

**JUNE
2020**

CHRIS CROSS

AT HOME

To be issued occasionally to keep you in touch, with things to read and things to do.

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE - Paul and Silas in prison, 'Spot the Difference', paper chain, your memories and more.



he experience (and memories) of a 'Lockdown'.



Hello again and welcome CHRISCROSS people.

When I was young, during my early years schooling, I often dreamed of life where there was no school, where I could just do as I wished and whenever I wanted! I wished that life could really be one lovely, long holiday. Have you heard anyone say, 'The other man's grass is always greener, the sun shines brighter on the other side'? It can mean you are not happy with all you have and envy others for what they have.

Later in my life there was a pop song called 'The Other Man's Grass is always Greener', which questions this thought and says we should be grateful for what we've got. Now Lockdown for us all has perhaps brought my dream into perspective and I can now better appreciate that it is not so good to be away from school, church and friends for so long.

We should be grateful for all we have, family, homes, toys and games, but more particularly appreciate the love of family and friends, who we can still speak with by telephone, skype etc and of course God, who we can always speak to in prayer.

This edition of CHRISCROSS at HOME has again been put together by people who have love for CHRISCROSS and all those connected with it. You will find out about a couple of chaps who were in serious Lockdown and how they dealt with it. Enjoy the features and remember those who love you (and tell them you love them!)

Mike

The contributors to this CHRISCROSS AT HOME are:



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We will be remembering all of you in our prayers – please don't forget to say yours.

Perhaps when you have your tea you might like to use the 1,2,3,4,5 prayer that we use at CHRISCROSS before we have tea.

Paul and Silas stayed in Philippi for a while. One day as they walked to a place by the river to meet for prayer a slave girl began to shout, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." She followed Paul and Silas around for many days.

This slave girl was not a believer and did not have the Holy Spirit living inside her heart. She had an evil spirit living inside her. The evil spirit enabled this slave girl to predict the future. Her owners made a lot of money from this slave girl because many people paid them to have her tell them their future. The Holy Spirit enabled Paul to realize that it was time to put a stop to what the slave girl was doing.

Try to imagine what it would be like to be in Philippi sharing the Good News with others. A person who is known as someone who predicts the future is following you around as a shouting billboard telling others that you are servants of the Most High God. Was the shouting causing people to want to listen to the message Paul had to share or was the shouting causing people to focus on the slave girl? The Holy Spirit empowered Paul to command the evil spirit controlling the slave girl to leave and in Jesus' Name the evil spirit obeyed and left the girl.

The slave girl had been set free and was no longer controlled by this evil spirit. This was a good thing but her owners were not very happy with what Paul had done. Her owners made lots of money from this slave girl. Now that she was not able to tell the future, they weren't going to be able to make money. This made them very angry with Paul and Silas.

Enraged they grabbed Paul and Silas, dragged them into the market place and brought them before the rulers of the city. They told the authorities, "These men are causing trouble for our city because they are Jews and are telling others about things which we Romans are not able to accept or follow."

The leaders tore off Paul and Silas' robes and commanded that that they be beaten. The crowd joined in the attack against them and beat them with rods. They hit them with these rods many times and then threw them into prison.

The leaders commanded the man in charge of the prison to make sure that they were secure and could not get out. When the jailer received the leaders' orders, he took Paul and Silas far back into an inner prison that had no outside walls and put their feet into blocks of wood called stocks. These stocks were two pieces of wood that would clamp down over the prisoner's legs at the ankles. This type of imprisonment was meant for the most dangerous prisoners.

Paul and Silas had open sores and blood on their bodies as they sat in their prison cell. If you were Paul and Silas what do you think you would do as you lay there in the dark, cold cell? They could have cried and said they wanted to go home. They could have been angry and shouted how unfair their treatment was.

Because both men were filled with the Holy Spirit they chose not to focus on their unfair treatment but chose to worship and praise God instead. All the other prisoners listened to them as they prayed and sang.

While the prisoners were listening to the prayers and praises of Paul and Silas, they felt the ground begin to shake.

