

Biographies Set 2



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Jan and Antonina Zabinski

Jan Zabinski (8 April 1897 – 26 July 1974) and Antonina Zabinski (1908–1971) were a married Christian couple from Warsaw, Poland.

Jan was a zoologist; Antonina was an animal lover. They started the zoo in Warsaw, Poland in 1935. The zoo attracted many visitors. The animals were well cared for, and Antonina had a special gift with animals.

In 1939, the German army under Hitler occupied Poland. Hitler wanted the zoo for two reasons. Firstly, he wanted to take the best animals to Germany for breeding and genetics experiments. Secondly, he wanted to convert the zoo property into a factory to make weapons for the war.

German planes were sent to bomb Warsaw. The zoo was bombed. Many animals were killed, and many escaped. The ones that escaped were shot. Jan and Antonina set to work and made repairs to the broken animal cages to provide places for the remaining animals. But the German army soon came again and told them that the zoo was now the property of the Nazi Germany, and all the remaining animals had to be shot, except for a few that they would take to the German zoo for breeding. Now the zoo had no animals.

Meanwhile, Hitler was carrying out his evil master plan. He wanted to kill all Jews living in Europe. There were many at that time living in Germany and Poland. Hitler had ordered all Jews to leave their homes and move into settlements of poorly built housing called a 'ghettos'. The living conditions were terrible, with overcrowding, poor sanitation, and little food or water. Many died of sickness or starvation.

The ghettos were only the first stage of Hitler's evil plan. Soon there would be no ghettos at all. All the ghettos would be destroyed and the Jews would be taken to concentration camps. Concentration camps were work camps with even more terrible conditions. Most of the Jews in these camps died.

Jan and Antonina knew of Hitler's plan. Their best friends were Jews and they lived in the Warsaw ghetto. Jan and Antonina wanted to help their friends by getting them to come and live with them. The problem was, any Polish person found with Jews living in their house would be shot. Jan and Antonina wanted to save as many Jews as they could. But how could they do this? They came up with their own plan.

They convinced the German officials to allow them to convert the zoo into a pig farm, instead of converting it into a factory to make weapons. The pig farm could provide meat for the German soldiers. Jan explained that he would need food for the pigs, and he could get food by collecting the food scraps from the ghetto. The German authorities agreed to the plan.

Antonina got busy and made hiding places for Jews in their basement and also converted animal shelters into hiding places.

Pigs were brought into the zoo to be cared for by Jan, who would make daily trips in his truck to the ghetto to collect the scraps. Each time, he would rescue two or three people, by getting them to lay down at the bottom of the truck. Then he would tip out the buckets of scraps on top of the people lying in the truck. They were covered with scraps, and when they passed through the checkpoint for inspection, all the German guards saw

was a pile of vegetable scraps. When they arrived back at the zoo, the rescued Jews quickly got out of the truck and ran through an underground tunnel to Antonina who found them a hiding place.

The Jews hiding in the basement and in the animal shelters were Antonina's guests. She fed them and clothed them, and looked after them. Every day, they had to be extremely quiet from early morning until midnight. At midnight, the German guards came off duty, so this is when the guests could come out of hiding and eat and drink... then back to their hiding place at dawn, when the guards were back on duty.

Antonina used her piano as a signal to alert the guests of danger. She would keep watch from her window, and if she saw German guards coming, she would play her piano, so that the guests would know to keep very quiet and still.

In 1944 there was a battle between the German troops and members of the Polish resistance. Jan was part of this group. In the battle, he was shot in the neck, although not killed. He was taken hostage, leaving Antonina to care for the house and the guests. For at least a year she had no word of Jan. She did not know whether he was dead or alive.

When the war came to an end in 1945, Jan returned from the Prisoner of War camp. He was reunited with Antonina and their two children. They worked hard to rebuild the zoo. The Jewish guests moved on to rebuild their lives as well. Over a period of three years, from 1942 to 1945, Jan and Antonina saved hundreds of Jews.

On October 30, 1968, a tree planting ceremony was held at Yad Vashem, a world Holocaust remembrance centre in Israel, honoring them as *Righteous Among the Nations* for their heroic rescue of Jews during World War 2.

The Warsaw zoo still exists today and receives many visitors.

Discussion

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 Jan and Antonina, to fight for the Jews. God used Christians to save Jews during the Second World War.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in 1906, in Germany. He was one of six children, and a twin. As a child he was full of questions, about Heaven and about God.

At the age of fourteen he decided that he wanted to become a theologian. That is, someone who studies all about God and the Bible and then teaches others. He found the old family Bible and started reading it, even though his family didn't go to church.

He worked hard and eventually graduated as a teacher and pastor. Then he was given the chance to study in America for a year. He didn't realize how much more he had to learn!

Dietrich watched in confusion in New York City where a waiter would not take an order of a black person. Dietrich went up and spoke to the black person named Frank.

"Frank, if they won't serve you because of the color of your skin, then none of us will ever eat here again!" With that, Dietrich and his friends left the restaurant in protest.

Walking home that evening, Dietrich was deep in thought. America was great, but why were people so prejudiced against blacks? Blacks were even attacked on the street for no reason. It was so unfair! God looked at a person's heart, not the color of his skin!

Experiences like this taught Dietrich things he hadn't learned in all his years of study. Living out his faith meant more than just attending church, reading books and teaching about God. Dietrich wanted to truly live out Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, "God blesses those who work for peace." He returned to Germany determined to treat all people as equals and teach them that peace was always better than violence.

"What is different about you? What happened in America?" asked Dietrich's friends when he returned to Germany.

His answer was simple. He told them, "I became a Christian in America." Little did he know that his decision to promote peace and equality would soon be put to the test.

World War 2 began, and Hitler was scheming his evil plot to kill all Jews.

Dietrich's brother-in-law, Hans, approached him.

"Dietrich, we need your help. We're going to do it-- we're going to assassinate Hitler!"

Dietrich was shocked speechless. He looked at Hans, as his mind raced. As a pacifist, Dietrich believed in peace, not violence. How could he consider killing someone, even a monster like Hitler?

Adolph Hitler was Germany's leader. Hitler hated Jewish people so much that he wanted to get rid of them all. At first Jews lost their jobs, then their homes and businesses were destroyed. Eventually, many were crowded into filthy concentration camps and forced to work without enough food or warm clothes. Many Jews were sent to extermination camps, where they were killed just because they were Jews.

But Hitler and his Nazi party didn't stop there. Anyone who opposed their evil plans would be treated like a Jew. Dietrich did all he could to show other Christians that they needed to stand up for the Jews, but many refused to listen. Now he was being asked to help kill Adolph Hitler.

"Hans, you know my beliefs! I hate what Hitler is doing, but I could never plot to kill somebody. I would be just like him! We've helped Jews escape and called the church to stand firm-- surely that is the most we can do."

"No, Dietrich. It's not enough. Thousands of Jews are dying each week and Germany is being destroyed. Hitler must be stopped!"

Dietrich remembered the verse that had challenged him back in America: "God blesses those who work for peace." He finally decided that removing the leader who was killing so many defenseless people would be the best way to work for peace. But the assassination attempt did not succeed. Dietrich, Hans and several other members of their family were arrested. He spent the last two years of his life in prison and concentration camps. Even under those awful conditions, Dietrich continued to challenge other Christians to stand against Hitler through his powerful writing. Those who were imprisoned with him looked to him as a pastor as they faced those dark days.

After five long days in the back of the transport truck, the weary prisoners were locked in a small schoolhouse for the night. The next morning was Sunday, so Dietrich led them in a church service. Following worship and prayer, Dietrich comforted the other prisoners with words from the book of Isaiah, "With his wounds we are healed." As Dietrich finished his last prayer, the door to the schoolhouse burst open. Two evil-looking men entered and pointed at Dietrich.

