

THE ISLES ARE SINGING

Chapter 6

THE LORD THINKETH UPON ME

But I *am* poor and needy;
yet the Lord thinketh upon me:
thou *art* my help and my deliverer;
make no tarrying, O my God.
Psalm 40:17

Sydney Crandall Young, was born August 4, 1899, in Osceola, Pennsylvania, to Louis D. Young and Martha L. Tinney Young. Helen Lena Wheeler, daughter of Lafayette Mortimer Wheeler III (called John) and Helen Spencer Wheeler, was born October 8, 1911, in Gillette, Pennsylvania. Sydney and Helen met in Big Flats, New York, and became Mr. & Mrs. Young on April 12, 1938.

Eight years later, on Sunday, August 11, 1946, at 4:00 a.m., Helen Young gave birth to her and Sydney's third child, Lewis William, at Newcomb Hospital in Vineland, New Jersey. Lewis had an older brother named Francis, Sydney and Helen's firstborn, and a sister named Martha. There was also a half brother, Sydney, from his father's previous marriage.

During the first year to eighteen months of his life, Lewis was in and out of the hospital with pneumonia.

Perhaps God graciously blotted out memories of childhood from Lewis's mind as he does not remember much at all from his early years. Those were hard years, years when they could have lived as a middle class family; but, because their father squandered away his money gambling at the horse races, the family was very poor. There was a time when Dad was away from home for about a two-year period, forcing Mother to work in a canning factory, and leaving Martha (only ten years of age) to take care of the house.

The first ten years of Lewis's life were spent in South Jersey. They did have electricity in their home but had no indoor plumbing. Wood stoves were used for cooking and for heat. There was no family car. Dad was employed at a glass factory.

Some of Lewis's fond childhood memories include lying out in the field in the warm weather and enjoying the sunshine; riding around with a neighbor boy who had a jeep; playing with his sister, Martha, in what was left of the basement of a house (even though there were snakes there); and "riding" the trees with his brother Fran as the trees swayed back and forth during a hurricane. He also recalls attending yearly camp meetings in Malaga where his mother would take him with her to the altar and would have to order him to sit still because he was so wiggly.

He, along with his family, attended a Methodist church, where he had been baptized as an infant. A picture in his mind from when he was a little older is that of the Methodist minister dipping his hand in a basin of water and laying the wet hand on infants' heads to baptize them. Several years, he received pins for perfect attendance in Sunday school. He thought he was a good boy, but we've learned that there are things he doesn't remember that are better forgotten.

When Lewis was ten years old, his family moved to Pennington in central Jersey and stayed there about a year. His father worked on a farm milking the cows and taking care of the barn. After a year or so they moved here and there, staying a few months at each place before moving again.

From eighth grade through his junior year of high school, he lived in Mt. Airy, Pennsylvania, and has some good memories of his years there. He enjoyed helping on a farm in summer, especially baling hay. He remembers when his brother Fran bought him a small radio which he could carry in his pocket and listen to rock music. He attended school dances and went to the junior prom in both tenth and eleventh grade. As a member of the Lambertville youth rescue squad team, there were sometimes contests with teams from other areas, and Lewis was usually the victim that needed to be rescued. One time he was given the opportunity to drive the ambulance back to the station.

All of Lewis's grandparents had passed away by the time he was born so he never had the privilege of meeting any of them. Grandfather Young was a composer and musician, and Lewis's Dad had learned to play the musical saw. Dad raised many fine farm animals including a hog named Curly Boy that weighed 1,255 pounds and a registered Belgian Stallion weighing 2,289 pounds. When the family moved to Westfield, Pennsylvania, in 1964, Dad worked at Cotton-Hanlon Mill in Cayuta, New York, as a fireman and a watchman. Dad passed away October 1971 when I was pregnant with our first child so our daughters did not get to know their grandfather on Lewis's side. After Sydney's death, Mom, affectionately known as Gran to her grandchildren, lived with Fran or Martha until her promotion to heaven on August 6, 1997.

Although during all those years, Lewis did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Lord thought upon him and preserved his life for that day when he would bow before his Maker and receive the precious gift of eternal life.

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Chapter 7

GRACE ABOUNDING

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that, though he was rich,
yet for your sakes he became poor,
that ye through his poverty might be rich.
II Corinthians 8:9

Our Lord Jesus Christ wanted Lewis to be rich, not in the things of this world, but in spiritual things. That is why, although Christ was abundantly rich, He left His home in heaven and became poor, so that Lewis might become rich. And that is why, in 1967, during Lewis's college years, God placed Lewis on a summer job where a co-worker shared with him God's simple plan of salvation. For most of Lewis's life, he had attended either a Methodist or Presbyterian church, but has no recollection of having heard or clearly understood that he was a sinner and needed to be saved. After hearing the good news and the testimony of that fellow worker, Lewis made a profession of faith. Soon after that, he was baptized and became a member of People's Church in Potter Brook, Pennsylvania.

At that time, Lewis was furthering his studies in accounting at Clarion State College, after having received an associate of science degree in accounting at Williamsport Area Community College. While at Clarion, a Christian English teacher required the students in his literature class to read the book Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners by John Bunyan. The Bible was also read in their classes. He did not think about his need of God's grace at that time, but seeds were being planted in his heart.

Just a few months after his profession of salvation, there was a missions conference at the church in Potter Brook, and Lewis was challenged with the plight of the unreached peoples of the world who had never heard the gospel. He determined that, rather than pursue his studies in accounting, he would give his life to help take the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.

He applied and was accepted for missionary training at New Tribes Mission boot camp in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, and began the training program there in January 1968. He had never had any Bible school training and did not know much about the Bible. A godly married man who was also in training took Lewis under his wing and became a spiritual father to him in providing one-on-one discipleship. The boot camp training was a one-year program, but Lewis spent an extra semester there, affording him time for further spiritual growth.

From the beginning, there were times when it was uncertain whether he would be able to continue the training or not, since the military was seeking to draft him. Through much intercessory prayer and a special meeting with the draft board, he was given a reclassification and was able to remain in boot camp and prepare for missionary service.