

Biographies Year 5

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Thinking about biographies

Use the Thinking Hats to write a summary of the biography.

1. The White Hat (The facts)

- What is the name of the person? (Write this as a heading)
- When was the person born and when did they die?
- Where were they born?
- Where did they work?
- What was the main type of work they did?



white

2. The Yellow Hat (The good points)

- How did this person help other people?
- Write about one good point that stands out to you in the biography.
- What were the strengths of this person's character?



yellow

3. The Black Hat (The bad points)

- What difficulties (hardships) did this person experience?
- Write about any sad events that happened in the person's life.
- What difficulties were the people of the country experiencing? What needs did they have?
- Were there any times in this person's life when they acted wrongly or made a wrong decision?



black

4. The Red Hat (Emotions)

- Write about one amazing event in the biography and explain how you felt when you read or heard it.
- Describe some of the emotions of the person and why they felt happy, sad, angry, worried or otherwise.



red

5. The Green Hat (The creative hat)

- What creative ideas did this person think of to solve problems?
- If this person did not choose to carry out the work they were called to do, what might have happened? (How would it have been different for people of that country.)



green

6. The Blue Hat (What we can learn from the biography)

- What did you learn from the life of this person?
- What does it challenge you to do?



blue

John Flynn

John Flynn believed that God wanted him to become a minister and go the centre of Australia. It was a time when much of the outback was being opened up for sheep and cattle stations. People had to travel hundreds of miles for medical help. There were also hundreds of people in the outback who had not heard the Gospel, because there was no one to tell it.

John began working in the outback of South Australia in 1911. He travelled over the hot, sandy country in a horse and buggy. He often had to act as doctor, dentist, school teacher as well as preacher.

John knew that people in remote places must have better access to medical centres, or many would die. In his time, there were 15 inland hospitals set up, where station people could receive medical help more quickly.

However, this was not the complete answer. One day, John was visiting Adelaide and saw an aeroplane.

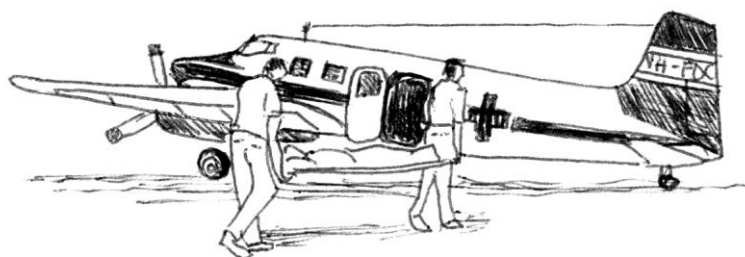
"That's what we need," he said.

John Flynn now ran a mission, and with the help of others worked towards establishing a Flying Doctor service, so that doctors could fly to visit patients, and patients could be flown to hospital. One of the problems in the outback was the sending of messages. With the help of his friend Alfred Traegar, John managed to develop a pedal wireless, which could send and receive messages, if the people worked the pedals as they used it.

The radio receiver was not just used by people in an emergency, but enabled lonely, isolated people talk with others every day.

God has given us all gifts that we can use to help others. We cannot measure God's gifts to people in 'amounts', but we can say that God gives people different KINDS of gifts.

To some He gives a gift of music. To others He gives the gift of caring for people. There are many different ways in which we can serve Him. John Flynn used his gifts to help many people.



The Flying Doctor today

People in Outback Australia use the flying doctor for quick medical help when they live a long way from a doctor or a hospital.

The plane goes to clinics every week for checkups and attends to emergencies as well. Everyone comes for checkups and most of the patients are Australian Aboriginal people. The doctor and people who use the flying doctor use the radio to communicate to each other. They don't often have a phone.

Sometimes the doctor tells people what to do over the radio without even seeing them.

Out stations need special first aid boxes. The boxes have maps of the body so people can say exactly where it hurts and the doctor can help without seeing them. Sometimes they are just too far away and it's not a real emergency.

Rev. John Flynn started the flying doctor service in 1928. He had one plane.

Today they have many planes. The flying doctors see about 65,000 patients a year. There is also a flying dentist available.