"Prisoner Bonhoeffer. Get ready to come with us." Just a few words, but everyone in the room knew what they meant. A hush fell over the little group as the room filled with a sudden tension.

As the prisoners said goodbye to Dietrich, he had time to whisper a last message. "Please don't worry about me. This may be the end of my life, but it's really just the beginning for me."

He died in 1945, at the end of World War 2.

Reference: <http://m.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/dietrich-bonhoeffer-the-cost-of-discipleship-11635062.html>

William Booth

Before Jesus came, people lived in 'darkness'. This did not mean that it was dark all the time. It meant that people were suffering from sadness and guilt. They felt guilty for their sin. They felt distant from God because of the original separation that took place in the Garden of Eden.

However the prophets promised that a 'light' was coming. The light was a symbol of hope. The light was to be Jesus. Just as a light will light up the darkness, Jesus would bring hope to a world of sorrow. There would now be a chance for people to be free from guilt. Jesus could forgive them.

When Jesus grew up and started His work, He announced to everyone that He was the light promised from long ago. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world".

Jesus told all those who followed Him that they too could be lights. A Christian can be a light by bringing the Good News to others. Those who do this are called missionaries.

In England in the 19th century lived a man who felt God calling him to bring light to people in darkness. His name was William Booth. In 1855, after marrying his wife Catherine, he decided to become a church minister. However, he soon felt dissatisfied with preaching to the well-dressed people in churches. His heart went out to the poor people on the streets of London. These were the people who really needed to hear God's word. Perhaps they felt too ashamed to enter the beautiful church buildings.

William decided to erect a tent and hold a meeting for them. Many came to see what it was all about. Some were drunk and the meetings were often noisy. William also preached on the streets outside the pubs. Many would leave the pubs to listen to him. In days when there was no TV or radio, many people would come out to hear street preaching. However, some did not like the preaching. They did not want to receive God's forgiveness. They laughed and threw things at William.

William cared particularly for the poor. He knew that he must do more than just tell them the Good News. He must show them God's care by helping them in a practical way. In those days there were many poor people in England. Most people received a very low wage and often one family had to sleep in one room. Many could not afford beds, nor adequate food or clothing. Many were so depressed about their poverty that they turned to drink. Drinking was a huge problem, even for children.

William decided to set up a 'soup kitchen'. He collected unwanted vegetables from the market, and unwanted bones from the butcher. With these ingredients he and his wife made soup and served it to the hungry. Soon William had many helpers. Together they decided that they were like an army. They were soldiers for God, fighting against a world of poverty and suffering. They became known as the 'Salvation Army' because they preached the Good News...that Jesus came to save people from sadness and guilt. They told people how they could receive God's forgiveness and begin a new life as a follower of Jesus.

Activities

1. Make a list of ways in which we can receive news today.
2. How do you think news would have been spread in Bible times?
3. How did people receive news in the 19th century?
4. How did William proclaim the Good News of Jesus?
5. How did he show the love of Jesus?
6. What is the Good News?
7. Who is the **light to the world**, promised in the Old Testament? (Read Isaiah 42:6-7 and Isaiah 60:1).
8. Read Matthew 5:13-14. How can Christians be lights to the world?
9. Find out what the Bible says about 'feet' which carry the Good News. (Romans 10:14 and Ephesians 6:15).
10. Draw a set of foot-prints and write one of these Bible verses inside the foot-prints. You will need one foot-print for each word.

Mawson's exploration of Antarctica

A ship carrying team of explorers set sail from Hobart, Tasmania on December 2 1911. It seemed like the whole of Australia was there to see them off. The ship was the SY Aurora and Douglas Mawson would be leading the Antarctic exploration expedition. Each team planned to complete their exploration course and meet back at the hut on the coast, ready to catch the ship to sail home by January 30th. Any later would mean that they would be frozen in until the next summer.

On arrival, the men split up into several teams, each team taking a different exploration route. Mawson and his team of two companions chose the longest and most difficult route. They packed the sled with provisions for about three weeks, and set out with their team of six dogs. Their provisions included food (dried meat and biscuits), spare clothing, sleeping bags, a tent, kerosene stove and cooking utensils, tools and a rifle. The clothing of those times was not very water proof, being made of only natural materials – cotton, wool, fur and leather.

Mawson's team had to cover 300 km – about 30 km a day. The terrain was dangerous and difficult, with four dogs pulling their heavy wooden sled over an uneven terrain of ice and snow. The other two dogs pulled a smaller sled, driven along by one companion at the rear of the larger sled.

At night they would put up the tent, which was an arduous job with prevailing icy winds, sleet and snow. The team would boil up snow on their kerosene stove, drink the melted water and eat their dried meat and biscuits. They would then try to go to sleep in their fur sleeping bags. But as time went on, their bedding and clothing became wet, making it impossible to get warm. Fingers and toes started to suffer from frost bite and skin started peeling.

One day, as they were traveling, Mawson and his companion heard a noise from behind. They turned around and saw nothing but white. They backtracked to find that the companion leading the rear sled with the two dogs had disappeared into a crevasse. They shouted down the crevasse, but there was no reply. All they could hear was the whimpering of the dogs, caught on a ledge. Mawson and his companion tied all their ropes together to make the longest rope possible, but it was not long enough to perform a rescue operation. Tragically they had to walk away, unable to do anything.

With heavy hearts they continued on, but snow storms and blizzards prevented from covering any distance on some days. They were falling more and more behind their deadline – to be back at the hut by January 30th.

As time went on their food ran out, so sadly, one by one they killed their faithful dogs, all of which had names. They sat in their tent each night boiling up meat from a dog, making sure that every part of the dog was eaten, including paws, brain and liver. What they didn't know was that the dogs' liver contained toxic levels of Vitamin A, which gradually poisoned Mawson's companion. He became delirious, suffered dysentery and eventually died. Now Mawson was on his own. The dogs had all gone. There was only a small amount of food left and still 100 km. to go. Mawson

struggled on pulling the sled with his own body. By now he was physically and emotionally exhausted. The soles of his feet were lifting off due to frost bite. His face was blistered and sore. On some days he only covered as much as 5km., as he battled fatigue and blizzards. He was well over the deadline. Would the ship wait? Or was he pushing on in vain?

He was taking many risks, pulling the sled over risky snow drifts rather than going around. This risk taking had its toll. One day Mawson fell into a crevasse. He expected the sled to come crashing down on top of him, but miraculously it became jammed behind some ice and supported Mawson's weight. There he was, dangling from a rope inside the crevasse. Knots had been tied in the rope about a metre apart, so Mawson used the knots to pull himself up. He tried and failed several times. How easy it would be to just let go of the rope and fall to his death. How blissful that would be. But Mawson did not give up. He tried again and again until finally he pulled himself up out of the crevasse. Exhausted, he lay on the snow for three hours before he had enough energy to move once again. He set up the tent and rested for the night.

Day after day he pushed on, now without food. Would the ship wait? He finally saw the coast in the distance, and then the hut. But his heart sank when he saw the ship in the distance, far out to sea. He had missed the ship, now left to die of starvation in the hut. However, over a snow drift he saw the most wonderful site – two humans running towards him. The ship's captain had decided to leave a team of six men, with a year's supplies, to stay in the hut in case Mawson's team returned. One year later the ship came back for them. It was a hero's welcome. Mawson had written all these events in his diary, and many times referred to Providence – his word for a great God who knows everything, and who has given everyone a purpose in life. Sometimes it takes great perseverance to pursue the purpose that God has planned for us. Don't give up when the going's tough!

