

*A Gift of Faith Book*

7

**Part 3**

**Prayer Works!**  
**—1900s-2000s**

A Gift of Faith Book

7

# Prayer Works! —1900s-2000s

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and contributors

Cover photo: Curtis Peter van Gorder

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# The Rain

It was the Autumn of 2008, and it was the first day of rain in a long time. We had planned to take the kids in the car with a friend to go out and do some musical instrument research.

We lived in a place where it doesn't often rain. Because of that, it's more dangerous to drive in rainy weather, as people are unaccustomed to it, and as a result road accidents happen more easily.

The man we were going with was soon to arrive at our apartment, where we would get in his car and drive out. But it was raining so hard that it was like a curtain, or sheet of water, coming down.

It was definitely not a safe idea to take the little children out in this weather.

I looked out the window at the pouring rain and prayed. "Lord, if You want us to go, You could stop the rain."



Photo by Naomi

It seemed like there was a lot more where that rain came from looming in the sky. But still, all things are possible with God, if we believe.

I walked to the next room to talk to my husband about it. We walked back together to look out the big window and pray. And there we saw to our amazement that the rain was already stopping!

A minute or two more and it had completely stopped, and stayed that way for the duration of our trip for the next couple of hours. The rain resumed when we were home again.

Our amazing, wonderful Jesus did it for us!

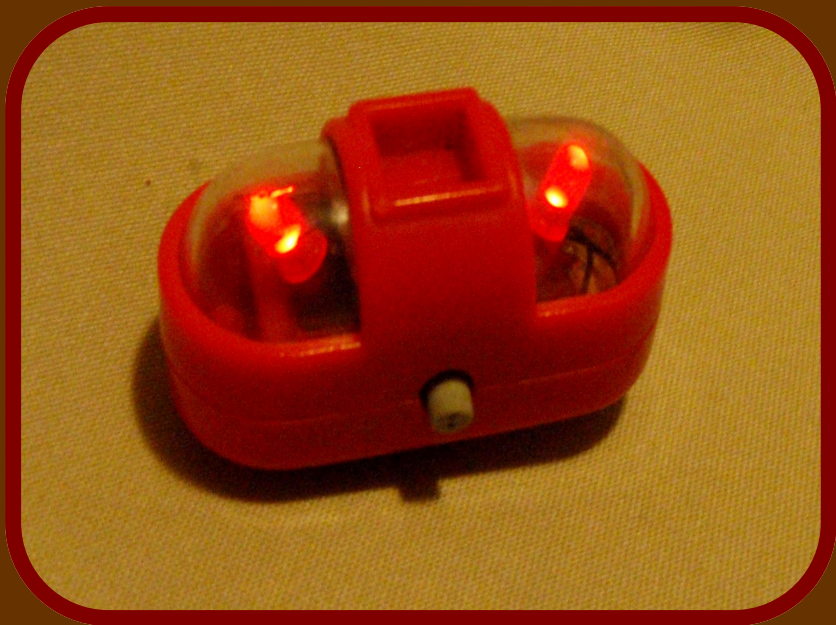


Photo by Chariane Quille



# The Toy Siren Fixed

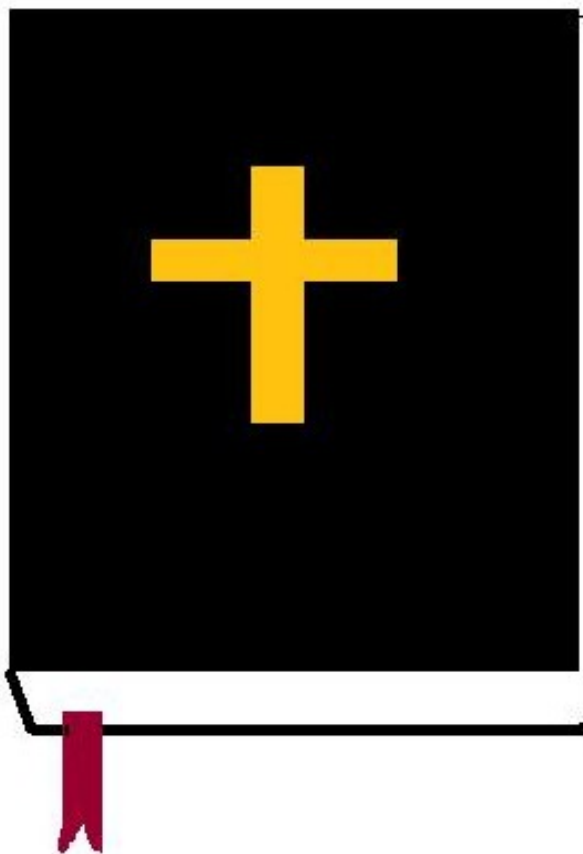
(By Charles 5, and Liam, 7)

Our little toy siren that can be put on a vehicle is a favourite toy for little Patrick. It has a button that can be pushed to turn it on, and it makes a musical siren song. After a minute it turns off by itself. One day it was just beeping and beeping, and wouldn't stop. We thought it would use up all its batteries and never work again.

We prayed and Mummy tried to take it apart to make it stop. She didn't really know how to do it, or how to put it together again the right way. She did the best she could, and by a miracle it stopped making the sound. It was nice to have the sound stop for a bit, as it's kind of disturbing if it goes on and on loudly.

Mummy tried to put the pieces back together as best as she could, but it didn't seem like it would work again, as she thought it wasn't properly put together. We prayed for a miracle, as it would make Patrick so happy if it did turn on again.

Then we pushed the button, and for some reason it just turned on anyway—and when the musical siren sound was over, it stopped again, like it was meant to. It worked perfectly! Jesus, the Heavenly Electrician, fixed it. It has worked ever since—fixed through the power of prayer.



