

# Story of escaping dog a Christmas reminder

Have you ever had a dog that liked to run? I have. He liked to explore. For awhile, his mom would tell on him when he escaped. There is nothing like going outside when it's three in the morning and 11 degrees.

I came across this story that brought back a lot of memories about chasing my dog down, but it also made me think about Christmas and Jesus coming to give us freedom.

In his book "A Severe Mercy," author Sheldon Vanauken tells the story of a dog named Gypsy. Let me share it with you today. Grab some hot tea, light the fire and see if you can identify with this story.

Gypsy was a furry, wheat-colored collie, who lived and played on a ranch — several hundred acres of hills and woods, full of good things like rabbit trails and streams.

She loved it there. At the ranch house, she was given a comfortable bed and good meals. Her Master, who owned the ranch, made no unreasonable demands on her.

She knew that her job was to love her Master and to be faithful to him and to obey other commands — to follow, to come, to lie down. And she also knew that she wasn't supposed



## steve rains

● moments from calvary

to chase the chickens and the rabbits. Actually these were easy for Gypsy, because it was in her nature to obey and to love her master.

But one day when Gypsy was prowling on a hill far away past the spring house and pasture, two things happened at once: the Master called her and a rabbit dashed across the hill.

Gypsy turned and raced towards the Master, as she had always done. Then she stopped. It entered her mind that she didn't have to obey. Perhaps the Master didn't understand about that rabbit.

Anyway, these were her hills. The rabbit was hers, too. Very likely it was all lies — that story of everything, including herself, belonging to the Master. How did she know that the food in her dish came from him? Probably there was some natural explanation.

Again came the Master's command; the rabbit crossed the hilltop. Gypsy whirled and raced after the rabbit. She had made a choice. She was free to choose.

Hours later, she came home. She saw the Master waiting for her, but she did not rush gladly to him. Something new came into her demeanor: guilt.

She crept up to him like a snake on her belly. Undoubtedly she was penitent at the moment.

But she had a new knowledge — the knowledge of the possibility of sin — and it was a thrill in her heart and a salt taste in her mouth.

The Master still loved her, but he trusted her no longer. He put Gypsy in a pen and took her for walks with a rope around her neck. All her real freedom was gone.

But the Master gave her from time to time new chances to obey of her own free will. Had she chosen to obey, she would have once again had perfect freedom to roam her hundreds of acres. But she did not. She always chose if she were out of reach, to run away.

The Master, knowing that hunger would eventually bring her back, let her run. He could have stopped her. A rifle shot would have ended her rebellion once and for all. But she was allowed to live. Perhaps she would someday choose the way of obedience and true freedom.

One day, during a journey by car, Gypsy and her young daughter Flurry were taken to the edge of the woods. Always before, Gypsy had limited her disobedience to the ranch. But now, coming back to the car, she suddenly felt the old thrill. She turned and ran away.

The Master called with a note of sharp urgency. Flurry, in her innocence, came at once. But Gypsy, her ears dulled to the voice of the Master, continued her rush into the dark forest. After hours of searching and calling, the Master sadly abandoned

the lost dog and, with Flurry beside him, went home.

Lost Gypsy, as long as she still lived, wandered the woods and roads as an outcast. She had lost her way home. She became dirty and matted with foxtails and thorns. Stones were often thrown at her and she was always hungry.

She had more puppies who, like her, were lost and inclined to disobedience. The kind and benevolent hand of the Master was unknown to them, except as a tale. But this is the way Gypsy chose on the Day of the Rabbit, and continued to choose, until finally there was no more choosing left to do.

Where to take it from here... God created Adam and Eve with complete freedom — freedom not only to enjoy all that God had given them, but freedom to choose to obey or to disobey. We all know how they chose.

Adam and Eve, filled with guilt over their disobedience, covered themselves and hid from God. Their innocence was gone, and they could no longer be trusted.

God had to place them and their

offspring under tighter restrictions called the Law. But still they disobeyed, and all of their offspring — that's us — have inherited their tendency to disobey.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That's why Jesus came.

