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## **MISSIONARY REVIVALIST SELECTIONS**

**From the April, 1965 Issue of The Missionary Revivalist  
Official Organ Of The Bible Missionary Church, Inc.**

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**WHAT THE BOOK OF JOB TEACHES GOD'S CHILDREN**  
By Elbert Dodd

Subject: What the Book of Job teaches God's Children.

Scripture: Job 1:8-12. The book of Job is one of the greatest books in all the Bible and teaches many wonderful lessons. First it teaches us that man can be perfect in heart before God in this life. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." (Job 1:1)

It also teaches us that many men have the wrong conception of God. The friends of Job accused Job of being a sinner, and many other accusations were made because they had the wrong conception of God. Job had access to God through the blood of the Sacrifice and Job had a perfect heart. Since Job knew God and God knew Job and could trust him, God teaches all His children a lesson through the life of Job.

Job also was a true steward of God. When everything had been swept away, Job testified that the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of God. Job did not have the ownership complex, but rather the conception of the true man of God. He said, "This I have in my hands is not mine, but God's" This is the way with all of God's children. No man can be selfish and be a Christian. Christians are unselfish.

The book of Job proves that a Christian can be prosperous and blessed with finances, yet be true. It also teaches that a Christian does not tie himself to materialistic things. It further teaches that prosperity is not a sign that the individual is God's child.

God shows through this book why the righteous suffer. God lets them suffer financial loss to prove the devil is a liar. God does not have to build hedges around His children these blessings from God are not hedges.

This book also reveals that God allowed Job to see himself. "Then Job answered the Lord, and said, I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:1-6)

This incident in the life of Job was permitted to prove God's love to His children. "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for What son is he whom the father Chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure, but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:7-11).

Also this trial allowed Job to get a clearer view of his Redeemer. It also teaches the resurrection. Job was assured ,that he would rise again. "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." (Job 19:25) Praise God for revealing this truth to us through the book of Job!

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## THE TWO INAUGURATIONS

W. M. Tidwell

Webster says, "To inaugurate is to induct into office with appropriate ceremonies." The gigantic shocking fanfare of the inauguration of the President has just taken place in Washington, D, C. According to authentic reports, in many respects, never anything to compare with it in history.

Incomprehensible arrangements were made for the gala, godless affair. Great red carpets spread before the two hundred and twenty-five foot bar where fifty bartenders served liquor not in regular liquor glasses but in large regular drinking glasses where the "Big shots" drank and caroused. Reported that liquor for the first time sold in the White House.

The report is that the President danced at five balls. Dancing with ten different women, one a colored woman. Then with the numerous "activities", standing in the cold for hours and finally in a few hours wound up in the hospital. One man said about this: "Dancing at five balls and ten different partners in one night was too much for the "Old boy".

But to us, the saddest of all was, we think, leaving the name of Jesus out. We listened for it but all in vain. There was no room for Him in the inn and it is all unchanged now. No room for Him in the social, industrial, political and largely in the religious inns. Jesus, the Creator, preserver and giver of all good things ignored. Shameful!

But there is, in a sense, another inauguration coming. What a difference. At a different place. This one at the licentious city of Washington, but the next will be on the Throne set in the elements in the heavens. Read Rev. chap. 4. On this Throne will be the blessed Trinity, the twenty-four elders, the four living ones and around this Throne will be a beautiful rainbow and before this Throne, a shining glassy sea. Here, the heavenly inauguration of the Son of God will take place. In the Washington inauguration, many earthly celebrities were the participants but here such characters as Job, Abraham, Daniel, Paul and all the saints of all ages will be there, but Jesus the principal one. He will not be ignored. No one ashamed of Him at this time. They will shout, say "Amen", and sing "holy, holy, holy". Jesus said if we are ashamed of Him in this wicked and adulterous generation, He will be ashamed of us before His Father and the holy Angels. He also said, if we confess Him before men, He will confess us over there. Such a day!

The saints would not fit in at the President's dancing, carousing, inauguration ball and we fear this gala Christ-rejecting throng at Washington would not feel at home at this glorious Christ-crowning inauguration in the skies.

