

# Kids' Chronicle

## Joshua chooses to serve the Lord

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The leaders of the tribes of Israel, along with the elders and the judges, were excited because Joshua had called them together for a meeting. They knew he only did that when he had a message to share from the Lord. When Joshua came out of his tent and joined them by the campfire, everyone became quiet.

Joshua's face glowed with the brightness of his smile. When he spoke his words were like those of a father addressing his children.

"Listen, my people, to what the Lord has to say.

"Long ago, our fathers did not worship our God, but served idols instead. But because of the faith of men like Abraham, Isaac and Moses, God delivered Israel out of bondage and slavery. We have lived to see the land of promise that not even Moses was able to see."

One of the judges waved his hand to get Joshua's attention.

"Is the Lord unhappy with us?" he asked. "We do not serve idols. We have been faithful to him."

"God gave us victory over the enemies who attacked us, over the many evils that surrounded us," Joshua responded. "We are safe in his care. But some still cling to the idols of ancient times. This cannot be."

Then one of the elders interrupted him.

"I am one of the older members of our



Illustration by Zoe Maves

people," he said. "Those among us who do not serve God must be few. Even those my age and older remember the good things God has done for us."

"My name, Joshua, means the salvation of God. I have always tried to live up to what I believed God wanted me to be. I will serve the Lord, and so will my family. You must each choose whether you will serve God or an idol. Choose wisely."

Many of the men who were with Joshua stood and raised their fists in the air and

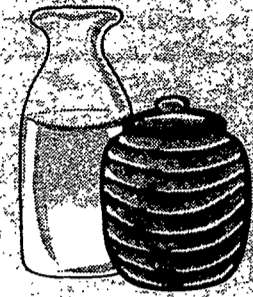
cried out, "We will serve God!" Joshua stood.

"You are witnesses to your own declarations to serve God," he said. "God will be forced to punish you if you follow anyone but him. His love is without measure, but he expects us to obey the commandments he has given to us."

"We will serve God!" the people repeated. "We will obey him."

Joshua found a large rock and placed it under an oak tree.

"This stone, too, has heard your oaths to serve God," he declared. "Now go in peace to be with your people and serve God from a sincere heart."



### Bible Accent

God promised Moses that the people of Israel would inherit a land "of milk and honey," what we now call the "Promised Land."

In the book of Joshua, the Israelites take possession of the land. The territories that had been conquered were divided up according to the Lord's instructions and given out to the various families.

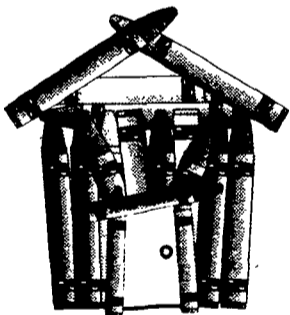
The country in which they settled is referred to as Canaan in the Old Testament. Canaan was not taken over without struggle, but God led the armies of Israel to victory so that they would be able to live in peace in a place that was safe and was large enough in which to settle.

### St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe was born into a poor Polish family in 1894. When he was a young man, he joined a Franciscan monastery. He traveled to Rome to continue his education. There he was also ordained and formed the Militia of Immaculate Mary, whose name he adopted as part of his own.

A serious lung disease forced him to return to Poland. When his health improved he began writing and publishing Christian newsletters and pamphlets.

As Nazi terrorism started to cast its shadow on Europe in the 1930s, St. Maximilian helped Jews and refugees find shelter and safety. He was eventually arrested by German police and was sentenced to the concentration camp in Auschwitz. He died there after giving up his life in the place of another man. We honor St. Maximilian on Aug. 14.



### Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

God rewarded the faith of Abraham, Moses and Joshua. How can we show God we have faith, too?

Send your essay - including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is Aug. 28, 1997. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Erica Laveré, who will be a fourth-grade student at DeWitt Road School in Webster. In response to the question If Jesus asked you what kind of a person would make a good disciple, what would you tell him? she wrote:

If Jesus asked me who would make a good disciple, I would say ... A loving and kind person. A person who doesn't make fun of anybody. A good disciple should be a good speaker who tells interesting stories. A good disciple should be a good role model who sets good examples to others. He should have a holy relationship with God and do good deeds for other people.

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### Q&A

#### READ MORE ABOUT IT: Joshua 24

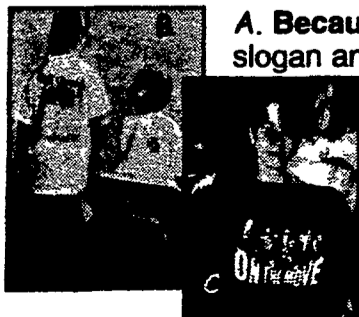
1. Why were the elders excited?
2. What choice did Joshua want the people to make?

### Puzzle

Answers on page 8.

Cross out every third letter in the puzzle to reveal a verse from a famous old spiritual song.

joxshruapfomughhtqttheebzatntlkeofjdercicbhoo



A. Because life isn't always... Our adult shirt features the Courier's slogan and a reprint of a page one article.

B. I'm a Courier Kid... Our children's shirt design features Kids Chronicle, along with a puzzle for kids to complete.

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