Shelia was unconscious most of the time.

Dr. Obersteen stayed a week in the new settlement with Wes to help with the governor and Shelia.

He attended to every need of Shelia.

Dr. Oberteen went to the next town and sent an urgent telegram to his office at the big city hospital that he was caring for the governor and his wife and will be back in a week.

The entire state had read the newspapers of the attempt on the governor and his wife and they were seriously harmed.

Dr. Obersteen waited most of the day to get a response from his office.

He went and enjoyed a hot bath and a shave.

He bought Emma and Mattie pretty dresses.

He bought Natalie a bow for her hair.

Dr. Obersteen bought Joshua a baseball.

He thought about the little baby girl. He bought her a hairbow like the one he bought for Natalie.

He did not like the town.

The people were evil.

He had a cold feeling about the town.

As he walked through the town he prayed.

Dr. Obersteen kept saying, “God this is part of Your earth. Something is wrong here. Help Your people here and keep them safe. Help with Emma. I truly love Shelia. I rather be alone for ever than to marry Emma to fill my void and not love her completely. She deserves much more than being second best, like I told Harold about Betsy. I need Your help.”

Dr. Obersteen walked through the city and saw the local school.

He went and looked in the school and saw the sad children.

He knew something was wrong.

He saw a set of parents go to the school and get their children.

A little boy and a little girl. They scolded the children for walking slow.

The little boy and the little girl walked with their heads down.

The little boy slightly held his head up to look at the stranger watching them.

The teacher walked to the door and said to Dr. Obersteen, “Do you need help or the sheriff?”

Dr. Obersteen said to himself, “Bitch.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “I plan on moving here in the spring with my wife and three children. She sent me to look around. I was just looking and did not mean any harm, mame.”

Dr. Obersteen tilted his hat and walked away from the school with his horse.

The teacher watched him and notice he was not dressed cheap, like the people around there and he had packages from the stores.

The teacher looked around and looked back at the rest of the children and stepped off the low porch of the school and said, “Sir.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Bitch.”

He turned around and the teacher wrapped her arms around her body because she was cold.

Dr. Obersteen turned around and pointed to himself.

The teacher shook her head for yes and looked around.

He knew she knew something.

He walked back to her and said, “Mame?”

She said, “I look forward to teaching your children. How old are they and their names?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Damn. God forgive me.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “I have a set of twin boys, Zachery and Samuel they are twelve and a daughter Natalie she is ten.”

Dr. Obersteen heard the little girl giggle.

He turned around in a circle looking.

The teacher watched him.

Dr. Obersteen stooped down and was peeping around and under stuff.

He knew the little girl’s giggle.

He was disturbed.

Bruce rode up with one of his men.

They sat and stared at Dr. Obersteen.

The teacher saw the military men and quickly turned and went back into the school and locked the door and peeped back at Dr. Obersteen.

She walked from the door.

Bruce watched the teacher.

He looked around to see who were watching Dr. Obersteen, he saw a few people watching.

Bruce thought before a crowd form he needs to find out what was going on with Dr. Obersteen, one of the governor’s doctors.

Bruce dismounted his horse and walked to Dr. Obersteen.

He stooped down by him and said, “Are you all right?”

Dr. Obersteen looked at Bruce and stood.

Bruce stood.

The captain stared into Dr. Obersteen eyes.

Bruce wondered if Dr, Obersteen would treat his Emma right. He believed he would take good care of her because of his status. But would he really love her over the first lady.

Dr. Obersteen looked at Bruce up and down and wondered about him and Emma being lovers in their earlier life and if that was over.

The captain’s man watched them and he watched the crowd gathering.

He coughed.

The captain turned and looked at him.

Bruce hit Dr. Obersteen’s shoulder and said, “Let’s walk.”

Dr. Obersteen looked around and saw the teacher peeping out the window of the school door and saw others gathering.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Fine.”

They began to walk.

Bruce was staring at Dr. Obersteen.

When people approached them, Bruce gave them a hard look.

The people would pass them quickly.

Bruce said, “You need to explain yourself quickly.”

Dr. Obersteen saw Bruce’s face and knew he was serious and would arrest him.

Dr. Obersteen said, “I came early this morning to send a telegram to the hospital that I will be back in a week. I waited for their response. I waited about an hour waiting. I went and had a hot bath and shave and did some shopping.”

Bruce said, “Did you buy Emma anything?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Yes.”

Bruce turned his head and twisted his mouth.

Dr. Obersteen saw him his reaction and said, “I feel great evil in this town. A subtle working in the people. I went to the school and looked in and saw the children not treated well. The teacher threatened to send for the sheriff. I lied and said I had three children and would be moving here in the spring. I name my two clerks and Natalie. I swear I heard the giggle of the little girl we are taking care of. It was real. I turned around to see where she was. That’s when you came up.”

The captain said, “This is the telegram office.”

Dr. Obersteen looked at Bruce who had a blank look on his face.

The captain said, “We will wait.”

