



# Guide<sup>®</sup>

SLIDING  
TOWARD  
EASTER



The boys couldn't  
stop in time

## One Less Enemy

Monica wished Amarani  
wouldn't be so cruel



S-s-snakes!

## Lessons From the Heart

Soul-saving truths from  
a lifesaving organ

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EDITOR

**Lori Fletcher**

MANAGING EDITOR

**Laura Sámano**

DESIGNER

**Daniel Añez**

COPY EDITOR

**Rhonda Christiano**

CLERICAL SUPPORT

**Gricelda Blanco**

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

**Rebecca Hilde**

WEBMASTER

**Kim Peckham**

ENGINEERING

**Gene Herbel**

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## The "Homeless" Editor

**H**as anybody complained about the beggars outside?" a woman asked the greeter at my church.

"No," the greeter responded, trying to keep a straight face. "But they've complained about her." She pointed to the edge of the church atrium, where I lay beneath the shelter of a cardboard box.

That's when the woman realized none of us were actually homeless. We were actors helping our pastor remind the congregation that whatever we do to "the least of these," we're doing to Jesus (see Matthew 25:31-46).

The "least of these" may be a homeless person (see page 22), an enemy (see page 12), or even a sibling. Who are the "least of these" in your life? What can you do today to treat them the way you would treat Jesus?

Whether you bring a sandwich to a homeless person, sit with a new kid at school, or visit the elderly woman down the street, you can show kindness to Jesus today.



Lori Fletcher, EDITOR

# UNBURIED TREASURE

WITH FRANKE ZOLLMAN

## The Southern Steps



When many Christians visit Jerusalem, they eagerly anticipate walking where Jesus walked—but is that what they are really doing?

The city of Jerusalem has been attacked dozens of times since Jesus' day, and was almost completely destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. Jesus prophesied this in Matthew 24:2 when He said that "not one stone . . . will be left on another" (NIV) in the temple.

After such devastation, the rebuilders would simply level the rubble and build on top. Thus, the layers from Jesus' time are now many feet below the modern ground level.



Archaeologists have found a large set of steps on the southern end of the old temple mount ruins. These steps were the main stairway going into the temple when Jesus would have been there. I am certain Jesus walked many times on these ancient stones! It gives one a special feeling to visit such a place.

Another name given to these steps is the "teaching steps," or the "Rabbi's steps." Certainly Jesus not only walked upon these steps but probably spent many hours teaching the people wonderful truths that we still love today.

Even though Jesus is with us everywhere, it is exciting to see the actual places Jesus walked.

"Then early in the morning all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him" (Luke 21:38).

Keep digging!







By ELFRIEDE VOLK ❁ ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS DANGER

**F**ritz came from a big family, a very big family. There was always a lot of work but very little time for play, as everyone had to help with the chores. In addition, the older children had to look after the younger ones.

The only real time for pleasure was winter, when the water on the Mill Pond had frozen and the ice beckoned. Then they would get out the skates and head to the pond to soar like birds across its smooth surface, one at a time. You see, the skates were the one-size-fits-all variety, and they had only one pair. They were similar to the roller skates that kids from more well-to-do homes had, and were tied on underneath one's regular footwear.

With a half dozen siblings waiting for their turn on the coveted skates, and the time needed to change the skates from one person to another, no one got more than a few minutes on the ice. Inevitably daylight disappeared before each of them had had a turn, and their walk home was punctuated by the sobs of those who had been left out.

# ***SLEDDING TOWARD DISASTER***

**THE WOODCUTTERS' TRAIL WAS CLEAR OF  
TRAFFIC—WITH ONE DANGEROUS EXCEPTION.**

**F**ritz much preferred sledding, which never involved fears or tears. True, it involved more work and more time, but it also involved fewer siblings. The girls, being younger, could not endure the two-mile hike to the mountain or the effort to climb its slope. So usually it was only 14-year-old Fritz, 12-year-old Hans, and 10-year-old Peter who were able to have this pleasure. Between the three of them they had worked out a system in which all could slide down the hill at the same time and then take turns pulling the sled back up.

Fritz had discovered the perfect

wheels of the carts had pressed the snow down, they had created a perfect route for the sled.

"Do you hear that hammering?" Hans stopped to listen about half-way up. "Do you think someone is building something?"

"Yes," Fritz laughed, "but not with a hammer."

"What do you mean?"

"It's a woodpecker. He's either trying to find some supper or else deepening his nest for the spring season. See, there he is," Fritz said, pointing. "Against the side of that birch tree. Woodpeckers brace themselves against the side of a tree and use their beaks to dig

## *The sled went so fast that it almost took their breath away.*

hill for sliding—an old woodcutters' trail that wound its way through the forest. The hike up was almost as pleasant as the ride down, as timid deer watched them warily from the thickets or chattering squirrels played hide-and-seek with them from the backside of tree trunks. Inaccessible to vehicular traffic in winter, the trail was still used by horse-drawn carts carrying firewood. Where the

out grubs and soft dead wood."

They climbed a little further until they reached a fairly level spot. "I think this is as high as we'll go today," Fritz said, turning the sled around to face downhill. "I hope we'll get in some good runs, because with the warm weather and sunshine we've had the past few days, the snow is going to start melting soon."

"Well, it'll take awhile to melt

this stuff," Hans replied, sliding his foot along the cart track. "I think this snow is even more solid than it was last week."

