

# Kids' Chronicle

## Philip spreads the Gospel in Samaria

BY JOE SARNICOLA

After they had been filled with faith and the power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Apostles went to different cities and countries preaching about Jesus. Philip went to Samaria. He told the people there that Jesus was the promised Messiah, and they were amazed by the things Philip said and did.

Philip prayed over people who were possessed by unclean spirits, and they were set free. When he touched people who were sick or crippled, they were cured. When Philip preached, he spoke of the good news of the kingdom of God and the power of the name of Jesus. Many of the Samaritans believed in Jesus because of the acts of Philip. They were also baptized, both men and women.

When some of the other Apostles heard what was happening in Samaria, they sent Peter and John to help in the ministry. Peter and John prayed that the Samaritans would receive the Holy Spirit. Although many of the people had been baptized in the name of Jesus, they had not yet received the Spirit. When the two men laid their hands on the people and prayed for them, they would be filled with the Spirit.

One day an angel visited Philip with a message. "Philip, get up and head south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route."

Philip immediately obeyed the angel. When he reached the road the angel had told him to take, he met a very important man. This man was the chief treasurer of the court of the queen of Ethiopia. He had traveled to Jerusalem to worship, and he was on his way home with his company. While riding in his chariot, the treasurer was reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The angel told Philip to speak to the man. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I," answered the man, "unless someone instructs me?" The treasurer invited Philip to ride in his chariot with him. Philip explained the Scriptures to him as they traveled. When they passed some water, the treasurer asked, "What is to prevent my being baptized?"

The chariot stopped and Philip baptized the man in the water. As soon as they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The treasurer was amazed and rejoiced about the love



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

of God.

Philip continued to preach in every town he passed through until he came to Caesarea.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:  
Acts 8

## Q&A

1. Where did Philip go to preach first?
2. What did Peter and John do?

## Bible Accent

The Acts of the Apostles, the second book written by Luke, tells the stories of the early Christians. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his followers to remain in Jerusalem until they received a promise of power from the Father. This promise of the Father was the Holy Spirit, and when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles, they were filled with the power of God. Everyone in Jerusalem saw and heard this miracle with their own eyes and ears. Acts reads like an adventure novel, but it is a collection of true stories about the preaching and missionary journeys of Paul, Peter and some of the other Apostles. There are accounts of miracles, healings, shipwrecks, imprisonments and more. As a result of the faith and courage of the Apostles as they obeyed the Lord's commandments, many people became Christians. Want to read an exciting story? Try a chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

## St. Mark

St. Mark is considered by most religious scholars to have been a traveling companion of Paul and Barnabas. Some of the stories of his missionary journeys are told in Acts. Although there are conflicting references, it is likely that Mark also worked closely with Peter, and that he is the author of the second Gospel. Since Barnabas, a member of the Levite tribe, was a relative of Mark, Mark was probably a Levite as well. A long-held tradition claims that Mark lived in Alexandria and eventually became its bishop, although the histories written by Clement of Alexandria and Origen do not confirm this. The city of Venice believes it possesses the remains of Mark. This also has not been proven beyond doubt, but the city reveres Mark as its patron saint.

The words of Mark continue to be important today through his Gospel. We honor him on April 25.

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## Puzzle

Put a check mark next to the books from the list that are found in the New Testament. Answer on page 8.

<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew	<input type="checkbox"/> Joshua
<input type="checkbox"/> Romans	<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians
<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah	<input type="checkbox"/> John
<input type="checkbox"/> Judges	<input type="checkbox"/> Joel
<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians
<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts

## Bible Trivia

During Mass, lectors read from the Old and New Testaments, and a priest or deacon will read from one of the four \_\_\_\_\_.

Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address, school name and grade. All entries must be received by May 2, 2002. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question was Amanda Widzinski, a sixth-grader at Gates-Chili Middle School. In response to "Which book of the New Testament tells the story of the early Christians after Jesus ascended into heaven?" she answered, "The Acts of the Apostles."

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