## **Bibles to Missionaries**

We wanted to send nice Bibles to missionaries around the world. We had some that were given to us for free, but not enough, as so many people wanted them.

We asked a kind man to help, and he agreed and sent us 140 brand new Bibles. When we came home we saw them in boxes on our porch. Wow! We were able to send Bibles to missionaries in India, Zambia, Hungary, Uganda, Fiji and France.

We had sent nearly all the Bibles off, but we still had some left. We needed money to be able to pay the expensive cost of posting them. Then, a kind lady in another city said she would help to send a box of Bibles for us, as she was already sending second-hand books to children in another country, and would add the Bibles to the shipment.

Also a generous man, who goes to one of the countries in Africa each year, to help those in need, offered to pay for some Bibles to be sent there as well, including them in his shipment of supplies.

Through prayer we can do our part to help people all over the world come to know Jesus—even when staying right where we are!



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

# Camping Out

When I was out wilderness camping with a group of teens, we weren't using any tents. We put a tarp on the ground and laid our sleeping bags on it. There were clouds in the sky and it was starting to drizzle.

Usually at that time of year when it rained it would really pour down rain. To stay dry from the rain that had started we covered ourselves with another tarp. We didn't want to get wet, and we wanted to be able to see the stars as we went to sleep.

We prayed fervently for the rain to stop, and for the clouds to clear away. Then it happened! The rain suddenly stopped and the clouds started to clear. We saw some stars as we went to sleep, and we stayed dry the whole night.

The next day was a nice sunny day, and we had fun hiking around the mountain. Jesus answered our prayer for good weather and we had a pleasant time.



Photo by Jon Berg

## Gift Bags

I had hoped to make gift bags for mothers at the hospital who had new little babies. I didn't have enough money to buy the items I needed for the special gift bags.

I prayed for a miracle of supply. Then, when we were doing our weekly shopping, we were pleasantly surprised at what happened. The shop was offering people fruit and vegetables very cheaply—just at that time only.

We happened to be in the shop at the right time, and were able to fill up several bags of food for a fraction of what we normally would need to pay! I was able to use the extra money that we didn't have to spend, to buy nice things for the mothers and their little babies.

I put those special things into pretty-looking gift bags, and we gave them to the happy mothers at the hospital. I was so glad that it worked out just like I had hoped and prayed for—and the mothers felt loved and encouraged.



Photo by Jon Berg



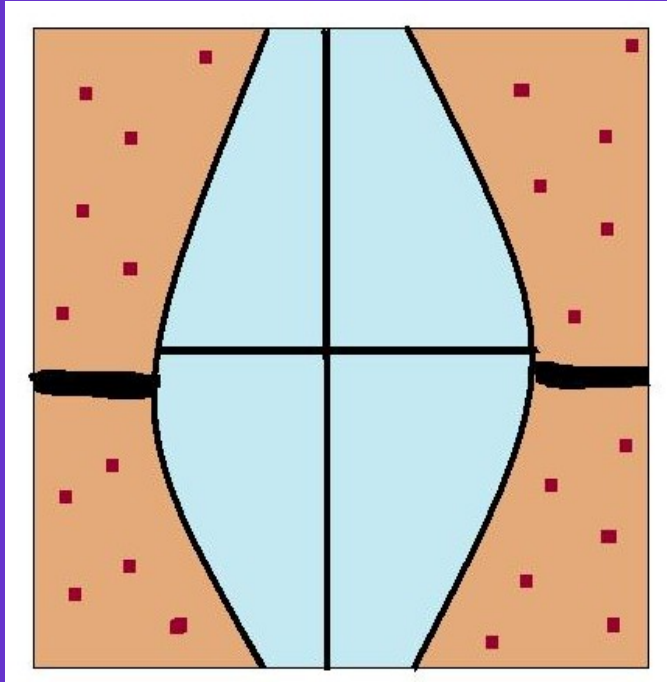
## Perfect Sweater

Winters get very cold here in our city, and heating is very expensive. Last winter, I really needed another sweater, so I prayed and ask the Lord to supply what I needed.

One day soon afterwards, someone came with a bag of clothes for me. A friend said,

"Here are some clothes someone gave us that we don't need. Do you need them?"

In the bag was the warmest, best sweater I could have gotten. It was just the kind I wanted and used to have years ago, and just the colour I liked too. I wore it day after day in winter, and it kept me nice and warm.



# Curtains

The window to our children's playroom needed curtains. It wouldn't be easy to find just the right kind and size in the second-hand shops if we tried looking for some there.

After wishing for some for a long while, and wondering what to do, I prayed and asked the Lord to help us get some good curtains.

I felt in my heart the Lord saying that it was such an easy thing for Him to provide for us. So I asked my husband if he could try to see if there were any at a second-hand shop, and I gave him the window's measurements.

My husband agreed to try, and checked out a second-hand shop. He had hardly walked in to look when he immediately found the perfect set of curtains! He was surprised.

I knew it was Jesus helping to fill the order I'd asked for in prayer. The pattern and colour was nice on these curtains, and they were just the size that was needed. They fit our windows perfectly.



Photo by Chariane Quille

## Fisher-Price Toys

We wanted some toys that wouldn't break easily, and would last us a long time. I prayed for some nice Fisher-Price toys—the kind that they used to make many years ago. These are hard to find, but very good quality.

There was a shipment of clothing sent to us and our missionary friends, for us to take from it what we needed for our families, and the bulk of it to be given to the poor.

Since clothes were very costly and we usually couldn't afford to buy any, this was a great help to all who benefited from it.

As I was looking through the boxes to see if any of the spare clothes would fit the children or me, I noticed this little plastic bag on the ground, together with the available items for us to choose from.

It looked like a small trash bag and was tied up. I opened the bag and inside it was a Fisher-Price toy set!

