



It's a Boy!

Even as you read this, some Father somewhere is rushing this news to relatives. No matter where they are or what time it is—his first impulse is to let them know!



It's a Boy!

And that is also true of Aunt (and Uncle) and all the in-laws. Before Baby is half an hour old his arrival is celebrated far and wide—and he is endowed with a dozen names.



It's a Boy!

To Grandparents another chapter of Family History begins. Their grandparents may have waited for days before they had good news like this, but that was before the telephone—and Long Distance—became part of our everyday existence.

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PETER DELIVERED FROM PRISON

International Uniform Sunday School Lesson, March 12, 1938

GOLDEN TEXT: "Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Acts 12: 5.

LESSON PASSAGE: Acts 12: 5-17.

And so, mid boundless times and space,
O grant us still in thee to dwell,
And through thy ceaseless web to trace
Thy presence working all things well.

Great Prisoners, 5
Prison terms are not always lost time. Joseph did some hard thinking in prison. Jeremiah tested his faith in prison. John the Baptist's courage landed him in a castle dungeon. Paul spent years in prison, under difficult writing letters that form part of the New Testament. The writer of the Apocalypse was a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos. Luther was put on trial for his life, and some of the reformers served as galley slaves. John Bunyan wrote his immortal allegory while in prison for preaching. William Tyndale was cast into prison for translating the Bible. Kagawa, for a time, was a prisoner in Japan and Gandhi has been a prisoner in India on account of his political principles. The eyes of the Christian world are today upon Martin Niemöller, in Germany, a prisoner for his courageous faith. Frequently it is the prisoner whose name is preserved by history when the name of the oppressor sinks into ever deeper oblivion. Christians need to be ready at all times to endure persecution for their faith but at the same time we should be teaching and practicing tolerance in order that persecution may forever cease.

An Experience of God, 6 - 11
Many have discovered the reality of God in a prison cell. Leisure, solitude, dependence upon others, uncertainty about the future, often drive a prisoner's thoughts back upon God. "Stone walls do not a prison make nor iron bars a cage." There may be mental range and spiritual liberty while the body is imprisoned in a ward or cell. It was during his imprisonment in Jerusalem that Peter had one of his most convincing experiences of God's help. Herod had the power of life and death over Peter but there was a higher power than Herod. The Jews who inspired the persecution felt hatred against Peter, but at the same time he had many friends. It is impossible to tell exactly how Peter was delivered from prison. The narrative implies that it was a miracle but we must remember that the word translated "angel" means "a messenger." Whatever the means used, Peter was correct in tracing his deliverance back to God without whose help he would have continued to languish in prison.

Why Pray? 12
While Peter was in prison, the Christians in Jerusalem prayed for him in their own homes. Numbers of them gathered at the house of Mary, the mother of Mark. Probably they did not analyze why they did so. They wanted to hear the news. They sought to express their sympathy. If anything practical could be done they were ready to do their share. If a similar fate were to overtake them they wished to be mortally fortified to face the ordeal bravely. Their individual faith was strengthened by collective prayer. Their sense of Christ's presence was renewed in the fellowship of believers. As they prayed they felt a vital relationship with God and as they listened to others praying their spiritual horizons were widened. They prayed because they had the impulse to pray and it was the one sensible thing to do under the circumstances. Collectively they turned to God for help which they did not have in themselves. It is helpful to reason out the why and wherefore of prayer but in an emergency our desires well up and we cry out to the living God. It is instinctive to be obeyed.

Answered Prayers, 13 - 16
The group praying in Mary's house was more than surprised when their prayers were immediately answered. Rhoda, the maid, could not believe her own eyes when she went to the door and saw Peter standing there. When she ran in and told the others that Peter stood before the gate, they also were skeptical. While they were recovering from their surprise, Peter remained outside knocking at the door and only when he was brought in were they convinced. Should we check up on our own prayers to discover if they are being answered? If we are praying for Christian graces such as patience and love, we can soon learn whether our prayers are being answered or not; very often we have it in our own power to answer our prayers. We may be praying for means to achieve a certain end and God may answer our prayer in a totally different way, yet we feel that God has directly given an answer to prayer. If our desires are right, we may leave them without fussing or fretting in the hands of God.

Telling Our Experiences, 17
What a story Peter had to tell to the prayer-meeting in Mary's house. He pictured himself asleep between two soldiers. Then the toll of the light, of being led out of the prison and making his way through the city to Mary's house. Hearing Peter tell his own story must have been a great event in the lives of those present. If they had not been at prayer-meeting that night, they would not have heard Peter tell his story. How could Luke write the account so vividly? Doubtless he heard it from John Mark who heard it at first hand that night from the lips of Peter. Mary, the mother of Mark, would tell about it to her visitors. Rhoda, to her dying day, would tell how she had left Peter knocking at the door while she broke up the prayer-meeting telling the news. There are sad people who think that it is not good form to relate personal spiritual experiences, but Peter, finding himself in a hospital

BOTANICAL NOTES FOR MARCH

There is supreme comfort in the knowledge that spring is really close at hand. Everyone (even those who appear to be quite indifferent to the miracle of plant life, and those jaundiced cynics, much against their will) is thrilled by this thought. Those who love plants experience that ecstasy of delight every spring when renewing that tender sympathy which binds them to the very early flowers. They know quite well that even under the snow of the woodland floor the unfortunately named but delicate liverwort (preferably, but not so well-known as squirrel cup) is slowly but surely uncurling her young stems and leaves wrapped in fuzzy but fashionable fur, and that the influence of the warming sun she will soon push her way through the ruts of last year's leaves and paint them with resplendent splashes of blue, lavender, purple, pink and white.

