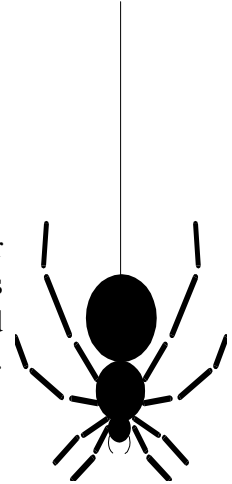


BUGS!

Recently we heard a lot of banging in the guest room. Then one of our guests came out and said: “Do you have some bug spray? We have a spider this big in our room!” We promptly gave them the bug spray, but they couldn’t find the intruder. Later they met with success and captured and killed the offender. He was just a common garden tarantula welcoming them to Mexico!



SPIDERS!

Proverbs says: “The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in king’s palaces.” The writer says in Proverbs 30:24 and 28 that they are “exceeding wise”.

I began to think of some of the “Bug” encounters we have had during our time on the mission field. Why did God make such things! Well, I asked Him. The answer came. “Well, some of them are to control the ecology, some help propagation, some help get rid of waste products, and some I use to teach people lessons.” Good enough! Let’s see what some of these lessons are.

SCORPIONS!



The first really bad encounter I remember was with scorpions. We had moved into a new house at the edge of town. Our helper began telling me: “I saw a scorpion today.” Well, I thought, “Did you kill it?” “Why are you telling me?” I didn’t know much about scorpions, but I began reading and learned that their bite is very painful and can be dangerous. Our first son was six months old and crawling everywhere. We had shag carpet in the house and on the baseboards. But ignorance is bliss! Then, one morning my husband went downstairs for the baby’s bottle. When he came back upstairs, I heard: “Come quick. Something bit me.” We did some frantic searching and found a huge scorpion. My husband was experiencing excruciating pain and when it began going up his leg, he realized this was serious.

I took him to the clinic where they applied the anti-venom. After that we had great respect for scorpions. Every morning we scanned the house for scorpions! Does the Bible mention scorpions? Sure does! The book of Revelation speaks of the torment of scorpions. (Revelation 9:1-12). What lesson should we learn? Be prepared to meet God before Jesus returns. The torment of scorpions is very real during the tribulation period.

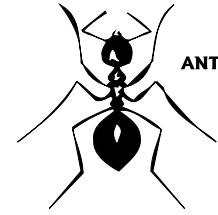
ANTS!

¡Ants! Ants travel world-wide. Or so it seems. They are everywhere. It is very interesting to watch them, but another story when they invade your property!

Several years ago, we had a plague of farmer ants. They could strip a tree of its leaves in a few hours. One morning when I went outside, they were flying everywhere. The new queens had left the nest to try to form new families. We knew we had to do something. Not one insecticide we tried worked. Finally, someone told us what would work. My husband bought some and applied it to every hole in the ground where they were. That was a huge job, because there were hundreds of them. The whole place reeked for a month of the insecticide and the dead ants. But it worked! No more farmer ants.

We'll not even mention all the other kinds of ants. They come by seasons. We have even had them eat through concrete floors and come into the house. Praise the Lord, we haven't had them do that in years.

The Bible speaks of the ant. Proverbs 6:6 says: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." Proverbs 30:24,25: "...they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer..."



FLEAS!

Are we tired of hearing of bugs yet? I hope not, I have another story. How about fleas?

Our most recent adventure with bugs was a flea infestation on our back patio. (By way of explanation, let me mention that we have a "Rott(en)weiler.") A friend described the plague as of "Biblical proportions". Nothing was eradicating them. It was probably our worst war on bugs!

What can we learn from fleas! Number one: "Fleas abound" In what should we abound? In hope, (Romans 15:13). In the work of the Lord, (1 Corinthians 15:58). In the grace of giving, (2 Corinthians 8:7). In love, (Philippians 1:9). In good works, (1 Timothy 6:18). Look in Peter 1:5-8 for more things in which we should abound.

Two: Fleas are little bugs that do great things! Great meaning "big". They robbed us of the use of our patio! Fleas are excellent jumpers, leaping vertically up to seven inches and horizontally thirteen inches. An equivalent hop for a human would be 250 feet vertically and 450 feet horizontally. (<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2081.html>) We, as little people, can do great things for God if we let Him empower us. (Philippians 4:13)

Three: They are persistent! It is hard to get them off of your clothes as well as your patio! We should be persistent in the Lord's work. (Luke 18:1-8, Luke 11:5-19, 1 Corinthians 15:58)

Have you had enough of bugs? I think so. Maybe next time we will speak of "reptiles" on the mission field!

-Sharon Lilly; May 17, 2006.

