

*A Gift of Faith Book*

7

**Part 1**

**Prayer Works!**  
**—1900s-2000s**

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7

# Prayer Works! —1900s-2000s

Written by: Chariane Quille  
and contributors

Cover photo: Curtis Peter van Gorder

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# Buckets of Rain

Martin and Elizabeth were missionaries in Indonesia. The water pump that brought water from the river to the village was broken, and it would be a long time until it could be fixed. They had a little baby, and needed lots of water to wash the diapers and take good care of him. It was the dry season when usually no rain fell.

The only water they had was some very muddy water that was difficult to get to, as the river was down a steep, rocky place. The pump could bring the water to their house, but to get it with a bucket was not easy, and there were many other people crowding around, also trying to fill their buckets with water.

Martin and Elizabeth prayed for water. Then a miracle happened. All of a sudden there was a big rainstorm, and the rain poured down heavily. It ran off their house roof so they could fill many buckets and pots with the clean rainwater.

It was pouring down so strongly that they filled every kind of container they could find in their house. When everything was filled, the rain stopped. The rainwater they had collected was enough to last them until the pump was fixed.



Photos by Chariane Quille

# Keys

(By David)

It was the summer of 1999, and we were on a witnessing trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the USA. The Lord provided a beautiful campground with a lake for us during our two-week stay.

One morning before heading into town to talk to people about Jesus, we all went down to the lake for a swim. After about an hour, our driver got out of the water, and upon searching for the keys to our van, discovered that he had left the keys to the van and the trailer in the pocket of his swimsuit during his swim. Now they were nowhere to be found and we were locked out of our trailer and van.

We all began searching in the shallow water and on the beach, but to no avail. Finally, we joined hands in a prayer circle and desperately prayed that we would find the keys.

After the prayer, Tim, our driver, dove blindly into a deep part of the lake, and with his eyes closed reached his hand out to the first place it touched—a patch of slimy seaweed. And when he came back up to the surface, both sets of keys were there in his hand. We all lifted our arms and praised the Lord for this amazing answer to prayer!





Photo by Jon Berg

# Teeth

An 11-year-old boy was riding his bike, but fell on his two front teeth, and cracked them. His parents prayed for him and asked specifically that the Lord would mend the cracks.

They saw the dentist and he took X-rays. The dentist said there weren't any cracks at all to be seen!

# Daddy's Thumb

(By Charles, 5, and Liam, 7)

Our daddy's thumb was hurting him and it was making it hard for him to move it, or to drive the car, or turn on taps easily.

It seemed it would be a problem for a long time. We prayed for him, and the next day he was completely better!



Photo by M. McNally

# The Warm Feather Quilt

(By Michelle M.)

It gets cold for the short winter in the part of Mexico where I lived for many years as a missionary. We had little funds and lived a frugal but joyful life. Having lived so many years as a volunteer missionary, I had learned that Jesus truly does “supply ALL of our needs” (Philippians 4:19) and that prayer is a living, working, daily experience.

I had thought how nice a white feather quilt would be to keep me warm, also not being as heavy as the many blankets I needed to use, so I prayed for one and then forgot about it. A while later someone had given us many bags of clothing and other items. There were several missionaries working together and I liked to let others go and choose what they needed before I did.

When I finally took a turn to look and choose what I wanted, in the very last bag where I looked I found what I had prayed for and forgotten about! There was a beautiful, warm white feather quilt. The amazing thing is that everyone said they’d looked through everything and had never even seen it. It was a precious touch of our Saviour’s love and care!



## **Puzzle and Speakers**

(By Liam, 7)

We had been praying for and wanting to get speakers and a nice jigsaw puzzle for me. One day a lady was moving from her house to another house far away, and she came along and gave us some things she no longer needed—and they were exactly what we needed. She gave us boxes of all sorts of stuff, and included in the items - was a jigsaw puzzle and good, working speakers!

## **The Kind Lady and the Clown Costumes**

(By Charles 5, and Liam, 7)

We had been praying for cloth to make some clown costumes. Then one day when Mummy was cleaning up she found a piece of paper advertising and offering boxes of free cloth, from a lady who wanted to kindly share it.

We phoned her and she brought us all the cloth we needed, and even more! Then she even helped us to sew part of our clown costumes too.



Photos by Curtis Peter van Gorder (forefront) & Chariane Quille (background)

# The Chicken

(By Charles, 5)

There was a hole that the chickens dug in our neighbour's yard. It was a tunnel under the fence, and it went from the neighbour's yard to our yard.

Then one of the chickens wandered out, accidentally.

She explored the hole that led from the neighbour's yard to our yard, and found herself in our yard, away from the other chickens.

The chicken couldn't find the way out of our yard, and wished she were back in our neighbour's yard. Then we prayed, and as soon as we did, the chicken found her way back. We put a piece of wood to block up the hole so she wouldn't get lost in our yard again.





