



**The Project
and
The Puppy
—Part 3—**

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Dedicated to my three wonderful boys!

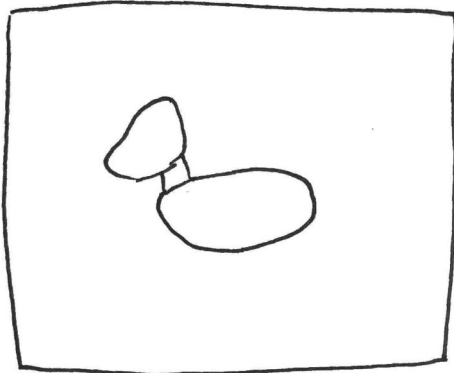


While looking out the window one day at the white and snowy front yard, the children saw someone taking their black dog for a walk. This reminded them of a certain puppy they wished to see again: Black Pup.

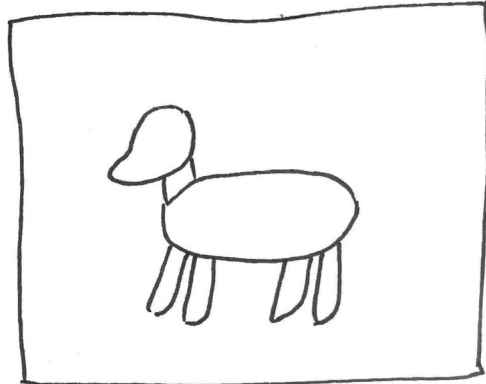
“I wonder how big he is now? Or what new tricks he can do,” Ned thought out loud.

Teddy remembered the cute and lively little puppy, and started chatting about what he could remember, in his own special way of expression and speech.

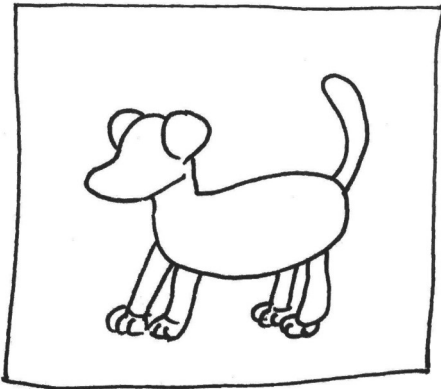
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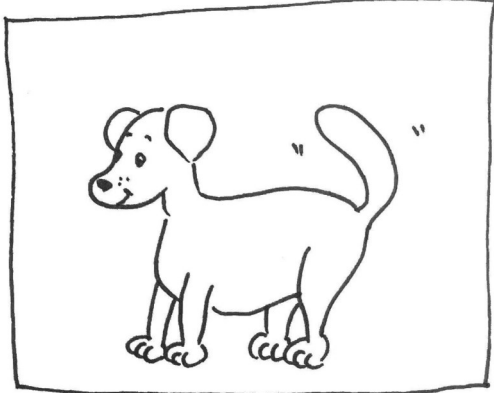
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Tony said,

“Well, it hasn’t been that long since we saw him, but maybe he grows faster than we do. I wonder when we can go see him again.”

Mother said,

“I have a fun idea. Maybe we can get our pens and some paper and see if we can learn to draw a dog.”

“Oh, yes!” they all replied.

These brothers loved to draw.



Ned added, “And maybe we can also make a ‘Thank You’ card and mail it to the shop owner, thanking him for letting us play with his dog, and to say, ‘Happy Christmas and New Year’.”

“We could put a picture of a dog on it!” Tony suggested.

So the boys got their pens and crayons, as well as scissors and glue and colored paper, and all the things they needed to make a big fancy card. Mother brought over some books with pictures of puppies to help them copy.

