

# Children's Story

## Walk The Walk

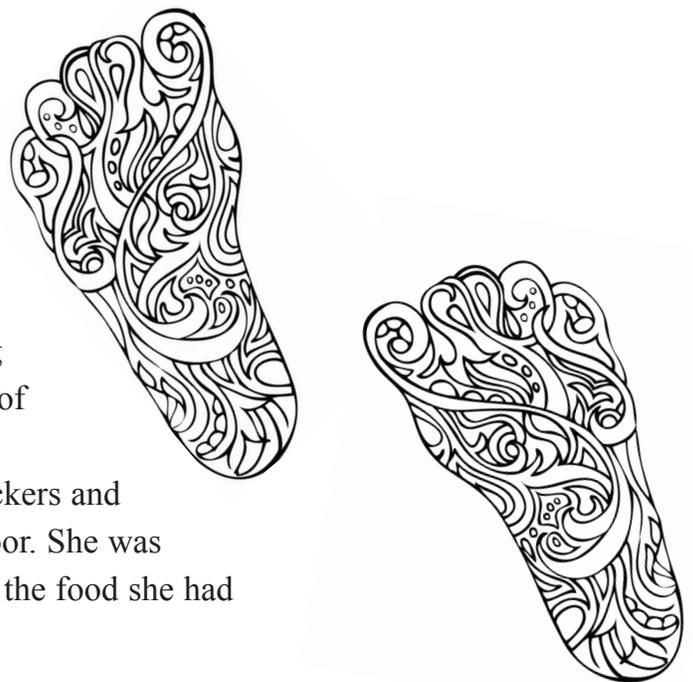
This is Linda's story. She was a woman proud of her charity work. One night she had a dream. It was so vivid she was unsure whether it was a dream or a vision. In it she saw Jesus, who promised that he would come to dine in her house the following day.

The next day Linda cleaned her house and cooked some wonderful food to serve Jesus when he visited. She played Christian music and placed beautiful flowers all around the house. While she waited for Jesus, she sat down and read her Bible. Jesus had not told her the particular time he would show up.

Just before noon there was a knock at her door. Hoping it would be Jesus, she quickly ran to answer it. Instead, she met a child collecting canned food for his school's food drive. Feeling a little disappointed and somewhat annoyed at the disturbance, Linda very politely told the child that she could not help him right now. She was really busy and was expecting an important visitor.

A little while later there was another knock. This time it was a woman whose car had broken down in front of Linda's house. She was upset and wanted to use the telephone. Linda took one look at the woman's soiled shoes and directed her to a convenience store about two blocks away where there was a pay phone. Linda could not take the chance of dirtying her house before Jesus came.

About four o'clock she heard some commotion outside as an older man struggled to get to her door. He looked gaunt and pale, almost fainting. He had already seen her peering out the window, so Linda could not pretend she was out. At the door he asked if she could spare any food, explaining that he was diabetic; he had missed his bus and urgently needed something to eat, anything to prevent from passing out. The wonderful aroma of the dinner Linda had cooked filled the air as she searched in her cupboard looking for some dry crackers and a plastic cup to fill with water for the man at the door. She was careful not to let him enter; she could not give him the food she had prepared for Jesus.



About ten minutes later Linda's phone rang and she debated whether she should answer it. Finally she picked up the receiver, just in case it was Jesus calling to tell her when he was coming. But, to her great disappointment she heard the voice of a woman recently widowed. Assuming that the call would become a very long conversation, Linda with a sympathetic sounding voice, apologized to the widow saying that she is really busy right now and would come to see her later in the week. Linda hung up before the woman could say anything else.

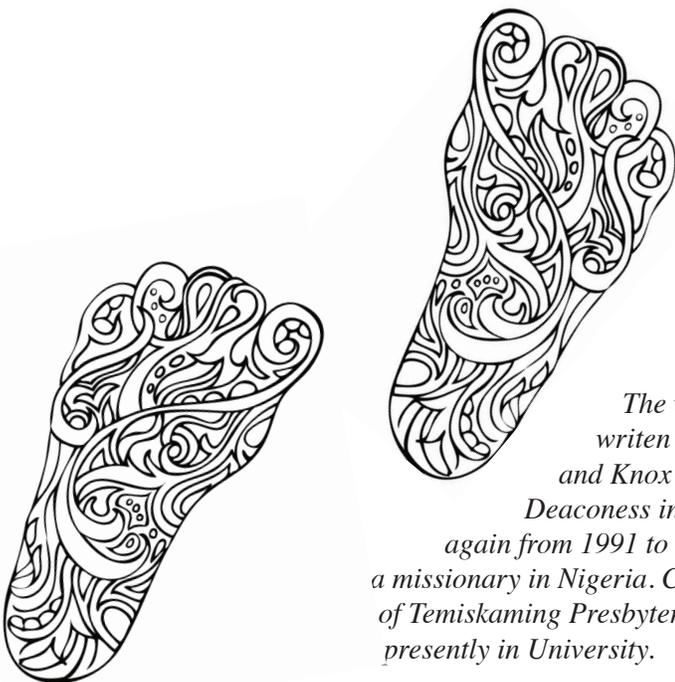
Finally, as evening approached there was one more knock at the door. This time Linda came face-to-face with a beggar, a young woman in rags with a baby. The woman was asking for money, anything so she can feed her baby. Feeling more and more anxious and rather indignant, Linda looked at the mother scornfully as she told her to get a job, and scorned her saying she should be ashamed of herself bringing a child into this world when she couldn't afford it. Linda shut the door in the mother's face.

Night came and eventually Linda put the uneaten dinner away, saddened, confused and embarrassed. Maybe she had been a little crazy to think she actually saw Jesus in a vision. Finally, she went to bed.

In her sleep that night the Lord appeared to her again. When she saw him she said, "Lord, Jesus, I am confused. I thought you promised you would dine with me tonight. I was quite prepared but you never came."

Jesus answered her, "My dear, I did come. I came to the door four times and you didn't let me in, and I phoned once, but you refused to either listen or speak to me."

Jesus said, "whatever you do, or do not do, to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do, or do not do, to me."



*The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by the Rev. Arlene Onuoha. A graduate of both Ewart College and Knox College, Arlene began her ministry as a Church Extension Deaconess in West and East Toronto Presbyteries. From 1978 to 1986 and again from 1991 to 2009 she represented The Presbyterian Church In Canada as a missionary in Nigeria. Currently she works as a Regional Minister in the northern half of Temiskaming Presbytery in northern Ontario. She is a widow with three children, all presently in University.*