Laura and Clara drove the wagon to Ida and picked up the governor’s children.

Laura pulled up in front of the house.

The security soldiers were standing at each end of the house.

Laura spoke.

They never spoke.

She figured they were racist.

She knocked on the front door.

The governor’s son unlocked the front door and Laura bent over a little and looked the good looking boy in his face and said, “Hi. I see you all are ready.”

He looked back and said, Come on.”

The girls were getting extra blankets.

Laura looked back and waved at the five soldiers that were across the street.

They nodded.

The governor’s children walked to the door with the extra blankets.

Laura said, “Let me help you.”

Laura got the blankets and watched her steps as she walked off the front porch.

The governor’s children followed Laura out the yard.

Laura looked up and saw Jake standing at the end of the street.

Jake was watching the soldiers at Ida and across the street.

Isaiah said, “Look at him watching us and he is retired.”

The five soldiers watched Jake.

Laura drove off.

The governor’s children were in the back of the wagon with Jason and Alice.

Laura stopped at Jake.

Clara and Laura looked at Jake.

Clara said, “Jake you look very nice.”

Laura said, “You did not tell us how you find us”

Jake said, “The soldier there…”

Clara and Laura nodded at the soldier.

He met one of his brother’s and his mama and sent the money back with them.

He used the telegram machine in the telegram shop.

He waited until the security soldiers at Ida were around the back eating.

He ran into the telegram shop and turned the machine on and ducked down behind the table and sent his message.

He took three horses from Mellissa since she was gone and the old couple next to her.

He noticed they sneaked out just before him.

He waited until they were gone about a half hour.

He tipped across the street and grabbed the horses and rode passed barnes and Waters and went by the lake area next to Briana He rode all night and got to the next city around eight am.

He looked around and saw his mother and his brother in their ragged wagon and the tired horse.

He rode to them and hugged the two. He did not trust.

They went to the hardware store and bought stuff the family needed.

They loaded the old wagon.

He bought them a new supply wagon’

He bought twenty pair of boots for his family and food and seed and plants.

His mother drove the old wagon.

He and his brother attached the two horses from Mellissa to the supply wagon.

He hugged his mother and brother and he flew back that evening.

He continued to ride and had just gotten back when Clara and Laura ad the children went into the house and loaded their wagon.

He wondered what happened between them and Mellissa.

William filled him in on everything, as he got information from the lead soldier.

Melvin permanently went home.

He had at least ten thousand dollars and ten horses.

Matt, the older driver had thirteen horses and a new wagon of battery guns and ammunition.

He went home to Alberton to his family farm, that the racist took over.

The racist Joe decided he wanted to go back to headquarters and quit the military.

He knew he hated black people.

He knew if he died he would go to hell.

He needed time to himself.

Joe went to his uncle who was a preacher in another state.

His uncle was working with Joe about the hate he had in his heart against a people that did nothing to him personally.

Joe would help his uncle out on the farm and spend the evenings and week-end reading the bible and praying.

He met a local girl that would come to his uncle’s church from time to time.

The girl was attractive, brown hair and blue eyes.

She heard that Joe was former military soldier.

She asked his uncle to introduced her to Joe.

One day after Sunday service Joe’s uncle walked to him.

He was in the back of the church talking to a few more young men about fishing.

His uncle said, “Hey fellows.”

The men looked at the young woman and said, “We will talk to you later Joe.”

They walked out the church.

Joe looked at his uncle and then the attractive woman.

His uncle Solomon said, “This is Theresa, she wanted to get to know you.”

Joe was pleasant and reached his hand out to the young woman to shake her hand.

Solomon said to Joe, “You can do a little better than that.”

Joe was not an attractive man, he was plain looking but had a physique from hard work.

He was about ten years older than Theresa.

He wondered at her and why his uncle introduced her to him when he came to stay with him for spiritual guidance.

His heart was not settled with this relationship.

He spoke kindly to Theresa but had suspicions about her motive.

She seemed especially interested in his military career.

She said, “Solomon say you were in the military.”

Joe at A grinning Solomon and said, “That’s right.”

Theresa was grinning and batting her eyes and said, “What part?”

Joe said very hard, “Why? I am not going to talk about my life with you. Don’t approach me again.”

Solomon was shocked and looked at Joe.

Joe looked at Theresa to remember her face and everything about her.

Joe walked out the church.

He walked back the ten miles back to his uncle’s place and wanted for him to get there from his church services and activities.

Joe heard his uncle coming down the road.

Joe stood at the lake on his uncle’s property and looked out over the vastness of his farm and he was not paying the colored people and the poor whites right for their labor.

Joe went and worked with the people every day and he learned his uncle was paying the white workers more than the black workers.

