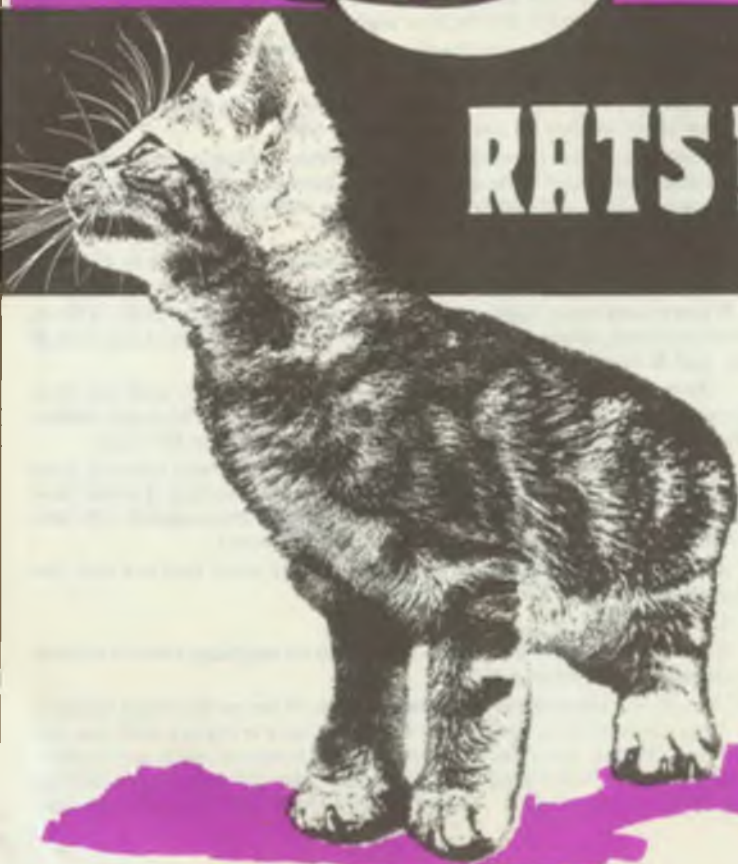


Joyful Tidings!

RATS!



RATS!

By ALEX PAIGE

Ann shivered. Was that Uncle Cliff? How very cold and hard and disagreeable he looked! And—and—she'd got to go and live with him, now that dear Mummy was in heaven. Oh!

She stood in the empty kitchen, pale and frightened, and Uncle Cliff strode up. "Come on, child! The truck's outside all ready, and we must hurry. Your aunt will be cross if we're not back to supper."

Anne followed him out into the dismal street, where she was speedily lifted into the back of the truck. Then they were off.

It seemed a very long way to Uncle's house, and the wind blew through poor Ann's thin clothes till she cried with the cold.

On and on and then at last they drew up outside a little grocery shop. Uncle jumped down, and Aunt Hilda appeared at the door. But she did not seem at all pleased to see Ann, and instead of giving her a welcome, she only muttered, "How we're going to keep you I don't know."

Ann sat on the very edge of her chair, too scared and hopeless to want any supper, and presently Uncle Cliff showed her where she was to sleep.

It was a large room, right over the shop, almost full of huge sacks of flour, oatmeal, currants, raisins and sugar, but right up in the corner there was a small space, and in this a mattress had been put.

"There you are! There's your bed! Now, mind; we don't want any fuss, now you're here. We're giving you a home, but we mustn't have any bother. D'you hear? Right! Goodnight," and Uncle Cliff went from the room.

Ann threw herself on the bed and cried bitterly. Oh, if only Uncle or Aunt had kissed her, or even waited to see her safely tucked into bed, it would have made things easier to bear. But they just didn't care — not a single bit. Oh, how she wished she could have gone to heaven with Mummy!

After a while she became a little calmer, and crept into her bed, but suddenly she sat up. What was that noise?

Scutter! Scutter!

It was rats! Ann was almost too terrified to do anything, even to scream. She just sat still, petrified with fear.

Then all in a moment she remembered some of her mother's last words to her. "Ann darling, never forget that the Lord Jesus is always with you and always your Friend. Ask Him to help you and take care of you in any trouble, and He will hear." It was almost as if her mother was speaking now; so kneeling up on the bed, Ann prayed, "O dear God, I know You love little children;

please take care of me tonight. You can do anything; You shut the mouths of the lions, so they couldn't eat Daniel; and do help me to be brave, for Jesus' sake, Amen."