Every indication seems to point that this heavenly inauguration may be near. Christ will come from Heaven, and all the saints with Him. He will stop over at the glassy sea and Sound the trumpet. Those who come with Him, from Heaven, will come on to the Earth, while Christ stops at the Throne in the heavens. All who are living and ready to go to the Rapture will be changed. Receive their glorified bodies. Then this mighty throng, from the earth, risen, resurrected, and changed, will head for the marriage supper for this glorious Heavenly inauguration in the skies. I Thes. 4:16-18. This celebration, the Bible says, will last exactly seven years. Then Christ and His Bride will come on to the earth from the marriage supper to reign one thousand years. Christ will stop over on the way and consign the Beast and False Prophet to the Lake of Fire. Rev. 19:20. Bind the Devil and put him in the Pit, Hell, for one thousand years. Rev. 20:1-3. Then the glorious millennial reign of one thousand years will begin. Rev. 20:6. "Then the sin and sorrow, pain and death of this dark world will cease." They did not even invite me to the Washington affair, but already I have an invitation to this future inauguration. I surely don't want to miss this -- DO YOU?

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## A VOICE FROM THE PAST

"The work of education lies deep in the foundation of the work of this dispensation. When the Son of Man trod the earth and opened up, with His bleeding heart, the way, He said, 'Go, disciple and teach.' We have no ambition or desire to turn out . . . other than men of God. We labor . . . that his desires, purposes, volitions, longings and loves shall be Godward; that his possibilities and destiny -- be all surrendered to God.

His body needs to be inured to intellectual toil. College and university athletics as a matter of physical development are a 'grotesque humbug.' A few men get muscle at the expense of brains, and many get harm. We make no center of attraction of athletics, which creates a few bullies, hinders intellectual excellence and destroys spiritual ideals." -- P. F. Bresee (Pages 44-45, Dr. P. F. Bresee and the Church he Founded, by I. G. Martin)

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## EDITORIAL

By Spencer Johnson

### HOLINESS AND THE MILLENNIUM

The Bible speaks of an age before the full and final redemption -- of all things, which is called the Millennium. Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary defines millennium: "From Latin mille a thousand plus annum -- a year a thousand years, especially the thousand years mentioned in the twentieth chapter of Revelation during which holiness is to triumph throughout the world." During this time the Devil Will be bound and Christ shall reign with His saints upon earth. (Rev. 20:2:4)

The Millennium is separated from the age in which we live by the coming of Christ for His bride, the sanctified people of all ages. The righteous dead shall be resurrected and the living saints translated. While the saints are at the marriage supper of the Lamb the: awful tribulation takes place upon the earth. "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Matt. 24:21) "In those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die and death shall flee from them." (Rev. 9:6) No wonder the blessed Jesus exhorted, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36)

Any honest student of the Bible and of the signs of the times knows that the coming of the Lord draws near when He shall deliver His own from the great tribulation that is coming upon the earth. At the close of the great tribulation Christ and His saints will return to the earth and begin the millennial reign.

During the Millennium the earth, to a great extent, will be renewed and restored to Edenic conditions. In the fall of Adam the whole creation was involved and brought under the curse. Thorns and thistles sprang up. In the animal kingdom enmity and hatred entered causing the animals to become wild and carnivorous. Man lost much of his dominion over the animal kingdom. In the Millennium the redeeming power of Christ lifts the curse and nature again becomes like God intended it to be. Extremes of heat and cold will be no more and a marvelous, temperate, healthful climate will prevail throughout the entire world. "And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins, The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the

asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." (Isa. 11:5-9)

Some amazing spiritual conditions will prevail during the Millennium. Holiness will be popular for the first time on the earth. Holiness unto the Lord shall be upon the bells of the horses and on the pots. (Zech. 14:20-21) The glorified saints will be ruling with Christ. No doubt carnality will still exist in the hearts of the people of the world who have come through the tribulation upon earth for Satan will find ready allies and marshal a great army after the Millennium when he is loosed for a little season, but during the Millennium carnality will lie in a dormant state for Satan will not be around to stir it up. "Nothing shall hurt nor destroy."

