

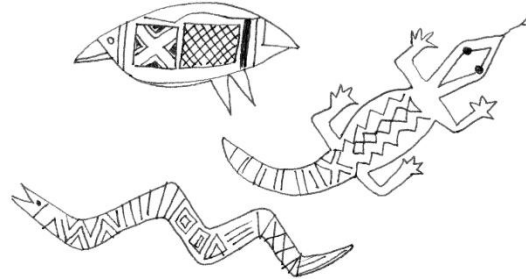


# Biographies Set 1

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# Nabor the Aboriginal



In 1770, Captain James Cook and his crew, in the ship called *the Endeavour*, became the first white people to land on the East coast of Australia. Eighteen years later, a fleet of ships was sent from England to Sydney, with the purpose of setting up a new home for the convicts in the overcrowded British jails. This is how the first white people came to Australia. Before then, only the Aboriginal people lived in Australia.

Many true stories are told about the help that Australian Aboriginal people have given to white people. The story of Nabor is one of these.

The Australian Aboriginal people did not understand the ways of the first white people. Aboriginal people had their own laws which they kept with great care; but the white man's laws were new and strange to them.

When the white people took over the land, many of the past hunting-grounds of the Aboriginal people were lost to them. Since they could no longer hunt for kangaroos and other animals, they, being hungry, took the white man's animals instead.

Sometimes too, they would raid an outback hut, and steal the food. The white people, who needed the food themselves, tried to put a stop to this.

Once, a policeman and his party of 'black trackers' set out to catch four Aboriginal people who had broken the law and raided such a hut. They caught them and fastened them one to the other with chains about their necks. Then the policeman and the trackers, with their captives, set out for home. The captives walked by the police horses.

Now, heavy rains had fallen since the police party had set out, and they found that a small river, which they had crossed before was already in full flood.

On the return, the party had to cross this river. The policeman had told the captives to swim while he and the black trackers went across on their horses. He then undid the chains, and these hung down loosely from their necks. Each of the captives then wound the loose chain about his neck and under his arms.

Then they dived into the water. The captives were all strong swimmers, and all swam the flooded river quite safely. So also did the black trackers. The policeman, however, seemed to have disappeared.

Then they saw that he had been thrown from his horse. He and the horse had both been caught in the strong current. They watched the policeman struggle back to his horse, but the terrified animal kicked him. The policeman fell back into the water unconscious. Already the current was carrying him away. It seemed almost certain that the flood would cost him his life.

Suddenly, Nabor, one of the captives, wound his loose chain about himself and ran along the river bank in the same direction as the current was going. He noted the spot where the policeman was, and running past it, dived into the flooded river. He swam and struggled against the current, until he managed to draw nearer to the policeman.

Even when he reached him the struggle wasn't over. Nabor was tiring, and the chains about him felt heavy. It was hard, in the strong current, to keep the policeman afloat and struggle toward the bank.

The other Aboriginal men had run to the nearest spot, and, as Nabor struggled toward the bank, they took the policeman from his arms and put him carefully on the ground. He lay quite still.

The rest of the party stood and looked down at the one white man among them. He was so pale and still that even then they thought he might die. Then suddenly Nabor wound his loose chain around his arm and disappeared.

He ran straight into the bush; not to escape, but to get help for the white man. For three miles he ran, until he found some white men. With them he hurried back again. These men were able to help the policeman, and soon he looked less pale and began to speak to them. Later he was able to go on his way. When the party reached the police station, the policeman told the story of Nabor's bravery.

This true story was told in the newspapers. When the story reached England, the King decided that Nabor deserved a medal, and ordered that one should be sent to him.

Even though Nabor had probably never read the words of Jesus, he was actually doing as Jesus commands us. You can read this in Luke 6:27-28. Nabor also gave us a true example of what it means to love your neighbour. Perhaps Nabor was given his name because of the kindness he showed to all people...even his enemies. He gave us a true example of loving our neighbour.

### **Activities – Nabor the Aboriginal**

1. Why did Australian Aboriginal people steal the food of the white people?
2. What did the white people do about this?
3. Who were the captives?
4. How do we know that the captives were good swimmers?
5. Do you think that the policeman deserved to be rescued by Nabor? Explain why or why not.
6. Write this verse from the Bible: Luke 6:27, starting from the word 'Love'.
7. Read Mark 12:30-31. Explain why Nabor was being a good neighbour?

# Henry Williams

Henry Williams was born in England in 1792. As a young boy he loved ships. He decided that when he was old enough he would join the British navy and go to sea. When he was 14 years old he joined the navy, and found that his life became centred around battle. Although he still loved ships, he hated the fighting. "There must be a better way," he thought. In 1823, after eleven years in the navy, Williams finally left and went to the far away country of New Zealand. In those days, few Europeans lived there, and the Maori people who inhabited the country, fought amongst themselves a great deal.

The Maoris came to accept Henry, because he had been a fighter too. They came to love and trust him. When they had arguments among themselves, which might have grown into battles, they used to come to Henry and he would help them to find ways of settling their quarrels without fighting.

Henry settled in New Zealand, and when he was quite old, he became ill. As he lay in his bed, dying, he heard about some of his friends who were about to go to war with each other. He knew how terrible Maori wars could be. The warriors used sharp spears, wooden clubs, stones and darts. They would continue fighting until all the members of one side were killed. Henry was too weak to talk to his Maori friends. He sent his sons to try to make peace. However the Maoris would not listen.

As darkness fell that evening, someone brought a message to the warring groups. Henry had died. The battle ceased. At once, both groups went to Henry's house to express their sorrow. Henry's death brought about reconciliation, and the two groups of Maoris made an agreement never to fight again.

## Activities

1. Name one thing Henry liked about the Navy, and one thing he disliked.
2. Why did the Maori people accept Henry?
3. How did Henry help the Maoris?
4. Why do you think the two groups decided never to fight again?
5. Trace the journey from England to New Zealand on a world map.
6. Draw a map of New Zealand.
7. Find out how long it takes to get from New Zealand to Fiji on a plane today.

# Helen Keller

When Helen was little more than one year old, she became very ill. When she recovered from the illness, her parents found that their little girl could no longer see or hear.

It was a frightening experience for a little one year old, to find herself suddenly in a world of darkness. She just clung to her mother's dress all day as her mother went about the housework. Her mother loved Helen very much and helped her understand the world around her.

By the time Helen was five she was able to help her mother fold and put away the clean clothes. She was even able to tell her own clothes from the rest.

Three months before Helen turned seven, a teacher came to live with them. Miss Sullivan would be Helen's own personal teacher. Miss Sullivan taught Helen to understand letters which she would spell into the palm of Helen's hand. Helen could tell one letter from another by feel alone. Soon she was able to put letters together to make words. Helen learned to make words into Miss Sullivan's hand too, and before long they were able to talk to each other using the silent language.

Miss Sullivan then taught Helen to read words, which were written in raised type, on special pieces of cardboard. Helen could read the words by feeling the letters. This was called Braille. Miss Sullivan would play hide and seek with Helen using the Braille word cards. It was Helen who actually thought up the game. One day she pinned the Braille word, 'girl', on her dress and hid in the wardrobe. She had left some other words on the shelf, as clues for Miss Sullivan. The words were: 'is', 'in', "wardrobe". This meant that Miss Sullivan had to go and look for Helen in the wardrobe. She and her teacher played this game for hours at a time.

Because Helen was only one year old when she became deaf, she had not been able to speak with her voice as we do. When Helen was ten, Miss Sullivan heard about a deaf girl in Norway who had been taught to speak using her voice. Helen wanted to try to do this too. It was very difficult because she had to learn how to say sounds by feeling the position of the teacher's tongue and lips as the sound was being made. Then Helen would have to copy what the teacher did. On her first day, Helen had managed to imitate six sounds!

Helen never gave up. She kept trying until she was able to speak using her voice. When she was older, Helen helped others who had problems like herself. She wrote books and travelled the country giving speeches about helping the blind and deaf. She didn't need her teacher any more, but she always remembered Miss Sullivan, who had been so patient and kind to her. Helen thanked God for giving her Miss Sullivan.

