

**"A Series of a Few Unfortunate Incidents That Made the Biggest Difference Some Time Ago"**

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by Rebecca Enney

I want to tell you a story about Aunt Gertrude. Some time ago Aunt Gertrude knew that giraffes are the most intelligent and most loved by God of all God's creations. In fact, I think she secretly believed that JESUS was a giraffe.

Now, you know this is not really true. God loves every part of all His creation. But Aunt Gertrude did not yet know this. And so, she became very concerned when Elizabeth and Barabas became best friends forever.

She said "Oh dear, my Child! Tsk tsk, this just won't do." And Aunt Gertrude tried to keep Elizabeth from playing with Barabas. It was a sad time when Aunt Gertrude first came to live with the Mawakasungas.

There were a lot of things that happened before she learned the truth, that God loves all of us, in spite of our differences.



Incident 1 - Some years ago, when she heard the same lesson from Matthew that we will hear Sister Marianne read, about the Wise Men, well, she was puzzled. So she went to Pr. Ed and asked him about it. By the way, Pastors love it when you ask a question about their sermon or the Bible lesson!

"So" she asked "Why did those three Wise Men come from some OTHER place to see Jesus? They were giraffes too, right?"

Pastor Ed told her the truth about those Wise Men. They were NOT giraffes!

One was a bear!

One was a potato!

And one was a carrot!



Now, you might find this hard to believe. Aunt Gertrude certainly found it hard to believe. So, she had a very long conversation with Pastor Ed before any of this started to make sense to her.

And then a 2<sup>nd</sup> UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT (or was it) happened. Aunt Gertrude fell and broke her neck, which for a giraffe, as you can imagine, is EXTREMELY BAD NEWS.

Nurse Fran and the doctors searched everywhere for matching tissue to mend her injury. And they found an exact match in, of all places, that little scar on Barabas's face. So, they very carefully operated on both Barabas and on Aunt Gertrude. And now, Aunt Gertrude's neck is completely healed, except for a little scar here. That is why she always wears this gold scarf at her throat.

So, just in case you are ever feeling a little Aunt Gertrud-ish, and all of us do sometimes, just remember that a bear and a potato and a carrot were among the first to worship Baby Jesus! You can remind yourself that Jesus loves every one of us, regardless of our differences!

THE END

