

A Gift of Faith Book

7

Part 2

Prayer Works!
—1900s-2000s

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7

Prayer Works! —1900s-2000s

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and contributors

Cover photo: Curtis Peter van Gorder

www.nurture-inspire-teach.com

Story Titles

- Buckets of Rain
- Keys
- Teeth
- Daddy's Thumb
- The Warm Feather Quilt
- Puzzle and Speakers
- The Kind Lady and the Clown Costumes
- The Chicken
- Address
- Miracle Twins
- Rain for a Ranch
- Healing from Head to Toe
- The Watch
- God Supplies a House for John and Sarah
- A Shopping Miracle
- Mowing Lawns and Miracles
- Hearing
- The Lost Pouch
- The Miracle Camera Lid
- Car Belt Just in Time
- A Shelter in the Time of a Storm
- Enough Food for All
- A Whole Loaf of Bread
- A Hotel Room
- The Walkman
- Moving
- Milk for Breakfast
- Volkswagen Van
- Snowsuits
- Buzzing Mosquitoes
- Happy and Healthy
- Things Not Lost
- Walking on the Water?
- Computer

- **On Time Again**
- **Printer**
- **Breakfast**
- **Socks and Shoes**
- **Paul's Asthma**
- **A Leg Grown to the Right Size**
- **Motor Home Camping Trip**
- **Jesus Knew About the Toy Hammer**
- **A Little Toy Man**
- **The Toy Boat**
- **Lego Visor Helmet**
- **The New Red Ball**
- **The Rain**
- **The Toy Siren Fixed**
- **Bibles to Missionaries**
- **Camping Out**
- **Gift Bags**
- **Perfect Sweater**
- **Curtains**
- **Fisher-Price Toys**
- **The Healing of My Back**
- **100 Pesos**
- **The Missing Clamp**
- **Winter Jackets**
- **The Miracle Fruit**
- **Speaking the Language**
- **Wood Stove**
- **Fan**
- **Washing Machine**
- **The Lost Toy**
- **Finding the Lost Car Keys**
- **Making Tea**
- **Miracle Egg**
- **Ten Dollars**
- **Flying Food**
- **Egyptian Tank**

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**Closed
for
Repairs**

A Hotel Room

(By Marc)

I was travelling in the winter in Canada. It was a very cold day and I was supposed to meet someone in a certain town. But when I arrived in the town, he was nowhere in sight.

This was before the days of cell phones. I did not know anyone in this town. I prayed and asked the Lord to show me where I could stay for the night.

Suddenly I felt as if someone was moving my head to the right. I saw a hotel right in front of me. The neon sign was off, indicating that they were already closed for the night.

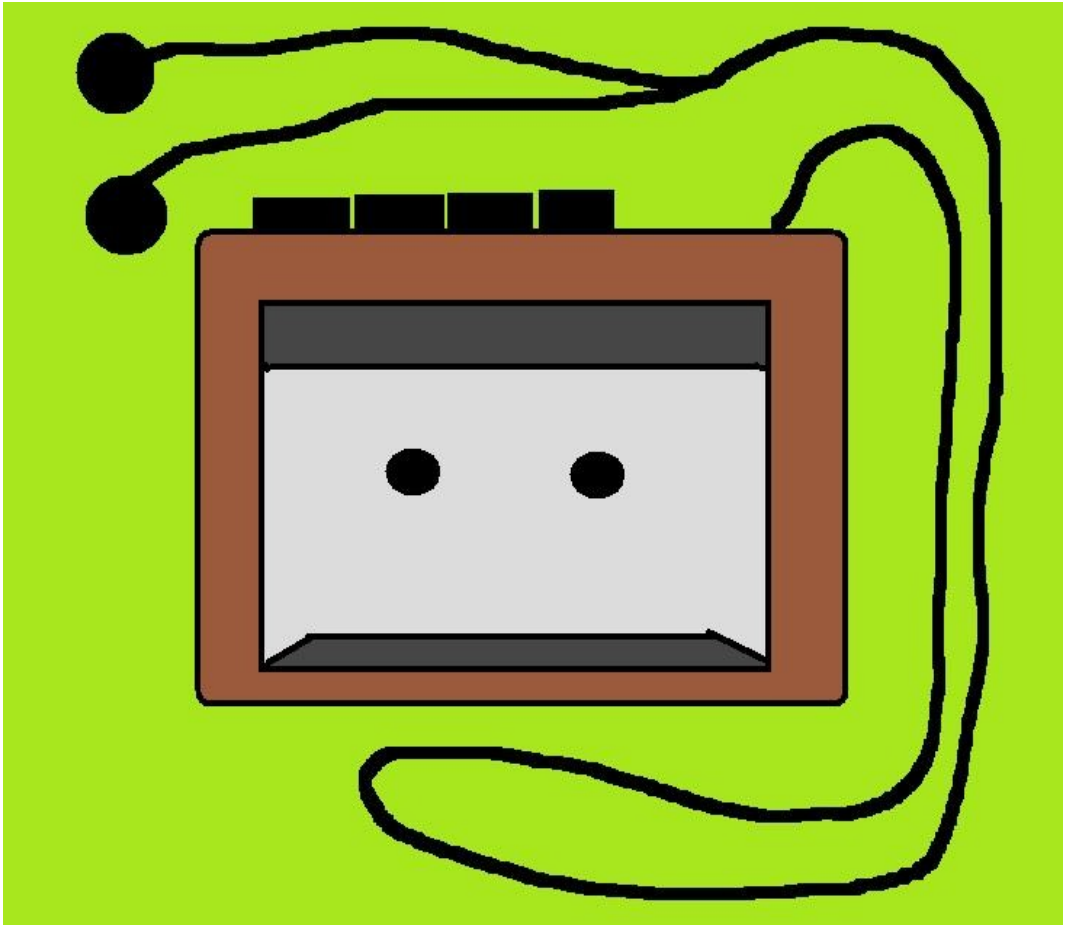
I went to the hotel anyway, and the door was unlocked.