Activities:

1. What were some of the most difficult problems Mawson and his team faced?
2. Why do you think these men wanted to make such an expedition?
3. Why did Mawson refer to "Providence" in his diary?
4. In difficult circumstances people can either depend on God more, or reject God. List some other people you know (in real life or in history) who have depended more on God through difficult times. Explain the nature of their difficulties.
5. Why might a person reject God because of a difficulty in life? Is it God's fault when things go wrong? Give your reasons.

St Alban

In the year 205, (205 years after the birth of Jesus), a man called Alban lived in a town called in England called Verulamium. By this time the Gospel had spread from the Bible lands to England.

One day, Alban met a rather unusual man, Amphibulus, who was a Christian priest (or minister). He must have been one of the very first in England. In those days, England was ruled under the Roman Empire. The Romans were hunting Amphibulus, as it was illegal to be a Christian.

Alban felt sorry for the hunted man and took him into his home, to hide him from the Romans. Over some time, Amphibulus talked to Alban about being a Christian, and Alban decided that he would like to follow Jesus. He was baptized in the local river, the Ver, and became a Christian.

Some time later, the Romans discovered where Amphibulus was hiding. Amphibulus always wore a long cloak with a hood. This was the type of cloak worn by Christian priests in those days. Alban did a very brave thing. When he saw the Roman soldiers coming, he swapped cloaks with Amphibulus, which meant that when the soldiers entered the house to arrest Amphibulus, they actually arrested Alban because they thought he was Amphibulus. So Amphibulus escaped, and Alban was taken away.

Alban was taken to the Roman courthouse, where he was questioned. The Governor realized that he wasn't Amphibulus, so he asked him who he was. Alban is said to have replied, 'I am Alban, and I worship the true and living God.'

The Governor was furious that the soldiers had brought the wrong man, and asked Alban where Amphibulus was. But Alban said nothing. So Alban sealed his fate - he was condemned to death.

The Romans killed their prisoners outside the city, so Alban was taken up the local hill. The executioner killed him by cutting off his head with a sword. He became the first English martyr.

Alban was buried at the top of the hill, and over the years pilgrims began to travel there, to worship God at that place.

The most important things about Alban were his kindness to Amphibulus and his bravery in sticking to what he knew to be the truth. Like Daniel in the Bible, he would not deny knowing the true God.

Prayer:

Thank you God, for brave men and women, like St Alban, who stand firm in their belief. Help us to recognize how important it is to know the truth, and to hold true to those beliefs. Amen.

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/262/st-alban-22-june>

Amy Carmichael

Can you imagine traveling thousands of miles away to help children? Amy Carmichael was known as Amma, which means mother, to many children in India. Discover more about Amy's remarkable life in this lesson.

Have you ever wanted to change something about your appearance, such as the color of your eyes or hair? Amy Carmichael did! When she was a little girl, Amy would pray to God each night to change her brown eyes to blue. To her dismay, her eyes didn't change, but she continued to pray to God, and when she was grown, she became a missionary in India.

Amy Carmichael was the oldest of seven children! She was described as a feisty child who longed for excitement. Amy was born in 1867 in Ireland, an island country close to England. Amy's father owned a mill, so they were able to live in a beautiful home and they had enough money to buy everything they needed.

When Amy was twelve years old, she attended a boarding school, which is a school that students live at. Away from home. Amy was able to come home during breaks and holidays.

Sadly, when Amy was eighteen, her father died, and life changed. The family was no longer wealthy, and she had to help take care of her brothers and sisters.

Amy felt a calling to pursue missionary work, so she left for India in 1895. Amy settled in a town called Dohnavur, which is about thirty miles from the southern tip of India. Amy focused on helping Indian women convert to Christianity, but after meeting a young Indian girl, she felt she needed to help children.

The young girl's name was Preena, and she had been sold to a Hindu temple by her mother. It was common in these times for parents to sell girls to the Hindu temple because it saved them money and they believed they would find favor with the gods. At the age of 5 or 6, many girls were given to the priests to be slaves. They lived in the temple until they were old. Then they were put out of the temple because the girls were no longer useful to the priests. They went to live in groups in the poorest parts of the town.

Preena did not like it at the temple, and she ran away. Amy found Preena, and there was a connection between them. Preena called Amy Amma, which means mother. Amy decided to help children who were sold or abandoned and living in poverty.

One day a baby was brought to Amy to look after, and soon after, another two. More babies followed. Toddlers were brought to her too, especially very pretty little girls whose parents thought that the gods would make them rich if they gave their daughters to them. Some temple women, who desperately didn't want girls to go through all that they had been through, risked their lives to get new babies and toddlers out of the temple and into Amy's care.

For years Amy was a mother to unwanted little girls. She gave them a home, she loved them as though they were her own and she taught them about the Lord Jesus.

Not all of them survived because some became ill, and there were no medicines at that time.

One day Amy had an accident. She fell, breaking her leg and damaging her ankle badly. Nowadays she would probably have had surgery and would have been able to walk again. But things were different then, especially in India.

For the next 20 years, Amy was mostly in her bed and rarely out of her bedroom. That didn't stop her loving rescued children and it gave her time to pray for them.

Ruth Pfau

Ruth Pfau (pronounced Fow), was born in 1929 in Leipzig, in the eastern part of Germany. She died in 2017.

Ruth's father was a book seller and her mother was busy at home looking after six children. Ruth was the fourth of five daughters. Her only brother died as a boy.

When she was thirteen her peaceful childhood was interrupted by the Second World War. Her home and her school were destroyed when Leipzig was bombed. She had always wanted to be a doctor, and during the war she helped to look after children, the sick and the elderly.

Ruth did very well at school and received distinctions in her final school exams in 1947. Ruth moved to Western Germany to study medicine at university.

Having seen the destruction and unhappiness caused by the war, Ruth hoped that by her work as a doctor, she could give something of her life to helping others. In 1956, she travelled to Paris and became a Catholic nun and joined the "daughters of the heart of Mary". What is special about this order of nuns is that members do not wear uniforms or live in a convent. Instead they express their faith through their work. They have many different jobs. Some like Ruth Pfau, are doctors, some are teachers and some work by helping the poor. Today there are over two thousand members working in many countries around the world.

After training in midwifery, Ruth decided that she would go to India, where her order had been waiting for a doctor to help run a maternity home. Before she set off Ruth wondered what good she, just one person, could do. "It will be a drop in the ocean," she told herself, but she was encouraged by the six cases of medical supplies she was given to take with her.

In 1947, when India became independent from Britain, the country was divided up by the government. This decision was made to stop the fighting between Hindus and Muslims. Indian Muslims were given the area that is now called Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Hindus and Sikhs were given what we know as India today. This meant that millions of people had to move from their homes and relocate. Some six million Muslim refugees travelled to Pakistan and some five million Hindu and Sikh refugees left Pakistan and went to India.

Because of the new borders, Ruth now worked in Pakistan, (previously India.) Thousands of Muslim refugees were living in the slums that sprang up on the outskirts of Karachi. One of the biggest cities in Pakistan, on the coast of the Arabian Sea. One day a social worker took Ruth to see the leprosy sufferers of McLeod Road. These were people who were even poorer and more neglected than the refugees. Ruth and her helpers set to work at once. They collected money from

friends. UNICEF, (the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), gave them wood from packing cases to build a hut and the Red Cross supplied bandages, medicines and milk powder. In England in 1940, medicine had been discovered to fight leprosy, and this was sent.

