

Old Jim



By Dan Caldwell

(Volume Two, Chapter Seventeen)

It had been a hot day. One of the hottest of the season so far and as the old farmer stood looking down across his field he was glad that evening had come! The old silver haired mule stood near the edge of the woods where the old man had hitched him an hour ago. Sweat still dripped from beneath his belly. It had been a good work out for the both of them and the old farmer chuckled to himself as he fanned his hat against his face. With a handkerchief he wiped the sweat from his neck. This field was finished. Below him stood the corn, tall and strong, filled with the climbing beans. Most of the rows also had large, leafed squash which had been planted along with the corn. These would continue to grow, spreading their large leaves, helping to prevent the weeds from growing around the corn and, during the hottest part of summer would help to hold the moisture in the soil.

The ground was rocky here in the north mountain but there was good soil beneath. This was the "newground" which the old farmer had cleared several years ago. It had become known as the newground. Each year he would plant, and plow and each year would be the same at harvest. The corn stalks would send out long hearty roots which would weave their way over, around or under the stones and find the good soil beneath. Already he could see the huge ears of corn that were developing on the stalks. The tops of the stalks were beginning to send up their tassels, indicating that full growth had nearly been reached. The ears would continue to grow until the season became late and the leaves would begin to turn brown. Each year the old farmer and the old gray mule would come with the sled. Each year they would return to the barn with the sled filled and nearly breaking with the huge loads of corn and squash. Each year the Lord had blessed them with bushels and bushels of beans. This year would be the same!!

The old gray mule snorted and turned himself about, shaking himself to rid the flies that had begun to gather about his legs. The old farmer took a final look at the field. Below him, down the mountain near the bottom of the field, the crows had begun to make a racket. Perhaps they too were eager for the corn to grow. The old farmer smiled. Hooking the chain again to the singletree the old farmer turned the old gray mule and hitched him to the sled. The load of manure which they had hauled up would finish the corn, squash, and beans. It had been a long and hot day of work, but the old farmer had chosen to do the job himself. Most of the other work had been done by the old farmers sons.

As the old mule stepped out the old farmer pulled lightly against the line which was attached only to the halter. The old farmer would never use bridle and bit with his old friend. "Gee a little ol' fellow" he spoke softly to the mule, "Git up now. Let's go see Elizabeth."

As they turned into the trail that led down the mountain the old farmer returned to his own thoughts. The old mule needed no more guiding. He would follow the trail all the way to their tiny cabin and would stop only when he reached the barn unless he was spoken to.

Elizabeth was nearly well, and the old man was glad. It was hard to know for sure what had gone wrong. "Perhaps you are just tired. Maybe you have been working too hard and you need a rest." the old farmer had suggested.

"I chill," she said, "and my body aches and I am so weak. I tremble when I stand."

"Then you must stay in bed until you are better," the old man had insisted, "Doc Shaeffer will be here tomorrow. He will make you better. Young Elizabeth will help with the housekeeping, and everyone will help take care of you! You are not to worry about a thing."

And it had been so. The doctor had come and had tried patiently to explain to the old farmer what the sickness was. It was something to do with the blood. The old farmer shook his head again even now as he remembered. The doctor had given her a powdered remedy.

"Mix this with apple juice or with water. Take it three times a day" he had said, "and soon you will be as good as new."

The old mule splashed as he crossed the river below the cabin. The sled twisted and turned as the runner's dragged against the stones in the riverbed. From the cabin came the sound of barking.

"Whoa Jim. Hold up old fellow," said the old farmer.

The familiar sound of Highbones barking flooded the memory of the old farmer. This was Highbones' offspring. The old farmer sat the sled and mule for a moment longer as he listened.

"What do you think old man?" he spoke to the mule, "What should we name that fellow? He sure sounds like his pa don't he? We'll have to think of a good name for him!"

As they drew nearer the cabin the old farmer was surprised to see Elizabeth sitting on the porch. On her lap lay some thing or other which she had been knitting. At her feet lay a huge red hound.