*Helen Keller was born in the U.S.A. and lived from 1880-1986.*

## **Activities – Helen Keller**

1. When did Helen become ill?
2. What happened to Helen because of the illness?
3. How did Helen's mother let Helen help around the house?
4. How did Miss Sullivan help Helen?
5. How did Helen learn to speak?
6. Why would we say that Miss Sullivan was patient and kind?
7. If you knew someone who was blind or deaf, how would you show love and kindness to them?

God is kind. God is patient. People can show God's kindness and patience in their lives. The Bible says, 'love is patient and kind'. Showing God's love to others is showing His patience and kindness. God wants us to show His love to everyone, especially those who cannot do things as well as we can.

# Albert Schweitzer

Albert Schweitzer was born in 1875 and died in 1965. He was a lived in a French speaking part of Germany, close to the border of France and Germany, called Alsace. He was a Christian doctor who worked as a medical missionary in Africa. He worked in the Gabon Republic which is a French speaking colony on the west coast of Northern Africa.

Albert was the son of a minister. As a young man Albert studied the Bible and was a very good speaker. His father hoped that Albert would become a church minister like himself. But Albert gave up his study at Bible College to study medicine. He said that he wanted to help people by working with his hands.

In 1913 Albert left for Africa with his wife. In the first 9 months of his work, Albert had about 2,000 patients to examine, some travelling many days and hundreds of kilometers to reach him. In addition to injuries, he was often treating severe sandflea bites, tropical sores, heart disease, tropical dysentery, tropical malaria, sleeping sickness, leprosy, fevers and tumours. He also tried to stop witchdoctors from deliberately poisoning people.

Schweitzer's wife, Helene, performed anaesthetics for surgical operations. At first they used a shed for a surgery. It had previously been used as a chicken hut. In autumn 1913 they built their first hospital of corrugated iron, with two small rooms (a consulting room and an operating theatre) and a veranda where they sterilised equipment. The waiting room and dormitory were built of logs, like the local African huts. The Schweitzers lived in their own hut. They employed a local African, Joseph, as an assistant. Joseph had come to them at first as a patient.

Albert worked in Africa as a medical missionary for four years. He and Helene often suffered the tropical diseases that affected his patients. In 1918 Albert and Helene returned home for recovery, and it was then that their daughter, Rhena, was born.

By 1920 Albert's health was recovering. He could not stop thinking about his mission in Africa. Being a very good musician, he gave organ recitals to raise money so that he could return to the Gabon Republic.

In 1924, he returned to Africa without Helene and Rhena. Helene was not well enough to continue the harsh life in Africa. An assistant, Noel Gillespie, went with Albert this time. When they arrived, they found that his hospital building needed much repair. They set to work with building and treating people at the same time.

Albert brought with him this time new medicines for treating diseases. A German nurse and doctor joined him in 1924, and another doctor in 1925. More helpers came after that. The growing hospital was supervised by African assistants. Joseph also returned



to help. In 1925-6, new hospital buildings were built, and also a ward for white patients, so that the site became like a village.

Much of the building work was carried out with the help of local people and patients. With the new hospital built and the medical team established, Schweitzer returned to Europe in 1927.. His last period of work in Africa was from 1929 to 1932.

1. Find Alsace on a map. Where is it?
2. Find the Gabon Republic on a map. Where is it?
3. Why did Albert give up his Bible training?
4. What were some of the medical conditions he treated?
5. How did his wife Helene assist Albert in the medical field?
6. What were some of the difficulties Albert and Helene faced in Africa?
7. Why did they go back to Switzerland?
8. How did Albert raise money to go back to Gabon?
9. What were some of the things achieved on this second trip?
10. How long did he go for on his third and last trip?
11. What do you think would be the hardest thing for Albert?

# Florence Nightingale

People who show kindness and care towards the sick are really being God's servants. Here is a true story of a nurse who lived over 150 years ago. She felt God speaking to her heart about being His servant. Her name was Florence Nightingale.

Florence came from a very rich family. Her family loved dances, plays and parties, but Florence preferred the beauty of nature to all these things.

When she was only eleven years old she was very good at caring for small babies. When she grew up, she wanted more than anything else, to help people. In her diary, she wrote, 'On February 7th 1837 God called me to His service'. She was then seventeen.

When she was twenty four years old she decided to become a nurse. This was a very hard decision to make because her family didn't want her to be a nurse. Nurses had to work very hard. They not only bandaged wounds and gave medicine, but they also had to make beds and do lots of cleaning. Florence's parents thought that it wasn't good for rich people to do such jobs.

Not long after Florence started nursing, a war broke out. The British and French together fought a war with Russia. Many people lay wounded and dying in the battle field. There were no bandages, no splints and no anaesthetics. There was lots of disease too.

When Florence read about the wounded people in the 'London Times', she organised small groups of nurses to go to Russia. Florence went too.

When the nurses arrived in Russia they found terrible conditions. There was hardly any water, and hardly any medical equipment. They had to use small tin basins for everything... for eating, drinking and washing.

At first the doctors didn't want the nurses to help, but finally they agreed. Florence turned a building into a hospital. "Clean, clean, clean," Florence told the nurses, because everything was so dirty.

The queen found out about Florence's work and sent her a special message to encourage her.

Every night, just before Florence went to bed she made a trip to visit the patients. With her lamp in her hand she walked up and down the long rows of beds. Her patients called her 'the lady of the lamp'.

Florence always tried to make sure that the patients were as comfortable as possible, washed and well fed. When the war was over, she was given a special medal for bravery.

### **Activities – Florence Nightingale**

1. What kind of family was Florence from?
2. How was Florence different from the rest of her family?
3. What did she like to do when she was 11?
4. What did she write in her diary when she was 17?
5. Why didn't Florence's parents want her to become a nurse?
6. What was it like in Russia, when the nurses first arrived?
7. What did Florence do to improve the conditions?
8. Why is she called the lady with the lamp?
9. How can we tell from the second story that Florence really cared about the people she helped?
10. What do you call a person who is always willing to help others? Fill in the missing letters:  
s \_ r \_ a \_ t

# Mercy Ships

## A Medical Mission

Mercy Ships is an organization that provides medical treatment to needy people around the world. In many countries, the sick cannot afford treatment and governments do not provide free health care, so many of the poor are left sick and dying, with no medical help.

Mercy Ships has operated in more than 57 developing nations with a current focus on the countries of Africa.

Mercy Ships was founded by Don Stephens and his wife Deyon, a nurse. Don Stephens discovered that most of the 100 largest cities in the world were port cities. Therefore, a hospital ship could provide healthcare to large numbers of people as it travelled around and docked at city ports. The birth of Don and Deyon's disabled son, John Paul, also inspired him to move forward with his vision of a floating hospital. A visit with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India, further deepened his commitment to serving the world's neediest people.

### History

Mercy Ships was founded in 1978 by Don and Deyon Stephens. Since 1978 there have been four hospital ships serving developing nations. Originally Mercy Ships was a part of the YWAM (Youth with a Mission) family of Christian ministries. The organization uses retired ocean liners and ferries that have been transformed into floating hospitals.

The first ocean liner to be bought was the Victoria. The nine-deck vessel was transformed into the hospital ship MV Anastasis over a four-year period. The 522-foot ship was equipped with three operating rooms, a dental clinic, an X-ray machine, a laboratory and 40 patient beds. The ship had a crew of 350. Don and Deyon Stephens lived on board the ship with their four young children for ten years.

In 1983, the Anastasis (the Greek word for "resurrection") began operations in the South Pacific, then moved to Central America and the Caribbean Sea in the mid-80's. The ship moved on to Africa in 1991 and remained in service there until 2007. The final port of call for the Anastasis was Monrovia, Liberia.

