The next morning the attendant got up and went to bring the water in the house.

He poured water into the black pot and made a fire to heat the water for Betsy and the younger doctor.

He bathed the little girl in cold water.

He gave her the herbs and made the paste mixture and put it on her back and legs.

He covered her with the sheets.

He looked at the slim rowdy woman and said, “I want you, Natalie, to go with me and the younger doctor to distribute the supplies.”

The slim rowdy woman was watching the little girl.

The slim rowdy woman cried all night.

She shook her head for no.

The attendant said, “You did a lot of hard work, that required intellect and analytical ability. You should be acknowledged for your work. That is how people build trust and confidence in you.”

Natalie wiped the tears from her face and said, “No.”

Nodding at the little girl she said, “She is why I am here. Why I came back.”

The attendant said, “No more running and hiding. You will go with us. Now go and wash your face and your body. Put on the new pink dress he bought you.”

Natalie began to quietly cry and wipe her tears.

The attendant nodded towards the little girl and said, “She can hear you.”

Natalie looked at the attendant in shock and said, “How do you know.”

The attendant said, “Her eyes blink.”

The attendant said, “I believe she hears most things and I believe she is here to pray for you and the others.”

Natalie looked at the attendant who was watching her intently.

He said, “Natalie, I mean go and wash and put on your new clothes. You are a new person. Your past has been removed and you can now be that lady you want the world to see. You have the right to live and enjoy this world and let the world enjoy who God really made you to be.”

Natalie looked at the sleeping little girl and cried more and held her head down.

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST were standing in the room.

JESUS told the attendant what to say to Natalie.

The attendant nodded towards the little girl and said, “Her prayers to her father have set you free.”

Natalie sat still.

The attendant stood up and lifted Natalie out the chair and handed her a wash basin and her new dress and hair ribbons.

He walked her out of the bedroom.

The attendant looked at the younger doctor, who listened to the whole conversation, as he walked Natalie out of the house.

Betsy was still asleep on the younger doctor’s shoulder.

The attendant walked Natalie out of the house and around to the back, where a shed was located.

The rowdy group got Mike to help them construct a shed to be used as a bathroom.

The rowdy group was quite happy with it.

Natalie stopped and looked at it.

The attendant smiled and said, “I worked with them for the past week to polish it off. It turned out nicely.”

He gently pushed Natalie inside and went to the black pot and got hot water and took it to her and closed the door and walked back to the house.

He heard JESUS and the HOLY GHOST explaining the scripture of forgiveness of self and others.

The attendant said to the younger doctor, “I need you to go with me to distribute the supplies.”

The younger doctor looked at the sleeping Betsy.

The attendant looked at him with a questioning look.

The younger doctor quietly said, “I don’t know if she is strong enough to be here until we get back.”

The attendant said, “She is stronger than you think. Wake her, so she can be alert when we leave.”

The younger doctor gently woke up the sleeping Betsy.

He smiled at his country woman.

Betsy woke with her hair in her face.

She brushed her hair out of her face and said, “What?”

Looking back at the little girl’s room.

The younger doctor said, “Wake up babe. We are going to distribute the supplies. You are going to be here with your little princess.”

Betsy said, “Alright.”

The younger doctor said, “Alone.”

Betsy who was slipping on her boots froze in fear.

The attendant looked at Betsy and said, “You can do it.”

He got up and walked in the bedroom and got the wad of money.

Natalie walked in the house and Betsy looked up at the strange woman and then realized it was Natalie.

Betsy said, “Natalie, you look great!”

The younger doctor got up and went outside and washed his face and brushed his teeth.

He saw the shed in the back of the house and went to investigate, as the attendant and Natalie walked out the house and stepped down to the ground.

The attendant walked around the back and stood.

The younger doctor swinging the door and looking at the hinges said, “It’s good.”

The younger doctor’s father owned a construction and he was brought up working with his dad.

The attendant said, “Let’s leave. It is getting day.”

The younger doctor looked at the attendant and wondered about him as he walked away.

The younger doctor ran to the black pot and took Betsy a pail of hot water and kissed her forehead and ran out the house.

JESUS watched the younger doctor and looked at a baffled Betsy.

The younger doctor did not want to kiss Betsy on the lips because she had not brushed her teeth.