It was a toy cash register and it was very durable.

It was made in 1974, and it still had all the pieces to it, and was in perfect condition. I was real amazed at the answer to prayer.

I wonder what miracles it took to get that bag to me!

When we visited Canada a little while later, there was a garage sale just down the street. I could easily walk to it with the little children.

And to our pleasant surprise, there were Fisher-Price toys being sold—the original kind that I prayed for. There were little people, and vehicles, and seats they could sit on.

The children have enjoyed playing with these ordered-by-prayer toys.

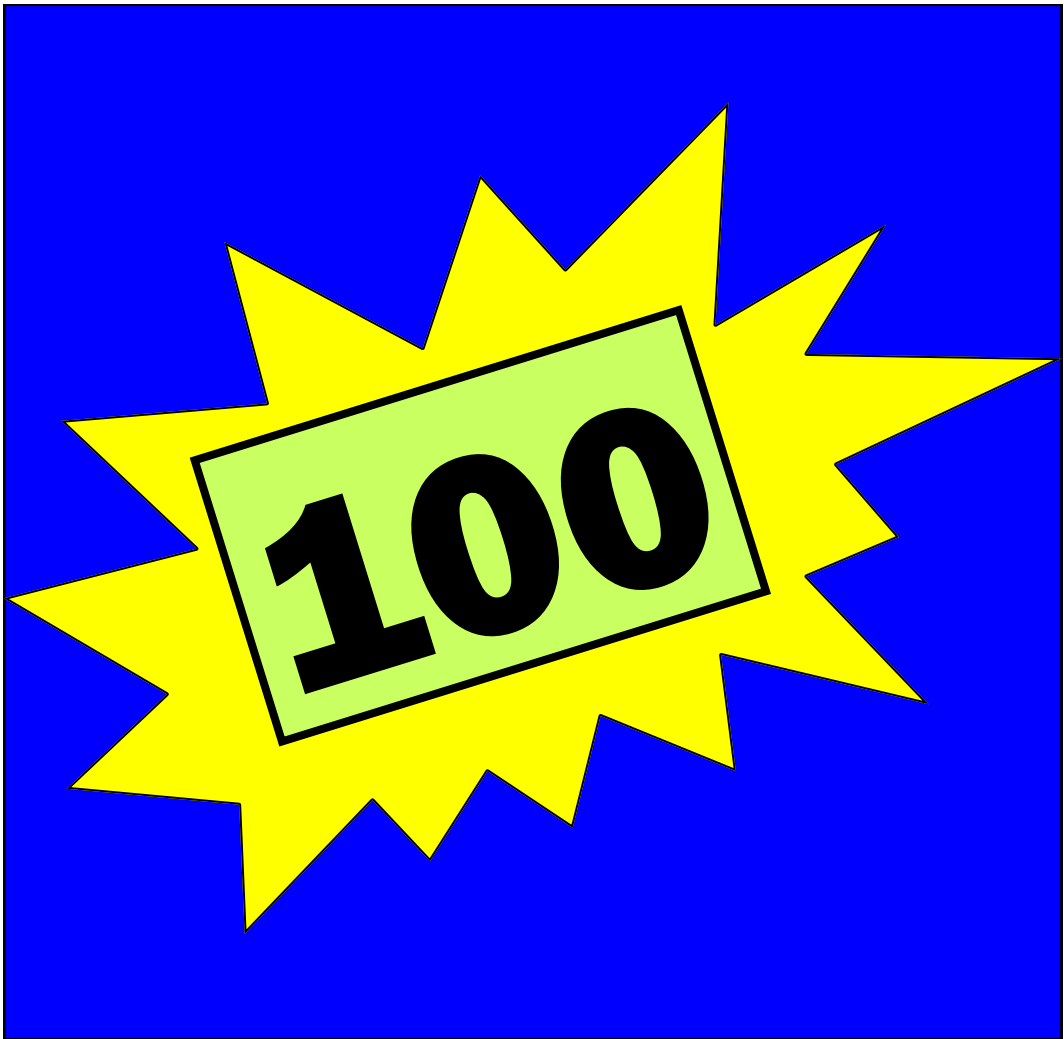
## **The Healing of My Back**

I had not been able to have regular exercise, so when I finally had the chance I used heavier weights than I should have. I could feel something wasn't right in my back the next day, and since it was my day off I spent most of it resting. I thought that would take care of whatever was wrong in my back.

However, when I got up to go to dinner that day I felt my whole torso cramping up so tight I could barely move. I had to lie on my back with a hot water bottle all night, to make the pain bearable enough to get some sleep. I wasn't able to do anything but rest the next day.

I was praying and claiming God's promises for healing, and asking for His Heavenly power to help me. Then some others came to pray for me, for miraculous healing.

A few hours into the day the miracle began. I could physically feel a warm, tingling sensation in my back, and as time went on I could do certain movements without pain. Then a few hours later I was up on my feet, helping with a project. It was a wonderful miracle to go from being immobile to being up and around helping out. What a wonderful Doctor Jesus is!