I walked in and saw this old couple sitting there watching TV. They said the hotel was closed for repair.

I told them I was a missionary and needed a place to stay for the night.

The old man said, “Sure, we will give you a room for the night,” and he gave me the key to a room and invited me to come back and watch the movie they were watching.

To my surprise, they were watching 'The Bible'.



Art by Chariane Quille

The Walkman

(By Bruce Bigelow)

As I lay in bed to go to sleep I asked the Lord to supply me with a Walkman*. I told him I didn't have the funds to buy one, and I could use it to listen to music and Bible tapes that would glorify Him and inspire me.

The next day I was out on business, and I walked up to the post office to collect our mail. On top of the phone booth nearby was a Walkman with earphones, and nobody was around.

I took the Walkman inside the post office and asked if anyone had reported a missing Walkman.

They said, "No," and took my phone number in case someone came looking for it. I was absolutely thrilled at how quickly the Lord answered my prayers for a Walkman complete with batteries and earphones the very next day after I had prayed for it.

The following afternoon I got a call from the person who lost the Walkman. My heart sank a bit, but I knew it was his so I made arrangements to return it.

The person who lost it was a Korean student enrolled at a Bible college. When I met him I explained to him that I had just been praying for a Walkman, and the very next day I found his at the post office.

I also explained to him about our missionary work.

After talking for awhile he told me that I should just keep the Walkman, because it didn't have a record function which he wanted, and he said he would buy one with that function on it.

So in the end, the Lord did supply my need, and blessed my honesty as well.

(*Walkman: A small, mobile tape recorder for playing cassette tapes.)

Moving

A team of three missionaries had only five days left to move from their house. They needed to pack everything and organize all the details. It was quite a challenge ahead of them.

The weather was an obstacle too. In their area it would get so rainy on some days that they literally couldn't do anything outdoors, much less carry furniture. When it was very rainy, the roads were nearly washed away, which would make using a truck to transport their belongings out of the question.

They prayed and Jesus told them that even though they needed to move, and there was no way around it, that He would help them each step of the way. So they prayed fervently, claiming God's promises and the power of Heaven to help them.

Amazingly, during those days while they were moving, the weather was fine. The days would usually begin with very black clouds and heavy rain, but then they'd pray and the rain would stop, and the sun would shine.

And on the day they needed to move and transport the most things, there was no rain at all!

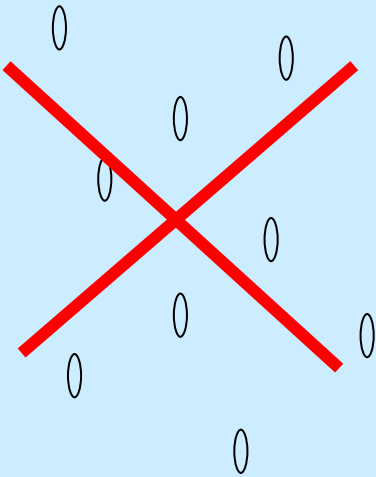
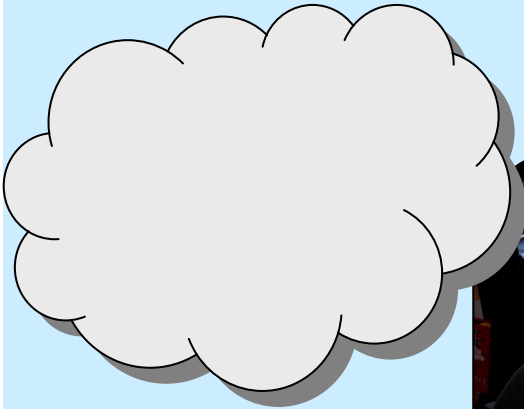


Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder/ Microsoft Publisher clip art

Another miracle was that on one day when they loaded the truck with all their furniture and belongings, the driver found out that the gearbox was jammed.

They didn't know whether the Lord was trying to show them something or why He'd allowed it to happen, so they prayed together and listened to what the Lord wanted to say about it.

Jesus showed them to just pray for the gearbox, and when they did, activating the power of Heaven by claiming God's promises in faith, then the gearbox immediately worked.

The wonderful miracle of the power of faith-filled prayer was the fact that they were able to pack and move safely in only four days!



