

BAPTIST FEATURES

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JERRY'S TROUBLE FRIENDS
By Grayce Krogh Boller

Jerry walked slowly down the street. He wanted to be sure not to get lost. The big city was so different from the farm where Jerry had lived. He and his family had just moved to the city a few days before. Now Jerry was going to the store for Mother.

"There is the grocery store on the corner," Jerry walked in. He asked for a loaf of bread. He paid for it. He received change. Then, carrying the bread, he left the store.

For a minute, he watched the policeman on the corner. He was directing traffic. He was dressed in a nice blue uniform. It had shiny brass buttons on it. As Jerry watched the people crossing the street, a gust of wind came by. It blew the hat from a man's head. Over and over the hat rolled down the street. Jerry grabbed at it as it went by him. He did not catch it. He ran after it. The man ran, too. Over and over the hat rolled, faster and faster. At last, far down the block, it rolled around the corner. Jerry caught up with it.

"Thank you very much," the man took his hat gratefully. "I never would have caught it if it hadn't been for you."

"You're welcome," Jerry remembered to say. He was thinking what different adventures there were in the city than in the country.

The man walked away, and Jerry looked around. Now he was on a different street. Where was the grocery store? Where was the policeman directing traffic? Jerry started to walk. He thought he was walking back the way he had come. But everything looked different.

"I ran so fast, I didn't notice," he frowned. "Which way is home?"

For just a minute, Jerry was frightened. Suppose he never got home again? Then he smiled, because he knew God would take care of him and help him to get home.

Jerry began to walk again. Everything looked strange. He looked up at the street signs, but they were strange, too. Some of them he could not read. None of them looked like Vine Street, where he lived.

After a while, he saw children playing. He asked them where Vine Street was.

"It is that way, I think," one boy said.

"No, I think it is the other way," his playmate pointed.

Jerry thanked them politely. He walked on again. He knew the boys did not know where Vine Street was.

"If I found a policeman, I could ask him," Jerry told himself. "But there are no policemen around."

Jerry was getting tired. He was getting hungry. He thought of the good supper Mother had been cooking when he left the house.

Just then, he saw a big black car by the curbstone. Inside were two big policemen. Jerry walked up bravely.

"I think I am lost," he told one of the men. "Do you know where Vine Street is? I chased a man's hat for him. That is how I got lost."

"Hop in, sonny," one of the policemen smiled. "We'll take you home."

Jerry hopped in beside the policeman. The driver started off. He even blew the siren a little. Jerry smiled now.

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"I knew if I could find a policeman, he would take me home," he said. "I did not think I would ride home in a police car."

When they reached Vine Street, the policeman opened the door and let Jerry out.

"Okay now?" his friends asked.

"Fine," Jerry smiled. "Thank you very much for helping me. You are good friends."

"Policemen are always good friends to good children," the driver nodded.

Jerry waved until the black car was out of sight. He was happy to see the men wave back to him.

Then he thought, "I helped a policeman by catching his hat. They helped me by bringing me home."

That night in his prayers he said, "Thank thee Lord for the policeman. Help me to know they are my friends."

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SEA BIRDS

By Gladys Cleone Carpenter

When we think of the ocean, we usually think of the sea gulls. Sometimes the gulls rest on the surface of the water. Other times they fly and swoop above the waves. Their nests are usually made of seaweed.

A bird often mistaken for a gull is one of the terns called Caspian tern. It has a red bill and a forked tail. There are thirteen kinds of terns.

In Florida the huge funny-looking pelicans are seen flying in long single files over the ocean or diving after fish. They usually fish several miles away from their homes.

There's a member of the pelican family called a cormorant. They not only dive and fish but stay for a short time under water. They are large birds of a greenish-blue color.

The albatross likes to follow a ship, sometimes eating scraps thrown overboard or circling above the masts. They are large birds, black-footed, and short-tailed. In school one reads about the albatross in "The Ancient Mariner."

Shearwaters are about a foot and a half long. Their wings are long and narrow; so they seem to ripple in flight. They eat fish and squid and follow whales and porpoises.

Birds are often used in the Bible to picture other things. David said "Flee as a bird to your mountain" (Psalm 11:1). In Job we read "But ask... the birds of the heavens and they shall tell thee" (Job 12:7). One of the greatest thoughts in the Bible is this one: "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father... ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matt. 10:29,31).

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