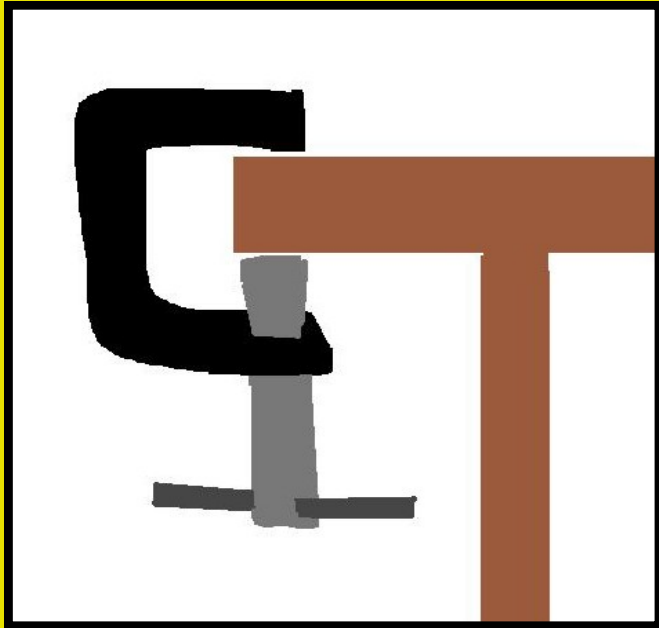
## 100 Pesos

The Lord always took care of us day by day with our missionary team in Mexico. We had enough food, but not an overabundance. We were able to pay our bills, but generally not get too much else.

I was helping to care for the children of a family with seven kids whose youngest was handicapped. One day the mother was in need of encouragement and said, "If I only had 100 pesos I could go out and buy some special food to make my family a real nice breakfast." (100 pesos at that time was equivalent to \$10.00 US dollars.)

I knew it would really encourage her, so when I was at the park with the children that day, I kept praying for the Lord to do the miracle, and have us supernaturally find it. I was expecting to find it lying around on the ground, but it didn't happen.

However, when I got home I noticed shopping bags in the mother's room, and asked her about them. She said the most amazing thing had happened. She opened her backpack to get something, and just sitting in there was a 100 peso bill! What a sweet encouragement and token of love from Jesus to her and to her children.



# The Missing Clamp

(Dina Ellens)

I once found a very nice desk lamp with a long neck that you could twist in different directions, called a goose necked lamp. I was so happy when someone gave me the lamp.

“Sorry, it’s missing the clamp piece,” he said, “but maybe you can still use it.”

Without the clamp piece, the lamp couldn’t be secured to the edge of my desk. “Hmm,” I thought, “I can’t go to a store to buy just a clamp piece because they won’t sell it without the whole lamp!”

There was nothing else to do but pray. So I asked Jesus to help me find a new clamp for my lamp. A few weeks later, I was in a second-hand store with the same friend who had given me the lamp. He came over and showed me what he’d found in a pile of metal screws and bolts.

It was just the clamp piece that I needed for my lamp! And it fit perfectly! Now my lamp is firmly attached to my desk and I can use it all the time. Jesus loves us so much! He takes care of our needs, even little things like a missing clamp!



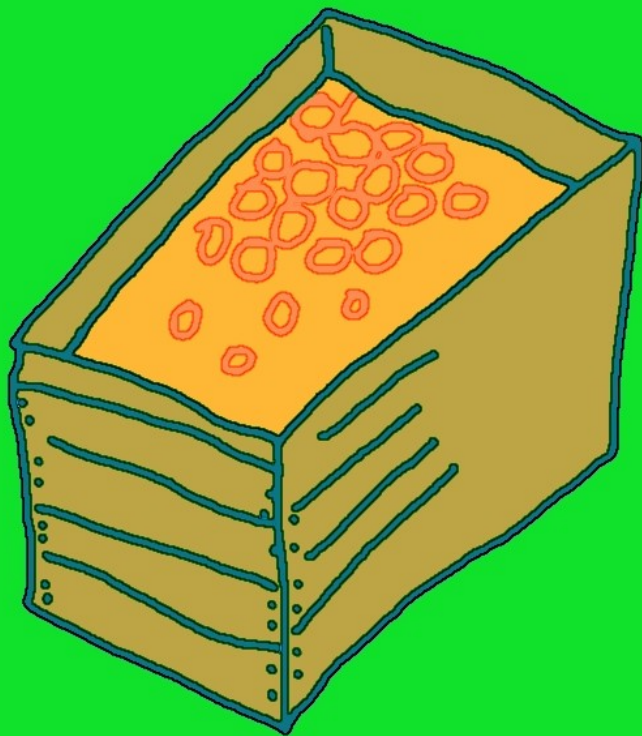
Photo by Chariane Quille/ Art by Rocky Rumble

## Winter Jackets

A family had specifically prayed for winter clothes and jackets. The day afterwards, a friend came over to visit and gave them several warm jackets and sweaters!

She said that when she woke up that morning, the Lord impressed upon her that she should go through her closets and give what she could! These jackets were just what they needed!

This family liked to tell others about Jesus, and having these warm jackets helped them to be able to go out in the cold weather and bring the heart-warming news of Jesus' love and salvation to those they met.



# The Miracle Fruit

(By Dina Ellens)

Amsterdam is a picturesque city in the Netherlands and many tourists like to visit there. It has lots of old buildings and pretty tree-lined canals. It's also a good place for witnessing and a lot of people have received Jesus and started serving the Lord there.

One winter, it was very, very cold. That year fruit was very expensive and since we depended on fruit being donated to us, it was very hard to get any.

We had many people working together as missionaries, and they needed fruit to stay healthy. As the kitchen deacon, I felt responsible, so I was praying desperately for the Lord to supply.

One afternoon, a big delivery truck went rumbling past our house. I happened to look out the window and saw that a wooden crate had fallen off the truck and landed on the street right in front of our house.

When we went outside to look at the crate, it didn't have any names on it. So we couldn't contact the owner. We took the crate inside and pried open the lid. The crate was full of thick flat sheets the colour of oranges.

We didn't know what it was at first but it was actually dried apricots. Dried apricots are a really good source of vitamins and minerals—even better than fresh ones.

We made stewed apricots and apricot jam, and they had so much natural sweetness, we didn't have to add any sugar.

That winter we had plenty of fruit, thanks to the Lord's miraculous supply!



## Speaking the Language

Mr. Goforth was a missionary to China. He was studying the language, and doing his best to learn how to speak Chinese, but he was having a hard time learning how to speak it right. He would try to tell people about Jesus, using the words he had learned in Chinese, but often they couldn't understand what he was saying.