He was a stickler for hygiene.

Betsy was very clean, but she liked her man’s touch in the morning no matter what.

She put some hot water in her basin she brought and closed the front door and washed her body.

She put on the last clean underwear and clothes her sister brought.

Betsy did not know her family moved to the new settlement for the winter and they were much closer to her. She went to open the front door and saw the two dresses her man brought her back.

Betsy said, “Well I can wash my undies and have two new dresses until my family bring me more clothes. But the dresses are too nice for everyday.”

She looked back at her baby and went out the door with the basin of water.

She went to the shed and poured it out in the shed.

She stood and smiled.

Then suddenly she thought about the little girl and ran to the house.

It was cold and getting colder everyday.

She closed the door and put her basin under the sofa.

Betsy had long thick dark brown hair.

She took great pride and care of her hair.

She stood and combed and brushed her hair.

She did not need a mirror. She knew exactly where each strand should go.

She washed her hands in the pail of luke warm water and wondered about her physician whether it will be like the last one, her true love. This younger doctor was a test for her whether she can catch a man at her age and find true love and happiness.

Betsy thought about her last love.

She washed her hands over and over thinking about him and the fact he did not marry her because she could not have children.

She was jarred out of her selfish thoughts when she heard the little girl squirm.

Betsy quickly dried her hands and went to her only child.

She sat and looked at the sheets on her back.

Betsy never before looked at the girl’s little back.

Betsy looked around and peeped through the empty house.

She thought, “Suppose I scream or faint, like before and no one helped me.”

She thought, “I’m not strong enough to see her damaged body. She fights everyday to live. The scars from the switches are nothing compared to this.”

She took a deep breath and took the sheets in her hand and eased them to the little girl’s neck, then her shoulders and then to her back.

Betsy was getting off the floor.

She realized she had fainted.

She sat on the floor for awhile and got up by holding onto the chair.

She looked at the sheets that were down to the little girl’s waist.

Betsy thought, “I already fainted.”

She pulled the sheets back and examined each inch of the little girl’s body.

She pulled the sheets back on her little body and leaned over and kissed her head.

JESUS watched Betsy from his seat in heaven.

The LORD GOD Almighty and JESUS were talking about Betsy’s state of mind.

Betsy walked out the house and threw the water out of the front door.

Hate rose in her heart.

She wanted to kill each person and the dogs that ate her little girl.

She stood on the porch for a long time with the empty pail at her feet and arms folded.

Betsy fantasized about revenge.

JESUS spoke to Betsy’s angel.

The strange man and the commander were looking as Betsy’s heart was becoming dark with hate and revenge.

Betsy’s angel said, “God avenged the town. He killed every person and every animal. There’s nothing for you to kill.”

Betsy stood like a statute for a long time and the angel repeated the words again and again.

Betsy finally heard the words and thought, “What is wrong with me God destroyed this whole town. I saw it with my own eyes and heard it with my own ears.”

She looked back in the bedroom at the little girl and turned back around.

Betsy was thinking, “How can my love for her turned into such hatred for someone who wronged her. How could I hate so quickly. I’m evil. That’s why God has punished me. That’s why I can’t have children. I would be a murderer.”

All the angels were watching Betsy.

Betsy said, “God forgive me.”

She turned to walk in the house and she mumbled, “Help. I don’t know what is wrong with me and I don’t know how to fix it.”

The strange man had a bewildered look on his face and he began to whistle.

The attendant, the younger doctor and Natalie reached the new settlement in an hour.

Natalie did not say a word for the mile walk.

The younger doctor was trying to figure things out in his mind.

The attendant was watching everything taking place at the cute house.

He thought, “Much healing and deliverance for these people.”

The attendant saw all the angels surrounding the new city and he was greeted by the scribe and the angel over the city.

They all walked to where the ten supply wagons were stationed.

The younger doctor said, “I told everyone you said the winter was going to be very very bad and to prepare.”

The younger doctor turned his head.

The attendant looked at him, because he knew the younger doctor was saying if it’s not then it is the fault of the attendant.

The scribe began to write all thoughts, words and deeds of the younger doctor and Natalie.

The younger doctor stood and took in the new city for a few minutes.

The hired drivers saw them standing in the highway.

