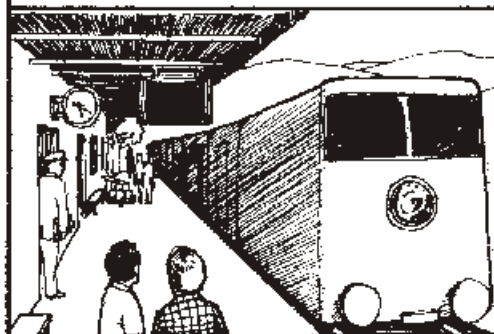


THE LOST LUGGAGE DREAM!

We were travelling on a train going to meet the family and friends. We met a sweet young girl and she was quite attracted to us by the Lord's Love and His Spirit and our message. As we talked, she made up her mind to get off with us and **stay** with us!



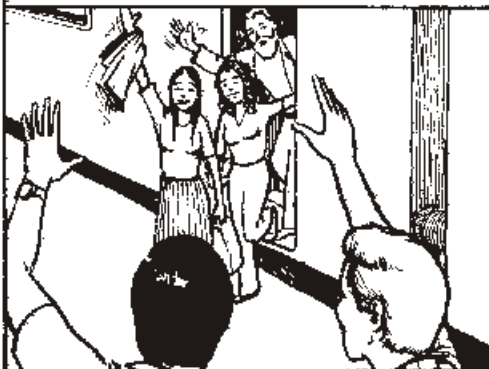
Suddenly the train arrived at the station, pulled in and stopped.



We ran quickly to jump off the train! European trains don't wait long, so we hurried!



We saw our loved ones waiting for us!



We were happy and excited about this girl joining us and introduced her to everyone.

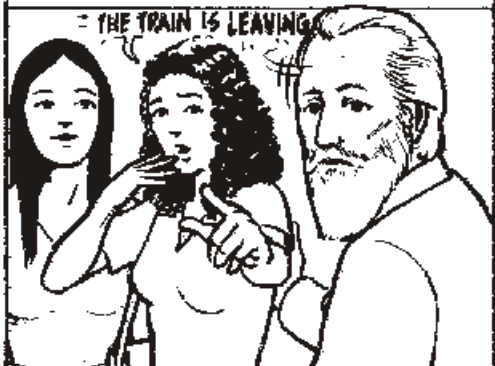


But all of a sudden she said, "Oh, my bag! I left my suitcase on the train!"

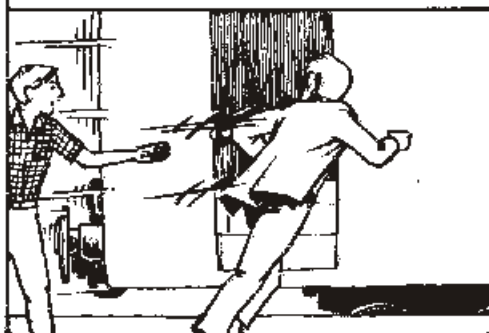


The train had already started to pull out!

= THE TRAIN IS LEAVING



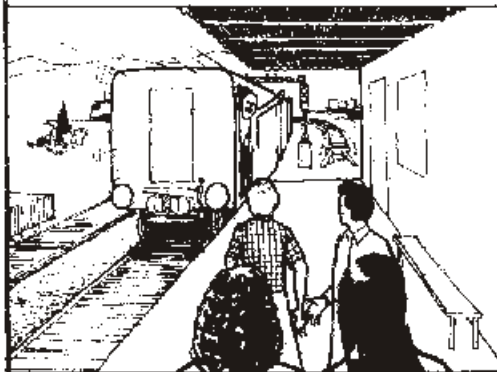
I quickly ran after it as fast as I could. I ran with all my might...



...and jumped on to the back of the train just in time to climb aboard!