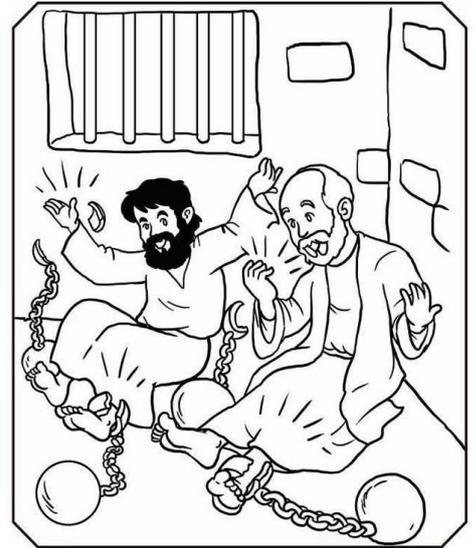
The tremble turned into a great earthquake and the whole prison began to shake. All the doors were opened and the chains fell off each and every prisoner.

The jailer had fallen asleep but the shaking ground and noises of opening doors must have awakened him. As he rubbed his eyes and looked and saw every door opened, fear struck his heart. His job was to make sure the prisoners were securely locked into prison. If one prisoner escaped, he would be killed. When he saw the doors open he knew his life was over so he drew his sword and was ready to take his own life when Paul cried out with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, we are all here!"

The jailer asked for a torch so that he could see and when he ran into Paul and Silas' prison and saw that they were still there, he trembled and fell down before them.

Paul and Silas spoke about Jesus and God to the jailer and all that lived in his house. The jailer believed in Jesus. This same jailer who had been rough with Paul and Silas earlier by throwing them into jail and locking their feet in stocks now wanted to do something kind for these men who had shared the Good News. He washed their wounds from where they had been beaten with rods.

This was an exciting night! Not only did the jailer get saved, but everyone in his family did too. They were all baptized and went back to his house and had a meal and they all rejoiced that God had brought them the Good News through Paul and Silas.



The disciple, Paul and his friend, Silas travelled around to different cities telling others about God's love.

Because they were in a different part of the country, in an area that had different laws and customs, there was a misunderstanding and these two men were beaten and thrown into prison. How scary would that be!

Now here is an important lesson that we can apply to our own lives. When they found themselves in prison they may have been frightened and they were undoubtedly in pain from the beating. They probably were angry about what had happened to them, but they did something unexpected.

The story tells us that "about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them".

Wow, that seems remarkable. These two men, even though they found themselves in a terrible situation, decided to pray and sing to God. They made a choice to turn to God and give thanks. They made the best of a bad situation.

There may be times in your life that will be difficult. You may find yourself in an unfair or frightening situation. You may be feeling like this about lockdown and Coronavirus. At this time you can make an important decision--you can choose to "pray and sing to God." You can decide to make the best of a bad situation.

Unlike Paul and Silas, we are not in a jail, although we are 'locked in' with our families, we have technology which allows us to stay in touch with family and friends outside our home. Like Paul and Silas we know of God's love for us and we know we can tell him if we are scared and frightened and ask him to give us strength and also give strength to anyone we know who needs it.