"You're feeling better?" he asked.

"Oh Benjimen, I can't tell you how much better I feel. It feels good to get out of the house for a spell." Without thinking she petted the dog as he raised his head. "Did you hear this fellow barking?"

"I certainly did." he replied. "He sure sounded a lot like."

"Yes, I know."

Young Elizabeth came to the door then.

"Grandma, what shall I fix for supper? I have the green beans cooked already. What would you like with them?"

"Maybe a bit of ham would be good" she answered, "I'll come and?"

"You will stay sitting." she exclaimed. "Anything else?"

The old farmer laughed and winked.

"Cornbread and milk," he said.

The old mule snickered.

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

(Prov. 16:4) Since God created everything for His own purpose, (Heb. 2:10) all things exist for His sake according to His divine nature, (Col. 1:16) all things, in heaven and on earth, consist through Jesus and for Him, and (John 1:3) nothing whatsoever was made without Him or brought to life except by Him, is it possible that His beauty can be found in all things? The initial look doesn't see beauty in the pain of this life, but is there a hidden beauty that can't be seen through earthly eyes?

(1 John 5:19) The beauty of God is seen in the victorious power of Jesus, His deliverance for mankind from a place of wickedness, and His faithfulness to keep those who have been freed from Satan's domain. The terrible result of evil is devastating, but the power of Jesus is the counteracting ability to heal, mend, make whole, and impart peace, to those who have been affected by the devastation. Without accelerating pain, there can't be sudden relief, without emotional hurt there can't be perfect healing, without division there can't be reconciliation, without brokenness there can't be repair. These issues are intended to open an avenue for the divine beauty of God to be seen.

Apostle John knew the love of God in a profound spiritual way, not as an emotional feeling or logical thought. The beauty of God is glorious because of the separation it causes between good and evil. The slaughter of humanity, read about in the Old Testament, is an ugly thought to a carnal mind, but spiritually beautiful because of the purification it yielded when idolatry was banished. The beauty of God isn't recognized in the death of the multitudes that died in the wilderness during the Exodus, but the entrance into the Promised Land is a beautiful picture of restoration and new life. One conclusive answer to the opening question lies in a few powerful words Jesus spoke, "With God All Things Are Possible" (Matt. 19:26).

Granny's Porch

Hello Everyone,

This is Granny once again hoping everyone is doing fine on this beautiful day. I love this time of year! The trees are starting to turn, and I was just thinking, I'd love to go back to Natural Bridge State Park again this year when all the pretty colors come out. I've done that every year with my son, Danny, and his wife, Sue. But last year, we almost waited too late to see all the trees in their prettiest colors. We did take a picnic lunch and sat at a table and had a good little lunch just spending time with each other.

Thinking about the pretty fall weather, it brings to my mind about the little schoolhouse that looked so pretty with the fall-colored leaves on the trees around it. One time I remember when going to the little schoolhouse for Sunday service when it was over my daddy promised to have a surprise next Sunday. The preacher, Raymond Bjork, said, "I don't have the slightest idea what it could be. I'll not let you out do me. I'll have a surprise the next Sunday."

The rest of us was left waiting and wondering what these two had on their minds. Neither would tell us what they were going to do. I think they had gotten together and decided and told each other what they were going to do. Anyway..... the next Sunday

came and when we got there we noticed that daddy had a big fire built outside and we all tried to guess what he was up to. We wondered if maybe he might have a bunch of marshmallows that he was going to roast or maybe some big potatoes to bake which we sometimes would do. They are very good baked in an open fire. (actually, under the fire in the hot coals) But there was no marshmallows or potatoes in sight. In fact, there was not even a hint of what he was going to do with that fire so when the preacher got there we all went inside. There was not a word said to give away what daddy was going to do. While the singing and children's stories and even while the preaching was going on everyone was wondering what that big fire outside was for.