Photo & art by Chariane Quille

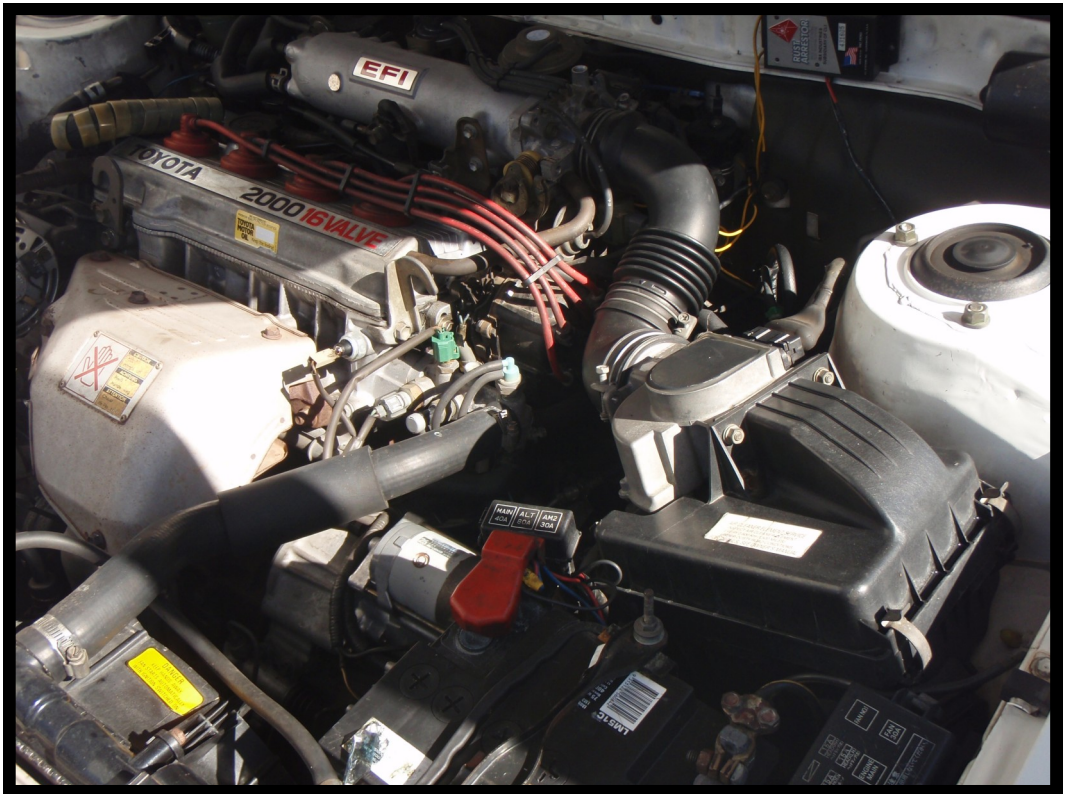
Milk for Breakfast

A travelling evangelist, with his wife and four children, were staying at a trailer park. One morning they sat down to give thanks for breakfast, even though all they had to eat was dry cereal.

They didn't have milk, or any money to buy some right then. Grateful for at least something to eat, they planned to just use water for their cereal.

However, Jesus wanted to provide something better for the children. Before they poured the water on their dry cereal, they heard the PA system paging them to come to the office of the trailer park for a letter.

The father went right away and picked up the letter. When he opened it, there was \$10.00 inside it. The grocery store was on the corner and so they had milk for breakfast!



Wait! Here! This is for you!

Volkswagen Van

A team of missionaries needed to get their vehicle working again. They prayed for the Lord to do the miracle and supply all that was needed for their Volkswagen van. They were able to get a good engine for their van, but there was still one more part that was needed. It was a little, inexpensive tube.

They went to all the Volkswagen dealers in the area, but no one had the part on hand. In fact, they said they had been out of stock of that particular part for a couple of months. It would take several months before they could get it, because it would have to be imported.

The team at the dealers phoned some friends to ask them to pray for a miracle, because they really needed that last part, so their van could work. Without much else they could do, the team started walking home.

Suddenly someone came running after them, calling out, "Wait! Here! This is for you!" And he had in his hand the very part for the van's engine that they had prayed for!

This person wasn't even one of the people that they had talked to about their need. How did he know? The only way to explain it is that God answers prayer!