These spring flowers will continue to bloom with intoxicating sweetness; the spring birds will continue to trill with ecstasy; the spring sun will continue to lavish his same old healthful largess in spite of wars, rumors of wars, dictators and other what-not. Yes! indeed there is comfort for all.

With the first glimpse of these daintily squirrel cups each spring comes the same dear, sweet thrill; as some people will perhaps have experienced when meeting an old sweetheart! Yes! March certainly has her charms. Even when her shouting, boisterous winds flog the countryside and the wild grey clouds stampede across the pale blue.

"Trees can smile in light at the sinking sun
Just as a storm comes, as a girl
would look
On a departing lover — most serene."
Especially during the winter months do evergreens exemplify Browning's verse, in that they stand serene and smile in face of the howling blast; and a stern opposition—the threat of extermination. They are however, an ancient family with tradition; therefore they will only bow to the inevitable after a grim struggle with those parvenus — the broad leaved trees.

Amongst other conifers will be noticed the graceful spires of the true fir silhouetted in bold relief against the pale, cold March sky. Of them all the balsam fir is the most famous, as it is the typical Christmas tree, and deservedly so when it is known that upon drying it does not litter the snow rug with leaves. The spruce, on the other hand, is not so thoughtful, when it causes the harmony of Christmas week to be broken by the cacophony of the carpet sweeper! Housewives therefore take good care that a balsam fir is selected for the Yuletide revels.

The balsam fir is identified by its two-ranked, pale-lined leaves, which are lustrous and dark green above, about one-half inch long, flat (not four-sided as are those of most of the firs) and have a blue or sometimes slightly notched at the tip. Spruce leaves are sharp pointed. On the branches near the top of the tree the cones stand erect, glistening with drops of sweet-scented balsam, while spruce cones hang down. This same balsam exudes from bruises in the smooth bark. By piercing the white blisters and systematically wounding branch and trunk the balsam is made to flow freely, when it is said to be collected as a commercial enterprise in some parts of Canada.

Balsam is used in laboratories and in medicine. Pillows are stuffed with the fresh leaves. The wood enters into the manufacture of wood pulp and it is made by some builders into doors and window frames. It is not, however, so hard as spruce wood. There are four true firs found in Canada. They are the Balsam, Alpine, Grand and Red or Amabilis Firs. The balsam extends across Canada, while the other three are far western.

The Douglas Fir (also called Douglas Spruce) is neither a true fir, nor is it a true spruce. This will be better understood when it is explained that the spruces belong to a group of plants (or genus) botanically known as Picea, the firs—Abies, and the Douglas Fir—Pseudotsuga. The word Pseudotsuga means false hemlock.

The Douglas Fir is found in Alberta and British Columbia. It is the largest of all Canadian trees, usually attaining a height of 150 to 200 feet. Unlike the erect bractless cones of the true firs, those of the Douglas have three-pointed very conspicuous bracts attached to the back of the scales.

- Questions for Discussion
1. What do you pray about?
 2. How do you think Peter escaped from prison?
 3. Why do motion pictures draw greater crowds than prayer-meetings?
 4. Tell the story as you imagine Rhoda told it.
 5. Why did Peter tell of his release from prison?

PAINFUL TO BEND A JOINT

Hospital Case of Rheumatism
The value of perseverance with Kruschen, in the treatment of some cases of rheumatism, is proved by this man's experience. He says:—
"I was abroad for over seven years. When I returned I began to suffer from rheumatic pains—particularly in the feet, and arms, and I was eventually taken into hospital, unable to move without groaning with pain. When I left the hospital after two months, I was somewhat better. I was recommended to take Kruschen Salts, have taken them continuously, and until now I am entirely free from pain. I would not be without my Kruschen Salts for anything."—M.B.
Two of the salts in Kruschen are effectual solvents of uric acid the excess of which is decidedly injurious. They swiftly dull the sharp edges of the painful crystals—their pain and stiffness—and convert them into a harmless solution, which is then expelled through the natural channels.

CANADIAN LUMBER FOR HOUSING PLAN

Imports of Canadian lumber and timber into Trinidad have increased owing to the construction of new dwellings and the renovation of old ones. The number of building permits issued for Port of Spain and suburbs for the first six months of 1938 was almost equal to the total for 1937. In a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce, G. A. Newman, Assistant Trade Commissioner of Trinidad, states that in addition to these increases in construction, the estimates laid before the Legislature this year included the sum of \$4,800,000 to be devoted to the acquiring of land and the building of from 6,000 to 6,500 cottages during the next five years (1939-44).
"There will likely be an increased demand for white pine and Western red cedar," says Mr. Newman. "The resistance of the latter to fungus and termite attack is becoming more appreciated, and it is being used in increasingly large quantities for interior and exterior finish. Canadian Douglas fir, although cheaper than pitch pine, is not regarded as being as fully resistant to termite attacks, with the result that pitch pine remains well established in the local market. Canadian factory-made doors and window frames are being imported at prices which compare very favourably with those of similar products of local manufacture and there is reason to believe that the trade will steadily increase."

The regular year-round freight services of the Canadian National Steamships from Halifax are an important factor in promoting trade between the Dominion and the islands of the Caribbean Sea, in which Trinidad is an important colony.

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