Photo by Jon Berg/ Microsoft Publisher clip art

# Address

(By Daniella)

Last year we had met some people at the beach who were very interested in talking with us. We talked with them about the Lord for a long time. Then they left and we didn't hear from them for quite a while, even though we had given them our address and invited them to visit.

To our surprise one day they suddenly showed up at our house. One of them said that they had lost our address, but then he prayed for help.

Sometime later he bought a second-hand car from someone in Paris, and when he looked in the glove compartment, what did he find? A paper with our address on it! They were happy to be able to visit us and learn more about Jesus and the Bible.



## **Miracle Twins**

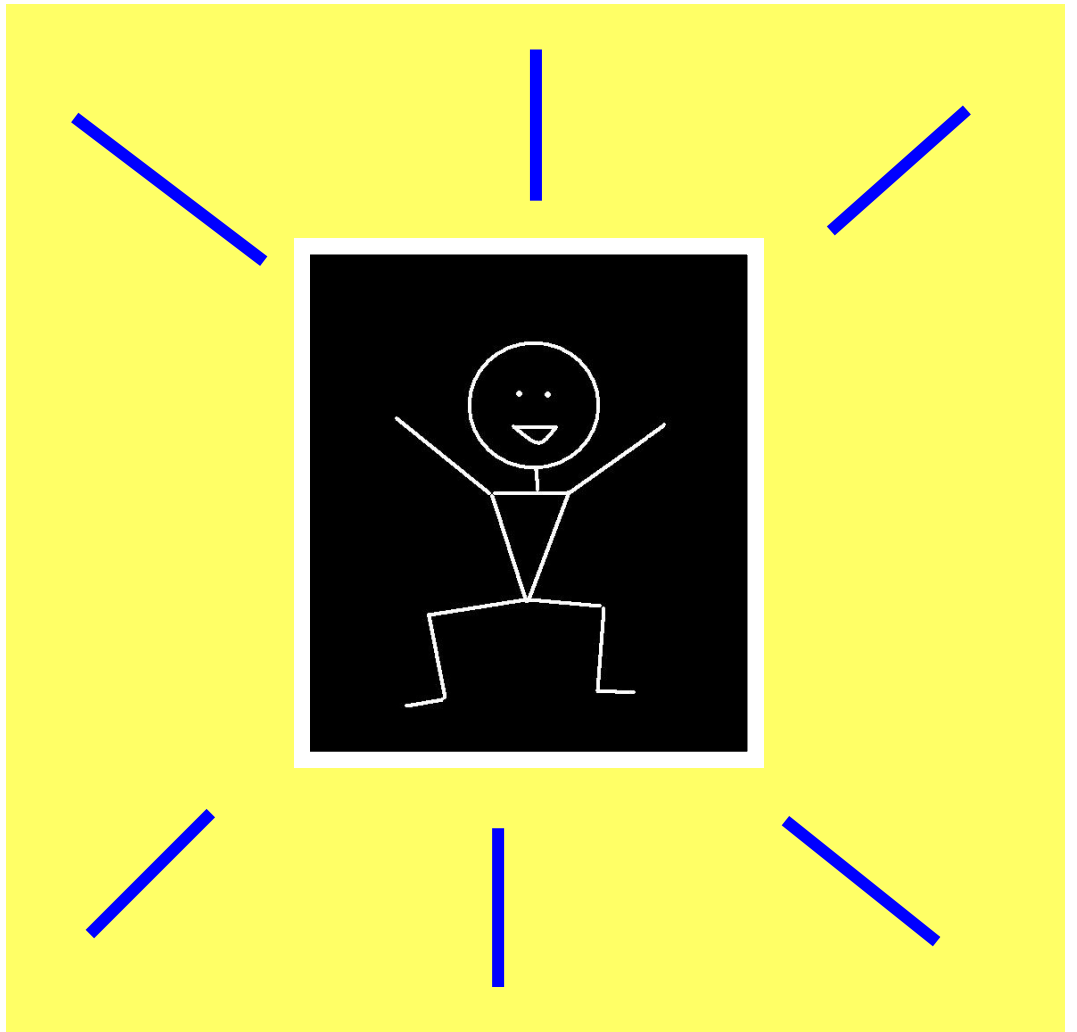
(By Daniella)

Harmony and her husband wanted to have a baby. I prayed for Harmony to get pregnant, and a few weeks later she did! And not only one baby, but they found out that Jesus answered their prayer even more than they expected. He gave them twins! They are so happy.

## **Rain for a Ranch**

An owner of a ranch asked his friends to please pray that it would rain at his ranch. It was in an area that normally suffered regular droughts.

It seemed like an impossible request, but the Lord answered and it rained so much that they had to ask their friends to then stop praying for rain, as there was more than enough!



# Healing from Head to Toe

(By Dina Ellens)

Lying on a hospital bed, my friend was told by doctors that he would never be able to use his right leg again. It had already been a week since he'd had an accident that had left him unable to move his legs normally.