Sunday service was over soon, and daddy went outside. He had two big sacks full of something hid in the weeds. So, he went across the yard and pulled these sacks across to where the fire had, by this time, burned down. It had a lot of red coals laying there. He called for some help and out came his surprise. It was some sweet corn with the shucks still on it. He had gathered two sacks full which was enough for everyone. He began to lay the corn into the coals of fire. He told everyone that this was the best way

to eat corn on the cob. I agree that this was some good eating. The corn was turned over several times so the shucks would not burn all the way off and burn the corn. When the shucks are almost gone the corn is done!

Daddy had brought salt and butter and enough corn for everyone. This was a wonderful day with everyone eating and enjoying their first corn baked with the shuck on! Daddy had been planning this for some time and no one knew but he and mother. The corn has a different taste when it's baked outside like that. I'll always remember the many things I learned from my daddy. After everyone had eaten all they wanted daddy said, "Now preacher tell us what you have for a surprise." The preacher said, "Oh, no. Everyone just be sure and be here next Sunday." So, here we are with another week to wait, wondering what this surprise would be. These people from the Red Bird Mission were just like family. We all gathered and enjoyed life!! This was a good part of my life while my children were growing up. The folk from the mission were always so kind to everyone and especially preacher Bjork. He was always such a happy person!

Now as we went through the next week we were wondering what he had on his mind to do the following Sunday. When Sunday finally came, there was not a sign of anything that the preacher had brought that could be the surprise. Everyone was wondering and thinking that maybe he had forgotten.

The service started as usual, and everyone was happy singing and listening to the Bible stories and the preaching. When the service ended, the preacher went outside to his Jeep and brought back two big ice cream containers full of ice cream. Now, this was a surprise because we had no electricity and very few people ever got ice cream. This was a treat! He would dip from one container and put two scoops on each cone. His wife was dipping from the other container. Each had three gallons. This was six gallons of ice cream!! One was vanilla and one was strawberry. There was more than enough to go around.

When everyone had all they could eat they thanked the preacher and daddy for the two days of surprises, and everyone went home happy! These are just two more days of my fond memories. There are many more days like these that I'll be writing about as it is the Lord's will but for now if I may, let me put my pen away and say meet me here again next week for more from Granny's Porch.

Love, Granny.



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE APPLICATIONS


(Children birth to 12 years old on Christmas 2021 are eligible
- Please **DO NOT** bring Children)
(Available for ALL eligible families in need.
We will verify eligibility by your Income to Expense ratio)

The Salvation Army will take applications in Jackson County:

October 25th, 2021

Monday, 9AM-2:00 PM

Apply at: **JACKSON CO. PUBLIC LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM
338 N. Main Street
McKee, Ky 40447
Questions: Call 859-624-5826**



Please Note: Applying for additional Christmas Assistance at any another Agency, School, Organization, or Church is grounds for disqualification from the Angel Tree Program.

To apply you must bring: Please do not bring hand-written notes

- ✓ Your Valid State Issued Photo ID that has your **CURRENT** address on it.
- ✓ Government-Issued Identification for **ALL** household members such as Birth Certificate, Photo ID, Passport, Matricula consular identification, etc.
- ✓ Your **CURRENT** Food Stamp Award Letter listing all family members and eligibility qualifications.
- ✓ Proof of **ALL** household **INCOME** (Pay Stubs, SSI, Disability, Child Support, KTAP, etc).
- ✓ **ALL** household **EXPENSES** (Copy of Lease/Proof of Mortgage, electric, gas, water, cable, internet, phone, car payment, car/ health/ life insurance, storage, rent-to-own, personal loans, any other monthly expenses).

*Official paper copies only & NO Social Security Cards can be used as ID

ALSO BRING

- ✓ Childs/Children's Clothing and Shoe sizes (for Angel Tree applications).
- ✓ Possible gift ideas for your child/children (for Angel Tree applications).

ALL items above are needed to create Christmas applications.
Please make sure to bring all needed items as we will only be in your county one (1) day.

Serving Residents of Madison, Rockcastle, Lee, Jackson, Estill, Owsley & Clay Counties