The second ship to be purchased was the Norwegian coastal ferry Polarlys in 1994. It was transformed into the MV Caribbean Mercy, a hospital ship serving Central American and Caribbean ports. The ship was big enough for a crew of 150. This ship was equipped with modern eye-surgery equipment. The first eye surgery was performed on board The Caribbean Mercy in early 1997, while the ship was docked in Guatemala. On land, volunteers from the Caribbean Mercy also provided dental and medical assistance to children. The Caribbean Mercy visited 138 ports of call and remained in service until May 2005. When the MV Anastasis was retired in 2007, a new ship, the Africa Mercy replaced it.

## **The Africa Mercy**

The Africa Mercy travels around the ports of Africa offering assistance. It served in Liberia, Togo, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Benin. It offers free surgeries, medical and dental assistance and community-based preventive health care programs that have benefited thousands of people.

Before the Africa Mercy arrives in port, flyers are distributed to alert the public to the ship's upcoming visit. A team of workers goes into the community and do medical check-ups to see which men, women and children need surgery. Sometimes people walk for days, and even walk from neighboring countries.

At the end of each field service, the Africa Mercy goes into dry dock, where it is resupplied and receives any needed repairs or upgrades before heading to its next port of call.

## **Mission**

Mercy Ships brings hope and healing to the forgotten poor, helping people worldwide. The organization treats all patients without cost, and without regard to their religion, race or gender.

Mercy Ships is financed by donations from the public and from crew members. Medical companies donate medicines, equipment and supplies to Mercy Ships. Large business corporations also make in-kind donations of materials such as fuel, food and building supplies. In addition, governments that work with Mercy Ships also waive port fees and associated costs for the ship to dock.

## **Medical assistance**

Medical staff on the Africa Mercy provides surgeries and healthcare to treat a wide range of problems, including cleft lip and palate, eye problems, bowed legs, burns and burn scars and dental problems. Some patients have tumours (growths) on their faces or bodies. These are removed by surgery. Many of these conditions are very severe because patients have not had any medical treatment before.

The lower deck of the Africa Mercy is equipped with five operating theatres, 82-bed recovery wards for patients, a CT scanner which can detect cancer, an X-ray machine and a medical laboratory.

On the upper decks of the Africa Mercy, the ship has 126 cabins that provide accommodations for more than 400 crew, including families, couples and individuals.

As well as providing free surgical, medical and dental care, Mercy Ships is responsible for setting up medical centres on land. By developing medical facilities on land and training local medical staff, Mercy Ships ensures that increased medical care can be provided after the ship departs from its host country.

## **Volunteers**

The volunteer crew of the Africa Mercy is made up of more than 400 volunteers from more than 45 nations.

About 200 Africans also serve as day crew on the ship. In addition to the medical volunteers on the Africa Mercy, Mercy Ships also sends medical crews to aid at natural disaster sites such as the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Mercy Ships offers short-term and long-term volunteer opportunities. Mercy Ships needs volunteers for both medical and non-medical jobs. Mercy Ships needs surgeons, dentists, and nurses are often readily available, but jobs such as deckhands, carpenters, seamen, teachers, cooks, engineers, machinists, welders, plumbers, videographers, photographers, writers, electricians and agriculturalists are also available. Volunteer crew often serve as blood donors, since there is a high demand for donated blood due to limited space to maintain a blood bank on board.

Volunteers with Mercy Ships are responsible for paying all costs associated with their service, including crew fees, travel expenses, passports, immunizations, insurance and personal expenses. Because of this commitment, Mercy Ships is able to use direct contributions from its supporters to bring hope and healing to the poorest of the poor.

**Reference:** *Wikipedia*

1. What is the main purpose of Mercy Ships?
2. In which continent is Mercy Ships working currently?
3. Why do you think they are working here?
4. How does Mercy Ships get enough money to operate?
5. Describe the facilities on Africa Mercy.
6. How does the Africa Mercy staff sort out the people in most need of medical help?
7. What kind of medical treatments are offered aboard the ship?
8. What other kind of assistance is given on land?
9. Why is this important?
10. What kind of volunteers are needed?

# Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was born in 1910 in the country that is now called Macedonia. Her parents named her Agnes. Agnes grew up in the Roman Catholic Church and decided to devote her life to God at an early age. When she turned 18, Agnes joined the Sisters of Loreto to become a missionary to India. First she had to learn English, and then began her journey to India. After more training with the church she took her vows as a nun and chose the name Teresa. In 1929 she arrived in Calcutta, the capital of Bengal, India to teach at a school for girls. She taught for many years at the school, but living in Calcutta, she felt deeply sad to see so many sick and dying people on the city's streets.

She wrote in her diary: "I realized that I had the call to take care of the sick and the dying, the hungry, the naked, the homeless – to be God's Love in action to the poorest of the poor."

She received some basic medical training and then set out to help the sick and needy. This wasn't an easy task in 1948 India. She had very little support and, while trying to feed and help the poorest of the poor, she herself was constantly hungry and even had to beg for food.

In 1950, Mother Teresa formed a group within the Catholic Church called the Missionaries of Charity. The purpose of the Mission was to take care of "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone".

Mother Teresa's work became internationally known. In 1982 she travelled to the Muslim area of Beirut to help children of both Christian and Muslim faiths. Mother Teresa received the Jewel of India award which is the highest honor that an Indian civilian can receive. She also received the Soviet Union's Gold Medal of the Soviet Peace Committee and in 1979 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work "in bringing help to suffering humanity."

When she first started the Missionaries of Charity there were only 13 members. Today, the group has over 4,000 members who care for people all over the world. It wasn't an easy task to build such an organization and to keep the focus on the poorest people. She worked almost up until her death on September 5, 1997.

1. What was the name that Mother Teresa's parents gave her?
2. How old was she when she decided to become a missionary?
3. What was her first job in India?
4. Why did she take medical training?
5. Make a list of all the people she helped.
6. How old was she when she died?

# Samaritan's Purse

## World Medical Mission

Samaritan's Purse is a mission that provides relief where people around the world are suffering.

The organization assists when natural disasters occur, such as earthquakes and Tsunamis. Christian workers assist people in places where there is drought and famine. They also organize Christmas gifts to be sent to children in poor communities, who would normally have no Christmas gifts at all. Samaritan's Purse also provides medical assistance. This branch of Samaritan's Purse is called World Medical Missions.

What does a medical missionary do?

World Medical Mission places volunteer Christian physicians, dentists, and other medical personnel in mission hospitals and clinics around the world. They also have a warehouse that provides equipment and supplies to medical mission hospitals and doctor's surgeries.

### **Cleft lip repair**

In some countries, children born with cleft lips are often bullied, prevented from going to school, rejected, and made to feel worthless. Samaritan's Purse sends volunteer medical teams to perform cleft lip and palate surgeries for patients of all ages, while at the same time, sharing the Good News of Christ.

### **Diseases Prevention**

Samaritan's Purse fights diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other epidemic diseases through medical care, health services, hygiene projects, and health education.

### **Mothers and babies**

Samaritan's Purse supplies, medicine, vitamins, and trains workers to help pregnant women and mothers of newborn babies in remote villages and poor communities. They help save the lives of women and babies.

### **Supply of Medical Equipment & Medicines**

Samaritan's Purse supplies surgical equipment, X-ray systems, patient monitors, stethoscopes and other items to parts of the world where quality medical provisions are in short supply. Technicians install the equipment and teach local staff how to use the machines.



## **Community Health**

Samaritan's Purse helps prevent suffering and death from easily preventable diseases by providing medicine, medical equipment, supplies, training and support for community healthcare workers in rural communities that have limited access to health care.

1. What does a medical missionary do?
2. Write a sentence about each of these in your own words:
  - Cleft lip repair
  - Disease prevention
  - Supply of medical equipment and medicines
  - Community health

# Joni Eareckson

Joni was born in 1949 in Maryland, U.S.A. She was the youngest of four daughters.

Joni came from a Christian family. She knew about God and the Bible, but she didn't know how much God really loved her. When Joni was fifteen years old, she attended a Christian camp. It was then that she thought for herself about what the Lord Jesus had done for her, that He died on the cross for her. Before that, she believed in Jesus without thinking. But now a great flood of joy filled her as she realized that Jesus loved her so much that He died for her sins.