With tears in his eyes, he began praying to God to save him and restore movement to his right leg. Suddenly he felt energy entering his body from the top of his head. Instantly, he knew that God was touching him.

It was a feeling of goodness he had never experienced before in his life. The energy entered slowly and moved down through his body until finally it reached his toes. Then he tried to move his right leg to see if it would move. Sure enough, it moved just the way he wanted it to!



Photo by Chariane Quille/ Art by Rocky Rumble

# The Watch

(By Carmel)

I was out one day in India, a few years ago, with my friend, Rachel. I wanted to meet her friend who had a store that sold bags, and who sometimes helped our work.

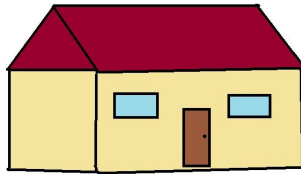
While checking the time, I noticed that my watch had stopped and was half-an-hour off. I prayed a silent prayer to have a good, working watch. By that time, we had crossed the street and entered the store.

We had a good time talking to this friend. Then just before we left the store she asked if anyone needed a new watch, as she just found one in her store.

“Oh, yes! What a miracle,” said Rachel as she was pointing to me. “Her watch had just stopped working while coming over here.”

The Lord had answered prayer so quickly.





Photos by S.d.B. (t-l), Jon Berg (t-r & b-r), & Curtis Peter van Gorder (b-r)/ Art by Chariane Quille

# God Supplies a House for John and Sarah

(By Dina Ellens, John and Sara)

John and Sarah, long-time missionaries in Thailand, needed a house. They had been the last ones in a missionary centre that had closed down.

They looked for a place but could not find anything that suited their needs. So they went back to the landlord and asked if they could stay at the centre, and they would look after the place till the landlord found someone to rent the house.

Because the landlord appreciated their missionary efforts, he graciously allowed them to stay there rent-free for two years, as no one had wanted to rent the place. However, near the end of two years it seemed like one person wanted to rent the place.

John and Sarah went to the Lord and He gave them a beautiful promise:

“I am going to bring you to a very special place where you will be able to continue to do your work for Me. Keep looking to Me and I will bring you to the perfect place where you can have all your needs met.

“So do not fear this time but look on it in great joy, for I am continuing to use you and to keep you both. So remember, in all your ways acknowledge Me and I shall bring it to pass. It is not I maybe, or I might, but it is I shall. Please remember that. They that put their trust in Me will find a place of rest. That not only means spiritually, but physically too.”

The landlord’s representative came to the door and regretfully announced that the landlord needed the house back. John and Sarah had thought they would have at least two months’ notice so they would have time to find a new place. However, that was not the case.

“I’m sorry,” the representative said, “the renter wants the house right away, so you will need to move out in one week.”

“One week!” John and Sarah exclaimed, “How can we possibly find a new house, pack, and move in one week?”

However, there was no way around it. The landlord’s representative apologized for the short notice and the inconvenience it was causing. John and Sarah prayed for a miracle, and then started making the necessary preparations and packing up their belongings.

Shortly after this, the landlord's representative got in touch with them again. "The landlord's family got together to discuss your situation," he said, "We've known you for a long time and you are doing a good work. We felt so bad to have to ask you to leave the house, which you've also taken good care of."

Then he leaned forward with a big smile. "They came up with a solution for you. The house they own across the street had been occupied by a lady for ten years, but she just happens to be moving, so the house is available. You're welcome to move there. And," he added with a smile, "with the same arrangement to begin with—rent-free."

John and Sarah were amazed at how the Lord had engineered the whole situation for them so that they could stay in the same neighbourhood. They praised and thanked the Lord for this wonderful answer to prayer.

The house across the street is more suitable for them and much easier to manage. After a few months of living rent-free, they signed a five-year contract with a very good rent, so they don't have to worry about having to move again on short notice.

God is truly a wonderful Father and never takes anything away but He gives us something better!

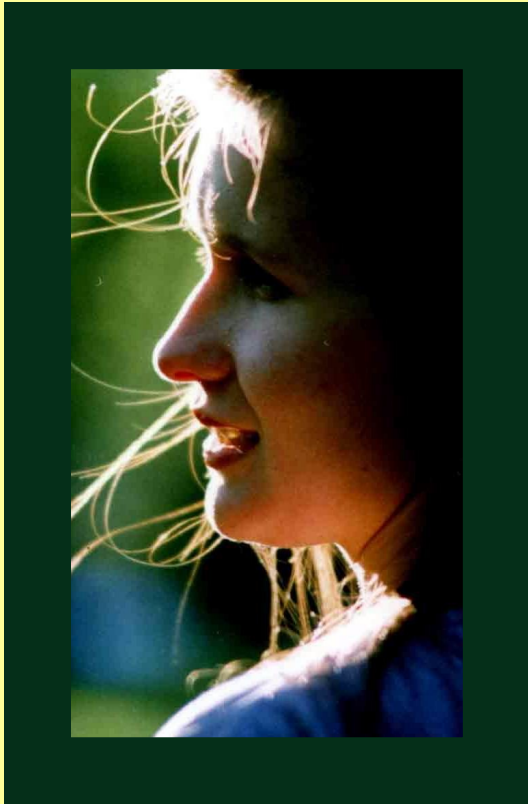


Photo by Jon Berg

# **A Shopping Miracle**

(By Dina Ellens)

A friend of mine told me this true story. One day, she was shopping at a busy mall. She happened to overhear one of the shop owners complain that she had a very bad headache.