Leprosy is a contagious disease that affects the skin, mucous membranes, and nerves, causing the skin to go white, or pink blotches can appear. Lumps the size of a bean can form on the face, under the skin and in the muscles. Sometimes the blotches and lumps break open into sores. Because leprosy affects the nerves under the skin, the victim loses all sense of taste, heat and pain. You could step on a nail or a piece of broken glass, or drink some boiling water, and not notice. If you lived in a slum, a rat might start chewing your toes during the night, but because you felt no pain you would not wake up and chase the rat away. The real problem is that leprosy victims do not realize they have hurt themselves and therefore do not treat themselves. The wounds fester, dirt gets in and infection develops swiftly. It is the infection that lead to fingers, hands, feet and noses gradually 'rotting' away. The other effect of leprosy on the nerves is paralysis. The muscles and tendons of the hands, fingers and feet stiffen and sufferers can no longer blink or close their eyelids. This usually leads to blindness. If leprosy is detected early enough the person can be cured, and the symptoms will not develop.

Ruth and her helpers built a dispensary hut on a patch of waste land in the slum, and soon leprosy sufferers from all over the city began to arrive for treatment. Some people who came to help did not want anyone to know they were working among leprosy sufferers. This was because people of all backgrounds were still very frightened of the disease. They thought that anyone who went near leprosy sufferers would carry the disease and be infectious. That was why the moment someone in a village showed signs of having leprosy they were thrown out of their family and out of the village. These "leper outcasts" had to beg for food to survive and soon drifted into slums like the McLeod Road slum where they stayed until they died.

Ruth and the other nuns worked for sixteen hours a day at the dispensary, cleaning and dressing wounds and giving medicine. They also treated patients with many different diseases besides leprosy. For every sufferer Ruth treated, another two would arrive outside the dispensary the next day. Some of her patients had such bad infections that they needed amputations to stop the infection spreading.

Ruth had to spend a lot of time trying to get hold of medicines, bandages, sterilizing equipment, food and other essential supplies. Every morning she went around Karachi calling on everyone she thought could help. She needed a water supply and a better draining system for the slums. It took time, patience and perseverance. One day she wrote in her diary, "What a wretched country this is. If it isn't pouring raining, it's the sandstorms, and when it isn't sandstorms, it's the locusts."

As the news of the work spread, there were some doctors who came forward and offered their voluntary services at regular intervals. Since that time the work grew

fast and small treatment centres were established in Karachi and all over Pakistan. Training was conducted for paramedics and social workers. The trainees were given and health education and started to get over prejudices and fear.

Later on, Dr. Pfau went to the far-off areas of Pakistan where there were no medical facilities for leprosy patients. She collected donations in Germany and Pakistan and cooperated with hospitals in Rawalpindi and Karachi. In 1968, Dr. Pfau persuaded the Government of Pakistan to undertake a National Leprosy Control Program in partnership with MALC (Marie Adelaide leprosy center) and began setting up Leprosy-control centers across the country.

Today, Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre is the hub of 157 Leprosy control centers, with over eight hundred staff members. Thanks to the efforts of Dr Ruth Pfau and the MALC, Pakistan was declared leprosy in 1996.

Dr Ruth was very active in taking part in the relief activities in the aftermath of 2005 earthquake and 2010 floods. Dr Ruth Pfau identifies herself as a Pakistani, wears Pakistani dress shalwar kameez only. Says that if she were to be born again, she would be born in Pakistan.

On 8th March 2010, she completed her 50 years in Pakistan. She has been honoured for her dedicated services and commitment to eradicate Leprosy and help the poor in Pakistan.

Corrie Ten Boom

This is a true story about someone who used their faith to trust God when things were very difficult. It took place in Europe during the Second World War where the Jews who lived there were being captured and taken to prison camps.

The story is told by a lady called Corrie ten Boom who was not Jewish, but Dutch. She and her family decided to risk their own lives in order to help the Jews at that time. They took Jews into their own home for protection and hid them in a secret room. However, finally the day came when they were discovered.

Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie were placed into a prison camp along with the Jews they had tried to hide.

Women were crammed into dirty, cold, damp barracks. Food was little more than watery turnip soup. During the day, they were forced to do extremely hard labour. Despite their dreadful circumstances, Corrie and Betsie did not stop trusting God.

Betsie found it particularly difficult because she was not well. She was suffering from a vitamin deficiency for which she needed vitamin drops. Corrie and Betsie had managed to bring some of their things with them to the first prison camp, including the vitamin drops and a Bible. However, when they were moved to a second camp they were not allowed to take anything in with them. Each woman was searched thoroughly as she passed in line through the gates. All Corrie and Betsie could do was to pray desperately to their Heavenly Father.

Corrie stood in the queue, trying to hide behind her back, a jumper with vitamin drops and Bible wrapped inside. When it was Corrie's turn to pass the guard, instead of searching her, he just pushed her through the gate with the words, "Move along! You're holding up the queue."

And so Corrie and Betsie arrived inside the barracks bringing not only the Bible and vitamins, but the knowledge of God's power to work a miracle. Soon Corrie discovered that there were twenty-five other women with the same vitamin deficiency. They too need the precious vitamin drops.

"What should I do, Lord?" asked Corrie. "If I give the drops to all these women there will only be enough to last a day! Even if I save the drops for Betsie there will be only enough to last a month."

Corrie knew what she must do. She lined up all the women who were ill and gave them the drops. Strangely enough, she lined the women up again the next day and there were still enough drops for everyone. She tried it again the next day, and the next. Still there were enough. Every time she tilted the bottle a drop appeared at the tip of the glass stopper.

"It just couldn't be!" said Corrie. She held it up to the light, trying to see how much was left, but the dark brown glass was too thick to see through.

"There was a woman in the Bible," said Betsie, "whose oil jar was never empty." She turned to the story in the book of 1st Kings. They read about the poor widow of Zarephath who had cared for Elijah. She continued to have oil in her jar and flour in her flour bin no matter how much she used.

It was one thing to believe that such things happened thousands of years ago, but another thing to believe that it could happen today. And yet it happened.

"Don't try to explain it." said Corrie to Betsie. "Just accept it as a surprise from a Father who loves you."

Then one day a young Dutch woman, also in the prison camp, came to Corrie.

"Look what I've got for you!" she said. "Vitamins!"

Somehow, she had stolen them from the staff-room. There were several huge containers of vitamins and yeast compound.

"We'll finish the drops first," thought Corrie. But that night, no matter how long she held the bottle upside-down, or how hard she shook it, not another drop appeared.

Activities

1. What nationality was Corrie ten Boom?
2. Why do you think Corrie's family tried to help Jews?
3. Why do you think the enemy wanted to kill Jews?
4. What happened to Corrie and Betsie for their efforts in trying to protect the Jews?
5. How was Corrie able to get the vitamins and her Bible into the prison?
6. Why do you think most of the ladies, including Betsie, needed vitamins?
7. Corrie decided to share the vitamins. What does this show us about her?
8. Do you think Corrie expected the Lord to keep on filling the vitamin bottle?
9. Which miracle in the Bible is similar to this one?

There are several miracles recorded in the Bible where God did a miracle of provision. This means that He didn't just provide in the usual way. God usually provides food through the sun, rain and soil, which are part of His Creation. There are three times in the Bible where God did amazing miracles to provide food. The miracle of loaves and the fish is one of these. Two more miracles from the Old Testament: God provided flour and oil when Elijah and Elisha prayed. Sometimes God provides in unusual ways. God can still provide in unusual ways today, just as He did for Corrie ten Boom.



Mary Slessor

Mary Slessor was born in Scotland in 1848. She came from a very poor family. Her father died when she was quite young, and her mother supported the four children through her job at the weaving mills. When Mary was only eleven, she started working at the mills with her mother. The family lived in one room, in a dirty street.

When Mary was a teenager she decided to educate herself. Mary's mother was a Christian, and while attending the Presbyterian church, Mary was challenged by the need for missionaries in West Africa.