Her parents were very happy because they had prayed for their four girls since they were born.

As a teenager, she enjoyed riding horses, hiking, tennis, and swimming. One day, at the age of seventeen, Joni was swimming at the beach with her sister and a friend, Kathy and Butch. A big wave came and Joni went for a dive into the wave. Joni did not realize how shallow the water was. Joni did not surface. Kathy and Butch ran to find her.

Joni had not come up out of the water because she couldn't move, and she couldn't breathe. And still she couldn't rise. She could only hear a roaring noise above her head.

A wave came in and raised Joni a little from the sea-bed. Now Kathy and Butch could see her.

"Joni," she heard Kathy scream. Then Joni felt the strong arms of Kathy around her. Joni was filled with fear. Kathy's arms were around her, but she could feel nothing at all. Was her body there? She couldn't feel it.

Somehow, they got back to the shore.

"Can you feel that?" Kathy asked, touching her sister's leg.

"No," said Joni weakly.

"Or that?" Kathy's hand was moving up.

"No," said Joni again.

Then Kathy's fingers touched Joni's neck. Yes, Joni could feel something at the neck. But as she tried to reach out to hold Kathy's hand, nothing happened. She could not move her arms.

Then there was a screech of ambulance brakes. Joni found herself harnessed into a neck brace, lifted by the emergency team into the ambulance and, with siren wailing, they left the beach for the hospital. Kathy stayed beside her sister in the ambulance holding Joni's hand. Butch followed in the car. He prayed as he drove. Kathy wept all

her tears to God. Joni was paralyzed from the neck down. She said the only words that came to her: "The Lord is my shepherd."

"Can you Imagine what it is like for me," said Joni to Kathy the next day in the hospital. I can't wipe my nose or go to the toilet. I have to be fed, and washed and have my teeth cleaned."

Joni spent months in hospital with other patients who had broken necks. Although her family visited every day and did all they could to help, Joni was desperately sad. "I've got nothing to look forward to," she told her friends one day.

After her friends left, Joni prayed as she had never prayed before. "Nobody understands apart from you, Lord," she prayed. "I can only get through the days in this hospital if you help me. And I just can't imagine how I will get through life."

And God did help her. Joni had to spend the rest of her life in a wheel chair, but God used Joni's strong faith to help other disabled people. Although she could no longer do swimming and horse-riding, Joni set her mind to another skill. She became an artist, by learning how to paint with a brush between her teeth. Her paintings were very good and many people wanted to buy them.

After the accident, Joni thought that she would never get married, never work, never travel and never be happy again, but she was wrong. Joni did get married, and traveled the world to tell her story of how God had helped her to live a happy life, even though she was in a wheel chair. She worked by helping other disabled people and painting. Joni told people that whenever she started to feel sad about not being able to do things, she would count her blessings. That means, to think of all the good things that God has done for you.

There is a Bible verse that says, "We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him." (Romans 8:28)

God does not cause bad things to happen to people. But we live in a world where bad things sometimes do happen. But because God is very wise, He can turn the bad things to good when we pray.

### **Questions:**

What good things did Joni do in her life with God's help?

What good things did God give her?

What is the name for the good things that God gives us? (starts with 'b')

Reference: Irene Howatt, 2001, *Ten girls who changed the world*

# Mary Jones and her Bible

Mary Jones was a girl who lived in Wales more than 200 years ago. If you look at a map of Great Britain you will find Wales next to England. In those days the people of Wales didn't speak English. They only spoke their own language, Welsh.

Mary started school when she was nine years old and soon became a very good reader. At school there was a big Bible written in Welsh. One day she was asked by the teacher to read aloud from the Bible. Mary was excited. She loved the Bible stories and was now able to read them for herself.

She told her parents about her opportunity to read the Bible at school, but at the same time felt sad that there was no Bible at home. Her family was poor and could not afford to buy a Bible.

Mary decided that she would save up to buy one, no matter how long it took. Mary worked hard. She collected fire-wood and helped her neighbours with cleaning and baby-sitting. Every job earned her a few pennies. Finally, after six years she had enough money.

Mary was fifteen now. She knew of a man who sold Bibles in a village 40 kilometres away. Mary decided to go to see this man.

"How will you get there?" asked her parents.

"I'll walk," said Mary. "I know I can walk that far."

"We will pray that God will keep you safe," said her parents.

Mary had only one pair of shoes. She knew that she couldn't afford them to wear out, so she decided to walk barefoot. It was rough and stony. Mary's feet became sore but she pressed on. Finally she arrived at the village.

"Can you direct me to the house of Mr. Charles?" she asked a friendly minister. The minister took her to the home of Mr. Charles.

"I'm so sorry, Mary," said Mr. Charles, "but I only have one Bible left and I have already promised that to a friend."

Mary started to cry. Mr. Charles felt sad too.

"Mary," he said, "I will let you have the Bible. My friend can have an English Bible while I am waiting to get some more."

Mary's tearful face quickly changed to a happy one.

The next day she started the long journey home with her Bible under her arm. After some days she arrived home. How happy her parents were to see her. God had protected Mary and helped her to get the Bible. Now they too could read the Bible.

Meanwhile Mr. Charles thought of Mary's eagerness to own a Bible.

"I'm sure there are others who would like to have their own Bibles as well," he thought. Mr. Charles went to London, and with a friend started working to produce Bibles for the many people who needed them. This involved translating and printing. It was his aim that one day there would be enough Bibles for the whole world. The work started by Mr. Charles in 1804 later became known as the British and Foreign Bible Society.



### Activities – Mary Jones and her Bible

#### PART A

1. What language did Mary speak?
2. Where is Wales?
3. How did Mary save enough money for a Bible?
4. How far did she have to walk to get the Bible?
5. Why did she walk barefoot?
6. Why was she disappointed when she got to the village?
7. What did Mr. Charles do for Mary?
8. What work did Mr. Charles start in 1804?

#### PART B - God is truth

##### Read

When we know the truth, then we must not turn away from it, even when things get difficult. God shows us His truth in His word, the Bible. Having the word of God in our hearts helps us to stay with the truth.

**Look up the Bible verses and write sentences to explain how God's word can help us when we are:**

angry.....James 1:19-20

sad.....2 Corinthians 1:3-5

afraid.....Psalm 27:1

# Gladys Aylward

Gladys Aylward was born at Edmonton in London in the year 1901. Her father was a postman and Gladys played in the street with her sister Violet, like the other children of the neighbourhood. At school and at Sunday School she learnt to know and to love her Bible and to trust in God. She loved hymn-singing best of all. When the war planes flew over London to drop bombs in the First World War, Gladys collected her young friends at her house. They sang hymns to drown the noise and to forget their fear.

When Gladys left school she became a parlour-maid. (That meant that she did house work for rich people.) One day she read in a magazine about the China Inland Mission which had been set up by Hudson Taylor. 200 missionaries were needed in China.

"That is what God wants me to do," Gladys decided: At once she offered herself to the Mission and she went to train at its College. But after three months, the Principal sent for her. "Learning is too hard for you," he said kindly "Besides, by the time you finished the course here you would be thirty years old. You would find it very hard to learn a new language at that age. There are many other ways to serve God." Gladys Aylward went back sadly to her old work but she could not give, up her great ambition.

Had not Abraham obeyed God and gone out into a strange land? Did not Moses take up God's call and lead his people out into the wilderness? "They trusted in God. I will too" she vowed.

Since the Mission would not accept Gladys, she knew she would have to find the money herself to get to China. She went to a new post in the household of a famous explorer in London. When she got there Gladys had two and a half pennies and her Bible. "O God," she prayed, "here's my Bible and my money and here's me. Please use us!" It cost 90 pound to go to China by sea. But Gladys found that going by railway right across Europe would cost 47 pounds. "But Russia and China are at war and you might never get to China," she was told. Nothing could put her off and she began to save hard, working even in her free time to earn extra money. One day she heard of Mrs. Lawson, a missionary in China, who was very old and wanted a helper. Gladys wrote to her at once and soon carne an exciting letter from China. "If you can get to Tientsin I will send a guide to meet you," Mrs. Lawson wrote. Gladys saved harder than ever.