As my friend talked to her, the lady explained that she'd had this headache continually for quite a few months and every time there was loud noise, such as hammering, it would get very bad.

“Can I pray for you?” my friend asked, and the lady agreed.

Afterwards, she was completely healed! My friend continued her shopping and as she was looking at some clothes on a rack, she heard the lady telling her helpers,

“My headache is gone! It's really gone!”



Photo by S.d.B./ Art by Fleur Celeste & coloured by Mia

# Mowing Lawns and Miracles

(By Dina Ellens)

Simon did handyman jobs around his neighbourhood. One day he was mowing lawns and a lady walked by and made a comment. Simon looked at her and saw she had a bandage on her wrist.

“What’s wrong?” he asked. The lady replied that she had arthritis. So Simon asked if he could pray for her.

The lady looked a little surprised but answered, "Certainly."

So Simon started saying, "Everyone knows Jesus died for our sins but not many know He died for our sicknesses."

She removed her bandage and Simon held her wrists and prayed for her. Afterwards, he asked the lady to move her hands and to her surprise she felt no pain. "Is this permanent?" she asked.

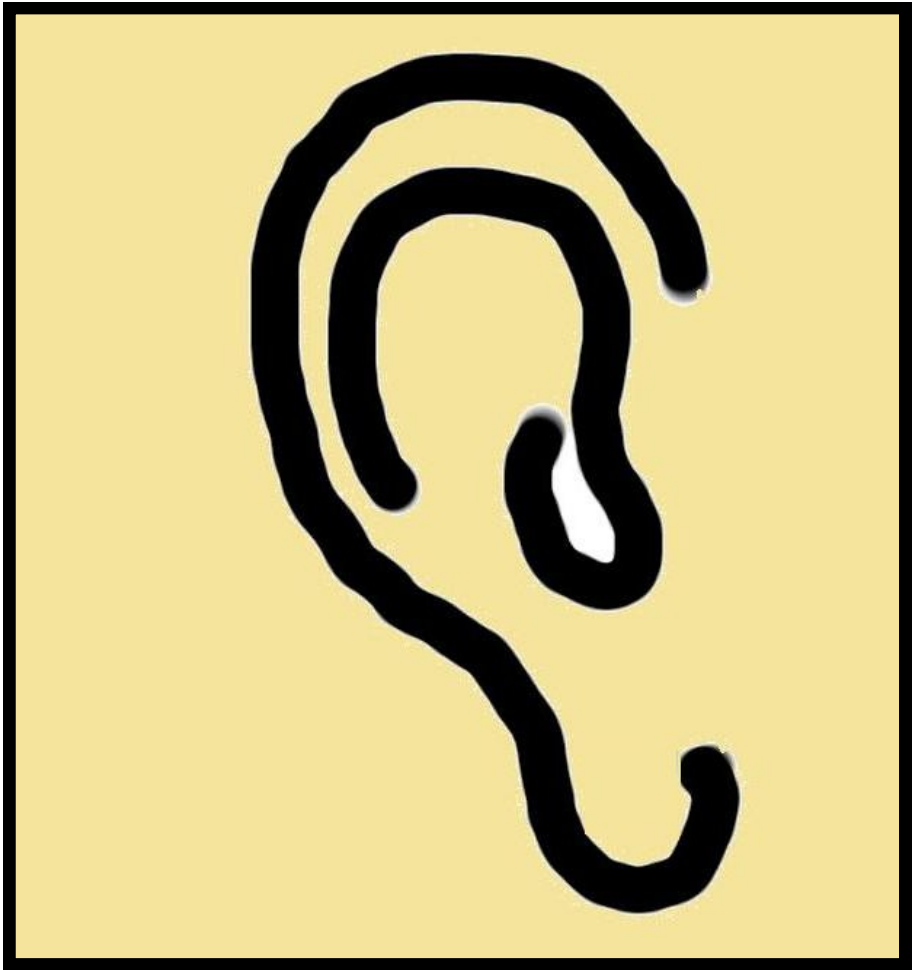
And Simon answered, "Of course!"

When she went to put on her bandage again, Simon said to her, "You don't need that anymore, do you?"

The lady replied, "I suppose I don't. Old habit I guess."

With that, she walked off chirpy as anything. That just shows that healing can be for you anytime, and anywhere you are!