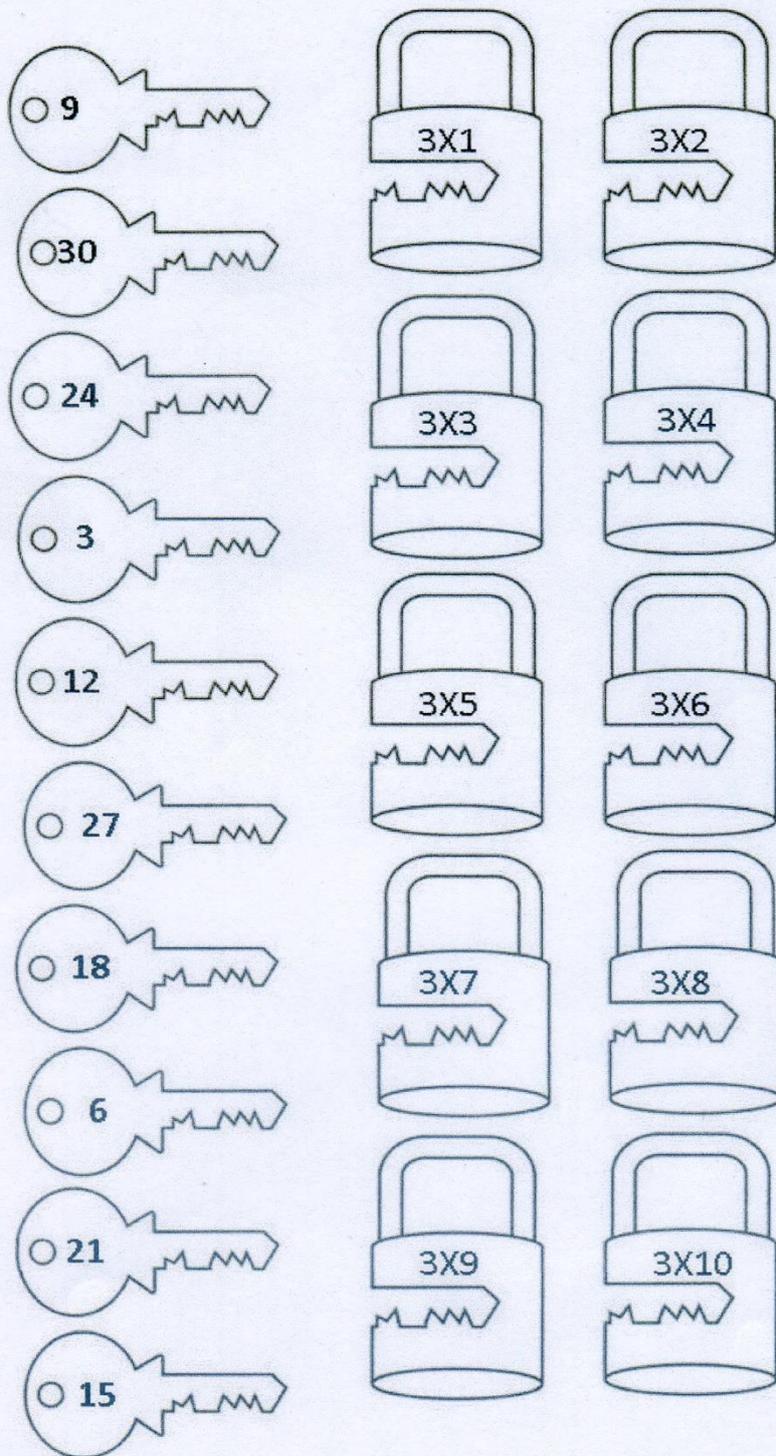
Paul and Silas

(London Bridge)

Preaching Jesus day and night,
Day and night, day and night,
Preaching Jesus day and night—Paul and Silas.
Take the key and lock them up,
Lock them up, lock them up
Take the key and lock them up—Paul and Silas.
Singing songs to praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Singing songs to praise the Lord—Paul and Silas.
All the chains are falling down,
Falling down, falling down,
All the chains are falling down—Paul and Silas.



Work out which key fits which lock and colour them to match



Paul and Silas were missionaries for Jesus. Do you know what a missionary is?

Missionaries travel around telling people about Jesus. They told many, many people about Jesus. Some were very happy to hear and others were angry because they liked being evil and knew by what they were told, that Jesus would forgive them and they would become nicer and they didn't like that idea at all.

One day a man got very angry at what Paul and Silas were telling the people and had them arrested, beaten and thrown in Jail.

The jailer was told if Paul and Silas escaped, he would be killed. So he locked their feet in stocks. Stocks are heavy bars that go across your feet and are locked so you can't move.

Now their ankles hurt, their backs hurt from the beating, they were cold, hungry, and sad that they were in jail. But do you know what they did? They prayed and sang songs to God, because they loved HIM and knew he was there with them even if they were not in their favourite place. Do you know God is with you even when you are sad or scared?

All the prisoners could hear Paul and Silas singing and praising God and the jail keeper fell asleep.

All of a sudden, an earthquake, a really big earthquake happened. Their chains fell off, their feet were freed and the doors of the prison flew open. The jailer woke from his sleep and was scared because he thought all the prisoners had escaped. Paul and Silas called out and said, "We didn't run away, don't kill yourself". The jail keeper was surprised and knew the reason they were so kind is that they knew Jesus.