Preaching and singing will be easy with Satan bound and glorified saints as heralds of the mighty gospel of Christ. Great revivals will break out among the heathen throughout the world. "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as waters cover the sea."

Because the curse of sin will be lifted, to a great extent, man's physical condition will also be greatly improved during the Millennium. Of course, the glorified saints will never die but human life as a whole shall be greatly lengthened. The curse being lifted from the ground, laborious toil will not be necessary. The race will be propagated without pain and suffering. Possibly disease will be unknown. "There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old: but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them." (Isa. 65:20-23) In this glorious age to come man's physical condition will be far more enduring. A man at the age of one hundred years shall be considered a mere child, and the sinner dying at that age, which at that time will be considered a short life, shall be thought accursed, and his death shall be attributed to a special visitation of the wrath of God upon him. In the Millennium the days of His people shall be as the days of a tree. Trees are among the oldest living things in nature. We were awe stricken in the presence of the giant California Redwoods that towered more than three hundred feet into the air and stood in solemn wonder when told that some of them were living when Christ was here upon earth. Think of man living as long as the trees which he plants! But this is not the perfect state for according to the prophet both sin and death still exists though occurring much less frequently than now. The final eternal state has not yet begun in the Millennium for the marriage relation, resulting in the birth of children still exists which will have ceased in the eternal state "in the world to come." (Luke 20:35)

Government during the Millennium will be a Theocracy under the direct rule of Christ. In this present age the Devil is the god of this world. (II Cor. 4:4) He sits upon thrones and controls kingdoms but he will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit. (Rev. 20:3) What a remarkable change will take place under this righteous rule. Sinful, selfish conniving wire pulling will cease and evil works will be destroyed while righteousness and justice will prevail in every trade, business and profession. "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and

of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever." (Rev. 11:15) The saints will also rule with Christ, "Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Matt. 19:28) "The saints shall judge the world." (I Cor. 6:2) "The saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever." (Daniel 7:18) "And judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom." (Dan. 7:22) "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." (Daniel 7:27) Dr. Seiss says, "Once it was the fate of God's people to be judged by the ungodly world powers. Jesus told His disciples that they should be brought before councils, governors and kings, and that men would judge them worthy of stripes, imprisonment and death . . . But the world powers are limited, and then comes another state of affairs, when God shall put down the mighty from their seats and exalt them of low degree. Then the Pauls will become the royal judges, and the Felixes and Festuses and Agrippas and Caesars shall be compelled to accept the sentence of Heavenly justice from God's immortal potentates, who once stood helpless at earth's tribunals, for it is written, the saints shall judge the world." Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth," (Matt. 5:5) The kingdoms and nations of this present age are temporal as the small dust on the balance.

Behold the glorious sight of a Christian world. War is no more; civil discord, oppression, injustice, immorality, and poverty are gone. Just as in the conversion of the individual good tempers replace the bad, so now peace, equity, honesty, justice, human love and kindness prevail among all men. Hail that blessed day!

At the close of the Millennial age the Devil will be loosed for a little season to make one final battle against God and His kingdom which will result in Satan being cast into the bottomless pit forever, God will have the final judgment. He will complete His work of making all things new. The holy city will descend. Paradise will be restored completely and death will be no more. Hallelujah!

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## RETROSPECTION

April 1945 -- April 1965

By Lowell L. Foster

The dictionary states that one meaning of "score" is twenty. Most of us remember the tale of "Rip Van Winkle" and his twenty year sleep. We recall the bewilderment "Rip" felt as he endeavored to grasp the happenings and changes of a double-decade which passed while he slept.

What an education would await the modern "Rip" if he had fallen asleep in April of 1945!

Twenty years ago this month, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was still in the White House, but before the month had passed he was replaced by the little man from Missouri.

America was still at war, but a nervous peace would soon be signed. The world's first nuclear weapon was soon to be exploded over Hiroshima. The sell-out of Potsdam and Yalta was not yet apparent to most of us.