One day before leaving the house to go and talk to people about Jesus, he told his wife that he wondered how he could be a good missionary if he wasn't able to speak the language well enough to make himself understood.

He was beginning to get discouraged and needed the Lord's help. Then a miracle happened!

A few hours later, when Mr. Goforth returned to his home, his face was beaming with joy. He told his wife what happened.

He said, "When it was my turn to speak, something unusual happened. Sentences came to my mind as never before! Not only did people understand what I was trying to say, but some of them were very interested in what I was saying, and they came up to me afterwards to talk more."

It was a notable miracle, and Mr. Goforth wrote it down in his diary, stating the day that it happened.



Photo by Lian P. & Jon Berg

What had brought about this sudden help? Well, two months later they found out, when they received a letter from a student in another country. The letter said that on a certain day a group of students had met to pray specifically for Mr. Goforth.

When they prayed, they felt God's power so real and close, and they wrote to find out if anything special had happened as a result of their prayers.

Mr. Goforth looked in his diary and found out that the very time that the students were meeting for prayer was the time when he received the special help from Heaven, and was able to speak Chinese especially well while telling people about Jesus.

Did you think about someone today? Did you pray for them when you were reminded of them? Perhaps the Lord brought them to mind so that you would give them the help they needed, through praying for them.

Jesus may be waiting for you to pray, so that He can send your friends and loved ones the special, timely help that they need. Your prayers will make a difference on people's lives today.

Heartfelt and sincere prayers will cause good change, right now! Jesus hears and knows each prayer, and will take action to make things better for you and those you pray for.



## Wood Stove

One morning after meeting to read God's Word together, a family prayed for a wood stove to heat the upper level of their new house.

Very soon afterwards, a lady from down the road came and told them that she had a wood stove to give them, and that they could come right over and pick it up!

The children were really happy and amazed!