Activities

1. Why did John want to go to the outback?
2. How did he travel in the early days?
3. How did he *want* to travel?
4. How could an aeroplane help his work?
5. What is the name of the special service he began?
6. How did the people of the outback get messages to John?
7. What were some of the gifts and talents John may have had as a young boy?
8. Why do you think John was so successful?
9. What gifts did John have and how did he use them?
 - a) Write a list of the different gifts that God gives to people. Don't just think of people who are very clever. Think about people who are kind, friendly or patient. They are gifts too!
 - b) Choose one of these things and explain how it could be used for God:
music; helping; art; building; speaking; computers

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I be a faithful servant?

I can _____ out what my gifts and talents are.

I can work hard at becoming _____ at using these gifts.

I can say, "Yes, I will help," when God asks me to _____ my gifts for Him.

Missing words: use better find

Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King was the minister of a Baptist church in Alabama, U.S.A. In 1955, a Negro woman called Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. Although not the first incident of its kind, it stirred King and some others into action. King believed that he must take action against injustice in a non-violent way. He called for a boycott of the city's bus services by the whole Negro population. It was decided that on the Monday, no Negroes would ride on buses. That evening a meeting was held in one of the city's churches. Thousands gathered outside. It was decided that the boycott would continue, and a campaign would be launched. King delivered a speech which explained how the campaign would be run.

He told the crowd that love must be their ideal. 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you.' He believed that if they failed to do that, their protest would be meaningless, and only bring shame upon themselves. He told the people that in spite of the mistreatment they had received, they must not become bitter, and end up hating white people. They must never use violence.

The campaign continued for over a year. As they were met with violence, King continually reminded the people of their non-violent stand. One night King's house was bombed while he was at a meeting. He spoke to the crowd who gathered at the scene. After assuring them that his wife and baby were alright, he told them to go home and put down their weapons. He reminded them that the problem could not be solved through retaliatory violence. Remember the words of Jesus, he said: 'He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword.' King told the people again that they must love their white brothers no matter what they did to the Negroes. He believed that meeting hate with love was the only way.

Just before his death, Martin Luther King said:

*"I still have a dream today,
That one day war will come to an end,
That men will beat their swords into ploughshares
And their spears into pruning hooks...
With this faith we will be able to speed up the day
When there will be peace on earth
And goodwill towards men.
It will be a glorious day
The morning stars will sing together
And the sons of God will shout for joy."*

Shortly before Jesus died, He was arrested. One of His friends reached for his sword, and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.

Jesus said: "Put back your sword, for all those who draw the sword will die by the sword." Matthew 26:52

At His death Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34

Activities – Martin Luther King

1. Who was Martin Luther King?
2. Why was Rosa Parks arrested?
3. What does this tell us about the laws in the U.S.A. at the time?
4. If you were a black person, how would you feel?
5. How did Martin Luther King stand against the injustice without violence?
6. What is a boycott?
7. How did the boycott affect the government?
8. How long did the campaign go on for?
9. Why did Martin Luther King only believe in protesting in a non-violent way?
10. King told his people that they must not hate white people, even though white people had mistreated them. What did Jesus say about this? (Matthew 5:43-48)
11. How should a Christian react when someone does something wrong to them? Choose the correct answer:
 - ◆ ignore that person
 - ◆ stand up for the truth in a non-violent way
 - ◆ fight back with violence
12. How did Jesus put His own words into practice at His crucifixion and the time leading up to it? Read...
 - ◆ Luke 23:34
 - ◆ Matthew 26: 50-54
13. Find out more about Martin Luther King. Find out how he died.



Martin Luther King



Louis Braille

Louis Braille was born on January 4, 1809, in Coupvray, France. An injury to his eye at age three resulted in total loss of vision. When he was ten, he entered the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris, the world's first school for blind children.

When Louis was fifteen, he invented a system of reading and writing by means of raised dots.

Louis Braille began experimenting with cut shapes from leather as well as nails and tacks hammered into boards. He finally decided that the best way to go was to create fingertip-size dots based on the twenty-six letters of the alphabet, which could be recognized with a single contact of one finger. By changing the number and placement of dots, he made a code for letters.

