

GOATS' MILK
By Lorraine (Riley) Hazel
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When my father's older brother, David, was little, they were missionaries in that rural part of the Kentucky Mountains where moonshine was more plentiful than milk. David was suffering from a lack of milk. His bones were weak and he was becoming bowlegged. My grandmother was pregnant with my father, and when she went in to see the doctor for a checkup, he said that if she did not get milk, my father would not be healthy and might die.

My grandmother went home very upset, but the next morning she greeted my grandfather full of hope. She said that she had read in the Bible "You shall have goat's milk to drink." and that was God's promise to her. My grandfather knew that there were no goats near them, in fact most people in that part of Kentucky had never seen a goat, so he must have been a little skeptical. (My grandmother had just read Proverbs 27:27)

A few days later, they were notified from the train station, five miles away, that they were to pick up some goats that had been sent by a lady in their home church in McPherson, Kansas. She did not know their dire situation, but had been led by God to send them the goats.

My grandfather went down to the station and picked up the goats. Because the path was winding, and narrow, the goats were tied together and led single file back to the Mission. On the way home, their little caravan was quite the talk of the hills. People came to stare at that strange sight. When they got home, there were more visitors coming to see how my grandfather milked them and to taste the milk. They had a table that the goat would jump up onto, then they would milk it without having to bend down. The goat would then jump off and the next goat would jump on up for its turn! For a long time, the Riley's and their goats seemed to be the main topic of every conversation in "those parts" of the country!.

Not only was my father born healthy, my grandfather was able to reach more people to invite them to church and tell them about Jesus. God sure works in mysterious ways!

Doctors have said that drinking goats' milk kept my dad from developing asthma and other allergies associated with babies drinking cows' milk too early. It also gave him more resistance to some diseases!