

“1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Elizabeth’s Room – Part I”  
March 1, 2009  
By Rebecca Enney

This is Elizabeth’s bedroom. Isn’t it beautiful! Look at her beautiful fan bed!



Sometimes in life, hard times come rolling in like big storms. That might be how Noah felt when he had to build the ark and gather his family and all those animals and get them all onto the ark. Then the skies opened up and it poured and poured rain for 40 days and 40 nights and all the world was flooded! The ark was crowded and the people were probably fussy and demanding. It was a very difficult time, a very LONG difficult time.

On Friday, Elizabeth felt like big storms of bad things had blown into her life. Her mother explained some bad news to her. Elizabeth’s mother has a sister named Aunt Gertrude. You might remember that she is the one who comes to take care of Elizabeth whenever her parents go on their trips to Tanzania.

“Aunt Gertrude has become quite sick.” Elizabeth’s mother told her. “We will be moving her into our home this Sunday afternoon. Tomorrow we need to prepare for her arrival.”

“Where will she sleep?” thought Elizabeth. But before she asked that question out loud, she noticed that her mommy was very sad. So Elizabeth decided she would do everything she could to HELP her mommy.

“I can help you cook meals for her.” Elizabeth eagerly volunteered. “Thank you darling.” Mrs. Mawakasunga said. “That will be a great help, but there is another bigger request we have of you. Aunt Gertrude will need a bedroom close to the bathroom, so this is our plan. We hope you will agree. We will set Aunt Gertrude up in your room and you will need to move to the little sewing room over the garage. We can fix it up really nice for you.”

This is a lot of changes! And Aunt Gertrude is a rather fussy, demanding person.

“But I like my room!” Elizabeth said, trying not to cry. “It will be hard to give up my bedroom.”

“I know . . .” said Elizabeth’s mommy. “I know . . .”

And so early yesterday morning Mr. Mawakasunga and Uncle Floyd and Mr. Konde (Sam's father) got busy and built a ramp up to their side door for Aunt Gertrude. Inside the house Elizabeth and her mommy and Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head started moving all the bedroom furniture into different rooms.

As it turned out, Elizabeth not only gave up her room to Aunt Gertrude, she also had to give up her beautiful Fan Bed. "We'll buy a new bed for you very soon." promised her mother. "In the meantime, you can sleep on this old day bed we kept up in the attic."



Last night, when Elizabeth went to bed, she looked around her new tiny room with her mother's sewing things all packed up in boxes and stacked against the wall. Now Elizabeth has such a tiny space to call her own. And her mother is sad. And her Aunt is sick. And their household is all different! How much can one little girl bear?

How much could Noah and his family bear in that jam packed dirty ark while the storms raged? All the while, Noah remained faithful to God's will and in the end, God brought Noah and the ark to rest on a dry, sunny place where they could begin a new life. As a sign of this new life and new relationship with God, he painted a rainbow in the sky. And until this very day, a rainbow is a sign for hope.

Elizabeth went to sleep in her new space and had a strange dream that Aunt Gertrude painted a rainbow on the wall over Elizabeth's new bed. When she woke up this morning she wondered what it would be like after church when they drive to pick up Aunt Gertrude and all her things. She thought of that rainbow and felt HOPE that God would help! THE END