Art by Rocky Rumble

# Hearing

(By Dina Ellens)

One day my friend was telling some friends about how Jesus had restored a lady's hearing in her right ear even though she no longer had an eardrum in that ear. After hearing the story, one of them brought her son who'd had a severe ear infection several months previously.

The doctor had told her that her son would lose his hearing as a result of the infection. True enough, her son had very little hearing in his right ear. He couldn't even hear it if someone spoke directly into his ear or snapped their fingers loudly next to his ear.

As my friend encouraged this lady that nothing is impossible with God, he proceeded to command healing in Jesus' Name, just as he had done for the woman before who had no eardrum.

Immediately, there was an improvement in the boy's hearing. After less than ten minutes, her son said in startled surprise, "Mum! The hearing in my right ear is just as good as my left ear!"

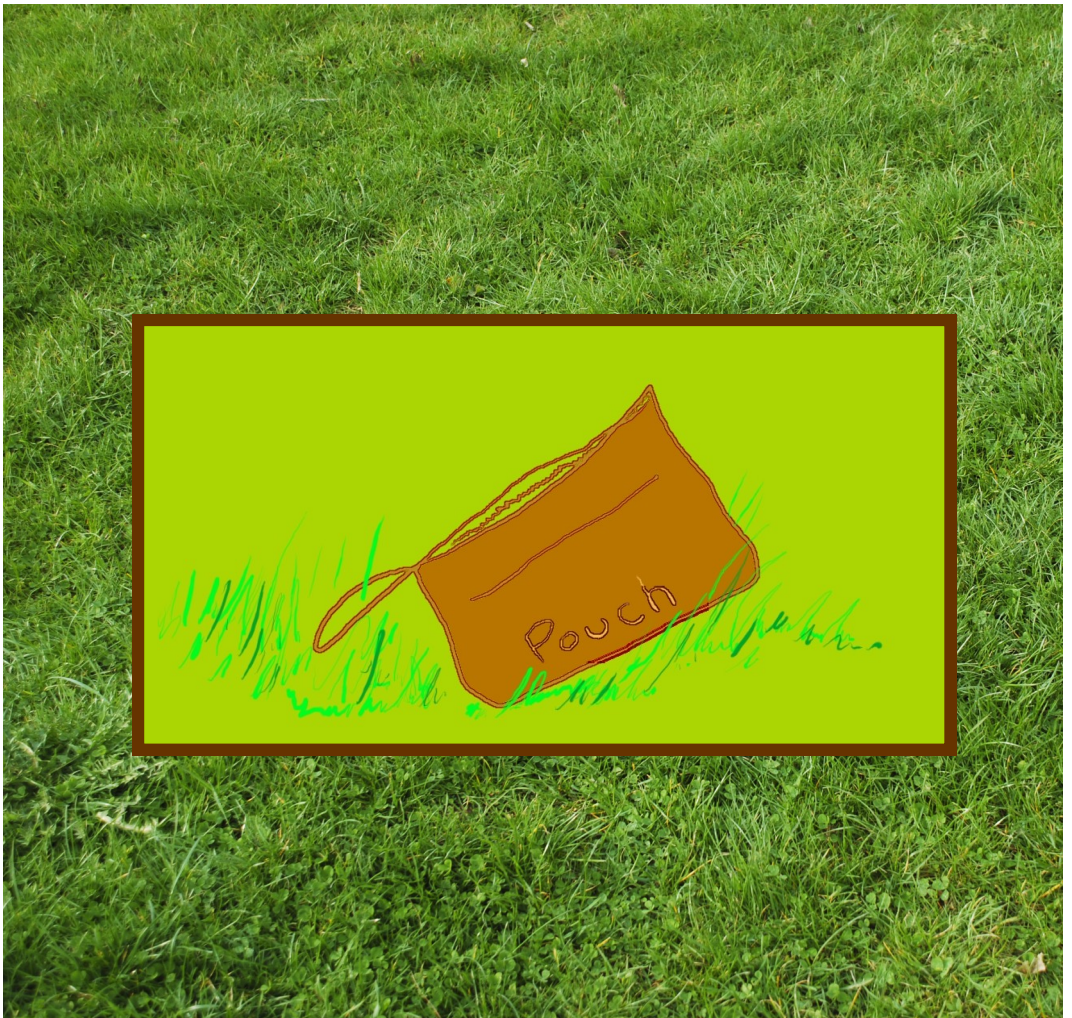


Photo by S.d.B./ Art by Rocky Rumble

# The Lost Pouch

(By Daniella)

One day we went to a different city to see the doctor, and since we had some time left afterwards, we went to the centre of town. There is a big place—the “Comedie” as it’s called—a very crowded and lively place, with a little park beside it, and lots of people.

We found people to talk to about the Lord, and talked for quite a while with one woman, who then received Jesus as her Saviour.

When the evening came, we headed back to the car. That is when Michel discovered that his leather pouch with all his papers, chequebook, money, car keys, medicine from the doctor, and everything else he carried, was gone!