If the Master in this story could have actually become a dog and chased Gypsy through the woods to bring her back, that would approximate what God did when he sent Jesus.

God continues to call us back, and we still have the freedom to choose. God gives us even more freedom to enjoy life to its fullest.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). The way of sin and disobedience robs you of your freedom. Don't be a slave to sin. Choose Jesus Christ and you will have more freedom than you ever knew was possible.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at [calvarygospel.net](http://calvarygospel.net) or e-mail Rains at [calvarycolumn@st-tel.net](mailto:calvarycolumn@st-tel.net).

## 'Love Tree' ornaments to raise money for beds

Residents and staff at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center will begin decorating their Christmas Love Tree this month.

Anyone can help decorate the tree by buying an ornament to honor someone they love. Donations will pay for new electric beds, a used pickup, a wheelchair scale and a wheelchair washer for the nursing home.

The center also would like to enclose its downstairs classroom and cover the floor. These changes would make the staff training room, used for certified nurse aide classes, satellite classes and training, more

pleasant.

Donations of \$100 or more buy a white ornament, \$50-\$99 a gold ornament, \$25 to \$49 a red ornament and \$15 to \$24 a silver ornament.

All being honored on Love Tree ornaments and all donors will be recognized at the dedication at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, during the residents' Christmas party.

The name of the person being honored and the person donating can be put on the ornament. Donors can buy ornaments in several colors, and all donations are tax deductible.

## Worship warms the heart



### Calvary Gospel Church

**Pastor:** Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor  
Fourth & College • 890-3605  
**Sunday:** Kid's Church: 10:30 am  
Morning Service: 10:30 am  
Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.  
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.  
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.  
Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.  
[www.calvarygospel.net](http://www.calvarygospel.net)

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
307 W. 13th • 890-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
**Saturday:** 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:**  
Sunday: 4 pm

### Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398  
**Minister:** Charles E. Kerr, Jr.  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9:30 am  
Sunday School: 10:45 am  
Team Puppeteers: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:**  
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm  
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm  
Jets, 4th grade and under: 3:30 - 4:30

### Word of Life

**Joursquare Church**  
10th & Clark • 899-5250  
**Pastor:** John Coumerilh  
**Sunday:** Worship Celebration  
and Kids' Church: 10:30 am  
Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!  
Age 3 through grade 6, 6:30 p.m.  
(during school year)

### Pleasant Home Church

**Serving the rural community**  
**for over 100 years**  
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70  
**Pastor:** Charlie Busch  
694-2242  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 am  
Sunday School: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm

### Bible Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Michael Estep  
Fifth & Broadway  
890-7368  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Morning Service: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

### Church of Jesus Christ

**of Latter-Day Saints**  
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO  
(719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 10 am  
**Sunday School:** 11:15 am  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 12 am

### Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo  
Spanish Speaking Church  
**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.  
1601 Texas • 899-5275  
**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru  
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

### United Methodist Church

**Brewster:**  
**Pastor:** Dorine Chambers  
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST  
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST  
**Winona:**  
**Minister:** Sheryl Johnson  
Worship Service: 9 am CST  
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

### First Christian Church

**(Disciples of Christ)**  
**Pastor:** Rev. Ted Amos  
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 10:30 am  
**Sunday School:** 9:15 a.m.  
**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups,  
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,  
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship  
**Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing  
Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler  
Nurseries Available

### Kanorado

**United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship Service: 10:15 am

### Church of the Nazarene

**Pastor:** Bob Willis  
Third & Caldwell  
899-2080 or 899-3797  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:50 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 pm

### First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman 899-3631  
**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Hernandez  
**Saturday:** Worship: 5:30 pm  
**Sunday:** Adult Classes: 9:15 am  
Worship: 10:30 am  
**Wednesday:** Wednesday Nite Live  
5:45 - 6:45 Simple Supper "Free will Offering  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

### Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400  
**Pastor:** Chad DeJong  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:30 am  
Morning Worship: 10:45 am  
Evening Worship: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** AWANA (Winter)  
and prayer: 7 p.m.

