

Kids' Chronicle

The disciples meet Paul

BY JOE SARNICOLA

"What will I do if they do not accept me?" the man asked. Barnabas put his hand on the man's shoulder and said, "I will tell them what happened. Then they will believe." Barnabas tapped on the door with three slow knocks, two fast knocks.

A short man with a beard and moustache that covered most of his face opened the door slowly. When he saw Barnabas, he smiled, but became suspicious of the stranger who was with him. "Who is that with you?"

"A friend," replied Barnabas. "Now let me in. Quickly, man." The doorkeeper opened the door so both men could enter, then closed it and locked it.

Many Christians were in the house. They all turned to greet Barnabas, who said simply, "God be with all of you. I want you to meet Paul." Paul pulled his hood back so everyone could see his face.

"Paul!" Fear gripped everyone in the room. "The killer of Christians? Have you betrayed us?"

"Enough," Barnabas said firmly. "God has done a great work in our brother."

The Christians were not convinced. Paul was notorious for throwing Christians into prison. Or worse things.

"Please," said Paul. "It is true that I persecuted those who professed to believe in Jesus. But I was a fool. I was on my way to Damascus to arrest men and

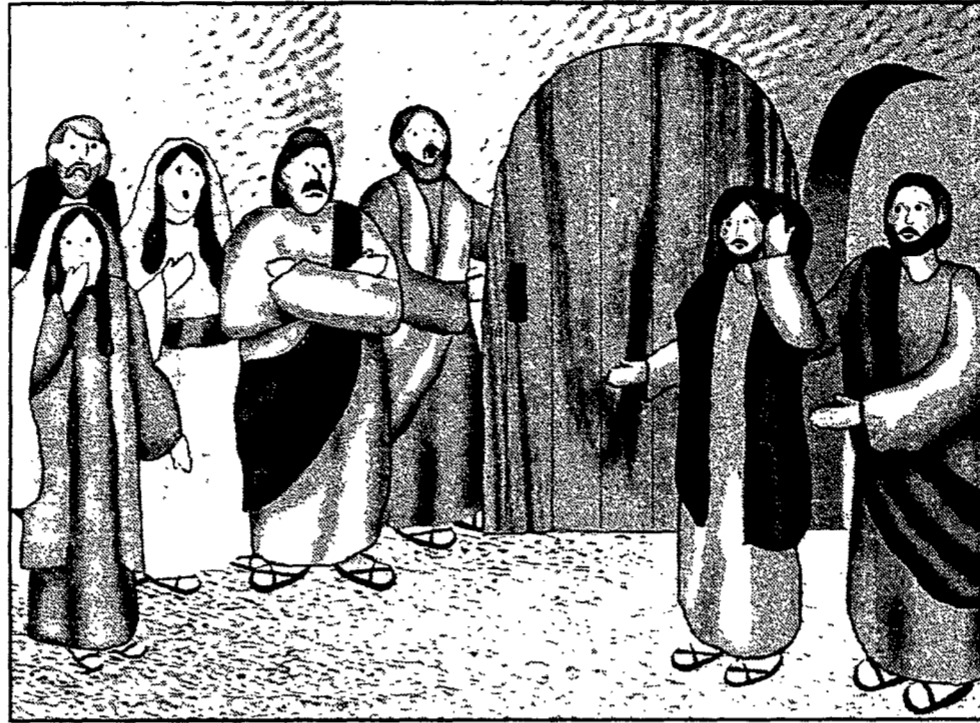


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

women and lock them in chains. Then a great light from heaven blinded me. A voice told me he was Jesus, and said for me to go into the city and wait for a man who would come looking for me. My companions, who were as frightened as I was, brought me to town. A man named Ananias prayed for me. I was healed and then I was baptized by him. I, too, want to serve Jesus now."

The disciples were silent at first. Then they all welcomed Paul into their assem-

bly. Paul preached about Jesus in the towns and villages along with the other Christians. He angered some men who were members of a Greek sect called the Hellenists. They wanted to kill Paul because of the things he preached. When the other disciples heard about the plot of the Hellenists to take Paul's life, they helped him escape to Tarsus for his own safety.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Acts 9

Q&A

1. Why were the disciples afraid of Paul?
2. What did Ananias do for Paul?

Bible Accent

The Book of Acts, which was written by Luke, is the story of the beginning of the church. After Jesus had ascended into heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to fill the disciples with power and courage. Since Jesus was no longer on earth to teach them, the early Christians came to depend on each other for fellowship and for their everyday needs. The first part of Acts focuses on the faith and deeds of the disciples, while the second part recounts the missionary journeys of Paul. It is in this book that we first see the salvation of Jesus offered to the Gentiles. It is also where Christianity, which had its roots in the Jewish traditions, becomes a separate religion with its own beliefs.

St. John the Silent

John the Silent built a monastery for himself and 10 other men when he was 18 years old. They wanted to live in solitude with a respect for hard work and an attitude of prayer. Word of John's leadership ability did not go unnoticed, even though he spent most of his time behind the walls of the monastery. The archbishop of Sebaste appointed him as bishop of Colonia in Armenia. Ten years later John saw a vision of a glowing cross in the air, and he followed its direction to the monastery of St. Sabas. Eventually John made his home in the desert, preferring to live alone, but even there people sought him out for advice. He refused no one who asked for his help. John died in 558. We honor him on May 13.

Puzzle

Fill in the blank with the correct number.
Answers on page 9.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. ___ Commandments | 5. ___ days in Lent |
| 2. ___ sacraments | 6. ___ persons of the Trinity |
| 3. ___ Apostles of Jesus | 7. ___ Testaments in the Bible |
| 4. ___ Gospels | 8. ___ Psalms in the Book of Psalms |

Victor Borge

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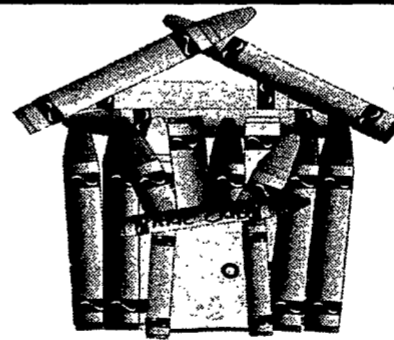
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Kids' Club

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

What is one of the things that Paul did or wrote that can inspire us to be better Christians, and why do you think so?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is May 18, 2000. 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 Andrea Masiello, a fifth-grader in Greece's St. Lawrence School religious education program. Andrea answered the question Jesus showed he had power even over death. What does that mean for us as Christians? by writing:

Jesus showed to us that he had power over death. That he will be there for us forever and ever. Also we will be there for him. We will open our souls to him. Jesus Christ knew his death was going to be very painful. He died for our sins. That means he had a powerful love for us. Even when we say we don't believe in him because it's not cool he forgives us for what we say. After he died and risen from the dead we believed then. Jesus had a very powerful love for us, and he still does. Believe in Jesus he is Christ! He gave us life!

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