"You're right," Fritz agreed, feeling the track for himself.

"Solid ice. The sun must have melted the top surface, and then it froze again. That should make for a sweet ride. You'll have to really hang on so we don't lose you on the way."

Fritz lay down on the sled facing forward, hands on the steering mechanism. His brothers sat on his back, their feet poised on the high runners.

"Ready?" Fritz called.

"Yeah, let her rip," his brothers replied in unison.

The sled took off, picking up more speed as it went. It went so fast that it almost took their breath away.

"Yippee!" Hans and Peter yelled as the sled went even faster. "This is fun! Whatever you're doing, let's do it again."

"Nothing I did," Fritz yelled. "It's these frozen ruts, and I can't get out of them. Fortunately, there's no other traffic!"

They were going so fast now that Fritz was having trouble making the turns. "Oh, God, help me," he prayed. "Don't let us crash."

"Stop!" yelled Hans, who was sitting at the front.

"I can't," Fritz replied. "If

Find the emoji that shows how the kids felt when they didn't get a chance to ice skate. It's hiding somewhere in this issue.



you need a bathroom break, you should have thought of that before. Too late now." Then he noticed what Hans had seen. "Oh, no! No, Lord, no!" he cried.

"What's happening?" Peter asked from the back.

"There's a cart loaded with wood right in front of us," Hans wailed. "We're going to crash into it!"

"Jump!" Fritz called, his voice trembling with fear. "Jump!"

Hans jumped one way, Peter jumped the other. Fritz, lying on his stomach, was unable to jump and went straight ahead, into the load of wood.

"Oh, no!" Hans and Peter cried, seeing Fritz half submerged in the firewood. "He must be dead."

"I can't bear to look," Peter said, tears running down his face. "I can't bear the sight of blood."

"I can't see any blood," Hans said. "But since he hit the wood headfirst, his head must be a bloody mess. Glad we can't see that. Can't even see his shoulders. He's really wedged in there. And no wonder at the speed we were going!"

Peter overcame his fear enough to look. "I think he's still alive," he said. "His legs are moving."

**Continued on p. 27**





# MUD

OFF-ROAD DISCOVERIES *WITH* RICH AGUILERA

Snakes (along with spiders) top the list of things people are afraid of. I am not a huge fan of snakes myself, but I am not a full-blown snake-o-phobe. Maybe that's not the correct term, but if you're wondering why snakes scare people so much, here are three specimens that are not helping reduce snake-o-phobia.

## 1

The **saw-scaled viper** is responsible for the most human deaths. One reason for this is that they are found in very populated areas in India and the Middle East.



## 2

The **King Cobra** can deliver enough venom to kill an elephant and can grow to be 18 feet long. I've said enough.



# S-S-S-SNAKES!

By the way, the correct scientific term for someone who is severely afraid of snakes is ophidiophobia. Even the name sounds scary!



## 3

The **Black Mamba** is not only the fastest snake in the world—it also carries deadly venom. Its bite can kill a human being in less than 30 minutes, and it can slither along at more than 12 miles per hour. Fast and deadly!

# YOUR PORTABLE ID

Every one of you is carrying around an incredible portable ID—fingerprints. God designed our bodies to include fingerprints, and as most people know, there are no two fingerprints in the world that are alike.

Today fingerprints are an important part of crime solving. When people touch many types of surfaces, their fingerprints are left behind as markers saying, “I was here.”

Here’s a question for you. Is God’s fingerprint imprinted on your life? Not a fingerprint that says “I was here” but instead a fingerprint that says “I AM here.” Everywhere you go, let people know that God is the center of your life by the way you treat and love others.



For someone my age, living in the year 2020 sounds like something out of a science-fiction movie. I figured by now we’d all be driving flying cars, walking around in cool silver jumpsuits, and vacationing on the moon.

Space travel sounds cool, but the lack of gravity can cause major problems for those visiting the final frontier.

Joe's Good Eats

The lack of gravity means our muscles get weaker, since we're not carrying around the weight of our bodies.

Bone loss is also a problem because the lack of gravity causes the body to lose calcium and other important minerals.

Astronauts living on the International Space Station must do two hours of exercise each day in order to slow down the muscle and bone loss that occurs in space.

I'm so glad God designed earth to be just right for human habitation. ☺







By MONICA BAUTISTA ❁ ILLUSTRATED BY ELISA CHAVARRI

With an evil smirk, Amarani quickly snatched the ball out of my hands.

“Stop it. It’s my turn!” I yelled, but Amarani ignored me.

“It’s OK,” my friend Marlene said, patting my back. “Don’t let her bother you.”

Marlene had been my best friend since the first grade, and Amarani had bullied me for just as many years.

Then one mid-January Tuesday morning Marlene didn’t show up to school. Knowing I’d be alone throughout recess and lunch, I wondered what to do. I worried that Amarani would take the opportunity to follow me around school.

*Should I call my mom? I wondered. Should I pretend I’m sick? Maybe they’ll send me home early. No, I’ll be OK.*

I went on with my day, trying to

hide from Amarani by avoiding her normal pathways.

When the lunch bell rang, I reached into my backpack for my lunch ticket and walked to the lunch line alone. Soon I heard giggles coming from the end of the line. Deciding not to turn around, I kept my eyes straight forward. The giggles continued.

“Hey, Monica!”

I continued looking forward.

“Monnicaaaa.”