The attendant looked at the younger doctor and said, “Come.”

The younger doctor walked to the ten supply wagons and greeted the twenty men who drove the wagons.

The attendant walked to the hired drivers and shook their hands and thank them for their help.

One of the hired driver said, “Is it really going to be bad as they say?” Looking at the younger doctor and Natalie.

The attendant said, “Yes.”

Another driver said, “How do you know?”

The attendant said, “My father told me and he is never wrong.”

The drivers looked at him and wondered.

The drivers began to talk amongst themselves.

The attendant watched them, then he walked to each wagon with the younger doctor and Natalie and went through each item.

He noticed a few things were missing so did the younger doctor and Natalie.

The attendant said, “Don’t say anything. I’ll get more.”

The younger doctor whispered, “How?”

Natalie said, “Yes?”

The attendant watched the hired drivers and said “Don’t worry. You all worry much too much. Enjoy your time and this beautiful weather until the bad come.”

The younger doctor turned his head and looked at the drivers and said, “Then enjoy the bad winter.”

The attendant said, “Yes and you will be surprised at what you learn about yourself and others.”

The rowdy group saw the attendant, the younger doctor a strange woman.

Shelia and Thomas yelled to Mike and Harold to come to get their supplies.

The fat thief was running and tripping over his torn up boots with strings falling out.

Glenda and Frank were already walking down.

Cate saw the supply wagons and moved closer that night to the men out of habit. When she heard Shelia and Thomas call for Harold and Mike she jumped up and ran.

Bill, Emma, Mattie and a sleepy Joshua walked slowly to the group because they had received their portion before they came.

Mattie and Emma began last night to knit shawls and coverings. Especially for the little girl.

The attendant looked upon the rowdy group and said, “Good morning.”

The group said, “Good morning.”

He said, “The supplies are here. You have not prepared for the bad winter. You cannot live in the open you won’t make. I suggest you build a shed to house your supplies.”

The fat thief said, “To house me.”

Shelia said, “I can hunt, trap and fish. We only have a short time because the animals are beginning to go into hiding.”

Mike said, “We should build a shed for baths.”

Frank said, “I thought we should build a big shed for the really bad nights. We all can come gather in it and have an earth floor to build a fire. When the spring comes we can put a floor in.”

Thomas said, “Why can’t we make it our church. We got a lot to thank God for.”

Glenda said, “Amen.”

Frank kissed her on the cheek.

The younger doctor looked.

The attendant watched the younger doctor.

Glenda said, “Mame, your name.”

Natalie looked at Glenda and said, “It’s me Glenda.”

Glenda looked and with shock opened her mouth and clapped her hands and ran to the slim rowdy woman, rocked her and hugged her.

Glenda sniffed her and kissed her on the cheek.

Everyone ran to Natalie.

Her fat thief father stood and watched.

The attendant looked at his pocket watch and said let’s get started.

He said, “We have ten tents. One each. We have a quilt each. You each have very large rugs and mattresses, pillows and blankets. Each has enough, flour, meal beans, oil and dried fat meat to last through the winter if you eat right.”
They all screamed with delight.

The hired drivers put each person’s supply in a separate wagon and drove it to their new homesites.

Then the attendant said, “Mattie and Emma begun to knit shawls and bed covers for each of you.”

Natalie said, “I can knit. I can help.”

The attendant said, “Each of you got a pair of new boots, socks and underwear and coats.”

He said, “Harold I have to get you another pair of boots and a coat.”

Harold looked down at his new boots and had his arms folded because of the cold morning temperature.

Harold said, “Sir, you have done more for us, I know for me than anyone can image. I thank you.”

The attendant turned to the hired drivers and said, “I’ll pay you to get their tents up today.”

One driver, who stole Harold’s boots and coat, said “How much?”

The attendant said, “Fifty dollars each.”

The drivers ran to each person’s wagon and put the person on the wagon and drive to their homesites. When they finished one tent and dropped off the supplies they drove to the next tent.

They all started with Mike, because his homesite was the farthest away.

The tents were the newest on the market. They were large and insulated.

Each person had large rugs to put on the ground and a mattress.

Harold could not believe his eyes.

He cried as he swept the dirt and put his rug on the floor and then his mattress. He put the blanket, quilt and pillows on his bed.