With their right hand the blind reader touched raised dots, and with the left hand the person moved on toward the next line. Using this system, blind people were able to read text as smoothly and quickly as sighted readers.

Mr. Braille accepted a full-time teaching position at the Institute when he was nineteen. He was a kind, compassionate teacher and also a good musician. He gave his life in selfless service to his pupils, to his friends, and to continuing to improve his raised dot method, which is known today as Braille.

Louis Braille died at age forty-three, from a contagious disease called tuberculosis. When he died confident that his mission on earth was completed.

Christopher Columbus

Just as God guided the Israelites on their journey, He has guided many people throughout history as they looked to Him. One is Christopher Columbus.

Christopher Columbus was born in Italy in 1451. As a boy he worked with his brother sailing up and down the coast of Italy selling wool and wine for his father. This is how he became a sailor. At the age of 10 Columbus knew that God had called him to carry the message of Christ to other lands. His first name, Christopher, means "Christ bearer".

Columbus was sure that the world was round, and not flat, as most other people in his time believed. If this was so, then by sailing straight westward across the Atlantic he could reach those lands on the other side of the world. He was sure that God wanted him to make this expedition, and, after a long time trying to convince the king of Spain that the journey would be worthwhile, the king provided the money that was needed.

Columbus set out from Spain in 1492. He was in charge of a fleet of three ships. Columbus himself commanded the 'Santa Maria', his best friend commanded the 'Pinta' and his brother commanded the 'Nina'.

In the days of Christopher Columbus, they did not have a compass to sail the world. They used the stars to guide them to stay on course.

As the long days passed without any sight of land, the crew became more and more afraid. They planned to get rid of Columbus and sail back home. 'Perhaps the world is flat after all,' they thought. 'What if we fall over the edge?'

However, nothing could change Columbus's mind. He continued to trust in God. God protected Columbus and the mutiny did not occur. After seventy days Columbus saw a light that seemed to come from a fire along the coast. The next morning the three tiny ships made for the shore. With the flag of Spain in one hand and a sword in the other, Columbus knelt down and gave thanks to God. The new-found land was an island off the coast of America, part of the Bahamas. He named the island San Salvador which means Holy Redeemer.

God had not only protected Columbus, but also guided him. God guided him because of his great faith and trust. Columbus had confidence in continuing the journey, even when everyone else wanted to turn back. His confidence was in God. Columbus died in 1506.

Activities – Christopher Columbus

PART A

1. When did he receive a call from God to become a “Christ-bearer”?
2. Who gave him the money for 3 ships to sail to the other side of the world?
3. Why were the members of the crew afraid?
4. What is the meaning of mutiny?
5. Why didn't the mutiny occur?
6. How did Columbus know he was approaching land?
7. What was the name of the island discovered by Columbus, and where was it?
Draw a map of Central and North America and mark the Bahamas.
8. Which Old Testament hero trusted God while making a journey?
9. Why was the voyage of Columbus and his crew similar to the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land? Choose the correct answers:
 - a) None of the travellers had been to the new land before.
 - b) Both events took place on the continent of Africa.
 - c) God was guiding them.
 - d) All the travellers trusted in God for the whole of the journey.
 - e) The travellers did not always trust their leader.

PART B - God is wise

Read:

Because God knows everything there is to know, it is wise to let Him be our guide through life. God knows the future. He knows the best decisions to make. Being a Christian is more than just asking Jesus to forgive our sins. We also need to ask Jesus to be our guide through life. We need to be listening to what He has to say, and obeying His advice.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I know what God wants me to do?

I can learn what the _____ has to say.

I can ask God to speak to me and show me what _____ is.

I can listen to His voice when I _____.

I can listen to what my conscience is _____.

Missing words: right saying Bible pray



John Newton

Eleven-year-old John Newton struggled under the weight of the coiled rope as he helped get the ship ready for departure. "Aren't you too little for such a big job?" the deck hand asked as he began to ready the sails. "No sir, I'm strong for my age," John replied as he continued his task. "But don't your mom and dad mind you being out at sea?" continued the deck hand. "No," John answered again. "My mother is dead and my father is the captain of the ship!"