Then the jailer took Paul and Silas to his house cleaned up their wounds and fed them. Paul and Silas told the jailer's family about Jesus.

Now here is an important lesson that we can apply to our own lives. When Paul and Silas found themselves in prison they may have been frightened and they were undoubtedly in pain from the beating. They probably were angry about what had happened to them, but they did something unexpected. These two

men, even though they found themselves in a terrible situation, decided to pray and sing to God. They made a choice to turn to God and give thanks. They made the best of a bad situation.

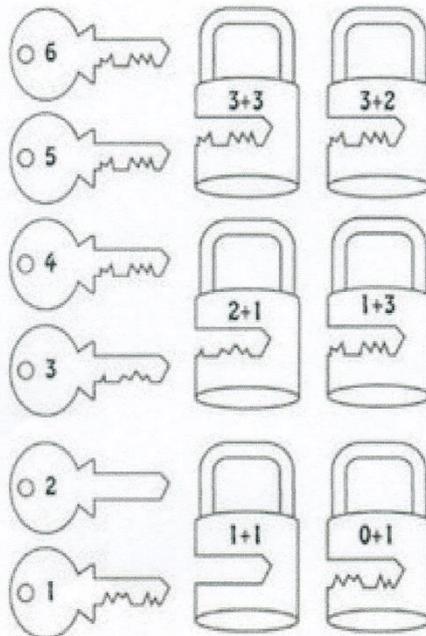
There may be times in your life that will be difficult. You may find yourself in an unfair or frightening situation. You may be feeling like this about lockdown and the Coronavirus. But, unlike Paul and Silas we are not really locked up. We are with our families, we have technology so we can keep in touch with friends we are not allowed to meet up with.

The story tells us that other prisoners listened to Paul and Silas praying and singing. Not only were Paul and Silas strong, they helped the other prisoners understand that they also could pray and stay strong.

It may be that your family or friends are worried but we can stay happy and help them. We know that God is with us and this is why we are sharing CHRISCROSS at home.



Work out which key fits which lock and colour them to match.



It has been a very strange time for **ALL** of us over the last few months! Lots of things have changed - you haven't been able to go to school or meet up with family and friends. You haven't been able to come to Chriscross. Through all of this some very caring and thoughtful things have also happened. One of these has been *Clapping for the NHS* every Thursday at 8p.m.

Did you, or anyone in your family go outside and clap? You might ask "why did we do it?" It was to say a big **Thank You**.

All hospitals were very busy with many many sick people, and Doctors and nurses had to work very long hours, many more than they would normally work, which was very tiring, but they still managed to look after every patient in their care to help make them better.

Going out into the street each Thursday also gave us the opportunity to see our neighbours and probably see other people in our streets that we may not have seen or spoken to before which brought us together.

Then there was Captain Tom Moore who is a war veteran and he raised over 32 million pounds at 99 years old for the NHS by walking 100 laps of his garden just before his 100th Birthday. What courage and determination! He is now Captain Sir Tom Moore as he was awarded a Knighthood to acknowledge and **thank** him for his efforts for others.

So although we have been through very restrictive times and there has been a lot of sadness for various reasons, there is also a lot of caring and hope as it has given us the opportunity, in many ways, to show kindness to others which is how God would like us to live our lives.

Rachael.

Paper Chain - see following page

Colour the words, cut out the strips and find the message from Jesus to you, before completing the paper chain.