“When and where did you have it last?” I asked him, and he remembered having it in the park when we had just arrived in the centre hours ago!

I was tempted to get discouraged, but the Lord helped me to pray and to remember that He is in control and that I should just thank God for everything, even for this loss! So we did!

We walked back to the park, a very busy place with people coming and going all the time.

“There’s no way we can find it here,” I thought. But to our astonishment, there it was! It was laying two meters from the pathway in the short green grass, for everybody to see.

Michel picked it up, and couldn’t believe his eyes. Everything, even the money and chequebook, was still in it! Oh we sang and praised the Lord that day extra strong, I’ll tell you!

# The Miracle Camera Lid

(By Daniella)

When we were touring Germany, we took photos with Michel's old Minolta camera. One day I lost the lid for the front, which protects the lens.

We went to a shop and asked if they had one like that, but they told us that it was an old model, and that we had to order it.

Since we were travelling, we couldn't order it, as it might take longer to be sent to that shop than we were staying in that place. And anyway, it was quite expensive. We kept asking in many shops, but were always told the same thing.

Finally we had to just put a sock over the lens to protect it, but that wasn't good enough against humidity.

One day I realized that I hadn't prayed for a lid.

So we prayed and sure enough a few days later when we were in town and on our way back to the car, what do you think I saw on the ground?

A camera lid!

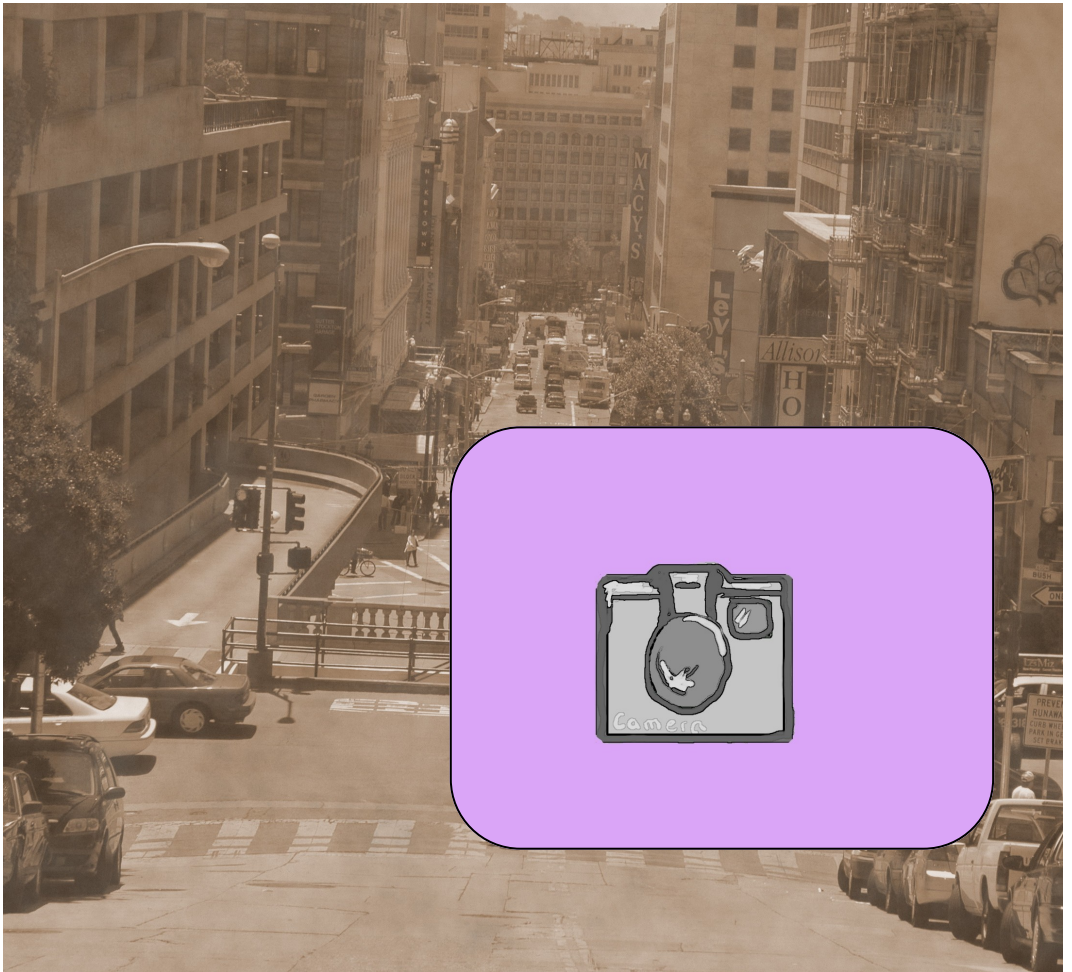


Photo by Jon Berg/ Art by Rocky Rumble

I picked it up, and thought “It might not fit. I’d better take it home and clean it and see, before telling Michel about it, so he won’t be disappointed just in case it doesn’t fit.”