I turned to see Amarani and her best friend, Cynthia. The giggles made me nervous. Turning back around, I pretended not to see them.

As I prepared to hand my lunch ticket to the cafeteria woman, I felt a small breeze and a forceful grasp. Amarani had taken my lunch ticket.

“Hey, give that back!” I yelled.

Amarani and Cynthia ran outside, and I quickly ran after them. Mr. Estrada, the cafeteria duty

# One **LESS** Enemy

Monica decided to confront Amarani about her cruel behavior.

# Armarani ripped the letter in front of Monica.

aid, blocked the door. “No running, Ms. Monica.”

“But Mr. Estrada, they took my lunch ticket!” I protested. “Who did?” he asked.

Before saying anyone’s name, I felt a lump in my throat. If I snitched, they would hate me even more. *I can’t do it; I can’t snitch.*

“Who? Who took your lunch ticket?” he asked again. I reached into my pocket, pretending to find the ticket.

“Oh! Never mind,” I said with a nervous laugh. “I had it all along.”

Hey, how was school?” my dad greeted me as I got in the car.

“Good,” I responded, with my arms crossed.

“Are you sure? You seem upset.”

“I didn’t eat lunch today because Amarani took my lunch ticket.” I blurted out.

“What?” He looked at me. “Did you tell anyone?”

“No.” I turned to face outside the car window.

Arriving home, my dad told my mom about what happened.

“What?” she looked dismayed. “That’s your lunch; you have to eat something when you’re at school.”

“I’m sorry, Mom, I just didn’t want to tell on her,” I said, looking down.

I felt her warm hand as she placed my hair behind my ear and said, “It’s OK, I’ll just pack you a lunch from now on.”

That night while Mom read to us about forgiveness, I wrote a letter to Amarani to express my feelings.

The next day when I saw Amarani and Cynthia heading toward the bathroom, I followed them, squeezing the letter tight. We immediately made eye contact as I hand her the folded letter.

“What is this?” she asked.

“A letter. It wasn’t nice what you did to me yesterday, so I wrote to you telling you how you made me feel.”

“Well, this is how I feel,” she said as she ripped the letter in front of me with Cynthia laughing in the background. My heart dropped.

“But . . .” I stammered.

Arriving home that afternoon, I tried to hold in my tears.

“How was school?” my mom asked as she opened her arms for a hug.

I ran into her arms, feeling the hot tears cover my face. “Tell me, what happened?” she asked.

“Amarani took the letter I wrote to her, and she ripped it,” I sobbed. “She ripped it, Mom!”

“It’s OK. Remember that verse from last night? It says that we should be more like Jesus. Be kind and forgiving. Learn to be more like Jesus.”

I nodded with confidence and listened to my mom. Even though I was upset at Amarani for everything she had done, I decided to forgive her.

The next day I tried to find a good time I could talk to her without Cynthia or any of her friends around. Suddenly there she was.

As she was walking to class, I yelled, “Amarani, wait!” She looked

over her shoulder and just stared.

“Wait,” I said. “I know you don’t like me, but I need to talk to you.”

“OK, what?” she asked.

“You know, what you did was not nice,” I looked around to make sure nobody was within earshot. “Every day I come to school happy to be with my

friends, but when you are mean to me, it makes

me really sad. I would never rip up your letter, or take your lunch ticket, or take the ball from you. I will, though, be your friend. So what do you say?

Can we be friends?” “Yeah, I’m sorry.”

Amarani looked down. “I just feel like everyone doesn’t like me, and when I’m mean to other people, they laugh. All I want is to have friends and make people laugh.”

“I don’t think being mean is a good way to make people like you,” I said. “I think if you were nicer to people, they would like you much more than being mean to them. Promise me you’ll be nice?”

“Yes, I know, I was being mean,” she said. “I really don’t mean to.”

With open arms, I said, “It’s OK; I forgive you.”

As we hugged tightly, a new friendship began. ☺





# Lessons From the Heart

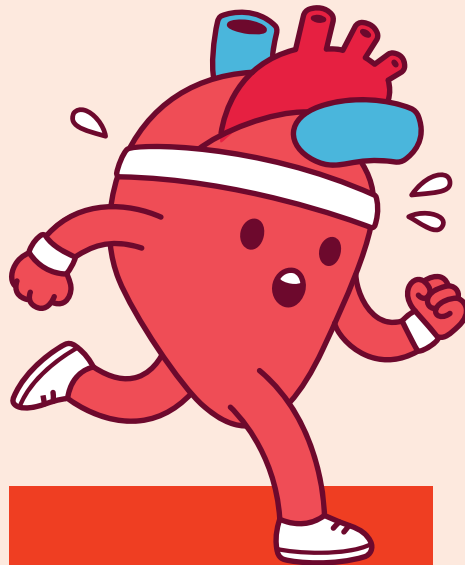
By JEFF OGANGA KATIENO

"My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways" (Proverbs 23:26, NIV).

David Livingstone, a Scottish man with missionary zeal, explored Africa in the nineteenth century. His explorations helped open up Africa to the rest of the world. Because of Livingstone's love for Africa, when he died his attendants removed his heart and buried it under a tree near the spot where he died.



"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).



The heart acts as a double pump, without which life stops. In a way, it is the power source of life, pumping life-giving blood to the rest of the body.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (Proverbs 4:23, NIV).

