

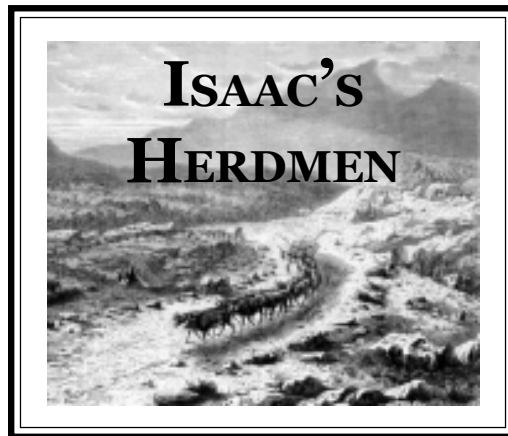
Last night there appeared before my spiritual eyes some herdmen. They were actually boys, but spiritually, they were herdmen. They were children who may be just about the same age as you are now. But I could see immediately that they were herdmen because of the activity in which they were about to engage.

The herdmen of Isaac and the herdmen of Gerar were brought to my remembrance as I beheld these young herdmen of our day. I went home and looked up the scripture about Isaac's herdmen in Genesis 26:19-20, which says: "And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; [which means Quarrel] because they strove with him."

No wonder that scripture came to mind. You see, the devil and his "herd" were near at hand last night with temptations. Watch out for him, boys and girls! Even though you cannot see him with your natural eyes, the devil walks around your house to see if he can tempt you to sin. I want to tell on him so the Lord can teach you by

example how to watch for the devil. This can help you to be very careful not to be tricked by him when he comes to tempt you at your house.

Here is what I saw in the spirit as I came upon some boys last night who were at the



computer. There was an eagerness about them that children feel when they just begin to enter into an activity together. Their faces looked somewhat happy, likely with the thought of what they expected soon to enjoy, yet the hands of both of them trying to guide the computer mouse at the same time

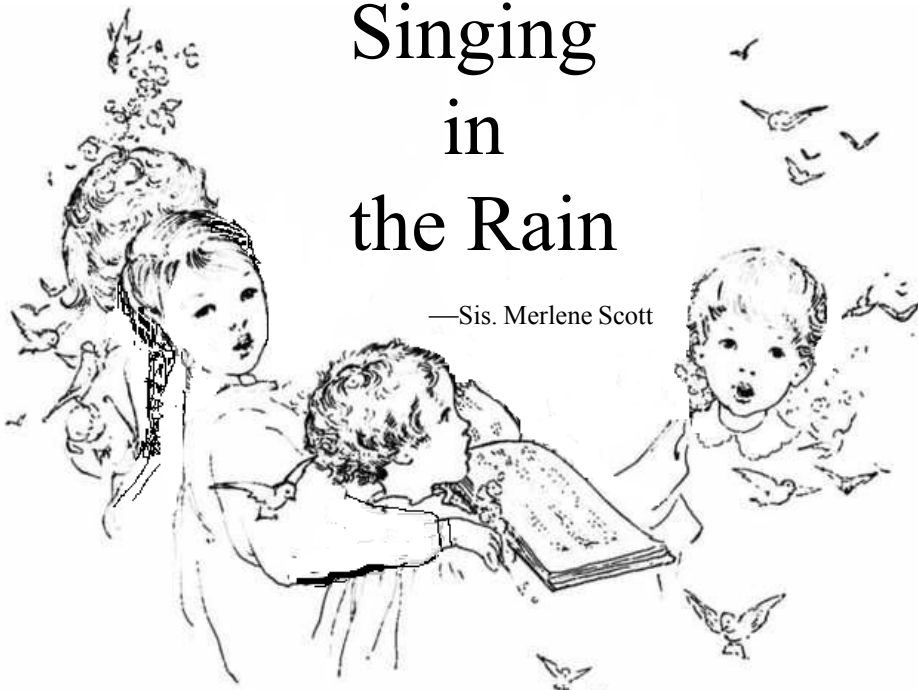
seemed to have sent a tenseness upon their smiles. Each quiet voice seemed somewhat strained as he tried to convince his brother to change what he was trying to do with the computer: "No! Do it this way." Each hand seemed to want to grasp the computer mouse more firmly. The boys' eyes took on the beginnings of sad looks as each had in mind to have his own way, yet it appeared that they were struggling hard not to enter into a quarrel. Their smiles began fading away into more sober expressions.