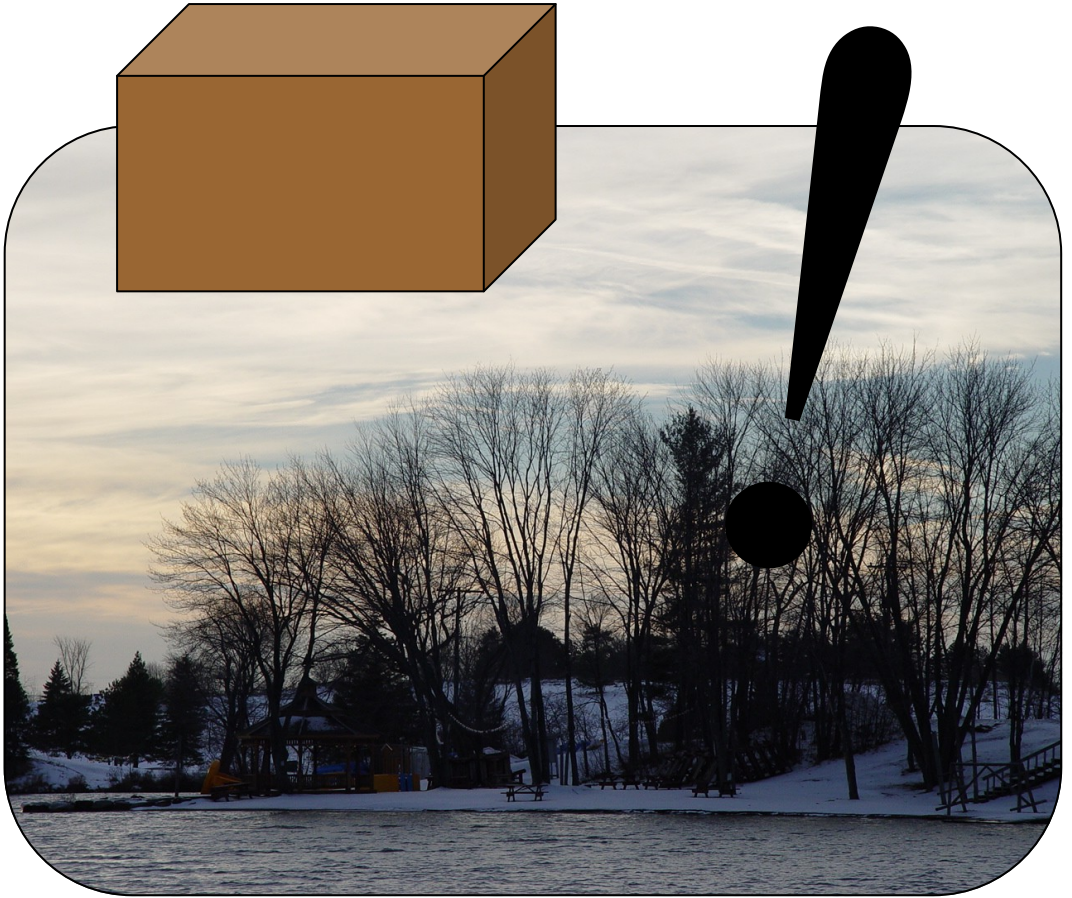


Photo by M. McNally/ Art by Chariane Quille

Snowsuits

As winter approached, a family in Finland with four young children were all in need of new snowsuits. They prayed for the Lord to supply this need, as it would be quite costly to buy them.

They had previously sent a letter to a company, to see if they could donate any children's clothes. This family hadn't specified in the letter exactly what was needed, they just asked for clothes in general.

However, a few days later, a big box arrived that was sent by the person they wrote. It was full of snowsuits! The children got what they needed, and there were even extras that this family shared with others.



Photo by Jon Berg

Buzzing Mosquitoes

A lady wanted to have some quiet time talking to Jesus. She went out to her balcony to read, pray, and hear from the Lord. But she was being disturbed by bothersome mosquitoes that were buzzing around her.

Then she prayed, "Jesus, if You want me to hear from You now, then You're going to have to keep the mosquitoes from biting me."

She then opened her notebook to write down whatever Jesus wanted to tell her. And for the next thirty minutes during her time in prayer, even though the mosquitoes flew all around her, and even landed on her at times, she wasn't bitten—not even once!



Photo by Chariane Quille/ Microsoft Publisher clip art

Happy and Healthy

(Charles, 5 and Liam, 7)

In the year 2009, Mummy prayed that we would be healthy during the Christmas season so we could do a few shows for some elderly folks, to cheer them up.

Also, we wanted to be healthy because we were going to have a new little baby brother at that time too.

At first we got runny noses, but then got healed real quickly and we were healthy for the whole Christmas season!



Photos by Chariane Quille (background) & Jon Berg (small)

Things Not Lost

(Charles, 5 and Liam, 7)

When we went on a trip to a place where Daddy was also going to play music, he brought his musical equipment. When we were packing to return home Daddy thought he packed all his musical equipment. The show was in a different building than where we were staying for the night.

When we were driving away from where he performed to the building where we stayed, there was a man who needed a map to find his way home. Daddy had a map, but not right with him.

So we went back to the place we stayed and found the map. It would take a little extra time to go all the way back to give it to the man, but we decided it was the kind thing to do.

When Daddy brought the map to the man who was still at the building where he did the show, he found out that there was one very important piece of his musical equipment that had been left behind.

It was a piece he had borrowed from another musician. We were so glad we had chosen the kind thing to do—to bring a map to someone who needed it. The piece of equipment was then loaded into our vehicle, and we were ready to drive home.

When we were about to leave, a lady came right then and said, “Is this your hat?” She’d found one of our special, new sunhats also left in the other building.

As we were driving on our trip we stopped at a playground to play. One child took off their shoes to play. When we got back in the car no one realized the shoes hadn’t been put back into the car, and we were about to drive off.

Then we had a reason to open the door again, and we saw to our surprise, the nice pair of tennis shoes sitting on the ground near the playground.

We were so glad we prayed for the Lord to keep anything from being lost on that trip. We had prayed especially for that. So that was how our prayer was answered, that we would not lose anything on that trip.