In October 1930, Gladys Aylward left London by train for China. She had 9 pennies in her pocket, a traveler's cheque for 2 pounds, her passport and her train tickets, her Bible, one suitcase for her clothes and another full of food. A saucepan and a kettle were tied to a suitcase with string. For ten days the train rattled and jolted across Europe and Siberia. Then, near the borders of Manchuria, there came the sound of guns and the train could go no further. Gladys Aylward had to walk back many miles along the railway track to the last station, camping at night on the line in the bitter wind and blinding snow of Siberia. She got another train to Vladivostok and from there went

by boat to Japan where the missionaries helped her to find a ship sailing to China. At last, after traveling for a month, Gladys Aylward reached Tientsin in China. Then by train and bus and mule she went far inland to Yangcheng where she found Mrs. Lawson living in a tumble-down house.

Gladys Aylward soon found how difficult her work would be. Chinese peasants threw mud at her.

“You must not mind,” Mrs. Lawson said. “We are ‘Lao-yang-kwei’ (‘foreign devils’) to them. We must get to know them. Let’s turn this house into an inn for the Muleteers. (An inn is a place for travelers to stay.) Yang, my old cook, will give them good food. We will tell them Bible stories. Then they will carry the Good News of Jesus wherever they go.”

Soon the inn was repaired and opened. It was named ‘The Inn of Eight Happinesses’. People in this area traveled on mules. At first none of the travelers would come. Then one day Gladys met the train and dragged the first mule of a train into the inn. The other mules followed and the men who looked after the mules had to come too.

Before long good food and fine stories filled the inn every night. Yang taught Gladys the Chinese language and so she too could tell stories of Jesus. When Mrs. Lawson died, Gladys Aylward was left alone.

In those days there was a custom in China to bind the feet of young girls so that their feet could not grow. The toes were bent downwards and tight bandages applied. It was thought that tiny feet were very beautiful, but of course it was very painful for the girls and they could not walk properly. One day the Mandarin (governor) of Yangcheng came to the inn with all his servants. “The Government has made a new law” he said. “Women must not bind their feet any more. We need a woman to see that this law is carried out. You can have wages, a mule and two soldiers. Will you do it?” “Yes,” said Gladys, “so long as you realize that I shall teach my Christian religion wherever I go.” “That is your own affair,” replied the Mandarin. Gladys went round the villages, seeing the new law was obeyed and making friends with the women and children. Eagerly they listened to stories of Jesus, who came from God and died to win their love.

Gladys Aylward lived a busy life. One day she was summoned urgently to the prison where thieves and murderers were rioting. Boldly she went in, while frightened soldiers stayed safely outside, and she stopped the killing. They called her ‘Zhi-weh-deh,’ ‘The Virtuous One’, and she became well-known for her bravery. Another day she met a dirty child-dealer (someone who sold the children of poor families to wealthy people who wanted slaves). She bought the poor little girl that was being sold, out of pity. Before long Gladys Aylward had adopted four other orphan children.

In 1938 a war had broken out between China and Japan. It took some time for the fighting to reach the inland, but finally the bomber planes encircled the city where Gladys lived. They came again, and this time dropped bombs on the city. Gladys was beaten unconscious by soldiers with rifle butts and kicks. Later, the Japanese offered \$100

reward for her capture so she knew that she must flee from the city with the children to a village far away. There she knew of some Christians who could help her look after the children. By this time Gladys was looking after nearly one hundred children.

It was soon obvious that even the village would not be safe. She knew of a centre for homeless children far away beyond the mountains in Siam. She must take them there. They would have to go on foot. The Mandarin, who had now become a Christian, gave Gladys some sacks of rice and two men to carry them.

It normally took four days to cross the mountains, but because of the Japanese soldiers, they had to avoid the main road. They would have to pass through difficult terrain.

"It will take you at least twelve days," said the Mandarin.

The children walked and walked, without complaining for the first few days, but then they became tired. The sacks of rice started to get low. Every day Gladys read to the children from the Bible, and they asked God to help them. As the last of their food was used, Gladys knew that God would provide.

"We're hungry!" said the little ones.

"Look, some soldiers!" said Gladys. No, not Japanese soldiers. They were Chinese soldiers who gave the children some food. Soon this food was gone, and they were hungry again. God provided again as they came upon a mountain village.

"Please give us some food," begged Gladys. "The children are hungry."

The villagers gladly supplied them with food.

At last they reached the Great Yellow River. This was the final obstacle before reaching safety. When they reached the river bank they realized that there was no ferry to take them across. The Japanese soldiers had stopped all boats. If they waited here too long they would be discovered. They waited and prayed. Then a Chinese soldier came along.

"What are you doing here with all these children?" he asked.  
Gladys explained.

The soldier knew about a secret boat, hidden amongst the reeds on the other bank. The soldier gave a whistle. Quickly and quietly the boat made its way across the river. It collected the children and ferried them to the other side. Once again the Lord had provided for them, and protected them.

By the time they reached the town where the children would be cared for, Gladys was very ill. In this town there was a Christian mission hospital where Gladys stayed until she had recovered.



She then went home to England after 20 years in China. In 1957, with her health completely restored, she went back to the East, to the island of Formosa, (now called Taiwan), and continued her great work for God, spreading the Gospel of Jesus among the Chinese people until her death in 1970.

*Adapted from 700 Great Lives*

### **Revision Questions**

1. In which country was Gladys Aylward born? (Ans: England).
2. On a map, trace Gladys's Journey from London, across the Channel to France, then through Europe to Siberia, to Manchuria, then to Vladivostok, then to Japan, to Tientsin, and then to Yangcheng.
3. Find the Yellow River and Sian (renamed Mynamar), where Gladys took 100 children on foot over the mountains.
4. How did God provide for Gladys and the children?
5. Find the island of Formosa where Gladys Aylward died.

# Hudson Taylor

Hudson Taylor was born in England in 1832. His parents knew and loved God, and at the age of 12 Hudson decided that he would one day become a missionary in China. However in his teenage years he turned away from the Christian life. One day he picked up a Christian story. He decided to read it, and was suddenly overcome by the need to ask Jesus for forgiveness, and once again became His follower.

When he was 17 years old, Hudson heard a clear voice from God, saying, "Go to China." He went to see a minister about it. The minister told him that going to China would be a very foolish thing to do.

"There are so few missionary societies working there, and the climate is unbearable!" he said.

However Hudson did not give up. He read all the books he could find about China, and even tried to teach himself the Chinese language. After writing to several missionary societies, he finally received an answer from one. It was the Chinese Evangelization Society. They arranged to pay for his training as a doctor at a London hospital.

At the age of 21, he boarded a sailing ship bound for China. It was a dangerous journey, around the Cape and through the East Indies. At one point they were almost shipwrecked. After 23 weeks the ship finally arrived in Shanghai. In those days Hudson was the only missionary in Shanghai and he was often homesick. He missed his family and friends in England. He also missed the food that he was so used to. The Lord sent to him a Chinese Christian to help him in his medical work. His helper had a long pigtail, almost reaching the ground.

Hudson travelled as much as he could, not only to give medical help, but also to preach the Gospel. Hudson had no trouble in attracting a crowd. People were very curious. In fact the listeners did not take their eyes off him. Then one day he was asked, "What can be the meaning of those buttons in the middle of the honourable back?"

Hudson realized how amusing his 19th century English costume was to the Chinese. In fact they probably paid more attention to his clothes than the words he preached! Hudson realized that before the Chinese could really understand the Good News, he must become like them. He must show them that he was not someone so unusual, but an ordinary person, just like themselves. Hudson threw away his English clothes and chose Chinese dress. He even grew a pigtail.