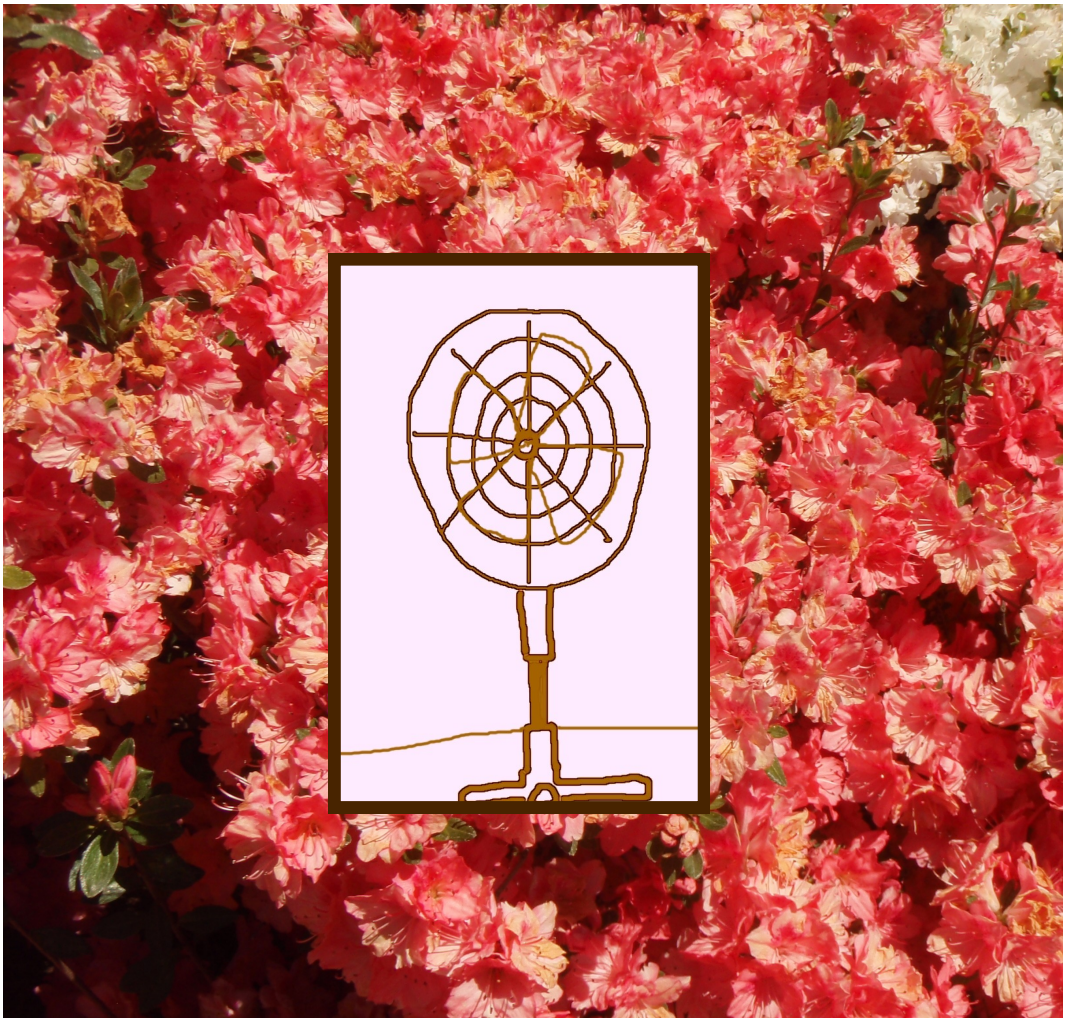


Photo by Chariane Quille/ Art by Rocky Rumble

# Fan

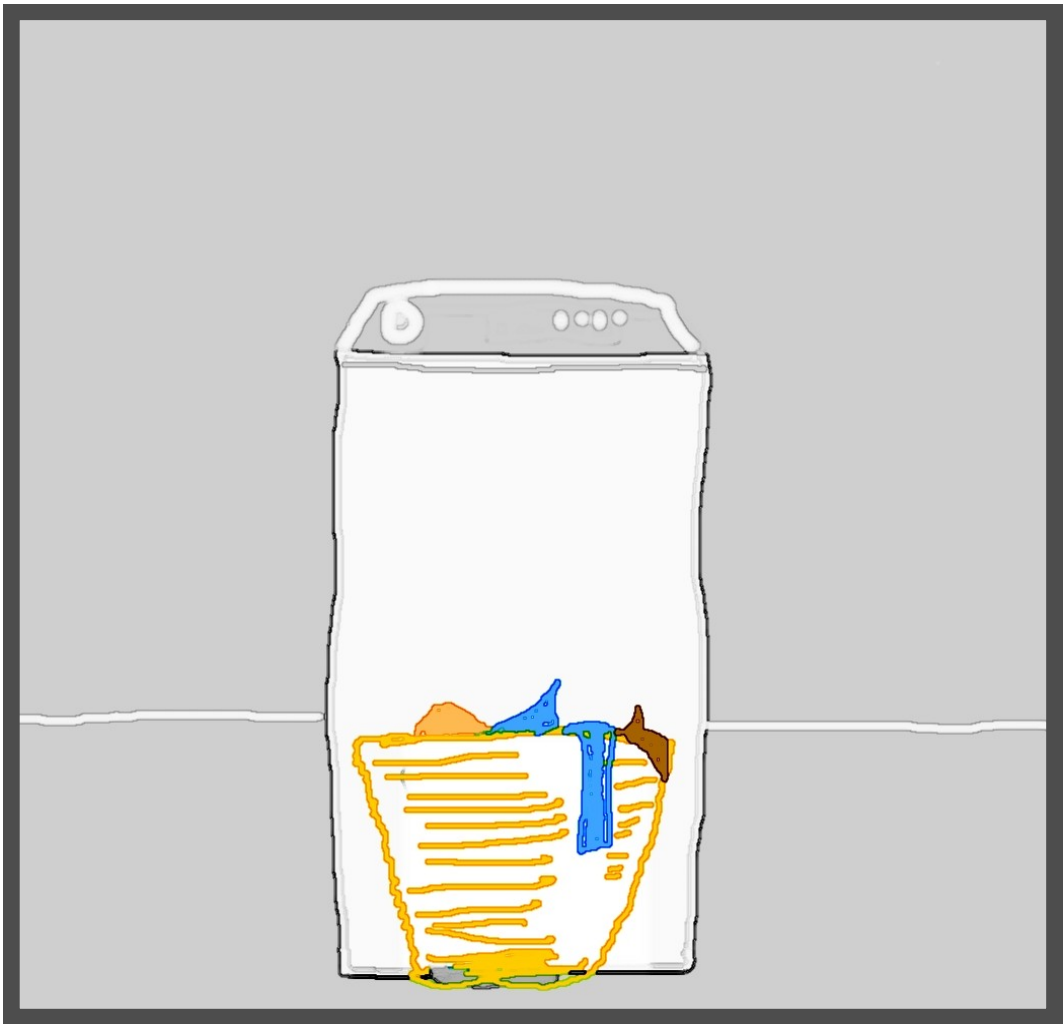
A mother was reading her children a bedtime story, and the weather was very hot. A fan was blowing to keep them comfortable.

However, the electricity began to go off, and the fan was turning very slowly. It looked like it was going to stop completely. The children prayed, "Lord, if the power goes off then it will be too hot. So we pray that You will please help the fan to keep blowing. We ask for Your Heavenly power to help our fan stay on."

A little while later someone came into the room and saw the fan working and said, "Why is the fan still on when the power is off all over the whole house?"

One of the children said, "It's because we prayed and Jesus did the miracle!"

Jesus kept the fan working, even when there wasn't any electricity in the house.





# Washing Machine

A team of missionaries needed a washing machine desperately, and prayed for the Lord to supply one.

In that country it would be very expensive to buy one, even second-hand.

One night at 10:00 p.m., some delivery men brought a brand new washing machine with a two-year guarantee to their home.

The missionaries looked at them very surprised and asked if maybe they were mistaken, but there was no mistake!—It was for them indeed!

They didn't know who had sent them the washing machine, but they knew that the Lord is going to bless whoever it was.



## The Lost Toy

I was staying with a Mexican missionary family, and when I was in the kitchen one day, one of their children came up to me with a plea.