Dr. Obersteen walked and looked back at Bruce and his man.

They watched Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen received the response back from Samuel, if he needed any medical supplies they would bring them to him.

Dr. Obersteen walked to the porch of the telegram office and said, “Is the military supplying the governor’s medical needs?”

Bruce said, “Yes. He is our responsibility.”

Dr. Obersteen walked back in the telegram office.

The captain man said, “We don’t nothing about that.”

Dr. Obersteen was walking back and looking at the captain and his man.

The captain said, “Quiet.”

The captain said, “Dr. Obersteen, are you finished in the town?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Yes. Bruce. I mean captain.”

Dr. Obersteen mounted his horse and rode the two hours back to the ne settlement.

He looked back and saw the captain and his man riding behind him and watching him.

He said, “Now he believes I am crazy. God I know I heard her.”

The captain man said, “you know our men complained about this town.”

The captain said, “That’s why I rotate teams to ride and stay here over night. To show a strong military presence.”

The captain’s man said, “We rode through most of this town today. Did you see one church?”

The captain thought and said, “No.”

The captain’s man said, “That’s the evil Dr. Obersteen is talking about. That’s what your men are talking about. What about the little girl he swear he heard? ”

The captain said, “You heard all of that?”

The man swallowed and thought, “I have crossed the line. He’s going to write me up and delay my promotion.”

The captain thought he said, “What I have been told the little girl is the king’s daughter that He sent to invite everyone to His banquet. The people of the first town beat her and threw her into the well to die. She was rescued by Betsy and her family. The second town loosed dogs on her that ate her to death, but a man grabbed her and took her to his house and Wes and the others have been there for months taking care of her.”

The captain’s man said, “Is that the town that was burned up?”

The captain looked at his man and said, “Yes.”

The captain’s man said, “That’s why it is so cold there.”

The captain watching Dr. Obersteen said,”Why?”

The captain’s man said, “God destroyed the ones that hurt his daughter and He is healing the land.”

The captain looked at his soldier.

A thought came to the captain he better start praying because something was there.

The captain man said, “I believe him.”

The captain said, “Believe who and about what?”

The captain’s man said, “I believe the doc he heard the little girl.”

The captain stared at his man.

The man stared at the captain.

The early evening darkness was coming.

They heard a rustling noise in the bushes and turned and looked.

The captain’s man had his hand on the trigger and rode over to the bush and looked and did not see anything.

The captain watched him.

The soldier returned to the captain.

The captain being sarcastic said, “You saw anything?”

The captain’s man knew he was being sarcastic and said, “These you can’t see with the human eyes only through the eyes of God.”

They reached their post.

The captain stopped and was in the middle of the dirt road.

The captain’s man was standing by him.

The captain was looking towards the new settlement.

The captain’s man said, “Sir.”

The captain said, “You are dismissed.”

The rode into the command and went to eat.

He left and meet most of the troop for Bible study.

He told of Dr. Obersteen’s feeling that the town was evil and the little girl laugh and of him hearing something in the bushes.

The little boy from the school father was holding him across his lap and beating the boy merciless.

The mother who was holding the crying little girl pushed her to her father who beat her merciless.

The school teacher was walking home thinking about the little boy and the little girl and knew they would not be back to school that week because their parent would have beaten terribly. She did not understand why they beat the children. The children were good children. But she could not stop them from taking their own children out of school.

The teacher was being followed by one of the men in the town.

He walked fast and caught up with her and scared her.

She jumped and held her heart and took a deep breath and said,”James?”

He tilted his hat and said,“Sorry for scaring you. May I walk you home?”

The school teacher said, “I am not going home right at this minute. I am going for dinner.”

She pointed at the restaurant.

She did not trust home to walk her home. She was a widow and alone.

She pretended she was going to eat, because she felt he did not have money to buy both of them dinner and he would back out until another day.

James looked at the busy café and said, “Well I will escort you there.”

The teacher thought, “Damn.”

She smiled.

They walked in silence to the café and she order a meatloaf dinner and sat at the table and read a book.

After about an hour she peeped out the window and did not see James and said “Good.”

Her coffee came and he sipped a little and paid and got up and walked out.

She came out the door and James was standing at the next building and watching for her and ran to the restaurant and startled her again.

James tilted his hat to her.

Two women passed them and one woman said, “Hi James.” And looked at the teacher.

The teacher was thinking, “Take him.”

James spoke to the two women and turned to the teacher and extended his arm to her.

She looked at him and he took his arm down.

The two women were walking and looking back. Watching the school teacher and James.

The second woman said to the woman who spoke to James, “He’s not doing his job. She is not interested in him at all.”

The first woman who spoke to James said, “He better our lives depend on this.”

The other woman looked back as they turned the corner.

The new commander and the scribe of that town stood and watched all the people.

The teacher walked home by James.

James put his hand on her door and stepped his foot on her door threshold.

The teacher turned and stared at him and said, “What are you doing?”

He pushed by her and stepped into her house.