### First Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Travis Blake  
Fifth & Center • 890-3450  
**Sunday:** Sunday School for all ages:  
9:15 am (Child care provided)  
Morning Worship: 10:30 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible study 7 p.m.  
Call church for information  
**Thursday:** Bible study 9:30 a.m.  
Wheatridge Center

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center  
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969  
**Priest:** Father Hal Lycett  
**Holy Eucharist:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
10:00 a.m. Thursday  
**Morning Prayer:** 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.  
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969  
Sr. Warden for emergencies  
Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

### Harvest Evangelical

**Free Church**  
104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918  
**Pastor:** Brian Fugleberg  
**Sunday:** Worship: 10:30 am  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Youth group  
meets at 7 p.m.  
at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

### Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Jim Martin  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 11 am

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
**Pastor:** Scott Grimshaw  
**Sunday:** Christian eduction/fellowship:  
10:15 a.m.  
Worship Service: 9 am  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 pm

### Church of Christ

401 Caldwell  
890-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend  
your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Short & Son Trucking

Hwy. 24

Koons Funeral Chapel

North Main

Good Samaritan Center

208 W. 2nd

KLOE/KKEJ/KWGB

3023 W. 31

**M. Wayne Willis**  
**Wildlife Art Auction**  
Sunday, December 10  
1:00pm CST  
Kansas State University Alumni Center  
1720 Alumni Center - Manhattan, Kansas  
[www.purplewave.com](http://www.purplewave.com)  
Purple Wave Auction, Inc. • Manhattan, Kan. 785-515-5027  
Kaiser's Auction and Appraisal Services, LLC • Hays, Kan. 785-623-1196

**FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT**  
**TUESDAY**  
**DEC. 12, 2006**  
**@ 10:30 AM, MST**  
**ABSOLUTE AUCTION**  
**SELLER: DAVERN & ELMER PINKCARD**  
**AUCTION LOCATION:** From Idalia, CO, go 7 miles East on Hwy 36 (2E, 3N, 2E) to County Road HH, then North 2 miles to the intersection of County Roads HH & 14

**TRACTORS:**  
•04 Case IH MX285 MFWD, 250HP, 4 remotes, PS, PTO, QT, 1,567 hrs  
•96 Case IH 9390 4WD, N14 Cummins, 425HP, 4 remotes, 12spd, 3,180 hrs  
•93 JD 4560 MFWD, 160HP, 3 remotes, 15spd PS, PTO, QT, 4,733 hrs  
**TRAILERS:**  
•Diamond 18' GN car trl, 5-bolt hubs, ramp & rear hitch  
•91 Wells Cargo 16"x102" box trl, 7,100#GVW, 5-bolt hubs, rear cargo doors  
•98 tandem axle 24' GN, 14,000#GVW, 8-bolt hubs, rear receiver hitch, ramps  
•Convert-a-Dolly

**FARM MACHINERY & EQUIP:**  
•04 JD 1910 commodity cart & '04 JD 1890 42' no-till single disc air drill, 7½" spacing, all-run blockage system sensor, approx. 7,500 ac  
•01 JD 1900 commodity cart & '01 JD 1810 60' air seeder hoe drill, 10" spacing, all-run blockage system sensor, solid press wheels, approx. 15,000 ac  
•Sunflower 6054-62 field cultivator  
•Sunflower 1544-45 disc  
•98 Agri-Products 13 shank ripper, 30" spacing, coulters, pull-type, 3pt convertible  
•Agri-Products pull-type 3pt hitch carrier  
•Harrel 6306 8-bottom switch plow  
•Bourgault 9400-54 chisel w/ dead rod  
•Wil-rich 60' chisel w/ 3-row tine harrow

**GUNS WILL SELL AT 11:30 AM**  
•Winchester 1886 lever action, 38-56WCF caliber  
•Winchester Model 62, 22 cal(S, L, LR), pump w/exposed hammer, round barrel  
•Winchester Rimfire Model 1890WRF, 22WRF caliber, pump w/exposed hammer, octagonal barrel

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