A STAR IS BORN

You may have heard of King Christian X of Denmark. But what happened in Denmark is a truly inspiring story.

On April 9, 1940, German troops overran the country and made Denmark an offer. If the country offered no resistance, Germany would respect Danish political independence. Left with no other options, they agreed, and entered into a five-year-long occupation. King Christian X became known as a protector of the Jews. A number of stories tell how he snubbed Hitler and the Nazis. Every day he made it a point to ride his horse, unarmed and unescorted, through the streets of Copenhagen to illustrate his continuing claims for national sovereignty. He rejected many aspects of the occupation and made speeches against Germany. As the Danes’ resistance became bolder, Hitler demanded that the Danish government declare a state of emergency. When the government refused and resigned, the German commander-in-chief imposed martial law. The arrest and deportation of Danish Jews was finally ordered on October 2, 1943. But, behind Germany’s back, the Danish government warned the Jews to go into hiding and conducted secret negotiations with Sweden to take them in. Only 450 of Denmark’s 7,500 or 8,000 Jews were arrested and sent to Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Of those, nearly 90 percent made it back to Denmark after the war.

Thousands of Danish Jews survived the Holocaust because of the bravery and courage not only of their government officials but also ordinary people who were willing to help. The courage of the Danish people in opposing the Nazis and risking their lives in heroic efforts to shelter their Jewish neighbors and help them escape the Nazis is a great evidence to the difference that human beings can make by God’s grace when they act out of principle and ethical conduct.

Sabbath

FOR STUDY

Memory Text: “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10, NKJV).

Our Beliefs, no. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries: “God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity.”

Ellen G. White, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 91-93

Sunday

RESPONDING


Kara comes from a poor family. She wears the same old clothes every day. Not only that, but she doesn’t eat lunch very often. She says she’s not hungry, but you know better. She’s not eating because she can’t afford to buy lunch and there’s not enough food at home for her to bring a bag lunch.

You’ve got plenty of food and drawers full of clothes at home. How can you be a good steward of the resources God has given you to help Kara, who is less fortunate? Would you give her your best? Or the clothes you don’t care for and all the cans of lima beans?

Monday

BIBLE ANSWERS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.

Everything we have God has blessed us with. Every blessing God has given us should be shared and used to serve Him. We should always represent God as strong, thinking men and women—taking a stand for truth and for what is right.

What are the “gifts” of a Christian leader?

__________________________________________

How does a Christian lead and care for others?

__________________________________________

“The path of men who are placed as leaders is not an easy one. But they are to see in every difficulty a call to prayer” (Ellen G. White, Prophets and Kings, p. 31).

__________________________________________

Fill in the blanks using the words from the word bank.

same given ministry gifts leads prophecy individually many not exhorts use teaches all differing gives

“For as we have ______ members in one body, but ______ the members do ______ have the ______ function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and ______ members of one another. Having then ______ ______ according to the grace that is ______ to us, let us ______ them: if ______, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ______, let us use it in our ministering; he who ______, in teaching; he who ______, in exhortation; he who ______, with liberality; he who ______, with diligence; he who ______ mercy, with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:4-8, NKJV).
OK, so you get that all your stuff belongs to God and you're just borrowing it, so it's really important to treat it the way God wants you to. But all this ruler stuff seems so far off in the future. Who could possibly care about politics or the environment in developing countries now? Well, you for one. Because the world you live in today is going to be the world the grown-ups give you tomorrow. You've got to start caring about what's going on with it now so you know what to do with it when the time comes.

If your brother was going to give you his car as soon as you got your license, you'd spend every waking moment making sure it was in top shape. You'd probably even wax it. You might read the owner's manual, even though most of it wouldn't make sense, just because you know that someday you'll own the car. You want it to be in the best shape possible.

It's the same way with the earth. Now is the time to care about it. Get involved. Not necessarily in a big way, but in a way that feels comfortable to you, in an area that interests you. Cuz about dolphins? See what you can do to help protect them. Like to do nice things for people? Volunteer at a shelter. Everything you do makes a difference and gets you ready to take over the care of the world when the time comes.

If You have another purpose for it, tell me.