She rushed in the house and ran to the credenza and grabbed her husband’s gun and was shaking and said, “Get out. Never come near me again.”

James was looking around the room and looked back in time to see the pointed gun.

He held up his hands and said, “Little lady are you sure you want to do this?”

The school teacher fired.

The bullet hit the fireplace.

James ran.

The neighbors stopped on the street.

One neighbor and his wife ran to the shaken school teacher.

The husband said, “What did he do?”

The shaking school teacher said, “He rushed in my home and stood there looking around and would not leave.”

The wife said, “He has no business on this side of town.”

The strange man joined the new commander and the town’s scribe.

They all turned and looked back at James.

James ran and went into a dingy alley and knocked on a door.

The woman who spoke to him early opened the door and a large group of people were standing around holding candles.

The woman anticipated some good news said, “What happened?”

James took his candle and said, “She shot at one.”

The large group gasped.

The mayor said, “You have to be more forceful.”

They continued their chanting.

The strange man, the new commander and the scribe stood in their midst and watched them.

The scribe angel recorded everything.

He turned and looked back the school teacher and said, “She must start back praying to God. They killed her husband and she has been angry and bitter to God for the past year. She does not have a family and no children. She exists.”

The holy angels stood and watched the large group.

The beaten children’s parents were in the group.

The children were so badly beaten and swollen they were laid out on the floor.

The strange mand, the new commander and the scribe angel saw something.

They went out to the little children.

The children were terribly suffering.

The holy angels turned and saw the devils the children’s parent were calling up to possess the children, while they were weak and could not resist.

JESUSD said, “I sent Dr. Obersteen into the town today. He prayed for help. Help them.”

The scribe pulled out his sword and went into the hoard of devils and beat them down.

The strange man kneeled to the children and went into their bodies and made muscles new and gave new blood cells and gave new tissues.

He gave them their sight back and stopped the hemorrhage in their brains.

JESUS said, “They will be strong and be a friend to her when she comes.”

The scribe chained up the devils and took them to the outer darkness until they will be cast un in the lake fire.

The new commander was standing and watching the scribe.

One of the chained devils looked and saw the new commander and yelled, “Archangel Michael.”

Michael responded, “I am the one who cut you off eons ago.“

The devils started screaming to get to Archangel Michael.

The archangel stood and looked at them.

The scribe beat them down and chained them.

They yelled and said they had a right to possess the children because their parents gave them to them.

The scribe took them to outer darkness.

The children went to sleep.

The strange man looked at archangel Michael.

The scribe returned.

The strange man said, “We have nearly two months before she comes. What to do about the children?”

The scribe angel said, “It is recorded Dr. Obersteen prayed for help.”

JESUS said, “I want more prayers. The military men are praying. Speak to the people who are not a part of the group to began to call on my name.”

The strange man walked over to the little boy and little girl said, “Ask JESUS for help.”

The little children began to say, “JESUS help.”

JESUS stood by the strange man.

The strange man put the children in their bed.

JESUS sat on their bed and began to teach the children HE is the Son of GOD.

JESUS said, “The more people pray and ask for help it will bind the devil and set them free.”

The scribe, the strange man and the new commander through the city.

They watched the school teacher.

She looked at the bullet hole in her fireplace.

The fire was out.

She walked through her house and looked at the house she and her husband build by hand.

She looked at everyone had a fireplace she thought, “He was always cold.”

She sat in the nicely furnished living room.

She looked across at her husband’s credenza.

Her eyes fell on his bible.

She became angry and ran and took the bible and threw it across the room into the kitchen are.

She yelled, “Your God. Your God. He has taken you from me. Your God allowed these evil people to kill you. Your God did not allow us to have children. What do I have? Your God has taken everything from me.”

She ran through the house the entire night screaming.

The neighbors heard her.

They looked out the windows, but did not go over to her house.

JESUS and the scribe angel stood in the house and watched her.

She became exhausted and slide against the hall wall and fell asleep.

JESUS stooped down and sat next to her and held her and said, “Peace. My Peace I give to you.”

JESUS held her.

The school teacher’s husband Ray was watching from heaven.

He was so sad for his wife of twelve years.

He got on his knees and prayed to GOD to do something for her.

JESUS heard Raymond and said, “Raymond her life is already written. It is time for her to go through this terrible pain of your loss and begin to live again.”

Raymond was standing in front of JESUS.

He looked at his beloved Mellissa and said, “Thank YOU LORD.”

Raymond looked around his house and saw the bullet hole.

JESUS said, “Do not worry.”

Mellissa woke the next morning and found herself lying on the hall floor.

She got up and dressed for work.

She made coffee.

The scribe angel told her, “Move the gun. James saw where you had it.”

Mellissa was holding her cup of coffee with one hand and walked to the dining room door and looked at her husband’s credenza and wondered where his bible was.

She had forgotten her rage last night.

She walked into the dining room looking around for the bible and stumble on it.

She picked the bible up from the floor and looked towards heaven and cried.