I believe the boys' desires were good and that they wanted to use the computer to do good, but Satan and his "herd" had serious plans to steal the boys' peace. The enemy wanted to take their good desires and work them for evil. He was working to stir up their desires to use the computer to be more important to them than their desires to do good. He was trying to stir up in each of them the desire to be the *first one* to use the computer. He was trying to get their minds and hearts so involved that all they would see was being first. The devil's "herd" of spirits gathered around the desk and the boys. There were spirits of selfish-

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Singing in the Rain


—Sis. Merlene Scott



The morning had been quite a hussle and a bustle, with the family getting ready for Sunday morning service. You see, things weren't quite normal in the home this morning. There were children to get ready, breakfast to see about, lunch to pack and instructions to be given to the older ones. Mother would not be attending services today as the baby was sick, which made the "normal" Sunday morning routine quite different. As the family drove away, Mother sat down with her Bible. "Lord," she said, "I need something from You for my soul this morning." Just then, right outside of the window where she was sitting, she heard a beautiful song. One of God's tiny creatures was singing a lovely song. What made it more of a blessing, was the fact that it was raining! There, up in the Lind tree, was the little songster. "Singing in the rain," Mother said. She sat and pondered that thought for a moment, knowing that God had just answered her prayer! How precious to know, that the Lord cares about every aspect of our lives. Mother went on to read her Bible, encouraged to know that though her morning was extra busy and perhaps didn't go as she had planned, the Lord cared enough to gently remind her to cast all of her care upon Him.

Isn't it precious children, how the Lord uses simple things to teach us valuable lessons? When trials come your way, what do you do? Do you stomp and pout? Or do you allow it to work a sweetness in you, which could not have come any other way, except you go through the trial? We don't want to be like the children of Israel in the Old Testament, murmuring and complaining.

Recently in school, after lunch break, the students came back into the classroom. After enjoying the wonderful lunches their parents provided for them, and after playing much during break, with godly children and with saved teachers as monitors, I listened as this scene took place. "I'm hot!" said one little girl. One of the boys wanted to have his way in a matter and started fussing. Still another wanted to write on the board, though it was not the instructions given by the teacher. The teacher looking up from her desk said, "Children, stop your fussing and complaining. There are children in other countries that would love to have your troubles." You see, children, some children in other countries spend their day, quite differently from yours. Some of them barely survive through their day, from a lack of food. Some have no schools to go to.

From now on, when you are tempted to murmur and complain, ask the Lord to help you, and He will. Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; [about anything] for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Why fret? It won't change a thing. Prayer will change things. Jesus can help us to get over the grouchies, the poochie-lip, and whatever else we may be tempted to do, when things don't go our way. Be encouraged little ones, Heaven is not too far off. It will be worth every effort you make to please Jesus! 

THE SHINING LIGHT
Subsidiary of The Gospel Trumpet

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the authority of the general ministerial
body of the Church of God.

☸ TESTIMONIES ☸

Dear saints,

It is wonderful to be in the Church of God. I'd like to say it is by the mercy of God that I'm saved today. I'm determined to go all the way with the Lord. Lord bless you.