John Newton's mother died just before he turned seven years old. In her short time with her son, Mrs. Newton eagerly taught him God's word and prayed that he would become a minister when he grew up. Unfortunately, in the years that followed, no one would have guessed that John Newton would ever be a preacher.

After his mother's death John's life took a turn that would lead him in a very different direction. While his father, the sea captain, spent months at sea, John was left in the care of his new stepmother. She really didn't want John around and he was left to go his own way. All that freedom was too much for John. His behavior grew worse and worse until finally his father began taking him on voyages to keep him out of trouble. Of course, the rough sailors did not provide the good influence John needed. By the time he returned from sea, he was even more drawn to shady characters and rough living. John seemed to have forgotten all that his mother had taught him in his early years.

The Capture

"Hey you," called the voice of a strange man John had seen staring at him earlier that night. John took off running down the darkened alley as fast as he could. His father had warned him to beware of the gangs of navy officers who captured young men, forcing them to serve on war ships. As John ran, several men closed in on him, tackling and then cuffing him. The men dragged John, kicking and screaming to a ship. He was thrown into a dark hole where he found himself with a group of other unfortunate young men. This time at sea made John an even angrier young man.

There is No God

By his early twenties, John Newton had become a rebellious person. Even the toughest sailors, known for their cursing and drinking, were sickened by John's bad attitude and foul language. He refused to follow the captain's orders and constantly made fun of anyone who believed in God. When John remembered what his mother taught him, he would try to be good, but his efforts would only last a short time.

One day while at sea, John began reading a book which left him convinced there was no God. At first John was afraid not to believe in God, but over time he began to like the freedom of not having to worry about answering to God someday for his doing wrong.

God, Please Help Me

One day during a long voyage, a fierce storm struck. The ship lurched and rocked as the violent storm raged. Climbing the huge waves, the boat plunged time after time, crashing into the ocean on the other side. With each fall, more and more of the ship's contents spilled into the raging water. As an experienced sailor, John Newton had ridden out many a fierce storm before, but never had he come this close to death. As the ship began to break into pieces and water rushed in everywhere, one sailor washed overboard. A few hours later when John faced certain death, he began to recall Bible verses his mother had taught him. John, who couldn't swim, heard himself cry, "Lord, have mercy on us." But then he thought, "What mercy can there be for a wretch like me"? As John began to tell God he was sorry for turning away from Him and for doing so much wrong, he began to feel peace in his soul.

When the storm ended, John realized that God had saved him from a sure death. He immediately went in search of a Bible and asked Jesus to save his soul as well. The Bible, which he had made so much fun of, now gave him the guidance he needed. John Newton became a Christian. The other sailors noticed that John no longer used foul language and he did not make fun of Christians. He didn't even get upset when others teased him.

The Slave Trade

John Newton made many trips to Africa to buy slaves, who were sold in the United States and the Caribbean. Even after becoming a Christian, Newton did not see anything wrong with slavery, like most others during his time. Later Newton did begin to see that slavery was wrong. He and a young politician named William Wilberforce joined others who spoke out against the practice. In time their efforts led to a law which banned slavery in England.

The Preacher

Remember when as a little boy John Newton's mother wanted him to be a preacher? Well, it came true later in his life. He became the pastor of a church in Olney, England, and later a church in London. He also traveled around England telling about his adventures at sea and how God saved a wretch like him.

Besides preaching, John and his best friend wrote a new hymn for the church service every week. Can you imagine that, a new hymn every week! In all, Newton wrote almost 300 hymns. The best known of them is "Amazing Grace," which has become one of the favorite hymns of all time. When he was writing the hymn, he remembered the storm in which he almost died. "Amazing grace," he wrote, "that saved a wretch like me!" He remembered how wonderful it was to feel right with God at last. "How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed," it says.

Life is full of dangers like that storm. John's hymn reminds us of God's kindness in bringing us safely through difficult times. It reminds us of His mercy and grace to us when we didn't deserve help, and His good promises to us for the future--forgiveness and eternal life.

Questions

John Newton spent much of his childhood free to do as he pleased. He later spent some of his adult years in a form of slavery. Which of these experiences do you think caused him to become the most hardened?