She walked to the credenza and put the bible back in it’s place and retrieved her husband’s gun and looked around to see where to hide it in case she had to grabbed it quickly for James or anyone else.

She put the gun under the pillow of her sofa cushion.

He looked at the clock and ran into the kitchen and put her coffee down and grabbed her shawl and books and ran out the door.

She turned to lock her door and her neighbors gathered to watch.

Mellissa turned and was about to step off her porch when she saw her neighbors had stopped and were staring at her.

Two of the couples were a part of that large group the night before.

The neighbor from the night before waited until she came off her porch and said, “We all heard you last night.”

His wife said, “Are you all right?”

The two couples who were not at home were watching everyone else to find out what happen.

Another older lady said, “You are lonely. Now my brother is a widower and he will be here this summer.”

The female neighbor rom the night before and another younger married lady grabbed Mellissa by her arms and crossed the street.

The older couple and the two women husband’s watched the women walk away.

The older women said, “We’ll invite you for dinner.”

Her husband tilted his hat to the two men and pulled his nosey wife away.

He said, “Stop trying to marry your old brother off.”

One of the women was trying to catch the old couple to ask what happened to Mellissa.

The other man said, “Call her back. Then they will know we were not home.”

The man rushed to his wife but it was too late.

He heard the older nosey woman answer his wife.

The older nosey woman said, “You were not home?”

The husband grabbed his wife and said, “Good morning?”

He and his wife walked away.

They looked back the older couple were watching them.

He said to his wife, “You have opened a can of worms.”

The other couple was waiting around a corner and rolled their eyes at the other couple.

They all walked hurried to their jobs.

The older nosey woman, put her finger to her chin and shook her finger and said, shook her finger and

Said, “There’s something peculiar about those four.”

Her husband said, “Yeah. Stay away from them.”

A business associate of the older couple was walking across the street the older man kissed his wife on the cheek and said, “Love you.”

She said, “Love you too.”

He looked back at his wife and said, “Go to work.”

She laughed and walked to work.

But she was thinking.

She was the mayor’s secretary.

She had learned in her life not to trust anyone about anything.

She stared her day as usual.

She made the mayor’s coffee and cleaned the office.

The mayor ran into the two couples while he was walking to work.

They told him about Doreen.

The mayor told one of the men, “Foreclose on their house and put it up for sell.

The other man said, “Why not burn it down?”

The mayor said, “Tell James.”

As Mellissa walked with her two neighbors the younger woman said, “Forgive Doreen. She is always trying to marry her widowed brother off. Last year when my mother and father came to stay for awhile she was, to pardon my language trying to fix my married mother up with her brother until I told her my father was alive and well and in the living room.”

The women laughed.

One woman went to the bank where she was a teller and the other went to the dress shop that she owned.

The school teacher put up all of her things and turned and wondered why James had not started the fire in the stove.

It was freezing in there and she could not teach the children in an icy cold room.

She walked through the door to the second room her husband build onto the school for the children’s lunch room.

She smiled. She thought it was a nice way to remember her husband and all he did to help her teach the children and make them comfortable.

She looked around the clean room with no furniture because her husband ordered the tables and chairs but did not have time to pay for them.

JESUS said, “Scribe pay for the furniture.”

The scribe paid for the furniture.

Mellissa unlocked the back door and did not see James.

She became scared and said, “Did I shoot him?”

She could not breathe.

The scribe said, “Remember he ran out your house.”

Mellissa said, “Thank You Lord.”

She said, “No! No! I did not mean to say thank You Lord.”

JESUS looked at her.

HE and the HOLY GHOST were at the cute house.

They walked in and went to the little girl and the HOLY GHOST gave her the Word from GOD for day.

HE expounded on the word and gave her understanding.

The little girl said, “Natalie.”

Natalie heard her and thought she was calling her name.

The little girl was asking JESUS to help Natalie, because Betsy and Emma were mad with her.

JESUS said, “Natalie will be fine.”

JESUS looked at William working in the third town with Lydia and the other person from the treasurer.

William received a telegram.

He went to Lydia and the third treasurer employee on the project and told them an investigator was on his way.

Lydia said, “Why?”

William looked at her and the other employee and said, “To see if you’ll are involved with the attempted assassination of the governor and his wife.”

Lydia became hysterical.

William said, “Lydia why are you so upset?”

Lydia said, “I would never do such a horrible thing. I can’t believe anyone could consider me a suspect.”

The other employee was shocked.

William said, “Continue to do your job.”

Lydia sister Clara walked up.

Lydia told Clara, “An investigator was on his way to see if I had anything to do with the attempted assassination of the governor and his wife.”

Clara was surprised and said, “I’m shocked. That means there are others.”

Lydia said, “Whoa.”

William listened.

Clara handed her report to William.

William began to read the report.

He said, “Clara you believe this city should have three schools. Where are the teachers?”

Clara said, “We have to ask the school for the teachers and give the teachers some kind of incentive to move here.”

Lydia said, “You have an incentive.”

The two started giggling.