In 1858, Hudson married Maria. Together they worked to bring the Good News to the Chinese people. Life was difficult as they battled against hardship and disease. The summers were extremely hot and their health suffered. Two of their children died from disease, and then one day, Maria died also. Hudson did not stop trusting in God. He continued to serve God through difficult circumstances knowing one thing... that God had called him to preach the Good News to those who had never heard. Through his work,

Hudson opened the way for other missionaries to come to China. Hudson Taylor started one of the most successful missions to China. It was known as the China Inland Mission.

### **Hudson Taylor Activities**

1. Put these in the right order:
  - a) Hudson turned away from God
  - b) Hudson came back to God after reading a book
  - c) At the age of 12 Hudson decided to become a missionary.
2. Why did the minister think that going to China was foolish?
3. How did Hudson train and prepare for being a missionary?
4. Use an atlas and trace with your finger, the route that Hudson took to China.
5. What were some of the things Hudson missed about home?
6. Who did the Lord send to help Hudson?
7. Why did Hudson change his way of dressing?
8. What sad events did Hudson experience?
9. How do you think Hudson kept on going, even when sad things happened?
10. Hudson's work was only the beginning of a much larger work. What was it?
11. Find out about a missionary who has gone to another part of the world to preach the Gospel.

# Saved From the Sea

*A true story told by Colin Marsland of South Australia*

The schnapper season, in the waters around my home in Moonta, South Australia, occur during the months of November and December. Each year my cousin and I spent time camped at Cape Elizabeth, on Yorke Peninsula, to use our fishing boats to take advantage of the plentiful supply of schnapper in these waters at that season.

We began our fishing at day-break, when landmarks became visible. This day the waters were calm and clear when I set out soon after dawn. But by 9 am the wind began to freshen and by 10 am I decided I should set out again for shore. My well-boat is to enable the fisherman to keep his catch of fish alive and fresh for market. Nowadays well-boats are not built, as most fishermen use ice-boxes or refrigeration, which is much more convenient.

By this time I was experiencing near gale force winds, so I reefed down my main sail and began running before the wind, heading for the shore. I had only been under way a few minutes when I heard the eerie hissing of a freak wave about to break over me. (I've since seen that great wall of water many times in my dreams!) In a moment the boat was engulfed and filled with water. She slewed against the following seas and immediately went down by the stern. In a matter of seconds only the bowsprit was visible. I was flung from the tiller and had to scramble almost vertically up to the bowsprit. Filled with a dreadful fear, I screamed out to God, above the howling wind. Immediately, I was conscious of a wonderful peace of mind and the feeling of such power that I felt there wasn't anything I couldn't conquer.

For two hours I clung to the boat, which was reasonably air-tight, kept afloat by an airlock in the bow. I had hoped that the wind and swell of the waves would carry the boat towards the shore. But I realized, to my dismay, that an under-current was carrying me further out to the open sea. Finally I decided to remove my clothes and strike out for the shore, since by this time the boat was beginning to slowly sink as the air in the bow gradually escaped. I had never swum any distance and only considered myself a good 50-metre swimmer. I doubted if I could reach the shore under these extremely difficult circumstances. But in my mind's eye I kept seeing my lovely wife and beautiful little daughter, and, thinking of them, I knew I would not give up without a fight. With this unusual feeling of great strength and power in my body I noted a land-mark on the shore and set out to swim towards it. The crest of each wave gave me a glimpse of the coast line gradually drawing nearer, and by the time I was half-way there I knew in my heart that I was going to reach the shore. This unusual feeling of great strength in my body remained with me, although my legs were beginning to weaken, my upper body and arms were as strong as ever.

Suddenly my heart sank. Quite close by I noticed a dorsal fin. Sharks are always very prevalent in these waters at that time of year, because they love schnapper and often take them off a fishing line. I remembered the time a huge, hungry eighteen-footer attacked my boat. It reared itself out of the water and snapped at the side of my boat, only

three feet from where I was standing. I could see straight into its great jaws with its rows of evil-looking teeth. It left its teeth marks on the water line of the boat, and one of its teeth was left embedded in the timber.

So you can imagine my relief when I realized that the dorsal fin belonged to a friendly dolphin. I was greatly comforted for a considerable distance on my lonely swim by the presence of three dolphins that frolicked around me, as close as six feet away. Ever since then I have a tremendous regard for dolphins, as I firmly believe that the comfort of their presence at that time helped to save my life. Knowing that the sharks do not come near to where dolphins are, was especially comforting to me, and I felt a little sad when they finally disappeared.

As I neared the coast I could see the great waves breaking over the reefs in a long, white line. I knew I could be dashed to death on them; but eventually I found myself in calmer water beyond the reefs. Then, to my relief, a wave swept me up on to a patch of golden sand.

However, the same wave that brought me in also swept me out again. I had completely lost the use of my legs, so that each time a wave carried me up on shore, the powerful under-tow drew me back again into the water. I began to panic. Had I been saved from the reef only to be drowned in the shallow water, because I could not use my legs? But in that moment of panic I received a clear thought from God. "Dig your elbows into the sand and this will hold you against the tremendous strength of the under-tow." As I obeyed that instruction, I allowed each wave to carry me further up the beach, until I was able to inch myself quite clear of the water. There I lay for a full hour in the baking sun, my only attire being my wrist watch. I was safe at last, three hours after leaving my boat.

After regaining some strength in my legs, I set out on a seven-mile trek along the beach to the camp where I staggered into, two and a half hours later. You can imagine the reaction of my cousin and our other fishermen friends when they saw me alive. They had kept a close watch and had searched unsuccessfully for me right along the coast-line. They had given up hope of ever seeing me alive again.

They gave me clothing, gave me food and hot drinks and took me home to my wife and daughter. It was wonderful to see them again, realizing what a narrow escape from death I had. After recovering from my ordeal I returned from the place where I had been swept ashore, because I could not understand how I had escaped being dashed to death on the reefs. It was easy to locate the place because I had driven a piece of driftwood into the soft sand above high water level. I discovered that I had been guided through the narrow gap, only twenty feet wide, which was the only break in the reef on that particular part of the coast. I am convinced that God, who gave me the super-natural power in my body to swim three miles to the shore, had also guided me to the one gap in the reef where I could swim through safely.

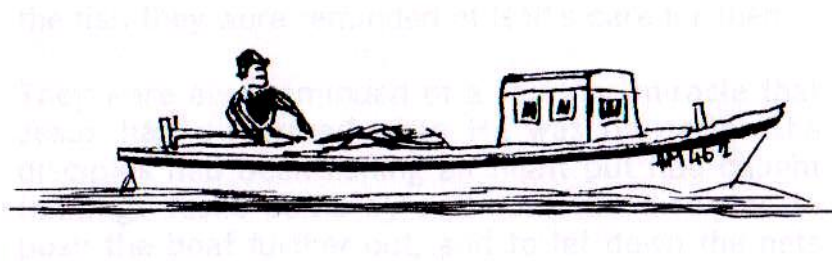
I soon discovered that God does not do things by halves. A week later, after I had full recovered the use of my legs, the local fishermen asked me if I knew where my boat had

sunk. It had not been washed ashore, and there was no sign of any wreckage along the shore, so it was assumed it was still out there where it had sunk, in about 70 feet of water.

At the time of the disaster I had taken note of the landmarks. This is something a fisherman does automatically. A few days later, thirty fishermen in twenty-two boats formed a line abreast, each towing small grappling hooks and schnapper lines in the area I had land-marked when I was clinging to my stricken vessel. The boats moved forward together dragging the lines in the hope of striking the boat. On the very first run a schnapper line hooked the boat! Excitedly, the men worked together to raise the boat to the surface. Imagine our surprise when we found that the schnapper hook had caught in a ring two inches in diameter on the very tip of the mast! How amazed we were at this further miracle of God.

During the week, the boat had moved along the sea-bed about six hundred yards, yet there was no damage to the hull at all, except that a little paint had scraped off.

It has been some years since this incident happened. Up to that time I was not concerned about God. I knew He was "out there somewhere", but I did not know Him personally. Yet He cared for me, and heard my desperate cry for help, and answered me with so many signs of His special caring. That adventure changed my life. I decided that if God cared enough for me, to not only save my life and my boat, but enough to send His Son, Jesus, to save my life for eternity, then I wanted to love and serve Him for the rest of my days.

