

“Aunt Gertrude Hears the 23rd Psalm”

Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-18

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By Rebecca Enney

I've been away for a few weeks and am very glad to be back here with all of my friends! However, I must say that I was alarmed when I heard that Aunt Gertrude is now in the hospital and not doing very well at all. The doctors have done everything they can possibly do for her broken neck, but all to no avail. They have used wood glue, Elmer's glue, Gorilla glue and even Super Glue. Nothing they do seems to work. They think that she might die. That often happens when a giraffe has a broken neck.

Every day since Aunt Gertrude came to the hospital her sister Mrs. Mawakasunga has come to sit with her. Today, Elizabeth Mawakasunga came along with her mother. Aunt Gertrude is now so weak she can no longer speak. Mrs. Mawakasunga reads aloud to her dying sister to keep her company. Today she is reading from the Bible.

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff – they comfort me. Psalm 23*



Nurse Fran works at the hospital and she also has been with Aunt Gertrude every day. She always makes a point of being assigned to the cases of the people she knows from Pastor Ed's church.

Today, there is another member of Pastor Ed's church here at the hospital too! Nurse Fran is downstairs in one of the examination rooms where Uncle Floyd has brought Barabas for his annual check up. Remember that surgery from years ago when they replaced his vase that got broken in the skate board accident? Well today they are doing a regular checkup to make sure all is okay. Nurse Fran took Barabas's temperature and his blood pressure and weighed him on the scales and measured his height. And as Nurse Fran was doing all this, she noticed the scar on Barabas's face.



“That scar on your face has healed very well.” Nurse Fran said to Barabas. “I forget how you got it?”

Barabas did not answer, because he is a little embarrassed about that scar. So Uncle Floyd said “I reckon that happened a long time ago when he was just a baby.”

Both Uncle Floyd and Barabas were a little uncomfortable talking about that scar. Maybe you remember the story. When Barabas was very little he was in a car accident where his mother died and his father, Frank was then sent to jail. But his father is out of jail now. He works as a janitor for Disney Internet Group on Lankershim Blvd in North Hollywood way out in CA.

Nurse Fran noticed that they didn't seem to want to talk about the scar. But for some reason, Nurse Fran asked another question about it; “Did they use special thread to help that heal?”

“Reckon so.” nodded Uncle Floyd.

Aunt Gertrude inhaled sharply and tried to remain calm, asking “That special growing thread?”

Uncle Floyd nodded.

Nurse Fran said no more. But she was thinking a mile a minute. She knew that the special growing thread can be transplanted to others to help heal wounds that are otherwise untreatable. “Like Aunt Gertrude!” she thought to herself!

But here is the tricky part. The exact amount to transplant is very hard to determine. If you take too much, the donor (that would be Barabas) falls into great risk. And if you take too little then there is not enough to help heal the receiver (that would be Aunt Gertrude.) And you can only do this operation one time! There are no second chances. It is highly technical. I don't understand it all.

Nurse Fran will talk with Aunt Gertrude's doctors, who will talk to Uncle Floyd and Barabas to see what the chances are that Barabas could donate some of that special growing thread to help Aunt Gertrude to live!

“We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in

*need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action!" 1
John 3:16 – 18*

Soon, Uncle Floyd and Barabas will need to decide about the risks of helping Aunt Gertrude?!!
THE END