William and the other treasurer employee watched the two.

William said, “There are no doctors nor nurses. What do they do if they need medical care.”

The treasurer employee said, “Died.”

Everyone looked at him.

William said, “The first town had at least one doctor. The second town’s doctor have been locked and facing a twenty five year prison or possible death if they are a part of the attempted assassination plot against the governor.”

The treasure employee said, “How do you know that?”

Lydia and Clara looked at William.

William went and opened his bag and gave the treasure employee the newspaper from the previous town.

Lydia and Clara walked over and read the article.

William told Lydia and the other treasurer employee to calculate doctors and nurses into the city planning.

Lydia and her sister used their wagon to camp out, but the hotel’s bath.

The men camped with the supply wagons.

William camped with the men.

The workers were impressed with William that he came back and was spending time with them to get work orders in to start the building of the schools and other buildings.

Lydia told Clara, “We have not had a chance to talk. What about this man?”

Clara bit her bottom lip.

Lydia was drinking her hot coco and said, “You didn’t?”

Clara grinned.

Lydia said, “When did you have time. When you had the children in the wagon?”

Clara said, “We stopped for two hours. I feed the children. They had nothing.”

Lydia cleared her throat.

Clara sipped her hot coco and said, “We went for a walk and came back nearly two hours later.”

Lydia was so shocked at her big sister

Lydia said, “Was he better than Roger?”

Clara threw her pillow at Lydia and said, “A thousand times better.”

Lydia screamed from being excited.

The men looked across the street and one of the land surveyors said, “They are talking about us.”

One of the drivers of the supply wagon was drinking his coffee and said, “Yeah.”

One of the security men said, “It’s the high pitch in their laugh that gives it away.”

The treasurer employee was laying om his mat and said, “Give what away?”

The security man did not look back at him and said, “Go to sleep.”

The other men including William stared at him.

William laid down and thought about Natalie.

He thought about her the same amount of time everyday.

He was thinking the time thinking about Natalie should decease, since he decided to give her up.

William tossed and turned all night since he would be leaving go the last town in the morning.

The town he did not like and would not stop in. He has to be there a whole week.

The security men and the drivers of the supply were gambling and each time William tossed and turn they looked.

The treasurer employee was reading a book but watching the men gambling.

One of the surveyors said, “You better not tell.”

The treasurer employee put his book and threw fifty dollars on the table.

The men laughed and gladly invited him to sit.

Three hours later the treasurer employee were five hundred dollars richer.

The men got up and walked away from the table.

The treasurer employee looked at the men and said, “Fellows come on and let’s play some more. I like this game of numbers.”

One of the drivers from the supply wagon and his hands over his head and chewing on his cigar. He said, “My is going to kill me.”

The military patrol was passing by.

The security men whispered, “Put up the money. They can arrest you for gambling.”

The treasurer employee threw the money to the driver of the supply wagon and ran and got on his mat.

The driver of the supply wagon grinned.

The next morning before William left, he and the driver of the supply wagon were walking from the military camp.

William handed the man his money.

He told the driver of the supply wagon. “Next you stay locked up.”

The driver of the supply wagon said, “I thought it was a joke.”

William rolled his eyes at the driver.

Lydia was standing waiting for William’s instructions.

William nodded at the driver of the supply wagon, “Get his wife’s information and send his pay to her.”

The driver of the supply wagon said, “Oh William what you gonna do that for?”

William said, “So your children can have food and clothes.”

The driver of the supply wagon said, “They don’t need none.”

Lydia gave the driver a mean look.

William said, “Lydia when Clara finish send her to the next town with a supply wagon and much security. I don’t like this next town. I will worry about her.”

William rode off.

The driver looking at William said,”See now, you got her even mad at me,” pointing at Lydia.

Lydia pushed a notebook and pen to the driver.

The driver looked at Lydia and saw the other treasurer employee tiptoeing passes him.

The driver finished writing his wife information and handed Lydia her notebook.

He put her pen in his pocket.

Lydia snatched her pen out of his pocket.

The driver saw the treasurer employee and yelled, “You wait!”

The military rode by the driver and said, “Problem?”

The driver jumped and said, “No.”

The treasurer employee ran and got on his horse and rode away with security men and the surveyors.

The driver said, “I’ll see you when you get back.”

Lydia said, “That will be about a week and your wife would have received the wire for your pay.”

The driver said,”Shucks woman.”

Lydia said, “Lydia,” and walked away.

The driver looked at Lydia and he looked at the treasurer employee laughing at him as he rode away with the other men.

William entered the town at nightfall.

He was expecting to see the military.

He saw a man walking down the street.

William said, “Pardon, I thought the military was in this town?”

The man pointed and said, “They moved to the end of town that way.”

William said, “Thank you.”

He thought quickly and said, “Sir have you seen the governor’s worker here?”

The man pointed to the back of the town.

He told William, “They are about five miles straight back.”

William thought and said, “That you.”

He sat for a minute and was trying to see id it was easier to the military command post that so bravely saved the governor or go and find his team.

