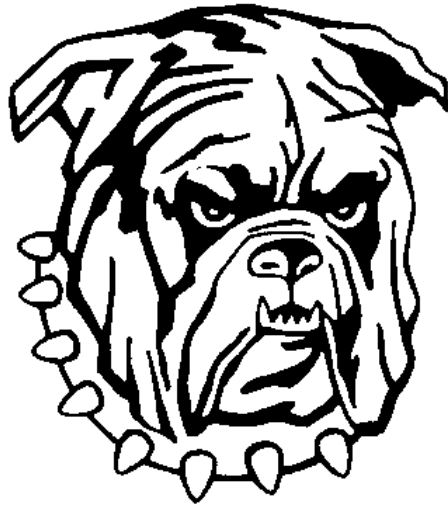


# Carlyle Bricker's



## **BIG BAD DOGS**

**Note: The IMPORTANT PART of this story is about God's care to His children and his faithfulness to us when we BELIEVE His promises. This story is about God's goodness, His ability to take care of us in all situations. Read and determine that YOU WILL TRUST HIM.....No matter What !!**

**The Time:** Summer 1965

**The Place:** Southern California Conference

**The Circumstance:** Summer Recruiting of Elementary Church School Students

In May the Education Department had sent out a request for teachers willing to spend the summer calling on families that had school age children that were not in attendance.

Roy thought to himself, "Sure! That sounds like something interesting to do."

So, Early in June after the regular school year was finished he found himself in the conference office for orientation, directions, territory assignment, and prayer.

Local pastors had submitted Information Cards containing the family name, addresses, children's names and ages, church attended. The cards were assembled in geographical areas of the conference. (South Bay; South Central Los Angeles; San Gabriel Valley; San Fernando Valley; Los Angeles Metro Area; and The Desert.

There were plenty of cards to go around, enough to keep everyone busy for the summer.

The recruiters quickly picked bundles of cards for what they thought would be a choice area to work. When it was all finished, the bundle for The Desert was still on the table. Who would want to go to The Desert? It is summer. It is hot in the The Desert! Roy had not scrambled fast enough to pick up one of those 'choice bundles'.

Then Superintendent Plummer looked at Roy and suggested, "Roy. Why don't you take this area? It will be a good experience for you.

In the orientation directions had been given that when visiting each family the recruiters were to encourage the folks with the value of church school, see if there were problems in finances, distance to the school, or the school itself. Small bundles of Bible Promise cards were provided to share with each family.

Monday morning, Roy was driving off to the desert. This was to be an interesting assignment. The first job was to stop at a gas station and pick up a free map of the area. (No GPS available) The valley was organized by street numbers and alphabetically. Main streets are numbered 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th etc. south to north and A, B, C, D, E etc. west to east. Each was 1 mile apart.

If Roy was to visit a family at K & 12th that could be quite a drive, especially if the next family lived near B & 2nd. Locating all the families on the map and marking them made it easier to visit several families in the same area and hopefully save time and gas. Never mind about the gas. The conference would reimburse at 17¢ a gallon!

Things started off well. People seemed pleased that someone would take the time to drive out to their home to talk about their children.

One day the card surfaced with the name Carlyle Bricker. Roy parked in front of the home whose front yard was protected by a very stout wire fence—and two BIG BAD DOGS! Their snarling, growling, and barking would deter anyone from entering THEIR YARD!

As Roy neared the gate he stood wondering what to do. He didn't dare touch the latch of that gate, else the BIG BAD DOGS would pounce on him like a cat on a mouse.. They were body slamming the gate again and again, flashing their sharp white teeth as a warning.

"Oh! Oh!" thought Roy, "Maybe I had better come back another time. Surely Mr. Bricker will have those BIG BAD DOGS locked in the back yard.

The hot summer was passing by. Many cards were put in the 'finished pile'. But again that name would come to the top: Carlyle Bricker. Every time Roy attempted to see Mr. Bricker it was the same; Two BIG BAD DOGS snarling, growling, barking and body slamming the gate. No. Mr. Bricker did not keep the BIG BAD DOGS in the backyard.

OOoo! OOoo! "What shall I do?" thought Roy, "I'll just have to come back again later.....maybe those BIG BAD DOGS *will* be in the back yard."

Soon all the cards were in 'finished pile'. . . all except one. And you can guess whose name was on that card. Yes! It was Carlyle Bricker!

Now just one more try at Mr. Bickers' house and Roy would be all finished for the summer. He could report to Superintendent Plummer that he had visited all of those families.

Roy's heart sank as he parked in front of Mr. Bricker's home for the last time. Just like always those BIG BAD DOGS were still on duty! Now this was a serious day. How would Roy get past those dogs to push Mr. Bricker's door bell? Now he began to pray, "O Lord what shall I do. I really need to visit at this home, but these BIG BAD DOGS are always in the way."

As he sat in his car trying to think Roy's eyes fell upon the sun visor in that little green Studebaker. There, held in place with a rubber band was a packet of Bible Promises. Yes, those were the very ones he was going to give to Mr. Bricker.

He jumped out of that Studebaker, cards in hand, and approached the gate guarded by the two wild animals. Roy took that packet of Bible Promises and carefully held them over the top of the gate, within reach of those BIG BAD DOGS. He said, "Here dogs, give these a sniff."

In a moment those BIG BAD DOGS stopped their barking, growling, and body slamming; They quietly turned and crept up the sidewalk, up the steps onto the porch where they laid down and put their head down between their paws. All was quiet now!

What was Roy to do now? Would he step into a yard that was known to be K-9 territory? With a prayer, he *very carefully* and quietly lifted the latch on the gate, all the while watching to see what would happen on the porch!

The dogs did not move. Now how do you get to that doorbell? Do you quietly tip-toe up the walk? Do you run quickly? How do you do it? Anyone knows, in this situation you pray all the way. Ahh! The dogs are quiet and subdued, Quick, push the doorbell.

After a few tense moments Mr. Bricker opened the door. He looked past Roy to the docile dogs. Then he grabbed Roy by the arm and pulled him inside the house and slammed the door saying, "Who are you? How did you get on my porch?"

Roy explained his errand and about the Bible Promises. Now the tension drained out of Mr. Bricker. He offered Roy a comfortable chair. Carlyle accepted the packet of Bible Promises. At the end of the visit they prayed together and it was time for Roy to be on his way.

Mr. Bricker cautiously opened the front door to see what his guard dogs were doing. They were still laying calmly as before. Roy gave Mr. Bricker a warm farewell and walked down the sidewalk toward the gate. He lifted the latch, stepped out of the

yard, and let the latch down to secure the gate. When the latch closed and went 'Clank!' It was as if those BIG BAD DOGS had received an electric jolt. They raced toward that gate growling and snarling as before trying to see who could body slam that gate first!

Now that last card could be put in the 'finished pile'.

*The angle of the Lord encampeth  
round about them that fear Him,  
and delivereth them.*

*Psalm 34:7*

*Now, You Trust Lovely Lord Jesus, No Matter What!*

RP