Then there came another sound out of the darkness — *Meouw, meouw, meouw*. Something sprang on to her bed and rubbed itself against her arm; but Ann was not afraid of *this* creature, for it was a lovely, soft, cosy pussy cat. The rats seemed to know that as well, for the scuttering stopped as if by magic, and Ann gave a little laugh of relief.

"O God, thank You ever so much for making those rats go away. You sent a pussy. I am so glad. Thank You. Amen."

Then she snuggled down with her furry friend in her arms, and in a few minutes they were both fast asleep.

The next morning Ann tried to help her aunt in every way she could, and as the days went by and she was still so obedient and useful, Aunt Hilda began to speak about her to Uncle Cliff, and Uncle Cliff nodded in agreement. He was beginning to wonder whatever they would do without her now.

So Ann settled down, and one day that home became a still happier one, for her uncle and aunt decided to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

"It was all because of Ann," they said.

Something to make

Materials: One 12"x18" piece of construction paper; 6 stickers of flowers, birds, animals, children; 1 paper fastener.

Procedure: Cut two 8" circles from paper. To one, add stickers (sketch a). Cut pie-shaped wedge from second circle (sketch b). Fasten circles together with paper fastener (sketch c). Add lettering.



EDWARD HATED having to go to a new school, but his father had to move almost every year because of his work. That is why one morning Edward found himself starting off to a new school again.

Edward had red hair and, sure enough, before he had gone very far some children started calling to him. "Hey, Redhead," they said, "where you going? Where did you get that red hair?"

"I'm going to school," said Edward. "We just moved here. And don't call me a redhead."

The New Boy



"Why not?" said one of the boys. "We like to call people redheads. Redhead! Redhead," he yelled at Edward.

"Stop saying that or I'll hit you," said Edward.

"Is that so?" said the other boy. "I'd just like to see you."

By this time they were at the school. "Hey, you kids, break it up," said one of the teachers crossly when he saw the boys arguing.

Edward had a miserable morning. All the children were looking at him, and many of them were saying unkind things about him. They said that he was rude and quarrelsome. "They called me a redhead first before I said anything," Edward said to himself. "They didn't have any right to call me a redhead."

Then Edward thought, "Maybe I shouldn't have gotten mad when they called me a redhead." He remembered a Bible verse that he had learned. "A soft answer turns away wrath." He remembered that his Sunday school teacher had explained to him that it is easy to start a fight, but it is also easy to keep from fighting by being kind when people are rude. "I think I'll try it," Edward said to himself.

At recess time the boy who had called him a redhead yelled at him again. "Hey, Redhead, where are you going? Why did you come to our school? Why didn't you stay home?"

Instead of answering roughly, Edward turned around, grinned, and said, "Just be glad my hair isn't green or blue!"

The other boy looked surprised. Edward not angry? He laughed. "That would be funny if your hair was green or blue," he said. "I guess red isn't such a bad color after all."

"Not when you get used to it," Edward said.

"Say," said the other boy, "would you like to play baseball with us?"

"Sure," said Edward.

the trees



A Nature Fact

THE oldest living things in the world are trees. Indeed, three bristlecone pines growing in the White Mountains along the California-Nevada border are thought to be over 4,000 years old! Most trees are at least eight feet tall full-grown, while some — such as California's sequoias — tower up to 300 feet in the air. But really a tree is twice as high as it seems to be, for its roots reach many feet deep into the ground to anchor the tree and to get water and minerals. This food, in the form of sap, is drawn up the trunk into the branches and out to all the leaves.

If you have seen the stump or log of a recently felled tree, you may have noticed tree rings. Each year the tree adds more rings — a dark ring for summer growth and a light ring for spring. The centre rings are the oldest and hardest wood. The newer rings are toward the edge. The outside ring or layer is the bark of the tree. It protects the growing layer just inside called the cambium.

Some trees shed their leaves every fall. They are called "deciduous". Others are "evergreen"; their leaves are needles and do drop off eventually, but there are always new ones to take their places. Both kinds of trees are very valuable not only for their beauty, shade, protection, and help in preventing soil erosion, but for the products they produce as well: wood, fruit, maple syrup, chocolate, rubber, cork, turpentine, tar, alcohol, kapok, medicines, oils, dyes, perfumes, and cellulose. And of course, paper — such as the piece these words are printed on!

