

SPECIAL STORIES

BOYS & GIRLS

ILLUSTRATED GOSPEL MAGAZINE
FULL OF
BRIGHT PICTURES & GOOD STORIES



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THE SNOW BABY

Copyright—James Carr

THE SPECIAL GIFT

MR. WILSON came into the dining room with a look of pleasure on his face. "What a day!" he said, as he picked up the family pet—a sleek, plump puss who answered to the name of Simon. "Let me have this cosy chair for a bit, old man;" and Simon just opened a sleepy eye and settled down again on Mr. Wilson's knee. "I have had such a lot of worry at work to-day, I am thankful to leave it. No place like home, is there, Simon?" and Simon purred loudly in complete agreement.

Just then there came the sound of running footsteps up the garden path and in came Sylvia, who worked in an office. "My goodness!" she exclaimed, "I am glad to get home! The Boss has been so cranky all day—nothing has been right for him—there's no place like home, I say!"

"Well," laughed her father, "we're both of the same mind. I said the same thing when I got home!"

Mother, who was busy putting the finishing touches to the evening meal, said, "Ted will be here in a few minutes—we'll wait for him, I think."

It was not long before Ted, who was a pupil at the Grammar School in the big town a few miles away, came in through the back door. "My word," he said, "there's a good smell and I feel ravenous! I'm glad to get home I can tell you; old Jones has been at us all day and I'm sure we got on with our work as well as we could. Something upset him, I should think. Anyway, there's no place like home," he said and gave his mother an affectionate hug.

"Well, well," laughed his father again, "we've all said that this evening! Isn't it strange! I wonder why?"

"I expect it's because Mother's here," said Sylvia.

"Yes, that must be it," said Mr. Wilson, "she looks after us so well and makes us so comfortable! It isn't a birthday, but as it is New Year what about giving Mother a little special gift, just as a mark of appreciation for all she does for us, eh?"

"Grand idea!" said the others.

"What would you like, Mother?" said Ted. "Don't choose anything too expensive—like a motor car for instance," he added, teasingly.

Mrs. Wilson looked with misty eyes at the little family she loved so well. After a moment she said, "It's lovely of you to want to do this for me. There is only one thing I really want"—and she paused.

"Go on," said Sylvia, "what is it?"

"Well," said her mother, "you know I have been attending the Mission Services this week and I have learned to love and trust the Lord Jesus Christ. My greatest wish is that you should all learn to love Him, too, so that when our work in this life is done we may go



"Ted"

The Special Gift

together to that beautiful Home which He is preparing for all who love Him."

There was silence for several minutes when she had finished speaking. At last Mr. Wilson said: "What about it children? Shall we give Mother what she wants—all in favour?"—and, one, two, three hands went straight up! A radiant smile came over Mrs. Wilson's face.

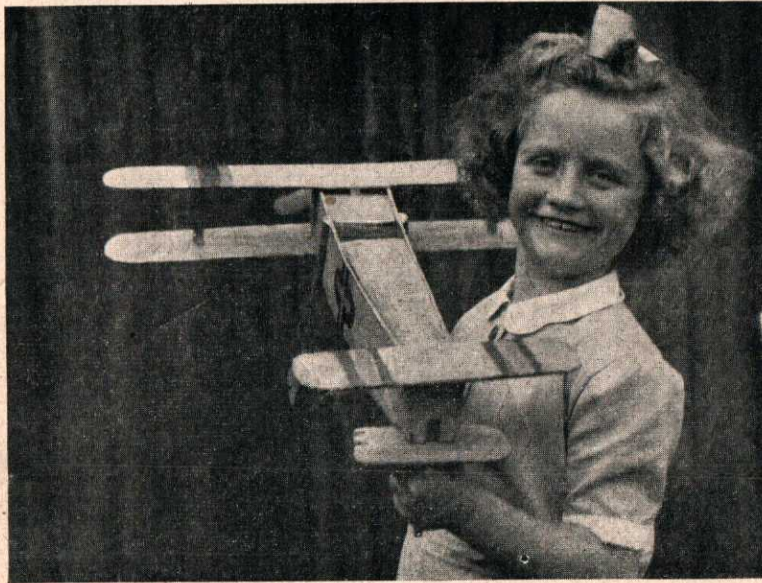
"Oh, my dears," she cried, "you have made me the happiest Mother in the world! You will never regret giving me this wonderful present"—and they found out that what she said was true—they never did!

D. GREENING.

HELP SOMEBODY

SPEAK a word of comfort
Every passing day,
To the folks who need it
On this life's strange way.
Sing a song of gladness,
Give a cheery smile,
Tell them only Jesus
Makes this life worth while.

L. G. HEARD.



Copyright—J. H. Stone

Her New Year Gift

THE NEW YEAR'S FRIEND

ON New Year's Eve, Mrs. Morgan arrived at "Red Chimneys", where she had been engaged by Mrs. Hamilton to do a few hours' work, and had been allowed to bring her little girl also.

Maisie was delighted when she was taken to a room filled with toys, where Mrs. Hamilton's own little daughter Evie, was playing with a beautiful doll's house. Maisie looked on with wonder and admiration, as Evie removed the furniture from one of the rooms.

"May I help you?" she ventured to ask.

