



## God is Able

### Tools & Leftovers

Have you ever asked God, "Why?" Why do people who do evil get away with it while you can barely breathe? It's really difficult to worship when you're trying to do good and your life still stinks. It's even harder when you see people cruising along enjoying life and they're deliberately doing bad things. Does God care or even notice? The answer to these questions is this: Tools & Leftovers. Join us Sunday to worship God and answer the question, "Are you a tool or are you a leftover?"

Sunday at 9 & 10:45 am



## Rancho Santa Marta, Mexico Mission Trip

The annual trip to the orphanage is January 13-21, 2012. Each year the team does various repair and maintenance projects on the orphanage's farm and buildings, as well as activities with the children.

Before leaving on the trip, you'll need a current passport and vaccination records.

If you'd like to make a difference in the lives of the children, contact the office.

## The Lost Diamond

*As told to Jackie Tharpe*

"Oh my goodness! The diamond! It's missing from my engagement ring." Carole Hopper looked at the empty shell that once held that precious stone. The sharpness of the prongs was in stark contrast to what had once been a token of undying love pledged to her. She had proudly worn it for 52 years. Now it was gone.

Like the woman with the lost coin, she and her husband, John, searched the house. The stone was nowhere to be seen. John had selected the diamond himself and distinctly remembered the day he bought it. "My dad went with me. He knew a place in the middle of Los Angeles that sold diamonds. I remember looking at it, picking it out." The empty setting stared them in the face.

Shock and disbelief led to resignation. John remembers, "We waited a day or two and then decided to ...

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## Dedication of Parents and Little Children

We'll celebrate the Dedication of Parents and Little Children on December 4. To participate, please contact Matt at the church office by Monday, November 21.

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## The Lost Diamond *continued*

find out whether we could afford to get another diamond. If not, maybe we would have the engagement ring modified or made into a new wedding band. We went to one jeweler who gave us some estimates.”

Carole thought, “I don’t really need a diamond. It will be one less thing for the children to decide who gets it.” We had heard that The Master’s Touch jewelry shop was owned and operated by a Christian, so we decided to go there, too. We weren’t really sure what to do.

The Master’s Touch jeweler told them before doing anything, they should “go home and pray about it. Then turn out all the lights and shine a flashlight around. If it’s there, it will catch the light.” Following his advice, they went home. When evening came, they turned out all the lights and began searching from room to room.

John said, “The last place we looked was in the kitchen which had a wood floor. I didn’t think it would be there. We looked and I saw just one little facet, like a light shining back at me. It was 10 feet away and I said, ‘There it is.’ I knew before we picked it up. There was something about the way it shone at us. It was a different light. It was in the pathway where we walked all the time.”

Returning to the jewelry store to have the ring fixed, they told the jeweler they had found the diamond. He replied, “That’s how we do it all the time. I send out a little prayer for Jesus to help us. Then we turn the lights off and find it.”

“I didn’t actually do a lot of praying. We felt there are bigger tragedies in life,” commented John. “We still had each other. The most important thing was that the Lord led us to the second jeweler who was a Christian, who made a passing comment to go home and ‘do this.’ We don’t know if God helped the diamond stay there the whole time it was missing or if we kicked it around while walking through the hallway. We have little faith and then are shocked when God answers our prayers.”

“God is so good,” Carole said. “He gives us grace and mercy even when we don’t ask for it.”