Mary went to Africa and dedicated her life to helping the people of Calabar, (now in Nigeria). The hot, humid climate, and prevalence of malaria made life difficult, but she didn't give up. Mary is remembered for her work as a peace maker among the people. The slave trade, which had developed in earlier years, had made human life cheap. White people would arrive on African shores and offer black traders all kinds of gifts for capturing men, women and children, who would then be forced on to ships and taken to far away places to work for the whites. Although this practice was no longer in existence when Mary arrived, the bribery and corruption of earlier years had caused tribesmen of Calabar to become cruel and unconcerned for the value of human life. Fighting, drinking and cruelty to women were common. Mary rescued hundreds of unwanted babies, particularly twins. The tribesmen came to respect her and she convinced them of the need to talk about their troubles instead of fighting. She set up court cases and reasoned with the tribesmen.

She also set up schools and cared for the sick. She built a hospital and set up training centres for women. Mary never stopped working. She finally died in Calabar in 1915.

John Wesley

John Wesley was born in England in 1703. His father, Samuel Wesley, was a church minister in the Church of England. His mother, Susanna Wesley, was a strong Christian who prayed for her family and brought up their nineteen children in the ways of God.

John Wesley went to Oxford University and gained his Master of Arts degree. He witnessed about his faith to many young man and they joined together to follow a very strict and methodical life style, including the way they worshipped God and helped the poor people.

Life was hard for the poor people in those times: If they could not pay their debts they were put in prison. If they were healthy, they had to work from sunrise in the morning until it was too dark to see in the evening. If they were sick, there was often no one to care for them. John and his friends would go to visit these poor, lonely, unhappy people. They would read the Bible, sing songs, and pray with them.

John and his friends became ministers. John Wesley could not forget that, in addition to those who came to church services on Sunday, there were many other people who needed a minister. He often went for long walks looking for people he could help.

The people wanted so much to hear John Wesley preach that they would gather in a field for a worship service before going to work. The men would hold torches so they could see him as he preached in the darkness of the early morning. John and his brother Charles wrote special songs (called hymns) for them to sing. Many people repented of their sins and found new meaning for life as they responded to the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. The changes were amazing. Rough and brutal men became kind and gentle. Drunken men became sober. Criminals became respectable citizens and deeply religious people.

Many would become so interested in what John Wesley was trying to do that they would become his helpers. Wesley sent his helpers to find other groups and preach to them in the same way that he was doing. Then he and his helpers would meet together. They would talk about what they had done and how to do it better. Those who had little or no education learned to read and write while walking or riding on horses. Soon there were little Bible study groups of people all over England trying to live the way John Wesley taught them to live. After John Wesley died in 1791 they became a separate church. They were called Methodists, and now the Methodist Church is found in many countries all over the world.

Henri Dunant (Founder of the Red Cross)

Jean Henri Dunant was born in Geneva, Switzerland on 8th May, 1828. His parents were Christians and very active in social work. They helped orphans, prisoners and many other unfortunate people. Following in his parents footsteps, Henri Dunant started his social work when he was young by joining an organization that helped the poor.

On 24th June, 1859 Dunant arrived in Solferino, North Italy to visit the emperor. At that time Solferino was in the middle of a bad war. The Italian and French soldiers were fighting the Austrian soldiers. About 40,000 people were injured, dying and dead. Dunant wanted to do something to help the dying. He gathered together local people who could help to provide assistance for the injured and sick soldiers. Mainly women and girls offered their help. Dunant, with his own money, made temporary hospitals and bought needed materials.

Back in Geneva, Dunant decided to form an international organization to help injured soldiers in war. In 1863, Henri Dunant along with four Geneva citizens formed the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In 1901, the first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dunant as the founder of Red Cross. One of the officials gave a commentary about Dunant: "There is no man who more deserves this honour, for it was you, forty years ago, who set on foot the international organization for the relief of the wounded on the battlefield. Without you, the Red Cross, the supreme humanitarian achievement of the nineteenth century would probably have never been undertaken."

Dunant died in 1910. According to his wish, he donated the prize money and his funds to the Red Cross.

Nowadays, the Red Cross has already spread all over the world. Red Cross works especially in gathering blood and distributing it to everyone who needs it. Without Henry Dunant, there would not be the Red Cross organization. Without the Red Cross, there might be still a million injured people who would not have been helped. This organization not only supplies much assistance for many people, but also invites us to participate together in helping another. All healthy adults can help the Red Cross by choosing to donate some of their blood.

1. Where was Henri Dunant born?
2. Where is this country?
3. What did he see when he went to Italy?
4. What did he do to help?
5. How many people formed the original Red Cross organization?
6. What does the Red Cross do today?
7. How can grown-up people help the Red Cross today?

Louis Pasteur

Louis Pasteur was a French biologist and chemist. He is best known for his research into the cause and prevention of various diseases, as well as finding vaccines for anthrax and rabies. He was born in Dole, France in 1822.

He taught at a school in Dijon and in 1848 became professor of chemistry at Strasbourg University.

He married the daughter of the university's principal, in 1849. They had 5 children, although 3 died at an early age and these losses were partly responsible for Pasteur becoming a scientist.

Louis Pasteur realized that tiny organisms, known as germs, carry bacteria and cause disease. This became known as the 'germ theory'. He helped the silk industry, by realizing that microbes were destroying silkworms. He invented the process of pasteurization, which is widely used today for milk and beer. The rapid heating process, which kills harmful germs, still bears his name.

Joseph Lister

Joseph Lister was a British surgeon who made surgery safer for patients by introducing sterilization techniques. Joseph Lister studied at the University of London and he entered the Royal College of Surgeons when he was 26.

Lister worked as a professor of surgery at universities in both Glasgow and Edinburgh. He studied Lister's germ theory and from this developed a method of using antiseptic in surgery.

After studying Pasteur's findings, Lister soon realized that severe changes needed to happen to prevent so many people dying after surgery, due to infection. In those days, surgeons wore dirty aprons, surgical instruments were unclean and surgeons didn't even wash their hands before carrying out operations. Lister tested what would happen if the surgical instruments and bandages were treated with carbolic acid, and he was pleased to see that infection was significantly reduced.

By 1879 Lister's ideas had been accepted by most hospitals in Britain. Carbolic acid was used on bandages and was even sprayed into the air during operations to kill bacteria and reduce the risk of the wound becoming infected.

Joseph Lister was a quiet man of God who became known as the father of modern surgery. Lister died in 1912, aged 84.

<http://primaryfacts.com/161/joseph-lister-facts/>

Thomas Edison

Born: 1847 in Ohio, USA

Died: 1931

Best known for: Inventing many useful items including the phonograph and a practical light bulb

Thomas Edison may be the greatest inventor in history. He has over 1000 patents in his name. Many of his inventions still have a major effect on our lives today. Many of his inventions were group efforts in his large invention laboratory where he had many people working for him to help develop, build, and test his inventions.

Childhood

Surprisingly, he did not do well in school and ended up being home schooled by his mother. Thomas was an enterprising young man, selling vegetables, sweets and newspapers on trains. One day he saved a child from a runaway train. The child's father repaid Edison by training him as a telegraph operator. As a telegraph operator, Thomas became interested in communications, which would be the focus of many of his inventions. He set up his first lab in his parent's basement at the age of 10.

Menlo Park

This was the place where Thomas set up his inventing business. He and other scientists would do research and then apply it to useful things that could be manufactured and built on a large scale. There were a lot of employees working for Edison at Menlo Park. These workers were inventors, too, and did a lot of work on Edison's ideas to help turn them into inventions.