AM

cut

WITH

cut

I

cut

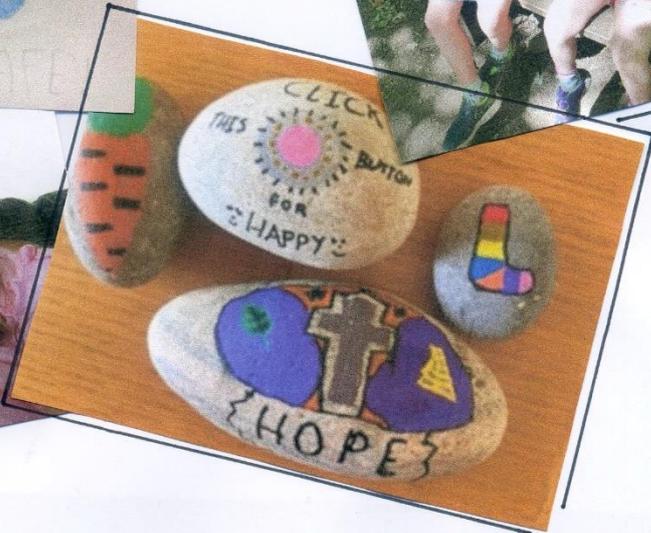
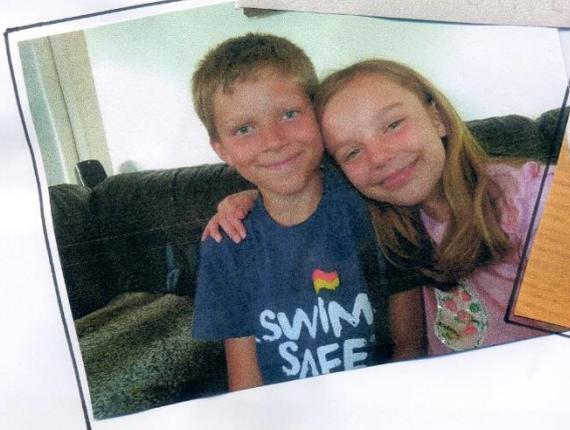
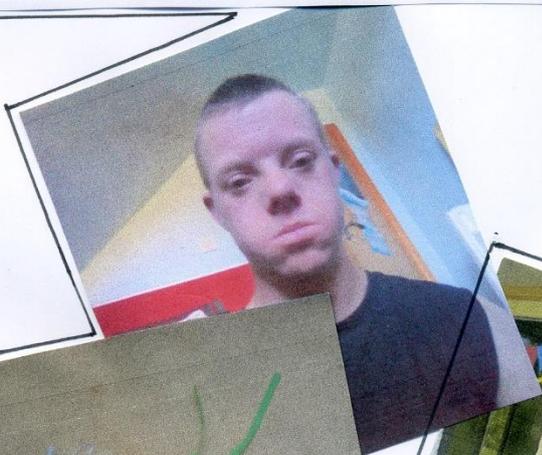
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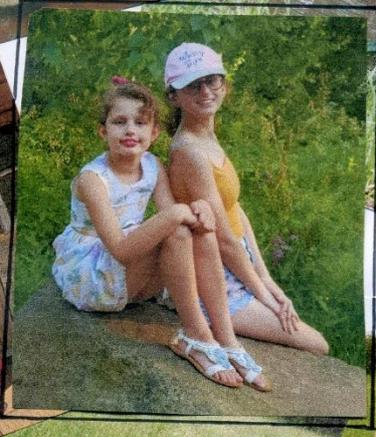
