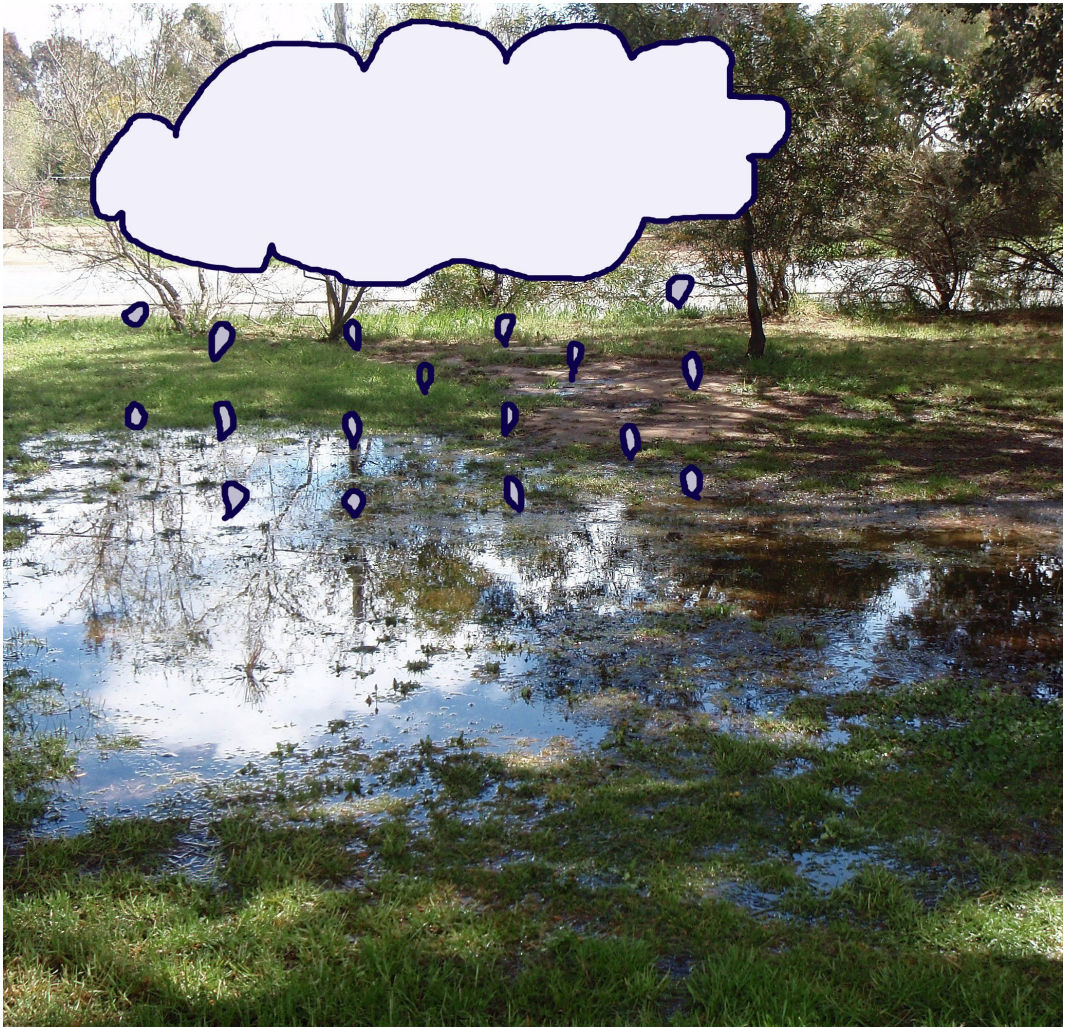


Photo by Chariane Quille



## **38.) Samuel Hick's Prayer for Rain**

Samuel Hick was a mighty man of faith. He believed that when he prayed, Jesus would answer—and he expected and waited for the answers.

One summer it was very hot, and the crops had suffered from the lack of rain. It was very difficult for the cattle to find enough food to eat. One weekend he was very much in prayer. All day he prayed with his whole heart, and kept going to look out the window.

The sky was completely blue with not even a hint of a cloud in the sky. Throughout the day Samuel Hick would look at the sky and return to continue praying. He was praying for rain to come that day.

Someone wondered what he was doing. He kept looking like he was concerned about something. Samuel Hick said,

"I am praying for rain. It's not here yet, but it is coming."