Three of his most famous inventions were:

1. The Phonograph - This was the first major invention by Edison and made him famous. It was the first machine that was able to record and playback sound. He said the words to "Mary had a little lamb" as the first recorded voice on the phonograph.
2. Light Bulb - Although he did not invent the first electric light, Edison made the first practical electric light bulb that could be manufactured and used in the home. He also invented other items that were needed make the light bulb practical for use in homes including safety fuses and on/off switches for light sockets.
3. The Motion Picture - Edison did a lot of work in creating the motion picture camera and helping move forward the progress of practical movies.

http://www.ducksters.com/biography/thomas_edison.php

William Tyndale

(1494-1596)

It is hard for us today to imagine not having a Bible in our own language, but it hasn't always been that way. When William Tyndale was a little boy growing up in England in the 1500s, ordinary people did not own Bibles. They had to go to church to hear what the Bible had to say. But there was one problem--the priest read the Bible in Latin, a language only the most educated people could understand.

As William Tyndale grew older and finished college, he felt that God was calling him to translate the Bible into English so that all people could read it for themselves. But--believe it or not--translating the Bible was against the law. Like many others during his time, William Tyndale was called a false teacher and was put to death for his beliefs. Based on historical sources, this is his story as he might have told it.

Growing up in England

"I grew up on a farm in Gloucestershire, England. Life was very difficult for English families. Children worked very hard to help their parents. Disease and famine often killed thousands at a time.

My parents could tell early in my life that I had a gift for learning languages. I was able to go to Oxford University, one of England's finest schools. By the time I graduated, I had mastered SEVEN languages! Of them, Hebrew and Greek were most useful to me, because I could now read the Bible in its original languages.

I learned so much about God as I read the Bible for myself! I knew I had to use the gift God had given me so that others could read the Bible for themselves, too! I was well aware that translating the Scriptures was against the law and could cost me my life, but how could I not do what God was calling me to do?

Church and King Try to Keep Me Quiet

At first I asked the Church authorities for permission to translate the Bible into English. The answer was no. The Church believed that only the Pope and priests were educated enough to truly understand and interpret the Bible.

One day a discussion with a priest became a heated argument when he told me that it was better to be without God's laws than the Pope's. I could not believe what I was hearing! I answered him by saying, "I defy the Pope and all his laws; if God spares my life, I will cause a young farm boy to know more of the Scriptures than you do."

I also did not agree with the Church's teaching that doing good things was the way to get to heaven. The Bible clearly says that salvation is a free gift from God for those who believe. Many in the Catholic Church and also the King of England, Henry VIII, looked for ways to keep me quiet.

Hiding from Spies

I knew I must leave England immediately. I secretly traveled to Germany, where others had also taken a stand against some of the Church's teachings. When I

arrived, I quickly changed my name--so no one would be able to find me--and began my work.

Translating the Bible into English was a difficult job. Each word had to be recorded correctly. The language also had to be simple enough for even an uneducated person to understand. It took more than a year for me to complete the New Testament translation.

I had to find a good printer whom I could also trust to keep my whereabouts secret. I could not risk being caught. English spies would be paid well to turn me in. One spy eventually did find out where the first printing was taking place. I narrowly escaped capture, getting away just in time with some of my materials!

The English Bible on English Soil

Once the printing was completed, copies had to get into England without being seized. Smugglers hid the Bibles in shipments where no one expected them: in flour barrels, in trunks with false bottoms, and in airtight boxes inside wine barrels.

The Bibles sold as quickly as they reached England, even though one cost about half a week's earnings (over \$100 in today's dollars). Families saved and put their money together, and a farmer would trade an entire load of hay to get just one Bible. Groups would meet together to hear the Word of God for the first time in their own language.

The religious leaders and the King were furious! They tried to destroy as many copies as they could. They also intensified their search to find and arrest me.

A "Friend" Turns Me Over to Killers

I had begun to feel quite safe in Germany. I had also become somewhat of a celebrity. But I let nothing get in the way of completing my task. I worked late every night translating several books of the Old Testament.

One day I met a young Englishman in Germany who seemed to share my ideas about the need to translate the Bible. Over time we became good friends. What I didn't know was that this young man was a spy who would soon betray me. He led me right into the hands of my captors, after inviting me out for a meal. I was jailed, charged with heresy (false teaching), and sentenced to death by burning.

PostScript

The last thing we know about William Tyndale is that he was led through a crowd into the public square. A noose was placed around his neck. His last words were, "God, please open the King of England's eyes." He was then hanged and his body was set on fire.

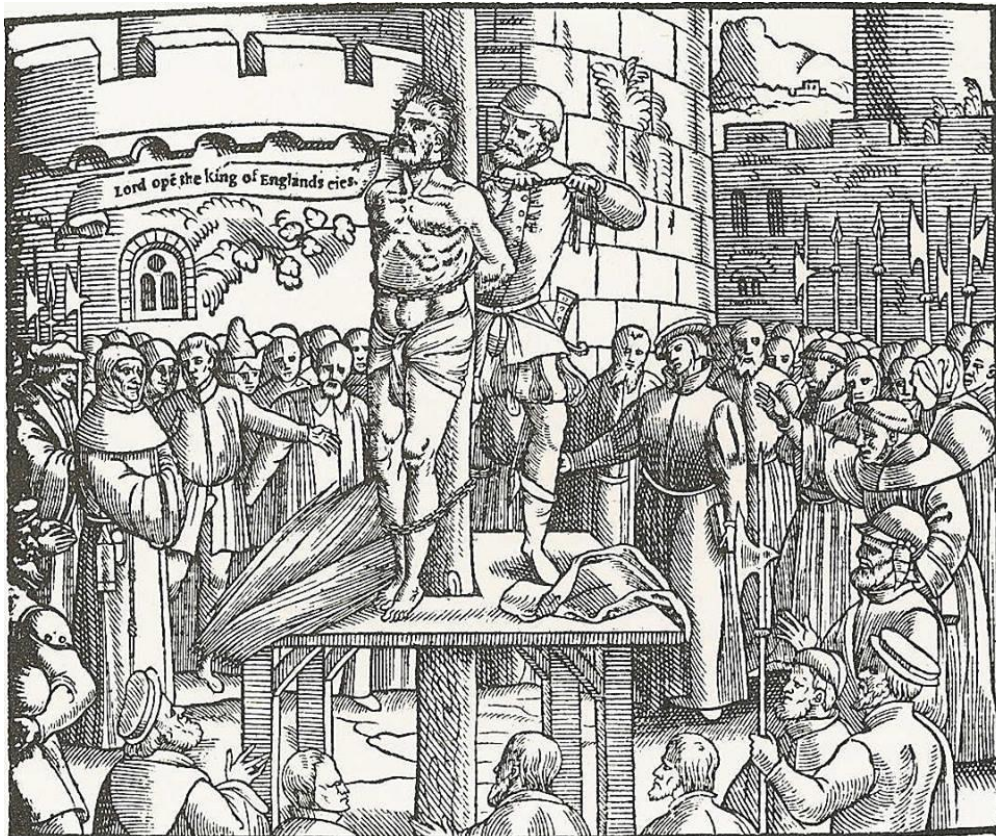
God answered his prayer in a wonderful way. Within one year of William Tyndale's death, the King of England gave approval for an English Bible to be published.

Tyndale's Bible was used as a guide for the new translation. This new translation is the father of the King James Bible that is still read today.

Questions

1. William Tyndale had a talent for learning languages. Instead of burying his talent, he worked hard to develop it and use it for God. What talent has God given you? What can you do to develop your talent and use it for God's glory?
2. It seems strange that some people in the 1500s thought the Pope's law could be more important than God's law. Can you think of a time when you have had to choose between following God's laws and following man-made laws? What did you do?