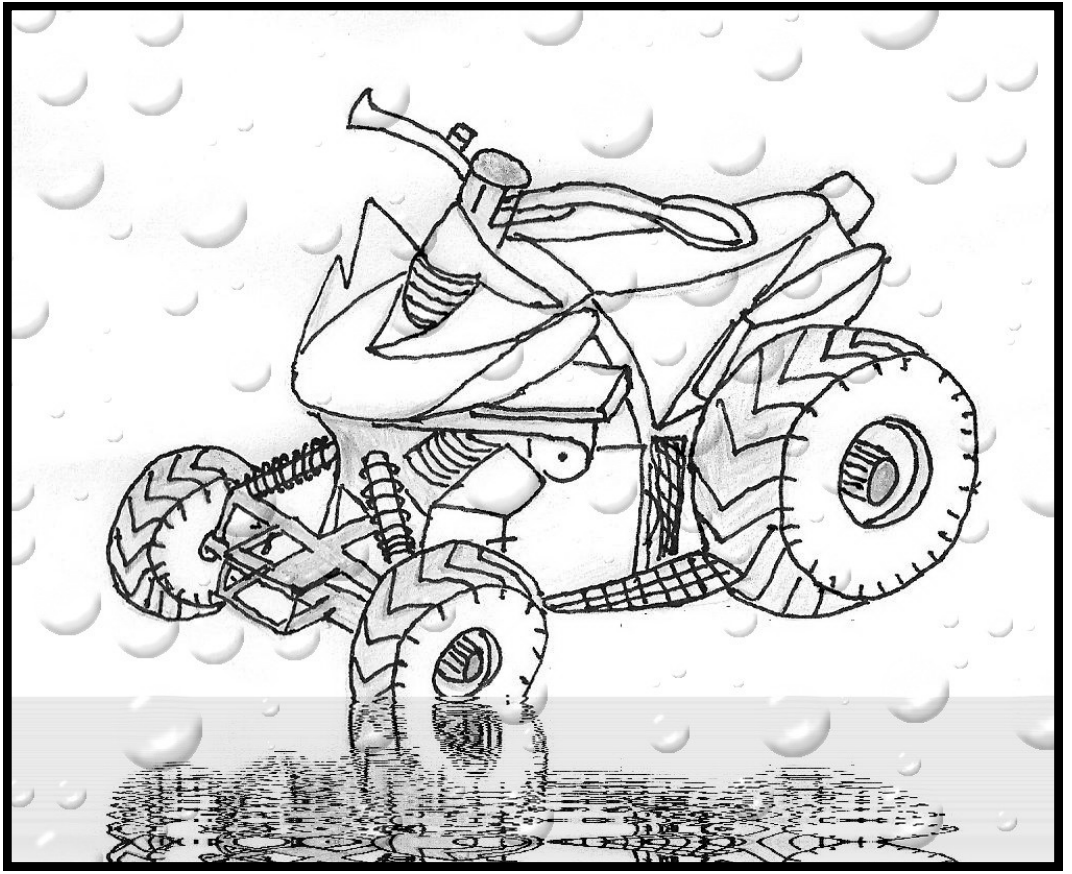
Walking on the Water?

I was travelling home by bus with a friend. When we arrived in our city and stepped out of the bus, it was bucketing down rain.

More than being concerned about getting wet, when looking at the condition of the highway, we wondered how we could possibly cross it! The road was covered with water, and it looked more like a stream than a road.

To get from the bus station to our homes there was no other way to go but to cross this one main road. The water on the flooded road would have nearly reached to my knees if we had tried to just walk across.

Cars were stuck, and the water was muddy and grimy. I suggested to my friend that we just take our shoes off and walk through it. But if it was that dirty, and we didn't want to ruin our shoes, then walking with bare feet wouldn't be real safe!



Art by Jo Daniel

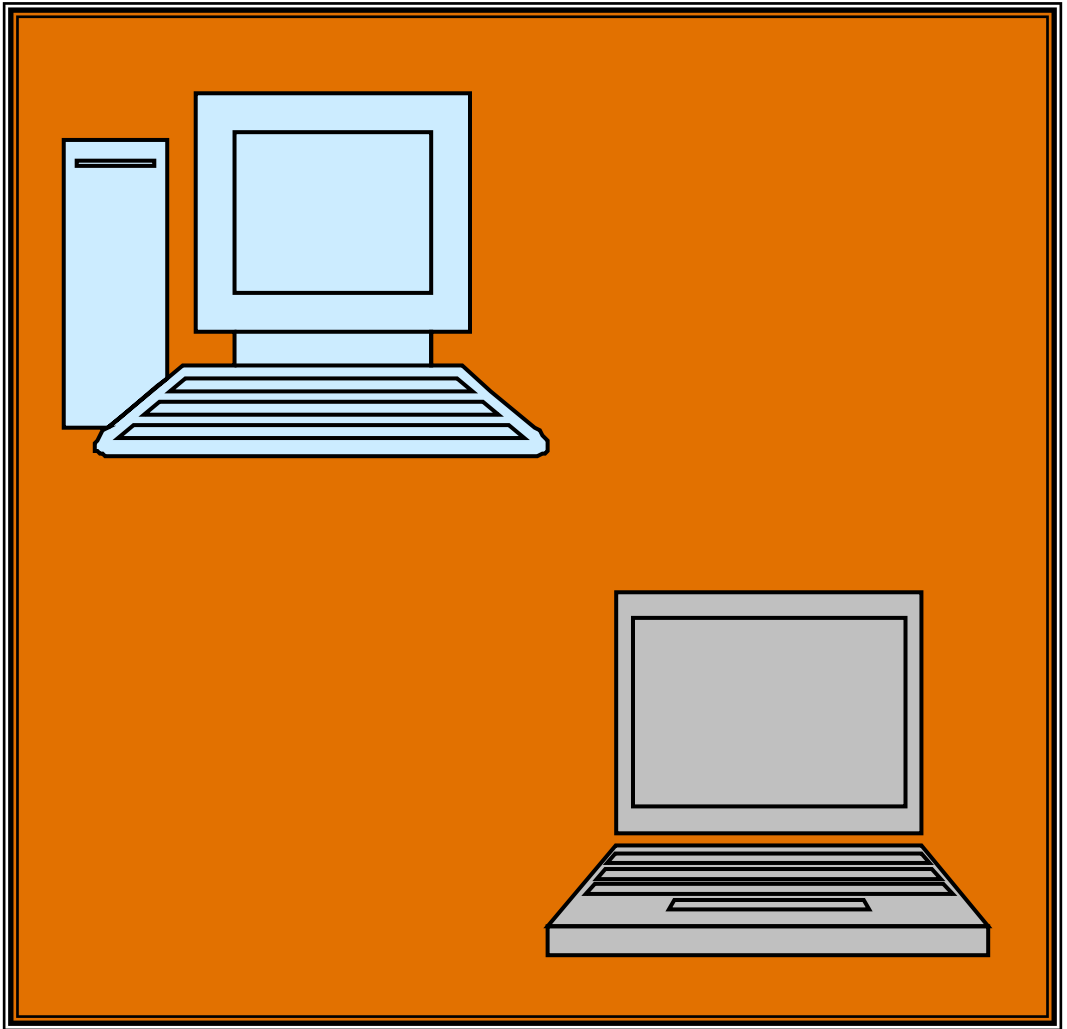
As we looked at the flooded road, and the jammed cars trying to struggle through this night, I recalled the story in the Bible of Peter walking on the water to Jesus.