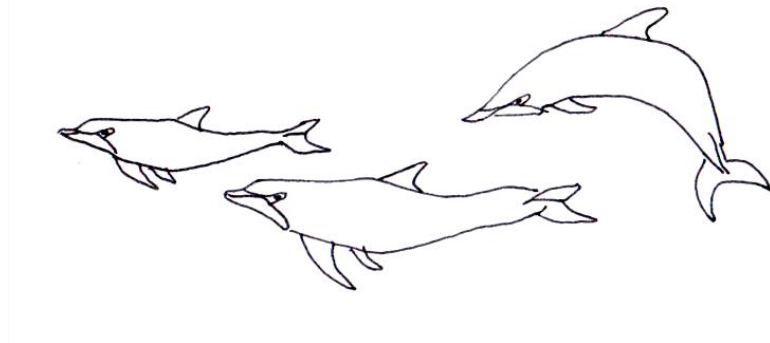


### **Activities – Saved from the sea**

1. When was the schnapper season?
2. Who was fishing with the writer?
3. How would a 'well-boat' keep the fish from spoiling?
4. What is a bowsprit?
5. What did the writer do when his boat went down?
6. How was he kept afloat?
7. Why did he decide to swim for the shore?
8. Why was the presence of dolphins a good sign?
9. Explain several ways in which God showed his care and protection.
10. How did this adventure change the writer's life?

### **God is a Protector**

God knows everyone in the world by name. He even loves those who do not love Him. He wants everyone to come to know Him. Sometimes God does special miracles for people who do not know Him. The way in which God protected this fisherman was a miracle. It made him understand that God is real, and cares for each one of us.



# 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.

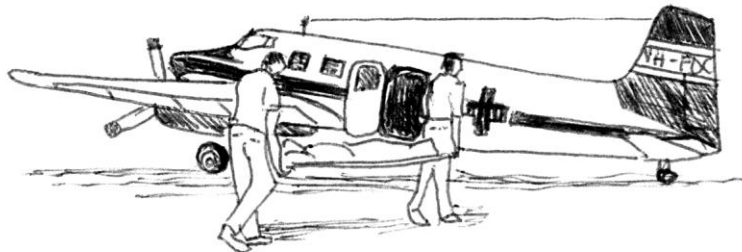
"That's what we need," he said.

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 to 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.

# 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.

# 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.



# 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**

As a little boy John Newton's mother wanted him to be a preacher. Later in his life, John became the pastor of a church. He also traveled around England telling people about his adventures at sea and how God saved him. Besides preaching, John and his best friend wrote a new hymn for the church service 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?

# Lord of the volcano

## (The true story of Kapiolani, Hawaii)

The “Big Island” of the Hawaiian Islands group in the north Pacific was created by volcano activity. It rises up from the ocean bed to a height of over 4000 metres above sea level. There are numerous craters on the island, many inactive, but a few still likely to erupt on occasion.

The Hawaiian people had believed for generations that the great goddess Pele lived in the largest and most active volcano, Mauna Loa. They prayed to her and made gifts to the Hawaiian priests who served Pele.

The volcano was a terrifying sight. In the huge crater there burned a lake of molten lava that rose and fell within the crater, sometimes boiling over and spilling down the mountain side, leaving burning trees and a trail of destruction in its wake. The danger of an eruption was always present so it was no wonder the Hawaiians feared the goddess Pele above all else.

But the Christian missionaries came to Hawaii in 1820, and in a few years there were many who had become Christians. The new faith was to them so new that they still trembled when the priests called on the name of Pele. Perhaps, after all, Pele was greater than their new-found God, the Father of Jesus Christ.

“Do not neglect Pele,” said the old chiefs. “If you do, her anger will spill over in boiling lava, with merciless ruin and desolation to the country-side.”

“She will pour down her anger into the sea and spoil all your fishing grounds,” said the priests, who were angry themselves, now that the people no longer brought them gifts. “Great is Pele, and greatly to be feared.”

But there was one woman who did not fear. She was a woman of the royal family, a chieftainess named Kapiolani. She looked out with strong, fearless eyes at the priests and said scornfully, “The Lord God, the Creator, is stronger than Pele!”

The people heard her, and in terror cried, “That is Kapiolani! Pele will destroy her!”

“Pele is powerless!” declared the new Christian. “I believe that God will defend the province of Pele, to the very edge of the crater, where it spills out its lava. Pele will not touch me. Jehovah, my God, is the great God and Pele is as nothing.”

The people gazed at Kapiolani with mingled fear and admiration.

“My God made these mountains,” added the great lady, “and the lava too. He is the only strong One.”

The Hawaiians talked of nothing else.

“Our chieftainess, Kapiolani, is going to defy the great goddess Pele, who lives in the boiling crater, and who rules our island.”

Eighty of her people agreed to go up the mountain with her as she climbed the lower valleys dense with trees, then up and up until she stood on the rough rocks at the very edge of the crater.

During the ascent Kapiolani broke off a branch of a low bush that bore red and yellow berries. Everyone knew that these were Pele's berries. From of old they had been taught that no-one must touch them without asking her. Not only had the daring Kapiolani broken off the berries. The people feared that this was carrying her daring a little too far. Certainly no harm had come to her yet, but there was still time.

It was cold at the top of the mountain, but the sulphurous fumes gave the air a clammy warmth as they drew near the crater. The ground was hot with the molten lava in the crater. It sent up a cloud of vapour from the rain which had fallen into the fissures in the rocks. It was an awesome sight, but Kapiolani did not hesitate.

From a distance the people watched uneasily. Would Pele reach out and slay their courageous leader? From her robe Kapiolani drew forth a copy of the New Testament, and there, with ringing voice, she read within hearing of the heathen goddess, the message of the one true God. The people waited as Kapiolani did this, their hearts trembling. Then they saw her step to the edge of the crater and let herself down over the side. The vapour rose about her. There she stood, unafraid. They watched her take some of the berries and cast them down into the fiery heart of the volcano.

Defiantly she sent one stone after another hurtling down into the crater. There was no greater insult she could heap upon Pele. Would she rise in her anger and consume Kapiolani? Nothing happened. The people waited. Still nothing happened. There she stood, a solitary figure, offering prayer and praise to her God, Jehovah, the One who created the volcano, the One who had given her the courage to defy the goddess who had held her people in fearful bondage for generations.

Kapiolani rejoined the group who had accompanied her. She called upon them to praise God who had proved Himself the Lord over all creation. So that day, praises of God rang out across the crater, the song of a free people, no longer subject to the greed of the priests and the fear of a mountain goddess.

Adapted from *Safety Last*, by Rita Snowden, Epworth Press.

### Activities

1. How many years ago is it since Christian missionaries first came to Hawaii?
2. Find words in the story that mean: alone, eat up, throw up lava, melted from heat, climb upwards, large cracks?



# Eric Liddell

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

His parents brought Eric Liddell home to England for his high school and university education. During that time, he enjoyed running and was a very fast runner.

He trained for the 1924 Olympic Games and was chosen to represent England. He 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. He decided not to run.

However, God honoured this decision and he was given the opportunity to run in 400-meter instead. He ran this in record time 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. Why did Eric Liddell give up running?
2. How did he first help the Chinese people?
3. What kind of difficulties did Eric find in China?
4. What were the conditions like in the prison camp?
5. What was Eric able to accomplish while he was living in the prison camp?

# A Bible that traveled

There was great excitement amongst the Fijian people in a small coastal village on one of the main islands of the Fiji group. A boat had arrived and a large pile of wooden packing cases had been left on the wharf. These boxes were the centre of attention for they displayed marks and labels that indicated they had been sent from England.

Husky, well-built Fijian youths volunteered to carry the boxes up the hill to the missionary's house which over-looked the sea. Soon the air was split with the sounds of a hammer and the creak of the wooden lids being prized off the cases.