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/william-tyndale-gods-outlaw-11634865.html>



Elizabeth Fry, friend of prisoners

Born 1790; Died 1845

Elizabeth was called Betsy. Betsy Gurney lived happy life in her grand home near the city of Norwich in England. Her father was a rich man and very good to his seven daughters. They had fine clothes and everyone knew them by their scarlet cloaks. Betsy was especially proud of her purple boots with red laces. They all kept diaries and we can read in them of the mischief they got up to and the fun they had together. They loved dances and picnics.

Mr. Gurney was a Quaker. 'Quaker' was the name of a Christian denomination, also called 'The Society of Friends. They had a very simple style of church service and they were opposed to violence and war. Every Sunday he took his daughters to the Meeting House in Norwich. The service was very quiet and often these lively girls were fidgety. But when Betsy was eighteen years old a Quaker from America spoke at the service and she was very touched by what the man said. She knew that God wanted love and service. She gave up bright clothes, and for the rest of her life wore the plain grey dress, white collar and white cuffs of the strict Quakers. She started a school for the village children at her home because she felt it was a special way of serving God.

But her greatest work was still to come. She fell in love with a good Quaker gentleman called Joseph Fry. Soon they were married and they moved to his fine house in London so as to be near his business. Several children were born to her and she was a busy mother, but she felt there was more she could do to serve God. She began to visit the sick and poor in London, bringing them help and comfort and the Good News of Jesus.

One day two visitors called on her. They had been visiting the men in the terrible Newgate Prison. It was the worst of the eighteen dreadful prisons in London. The governor would not let them visit the women prisoners. "Will you go?" they asked. The next morning Elizabeth Fry stood outside the prison gates and asked to see the governor. He was amazed at what she asked.

"They're like wild beasts!" he cried. "I have soldiers guarding them! I never go there myself if I can help it!" Quietly she insisted, and the governor gave in. The huge bolts were drawn back, the door opened, and the soldier slammed it shut quickly as soon as she was through. It was a dreadful sight. Three hundred women lived with their children in the filthy jail, without light or heat, without beds or wash-places, with nothing to wear but dirty rags. The children were starved and naked. The women fought like cats over any money a kind passer-by threw to them through the bars. As soon as they had money they paid visitors and the guards to bring them alcohol and they got drunk. The laws that put these women into prison were very harsh. Some were in prison because they owed money and could not pay, others for stealing when they were very hungry and too poor to buy food. In those days, a child could be hanged for stealing.

The women stared at her that morning. She picked up a filthy baby and nursed him tenderly. Slowly the women came around her and she spoke to them of the love of God. Then she told them that God had sent her to them. "Let us help each other," she said. "Together we can make this prison a better place. God will help us to do it. Let us ask him." Then she prayed to God, and many of the women fell down sobbing and crying.

Elizabeth Fry never forgot what she saw and for the next thirty' years 'she never stopped working for women in prison. The very next day, and every day that she could, she visited the Newgate prison.

Other Quaker ladies joined her. Soon the women's ward was clean and neat, the terrible smell was gone and inmates didn't get so sick. The women got busy 'making clothes for themselves and their children. A girl who was in prison for stealing a watch became a teacher to the children, and Elizabeth persuaded the governor to let them have a small cell for their school. She brought food and clothing and medicines. After a time she brought the Lord Mayor of London and other important people to see the women's ward. They were amazed to find the women prisoners so neat and busy and well behaved.

They soon gave Elizabeth whatever she asked for her women -- regular food, clothing, work, more space, and women to look after them. One of the cruel punishments in those days was to send women to Australia in horrible convict ships. The women were put into open carts and pulled through the streets of London on their way to the ships - and people would laugh and jeer at them as they went. Elizabeth could not stop them be sent to Australia, but she made the prison governor put them into closed carriages so they would not be so ashamed. Elizabeth went with them to the ship, saw them settled on board, and made sure they had plenty of useful work to do during the long voyage. She arranged for the ships to be met in Australia, and organized a hostel where the women could stay until they found work and a home in their new land.

Elizabeth Fry used all her influence to improve the prisons. She went to Members of Parliament, judges, and magistrates to seek their help in her work. She visited prisons throughout England and spoke at meetings up and down the country, spreading her new way of treating those who had broken the law. "Prisons are not just places for punishing people," she said. "We must help them to lead better lives. Kindness will do much more than cruelty." Slowly through her tireless work her ideas spread. She went to Europe to visit prisons, bumping along in a horse-drawn coach over the dreadful roads of Holland, Belgium, Germany and Denmark.

Elizabeth Fry died in 1845. She was mourned by her own large family, but also by a far bigger family of women whose lives she had changed. Her memory lived on in her work. Never again could prisons be as they were when she found them. She showed the love of Jesus to those who had gone wrong and, by her work, changed the prisons of many lands.

Adapted from 700 Great Lives

Revision Questions:

1. What was the state of the women in the prisons before Elizabeth Fry began to work for them?
2. Which country were prisoners sent to in those days as their punishment?
3. What year did Elizabeth Fry die? How many years ago was that?

Further Discussion:

1. Elizabeth Fry became a leader to many different people. Name some. (women prisoners, ladies from her church, prison officials, the Lord Mayor of London, members of parliament, judges and magistrates.
2. Read Matthew 25:31-45. How did Elizabeth Fry carry out these words of Jesus?
3. Elizabeth Fry said, "Prisons are not just places for punishing people. We must help them to lead better lives. Kindness will do much more than cruelty." What is the attitude of our community towards people who have been to prison? What should the Christian attitude be?

George Mueller

George Mueller was born 1805 in Germany, and died in 1898. He was a Christian evangelist who worked in England as the director of an orphanage. In the 1830s, George Mueller was disturbed by the number of homeless children throughout England. Although he himself had no money to provide for these children, he prayed for God's provision, and proved the faithfulness of God. He prayed for enough money to set up an orphanage, and without telling any one of the need, started receiving funds from various Christian people.

Here are some events that show how God provided for the orphans:

"The children are dressed and ready for school. But there is no food for them to eat," the housemother of the orphanage informed George Mueller. George asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited. George knew God would provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door. "Mr. Mueller," he said, "last night I could not sleep. Somehow, I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in."

Soon, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans of milk. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children.

George Mueller was not always a person of such great faith and good character. As a young boy growing up in Germany in the early 1800s, he often stole money from his dad. As a teenager, he sneaked out of a hotel twice without paying for the room. One time he was caught by police and put in jail. As a Bible college student, George loved going to bars, drinking, gambling, and being the life of the party. He also loved making fun of people, especially Christians.

One day, a friend invited George to go to an off-campus Bible study. He went only because he wanted to make fun of the Christians later. But to his surprise, he liked the Bible study. For the first time, he saw people who really knew and loved God. He attended each evening. Before the end of the week, he knelt at his bed and asked God to forgive his sins.

George's friends saw a change in him immediately. He no longer went to bars or made fun of people. He spent more time reading his Bible, talking about God, and going to church. Soon he found that his friends did not want to be around him anymore.

When George told his father that he had decided to become a missionary, his father became very upset. He wanted George to have a high-paying job and not be a poor missionary. He told George that he would not give him any more money for school.

George knew he had to do what God was calling him to do, even if his dad didn't support him.

George went back to college without knowing how he was going to pay his tuition. He did something he thought was a bit silly for a grown man to do. He got on his knees and asked God to provide. To his surprise, an hour later a professor knocked on his door. He offered George a paid tutoring job! George was amazed! This was the beginning of George Mueller's dependence on God.

After finishing college, George was ready to begin his missionary work in London, England. But there was one problem: Germany required all healthy men to serve at least a year in the army. George wanted to get to his mission as quickly as possible; however, he became very sick. His illness was so serious that he almost died. It also made him unable to serve in the army. He was now free to go to England as a missionary.