He knew the clouds and rain were coming. He just wanted to be able to see the moment they came. He knew God would answer and bring the rain. That night the sky was overcast, and the rain poured down. Everyone was so relieved and joyful! They got together and sang hymns of praise to the Lord.



Photo by S.d.B.

## 39.) Praying for the Wind to Come

Samuel Hick had promised to bring some corn flour to a meeting to share it with those there, but he needed to have the corn ground into flour. He was unable to get any corn ground because there hadn't been enough wind to work the windmills that ground the corn into flour.

It was almost time for the gathering so he took his bag of corn, went to the windmill, and said to the miller, "Please open up the sails to make the windmill go, so I can get this corn ground."

There was no wind blowing then, and there hadn't been for a long time, but Samuel Hick said, "You go spread the cloth to get the windmill going, and I will pray for God to send the wind."

So the miller went ahead and did it, and got his windmill all ready for wind. Samuel had prayed for wind and sure enough a breeze came immediately. He got all his corn ground into flour, thanked the miller and left. He brought the food to everyone who needed it.

Another neighbour saw the windmill turning. "Finally! Oh, good. I have some corn I need ground also." So he quickly went to the mill to get it ground, but there was no wind anymore. The wind had stopped. It had only blown because Samuel Hick had prayed, and God had brought it right then. The miller joked, "If you want the windmill to work, call for Samuel Hick to pray. That's the only way to get the wind."



Photo by S.d.B.

## 40.) John's Prayer

Every few months John the Preacher would have a large gathering of people come to listen to him.

They would travel for miles around to have this special time to listen to God's Word, to praise and to pray. There were so many people that they couldn't fit in a house or a building. They had to gather outside.

Finally when the day had come to meet together, the sky began to fill with thick rain clouds. It seemed like it was going to pour rain all over them, ending their meeting, and he wouldn't be able to preach.

If he was unable to preach, it would mean that people wouldn't be able to hear about Jesus. Those who had come to listen were wondering what to do, and it was starting to get confusing.

So John stood up and said with his loud voice over the confusion,

"Be still while I call upon God to stay the clouds!"

So he prayed a fervent prayer that God would keep away the rain so he could preach the Word.

While he was praying, that big rain-filled cloud that was coming closer and closer parted in the middle.

One half of the cloud went on one side of the gathering and the other half of the cloud went on the other side, and poured down rain.

Nothing poured down on top of the large group of people. The rain only fell on either side of the group of people.

The place they were all standing and sitting was completely dry!

They could continue with their meeting, praying, talking and worshipping the Lord.

The next morning when they weren't there it rained again, and that area of land was able to get the rain it needed. It all worked out wonderfully because they prayed.





## 41.) A Windy, Snowy Day

There was a man who needed wood to make a fire to heat the house for his family. They lived in Canada, where the winters can be very cold.

The only way for him to get the needed wood was to travel a distance away to where the wood could be cut down and chopped into firewood, and loaded onto a sled to bring across the snow back to his house.

It was a big job and he faced some challenges. He wasn't very strong, and also he didn't have very many warm clothes. He didn't have a horse or a sled either, so he borrowed them.

One neighbour gave him one horse to use, and another neighbor gave him another horse and a sled for his trip.

A good strong man then offered to go chop the wood down for him. Everything was all set.

There was snow on the ground in the morning, but the day was pleasant and calm. It looked just perfect for his journey, but about a quarter of a mile on his way a wind began to blow.

This wind had come every time after a snow fall and would blow the fallen snow all around, making snow drifts and piles all around.

The man was getting very cold as this wind was blowing and he was freezing cold. He knew that this wind would stir up the snow, and make it impossible to travel back to his home. So what could he do?

If he went back to his house now and cancelled his trip he didn't know when it would work out to borrow the horses and the sled again, or when the man would be available again to cut the wood since he wasn't so strong and needed help to do that.

He didn't know what to do.

He knew he had to have the wood or they would be too cold in their house. So there was only one thing to be done.

He prayed and said, "Oh, God, this is more than I am able to bear. Lord, help me. You can calm the storm. My family really needs this help."

Then just about fifteen minutes after he prayed, the wind stopped, and it was pleasant, and easy to travel.

He was able to go and get the wood and bring it back to his house. It was a miracle trip.

**Continued in Part 3**