The man looked back at William and said, “You need to get off the street fast.”

William said, “Why.”

The man said, “Evil. Bad things.”

William flew to the back of the town and went five miles and did not see his people.

He looked around and around and he saw a light further out.

He rode to the light and found the last group of workers.

William dismounted his horse and said, “What are you doing out this far from the center of the city?”

The men looked at each other.

William said, “Why is it you don’t have lights out here?”

The men still did not say anything.

William was tired from riding most of the day.

He feed his horse and gave it some water.

He made a pallet and threw his quilts over him and went to sleep.

He heard the men talking.

They said, “We can’t tell him we are scared”

One of the security men said, “And about this crazy stuff that has been going on.”

William had his back turned to them.

They woke him and he listened.

William said, “JESUS I got these people here. You know what they are talking about please protect them. Oh and let them complete this project. Amen.”

JESUS watched William.

JESUS was seated at a table he called William’s angel to Him and said, “Go and stay with William. Defend him, his men and their work.”

William popped up on his mat and sat for a while trying to wake up.

He finally turned around and saw all the men watching him.

He stood and stretched.

One of the men handed him a cup of black coffee.

William smelled the coffee and said, “Whew this coffee is strong.”

William asked for cream.

They passed him the cream.

William tried to drink the hot coffee.

One of the land surveyors said, “We have to have it that way or we fall asleep.”

William was trying to blow his hot coffee and turned his head and looked at the man.

The man said, “I know it sounds crazy.”

William said, “Show me what you have done after six weeks.”

The whole group of workers looked at each other.

William was angry and put on his clothes and coat and gave his horse food and water.

He looked over his plan for the city.

The two drivers of the supply wagons he left there.

William, the three security men and the six land surveyors loaded up their horses and rode the ten miles out to the next city lines.

The drivers of the supply wagons watched them leave.

After they were out of sight, the two drivers of the supply wagons looked at each other and back at the city.

They exhaled.

William and the land surveyors were able to survey and mark the land from the next city over the beautiful lake and towards the ten mile mark into the city.

After five days they completed the land survey that brought them back into the city.

William said, “We will start the survey and go from east to west. A teacher is coming to survey the schools. I need a treasurer person to come and see what type of businesses the government needs here.”

The men did not say anything.

One of the security men was drinking some coffee said, “A church.”

William thought for a minute and put his hands on his hips and turned around.

The security man said,”You can turn around and around you won’t see not one church here.”

William said, “Did anything happen while we gone.?”

William learned that from his father to cover all possible things.

One of the drivers of the supply wagon said, “The captain over troop here sent about fifteen soldiers in the city. Five went to the end of the city that way five were over about ten miles from them and five stayed here with us.”

William said, “How long did they stay?”

The other driver of the supply wagon said, “They stayed for three days. Each of those groups had a preacher.”

The other driver said, “The ones here with us prayed together every night. One night we heard weird noises from the lake. Three of them got on their horses and rode over. When they came back they said they did not see anything.”

William said, “Why were sent here?”

The youngest driver said, “They said their captain wants to make sure no assassins were hiding out in this area.”

The other one said, “Every day they would walk the streets and pray. They said the governor’s children mover here with their grandmother.”

William said, “With their grandmother. Where?”

The youngest driver said, “They would not tell us which house, but they would watch everyday for a military wagon to leave the city.”

William said, “I need to send a telegram for additional help where is the office?”

No one said anything.

William said, “Fine tell me where it is located and I will find it.”

The youngest driver stood and pointed.

William got on his horse and slowly rode to the telegram office.

He sent Lydia a message that he needed one of the treasurer’s employee to come with Clara to that town. He said above before dark.

The man who sent the telegram looked at William.

William mother walked into the telegram office to send her husband her weekly coded telegram.

She saw William who was watching the telegram worker.

His mother looked at him and he turned and saw her.

He left the telegram office.

He was so happy she was alive.

When she really needed to send something important she would drive to the military command.

She and the children’s grandmother had ordered furniture for the vacant house the grandmother purchased.

They did not know why the house was vacant.

William’s mother had become friends with the man in the telegram office.

She always taught William to find one friend who knows stuff.

She also taught William if you are in danger act like you do not her. But go to safety and she will follow.

William looked around and did not see a wagon.

He knew his mother was close enough to walk to the telegram office.

William was sitting on the next shop porch eating a piece of licorice candy.

His styed in the telegram shop for thirty minutes and came and sat next to him.

He handed her a piece of licorice.

She said, “Oh, Thank you young man.”

She looked around and said, “We are at the yellow house. There is great evil in this town. Pray everyday. Watch your back. The presence of the military has helped very little. Do you job and work for the governor. Not everyone is involved with this great evil. Whatever it is, but the great evil is overtaking a lot of good people.”

She stood to leave.

William looked up at his mother and said, “Good seeing you.”

She said, “My heart is bursting with joy.”

She saluted him with her piece of licorice.