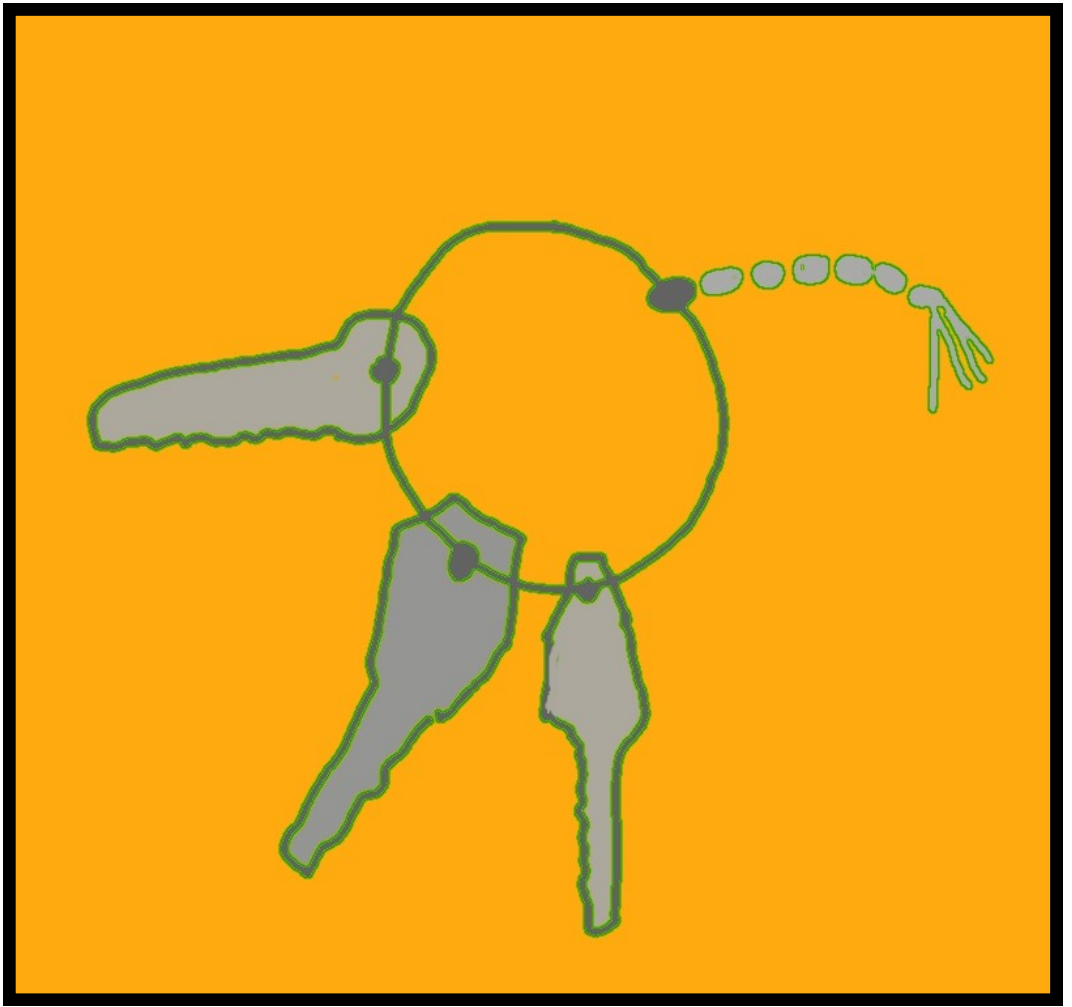
"Can you please ask the Lord where my little toy went? I can't find it anywhere."

I certainly had no idea where it had gone. It was a toy that was smaller than a thimble. I really wanted to encourage him that Jesus was near and answered his prayer, but I knew it would definitely require a miracle.

I prayed a heartfelt prayer together with him, and then we got quiet to hear the Lord speak. Right away, Jesus gave me the thought of where the toy was.

As soon as we opened our eyes after prayer, we went to take a look to see if it was there. I walked across the floor, just a second after praying, and I moved an item out of the way that was in the corner of the kitchen counter.

To our delight, and proving God's wonderful power, there was his little rubber toy—just where the Lord had shown me in prayer! From the time the boy asked for prayer to find it, until the time that it was found, it had hardly been thirty seconds. Prayer is fast!



# Finding the Lost Car Keys

(By Dina Ellens)

My Japanese friend and her daughter had come to church with us at our invitation. She really enjoyed the sermon and the fellowship. Afterwards she was getting ready to go back to her car when she suddenly realized that her car keys were missing!

She searched everywhere in the parking lot and then came back to find us and ask for help. We right away prayed for the Lord to help us find the keys, and then started looking everywhere in the building where she might have gone.

After looking inside the building for quite awhile, we went back out to the parking lot and were wondering what to do.

Just then a couple of young men rode up on a motorbike and asked, “Did anyone lose some car keys?”

“Yes!” was the speedy response as we all looked up in relief.

We were praising and thanking God when our Japanese friend told us that the keys were attached to a small pouch that had the car papers in it. Wow! We were especially praiseful and thankful then that the Lord let such honest young men find the keys!



Photo by Chariane Quille

## Making Tea

Our family was out camping, and my husband needed some warm tea to drink. I was at the camp watching over the sleeping children and was going to boil some water for his tea, while he and the oldest boy were taking an evening walk down to the lake.

When you are higher up in the mountains, it takes longer to boil water, as the air pressure is less. We were camping at over 1,000 feet elevation.

The wind was blowing and the flame on the stove wasn't working right. It would blow flames all over the pot, so it had to be turned on real low.

It was dark and windy, and there were lots of mosquitoes around. I prayed for a miracle for the water to boil fast and for the camping stove's flame to work right—not to blow out, and not to get too big.

After a minute of doing other things around our camp, to my dismay I saw that the flame had blown out. Usually that is dangerous, as then gas fumes go into the air.

If you try to light the flame too soon it will make a bit of a boom or flame in the air. However, I didn't smell the gas, and amazingly enough the knob was turned completely off, without me having done it. So it was safe.

Jesus had made sure the gas didn't leak when the wind blew out the flame. I decided to try turning on the other burner, to see if it would work better there, and placed the pot of cool water on it.

The flame seemed to work better, and I prayed for a miracle for the water to boil extra fast, so it would work out for my husband to have tea and so I wouldn't have to stand out there for so long.

Then just half a minute later the steam was pouring out of the hole in the lid of the pot. The water was completely boiling—not just simmering. It was boiling full-blast, so soon after I had prayed.

The tea was made right away, and when my husband and son returned he was so happy for something to relax with after his long day of driving us on our trip.



# Miracle Egg

Little Rachel was a year and a half old, and she was sick. She needed to have an egg to eat every day to help her to gain strength, but her parents weren't able to get any eggs. So they decided to ask the Lord to provide the eggs that were needed.