How is John Newton's story similar to the Biblical account of Jonah? How did their near-death experience affect each of them?

Are you surprised that even though John Newton had been captured and made a slave of a Navy ship, he still participated in the cruel slave trade? Why do you think it took so many years for him to change his mind about slavery?

Jim Elliot

The Auca Indians who lived in the jungles of Ecuador were a fierce tribe, feared by all other tribes. In the 1950s they were still living in their traditional tribal way. The only contact with white people they had ever had was that of the rubber traders some years before. The rubber traders had come with guns, which had terrified the Aucas. When the five young American missionaries, Nat, Jim, Peter, Ed and Roger decided to make contact with the Aucas, they were really exposing themselves to great danger.

Ed, Jim and Peter had already spent three years working with another tribe of Indians in Ecuador. These were the more friendly Quichas. The Quichas territory bordered that of the Aucas. There they had got to know Nat. He was a pilot with Missionary Aviation Fellowship. His work involved flying a single-engined plane over the jungles and landing on tiny air strips which were merely small clearings in the jungle. He helped other missionaries with transport and supplies. He enjoyed his work, even though it was dangerous.

The four missionaries began praying about going into Auca territory. God would have to open the way for them, as the government had made things so difficult. One day they came across an Auca girl called Dayuma who had run away from the tribe. They were able to make friends with her and learn some of her language. Once a week they would fly over the Auca village and drop gifts using a canvas bucket on a long rope. Their first gift was a shiny aluminium kettle filled with coloured buttons. Other gifts included salt, axe-heads, plastic combs, clothing and little parcels of food wrapped in banana leaves.

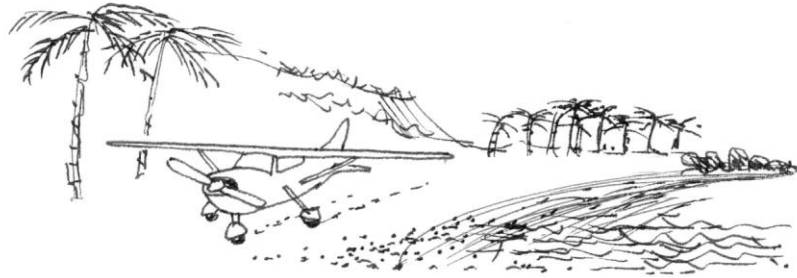
Each time they flew over there were more and more Aucas waiting to receive their gifts. They started flying lower with the hope of broadcasting a message to the Aucas through a loud speaker. With the help of Dayuma, they were able to translate the message into the Auca language. "We like you. We have come to pay you a visit," was the message.

The Aucas seemed to be responding. They started sending gifts back to the missionaries using the bucket and rope. They sent a black bird in a cage and some cotton thread.

By now, a fifth missionary, Roger, had joined the four. It was time to make a landing in Auca territory. Nat, the pilot landed the plane safely on a sandy beach four miles from the Auca settlement. They set up base here and prepared to stay for two weeks. They kept up their routine of flying over the settlement delivering gifts. It was not long before the Aucas realized that the plane was landing on the beach and their curiosity overcame their fear. Three Aucas came to investigate. The missionaries made friends with the three Aucas and one of them even agreed to have a ride in the plane.

A couple of days later the men radioed their wives as usual, saying that they had seen ten Aucas heading towards the base. That was the last message they sent. A search party some days later found their bodies in a shallow river. The five missionaries had been killed by the Aucas.

Although the death of the men was tragic, they had pioneered the way for others to spread the gospel. Many other brave Christians continued their work. Two of these were Jim's wife and Nat's older sister. Other missionaries from the U.S.A. also joined them. Some Indians from the surrounding tribes who had previously received the Good News, came to share with the Aucas. Many Aucas eventually gave their lives to Jesus, and they will always remember the five men who gave their lives to bring them the Good News.



Eric Liddell – Greater than Gold

Eric Liddell was born in 1902 in China. His parents were missionaries there. He and his sister Jenny spent their childhood playing among the Chinese children. They spoke their language perfectly.