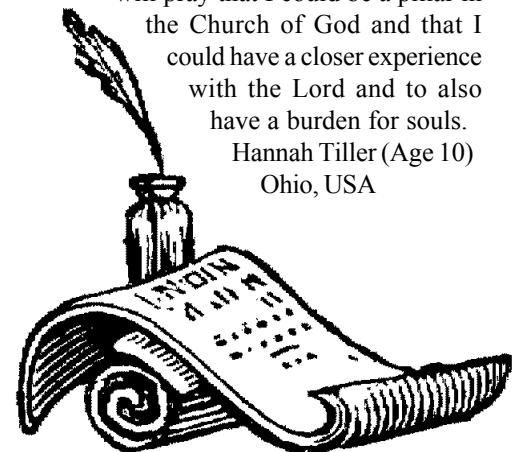
Bro. Jeremy Bontrager (Age 11)
Ohio, USA

I was sick, and Jesus healed me. I was blind, but now I can see. I was crippled, but now I can walk. I was poor, and now I am rich.
Lydia Strizu (Age 7)
Indiana, USA

Dear saints,

I just wanted to express to you how thankful I am to be able to be in and a part of the restoration. You know, I have been thinking about how privileged that I am to be a part. Also that other children may look at me and want what I have. So I ask that you will pray that I could be a pillar in the Church of God and that I could have a closer experience with the Lord and to also have a burden for souls.

Hannah Tiller (Age 10)
Ohio, USA



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ness and strife, pride and anger, meanness and fighting. Thank God the boys didn't give in to these opponents. The Lord was watching all that the boys were doing. He pricked their consciences, and they made an effort to keep their thoughts, words, and actions under control. They were being tempted to think, say, and do some very bad things. This brought some fear to their hearts. They were in a spiritual battle. Just as the temptation to quarrel seemed to be the strongest, the Lord opened the boys' eyes to the devil and the tricks he was trying to work on them.

Just as Isaac's herdmen digged another well after the herdmen of Gerar came around, so these boys left the first well, Quarrel, and sought to do good elsewhere.

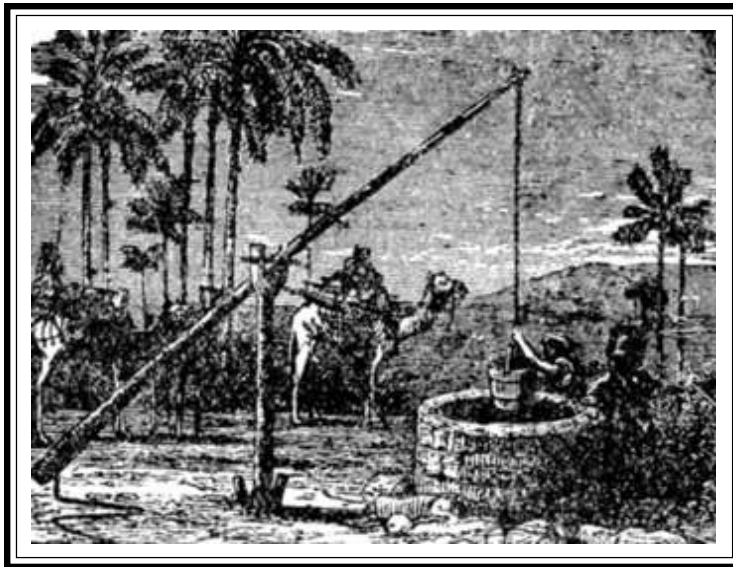
The devil wants to find some children who will be herdmen of Gerar with the devil and strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, "The water [the computer, the first place in line at school, the biggest piece of dessert, or that favorite toy or book] is ours." When children who have decided to serve the Lord can see what the enemy is doing, they will not give him room. He will have to flee. So it was last night.

But, this will not be the end of the story. After you gain a victory over the well, Quarrel, the herdmen of Gerar will oppose you again. The scripture tells us in Genesis 26:21, "And they digged another well, and [the herdmen of Gerar] strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah (Hatred)." We must always watch and pray, children, because the devil and his "herd" will keep coming to you all throughout your life. Don't become a part of their quarrelling and hatred. Leave their presence immediately every time.

The real well that the Lord has given saved children is salvation, "...a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). The devil wants to steal your well. Resist him. Keep your water clean. Do not let him dirty your water of salvation and turn it into sinful waters by giving into his temptations to quarrel, push and shove, say angry words, or to do or think on any other sinful thing.

