

Kids' Chronicle

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Paul and Barnabas preach

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Before Paul and Barnabas boarded the ship bound for Cyprus, the other apostles fasted with them and prayed over them. "May the Lord be with you as you preach his word, and may the holy spirit provide for all of your needs. We will keep you in our prayers, dear brothers."

After preaching in the synagogues at Cyprus, the men traveled on to Paphos. The governor of Paphos sent for Paul and Barnabas. He had heard of their God and wanted to hear about him from one of the apostles. A magician named Elymas was an advisor to the governor and he did not like Paul, Barnabas, or their God.

Paul looked the magician in the eyes and said, "You are a trickster of the devil and you try to make a lie out of the truth. Because of your unbelief, God will strike you blind and you will not be able to see any light at all for several days."

Elymas immediately lost his sight and screamed for someone to lead him around. The governor, amazed at the power of God, became a believer.

Paul and Barnabas continued to preach with great courage as they continued to travel. When they arrived in Antioch the Christians there asked them to give them encouragement about their faith.

Paul stood before the crowd of Jews and converted gentiles and said, "The word of God is free to all who ask, whether they are Jew or gentile. Because the Jews rejected our Lord's message, it has now been made available to every-

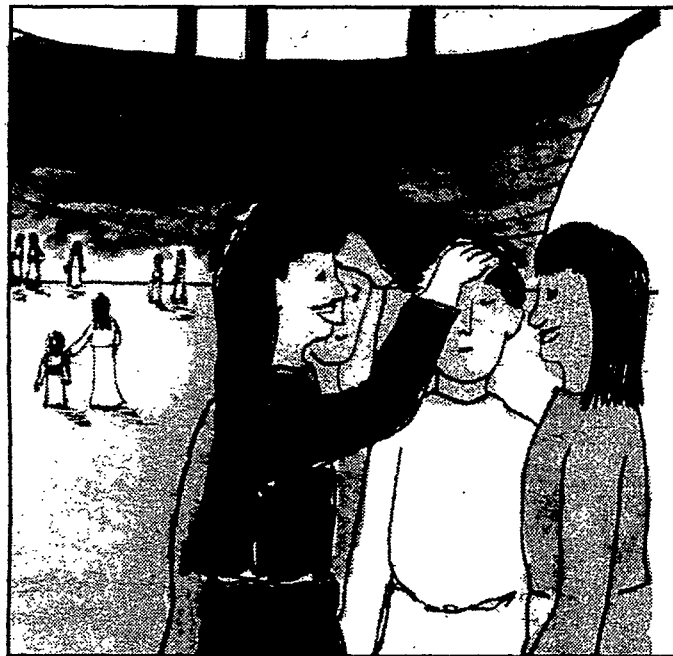


ILLUSTRATION BY KATHY WELSH

one. All the world may be saved by it."

The gentiles rejoiced that were allowed to join the Jews in their worship of God. The good news that Paul was preaching quickly spread throughout the country and Paul and Barnabas were greeted by large crowds of people who wanted to hear about Jesus wherever they went. The Jewish leaders became very resentful of the preachers, and began to use their political influence to slander them. Paul and Barnabas continued on their journey and were not afraid of the lies that were being told about them.

When the men reached Iconium and preached the good news, Jews and gen-

tiles became believers in Christ in great numbers. Paul and Barnabas performed miracles and wonders by the power of the Holy Spirit. Many people were healed.

However, as before, there were certain people who did not want the gospel preached, and they made plans to stone the apostles. The apostles learned of this plan, and escaped the city.

In order to ensure that the message of Jesus would continue to be preached after they left, Paul and Barnabas appointed elders and instructed them to be examples of faith and leadership in the church. Paul

told them, "Before anyone can enter the Kingdom of God, it is necessary to endure many trials and temptations."

Paul and Barnabas visited several more cities before returning to Antioch. They stayed in Antioch for a long time, teaching the new believers in the ways of the Lord.

Read more about it: Acts 13 & 14

Q&A

1. What did Paul and Barnabas do before leaving on their journey?
2. What did Paul and Barnabas do to ensure that the gospel would be preached after they left a city?

Bible Accent

Jesus based many of his parables on the everyday activities of the people of his time. He made several references to farming and the sowing of seeds. Farmers would scatter seed onto the ground, which had been cleared of rocks and other debris. The soil was then plowed. This method of plowing after the seeds had been sown planted the seeds into the soil and protected them as they sprouted. Crops were planted according to their harvest time. Farmers would spend weeks picking ripe fruits, vegetables, and grains. After harvest the crops would be eaten, stored or prepared for the market.

"A person will reap exactly what he plants." Galatians 6:7.



St. Philip

Saint Philip was one of the first twelve apostles called by Jesus. Before then, he had been a follower of John the Baptist.

After Jesus had risen from the dead and had ascended into heaven, Philip waited with the other apostles for the promised Holy Spirit. It is believed he preached the gospel in Asia and died a martyr's death there.

In paintings and sculptures, he is often portrayed as a kind old man with a beard. He is the patron saint of Uruguay. We honor him May 3.

12 Apostles Crossword

Can you find all twelve apostles as listed in Mark 3? (Two of them had the same name.) Answers found on page 6.

D T W M X Y J U D A S
L H E A P O K A M I I
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You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 words or less) answering this question:

How does Spring remind you of God's promise of new life for his people?

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Last month's winner was Carolyn Lauber a fourth-grade student at Rochester's Lakeshore Elementary School. In response to the question **How would the world be different if everybody loved each other, as Jesus told us to do?** she wrote:

I think if everybody loved each other, as Jesus told us to, the world would be a better place.

There would be no violence, and no war. People wouldn't tease, or try to get revenge. Everyone would wear a smile on their face, and stop physically fighting. No nasty words would be said and no one would go to jail.

To me, the world would definitely be a better place, like heaven.

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