His parents brought Eric and Jenny home to Scotland for their high school and university education. During that time, Eric enjoyed running and was a very fast runner.

Eric and Jenny planned to go back to China as missionaries once they had finished their education. But there was just one thing that stopped Eric from going: the Olympic Games. Eric believed that God had made him fast for a purpose. If he could do his best for his country at the Olympic Games, he knew that he would also be doing his best for God.

“I can’t go to China yet,” he told Jenny. “I have something important to do first.” Jenny was very sad. She would go to China alone.

He trained for the 1924 Olympic Games. Eric was best at short distance running.

That year, the Olympic Games were to be held in Paris, the capital of France. Eric and Harold were both chosen to represent England. As they were travelling from England to France by boat, Eric heard some dreadful news. Eric was scheduled to run in the 100-meter, but the race was going to take place on a Sunday. Eric knew the Ten Commandments and wanted to keep Sunday as a day of worship and rest. The race could not be changed. He decided not to run. It seemed as if all his effort had been wasted.

He remembered that God had said, “If you honour me, I will honour you.”

God honoured his decision and he was given the opportunity to run in 400-meter instead. He was not expected to win because 400-meters was not his strength, but ran this in record time, won the race and received a gold medal.

After the Olympic games, he married and believed God that he was to return to China. It was a dangerous time because the Japanese soldiers had invaded China and were treating the Chinese people badly. They killed many of them, burned their villages, and destroyed their crops. Despite these difficulties, Eric stayed. He was sure God had called him to China.

He began teaching at a British-run Chinese college. He loved teaching the boys and challenging them in sports. However, life in China was becoming more difficult. The mission board decided to relocate Eric to the area he had grown up in.

Eric worked long hours travelling in the war-torn area preaching and tending the sick. Many times, he had to carry the injured to the hospital on his bike over rough roads while dodging gunfire. In the meantime, the Japanese were taking over more of the country and there was talk that all foreigners would be locked up.

All foreigners were forced to move into an overcrowded prison camp. They lived in very bad conditions. There was no running water, the bathrooms did not work and they were given only a small bowl of soup and bread at each meal. Eric ran church services in the prison, schooled the children and helped take care of the sick. He became the most respected person in the prison because of his good attitude.

He was in the camp for 2 years when he became very sick. He had a stroke and was unable to walk. He died in the Chinese prison camp in 1945, age 43. When the news reached Scotland, the entire country mourned Eric Liddell's death as their beloved athlete had died at a young age.

Eric's devotion to God and commitment to spread the story of Jesus would be remembered around the world.

Activities

- 1. When and where was Eric born?***
- 2. Why was he born in this country?***
- 3. What kind of race was Eric best at?***
- 4. In which Olympic Games did Eric compete?***
- 5. What was his achievement?***
- 6. Why did Eric Liddell give up running?***
- 7. How did he first help the Chinese people?***
- 8. What kind of difficulties did Eric find in China?***
- 9. What were the conditions like in the prison camp?***
- 10. What was Eric able to accomplish while he was living in the prison camp?***

Brother Andrew

Many people today show bravery in serving God. Some people face dangers as they take His word to places where it is forbidden. They must trust God to protect them. Brother Andrew is a person who has served in such places.

Andrew, son of a blacksmith, grew up in a typical Dutch town. Living in Holland, a free country, Andrew had great concern for people in countries where the gospel could not be preached. Some of these countries were Russia, Hungary, Albania and China. In those days, the Socialist government did not allow religious freedom.

When Andrew grew older he conducted missions to these countries. With his car packed with Bibles, concealed in all sorts of secret compartments, he would drive his car through border crossings. As he did, he prayed that the Lord would 'close the eyes' of the border guards. God did it time and time again.

Here is a story about one of Andrew's experiences. He had just made it through the Hungarian border without being caught. God had again made seeing eyes blind. He drove on through the beautiful country side which followed the River Danube. He started to feel hungry so decided to stop for some lunch. He drove down a sandy lane and stopped at a little clearing at the water's edge. In order to get to the camp stove, Andrew had to move several boxes of gospel literature that the guards had just overlooked. No sooner had he opened the can of peas and carrots when he heard the roar of a speed boat approaching. The boat was heading towards Andrew at full throttle. In the bow, stood a soldier with a drawn machine-gun. At the last possible instant the boat swerved and coasted to a neat landing at the river's edge. Andrew now saw that there were two other soldiers in the boat. The man in the front leapt ashore followed by another one.

