

# PEANUTS?

Men and women of character are made, not born. It's easy to look at the lives of great or influential men and women of God and wish yours could be the same.



You're awed by their character, their apparent strength in the face of such opposition and struggle. You see what they went through and are touched by their undeniable love for Jesus that gave them strength to pass through so many difficulties.

But those men and women went through their lives just as you do—one day at a time, one difficulty at a time, one disappointment or hardship at a time, one moment of happiness at a time.



Their lives weren't always about coming out on top and being applauded and credited for their good deeds and strong wills.



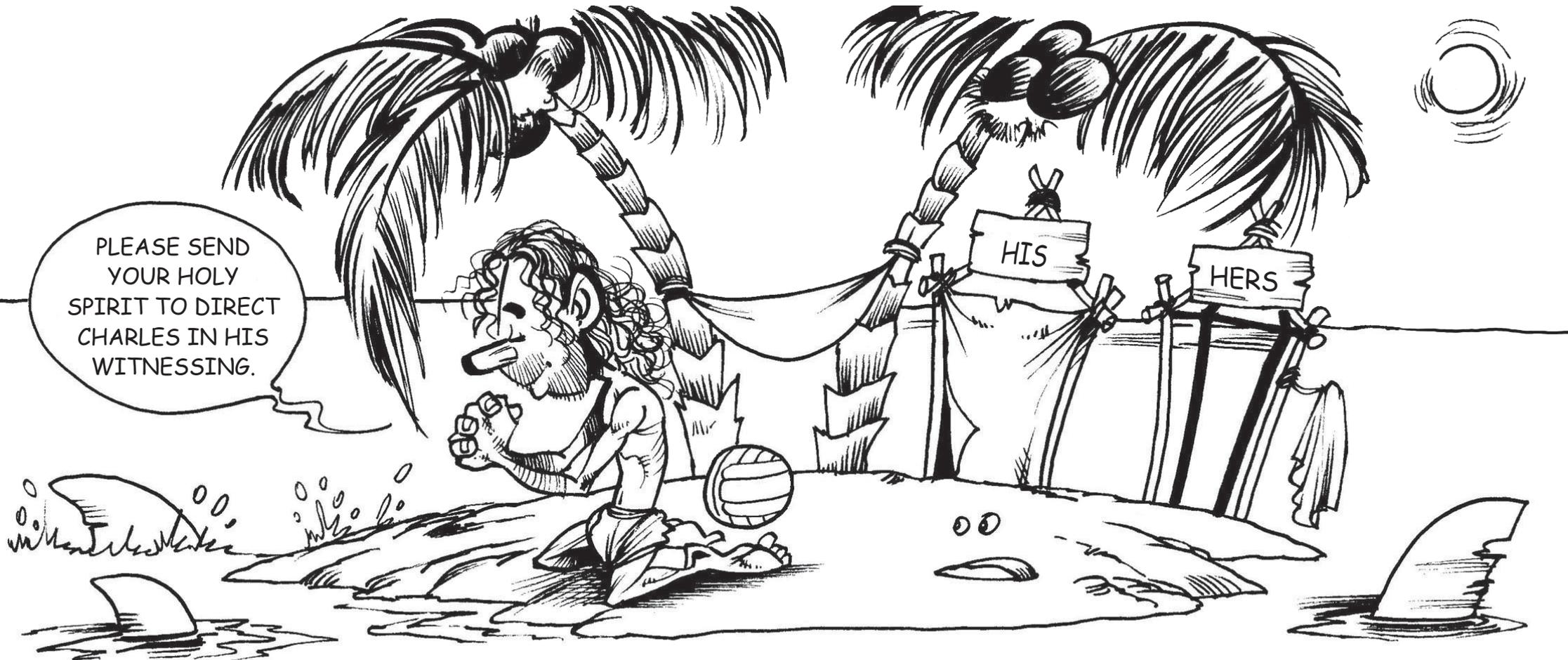
Those were moments in their life, moments that the world remembered. But they only had those moments because they learned to live and fight and grow through anything life brought their way.

You too are becoming a person of character and strength and strong will. Perhaps you don't feel this way. You may look at what you're doing right now and it may seem like peanuts compared to what you see others are doing or have accomplished. You may feel that your decisions don't have much of an effect on anyone around you, and you may not feel that you're an influence on others, or that what you do truly matters.



But if you want a life that affects others for great good, that leaves a positive memory and has an influence in others' lives, then you need to start realizing that what you do does affect others, your choices and decisions are important, and that what you say and how you react does influence others. You're not an island.

And even if you were stranded on an island, away from all civilization, even there your life could still be affecting others—through your prayers, your praises, and your faith.



You are becoming a young man or woman of character. But it takes passing through the daily grind of life again and again and again.



Yes, there are moments of impact. Each person has those at certain points in their lives. But what truly defines you is how you live through the mundane times, how you fight through the struggles, how you let your light shine even when you feel that no one is watching. It is how you make the small, seemingly insignificant daily choices to become that great person you are capable of becoming.

One day you'll discover that some soul saw your light and it was the means by which they held on. Maybe nobody in your immediate circle seems to need the little light that you shine. But what about that someone beyond your doorstep, that someone you rarely see or mingle with? Your light and smile and love could be making the difference for that one soul.

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