

Kids' Chronicle

The Gentiles hear Jesus' message

BY JOE SARNICOLA

"Land ahead! Antioch!" The sailor cried out.

Paul and Barnabas, who had been traveling together on a missionary journey, leaned on the railing of the ship.

"What do you think God wants us to do in Antioch?" Barnabas wondered.

Paul placed his hand on Barnabas' shoulder and said, "If we tell everyone about the salvation of Jesus, God will take care of everything else."

After the ship docked, they gathered their bags and walked into Antioch. They found lodging with some Christian friends who knew they were coming and went with them to the synagogue on the Sabbath to worship with the Jewish community. After the reading from the Scriptures, the synagogue's leaders asked Paul and Barnabas if they had any special words from God for them that day.

Paul stood up and said, "My God-fearing friends, listen to the word of the Lord. Our ancient fathers and mothers wandered in the desert and then found a home in Canaan. David, who is an ancestor of Jesus, became their second king. But the people of Jerusalem did not recognize Jesus as being the son of God. Instead they crucified him. But he rose from the dead, and because he did, all of God's promises will be fulfilled in us."

Many of the people who heard what Paul had said gathered around Paul and Barnabas after the congregation had been dismissed.

Barnabas summed up God's commands with a simple sentence: "Be faith-



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

ful to the teachings of Jesus."

The next Sabbath, huge crowds of people formed outside the synagogue, hoping to hear more words of God from Paul and Barnabas. But this made the synagogue's leaders jealous, so they denied most of the things that Paul and Barnabas said.

Paul stood up without any fear and said to them, "We gave you the word of God first, but you are choosing not to listen to it. Therefore God has told us to offer it to the Gentiles as well."

Upon hearing this, the many Gentiles

— non-Jews — who had also gathered to listen rejoiced that the promises of God could be theirs as well. The synagogue's leaders tried to gather support among the prominent citizens of the city and made enough people angry to help them throw Paul and Barnabas out of the city. But the two disciples were not discouraged. Instead they rejoiced because God had used them to spread his message.

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Acts 13

Q&A

Who was traveling with Paul?

How did the synagogue's leaders react to Paul's message? The Gentiles?

Bible Accent

The apostle Paul is an important figure in early church history. He was an educated Jew who also happened to be a Roman citizen. Before his conversion, he actually ordered the arrest and punishment of Christians.

Paul became a missionary and one of the most influential New Testament writers. The stories written about him and the other disciples in the Book of Acts show that God offered salvation to both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews).

The early Christians often met with resistance the message of the good news of Jesus, but the Holy Spirit guided them, just as Jesus had promised. Their examples of faith have been an inspiration for all Christians who lived after them.

Pope St. Pius V

Pope St. Pius V was born Michael Ghislieri in 1504. He joined a Dominican order when he was only 14 years old, and he became an expert teacher in theology and philosophy.

His peaceful life as a Dominican was changed forever in 1556 when he was appointed a bishop. A year later he became a cardinal and in 1565 he was elected pope. At that time he adopted the name Pius V.

Pope St. Pius V designated church funds to be used for hospitals and services for the poor, fought corruption in government, and spoke out against prostitution and bull fighting. During his papacy the catechism of the Council of Trent and new editions the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas were published.

We honor Pope St. Pius V on April 30.

Puzzle Answers on Page 8.

Use your Bible to answer the following.

1. What is the first book of the Old Testament?
2. Name two Old Testament books that are named after women.
3. How many Psalms are there?
4. Name the four Gospels.
5. Finish this book's title: Acts of _____
6. What is the last book of the New Testament?

Bible Trivia

According to Acts 9, by what other name was St. Paul known?

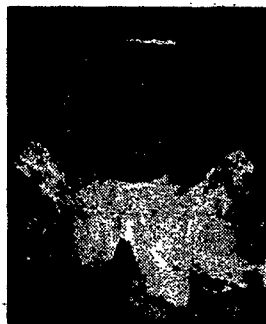
Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by May 7, 1998. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Billy St. John a third-grade student at Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Rochester. He correctly identified Theophilus as the person to whom Luke wrote his Gospel.

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