Joe kept his mouth to himself and he said, “God. That’s all I can say. I don’t know nothing. I am filled with hate against these people for no good reason. I know You that hate spills over into every part of my life. I can’t think. I can’t grow. I can’t prosper. My uncle that is suppose to be righteous is just as evil as I am towards these colored people. And what about that Theresa. I don’t feel good about her. You know what that is about. Is she my uncle’s woman. What about that pair?”

Solomon called Joe.

Joe took a deep breath and turned and watched his uncle approach him.

His uncle had a plate in his hand.

He reached the plate to Joe.

Joe looked at the plate.

His uncle said, “Mittie cooked a peach cobbler and some macaroni and cheese and fried chicken. Two legs.”

Joe looked at the food which was appetizing.

Joe shook his head for no.

He said, “I am packed and I am leaving now.”

Joe stayed in the barn with the animals.

He feed his horse and gave the horse water.

His uncle looked at the horse and said, “Why are you leaving Joe. Was it Theresa.”

Joe knew not to say anything.

His uncle looked at him and said, “It was too soon?”

Joe smirked his mouth and hugged his uncle and walked his horse for a little then he mounted the horse and he flew.

He was tired but his head was telling him to run.

Joe did not go back home to Alberton.

His head was telling him to go to another state.

Joe rode his horse all that Sunday night, all Monday.

He saw a creek and rode to the creek and fell off his horse.

The horse walked to the creek and drank water.

Joe laid on the ground and slept until the beginning of evening.

He jumped up and sat and he looked around.

He drank water and give his horse some water.

He had grabbed some chicken when he left the church.

He unfolded the napkin and ate the piece of chicken.

He had to think about the state he was in and the largest city in the next state.

He said, “Two more days.”

He patted his horse and they rode all night and found a place at day breaking to hide and sleep.

He felt scared.

He was a grown man and he did not know why he was scared and of what.

He saw blacks walking the dirt road looking for better conditions.

Joe thought, “No better conditions until men change their hearts.”

He looked at the colored babies and children many with no clothes on.

He could not believe it.

He continued his journey on the dirt road.

Joe reached the next state and the largest city in it.

He stayed in the outskirts of the city but on the other side.

He felt he could not be that close to the state line.

The other side of the major city is where a lot of colored people moved from the slave south.

He camped close to the white people because he did not want the white people to think he liked the colored people.

Joe had no talent or skill.

He had the two thousand dollars he got out of the horses’ saddles.

He camped in his tent for a month.

He rode through the major city to see where he wanted to settle.

He could not rest for those thirty days.

He did not know what to think.

He started having dreams about Skip.

He never knew what was happening with Skip in his dreams.

Joe did not know how to pray.

He picked up his bible and sad, “What am II to do.”

He felt tormented because he did not know what to do.

Some colored children saw him with a book and ran to him for him to read them a story.

He wanted to yell at them and kicked at them.

Joe heard GOD say, “Do not.”

Joe jumped up and looked around and was scared and panting and he was sore scare.

The colored children began to laugh they thought he was demonstrating a story to them.

Joe fell on his knees and said, “God You know.”

The children got on their knees and said, “God you know.”

Joe was tormented.

Each evening the children would co him and he would read astory out the bible to the children.

The children were weary.

Joe saw that.

He said, “God You know.”

He walked through the side of the city to find a place to stay.

There were no rooms in the white part.

The children came to Joe that evening.

It started raining.

Joe said, “You’ll have to go home and get out of this rain.

The children said, “They lived on the street like him.

Joe stared at the children.

The children said, “God you know.”

They stayed with Joe that night.

Only a few could fit under the tent.

The next day in the rain two older boys ran to Joe and said, “Mr. Joe come.”

Joe said, “Come where?’

The other children jumped up and Joe said, “Don’t leave my horse. You two stay and watch my stuff.”

Joe and six children ran in the down pour.

The two older boys ran down the streets deep in the colored section of that part of town.

Joe was scared.

He followed the excited boys.

They stopped in front of an old church.

The older boys ran and peeped in the windows.

They said, “We saw this yesterday and sleep here last night.”

Joe looked at the boys.

He walked around the church and it was empty.

One of the old women was looking out her kitchen window and saw Joe.

She said, “What you doing? You are on the wrong side of the tracks.”

Joe said, “Ma am I don’t know what I am doing. There is no place to lay my head.”

The children said, “He read bible stories to us.”

The old black woman looked at the children.

She walked away from the window and took a key from the kitchen wall.

She opened her kitchen door and walked out on the back porch.

He tried to walk down her three steps.

She reached her arms out and Joe said to the two older boys,”Help her.”

She walked over to the church in the midst of the heavy rain and Joe stepped back.

The other neighbors saw Lorretta walking to the old church.

They saw the white man standing in the church yard.