I prayed for some miracle for us to get across and remain dry.

A moment later, a quad (like a motorcycle, but with four wheels) was effortlessly driving through. The man on it was coming to help his friend.

I ran over and asked if he could help us too. He agreed. We all four sat on his quad, and a moment later were on the other side of the road—dry.

Our wonderful God of miracles helped us—maybe not to walk, but to cross through the water, without getting wet.



Computer

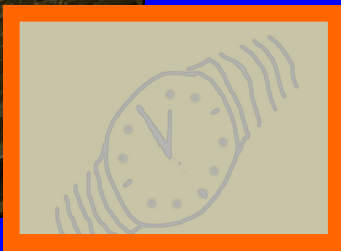
(Charles, 5 and Liam, 7)

Daddy's computer wasn't turning on when he needed to work. Daddy had lots of work to do, and it needed to be done soon. He was depending on his computer working well in order to get the work done on time.

We were outside playing when Mummy told us about it. So we stopped to pray, with all of our hearts. We claimed God's promises and called for Heavenly power to help it to work.

When we came in to the house later on, we found out that Daddy's computer was working again!

Another time, Mummy's computer's mouse just stopped working and we were having a hard time doing anything on the computer together. But then we stopped to pray, and right away it started to work again. Thank you, Jesus!



On Time Again

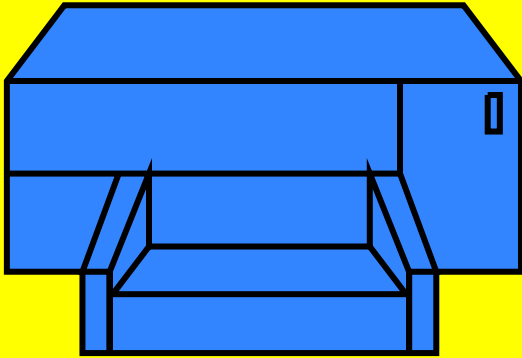
One evening, a lady was watching the news in a darkened room. When she raised her arm, her watch flew off. She was intently listening to the telecaster, so without looking closely at her watch she picked it up and put it back on.

She went to bed, and later when she woke up and looked at her watch, it said it was just 1:00 a.m. But it didn't feel like it was the middle of the night, and soon the sun started to rise.

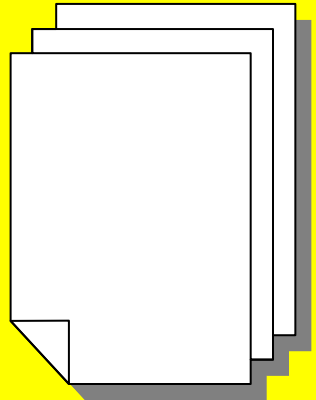
After while she looked at her watch again and it said it was only 1:30 a.m. It was then that she realized that her watch must have broken when it flew off earlier in the evening.

As she was watching the beautiful sunrise, she heard the Lord whispering to her heart and mind, telling her to pray for her watch, and to ask for God's Heavenly power to fix it. So she did.

When she next looked at her watch it was working perfectly, and showed the correct time.



Pray!



Printer

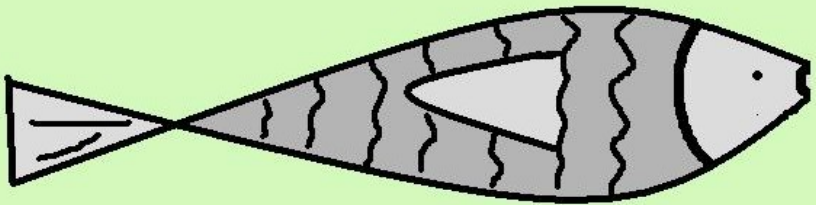
Miguel had been trying for a couple of weeks to get a colour printer to work, and had asked a printer technician about it.

However, the guy said that it was almost impossible for this type of printer to work after such a long time, as the ink in the cartridge dries and solidifies, and then there's no way to get it to work after that.

After spending time reading God's Word and talking with the Lord, Miguel was reminded of the Lord's promises to do anything to help us. He can even do something that seems impossible, if it's good for us.

Miguel went to the closet to look for something and saw the printer there. The Lord then told him to pray for it, and to ask for the miracle-working power of Heaven to make the printer work.

Miguel obeyed what the Lord said to do, even though it seemed like he was praying for something impossible. And guess what happened? After he prayed, the printer started working perfectly—without even changing the cartridge and without taking it in for repairs. What a miracle!



Breakfast

One stormy night, a poor woman saw that she didn't have any food in the house for the next day. She prayed with her children that night, and trusted in her heart that Jesus would send them what was needed, the next day.

When morning came, she prayed again for the food that was needed, knowing only Jesus could supply it for them. Then she asked her children to go down to the shore before breakfast and get some clean sand for their sitting room floor. Before the days of carpets, in some types of houses they would put sand on the floor.

While the children were gone, the mother again knelt and prayed for food, like Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." After this, she set the table for breakfast, even though there was no food yet to prepare.

