

MisSion CriTikal

#2 In The Beginning

It didn't seem right, somehow. No it wasn't a secret or something sneaky or anything like that. Daenum just felt in his heart it was a mission – a project he and his teen friend Lenny were called by God to do. They didn't say anything to others about it. And that was part of the rub. Neither of the two teens felt they had any skills, tools, or anything that would make them Heaven's choices for the heart-for-service they both shared. What's even worse is they didn't even know where to start. All they had was the always-present burning inside to teach the villagers what little they knew about God. Lenny would often call it Heaven's Burden Blastin'.

“I CAN'T STAND IT, ANYMORE!” Dae shouted at the trees and the grass, after spending the better part of several afternoons with Lenny at the spot – Their Spot, on the hill above the village. The shout really startled Lenny, so much in fact he had thoughts of shielding himself behind a tree to see what Dae was going to do next. “Lenny, I'm done dreamin'. Ain't no angel gonna drop down here and give us two the plans for what to do first.” Dae stood to his feet, brushed off his ripped trousers and began clearing the brush and branches from the spot – Their Spot, the spot Lenny invited Christ in. To both boys it just seemed to be a breath of fresh air to the brain, to be on the move, still not knowing exactly what's next.

It wasn't until a month or so later, that Dae and Lenny heard their preacher use the “Start Here” Bible verses in Matthew 6 that instructs, “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.*” (33, 34a).

With his hands on his hips, Lenny watched his partner take a few small branches with the twigs removed, and push them in the ground, so there was plenty sticking up and easy to see. Next more

branches were laid flat on the ground making a line between the stakes. Lenny excitedly helped strip more branches and handing them to Dae. The two boys, more than once would straighten the line of branches to make them as in-line as they could. It became an unspoken attitude that would become the very foundation of all the things they did: Do The Best With Whatcha Got!!

Lenny got a case of the flu and stayed close to his bedroom (and bathroom) for the next two weeks. That left Daenum to carry on the efforts at The Spot by himself. It was all for good reason. Those two weeks without Lenny taught Dae another lesson about God's ways. Sometimes sickness has a real way of molding a person... or maybe more. There wasn't a second's doubt in Dae, that Lenny wasn't taking time EVERY day to pray for the efforts being done at The Spot. Even in that, Dae's heart felt warmed that others were praying for God-honoring efforts – sometimes being done alone.

The line of branches between the four stakes formed a box on the ground. It sort of put you in mind of a log cabin being built – only with branches. During the afternoons of Lenny's illness, Dae began clearing the tall grass from inside the box, but leaving the sod undisturbed. But during the grass trimming outside the box, Dae would often lay his fingers on the line of branches and ask God to help with the heart-burdens and efforts, so humble as they were.

One afternoon, Dae was still working on trimming the tall grass just outside the box and praying as he went, that he heard a voice that startled him. It was a girl's voice, “Whatcha doin?” He quickly turned around to see who spoke. It was a girl probably about his age and a younger boy with her. Dae tried to see her face but the bright sun was directly behind her head shining through her hair. It was an odd thought, but Dae first imagined she was an angel. Then reality took hold of his thoughts as he cleared his throat and tried to speak.

What has God got planned?

We'll learn about the teen's angel visit next time.