The muscles of the heart are unique. They don't move and stop like skeletal muscles. For example, the muscles in my leg cannot move unless I indicate that I want them to move. But the muscles of the heart contract and relax automatically, without our intentions or efforts. They just do their work. They don't stop to wait for instructions from us.



How beautiful would it be if we would do our work without being reminded!

When doctors want to check the health of your heart, they use a stethoscope. If they hear a murmur in your heart even as your heart pumps, it can be a sign of sickness or disease.

Aw! Do I have to?



Sometimes we are told to do something, and it is fine if we do it without murmuring and turning our noses up. However, if we do it while murmuring, it means we are spiritually sick. We need to be treated!

Electricity is what powers the heart! In fact, when someone is having problems with their heart, doctors might perform surgery to put an electrical generator inside their upper chest to supply electricity to the heart. It's called a pacemaker.



Without the power of the Holy Spirit acting as an electrical current, we can do nothing.

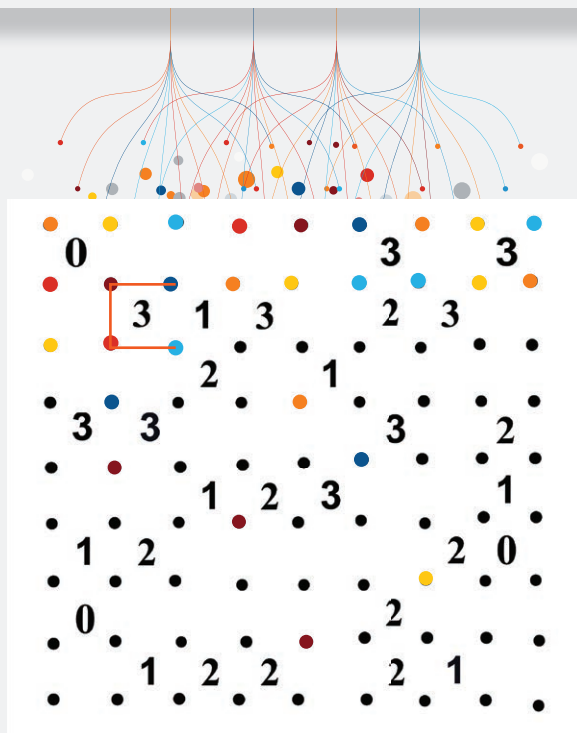
# Making Connections

by Kris MacLeod

"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your \_\_\_\_\_ may be full."

- To complete this puzzle, draw a continuous loop line.
- The line connects the dots to the right, left, up, and down, but not diagonally.
- The line must not cross itself or have any branches.
- Any of the dots may be used.
- The numbers indicate how many lines can be placed around that particular cell of four dots.
- The first set of lines has been drawn for you. Continue at one open end and work your way around the puzzle until you get to the other open end.

Create a loop line in the puzzle below to discover a clue to complete the above quote.



Answer on p. 27

## "Don't Bother the Bears"

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# Be Still

Juli really wanted to hear God's voice.

By JULI BLOOD

Today we're going to talk about prayer and how to hear God's voice," my teacher announced.

I leaned forward with interest. *Soon I'll have to decide what to do with my life, I thought. God should have the best answer to that question!*

"Clear your minds of everything, and be still," my teacher continued. "Then let God speak."

I couldn't do it. After a few days of trying to quiet my mind, I was discouraged.

"What can I do?" I asked my teacher.

"If you can't create a blank

space, try seeing a picture of Jesus in your mind, and just be still."

So I went back and tried that, but my brain doesn't really do "be still" very well. My mind is always going.

For two weeks I tried, but the longer I tried and failed, the more depressed I got.

Dad soon noticed my depression. "What's wrong?" he asked.

I poured out my heart and waited for his wisdom, but instead he asked me a question.

"So, according to your teacher, God, the all-powerful Creator of the universe, is limited by your ability to make your mind a complete blank? God, who formed

you in your mother's womb and designed you before time began, who knows exactly how your mind works because He designed it that way, isn't able to communicate with you because you can't do something? That seems a bit off to me."

I thought about it for a moment, then said, "Well, God does tell us to be still and know."

"True," my dad answered, "but aren't you putting everything else aside and trying to communicate with God? Do you really think God would design you with a mind that couldn't hear Him?"

"No," I admitted, but wasn't sure what else to say.

"I think your teacher has found a way in which he communicates well with God, and so he was trying to share that with your class. However, I don't think we should limit God to just one way of reaching us. God can communicate with us in a variety of ways, if I'm reading my Bible correctly," Dad said.

I started to cry with the realization I wasn't a complete failure at having a relationship with God. The depression lifted, and I praised God for a father who cared enough to ask and was wise enough to explain. **G**

## Christian Meditation

When the Bible or Ellen White speaks about meditation, they are not referring to an emptying of the mind, but on focused contemplation of the Bible and God.

"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97).

"The infinite, unfathomable love of God through Christ became the subject of [Enoch's] meditation day and night; and with all the fervor of his soul he sought to reveal that love to the people among whom he dwelt" (Ellen G. White, *Conflict and Courage*, p. 28).

# The Homeless Man

By MICHELLE DOWN

He isn't your ordinary hobo.

Look at that," the woman gasped as she glared out her car window.

Lying on a bench, huddled under a blanket, was a homeless person. He looked to be sound asleep, but it wouldn't have been comfortable on that hard bench.