This was early in the 1870s; the Christian gospel had been taught in the Fiji Islands for about 20 years. Faithful men had learned the language, translated the Bible, and now it had been printed in the Fijian language.

The village people recognised the new Bibles and there was a great chorus, "Please let me have one!" There were so few Bibles and so many people who wanted one for themselves. The missionary gave one of the precious few to a teacher who had walked down to the coast from the little mountain village where he lived. This man was a teacher because he had become a Christian and had taught those in his village about Jesus, too. He cared for a small community of Christians, surrounded by many in nearby villages who still served evil gods.

The teacher walked the two days' journey to his home, carrying the precious Bible wrapped in a piece of cloth and then tied up in a woven grass mat. It was late at night when he reached his village. The news soon spread that the teacher had returned with his new Bible. All the people of the village crowded into the teacher's house and sat cross-legged on the floor, waiting for him to finish his meal. Then he washed his hands in the earthenware basin which was brought to him by his little daughter. He opened the bundle of mats and the cloth that contained the precious book. All the people, young and old, crept nearer to view the new Bible which had come all the way from England, six months' journey by sailing ship.

"Now, let us pray," said the teacher, and someone commenced singing a favourite hymn in their own language. They gave thanks for the arrival of the Bible in their village. Then the teacher turned the fresh, new pages of the book and read aloud the stories of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son who returned home. The teacher then led his people in prayer for those who lived in the surrounding hills who had not yet believed in Jesus the Son of God.

As soon as the prayer was ended the teacher's daughter, Mere, took hold of the Bible and began to spell out some of the words. Suddenly, through the quiet stillness there was a scream of terror. Everyone jumped up and shouted, "It's war! It's war! The enemy has come!"

In a moment everyone had rushed out of the house. They could hear the bloodcurdling war-cry of their enemies. Some of the village houses were already on fire, blazing fiercely in the strong evening breeze. The people scattered in all directions. Little Mere, still clutching the new Bible, was hurried away by her mother and together they hid in the long reeds some distance from their village.

The horror of that night will be remembered, the wild cries and shrieks of terror, the dull thuds of heavy clubs as the fleeing people were struck down. The blaze of the burning houses lit up the surrounding hill-sides.

Slowly, the chant of the warriors died down as they dragged their victims away to the cannibal ovens in their own villages. Then there was silence, sad silence. It seemed the night would never end, but at last the dawn came. Little Mere and her mother crept stealthily out of their place of hiding. Alone, Mere's mother went to the smoking ruins of their village.

After a time, Mere saw her returning along the bush track, crying as if her heart would break. She had met some women who had told her the sad tidings that her husband, the teacher was among those who had been killed and dragged away to the cannibal ovens. The whole village had been destroyed, and all their mats, baskets and wooden dishes had been taken away or burned. Only one thing remained of all their possessions, the Bible which Mere had carried off the night before.

"Let us have prayers," said Mere's mother, and so saying, she turned in her grief to the wonderful fourteenth chapter of John's gospel, the passage which reads, "Let not your heart be troubled....." Mere and her mother and the women who had returned with her, knelt down and prayed God to forgive those who had ravaged their village and brought sorrow into their lives by killing their loved ones. They baked yams and ate a good meal before setting off on the two-day walk down the mountain to the coast.

When they arrived at the missionary's home, Mere's mother told him the sad story and showed him the only article they had saved... the new Bible. In the Bible, Mere's mother wrote: "This is Mere Nasau's Bible. Is it not a brand plucked from the burning?" And she gave the Bible to Mere to keep.

The missionary did all he could to help Mere and her mother, then later made arrangements for them to go and live with the mother's people on the island where she had been born.

In her mother's village, Mere attended the mission school. In those days the Bible was the only reading book they used. Mere treasured her Bible and learned to recite many passages from it. One year she won a prize for reciting the greatest number of chapters. It was a great occasion and Mere treasured her Bible even more.

Mere grew up and married a teacher named Josaia. They had not long been married when there came a call for teachers to take the Christian message to New Britain, one of the islands of what we now know as Papua New Guinea. Josaia and Mere volunteered to go. Of course they took their special Bible with them. Every morning and evening they read together from it.

After working together in New Britain for a few years, Mere fell ill. She knows as the weeks went by that she could not recover. One day she called Josaia. "I am going," she said gently, "you are staying. Take my Book which we have read together each day; it has been a light to our path. Take it, read it, obey it." So Mere died and was given a Christian burial in New Britain, (now Papua New Guinea).

After a time, Josaia returned to Fiji. The church appointed him to a village high up in the mountains. One night he was sitting in his house with a group of village people. They began to tell stories of the old days. There was an old man, a very old man, who remembered the days before they had become Christians in that village. He said, "There used to be a village over on

that hill," he said, with a nod towards a nearby rise. "There are only the foundations left. But I remember as a young man, and a heathen, the time we raided that village. We attacked it at night, burned the houses and killed the Christians. Among the Christians we killed was the teacher."

Everyone sat in silence, thinking of how God's love had changed their lives. Then Josaia took Mere's Bible, worn and old from much use, and broke the silence. "Do you see this Book?" he said. "It once belonged to the teacher you killed. It was saved by his little daughter. It was the only thing they saved. Years later, she became my wife. We took this Book to New Britain and there it was used as we taught the people God's love. Mere died there, but the Book has returned to the place where it began its ministry. So now I am using it as I teach the Christian way to these who are descendants of the men who killed the teacher."

Everyone sat in a deeper silence, contemplating the wonder of God's ways. "The Word does not fail to do what God plans for it," said Josaia softly, tears of gratitude running down his cheeks.

Adapted from "Deep Sea Canoe", by Dr. Alan Tippett, William Carey Library, South Pasadena, California, William Carey Library, 553 Hermosa St., South Pasadena, California, 91030



# William Carey

Will Carey was very poor. He was a boot-maker and spent most of his time mending boots. Around the walls of his little shed where he worked, there were pictures of people in other parts of the world. He had a large round globe that he had made by sewing together bits of leather. He had made it so that there were dark pieces of leather for the countries and light brown pieces of leather for the seas.

Young Will had read everything he could about people who had traveled and found out new things about the world: Columbus and Captain Cook, for example. 'As he looked at his globe words from the Bible kept coming into his mind: "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Will Carey longed to be able to go and tell some people somewhere in that vast world about how much God loved them. But how could he? He was young and he had no money. Who would send him?

He knew that many dreadful things were happening to people in some parts of the world. There were babies who were killed because they were not wanted; there were wives who were killed because their husbands had died; there were witchdoctors, who made up weird concoctions meant to cure the sick, but often they killed them; there were children were often afraid and they were often hungry.

Will Carey knew that all these dreadful things happened because the people had not heard about God's love. People who knew and loved and trusted God did not treat others like that. Children who knew about God's love were not afraid. He longed to be able to go and tell them. But who was he? A poor young man, a boot-maker with no money. Who would send him?

In Will Carey's day no one thought of sending missionaries to other places to tell people and show people that God loved them. It was a new idea. At last Will Carey found twelve people who were interested and they each gave a small amount of money to help him travel to India as the first Protestant missionary to that huge land.

He settled in the swampy lands near Calcutta and began his work of telling the people that God loved them, and cared about them. He had to work hard all day for a living as a planter of indigo (a plant from which people got a dark-coloured dye for cloth).

He decided the way he could help people know best that God loved them was to translate the Bible for them so that they could read it in their own language. In the evenings, after work, he would visit people in the villages or some part of the city, talk to them, get to know them, learn their language, and then go home and work on his translations by candlelight until late at night. Before he died he and some other helpers who later came to join him, had translated the Bible into 34 languages (or dialects) of India.

# 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 saved 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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?

It is not always easy to see the truth. There are so many ideas that *could* be right. Some ideas sound right at first. We have to search for truth, like searching for gold. To the people in Galileo's day, it seemed right that the earth was flat. If they had have searched for the truth as Galileo did, then they would have believed Galileo. Many people do not believe in the Bible because the have not searched to find Jesus. Many people don't want to take the time to think about Jesus because they do not want to change the way they live.