"Lord," Andrew prayed, "help me not to be afraid."

The first soldier kept the machine-gun on Andrew while the other ran to the car. Andrew kept stirring the peas and carrots as he heard the car door open.

"Well," said Andrew, "it is certainly nice to have you drop in this way. Would you care to join me?"

Andrew reached into his picnic box and drew out two extra plates. He motioned to the soldier to come and sit down. The soldier stared stonily and shook his head, as if to say, "I'm not going to be bribed." Andrew could hear the other soldier poking around. Any moment now he was going to ask about those boxes.

"Well," said Andrew, "if you don't mind, I'm going to go ahead and eat while the food is hot."

Andrew bowed his head and prayed. Then an amazing thing happened. While he prayed there was no sound from the soldier inspecting his car. Just as soon as he had finished praying, the door slammed. Andrew heard the sound of footsteps coming rapidly towards him. He picked up his fork and started to eat. For a moment both soldiers stood over him. Then abruptly they

whirled around. Without looking behind them, they ran down to their boat, jumped in, and roared off in a spray of white. That was the last he saw of them.

Brother Andrew Activities

1. Name some of the countries that Andrew went to.
2. Why did he want to go to these countries in particular?
3. What miracles did God do for Andrew, to enable him to get Bibles into these countries?
4. Why would you say that Andrew showed great courage?
5. What do you think could have happened to Andrew if he had been caught?
6. Write about a time when God has protected you, or someone close to you.

Irena Sendler

(1910 – 2008) Poland

When World War 2 broke out in 1939, Irena Sendler was a 29-year-old social worker, employed by the Welfare Department of Warsaw, Poland. After the German occupation, the department continued to take care of the great number of poor people in the city.

Irena Sendler took advantage of her job in order to help the Jews. However, this became practically impossible once the ghetto was sealed off in November 1940. About 400,000 people had been driven into this small area of housing. The poor hygienic conditions in the crowded ghetto, the lack of food and medical supplies resulted in epidemics such as typhoid, and the high death rates were high.

Irena Sendler worked out a way to get into the ghetto and help the dying Jews. She managed to obtain a permit from the council that enabled her to enter the ghetto to inspect the sanitary conditions. Once inside the ghetto, she made contact with a network of people who wanted to help the Jews. She helped smuggle Jews out of the ghetto and helped set up hiding places for them.

Knowing that the ghetto was soon to be destroyed, and the Jewish residents to be sent to concentration camps, (or death camps), she convinced Jewish parents to give up their children so that the children could be saved. Irena found Polish Christian families who were willing to adopt Jewish children. These families would take the Jewish children in as their own children, until after the war was over. If their parents were still living at the end of the war, they would be returned to their parents. In order to make sure of the location of each child, Irena secretly kept each child's name and location on pieces of paper which she placed inside glass jars. She then hid the jars in the ground so that the Nazis would not discover their identity.

Once the ghetto was destroyed, Irena turned her attention to work as a nurse. She used her job as a nurse to rescue Jewish children. Using an ambulance, a child could be taken out hidden under the stretcher. If a child could pretend to be sick or was actually very ill, they could be legally taken away using the ambulance.

Sometimes a trolley was used to carry out children hiding in a sack, a suitcase or something similar. Some children were taken out through secret underground passages.

For each child she rescued, she made false identity papers for them, and gave them a new Polish name. This meant that the children had to practice their name and not use their Jewish name. She dressed the children in smart clothes, unlike the poor clothes they were wearing in the ghetto, so that they would look like Polish children and not Jewish children.

In 1943 her activities were discovered and she was arrested, along with her friends who were helping her. Anyone found assisting Jews would normally be shot. Irena's friends were shot, but the Nazis did not want to kill Irene before they found out the information on where the Jewish

children were hiding. Irena would not give them any information, even though she was tortured, her legs and feet bashed so that she could not walk.

