

St. Augustine
of
Canterbury

By:
Catherine
Jennings

Before Gregory had become Pope he had met some slaves from England, afterwards he was intent on converting the pagans of England. Pope Gregory did not forget the slaves and sent St. Augustine and some other monks to convert the pagans of England.



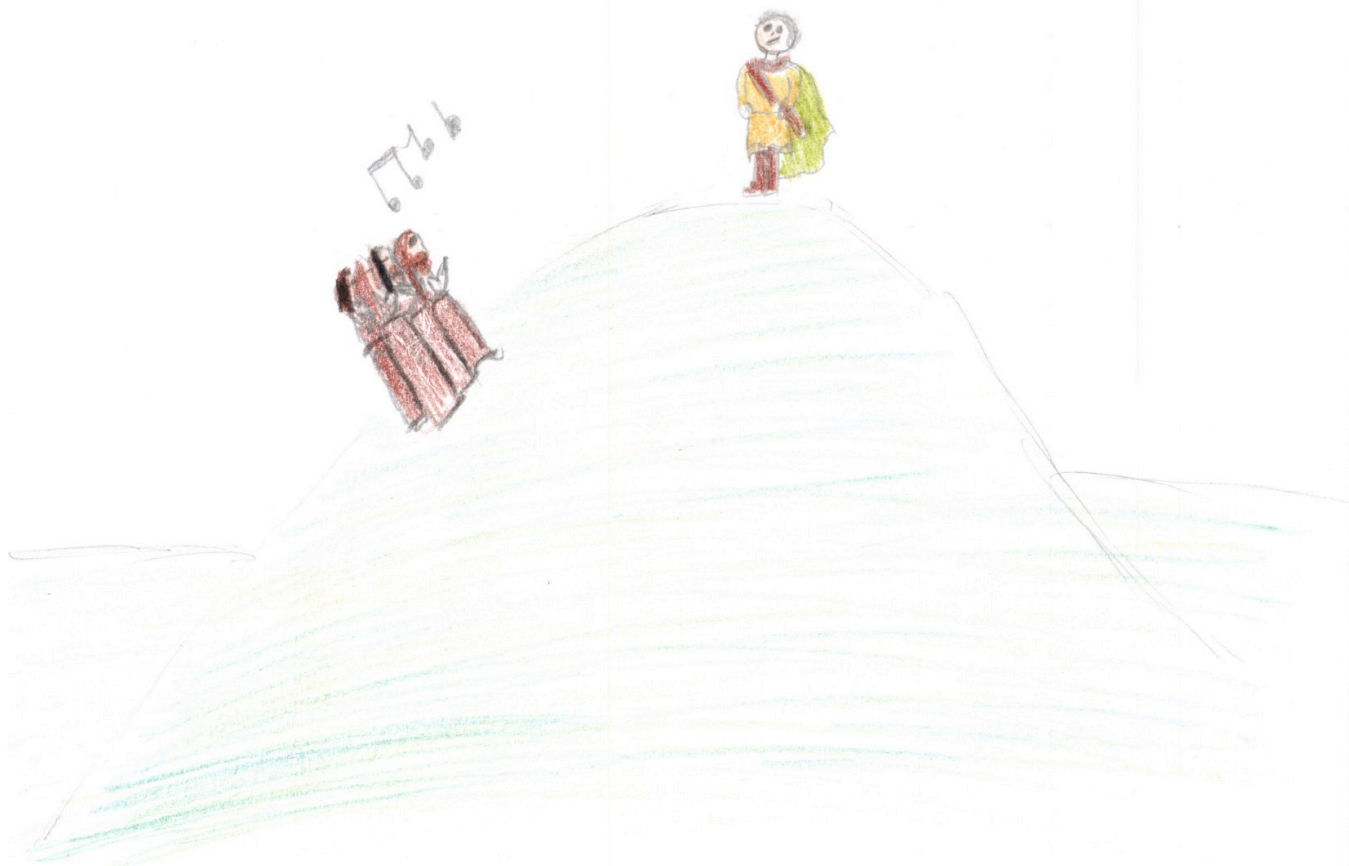
St. Augustine and the other monks boarded an enormous ship on their mission from the Pope. These days almost all of England was pagan. The monks sailed up the mouth of the Thames to convert the pagans.



At this time England was divided into a couple different kingdoms. There was Northumbria, Essex, Wessex, Kent, and others. Each kingdom had its own gods and government.



St. Augustine and his monks went to meet the great King Aethelbert. He was sitting on a large, green hill waiting for the monks. Augustine came up singing litanies and carrying a large picture of Our Lord Jesus Christ with some other monks.



He began telling the great king all about Jesus. King Aethelbert listened carefully to what Augustine was telling him about.



When Augustine was finished speaking Aethelbert said, "I am not yet ready to abandon the gods of my fathers but, you are aloud to preach in my kingdom about Jesus."



The monks smile at one another, they thank Aethelbert, and then walk down the hill singing their litanies and carrying their big picture.



The monks went all over Aethelbert's kingdom preaching about Jesus Christ. Augustine then began to preach in the different kingdoms with great success. Thousands of men, women, and children were baptized and many people in other kingdoms were baptized too.



When the Pope saw how successful Augustine was, he sent more monks to preach to the pagans.



Augustine was then elected Bishop of Canterbury.