The telegram worker peeped his head out of his shop and saw William’s mother and said, “Ida.”

She looked at him and he waved a piece of paper.

She passed by William.

William said, “Ida.”

He went back into the store and bought some licorice for his team.

He got on his horse and rode back to the camp.

William gave the men the licorice.

He sat and said, “Lets pray. I don’t like nothing disturbing my sleep.”

The men bowed their heads.

The security man prayed he said, “Lord JRESUS we come to You this evening for protection. You know what is going on here. Send your holy angels to fight and destroy the evil ones. Amen.”

William said, “I’m going to take a hot bath tomorrow.”

William did not eat. Seeing his mother gave him peace.

The men had the horses and the supply wagons around their camp and the men slept in the center.

William smelled so he went and slept under one of the supply wagons facing away from his camp.

The men looked at William.

The younger driver of the supply wagon said, “Is he sure he wants to do that?”

The security man said, “We just prayed. Did not you say when the military did you had peace.”

The older driver of the supply wagon said, “Yeah. We are going to see what happens tonight.”

William heard the men but he was thinking if his mother met Natalie. He snickered at Ida.

The telegram worker calling his mother “Ida.”

He said, “What would dad say to “Ida”.”

He went to sleep.

Late that night William was sleep and he felt the ground moving under him.

He did not move because he wanted to sleep.

He finally opened his sleepy eyes and saw no lights on in the city.

William was thinking, “No lights?”

When all of a sudden he thought he saw many black figures running towards their camp.

William was kicking himself from under the wagon and got out in the center with the sleeping men.

He sat on the ground and felt a presence and slowing looked up into the face of the new commander.

William looked and said, “Michael. I have not in for a very long time.”

Archangel pulled his sword out.

He said, “JESUS told me to defend you, your men and your work. Go to sleep.”

William fell asleep.

Archangel Michael held his sword high in combat mode.

William men woke. They were rested and sleep soundly throughout the night.

The youngest driver said, “I slept good. There might be something to praying everyday.”

They all looked and saw William in the center of the camp with no covering.

The men cooked breakfast and were eating when William popped up on the ground.

One of the land surveyors was drinking his coffee and laughed.

He said, “William you slept longer than all of us.”

William was still dazed and finally stood up.

He looked around and went to his horse and got his toiletries and clothes.

The men looked at William.

William put on his coat and said, “Where can I take a bath?”

The surety man said, “Sunday.”

William and not comprehended.

Another security man said, “Everything is closed.”

William smelled his underarms and said, “I got to get to some water.”

The men pointed back to the lake.

William said, “That water is freezing.”

The younger driver put his plate down and said, “Come on William I’ll go with you.”

He gathered his stuff and got one of the horses and rode with William.

They rode two hours out in no man land and bathed in cold water and took the two hour ride back to the town.

They were shaking from the cold.

William pulled out his shirts and pants and said, “Is there a laundry?”

The security was drinking some whiskey and he stopped and turned his head side ways and said, “That’s a thought. In other words no laundry.

William did not know what to think.

He told the land surveyors to take up where they left off and he needed one of them to go with him the next morning to the city office.

They ate and William reviewed his plans.

He went to bed early.

As He laid under the wagon with his back to the fire he was thinking, “Did I have a dream about my friend Michael? I haven’t seen him in years. He walked with me from school and went for swims and climbed trees. Mom and Dad said he was in my imagination. I let him go. I really missed him.”

The strange man laughed, “climbing trees”.

The new commander was still looking around and thinking.

William said, “It was a good dream.”

William went to sleep.

The men prayed again.

William slept through the night.

He felt the earth moved under him and he said, “Michael.”

He yawned and turned over and continued to sleep.

The next morning Lydia and Clara were escorted by six soldiers from the troop that was in the previous city.

The group found William and left Lydia and Clara.

The soldiers were looking around.

The youngest driver said, “You feel it too?”

The soldiers did not reply but had William to sign their orders and they rode out of town.

Lydia said, “They really spooked me.”

The youngest driver said, “Wait and see.”

William said, “No laundry. I have to buy some clean clothes. Lydia did I get paid?”

The men looked.

Lydia and Clara were looking around.

Lydia said, “Every body got paid.”

She noticed there was no hooray like at the other camp.

She looked at the men.

The men shook their head.

Lydia said to Clara, “Lets make our camp about a hundred feet away.”

The security man said, “I wouldn’t. I know you’ll want your privacy but there is evil here.”

Clara looked at Lydia and they looked at each other and said, “Fifty feet will be good.”

The three security men and the five of the land surveyors left.

One of the land surveyors said to William, “This should be a three day job.”

They left.

William rode through the city with the land surveyor, Lydia and Clara.

William saw the hotel and pointed and said, “Ladies you might want to use those facilities.”

Lydia and Clara looked at the hotel.

Clara said, “Telegram office.”

She and Lydia dismounted their horses.

William said, “We are going to find the city office so we can look at the map of the city. Then I am going to find me some clean clothes.”