The woman punched the police emergency number into her cell phone.

"There's a homeless man lying on a park bench," she huffed when a cop answered. "Someone needs to do something about it."

But it wasn't just any homeless man lying on a park bench—it was Jesus, or at least a bronze statue of Jesus, huddled under a bronze

blanket. You can't see his face, but you know it's Jesus because there are nail scars in His feet.

So what's Jesus doing lying on a park bench in the wealthy town of Davidson, North Carolina?

It's actually a bronze sculpture created by a Canadian sculptor, Timothy Schmalz. There are now 100 homeless Jesus statues around the world.

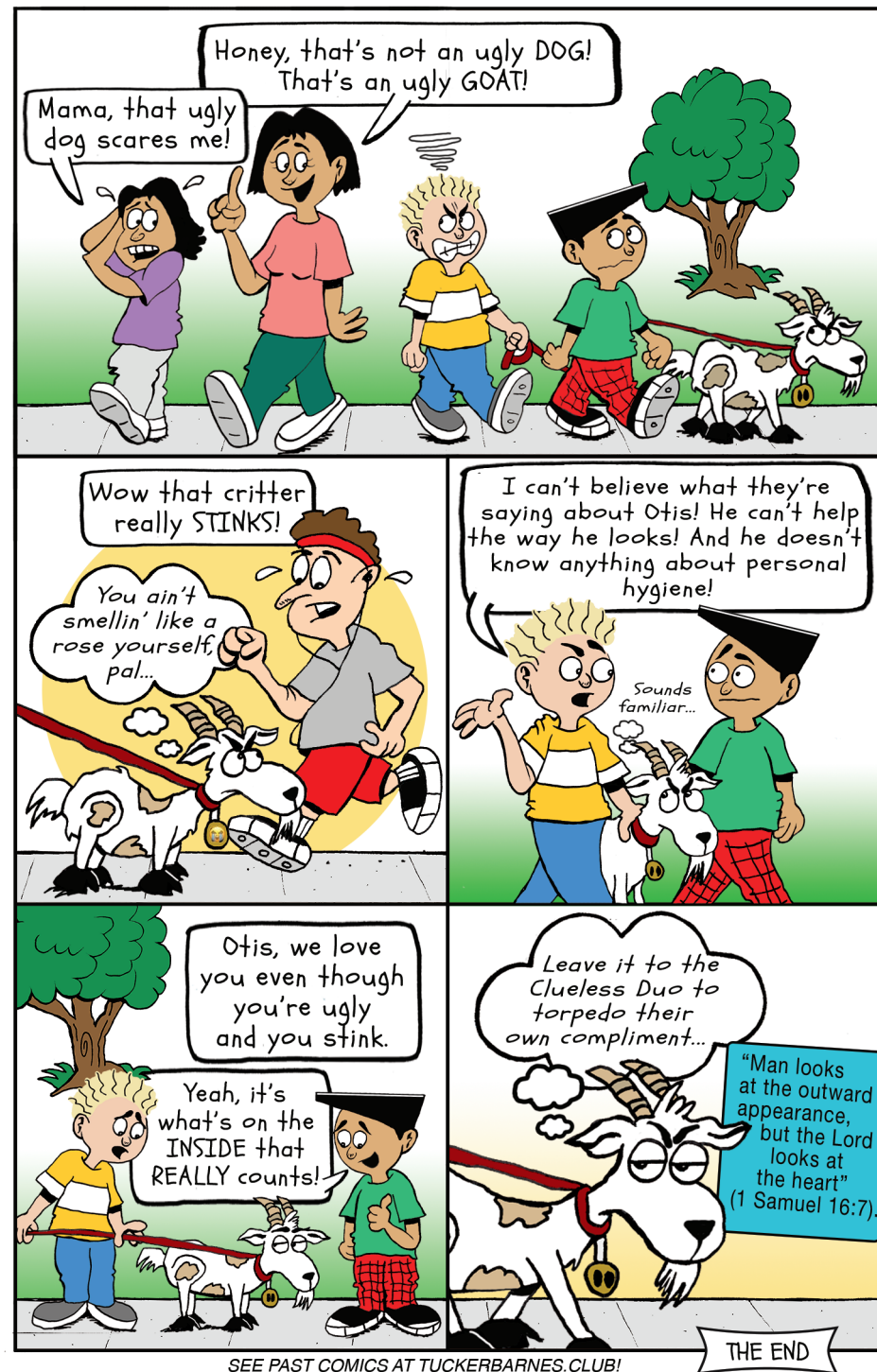
When you think of it, Jesus was a homeless hobo when he was on earth. He told John's disciples, "The Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head" (Matthew 8:20).

The statue reminds people every day that Jesus left the beauty of heaven to be homeless on earth. ☺



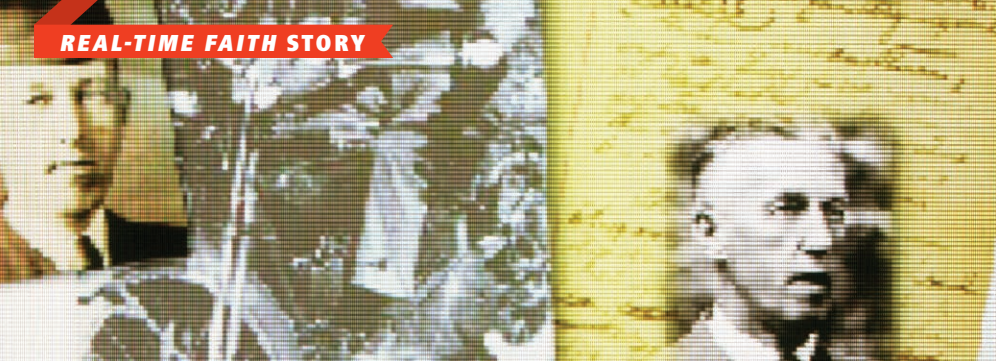
TUCKER BARNES

By Randy Fishell



SEE PAST COMICS AT TUCKERBARNES.CLUB!