The frightening decline of our moral fiber was alarming to some, but was "progress" to others. Elvis was still in Tennessee, and the "beatles" were just tots somewhere in England. "Turn backward, turn backward, Oh time in thy flight . . ."

Television, with its eye of evil influence and ejection of moral and intellectual rot, was still in the future in that April of long ago.

One of the contributing factors to the crossing of the stormy Atlantic by the Pilgrim Fathers, according to our history books, was their refusal to adorn themselves with the wedding band, and this was still the thinking of much of the laity in the holiness churches in the middle "forties." But things were happening behind closed doors in "high places." Soon, to be "loyal" you had to be "ringed."

(Life Magazine, June 1951, states that 850,000 wedding rings were manufactured monthly. Ten million a year! Yet, in 1951, there were only 1,669,934 weddings. Six rings manufactured for one wedding! No doubt many used for immoral purposes.)

The Revised Standard Version (Perversion) of the Bible was in the mold but would not make a general appearance until the following decade. The wobbly, anemic stand of the leadership, "who knew not Joshua," on this desperate issue brought clearly into focus the rent in the holiness ranks.

Ten years following the historic year of 1945, the Bible Missionary Church made its appearance. God only knows what all the captains and crew have gone through. "In perils of robbers, in perils by (our) own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren". Praise God, He has guided us through!

Recently the world mourned the passing of Sir Winston Churchill. Again we have been reminded of Dunkirk, and the battle of Britain. Again we have thrilled to those famous words, "Never have so many owed so much to so few."

Today, the "Neville Chamberlains" of the religious world are appeasing the "Hitlers" of modernism and hell who would destroy every part and parcel of "the faith once delivered." While men in places of leadership refuse to shave on Sunday, and retain other like "personal convictions," they have sold the "Glory" for personal reputation, position and church unity.

As in those dark days of 1940, when the British looked for someone or something to help them, so are thinking people looking for help today, even as they feel the icy waters of worldliness and compromise washing away the foundations at their feet.

A few weeks ago I witnessed the widow of the first Mayor of Bethany, Oklahoma, as she quietly walked to the front of the church and said "I do" as the pastor read the page from our Manual entitled "Reception of Members." She was born in the fire and couldn't stand the smoke."

Recently an official of a holiness denomination told this writer, "You have no idea the pressure being applied to force us to compromise." An older student at a holiness school observed to a friend of mine, "We have long since lost the battle for holiness standards, and are now gripped in desperate battle to retain our doctrine." Remember, reader, "It is only a step from questioning Bible standards, to questioning Bible holiness!"

I say, are we equal to the challenge of our day? Will the coming generation be able to say, "We owe so much to so few!" Gideon's history reminds us that God delights to deal with minorities. He tested the throngs of Gideon's until only 300 remained of 32,000. And one of the tests was how they drank water! But that little band put to flight the host of the Midianites!

If Jesus tarries another twenty years, and in 1985 another "Rip Van Winkle" could awake to scan the pages of history, what would our record reveal?

No, I'm not pleading for world: wide revival. Not a word of Scripture to support it. Nor am I expecting us or anyone else to change the evil course of this world. (II Timothy 3"13) But I feel God does expect us to "lift up prayer for the remnant that is left." (Isaiah 37:4) To occupy till He comes. (Luke 19:13) To insist on conversion that converts, and holiness that sanctifies. Anything less will be "spued out" shortly. (Revelation 3,:16)

It is my understanding that pure gold is distinguished by three tests.

First. The keen eye of the jeweler. The cheap, gaudy imitation is cast aside.

Second. Acid is applied. This results in another separation.

Third. Finally, what has passed the first two tests is placed in the scales. Lightness means "mixture" "alloy".

Only pure gold passes all three tests. Much is "weighed and found wanting." Job said, "He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (23:10) Will we?

