

BAPTIST FEATURES

Released by BAPTIST PRESS
127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn.

March 21, 1957

GOD'S WONDROUS WORLD By Loraine Burdick

Fishing in Southeastern Alaska is good. It is not even necessary to have a pole, for a hand line will do very well. The halibut hang out near the bottom. They like herring bait but do not seem to like a quiet herring. When the boat is moving slowly and the bait follows along, then the halibut will bite. Such a sudden heaviness on the line. Then comes the task of pulling him in.

But there is something to remember. About in the water, not always where they can be seen, lurk jellyfish. They are considered poisonous. The fish itself is not poisonous. It is the stringy mass that trails along behind that is dangerous. If the fish line passes near this poisonous trail as it is pulled in, it will pick up some of the poison. Then as the hands pull in the line the poison gets onto them. Oh, the sudden smarting! How the hands itch. Why, the fingers feel chapped and rough and sore, while they itch. It doesn't wash off...it won't rub off. The poison burns and spoils the excitement of landing a sturdy fish, even though it wears off in a day.

Many people are not poisonous in themselves but the trail they leave behind them...their cutting words and unkind actions...cause much smarting and pain. The only way to be safe is to avoid any contact with such people, and to avoid being poisonous ourselves. We cannot help but wish like Job to be "hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither...be afraid of destruction when it cometh." (Job 5:21)

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JOE-PYE WEED By Daisy Ridings (illustration #3)

These flowers are so pretty
It's fun to look for them;
They bloom in crimson clusters
Atop a tall, stout stem.
The leaves are grouped in circles,
And give the perfect touch
That makes these autumn flowers
Always admired so much.

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