# ROCK BOTTOM

**B**ill was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army when he had his first drink. At 22 years of age, he had a good career ahead of him. He was well on his way to making a success from a life that had gotten off to a rough start. His father's alcoholism had broken up Bill's parents' marriage when he was just a kid, and he'd been raised by his grandparents. But it looked as if Bill would overcome that rough start—until he found out that, just like his dad, he loved to drink.

By the time he was in his 30s, Bill was a wreck. Whereas once he used to drink to celebrate a successful business deal, now he couldn't hold down a job. He and his wife were living in her parents' house because they couldn't afford a home of their own. Bill was so down and out that he sometimes begged for cash on the street. He was hospitalized four times so he could try to quit drinking.

One day in 1934 Bill gave up. He admitted that he couldn't do anything to break the power of alcoholism in his life. It was up to God to help him out.

Eighty-five years later the organization Bill W. founded, Alcoholics Anonymous, has more than 2 million members in 150 countries, as well as dozens of spin-off groups, including Alateen. The very first steps of the program are to admit that you are powerless over your problem and to ask a higher power for help.

As Christians, citizens of God's kingdom, we know God is our higher power. Alcoholics talk about having to hit rock bottom, even if that means begging for money on the street, before they realize how much they need help. But we're not all homeless or down-and-out. Many of us are pretty well-off, popular, clean-living people, aren't we? Do we all need to hit rock bottom before we can accept God's offer to help us?

acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. . . . Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life."

Read Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 103-106.

SABBATH

**R**ead this week's *Real-Time Faith* story above.

**Memory Text:** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

**Our Beliefs, no. 10, The Experience of Salvation:** Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need,

January 25, 2020  
Lesson study for January 18-24



realtimfaith.net

## LESSON 4: THE SINNER'S NEED

SUNDAY

**R**ead John 3:16.

It's the last evening of your church's Week of Prayer meeting, and the pastor's making an appeal for people to give their hearts to God. The lights are low, the music is playing, the Holy Spirit is working.

But from your place in the back row you feel confused. Lately nothing seems to be going right at school, at home, even with your friends. You wonder if "giving your heart to Jesus," as the preacher says, would make a big difference. What would it even mean? What would your friends think if you stood up and walked to the front? How would your life change if you took this step?

MONDAY

**R**ead John 3:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Titus 3:3-7.

God loves you. He sent His Son to die in your place so you might live forever with Him. He has also sent the Holy Spirit to help you resist the devil and live a life filled with His goodness and love.

What in your life is holding you back from making the life-changing decision to live a life for Him instead of yourself?

Unscramble the words below and write out the verse on the lines below.

power forgiveness us have 13, 14 the conveyed whom blood His delivered NKJV we kingdom He through of 1: has of us of and love His of darkness Colossians from in sins the redemption the Son into the

TUESDAY

**R**ead Ephesians 2:8, 9.

What does it mean to "accept Jesus" or "give your heart to God"? Do you have to "hit rock bottom" first?

If you grew up in church, you've probably heard about "salvation" for as long as you can remember. Now it's time to find out what it means for you personally.

It isn't just about getting baptized because you're "old enough" and all your friends are doing it. It isn't even about going up to the front after a special meeting when the preacher has everyone feeling kind of guilty.

It's about knowing in your own heart that *you need God*. That doesn't mean you have to "hit rock bottom." It just means knowing you can't live a perfect, holy, happy life all on your own strength. You need God to make you complete. You need God's power to become the person you were created to be. Most of all, you need Jesus' death on the cross for your sins as your only ticket to heaven.

See, eternal life isn't something we can earn or deserve, no matter how good we are. We're human, sinful, born to die. Imperfect beings can't live forever in a perfect world unless we accept the prepaid ticket Jesus bought for us at Calvary.

"Accepting Jesus" means you get His power in your life today and the promise of eternal life in the future. All you have to do is admit you can't do it alone.

"But when the heart yields to the influence of the Spirit of God, the conscience will be quickened, and the sinner will discern something of the depth and sacredness of God's holy law, the foundation of His government in heaven and on earth" (Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 24).

Look up the Bible verses in the New King James Version and fill in the blanks.

1 John 3:16. "For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ that He \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ begotten \_\_\_\_\_, that \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ should not perish but have \_\_\_\_\_ life."

2 Ephesians 2:8, 9. "For by \_\_\_\_\_ you have been \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, and that not of \_\_\_\_\_; it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, not of \_\_\_\_\_, lest anyone should boast."

3 2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_, he is a \_\_\_\_\_; old things have \_\_\_\_\_; behold, \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_."

4 Romans 5:8. "But \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_ own \_\_\_\_\_ toward \_\_\_\_\_, in that while we were still \_\_\_\_\_, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us."