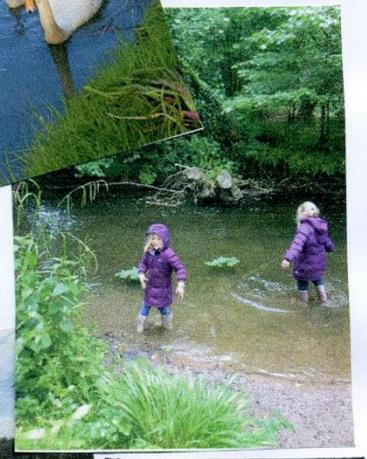
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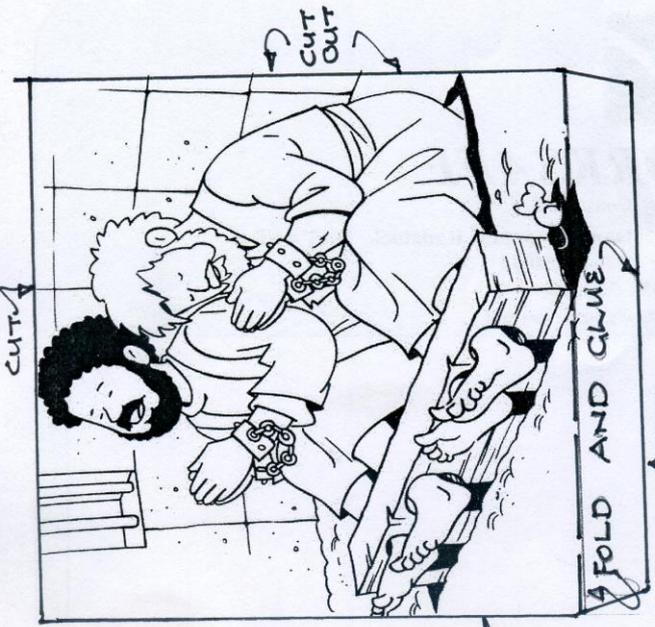
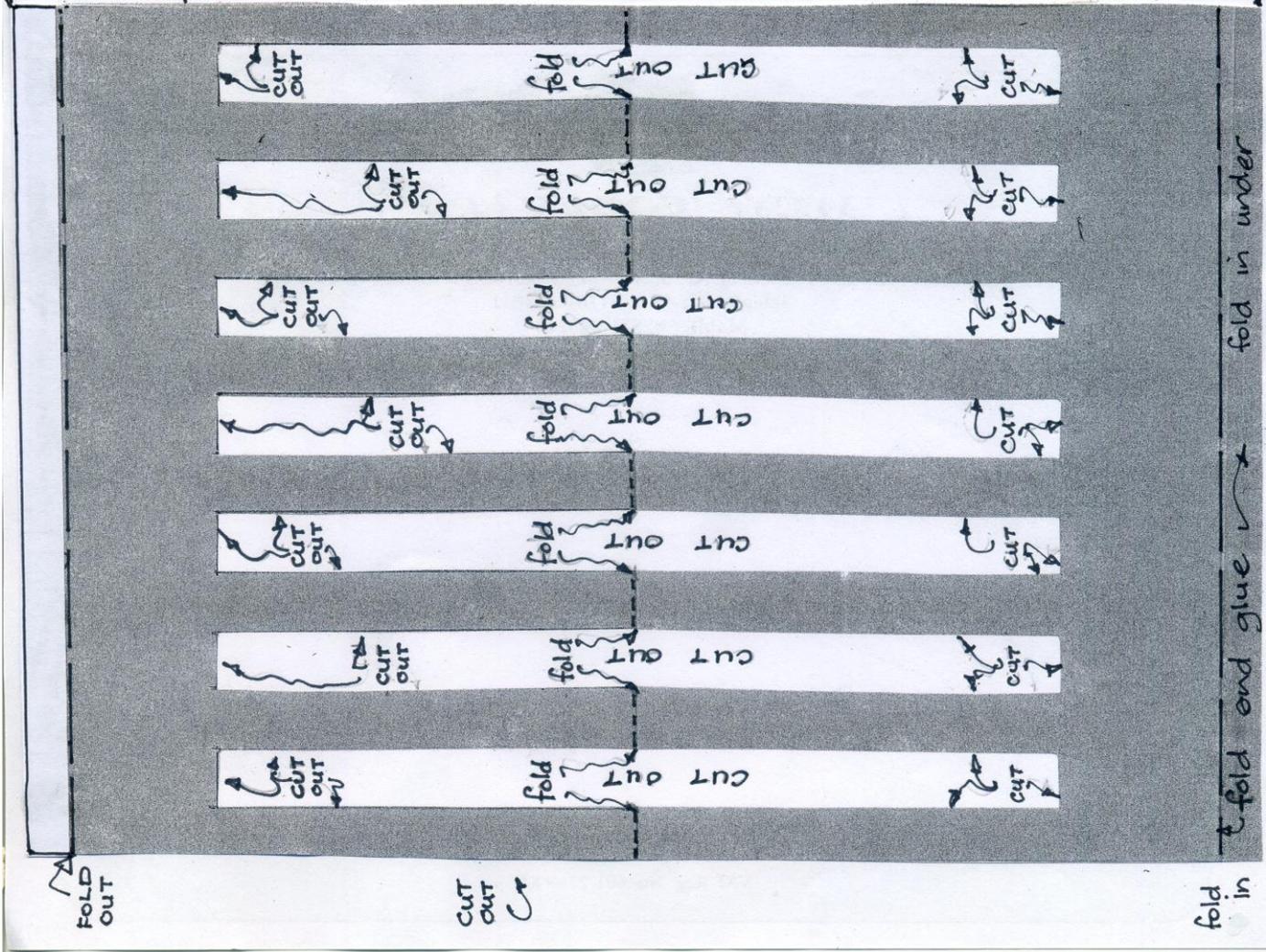
YOU