Be herdmen of Isaac. A herd of cattle is in your care. Keep the "calves" of your lips,

giving praise to the Lord in all that you say (Hosea 14:2). Use kind words to your siblings. Use heartfelt words of respect to your elders. Worship the Lord with your voice from the depths of your soul. Back up your words by a holy life. Make sure your feet are



like hinds' feet, ever climbing the heavenly heights of holy living, growing up as "calves of the stall" (Malachi 4:2). Take heed to the godly instruction you receive from your parents and the saints of God. Don't just hear them, but do with a cheerful heart as you are instructed to do.

Most of all, yoke up with Jesus at a

young age. Thank God we live in the evening time of the gospel day when full salvation is here for children! We know there is a heavy burden of sin upon unsaved children. Jesus' words are for them: "Come unto me, *all ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30.

You will have many battles, but Jesus, your yokefellow, will pull with you and bring you through every time. Jesus will meet your hearts' deepest desires to do good and to please God. Out of you will "flow rivers of living water" from "a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 7:38; 4:14).

You herdmen of Isaac! After resisting the herdmen of Gerar at the well, Quarrel, and the well,

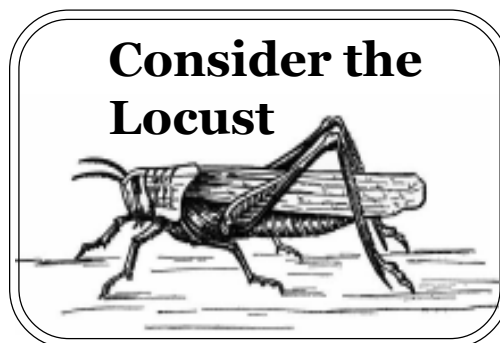
Hatred, the Lord will do for you as He did for Isaac! "And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they [the herdmen of Gerar] strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth [Spaciousness]; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land." Genesis 26:22. Amen. 📖 —Sis. Diane Ewing

Locusts, which are migrating grasshoppers, travel in large groups and eat all the green, living things they can find along the way. During the 1800's, many farmers in the

United States had their crops destroyed by large bands of young, migrating locusts. One such swarm of the insects was reported to be 70 miles long and 23 miles wide. You can see how such a large band of insects could easily strip the land of every green plant.

In Proverbs 30:27, the Bible says, "The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands." This verse means that locusts know how to work together, even

though they have no leader to direct them. God is pleased with us when we work together to accomplish goals which bring honor to Him.



The Bible also tells us that God sometimes used locusts to punish people who were disobedient. He sent a plague of locusts upon the Egyptians when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go (Exodus 10:12-15).

God later sent locusts to destroy the crops in the land of Judah because the people were worshipping false gods (Joel 1:4). God sent the locusts to get the attention of the people. He wanted them to leave their idols and return to Him. 📖 —Sis. Selena Maurer



Little Lame Walter

Destruction of the Hiding Place

The Orphanage, when consecrated to God, had been a place of peace, joy, love, purity, cleanliness, neatness, and reverence, where all had been supplied with sufficient food. Now, given up to Atheism, it abounded in discord, discontent, hatred, impurity, disorder and blasphemy, and the children were underfed. Life for Walter and his little flock became increasingly unbearable. They testified openly before the workers in the Home and the communists who visited the institution, that they were believers in God and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The persecution brought them nearer to one another, nearer to Jesus, and welded them into one family. They eagerly availed themselves of every opportunity to unite in prayer. It was almost impossible because the nurses watched them relentlessly and prevented their coming together for prayer. Finally individual prayer was only possible. One Sunday noon, however, when the rest of the children were busy playing games, they slipped away one by one until all had crept silently through the high weeds in the rear of the orchard. Slowly they assembled in their beloved refuge, feeling quite sure no one had seen them. They took from their hiding places among the brick, those New Testaments which had not been discovered by the ferreting eyes of the nurses. After reading from the Word, they sang favorite gospel hymns in a low voice. But one of the nurses had kept her eyes riveted upon them, and as soon as they disappeared in the bushes and weeds, she hurried back to the house and notified the superintendent. Subsequently, the children were caught unaware. All were on their knees in earnest prayer when they were surrounded by the nurses. Before they could hide their Testaments, they were in the hands of the enemy. Rough hands dragged the children unceremoniously out of their retreat, and the pit was soon closed with stones and bricks. All the Testaments were torn to shreds, and the young Christians punished so severely that their weakened bodies ached for several days. But the loss of God's Book—

the last Comforter of their hearts—together with the destruction of their only place of refuge, caused them far greater pain and grief than the physical discomfort from their punishment. It was a hardship that they could no longer read about the Lord Jesus Christ, nor study His Word to find out what was right and what was sinful.