5 Romans 6:23. "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord."

6 Romans 3:23. "For \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

**D**ead Revelation 3:20.

Review the memory text.

Sometimes we hear about someone's "search for God." Really, it should be the other way around. God is searching for *you*. He'll do anything to get your attention; He'll stop at nothing to make sure you notice Him.

Why does He love you so much? He made you. Only He knows you inside out. He knows the worst about you and loves you anyway. And only He knows the person you're capable of becoming, with His help.

What is He waiting for? Well, He won't force His way into your life. He's waiting for one simple thing: for you to respond to His Spirit and admit that you need Him, that you want Him in your life.

Dead Psalm 51:10.

**R** Sit down and take a few minutes to write a letter to God. Write it out by hand in the space below, or type it on your computer as if you were sending God an email. Tell Him the worst things that are going on in your life—and the best. Tell Him about the areas in which you need His help.

Finish up your letter by telling God that you need Him and that you're willing to do whatever it takes to give Him first place in your life. Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for your sins, and tell Him you accept His sacrifice — His payment of your debt.

When you've finished, go back and read the Bible verses from Wednesday's section. Imagine God is answering your letter. Beneath your message, write God's reply. What would He say to you?

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**“Sledding Toward Disaster,” from p. 7**

“That doesn’t mean anything,” Hans said. “Don’t you remember what happens when Grandpa kills chickens? They can still run around even though their heads are chopped off.”

“But Fritz . . . Are you sure he’s dead? Couldn’t God have performed a miracle?”

“Of course, but we didn’t ask Him to, and it is too late now. All we can do is stay with the cart so Dad and Mom will know where to get . . .” He stopped, unable to voice his fears. Then he abruptly turned to Peter. “Get the sled,” he said. “I’ll try to catch up to the cart.”

Hans ran down to the cart that was still slowly moving forward, its driver oblivious to what had happened behind him. Fritz's legs were still kicking wildly. Grabbing them, Hans started pulling. The legs stopped flailing, but a muffled, indecipherable sound now came from deep within the wood. Hans pulled harder. It took great effort, but slowly Fritz's shoulders and then his head emerged from the load of wood. When his head came free, the boys saw that, except for a few scratches, there wasn't a mark on him.

“Whew!” Fritz exclaimed, sitting up. “That was close! I could hardly breathe in there!”

"Fritz!" Peter exclaimed, start-

ing to cry again. "We thought you'd been killed."

"I thought I'd been killed too," Fritz said, shaking his head. "I don't know what happened. From where I was, the load of wood looked solid. But when I hit it, a hole seemed to open up where I could go in unhurt."

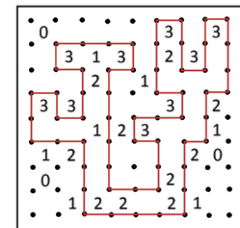
“I think I know what happened,” Hans said. “God sent His angels to protect you.”

“Yeah,” Peter agreed. “And we didn’t even have time to pray that prayer.”

“Well, I think a prayer of thanks is in order now,” Fritz said. “So let’s thank God for being with us and protecting all of us.”

“Amen!” both Hans and Peter chimed in as they bowed their heads. **G**

**Answers: Making Connections, p. 18:**  
 “Until now you have asked nothing in  
 My name. Ask, and you will receive,  
 that your **joy** may be full” (John 16:24).





# Way to Worship!

*Do you have a favorite preacher or teacher? Why do you think you enjoy that person so much? Have you told the person how you feel? Imagine Jesus as your pastor.*

A young man squirmed in his seat beside his father. “I’m glad we came early,” he said. “I can’t believe how many people are here at the synagogue today.”

“Everyone has come to hear Jesus,” his father answered. “After He healed the nobleman’s son, word spread quickly about His teachings.”

“Maybe He’ll heal someone today,” the young man said excitedly.

“Perhaps,” his father murmured. “But I get the feeling that Jesus doesn’t do this for the crowd’s enjoyment. There’s something different about Him.”

Craning his neck, the boy could see the man who interested him so much. Jesus didn’t look any different from those clustered around Him. He went to synagogue each Sabbath just as they did. He took part in the service with the others.

“Why does Jesus spend so much time here in Capernaum?” the boy wondered out loud.

“Capernaum has so many

people passing through it,” his father observed. “I think Jesus wants to reach as many people as possible with His message. This is a good place to do that.”

Growing quiet, the crowd recognized that Jesus was ready to speak. No one wanted to miss a word He would say. He seemed to talk directly to each one. And He used illustrations from everyday life that they could understand. He used those illustrations to tell them important things about the love of God. Jesus spoke with authority, using simple language, to help people receive and believe the truth. The boy was amazed that even he understood Jesus’ teaching.

Looking around him, he saw people listening carefully. Some were smiling. Others nodded their heads in agreement. But some were frowning.

“Father,” the young man whispered, “who are those men who are frowning?”

“They’re from the Sanhedrin,” his father answered. “Some say that they are following Jesus



from town to town, gathering information on what He does.”

Jesus began to speak about His kingdom. Hope filled the hearts of the people as they recognized that Jesus was able to set them free from the forces of darkness that had kept them in captivity to sin.

Suddenly a scream echoed through the building. Everyone froze in their seats.