He spread his new two pairs of jeans, two flannel shirts, three pairs of wool socks and underwear on his new bed.

He was thinking, “Where to put my new clothes. What did he mean he will get me new stuff.”

Harold kneeled down and folded his hands and said, “God you cared for me. Thank you.”

He looked around his tent and whispered, “If you can get Betsy to fall in love with me. Forgive me.”

Then Harold had a thought about his clothes.

He jumped up and yelled to Mike.

Mike was laughing and rejoicing in his tent and he could be heard by Shelia and Thomas.

They were happy.

Thomas helped Shelia to bring everything together.

They decided to be a hundred feet away from each other.

The property between them they would use a community gardens and her curing shed.

Until JESUS set them free and allowed forgiveness to cleanse them. They were so afraid and could not move without each other. They could not be separated.

Mike’s place was at the farthest end of the new city.

Shelia and Thomas asked the rowdy group if they could stake out a place for their cousin.

The fat thief said, “Fine with me.”

Everyone agreed.

Shelia, Thomas and Mike walked from Mike’s place along the brook and back towards their tents.

They put big rocks down and carved his initials into the rocks.

The three of them looked at the beautiful land after God cleansed it.

Mike said, “You’ll know why it’s going to be a bad winter?”

Shelia said, “No.”

She and Thomas looked as small children and waited for Mike’s answer.

Mike said, “Because the earth is still hot from that fire”.

Thomas turned his head and said, “Mike.”

Mike said, “No really. Think about it. Did you notice we were sleeping on the ground and it was not our backs that were cold but the part not on the ground.”

Thomas stood for a few minutes and said, “That’s something to think about.

Mike said, “I think we need to build a shed back here for us.”

Shelia said, “I thought about that too, because we are about five miles from the rest of them.”

Thomas said, “We built one for the cute house and we can build one for us.”

Mike said, “But where to put it?”

They looked around and Shelia pointed at a clean and level spot about a quarter of a mile from she and Thomas.

Mike looked around and said, “Good Shelia. Not to close to me and not far from you’ll”.

Thomas said, “If he comes back it won’t be far for him to walk.”

Mike said, “Why you wanted him to have a piece of land?”

Thomas looked at Shelia and said, “Because he was the only person we could depend on.”

Curtis sat in the swing on his front porch and looked at Shelia’s weed overgrown property.

A middle age woman came to the screen door and said, “Dinner is ready. Come and eat.”

The sheriff rode up as he was standing.

The woman in the screen door, pushed the door open and walked out on the porch.

The sheriff got off his horse and walked onto the porch.

He reached out his hand and shook Curtis hand.

The sheriff said, “The people said you were back. I just came by to say I came by. But you didn’t do anything wrong. Three years is a long time. You look well.”

The sheriff looked at the woman on the porch and walked down the steps and got on his horse and rode away.

The woman said, “Come and eat your supper. They walked into the house to a full table of relatives and friends.

The woman told them the sheriff came by because people said he was back.

The little blind girl said, “So.”

Everyone laughed.

He stood next to the woman and they bowed their heads and he prayed and gave God thanks for keeping his family, wife and children and land.

He sat and passed the mashed potatoes.

Everyone noticed he only got a tablespoon of food, they realized he must have starved.

His wife held her head down in shame so did their son.

He quietly thought of his cousins and friends and asked God to take care of them. He vowed he would go back in the spring to see them.

Two of the hired drivers said to the attendant they wanted to move to the new city.

The attendant looked at the two men and said, “I can’t stop you. But you will not bring your gambling and thieving and drunkenness here.”

One driver walked away.

The other driver said, “I want to change. I want to be free. I don’t want my family to keep going through this hell with me.”

The city’s angel and scribe were watching him.

The attendant didn’t say anything.

The man was looking for forgiveness and hope from the attendant.

He pointed backwards and said, “That’s my wagon and my horses. I can make that two day journey into the city to get supplies or take the people back and forth.”

The scribe angel looked at his book and said, “His name is here not his family.“

The angel over the new city said, “Let him stay. We can handle him.”

The attendant said,”Fine.”

The attendant walked away.

The man bowed his head and said, “Thank you.”

Cate said, “Nat did you do this? We are so proud of you.”