So I took it home, washed it, dried it, and then tried it, and... It fit! It was even a better brand, a Nikon!

In all my life I have never found a camera lid before or since then! While the one time that I did find one, it was exactly what we needed and had been looking for--and was for free!

Isn’t Jesus wonderful?!





Photo by S.d.B.

# Car Belt Just in Time

(By Daniella)

When we were in Germany visiting family and friends, the VW camper bus's distribution belt started getting quite old and weak. We knew that we needed to get a new one, before it was too late.

We asked in several shops whenever we saw a VW shop or garage. They always said that they were out of this sort of belt, since it's a very old one. They said they would have to order one, and that it would take quite a while to be sent, and it would be expensive.

We knew that we had to get one, and the sooner the better! So we prayed and asked the Lord to help us find one.

Two nights later we were singing in restaurants to meet people and to finance our journey. Michel was too tired after that to drive back to the friends we were staying with, and so we parked somewhere and slept in the van.

The next morning, when we opened the curtains, what did we see? We were parked right in front of a VW garage that we hadn't seen before. We asked to meet the manager to ask if he could help and maybe even give a discount, since we did volunteer work.

The manager was a very kind and sincere man, who took time to listen and looked at the pictures of our work in our brochure.

He checked, and sure enough they still had one such belt left! He offered the installation for free, and 15 minutes later all was well.

We left him something to read and a CD with our songs and he was very happy, just as we were! Sometimes we try so hard instead of asking the Lord to help us. He is more than willing to help.

# A Shelter in the Time of a Storm

(By Daniella)

There was literally a river of water in front of our house at 11:00 pm, (and a red alert in the whole south of France, with schools and highways closed) just half-an-hour before we had to leave to go into the city, which usually takes one hour.

Several big thunderstorms had already passed and we were preparing in case the house got flooded.

However, we had to drive some of our friends to the bus that took them to Romania. They had already bought the tickets and chosen this way of travelling, because it was cheaper and they were able to take more luggage.

We wondered what to do. I prayed and asked the Lord if it was even His will for us to go that night, and I got the answer by being reminded of the song, "Jesus is a shelter in the time of storm". This gave me the faith to go on.

We decided to send out a prayer request for others to pray desperately for a miracle. And sure enough, half-an-hour later the storm calmed and the water went down.

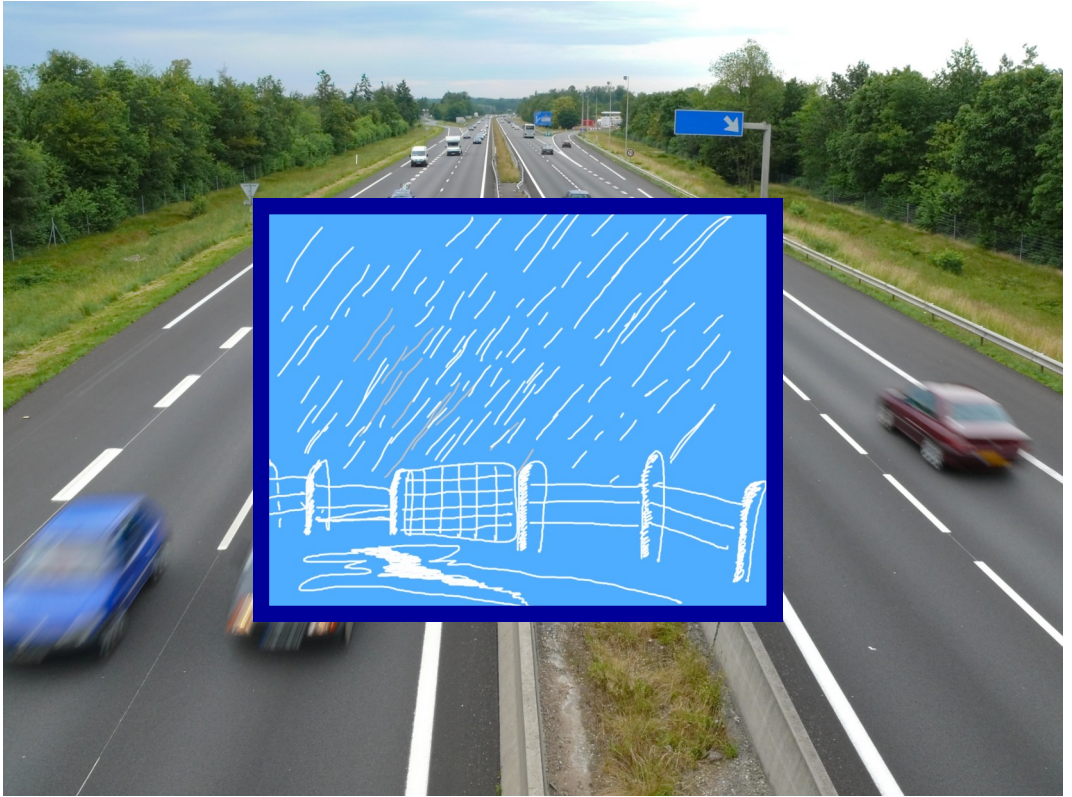


Photo by S.d.B./ Art by Rocky Rumble

We called to ask if the bus was even going to go, and were told, that yes, so far it looked like it. We got into the camper and drove to the highway only to find out that it was closed.