Loretta walked to the church front door and had to steady her hands and then she unlocked the door.

The children ran in from the rain.

Loretta said, “This is my family’s church. Started I eight teen hundred.”

Joe whistled.

He looked around the church.

Loretta said, “You can bring the children here so they can have a roof over their heads until we can figure out how to get them shelter from the storms.”

Joe knew Loretta was talking about the storms of life.

Joe left Loretta sitting in the back of the church.

The children were out running Joe.

Joe went and got his horse.

He told the two boys he left with his stuff to tell his family they were moving to the church.

The boys did not move.

Joe looked at the two boys.

They said, “We don’t have no body.”

Joe was bent over and rolling his mat up.

Joe looked at the two half naked boys and said, “Get your stuff.”

The boys did not move.

Joe stared at the boys and saw they were poor and naked and starving.

God told Joe to feed and clothe the children.

Joe stood and cut his eyes to the right and left because he knew that was GOD talking to him.

The first thought that came to him was he did not have any money.

Then GOD flashed the two thousand dollars in Joe’s mind.

HE said to Joe, “I allowed you to get that money to help these children.”

Joe fell on his knees the two boys fell on their knees and Joe looked at the children and he and the two boys said, “God you know.”

Joe put the boys on his horse and rode back to the little church.

When Joe returned to the church he saw a lot of people but mostly the children.

He got the boys from on the horse.

The boys ran into the church.

Joe took his horse around the back and removed his saddle and bags.

He walked in the church.

Loretta was still sitting in the church.

She did not know that number of the children were orphans.

Joe put his saddle and bags in the corner and walked back and sat next to Loretta.

Joe lean forward and looked t the people and said, “I don’t know what to do.”

Loretta stood up and said, “at least it’s full.”

She handed Joe the key to the church and walked home.

Joe was exhausted he knew he had to get the children something to eat.

He walked to Loretta and said, “Where can I get something for them to eat. Milk and bread.”

Loretta walked to her door and leaned on her back porch rail and called, “Mike. Come here.”

Mike was cleaning his yard from the rain.

Mike smirked and through down his rake.

Joe looked at this big man.

Loretta said, “He does not like anyone to disturb him when he is fixing his yard.”

Mike walked over and looked at Joe.

Joe pointed at Loretta.

Loretta said, “He needs to buy bread and milk for the children. Can you take him to Queenie.”

Mike was rolling his eyes at Joe.

Joe did not know whether to go with him or not.

Mike turned and walked out from Loretta.

He turned and looked at Joe.

Joe walked behind Mike.

They got into the wagon and went about fifteen minutes.

Mike stopped the wagon in front of a small cement type of building with concrete floors that sloped.

Mike stood by the door and said, “Go ahead and shop.”

Queenie looked at Big Mike and then at Joe.

Joe bought bread, eggs and milk.

Mike told Queenie and her niece that Miss Loretta opened up the church for Joe to put the children in.

Joe paid for the very large amount of food.

Big Mike said, “You can put water in the pot in the back and boiled the eggs.

They went back to the church and looked and saw more children.

Joe said, “What? How can this be?”

Big Mike helped with the food and said, “Lynching.”

They feed the people.

Joe curled up in the corner and slept until the next morning.

Joe had another dream about Skip. He could not remember the pieces of the dream.

He felt he should warn Skip.

He found the telegram office and a telegram to the headquarters and simple stated, “Please be careful.”

Skip had received several telegrams over the past several months from former soldiers telling him to be careful.

Skip went to GOD and said, “FATHER . YOU have taught me over my life to be a father. YOU gave me courage in battle. YU gave me strength when I could not stand. YOU gave wisdom to out smart my enemies and YOU gave me a family to enjoy this life. YOU added days to my life. I know to finish this case. What is this threat? Please show me YOUR plan?”

Big Mike would drive Joe to Queenie twice per week to get food for the children.

The children enjoyed Joe’s stories.

He would read the bible and find stories to share with the children.

Queenie, Big Mike and Loretta found a teacher to come to the church and teach the children.

Big Mike showed the land of the church and said, “You can plant back there.”

Joe said, “I don’t know anything about plating and this not what I plan for my life.”

Big Mike smirked and mumble, “Huh.”

The entire community came together and plowed and planted vegetables and water the plants.

The children would help in the evening time.

Joe did not want the children to work in the field.

He bought them clothes and shoes.

There were thirty six children and a large amount of adults.

Joe said, “These grown people need to help out.”

Loretta said, “Put them out.”

That evening Joe called a meeting with Loretta, Queenie, Big Mike, his wife and most of the people from the community.

Big Mike said, “You grown folks have been here for a month. You have not raised a finger to help out round here but be the first with your hand stuck out for a piece of bread. You have two days to help out or get out.”