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JUST-A-MINUTE TOMMY

By Enola Chamberlin
Illustration #2 - bathtub scene

Tommy was a good little boy. He very seldom had to be scolded except for one very annoying thing. Almost every time he was asked to do anything he would say, "Just a minute." Quite often he wouldn't do it for a long time. And sometimes he would forget and wouldn't do it at all.

"Oh, Tommy," Mother said to him one day. "I've just got to do something about you. I told you to turn off the water in the bath tub. You said 'just a minute' and now the bath tub has run over."

"But I wanted to finish reading just a little bit," Tommy said, "and then I forgot."

Mother let it go that time. Then a day or so later she asked him to see what baby sister was doing. Tommy said "Just a minute." Then he didn't go see at all. Right then Mother decided she would have to do something. Of course she went to see about baby sister herself. But that didn't excuse Tommy one bit.

The next day Tommy came rushing in from school. "Make me a sandwich, Mother, please," he said.

"Just a minute," Mother said. She went right on with her ironing.

Tommy went into his room and changed his clothes. When he came out Mother was still ironing and there was no sandwich.

"I'm hungry, Mother," he said. "Please fix me a sandwich."

"Just a minute," Mother said. She went right on ironing.

Tommy looked at her with a frown on his forehead. He sat down in a chair to wait until Mother had finished ironing one of his shirts. "She'll fix it then," he said to himself.

But Mother got another shirt out of the basket and began to iron it.

"Mother, please," Tommy said.

"Just a minute," Mother said.

Tommy got down from the chair and ran out of doors. In the yard he met Father.

"What is Mother doing?" Father asked.

Tommy started to say that she was ironing. Then he changed it.

"She's just-a-minuteing," he said crossly.

Father laughed. "She's taking words right out of your mouth, eh, son?" he said.

The frown fell away from Tommy's face. He looked puzzled.

"Don't you know," Father explained, "that every time we ask you to do something you say 'just a minute'? Mostly then you forget to do it at all."

A funny little smile came over Tommy's face. He saw that Mother was trying to show him how bad it was to say "just a minute" all the time. He ran back into the house.

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"Mother," he said, "I promise that I'll try not to say 'just a minute' ever, ever again."

Mother gave him a big smile. Then she gave him a big sandwich she already had fixed.

And from that time on Tommy did try and soon he wasn't saying "just a minute" any more than anyone else. And he and all his family were just ever so much happier.

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GOD'S WONDROUS WORLD

By Thelma C. Carter

When you travel, there are some things you can't pack in luggage, for instance, your habits and especially, your speech! And you can't leave them behind because they're always with you!

Our early settlers found this true when they left England, crossed the ocean and settled first in Massachusetts, later making their homes up and down the New England coast.

Among the settlers were adventurers, soldiers, servants, prisoners, Puritans and Quakers. There were the Welsh, Scotch-Irish and German people among them. Later, Dutch people from Holland joined them. You can imagine the confusion of speech!

To add to this problem, the colonists found they had no words for the many new objects and experiences they encountered. The physical features of America were vastly different from those of England, Holland and the other countries. They found themselves forced to construct new words like "foothill," "bluff" and "underbrush."

Pushing their way into the wilderness they met up with Indian hostility. Thus they adopted many Indian words such as "wigwam," "tomahawk," "canoe" and "warpath."

Later, as they built frontier towns, words like "backwoodsman," "log cabin" and "corncrib" became a part of their speech.

Today, "jet aircraft" and "guided missiles" are new members of our word family.

If Christianity is in our hearts, "salvation," "faith in Christ," and "soul-winning" become a part of our daily speech. For as the psalmist said, "My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord." (Psalm 145:21)

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