We took the small roads and none of them were flooded, which was a surprise since we were told that all the roads had been flooded. The Lord cleared the roads for us, and so we kept driving. We even arrived at the bus stop early!

Then the rain stopped completely, so we were able to put the luggage on the bus without it getting wet.

The driver, when asked how he would do it, with all the highways and national roads closed answered, "I have driven busses for more than 20 years, and there is always a way." He smiled.

Later we heard that all the flights and trains were cancelled, so it was a good idea that our friends did take the bus.

They arrived safely to their destination without any trouble!



Photo by Jon Berg (t-l) & Chariane Quille (all others)

# Enough Food for All

(By Paloma)

I had just decided to be a missionary and serve the Lord, and I was staying at a camp with nearly 40 others, to study the Bible. We learned to pray and to have faith in God's supply. We didn't have very much, but were happy to know the Lord's love, and to receive training in how to be a missionary.

It was my job to serve the food. We had a large pot that hung over the fire, where we cooked potatoes, greens, and the small quantity of whatever meat there was available.

It was a cold, rainy day and the food wasn't abundant. To add to the distress, a group of 15 more men, who were doing construction on a nearby school for the children, showed up at the camp. They were wet, cold and very hungry.

Since I was serving the food, I couldn't help but wonder how we were all going to eat that day. Very worried, I went to my overseer and told him,

"Everyone is going to go hungry if we feed all these people. There just isn't enough."



Calmly, he told me not to worry, but to keep dishing out the food and filling up the plates so each one had a generous portion. That pot was emptying fast and there was still a line of hungry young men to serve. We prayed for a miracle.

I kept serving, trying not to look at the diminishing food. The spoon was already scraping the bottom. But I kept on serving out just one more spoonful. There was always one more spoonful.

Suddenly, everyone had a full plate so I served myself the very last portion, and then there was no more.

Everyone had food that day!

# A Whole Loaf of Bread

(By Dina Ellens)

Many years ago in Russia, there was a famine and many people were without food. One old grandmother was helping to care for her three grandchildren.

She knitted socks all day long to try to exchange them for food for them. But it was very hard to even find any food to exchange for the socks.

One day, the last little bit of food in the house had been eaten. There had been one piece of dry crusty bread for each of them and that was all they had for lunch.

The grandmother was very sad but she tried not to let the children see how worried she was. Instead, she called all the children to come and when they did, they all knelt down together to pray.

The grandmother felt like they had come to the end of their resources and there was no one who could help them now but Jesus. So the three little children and their grandmother prayed a really desperate prayer.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Everyone said a prayer and when it was the little girl's turn, she said,

“Jesus, please send us something to eat for dinner. And please, Jesus, let it not be just a crust of bread but a whole loaf of bread!”

Everyone marvelled when they heard her prayer because nobody had seen a whole loaf of bread for a very long time. It was like asking for birthday cake! After that, everyone went about their day.

When dinnertime came, there was still no food. But the little girl, full of faith, went up to her grandmother and asked her, “Grandmamma, did you sharpen the bread knife already?”

In those days, people didn't have sliced bread; everyone sliced their bread on a cutting board with a big bread knife.

Then the grandmother smiled and took out the cutting board and sharpened the bread knife.

The evening was cold and dark and still there was nothing for dinner!

Then suddenly there came a knock at the door. A man stood at their door, covered in snow. It was an old family friend and he had walked nearly twenty miles through the snow to reach their hut.

Grandmother welcomed him in and asked,  
“What brings you here tonight, old friend?”

The man answered, “Something impressed upon me that you all desperately needed food and that I should bring you some right away!”

He then bent down and spoke to the children:

“Can you guess what I have brought you, dear ones?”

“I know!” said the little girl with a smile.

“Oh?” said the man. “Then tell me what I’ve brought.”

“You’ve brought us a whole loaf of bread!” she exclaimed.

The man looked at them in amazement as he pulled a big loaf of crusty brown bread from his bag.

“How did you know that’s what I brought?”

Then the children excitedly told the man how they had prayed that afternoon and the little girl had asked Jesus for not just a slice of bread but for a whole loaf.

Then all of the people in the hut knelt and thanked Jesus for His wonderful care for those who believe.

Although they only had bread for dinner that night, what a wonderful meal it was!

Especially because they knew that Jesus had sent it in answer to their prayers and that He would always take care of them, no matter what!

**Continued in Part 2**