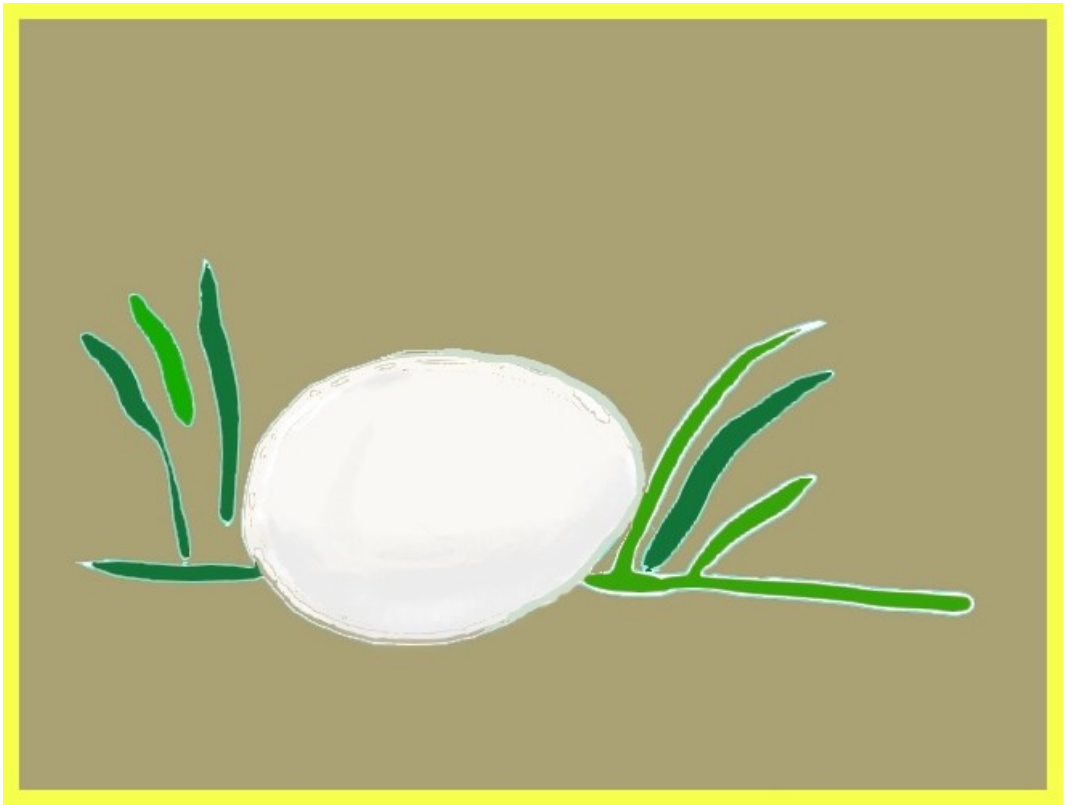
“Jesus, please help us to get an egg every morning for Rachel, until she is strong and well again.”

They prayed, committing the problem to the Lord.

About 10 o'clock that morning they heard some cackling coming from the hedge fence in front of their house.

There among the branches sat a fat, red hen. They had no idea where she had come from, and they just watched in amazement as the hen laid an egg and then walked on down the road, out of sight.

The little red hen that first day was a surprise, and they thanked the Lord for it!



But can you imagine how startled they were when they heard the hen cackling in the hedge the next morning also? And the morning after that, and the morning after that!

Every day, for over a week, Rachel had a fresh boiled egg!

Little Rachel gained strength and health, until she finally recovered completely, and the hen no longer came to their house. It was just sent to them to deliver the miracle eggs when the little girl needed it.



## Ten Dollars

One morning, a man was on his knees praying, asking Jesus to send him \$10.00, in some way, so that he could buy an automobile license. If he were to preach the next Sunday morning, he needed some means of transportation.

And so he prayed and told the Lord that if He wanted him to preach there, a miracle was needed.

Then, while he was talking to the Lord, his wife was cleaning the carpets downstairs. She turned off the vacuum cleaner and shouted upstairs,

"Are you praying for \$10.00?"

The man answered, "Yes."

"Well," she said, "somebody has just shoved it through the letter slot in the door."



## Flying Food

In February, 1931, there was famine in a certain area, and there was yet another month to wheat harvest. When the people needed food they remembered that God hears us and answers prayer.

They decided to meet each afternoon for prayer, to ask the Lord for food. On the fourth day of meeting for prayer, something interesting started to happen.

Away in the north a dark cloud was appearing. The people went outside to see what it was. As they watched, this dark cloud came to where they were and rained—but it was not an ordinary rain, but a deluge of little black seeds in such abundance they could be shovelled up.

The seeds were edible, and there were enough of them for the people to have sufficient to eat until the crops were harvested. They learned later that a storm had arisen in Mongolia and blown these seeds from where they were stored in granaries.

The seeds were carried 1,500 miles and dropped right where the people were praying for food! It was God's amazing answer to their prayers.



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



## Empty Tank

A team of missionaries were out telling people about Jesus and visiting some friends who lived quite far away from their home. By the time they started on their journey home it was dark.

About three or four kilometres from their home, the motorbike started to sputter. They looked down at the fuel gauge only to see that it was on empty! They had forgotten to put enough fuel in it, and now were stuck! The motorbike suddenly stopped completely.

They didn't know what to do, as there were no fuel stations anywhere nearby. It would have taken a good while to walk all the way home with the motorbike. It was a desperate situation. They needed a miracle.

They placed their hands on the engine and prayed, claiming God's promises and the power of Heaven to make it work. When they had finished praying they got on the motorbike and to their jubilant amazement it started! They were so excited and drove on, praising the Lord.

There was not a drop of petrol in the fuel tank, yet the motorbike took them all the way home and finally stopped right outside their gate.

God's Heavenly power through prayer is there for us whenever we need it!

**The End**