Suddenly, the children returned without the sand, but happily showed their mother what they had found—a big fish! They found it in a hollow of the beach, as it was left by the outgoing tide after the storm.

The children brought it in their bucket back to the house. With a grateful heart the mother thanked God for His goodness, and prepared the fish for their breakfast!



Photos by Curtis Peter van Gorder (background), Jon Berg (t & l), & Naomi, (b-r)

Socks and Shoes

On a cold day, a boy about ten years old was standing outside of a shoe store, barefooted, peering through the window and shivering with cold. A lady was walking past and noticed the boy.

She said to him, “My Dear, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?”

“I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,” the boy replied. Then the lady kindly took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get several pairs of socks for the boy.

She then asked if he could give her a basin of warm water and a towel. The store clerk quickly brought them to her. She led the boy to a place he could sit, and she then knelt down, washed his feet, and dried them with a towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks.

The kind-hearted lady put a pair on the boy's feet, bought shoes for him as well, which he put on.

She gave the remaining pairs of socks to the boy and said, “You must feel more comfortable now!”

As she turned to go, the grateful boy looked into her face, with thankful tears in his eyes, he said: “Are you God's wife?”

The lady smiled. She was glad that she had done what Jesus told her to do. Jesus wants to use us to help answer other's prayers.

If we are willing to do what Jesus leads us to, and show His love to others, it makes Jesus very happy. It also shows people how real He is, and that we've been sent by Him, when we try to be an example of His love to others.

Paul's Asthma

(By Dina Ellens)

My son, Paul, is a very gentle, kind-hearted boy. It was so hard for me to see him suffer with asthma, as a four-year-old little boy. He would bravely and valiantly try to draw each breath, when the asthma was troubling him.

One night, he told me, "Mama, I can't breathe!" I stayed by his bed all night long, holding his hand and praying for him and quoting verses from the Bible. I was so thankful that he was feeling much better by the morning.

There were many times like that. In fact, whenever there was a change in humidity or if we'd make a trip to the mountains or to the beach, my boy's breathing would be affected. In fact, it got to be a major family consideration every time we'd plan a trip.

One day, we got very desperate as a family for the Lord to heal him. We claimed healing from God's Word and we even anointed him with oil as the Bible says to do.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

It was about a month or so later when my husband commented, “You know, since we had that prayer for our son, it seems like he’s had hardly any asthma trouble.”

I looked at him, trying to remember the last time it had happened, and I couldn’t remember.

“You’re right!” I said.

One month followed another, and then another and still no asthma problems. Pretty soon, our boy had gone a whole year without suffering from asthma and having trouble breathing.

It was a miracle of healing, and our son never again had trouble with asthma. We are so thankful that the Lord healed him!



Photo by Jon Berg

A Leg Grown to the Right Size

(By Dina Ellens)

A friend of mine went to visit some friends whose oldest daughter was born with a physical infirmity that left one of her legs shorter and weaker than the other.

Her foot was in a permanent position and when she walked, she had to do it on her tiptoes.

My friend was touched with the urge to pray for this girl. After praying for her together with her parents, there was no sign of any change until she tried to stand on her feet, to test the improvement.

She found out that everything had changed! Her mum had directly seen the improvement. The short leg had grown. She could now balance better on her foot while walking.

The little girl was so excited to receive this healing. We were all so thankful and praising God together!



Motor Home Camping Trip

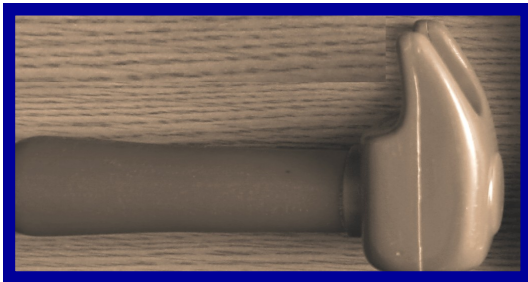
We had wanted to travel in a motor home for a long time. Then one time, we had to take a trip to New Zealand for ten days. We prayed for our trip to be a safe and happy one, with all the things we would need to make it so.

The Lord then supplied just what we needed! We were able to rent a motor home, drive around, and camp for the whole time.

We found out that just before we got to New Zealand, it had been raining every day for a long time. But as soon as we arrived, the sun came out and the weather was beautiful for our entire trip.

Because of the nice weather, we were able to see interesting places there too—like the geysers shooting out hot water from the ground.

We got to play in playgrounds and on the beach. We were healthy and safe for the entire trip, and enjoyed being in the cosy motor home. It was a miracle trip.



Photos by Jon Berg (t) & Naomi (b)

Jesus Knew About the Toy Hammer

Little Patrick wanted to play with the toy hammer, but we didn't know where it was.

He said to Mummy, "Jesus can help you find it!"

He was still learning to talk so he said, in the best way he could, something to encourage Mummy that she could find this toy.

So together they prayed to find it, because Jesus knew where it was. Right after they prayed, Mummy walked a couple of steps and looked under a shelf, and there was the toy hammer!

Patrick was so happy Jesus answered his prayer so quickly.



Photo by Chariane Quille

A Little Toy Man

Our little driver man for the toy tow truck had been lost for a long time. We prayed to find it, and we also looked everywhere it might be—under the bed, in the closets, all around. It was nowhere.

It was supposed to be in our bucket for the toy people.

We prayed a special prayer for Jesus to bring it to us or to help us find it.

One day we opened the bucket where we keep our toy people and there was the man, right there in the little bucket!

We had already looked there many times before, and the toy man wasn't there.

