

## **Eunice, by Jacob Wayd**

In our April 2007 newsletter we wrote about Eunice, then 12 years old, who had been sold to a family for \$36 to be their slave. When we heard about it we sent out the orphanage director to bring her back. She was very sick when he reached there, but after paying the redemption price she was free. He then brought her to our orphanage where she grew and blossomed, and proved to be one of the most spiritual and well loved girls we have.

Unknown to us, however, she began to be harassed by the devil. She was hearing a voice speaking to her, telling her not to read her Bible or pray. She ignored it for some time, but eventually ceased her evening devotions. Finally, during this winter holiday, she stopped altogether and yielded to the voice telling her that God cannot forgive her sins, that she is too bad, and nobody really loves her. Then after she lay down to sleep, the devil took over her body; she began pulling her hair, trying to bite herself, bang her head, anything that would cause damage to herself. It was all we could do to prevent her from harming herself. She even tried to jump off the roof! At times it took up to six people to control her.

This continued for the next two and a half weeks. The devil told her that if she prayed or read the Bible he would kill her. Whenever she would attempt to pray, the devil would take control and she couldn't breathe. This lasted for 30-45 seconds at a time. It was heart-wrenching to sit helplessly by, while she was in a desperate struggle for her very life as she gasped for air. When we read the Bible or sang hymns she would try to rip the pages out, but when we played the audio Bible she would wake up and leave the room. As soon as we turned it off she would return and be taken over again by the devil. If someone played any contemporary Christian music she barely responded, but when the hymns were played or sung the devil would really cry out against it, making all types of threats and demands.

The last day came when we gathered together for a special anointing service. All our staff and students were fasting and praying in the chapel. Even our smallest children were in earnest prayer while a few of us gathered around Eunice in a separate room, pleading with God for her deliverance. While we called upon God to free her, anointing her with oil, she saw two men in her mind, a good man and a bad man. She had to choose which one to follow, and she chose the good man. Then there was a terrible struggle, after which she fell totally still as if she had died. She barely moved for the next two hours, only waking once briefly to say, "I am so sleepy." After sleeping some more she woke and said with a smile, "I feel so different." Eunice was delivered, praise the Lord!

During the week after that she continued to be harassed by the devil. At first she just heard the voice, but it grew stronger and stronger until finally she again succumbed. Now she was worse than before! We heard the devil speaking many times through her, saying, "Leave the girl!" "You cannot save Eunice." "Don't touch her or I will kill all of you!" "Because she was coming close to Jesus I came into her."

..... We had several prayer sessions, earnestly praying for God to deliver her. We tried to get her to pray for herself, but she was too afraid. We fasted and prayed the majority of the time, gathering around her and calling upon God to deliver her, but to no avail. We earnestly searched our hearts, making sure all was clean, that there was nothing standing between us and our Lord. We did all that we could do on our part, as though success depended on us alone, and then, having done all we could, in simple faith, we knelt before our Maker. We acknowledged that there was no worthiness in us that God should hear our prayers, but that for His name's sake, He would bring about the deliverance. Still no relief came. It seemed to us that Eunice needed to put her will on the side of Christ before she could be free. When she was awake she did not know anything that had happened and refused to believe it was true. She was afraid to pray or read the Bible, saying that she only suffered more when she tried to. When we tried together to pray she would put it off till later.

Finally on the fifth night the climax came.... I asked her to pray again, but she said she couldn't, that the devil would kill her. I told her that the devil *did* want to kill her, but God was not permitting him to. I told her that every time the devil held her breath, the angel would come to her rescue. She said she was afraid. I told her that the devil is afraid, afraid of losing her, and that she must lay hold of the power of God herself and tell the devil to leave.

We pled with her to pray, to call upon Jesus to save her. At last she said, "I don't know what to pray." Now I knew we were getting through to her. I asked her to repeat after my prayer. It was a simple prayer, that Jesus would come into her heart, and then, directing her words to the devil, commanding him to leave her. She got half way through repeating the prayer when the devil took possession of her again, but she had gotten farther they she had before. Remembering a statement in *Desire of Ages*, pg. 568 that Mary, while possessed, "heard [Jesus] strong cries to the Father in her behalf," I continued to speak to her, encouraging her to call upon the name of Jesus. I told her that even when the devil would not let her speak she should pray in her heart until she could use her voice again. Then Keren told her to pray, "Jesus, save me!" We heard her repeat that prayer several times, even while she didn't have control over her body.

Soon she came out of the attack and again I urged her to pray. She again repeated after me, asking Jesus to come into her heart and telling Satan to leave. This time she was able to complete the prayer. Then she repeated John 3:16 after me, "God so loved Eunice that He gave His only Son, Jesus, that if I believe in Him I will not die, but have everlasting life." After that I asked her to pray her own prayer. She asked Jesus to come into her heart and to forgive her for her sins, and she told Satan to leave her. She told Jesus how she didn't understand before, but now she knew that the devil had come into her. Her prayer gained strength as she continued, full of sincerity, faith, and thanksgiving! Our tears freely flowed as we heard her earnest prayer. When she finished, our hearts and our voices were full of praise to God for what He had done!

We also spent time with the other children during and after that, to instruct them as to the seriousness of committing their hearts to Jesus, confessing and forsaking their sins, and believing in His promises. We knew the devil would not want to give up, so we shared the promise that "God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of [one who relies on Jesus merits] rather than allow him to be overcome." *Testimonies, vol. 7, pg.17.* We did our best to fill them with courage, and there was a definite revival among many of our children.... The entire experience helped us all, staff and students, to realize first-hand the seriousness of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Seeing Eunice the toy of the devil, and being helpless to do anything, confirmed many to make their own standing before the Lord sure. Words cannot tell the anguish of spirit we were in during the entire ordeal of one full month. But in proportion to our mental suffering was our rejoicing in her complete deliverance. Eunice is free now! She loves to read her Bible and pray, she is kind and helpful to everyone, she has a new heart again. She no longer is plagued by voices in her head telling her not to read the Bible, she is no longer restless of restraint. She is a new creature! --Living Springs Overseas Report, by Jacob Wayd (shortened version)