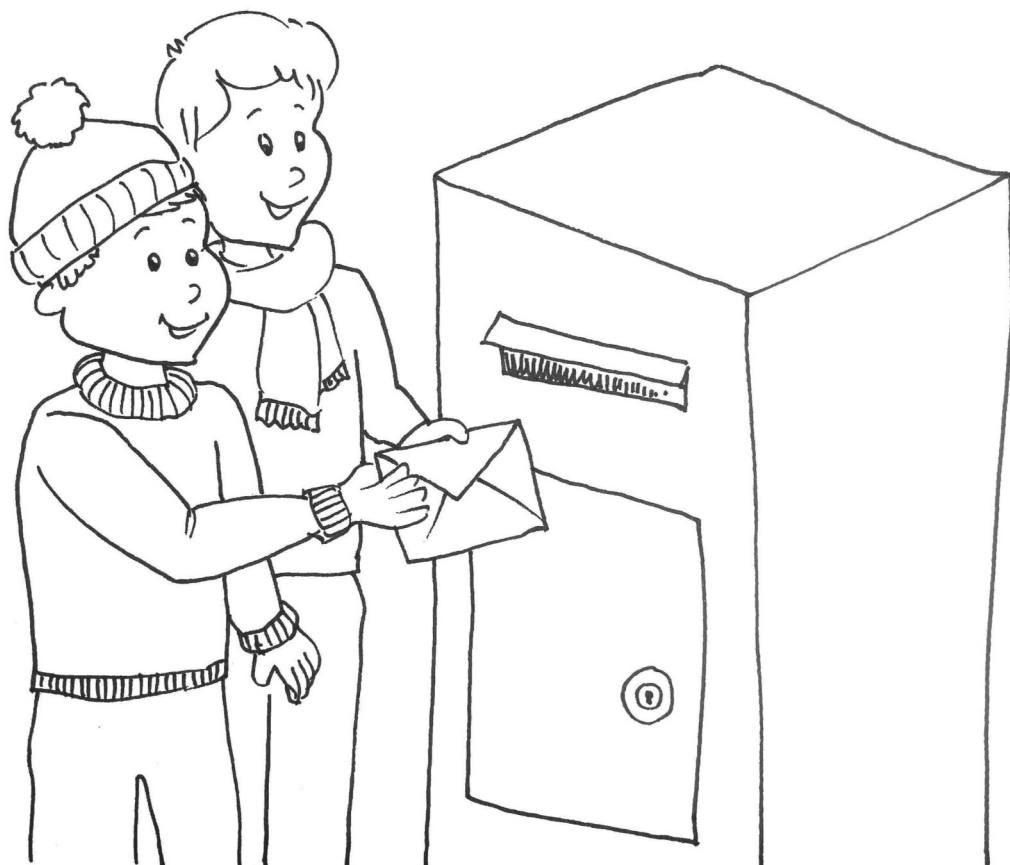


They wrote on the card, “Thank you so much!” and “Happy Christmas!” and “Happy New Year!”

In the card they also included a little Bible verse and note that Mother helped them write out.

Of course the picture on the front of the card was of a black puppy dog—but he had on a few things that Black Pup probably did not. The drawing looked like a Christmas dog, with some decorations him!

It would make the shop owner smile for sure.



That afternoon the boys and Daddy and Mother took a walk to the post office, and placed a stamp on their envelope.

“I wonder when we can play with Black Pup again?” Tony wondered, while together he and Ned dropped the envelope in the post box at the post office.

When the shop owner received the card, he loved it and smiled. It reminded him of the other envelope of cards that he had received from those that his donated food and supplies had helped.

One of the cards said,

“I am just so thankful to you for your generous gift this year to my family, of a nice meal to eat. We have hardly had any food to eat for a few days, and when the darling family brought a meal and some other supplies from your shop, I knew that there was still love in this world. And as soon as things get better for me and my family, I’m going to repay the kindness by giving to others in any way I can. Merry Christmas! –From Milly and family.”