Clara sent a telegram to her beau.

Lydia sent a telegram to the last team that they made it safely.

Clara said, “We need to send a telegram to the twins.”

Lydia and Clara sent an “hello” telegram to the twins.

Lydia and Clara rode through the city and saw the school.

They dismounted their horses and knocked and went into the school.

Mellissa turned around.

Everyone had on coats.

Mellissa stared at the two women.

She walked to the women and said, “This is my schoolhouse.”

Clara looked at the school teacher and screamed.

The children started crying.

Lydia looked at Mellissa.

Mellissa was running to the children to calm them down.

Mellissa said, “Children these are some friends from when I was in school. They are good people.”

The children stopped crying.

Clara turned and looked at Mellissa and whispered, “Are all these children special?”

Mellissa whispered, “No of them. I don’t know what all this behavior is about.”

Mellissa grabbed Clara’s hand said, “Did you marry Mr.Roger?”

Mellissa did not see a ring.

Clara said, “No.”

Mellissa said, “You were there at Ray and mine’s wedding. Ray passed last year.”

Lydia was looking around.

Mellissa looked at Lydia.

She turned to Clara.

Clara said, “I am so sorry. Do you have any children?”

Mellissa said, “No. Lydia what are you looking for?”

Lydia said, “My job.”

Clara said, “We sent a telegram last week that we would be here this week.”

Mellissa said, “For what?”

Lydia walked over and said, “The governor appointed a work force to go on this side of the state and see what these cities needed, especially to investigate the school and health facilities.”

Clara said, “Mellissa you did not get the telegrams?”

Mellissa said, “No. But please look around. I know we need some help.”

Clara said, “First thing you need heat.”

Mellissa said, “The man the city hired to help around here has disappeared. I tried to put coal on the fire but we don’t have enough coal to heat the building.”

Lydia said, “Nice addition.”

Mellissa said, “Ray built that single handed just before he passed.

Mellissa, “Clara can you take over and I will go to the mayor about the coal.”

Lydia said, “I want to see your town. Let me walk with you.”

Lydia bucked her eyes at Clara.

Mellissa and Lydia walked out the door.

The children were looking at Clara.

Clara said, “Good morning students my name is Clara. I want each one of you to tell me your name and at two these you like.”

She looked around the room and saw the little boy and the little girl.

Clara sat on the front of Mellissa’s desk and said to the little boy, “What is your name?”

Michael observed the children.

He watched William and the land surveyor in the city office.

Doreen greeted them.

William introduced himself and the land surveyor and showed her his papers.

Doreen went to the mayor’s door and knocked on the door.

She waited until he said enter.

She looked back at William and the land surveyor.

The mayor walked to the door and opened the door.

Doreen did not know what the mayor was doing in the office.

She introduced William and the land surveyor to the mayor.

William and the land surveyor, told the mayor what they needed.

The mayor went and pulled out the record books and the map books.

Mellissa and Lydia walked into the office.

The mayor said, “Hello.”

He looked at the stranger Lydia and said, “Young lady what can I help you with?”

Mellissa said, “Mayor this is Lydia from the treasurer’s office on the governor’s project to see what we need.”

The mayor said, “So you know?”

William did not like the mayor’s tone and said politely, “She works for me.”

The mayor looked at William.

Mellissa said “Mayor may I have a word?”

The mayor pointed to his office.

Mellissa did not like the mayor nor she did not want to be in his office.

The mayor went to his desk and sat and pointed at the chair for Mellissa to sit.

Mellissa looked back at the door.

The mayor looked at her.

She said, “Mr. mayor, no James and no coal.”

The mayor said, “Who is with the children?”

Mellissa thought that was strange he never asked about the children before.

She said, “The teacher from the state. I told her I would be gone for a very short time.”

The mayor said, “When was the last time you saw James?”

Mellissa said. “Wednesday.”

The mayor said, “Why didn’t you say something sooner?”

Mellissa said, “I thought you knew.”

Lydia said, “Look at this. These people just left their properties. Look at these houses that are vacant.”

The land surveyor said, “He must have given us that book by mistake. Put it down so he won’t know we have been looking at it”

Lydia memorized some addresses and hurried and sat when the mayor’s office door was opening.

The mayor said, “No I did not know.”

He stood up and opened his office door and saw Lydia seated and saw William and the land surveyor going over the city map.

The mayor saw he put the city listings book down he very quietly went and got the book and put it up.

Doreen saw all the activity but pretended she did not see anything.

The mayor put the book with the listings on the self.

He walked Mellissa and Lydia to the door and said, “I will get the coal today to the school.

He said, “Doreen I have to go and coal for the school.”

He went to his office and put on his coat and hat.

He walked to William and the land surveyor and said, “I have to take care of some city business. Take your time.”

The mayor looked at Doreen for her to watch them.

Doreen got the book with the houses and wrote down many.

She walked over and handed William the paper.

William eased it into his coat pocket.

Doreen put the book up.

Clara had gone around the room asking the children their names.