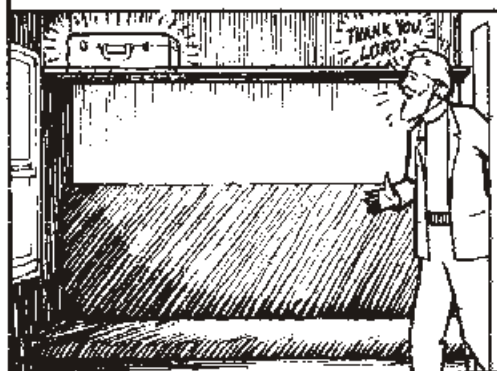
It began to speed off to its next destination.



Hurriedly I ran through the train back to where we'd been sitting.



Thank God, the bag was still there!



I grabbed it gratefully and went to the door of the train to get off at the next stop.



The "next stop" was the same big city we'd just come from! I was back where I'd started!



By this time it was dark!

I'll ask the Information man what time the next train leaves.



But lo and behold he said:
Sorry, that was the
last train to that village.
No more trains tonight!



NO, NO, THAT CAN'T BE!

*I'm desperate! This girl
left her luggage on that
train...I jumped on to find
it...I've got to take it
back to her... I've got
to go tonight...
She needs it...I
don't want to
get stuck in
this town
overnight*



"Well, there's a freight
train going that way in
a few minutes. Since it
seems like an emergency,
maybe they'll let you ride
in the baggage car!"



So I ran to the freight
train! It was on a side
track and had only one
engine and one baggage
car.



So I asked the man in
the baggage car if I could
please ride to the next
town, and explained why.



He finally sort of be-
grudgingly said OK, and
let me climb on.



As the train left I was so thankful, and praising the Lord that I'd found the girl's luggage and had gotten a train back!



I heaved a sigh of relief as the slow train pulled into the station and let me off.



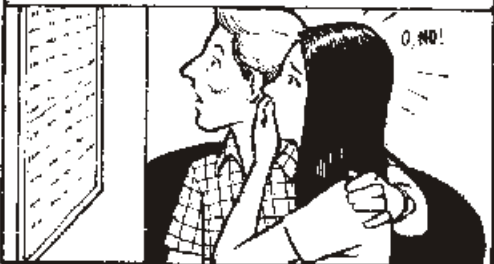
But then my heart sank with dismay!



As I looked around in the darkness of the dimly-lit station, the family was nowhere to be seen!



No doubt when they discovered that there were no more trains scheduled that night they had given up waiting for me.



So they were gone and my heart sank.



At least I felt a little better to have gotten there safely with her lost luggage.



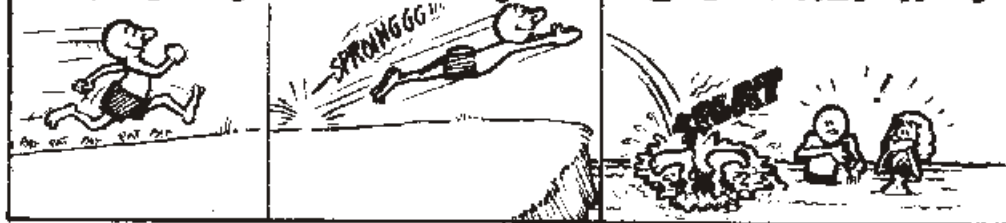
As I stood there wondering what to do--



--- I suddenly woke up!
That was the last thing I remember!

You say, "So what does that mean? So what?" Well, all I know is what happened, and there is a lesson there: **Don't get in such a haste that haste makes waste** and you forget something you should have done, you leave behind a piece of luggage or you weren't prayerful and careful enough and you **jerked** instead of **squeezing** --you didn't look before you leaped!

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP!



Sometimes leaping before you look and jerking before you squeeze and hasting just causes **wasting of time** instead of saving time--as it did in the case of this lost luggage! Thank the Lord we did find and save the luggage and returned it--but **too late** to meet our folks and to go home for the night!

So if you're in **too** big a hurry you're apt to **lose** more time than you **gain**! As my wife used to say: "Dave, we don't have **enough time** for any of your **shortcuts**!"
-- How about your shortcuts?--Be prayerful and beware!!