Irena had a close Jewish friend, who was able to get her out of prison by bribing one of the guards. She was able to escape and stay safe until the end of the war, when some children could be reunited with their parents. However, sadly, many parents were killed in the concentration camps. Altogether Irena was able to save 2,500 children.

On October 19, 1965, Yad Vashem, a world Holocaust remembrance centre in Israel, recognized Irena Sendler as *Righteous Among the Nations*. The tree planted in her honor stands at the entrance to the Avenue of the *Righteous Among the Nations*.

Trouble for the Jews throughout history

Throughout history, the Jews have been under attack. Satan knows that God has a special plan for the Jews in the future history of the world. Satan does all he can to stop God's plan, and he will do so until one day he will be thrown into the lake of fire and destroyed.

Throughout history Satan has worked through various people, to try to destroy the Jews. Hitler has so far been the most evil of these. He murdered around 6 million Jews in an event in history called the Holocaust.

Although the Jews have suffered much, they have not been destroyed, and after World War 2 those who survived the Holocaust returned to the Middle East to reclaim their own land, Israel. God's plans cannot be destroyed by Satan, God, in His wisdom, has used the willing hearts of Christian people, such as Irena Sendler, to fight for the Jews. God used Christians to save many Jews during the Second World War.

The historical story of Esther in the Bible is another example in history where God stepped in to save His people. Jews still remember this event today by holding a special thanksgiving feast each year called Purim.

In the 4th Century BC, the Jews were ruled by Persia, under King Ahasuerus. Haman was the King's prime minister at the time. It was his evil idea to kill all the Jews, and he convinced the King that this should happen. However, it was Esther who God used to save the Jews. The king discovered that Haman had evil motives and the plan did not go ahead. Instead Haman was hanged.

During the feast of Purim, special triangular pastries filled with honey are eaten to celebrate the Jew's victory. Children dress up as characters from the story and act it out.

Galileo Galilei

Galileo Galilei lived in Italy from 1564 -1642. People in those days believed that the earth was the centre of the universe. They thought that the sun, moon and stars moved around the earth. Because the great teacher, Aristotle, had said that this was so, everyone believed it. Everyone, that is, except Galileo. He was one who wanted to find out truth for himself.

Galileo's brain couldn't rest. He had heard of a boy in Holland who had looked through a tube with spectacle glass in each end, and who found that distant objects looked much bigger. Galileo was determined to work out how this gadget worked.

He soon did. But Galileo's invention was far superior to the Dutch one. Through his telescope he could see Jupiter, which had four moons, Saturn with its rings, the spots on the sun and the milky way. Now that he had seen these things for himself, he was sure that the earth moved around the sun, and not the sun around the earth.

Galileo was very excited. He now understood that God's creation was greater than people had ever realised. Enthusiastically he started telling people of his discovery. However, trouble lay ahead. Galileo was called before the Pope. "How dare you defy the teachings of Aristotle!" shouted the Pope. "You must promise not to talk or write about your theory!"

Galileo kept quiet for seventeen years, but continued working silently. Then finally, he could keep quiet no longer. He published a book of his discoveries. He was brought before the Pope again. "Deny your theory or you will be imprisoned!" the Pope demanded.

Now quite old, and unable to bear the thought of imprisonment or torture, Galileo decided to agree that he had made some mistakes. But in his heart he knew that he had discovered the truth. Galileo lived the rest of his life quietly, working until his death in 1642.

In due time, the world found out that his discoveries were true, for truth cannot be stopped by threats of imprisonment or torture. Soon others took up the teachings of Galileo, which opened people's eyes to the laws of the Creation and the glory of the stars.

Activities – Galileo searches for truth

1. Where did Galileo live?
2. Which great teacher did everyone believe in those days?
3. What did people believe about the earth?
4. Draw a picture of the earth in the centre and the planets, sun moon and stars orbiting around it.
5. How did Galileo prove that this was not so?
6. Now draw the solar system as it really is, with the sun at the centre.
7. How do you think Galileo would have felt when no one would believe him?
8. How does God feel when so many people do not believe the truth about Him?