A man came running from the back of the synagogue. Holding his hands out as if trying to reach for Jesus, he headed directly to Him. But as he got close, it seemed as if something or someone was holding him back. The man appeared to be fighting an invisible force, a demon.

“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?” screamed an unearthly voice. “I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

(Mark 1:24, NIV).

The young man looked at Jesus, who was holding His hands out to the man. There seemed to be sorrow and anger on His face at the same time.

“Be quiet!” Jesus commanded. “Come out of him!” (verse 25, NIV). After one last struggle, the demon obeyed.

The crowd began to murmur. “Did you see that?” “Amazing!” “What manner of man is this?” Holding up His hand for silence, Jesus continued to teach. Everyone listened to His words.

After the service the boy and his father left the synagogue, knowing that surely they had felt the presence of God in this place of worship. They were thankful for the opportunity they had to be witnesses of God’s goodness and power conquering evil.

Sabbath

**DO** Do this week's activity at [guidemagazine.org](http://guidemagazine.org).

Sunday

**READ** Read Luke 4:31-37 and this week's lesson, "Way to Worship!"

**CREATE** Draw a temple gate with the power text on it.

**PRAY** Praise God for the things He has done in your life.

Monday

**READ** Read Mark 1:21, 22.

**COMPARE** The word "authority" can mean different things. Compare your understanding of these verses with this contemporary version: "They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars" (Message).\*

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Ask God to speak with authority in your life and help you to be a powerful witness for Him.

Tuesday

**READ** Read Mark 1:23-28 and John 2:15, 16.

**DISCUSS** Jesus showed that worship is a positive experience. Discuss with an adult how you could contribute with your talents to the worship programs at church.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Ask God for wisdom as you seek to worship Him.

Wednesday

**READ** Read 1 Chronicles 16:8-36.

**WRITE** After you have read this Bible passage, underline or make notes in your Bible study journal of the words that tell about different ways we can worship.

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** Pray verses 8-11, using "I" as the subject.

Thursday

**READ** Read Psalm 65:4 and Psalm 92:12-14.

**THINK** What is promised to those who worship in the house of the Lord?

**REVIEW** Review the power text.

**PRAY** At worship, praise God for His blessings.

Friday

**READ** For worship, ask your family or friends to share in the reading of Psalm 100.

**SHARE** Ask each person to share what the verse means to them.

**SAY** Share with your family the power text by memory.

**SING** Psalm 98:4-9 is very similar to Psalm 100. It has been made into a contemporary Christian praise song. If you know that song, "Shout to the Lord" (Praise Time, no. 69), sing it to open the Sabbath. If not, sing another song of praise.

**PRAY** Thank God for the opportunity to worship Him joyfully.

[juniorpowerpoints.org](http://juniorpowerpoints.org)

# Lesson 4 January 25, 2020 Lesson study for January 18-24

Key References: Mark 1:21-28; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 252-261; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 157-159; *Our Beliefs*, nos. 20, 12, 22.

## POWER POINT

When we take an active part in worship, we are responding to God's love.

## POWER TEXT

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4, NIV).



## BIBLE SKETCHES A Visual Introduction to the Sabbath School Lesson

Lesson 4: January 18-24, 2020

Written by Tompaul Wheeler + Illustrated by Mariano Santillan

ONE SABBATH IN CAPERNAUM, JESUS TEACHES IN A SYNAGOGUE. THE PEOPLE ARE ASTONISHED, FOR JESUS TEACHES WITH AN AUTHORITY THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN.



SUDDENLY A MAN POSSESSED BY AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT BURSTS INTO THE WORSHIP SERVICE.



WITH A SIMPLE COMMAND JESUS HAS FREED THE MAN FROM DEMONIC OPPRESSION.



MORE NEXT WEEK!

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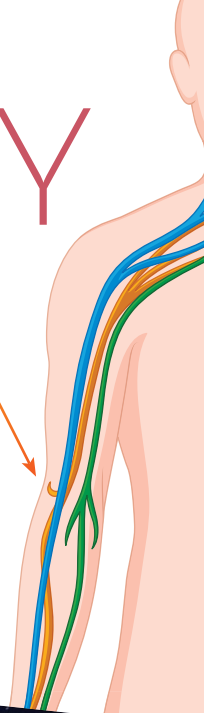
# The FACTORY

# 1



## No Laughing Matter

The painful feeling from hitting your funny bone doesn't come from a bone at all but from the ulnar nerve, located at the elbow. Hit it in the right spot, and you smack the nerve, sending a jolt of pain up your arm. Ouch!  
—bbc.com



## Close the Sale

With more than 43 million sold since its debut in 1966, the number-one car in the world is the Toyota Corolla.  
—msn.com

## Dark Sky

Stargazers can have trouble observing the heavens at night because of light pollution. To help them find truly dark skies from which to view the stars, John Bortle developed the Bortle Dark-Sky Scale, a nine-level scale to help observers judge the true darkness of a viewing site. —skyandtelescope.com

Zzzzz



## Worth Its Weight in Gold

The Palace of the Parliament in Romania is believed to be the heaviest building in the world. The palace was constructed from 1.5 billion pounds of steel and bronze, 35.3 million cubic feet of marble, 7.7 million pounds of crystal glass, and 31.7 million cubic feet of wood.  
—guinnessworldrecords.com

## Naptime

If you turn some species of sharks upside down, they'll go into a trancelike state for about 15 minutes. Scientists call it tonic immobility.  
—sharktrust.org