"Certainly not," replied Evie, "I never allow anyone but myself to touch my best toys, but you may sit down and watch me clean and dust "Buttercup Villa", if you like. I am having a New Year's party to-morrow. Don't you wish you had all these toys?"

"Oh, yes, for then I could give so many to my brothers and sisters," said Maisie, her eyes sparkling at the thought. "Daddy is at home with them now, because he is out of work."

"Well, that's bad," remarked Evie, "doesn't it make him cross?"

"Oh no, you see he believes in his motto", answered Maisie simply. "I will say it to you—'God will lead me if I trust Him'".

"And do you 'trust Him'?" asked Evie curiously.

"Yes, always," replied Maisie, "and He sends help in all our troubles. We sing this chorus in Sunday School—

*"Tenderly He leads us,
All our days below;*

*Carefully He shows us,
Ev'ry step we go."*

This chorus persistently dwelt in Evie's mind, and she could not banish it after little Maisie had gone home. When New Year's Day dawned, Mr. Hamilton was taken ill, and Evie's party had to be postponed. It was while her mother nursed him, that Evie was left alone to grieve over her dearly loved father. Then, in desperation, she turned to the words of the chorus, and repeated them again and again. At last she threw herself on her knees and confessed to God that she was a selfish, sinful child, in need of the blood of Jesus to wash away her sins, and give her a clean heart.

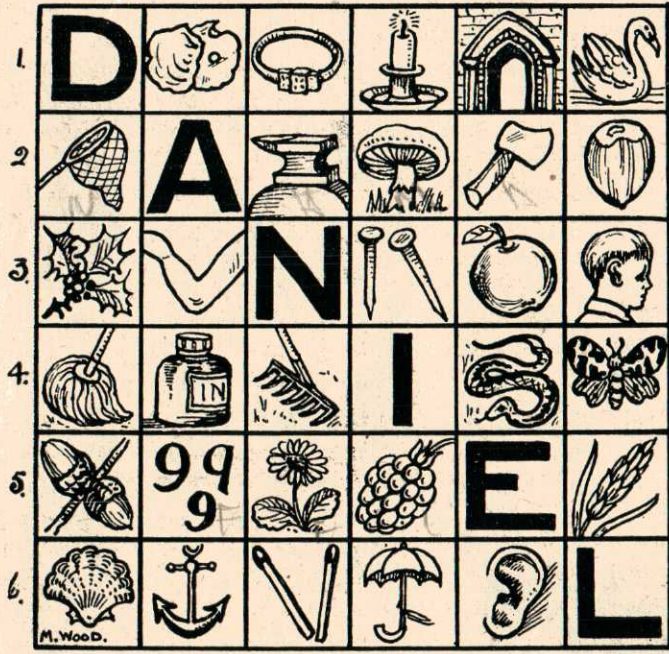
She pleaded for God's tender leading all through the New Year, which had so lately begun, and asked that her dear father's life might be spared.

Evie's prayer was answered, and Mr. Hamilton was restored to health.

Maisie's daddy found work, and both children, when they met again, were happy in the knowledge that they had found a Friend, who would lead them tenderly through the New Year! E. M. HOLMES



TO PAINT AND SOLVE



BIBLE CHARACTERS

- 1...She made Garments Acts 9
- 2...A Captain 2 Kings 5
- 3...A Mother 1 Samuel 1
- 4...She became Leprous Numbers 12
- 5...A Disciple Mark 13
- 6...Anointed David 1 Samuel 16

To solve use the initial letters of the objects

Rules.—All papers must (1) be sent in from Britain by end of month and from abroad at earliest after receipt; (2) Bear the name, address, and age of sender; (3) Be addressed to Editor of Boys and Girls, 29 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4, England. Awards given monthly.

'NO UNAUTHORISED ENTRY TO THESE WORKS IS PERMITTED. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.'

I DON'T suppose that you have seen that particular notice board with those words on it, because it appeared on the outskirts of a small town in Ireland. But of course those or similar words may be seen in some other places in the British Isles.

What does "unauthorized" mean? It means without right of entry. Only those who had business would be admitted, and such people would be able to show a permit or some kind of passport.

*"How many children say,
'I'd like to go to heaven,'
Yet never think that they
Must have their sins forgiven."*

If you are a reader of this magazine you will be thinking of Christ's words to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." That is to say, anyone who has not received a new life because he has not received Christ as Saviour, is an "unauthorized" person; he cannot enter God's Kingdom; he is an outsider. Are you like that?

And unless we have received the Lord Jesus we do not belong to God's family. We are not His children. A man once said to me that although he said his prayers, he never said the Lord's Prayer, because he could not call God his Father. Are you like that?

And unless we are Christians, that is, belong to Christ, we have no right to serve Him, we are "unauthorized" to work for Him.

And what a privilege we are missing!
Are you like that?

Why, even if they did get there, they would be unhappy; they would not know anyone, and could not understand what went on, and they would want to get away from the place for which they were quite unfitted. Are you like that? You have been warned. If you want to enter God's Kingdom to become one of His children, to be allowed to serve Him, and go to Heaven, then turn to John 1. 12. You probably know the words, but that is not enough. You must RECEIVE the Lord JESUS. E. ADAMS.



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