Glenda said, “Yes girl.”

Natalie began to cry and ran away down the King’s highway.

Cate and the sick Glenda ran to the King’s highway and called Natalie, who kept running.

Frank and her daddy and Glenda and Cate stood in the King’s highway and wondered what happen and they all turned to the younger doctor and he shrugged his shoulders and walked away.

The attendant, the new city angel and the scribe walked the breadth of the city.

The attendant said to the other two angels, “Mike is too far away.”

The attendant appeared at Mike’s homesite.

Mike was dancing and turning flips on his new mattress.

The attendant called, “Mike”.

Mike ran to his tent door and stuck his head out .

Mike saw it was the attendant and still grinning said, “Yes.”

The attendant said, “You are at the end of the new city. You are nearly a mile away from Shelia and Thomas,”

The giddy Mike said, “I like it like that.”

He shut his tent flap and continued to dance and holler.

The attendant said, “Mike. I want to give you a horse and wagon.”

Mike was trying on a pair of his new jeans and ran to the tent door, still trying to zip up his jeans.

The attendant said, “It will be a wagon for the settlement, but especially for you, Curtis, Shelia and Thomas.

Mike said, “You’re kidding.”

The attendant said, “If I used my money to buy all of this, why should I be kidding about a horse and wagon.”

Mike stopped and said, “I’m sorry. I accept all you have done and will do.”

The attendant said, “Meet me tomorrow at the gathering place at eight o’clock in the morning.”

The attendant turned and walked away.

Mike saw the attendant was angry and hollered, “I’m sorry.”

The attendant walked throughout the settlement and saw the homesites.

Glenda saw the attendant and said, “Thanks for everything. I especially love these water pails. Frank is gone to get us some water with his.”

The attendant said, “The white is for water and the blue is for your waste.”

Glenda bit her bottom lip in shame.

The hired drivers finished Cate’s tent which was the last one to be set up.

Cate’s homesite sit between Joshua’s family tent and Glenda and Frank’s homesite.

Glenda and Frank did not want a lot of land nor did Cate.

The attendant went to the hired drivers and thank them for their help. He paid them the fifty dollars per driver.

Then he asked if any knew how to build sheds. Three men stepped forward. He asked them how long it would take them to build several sheds, One for Mike, Shelia and Thomas, one for Harold and the fat thief and Natalie and one larger for Frank, Glenda, Cate and Betsy’s family.

The men said once they got the supplies, then it should take about one week to complete.

The attendant agreed on a price.

Nine of the hired wagons would go back to the city in the morning.

The one wagon of the hired man would stay and run errands.

The attendant said, “In two days the lumber should be here. Take care of your own needs.”

The younger doctor said to the attendant, “We didn’t order any lumber.”

The attendant said, “I ordered lumber months ago and didn’t receive it. They brought part of the order and we used it to make the shed for baths. We should have the rest in two days.”

Glenda was talking to the attendant and said, “Can we put the shed at the beginning of the city so people can know it is a good city?”

The attendant said, “That’s between you three homesites.”

The attendant and the younger doctor walked the mile to the cute house.

The attendant said to the younger doctor, “You have not asked about Natalie’s well being,”

The younger doctor said, “I don’t care about Natalie’s well being.”

The attendant said, “Suppose Natalie is to be your wife.”

The younger doctor sped up his walk to the attendant’s house.

The younger doctor knocked on the door and walked in.

He passed a crying Natalie who was laid out on the sofa.

He walked to Betsy and touched her beautiful hair.

Betsy turned and looked at him.

The attendant walked in the house.

The younger doctor said, “I’ll walk you home.”

Betsy said, “But I…”

He attendant said, “Go.”

The attendant washed his hands and sat with the little girl.

Betsy got her new dresses and bent down and stroke Natalie’s hair and said, “Baby are you alright?”

Natalie did not respond.

The younger doctor said, “She’s fine.”

He grabbed Betsy by her arm and pulled her out of the house.

They were standing in the yard when the little girl began to scream in pain.

The younger doctor caught Betsy as she tried to run to the little girl.

He grabbed Betsy by her waist and walked her out of the yard and down the King’s highway home.

Natalie jumped off the sofa and ran to the little girl and sat in her chair.