It was a miracle! It just appeared there soon after we prayed, and we still have it today!

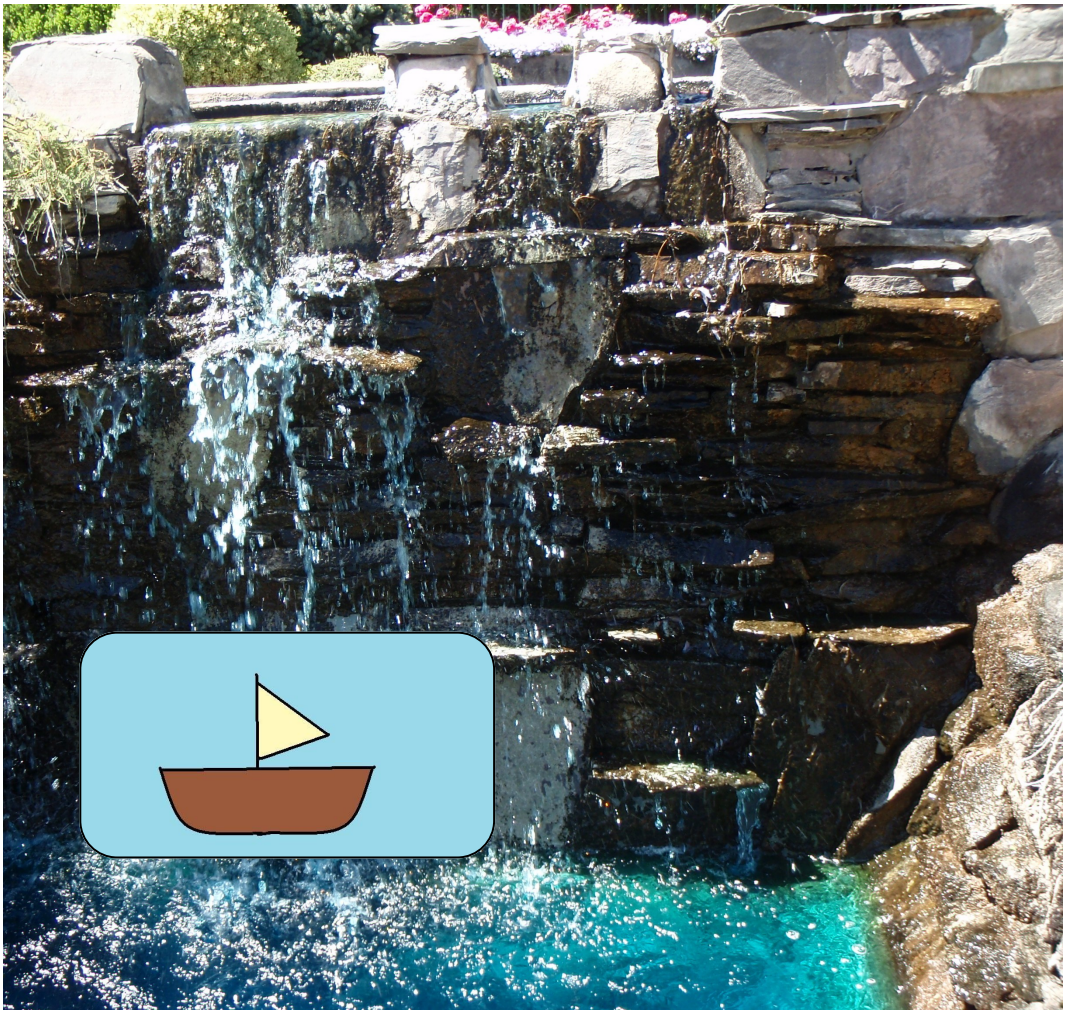


Photo & art by Chariane Quille

The Toy Boat

Liam wanted to play with the toy boat, but he couldn't find it. Someone had moved it, and he started to fret. But then he remembered to pray and ask Jesus.

Jesus told him, "It's in the closet." Liam looked and there it was. Wow! Jesus knows where everything is. Stopping to pray and listen, rather than fretting, is a faster way to find things!

Lego Visor Helmet

Charles really wanted one of his Lego visor helmets to play with. We couldn't find one around. The playroom had toys all around, and it was hard to find something that small in there.

Charles and Mummy prayed to find one, and just that moment Jesus said to his mummy, "Look behind the shelves." Mummy looked and she found a Lego visor helmet right then!



Photo by Chariane Quille

The New Red Ball

(By Liam, 7)

I had a little bouncy ball that had bounced down from our balcony and then over a wall, and we weren't able to get it for a long time. I was sad it was lost, and prayed for us to get it back again.

Then, to cheer me up Jesus gave me a little surprise. I found a red ball, exactly the same kind of ball that I had recently lost.

This new ball was just lying on the dirt pathway on our walk! I picked it up and played with it. I was so happy to have it. But after a while it got lost too, since it was real small and very bouncy. Mummy and I prayed to find it.

A long time later, after many months had passed, we were outside and we found the red ball in our garden, in the dirt. It couldn't be seen before because of the plants.

Since it was autumn then, some leaves had fallen off the bushes, and it was easy to see it then. I was so happy.

Later on, Daddy was able to go to the place where our first ball had gotten lost, and it was still there. He got it and brought it back to me.

Sometimes we have to be patient until we get the answers to our prayers, but Jesus always hears our prayers and will give us what we ask for when it is good for us, and when the time is right.

Because the little balls had been lost for a long time, we learned to take good care of them when we at last had them again. We still have the balls now, several years later.

Continued in Part 3