

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, October 14, 1993

VOLUME II, ISSUE NO. 19

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The baby in a basket

The king of Egypt hated the Israelites. He made them slaves and had no mercy on them.

But he was also afraid that, because there were so many of them, they might try to fight back. So he ordered that all the Israelite's baby boys be drowned in the Nile River.

Not long after the king's order, a boy was born to a couple from the tribe of Levi. His mother knew it would be impossible to keep his birth a secret. So when the boy was three months old, she put him in a waterproofed reed basket and hid it in the tall grass by the riverbank.

The princess, daughter of the king of Egypt, was coming down to the river to wash when she saw the basket. "Bring me that basket," she said to one of her servant girls.

The girl waded in the water, retrieved the basket, and pried it open. "It's a child!" said the princess. "He must be the son of one of the Israelite women."

A servant asked, "Shall I find an Israelite woman to be his nurse?"

"Yes," answered the princess. "And hurry. He must be hungry."

The servant found a woman to care for the baby. The woman was the baby's own mother, but no one else knew this.

"I will call him 'Moses,'" said the princess, "because I pulled him out of the water."

Moses was raised as an Egyptian, but he knew he was not one. One day he saw an Egyptian kill an Israelite. When he thought no one was looking, Moses killed the Egyptian.

The next day, Moses saw two Is-



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

raelite men fighting. "Why are you fighting?" he asked.

One of the men answered, "What are you going to do, kill us like you killed the Egyptian?"

Moses was now afraid that people knew what he had done, so he ran away to Midian. There he married Zipporah, daughter of Jethro.

While watching Jethro's sheep, Moses saw flames coming from a bush that did not burn up. A voice called out, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am," said Moses, "Who calls me?"

"Take off your sandals. You are standing on holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

Moses was afraid, and covered his face.

God spoke again. "I have seen how the Egyptians are treating my people. I am going to send you to speak to the king of Egypt. Then you will lead my children out of slavery into a land that is rich and fertile."

"My Lord," asked Moses, "who am I to speak? I am not important."

God answered, "I will be with you. Now speak to the leaders of the Israelites and take them with you when you go before the king."

Moses was still not sure what to do. "What if the king refuses to let us go?"

"I will punish Egypt. Then the king will let you go."

Moses complained again. "But, Lord, I am not a good speaker."

Then the Lord answered, "Your brother, Aaron, is an eloquent man. He will speak for your people."

So Moses, Aaron, and the Israelite leaders went before the king of Egypt. As God commanded, Aaron said, "The Lord God of Israel demands that you set our people free."

Read more about it: Exodus 3, 4

Q & A

1. Why did Moses' mother hide him in a basket?

2. What message did God tell Moses to deliver to the king of Egypt?

Bible Accent

Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) was born a slave in Maryland. She escaped to the North and helped set up an "underground railroad."

It was not a real railroad, and it was not underground. It was a secret route which helped southern slaves escape to the free North. Stops along the way were called "stations." Both black and white people did what they could to aid the slaves.

Harriet made nineteen trips herself and helped more than 300 slaves escape. A reward of \$40,000 was offered by the slave owners for her capture.

Many slaves sang spiritual songs while they were working. One was about Moses going before the king of Egypt called, "Let My People Go." For her work in freeing so many slaves, Harriet earned the name "Moses."

There is a house in Auburn, New York, where she once lived, and which was a station of the underground railroad. It is now a museum.

September essay winner

Congratulations to Brett Iwanowicz, a fifth-grade student at St. Theodore School in Rochester. He is the winner of a \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the September Kids' Club Contest. His essay is printed below.

Besides at church or religion classes, when are some times we can talk about the great things God has done?

I talk to my Mom about how great God is — usually when we are alone and in a quiet place. We can talk about the great things God has made like the Oceans and all the kinds of fish and coral, the sunrise and the sunset, and think about our creator.

At Christmas I talk about the Birthday of Jesus, and the peace we share with our family, friends and neighbors.

In the grocery store I see all the good food God had provided for us. When we eat the food we praise and thank God together for all his many gifts and blessings.

Joan of Arc: soldier and saint

Jeanne D'Arc, known to us as Joan of Arc, was born in France in 1412. She never learned to read or write, but she was devoted to Mary, and learned all she could about spiritual matters. She was a kind and generous person.

Before she was even 18 years old, Joan had visions of herself leading an army against the English soldiers who were occupying France at the time. She asked a French captain for armor and a horse. At first he laughed, but she convinced him she was serious.

The French king believed her, too, and he made her a general. She ordered every soldier to take Eucharist before battle. She won many battles, but she was eventually captured by the British. They burned her on a wooden post as a witch. She was declared a martyr and saint in 1920. Her feast day is May 30.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

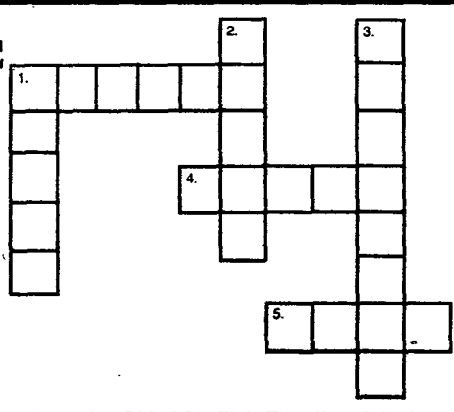
The answers to the puzzle can be found in the story.

Across

- Second book of the Bible
- Brother of Moses
- It burned and spoke

Down

- Country where Moses was born.
- Abraham, _____, and Jacob.
- She found Moses



Kids' Club

Win a \$50 Savings Bond!!!

If you were asked by a slave, "What does it mean to be free," what would your answer be?

Write an answer of 100 or fewer words. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 Savings Bond. The winner will be notified by phone. The essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of *Kids' Chronicle*. Send your entry to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

The deadline for essays is October 29, 1993.



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