What a great, wise Creator-God we have!

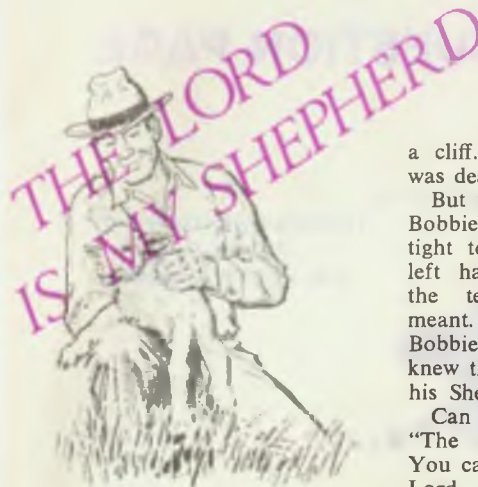
by Marie Knott.

JALOPY



Traffic Cop: Why didn't you stop when I signalled?

Teen-ager: Well, it's this way officer: it took two hours to get this thing started, and it seemed a shame to stop it.



Let me tell you the story of a little boy who lived in Scotland. His name was Bobbie and he was a shepherd boy.

Bobbie loved God's Word. When his Sunday School teacher taught him Bible verses, he tried very hard to learn them so he could think about them while he minded his sheep.

The Sunday School teacher taught Bobbie the twenty-third Psalm, for he knew that Bobbie loved his sheep. Bobbie loved Jesus, for he had asked Him to become his Shepherd.

When Bobbie was learning the first verse, "The Lord is my shepherd", the teacher told him to learn the first five words on his fingers. He said to Bobbie, "When you come to the fourth finger and the word "my", hold your finger tight." Bobbie often said the words on his five fingers.

One day while Bobbie was out caring for his sheep, a terrible storm swept over the meadow and hills. In the darkness he lost his way. Stumbling along, he fell over

a cliff. When he was found, he was dead.

But there was a sweet smile on Bobbie's face and he was holding tight to the fourth finger on his left hand. Bobbie's mother and the teacher knew what that meant. Though they missed Bobbie very, very much, they knew that he had gone to be with his Shepherd.

Can you boys and girls say, "The Lord is MY Shepherd?" You can if you have received the Lord Jesus as your very own Saviour. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." Jesus gave his life for us when He died on the cross. There He took all our sins and bad things in His own body that we might be forgiven.

When we receive Jesus as our Saviour, we become one of His children, one of His sheep, and He becomes our Shepherd. As our Shepherd, He will tenderly care for us.

"The Lord is MY shepherd."

After reading about Bobbie, I received Jesus into my heart. Please send literature to help me grow in the Christian life.
(Print neatly)

Name: _____

Street: _____

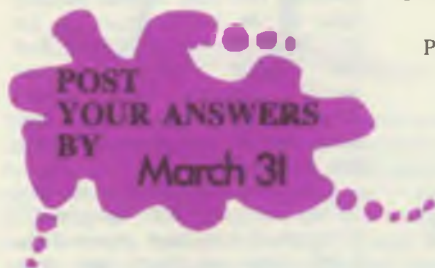
City: _____

Cut out and post.

BIBLE QUESTION PAGE

Post your answers to:

TIDINGS QUESTION PAGE,
P.O. BOX 74,
PALMERSTON NORTH.



JUNIOR QUESTIONS FOR MARCH,

Please Read Acts, Chapter 12, Verses 1 to 17.

1. What did the Christians do when Peter was imprisoned?
2. What happened when the Angel came into the prison?
3. What happened when they came to the iron gate?
4. What did Peter say when the angel left him?
5. What did Rhoda do when she recognised Peter's voice?

SENIOR QUESTIONS FOR MARCH

Read Acts, chap. 17, verses 16-34.

1. What happened to Paul while he waited at Athens?
2. What did Paul say the men of Athens were?
3. What was written on the altar at Athens?
4. What has God commanded all men everywhere to do?
5. Why must men repent?

66th Year of Issue

No. 762 March

Editor: C. R. Holman.

Published by G.P.H. Society Ltd., 134 King Street, Palmerston North, N.Z.

Registered at G.P.O. Wellington for transmission as a magazine