"In the world's broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of life,  
Be not like dumb driven cattle  
Be a hero in the strife,"

-- Longfellow

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OUR MISSIONARY TO JAPAN



[Open Graphics\hdm1753a.jpg to view a picture of Don and Grace Bowman with 3 of their children -- all three of which perished later after a tragic boat-sinking off the coast of Japan. Following this tragedy, in spite of such tremendous loss and grief, the Bowmans returned to Japan, and on the anniversary of the tragedy, the first child of their second family was born, whom they named Robert Matsaru -- "Victory" -- signifying their "Victory through Jesus" over this Job-like disaster which suddenly took from them all of the children of their first family. At some point, I hope that we will be able to digitally publish the Bowman's book, telling of this Triumph over great Tragedy and Sorrow. -- DVM]

The General Board voted unanimously to send Rev. and Mrs. Don Bowman and family to Japan. We are going to try and get them off by May 1st.

Bro. and Sis. Bowman are wonderful consecrated young people and feel a definite call to Japan. They love God and are ready to do God's will. Bro. Bowman is a strong pastor and evangelist and God has blessed his ministry in our church. Bro. and Sis. Bowman sing well together and I'm certain they will make us some wonderful missionaries.

I am sure we are going to miss them here at home. Let each one of us do our best to help them get to the field.

-- George E. Roberts

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#### OUR NEW MISSIONARIES TO NEW GUINEA

[Open Graphics\hdm1753b to view a picture of Spencer Johnson, His Wife and Family, published in this issue of the Missionary Revivalist when they were appointed to New Guinea as Missionaries.]

Brother and Sister Spencer Johnson have felt called to the mission field for some time. They presented themselves for the New Guinea field and the General Board voted unanimously to send them. Of course, they do not have their visas as yet, but we are believing the Lord for them. The Johnsons plan to sail around September 15.

Surely Brother and Sister Johnson are among the greatest saints of the Bible Missionary Church. They and their lovely family are loved by all. Brother Spencer Johnson is an outstanding preacher of the Gospel and one of our best evangelists. He has carried a great place of responsibility in our church from the beginning. He has done an outstanding job editing our paper, The Missionary Revivalist, and I am sure our Church will miss the Johnsons at home very much. However, we know they will be a great blessing to our mission field. Let us pray and do our best to help the Johnsons get to the field.

-- George E. Roberts

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## CHILDREN'S PAGE

By Mrs. Paul King,  
Box 382, Lima, Ohio

### SPRING COMES TO THE FAIRY WOODS

Peter slipped quietly out the back door of the big orphanage and ran down the road to the woods. He was panting as he reached the edge of the forest and started down the path toward the creek. It was cool and quiet there and he was safe. He stopped to catch his breath and wipe the perspiration from his forehead.

Overhead, fleecy white clouds skipped and flitted across the blue sky. Peter stood for a long while, watching as the clouds took on the shape of frisky lambs, grizzled white bear and even cotton candy. Far to his right a snowy white mountainous looking cloud appeared, gilded on all sides with shiny gold gilt from the sun. How he wished he could be riding the magnificent thing! A salty tear found its way over dark eye lashes and dropped to a rock below. Peter, intent on watching the approaching cloud, sat on the gray rock. No longer was it a big mountain but now it floated as a snow covered hill. The lad sat enraptured, a smile played across his freckled face as he pretended he was pulling a sled up the big drift of snow cloud and going for a ride. Spring was wonderful! Yes, sir!

Keeping an eye on the beautiful clouds he began a slow walk toward the stream. Crickets chirped softly all around him and a mocking bird sang melodiously and excitedly high on a tree.

Upon reaching the cool, clear stream Peter pulled his shoes and socks off, then, carefully rolling his pant legs up to his knees, he waded out to the place where he could see all the way to the bottom of the stream. Little minnows darted past his small bare feet in silvery streaks, and the sand, oozing up between his toes, gave him a sense of satisfaction.

He knew he should not be down here just now, but he couldn't bear the thought that this would be Laurie's last day at the orphanage. Laurie was his, in a very special way. She always understood him when the other matrons thought he was too loud or too noisy or too . . . oh, well! It really didn't matter! Nothing mattered any more. Laurie was getting married and leaving him! Who would soothe him now when he cried, and who would tell him about Jesus and the way He died and then rose again! No one! A big hurt was all through his eight year old chest and he felt like something inside was being crushed. He stifled a deep sigh.