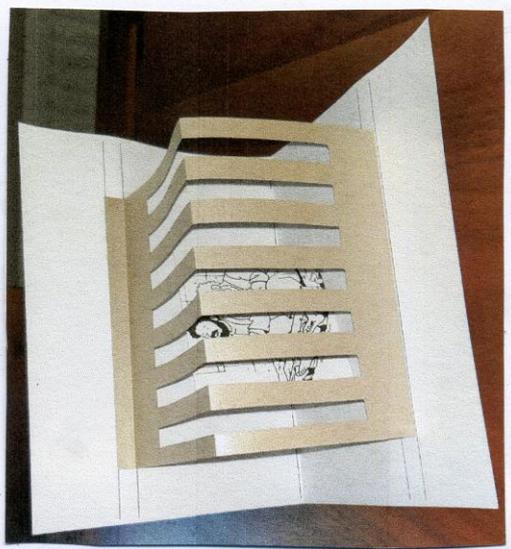
Liz summed it up for us ... 'We have been busy working, going to school, going for walks, cooking, playing in the garden, camping in the garden, fossil hunting, lots of crafts, planting our own fruit and vegetables.'







MAKE PAUL AND SILAS PRISON CELL WITH THEM PRAISING GOD AND PRAYING. Please ask an adult to assist you with cutting!



NOTES
SEE ALSO THE NEXT PAGE

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fold in under

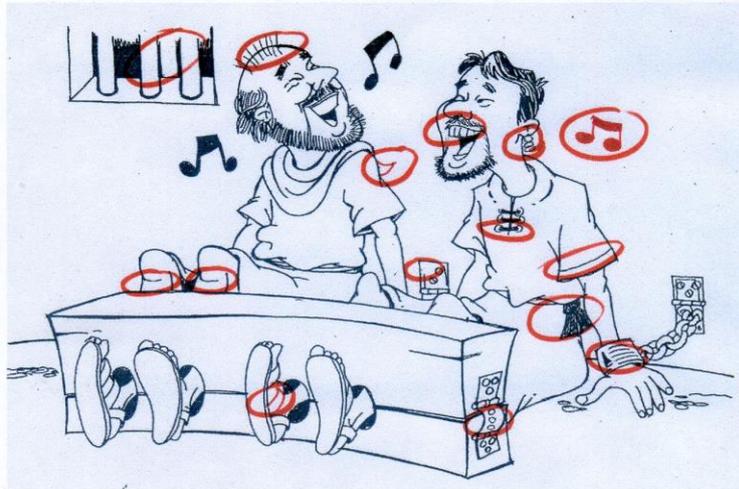
↪ GLUE TOP FLAP HERE ↪

↪ FOLD UP ↪

↪ STICK PAUL & SILUS HERE ↪

↪ GLUE BOTTOM FLAP HERE ↪

Answers for 'Spot the Difference' - 15 differences



From Revd. Martin

Paul and Silas were locked down in prison. They couldn't meet their friends, they couldn't go out, they couldn't do anything. You might be feeling as sad as they were. But the wonderful thing was that, even though they were sad, they remembered that God was still with them. And they were so happy about that that they sang hymns and praised God.

Even though we can't meet our friends very easily at the moment, Jesus is still our friend, and he is still with us, and that is something to celebrate today.

Let us pray

Loving God, we thank you that you are a friend who never leaves us. And even now, when we can't do the things we want to, we know that you are with us in our homes. We want to sing hymns to thank you, just like Paul did. Amen

God bless
Martin