Better to Die for Jesus Than Steal

At this time the famine increased daily, over the whole country already destroyed by war and revolution. In many places hundreds and thousands of starving people had been swept away by death. Sufficient food to supply the Orphanage from seven to ten months was in the institution when the organizers were driven out. It had been consumed by the new staff in less than three months, so that the famine was soon creeping through the walls. After three months they had been allotted only a very small portion. Before long they were receiving only a quarter of a pound of bread for a whole day, and soon even that was reduced. They were deprived of all meat and fats and were forced to live upon herbs and vegetables. But after a while even these were not given them, and they had to eat the beans from the acacia or locust tree. The government did not much care, and there was no one to intercede for a proper amount of food for the children.

When there were no more vegetables in the garden, the youngsters were sent out by their instructors to steal from the orchards and gardens of their neighbors. The child who stole and brought home the most was praised, rewarded with a prize, and given some of the stolen things to eat as a special reward. Theft became a sort of sport to the orphans. Any child who refused to go out and steal had to go hungry. Thus Walter and his little flock of faithful children had to face severe temptation and go through the most crucial trials. Together with the others, they were commanded to go out and steal. But, having read in the Gospel that it was a sin to steal, that thieves could not go and live with the Lord Jesus Christ in His kingdom, they refused to go. They suffered greatly for their refusal to steal because the nurses punished them severely.

The little ones went to Walter for advice. Gathering around him, they decided no matter what happened they would starve rather than sin against the Lord Jesus by stealing. In prayer they told Jesus of their afflictions and asked Him to help them to carry out their decision. "Lord Jesus, you know that we are little, and we are so hungry that we want something to eat all the time.

They are sending us out to steal things to eat which belong to other people. Help us, dear Lord Jesus. Give us strength to die without food rather than steal. Protect us from our persecutors, and keep us from being made to steal."

Trust in Jesus Is Not in Vain

Their childlike faith and prayers were not unanswered. Not one of these children ever had to steal. The Lord kept them and preserved them from starving at this time. About two days after they had again determined not to steal, they were sent with the other children under orders to rob people's gardens. Tired, hungry and almost unable to stand, they finally reached one of the homes in a neighboring town, several miles distant. Instead of trying to steal, they approached the door and knocked timidly. An elderly woman, with a kind smile on her face, opened the door and immediately recognized the children as from the Orphanage. Seeing how very tired and hungry they were, she invited them to come in and fed them in spite of her own want on the account of the famine. The children were very much touched by the loving care of this new friend because no one had shown them any kindness since "Papa" had been driven away. After they had finished their food, thanked their hostess, and were preparing to leave, suddenly they burst into tears. They told her of their sufferings, trials, and persecutions, and how they had been sent out to steal food, but had decided to die rather than commit this sin. The good woman broke down and wept with them. For about an hour she talked with the children, learning that they believed in God and loved Him from the depths of their hearts. She also was a true believer and read with them portions of the Gospel. Then she prayed, beseeching the Lord to help and protect them. Fed, caressed and comforted by the blessing of their new-found friend, they left her home with joyful hearts and returned to the Orphanage. With tears of joy they told the rest how the Lord Jesus had answered their prayers, and had provided food for them, so they had not been forced to sin. Their greatest source of joy, however, was the fact that the lady who had helped them so kindly, was praying for them. After that, the children frequently visited the hospitable Christian home. The sympathetic woman, together with some others, secretly supported the children, comforting and strengthening them in their faith.

Adapted from *Little Lame Walter*,
by N.I. Saloff-Astakhoff

To be continued