'Wonderful things happen in the spring.' Laurie's soft voice seemed to be whispering in his ear again. Maybe . . . just maybe, some miracle would happen to him the way the satiny Easter lilies popped up through the dark earth from seemingly nowhere, and blossomed and bloomed until their perfume was wafted all through his room! The Lord could still perform a miracle for him! Hadn't he been praying about this for a long time! A soft crackle of brush made him start.

"Hi, fellow! Sorry I scared you," and the black haired man's voice had a ripple of laughter in it.

"Oh . . . that's . . . all right, Mister," Peter said, brushing the tears from his own dark lashes.

"You crying, Pal?" the man asked affectionately.

"Guess maybe I was. Sorry though," and he watched in profound admiration as the stranger picked up a smooth round pebble and ,skipped it across the surface of the creek. He wanted to be like that when he grew up, he thought, as he watched the tall handsome man.

"Sure is wonderful out here, Peter," the stranger said. "You can almost hear God and feel Him working."

"You . . . You . . . know my name!" Peter exclaimed timidly, wading out and picking up his shoes and socks. "I...I...like you, Mister.. "

"Just call me Jeff," the man said. "Wonderful things happen in the spring," Peter said. "Laurie always tells me that."

"You think a lot of Laurie, don't you, Peter?"

"I love Laurie very much. She tells me a lot of secrets and she helped me find Jesus. Know somethin', Jeff! I believe some day the Lord will send me a real mother just like Laurie," and a far away look stole into his deep blue eyes.

"Let's go back to the orphanage, shall we?" Jeff asked, smiling and reaching lovingly for the small hand.

"Who told you my name?" Peter asked as Jeff tucked the small socks into his pants pocket. "Laurie."

"Laurie knows you?" Peter asked. "But why haven't you been around here?"

"I've been away to school, studying. I'm a preacher, Peter, and I've come to see Laurie. You see, Laurie and I are to be married next week."

The lump came back into Peter's throat and that big, funny hurt feeling stole immediately into his chest. "Laurie's . . . sure gettin' . . . a . . . nice man," Peter said weakly.

"I'm getting a wonderful girl, Peter, and Laurie loves you very, very much."

"She told you that?" Peter asked.

"Many, many times over. But come, let's be getting back to the orphanage. It's growing late," Jeff said affectionately, giving the hand a tight little squeeze.

"I should not have come to the woods," Peter ventured. "Mrs. Briggs will be cross with me. But I couldn't bear the thought of Laurie going . . . away," and he sighed heavily.

The big orphanage loomed up ahead of them. "Guess I'd better go around back and go right to my room, Jeff. That's where Mrs. Briggs will be sending me anyhow."

Jeff tightened his grip on the small, trembling hand as he said, "Nothing of the kind, Peter. We go up the front steps together and right in through the main vestibule. We're in this together. And whatever comes, from now on, we'll face it together."

Boldly they went up the steps of the orphanage and in through the front door. The Easter lilies had sneaked in again -- Peter could smell their fragrance all over the lobby and the vestibule. Then he saw Laurie, her soft blonde hair was all gold and silken looking where the warm sunshine was caressing it.

Laurie saw the pair enter the big swinging doors; quickly she joined them. Jeff extended his free right hand to her and, together, they walked to the old familiar oak desk.

"Laurie and I want to adopt Peter, Mrs. Briggs."

Peter thought he must be dreaming and his expressive blue eyes filled with tears of gratitude and joy.

"You . . . You . . . really . . . mean it, Jeff?" he asked in disbelief.

"Wonderful things happen in spring, Peter! Did you forget?" and Laurie held him close to her bosom as she added, "Don't you remember what Jesus said about all things being possible to him that believeth?"

"It's . . . It's... wonderful, Laurie!" he exclaimed. "It's . . . It's a miracle . . . like the resurrection and... and... the Easter lilies," and he looked fondly into her own soft blue eyes as he added, "Wonderful things do happen in spring."

Outside, a robin put his approval on the transaction by bursting forth in loud song.

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THE END