

BAPTIST FEATURES

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

April 25, 1957

GOD'S WONDROUS WORLD By Thelma C. Carter

Have you ever watched your pet dog retrieve an object (stick or ball) tossed up into the air? Did you notice how carefully and quickly he moved -- as if measuring the shortest, most direct path to the object? If you have, you have observed one of nature's most miraculous, unchangeable laws!

Nature always works toward her goal by the most direct path!

Rain and snow are drawn directly to the earth by the force of gravity. The sun's light rays travel in straight lines to the earth, unless an obstacle, such as our homes, trees, window panes, awnings, etc., diffracts (bends) them.

Trees never take the round-the-block route to grow unless they are forced to circumvent an object, or there is a lack of food or water necessary for root growth. Plants anchor themselves to the earth by direct root systems.

Birds migrate by a definite route as though it were marked out in the air.

Insects (spiders spin webs from tree to tree) travel the direct route to food and home sites.

If you injure a finger, nature's healing forces do not go to work on a toe -- they work directly on the damaged area of the finger. If you break a bone, each broken end starts growing, reaching out, directly, in some magical, mysterious way to meet the other.

In the same miraculous way, Christ comes into our hearts by the direct route of our faith and trust in Him. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6).

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(Is there something about God's Wondrous World you would like to see described in this column? If so please send your suggestions to Baptist Press Syndicate, 127 N. Ninth Ave., Nashville 3, Tenn.)

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THE DREAMLAND MIX-UP By Hazel T. Harston (illustration #4)

On Sandman's Hill in Dreamland stood Sleepy Castle where the **Jolly** Sandman lived and in a large storehouse near the castle the Sandman kept his dreams.

On the shelves were tickly dreams, wiggly dreams, crawly dreams, swimming dreams, climbing dreams, crying dreams, and kicking dreams. In one section there were scary dreams and some nightmares.

These scary dreams and nightmares were for the boys and girls who ate too much cake, pie, or candy before they went to bed.

Each night the Sandman filled his bag with sand and an assortment of nice dreams. He also packed a few scary ones and some nightmares. As he went on his way he sprinkled sand in the children's eyes and left a dream.

He left nice dreams if they had been good and eaten all their vegetables, bread, fruit and drunk all their milk.

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For those who had eaten their pie and cake first, he left nightmares. This he did because he wanted to teach them to eat what was best for them.

One day while the Sandman was sleeping the mischievous elves, who lived in Dreamland, broke into the Sandman's storehouse.

One elf said, "Let's have some fun. We will mix the dreams."

Another elf answered, "That will be lots of fun."

All the elves skipped about the room and had a wonderful time exchanging tickly dreams for kicking ones, squirming dreams for crying ones, running dreams for swimming ones and wiggly ones for falling ones.

Jolly Elf said, "I tell you what we'll do. Let's draw straws to see who will sprinkle sand in the Sandman's eyes and"

Jokey Elf cried out, "Wee-ee-ee, that will be fun and when night comes we can take the dreams and have fun."

"Line up and let's see who is to be the lucky one," Jolly Elf continued.

The elves drew a straw. When they had drawn, Sassy Elf called out, "Looks like I am the one. Hand me that sandbag. I'll be back in a few minutes and it's getting late." Slinging the bag over his shoulder away he went.

Very soon he was back and commanded, "Pack your dreams and some nightmares and let's get started."

Gleefully, they packed the wiggly, tickly, crawly, kicking, crying, swimming, running, squirming, and scary dreams and some nightmares, then started out.

They came to prim Miss Josephine's house first who always dressed just so with her high-necked blouses and long skirts. She always said and did the proper thing at the proper time.

For her they left a dream of the pastor talking to her at a church social and when she looked down she was standing before the pastor without her shoes on.

The elves watched how embarrassed Miss Josephine was gleefully until she awoke and said, "I just do declare! I'm glad it was only a dream."

Away scampered the elves to a boy's house who was called "Roly Poly" Johnson because his tummy stuck out so he could hardly see over it. As they selected a nightmare for him, he mumbled sleepily, "Please, Mother, just one more piece of pie."

They gave him his nightmare and then watched. "Roly Poly" ran away from a chocolate cake, cocconut pie and cream pie. As they caught him they splashed some in his face. He stuck his head under the cover and screamed, "I won't eat as much pie next time. Please stop." And then he woke up.

By this time the Sandman waked and said, "My, I overslept. I'll have to hurry." After he had dressed he found his bag and dreams gone.

"It's those elves," he stated.

Away he hurried and found them at Billy Wright's house. Instead of leaving him a scary dream, they gave him a dream in which he walked again just like the doctors had told him he could if he would try and try.

The Sandman said, "Elves, you have done some bad things but you have done some good things. Give me the sandbag and dreams and I will finish delivering them. You had your fun; now go back to Dreamland."

The elves went back but as they went Solemn Elf said, "I had fun but the best was when Billy woke up and said, "Mother, I will try to walk and some day I believe with practice that I can."

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