Another note said,

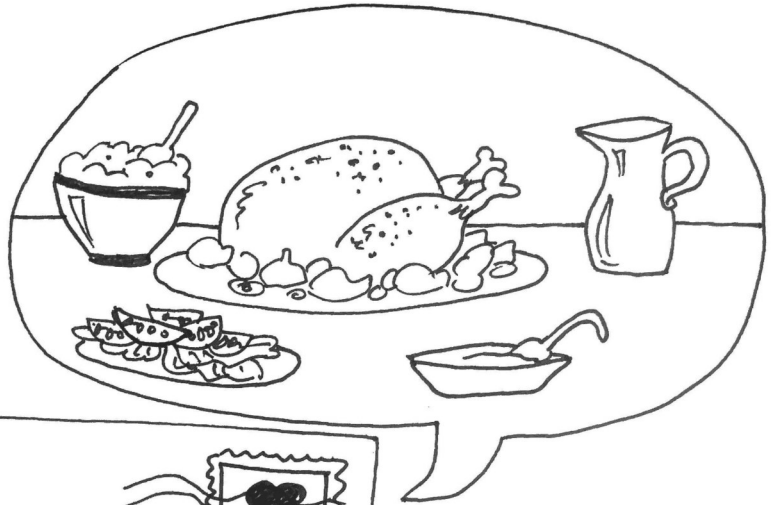
“It was the best Christmas I ever had, because of you. To know that someone cares about me, as old as I am, and unable to do most things as I am, was special to me. I needed to know that I was still important and could still do my part, as well, to help others—even if all I can do is pray. I will do that for you, as my return gift to you in this coming year. I will pray for you and for God’s blessing on your business too. —From Gerold.”



There were photos included that showed the happy faces of those who he had helped. These warmed his heart, and encouraged him to want to keep helping others—as that is how happiness would find him too.

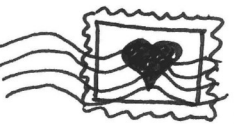
After thinking things over a bit, the shop owner got out a pen and paper and wrote out a reply to Ned, Tony, Teddy, and their parents. He posted it promptly.

A week after the boys had sent their “Thank You” card to the shop owner, a reply letter from him came in the mail.



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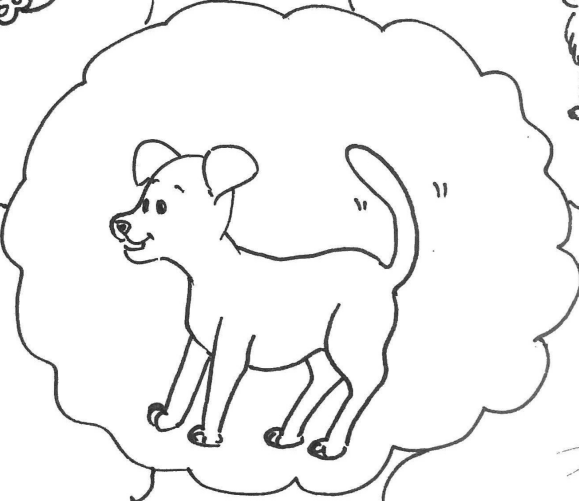
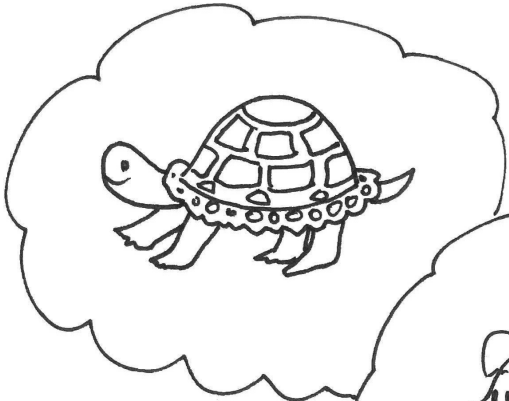
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The letter said some things they were very happy to hear. Mother opened it and saw that it said,

“Dear wonderful boys. I very much enjoyed your card of appreciation. I would like to invite you all, very soon, to visit my house again and meet my relatives that will visit me also.”

“You can eat the special New Year’s feast with us then, if you want. Some of them also bring along their dogs, so there will be plenty of fun. Black Pup will be happy to see you especially—and perhaps a few other creatures I now have will also like you to visit.



“I have decided to make my house the happiest place around, a place where children can visit and meet with little animal friends. I now also have a turtle, a bunny, of course the cat, and now I just got a hamster.

“I am making some big and fun areas in my yard for the animal friends to live in. I think you will enjoy this miniature animal park.

“This is one of my projects for the New Year. And I have decided to help you more in your family’s project, also.”



The shop owner's letter concluded with,

“If you want to have another shopping trip to my store to give out more meals to the needy families next month, I'm happy to help support you in this project. Have a good New Year!”

When Mother read this note to everyone at the dinner table, they all cheered! It would be a happy New Year indeed! They just knew it would be.

(Continued in “The Project and The Puppy”—Part 4)