George became the pastor of a small church in England. The church wanted to pay him a good salary from the money it received renting pews to rich church members who sat at the front of the church. (Poor members had to sit in the "cheap" seats in the back.) George told them that this had to stop if they wanted him to be their pastor. Even so, he did not allow the church to pay him a salary. He trusted God to meet his needs, and God did. George and his family never missed a meal and were always able to pay their rent. George began to sense, however, that God had something else for him to do.

Each day as George walked the streets, he saw children everywhere who had no mom or dad. They lived on the streets or in state-run poorhouses, where they were treated badly. George felt God calling him to open an orphanage to take care of the children.

George prayed, asking God to provide a building, people to oversee it, furniture, and money for food and clothing. God answered his prayers. The needs of the orphanage were met each day. Sometimes a wealthy person would send a large amount of money, or a child would give a small amount received as a gift or for doing chores. Many times food, supplies or money came at the last minute, but God always provided without George telling anyone about his needs. He just prayed and waited on God.

On December 7th, 1835, he wrote in his diary:
'Today I received the first shilling for the orphan house. Afterwards I received another shilling from a German brother.'

On December 9th, he wrote:
'This afternoon, the first piece of furniture was given - a large wardrobe.'

On the evening of the 9th he addressed a meeting, announcing the planned establishment of the home.

"The home will only be established," he said, "if God provides the means and suitable staff to run it."... "Under no circumstances," he continued, "will any individual ever be asked for money or materials."... "The institution will be for truly destitute children and any orphan whose relatives are able and willing to pay for their maintenance will be ineligible. The children will receive a plain education. The chief and special end of the institution will be to seek, with God's special blessing, to bring the children to the knowledge of Jesus Christ by instructing them in the Scriptures."

As God continued to provide, George Muller eventually supervised the building of five large orphanages, housing thousands of children. This reminds us of the story of the loaves and fishes. The boy had only five loaves and two small fish. It seemed that the small amount of food was next to nothing compared to the amount of food needed. However, because the boy was willing to give, Jesus was able to bless and multiply the amount.

Sometimes Christians who decide to help the poor feel the same as the disciples did: so little food and so many to feed. However God can do great things when we are willing to give what we have. Something as small as a mustard seed can grow into a big tree.

More than 10,000 children lived in the orphanages over the years. When each child became old enough to live on his own, George would pray with him and put a Bible in his right hand and a coin in his left. He explained to the young person that if he held onto what was in his right hand, God would always make sure there was something in his left hand as well.

George Mueller provided excellent educational opportunities for the orphans. He established 117 schools which offered Christian education to more than 120,000 children, many of whom were orphans

His vision continues today as Christians around the world are inspired by his faith to depend on God to meet their needs and the needs of helpless children.

Questions:

What similarities are there between George Mueller's and the Apostle Paul in his decision to follow Jesus? How did George change after he became a follower of Jesus?

What did Mueller mean when he told the orphans to "hold onto the Bible in your right hand"?

Describe a time when God has answered your prayers and provided for you or your family.

What resources do you have that you could use to help others who might be in need of food or shelter?

Reona Peterson

A testimony from the book "Tomorrow you die"

Reona Peterson and her friend Evey had a dangerous mission to accomplish. God had called them to take His message of love into the country of Albania. In 1973, when this story took place, the Albanian government had a strong hatred for Christians. People were forbidden by law to believe in the God of the Bible. People were expected to honour and obey the government above everything else.

Reona had been a teacher from New Zealand, and Evey, a nurse from England. The only way they could get into Albania was with a tour group. Tour groups were seldom allowed into Albania, but the two ladies finally found a French group leaving for Albania that summer.

They boarded the bus in Paris, travelled through France, then Italy and Yugoslavia. As they crossed the border between Yugoslavia and Albania, they sensed the danger that lay ahead. Through the bus window they could see a cluster of white concrete buildings and a large red and black flag fluttering from a flag pole. Without warning, the bus stopped. Within seconds they were surrounded by soldiers with guns at their sides. All those on board were asked to get off. Clothing was checked carefully. Anyone with bright, conspicuous clothing had to change immediately. Luggage was searched, then visas checked.

Finally they were on the bus again, heading for their hotel. On arrival, they were assigned three to a room. Reona and Evey were joined by a British woman named Mary.

"This is my second trip to Albania," said Mary. "On my last trip, six years ago, two members of the group were interrogated for carrying Christian books and leaflets. That's the thing they're after."

Reona and Evey froze as they thought of the small New Testaments and Christian leaflets they were carrying in their shoulder bags. The bags had concealed compartments where the Bibles and leaflets could be hidden quite well.

After a few days the tour party visited the city of Tirana. The guide surprised everyone with the news that they had two hours walk in the city. The tourists were allowed to go off on their own instead of being supervised as usual. There were several parks in the city. Reona and Evey made their way to these, leaving Christian leaflets on benches, on tops of hedges, or on walls of fountains. While walking in the city they met a man who spoke French. This was unusual, as most people here spoke only Albanian. Both Reona and Evey knew some French so they were able to tell him about Jesus.

"I know it and believe it," said the man in French. He was a secret believer. How glad he was to meet some other Christians.

One night, towards the end of the tour, Reona and Evey were returning to their hotel, when Reona felt ill. She had a terrible night with severe stomach pains. By morning, she knew that she could not join the party for the two-day excursion which had been planned. Evey would have to go alone.

At lunch time, a woman came into the room with a food tray. Reona knew what she must say try to tell the woman about Jesus.

Tears came to the woman's eyes.
"Me Christian too," she said in broken English.
Reona gave her a New Testament.

About four O'clock there was another knock at the door. Reona was expecting the waitress again, but instead it was a stern-faced man who demanded that Reona come down stairs for interrogation.

Grabbing her dressing gown, she followed the man downstairs to a small room where a special chair awaited her. A copy of a New Testament was placed on the table in front of her.

"Have you seen this before?" asked the chief interrogator.
Reona said that she had.
"The one who received this from you has betrayed you," said the interrogator.

Reona did not believe this. The truth was, that the Christian waitress had left it lying about somewhere.

"Why did you come to Albania?" continued the interrogator. "Don't you know that no one in Albania believes in God? You will never see your family again. You are a traitor to our government, and traitors are shot. We will come for you at nine O'clock tomorrow morning."

Photographs were taken, and Reona was led back to her room. Reona lay on her bed and prayed, "Lord Jesus," she said, "It will be a privilege to lay down my life for you."

When the next day arrived, Reona was interrogated once more. Then the tour party returned and Evey was interrogated as well. During Evey's eight hours of interrogation she tried to take every opportunity to talk about God.

"Don't mention God again!" roared the interrogator angrily.

The French tour guide knew the situation the women were in and tried to be helpful. He assured them that he would do everything he could to try to get them released.

The next morning, Reona and Evey were told that they would be released.
"We will drive them to the border and leave them there. Never again will they be allowed to enter Albania," was the announcement to the group. However, after the group departed, the women were interrogated again.

"So you thought you were free! There are still more questions for you to answer," said the chief.

Had the announcement of their release just been to fool the group into thinking they were free? Did the authorities have other plans for them?

Finally they were given some forms to sign concerning the crimes they had committed, then they were ushered into a car. The car drove for about half an hour and then stopped. The ladies did not know where they were being taken. The two interrogators got out and the car continued. Could this be the road leading to the border, or was it leading to a prison?

Finally they passed through a town that they recognised. They knew they were only half an hour from the border. On arriving at the border their passports were stamped, 'PERSONAE NON GRATA', (a person forbidden to enter the country again).

"You may go," said a voice.

The two women walked through the gates into 'no-man's land'. This was an area of swampy country between Albania and Yugoslavia, a zone belonging to neither country. The Yugoslavian border was still about ten kilometres away. How could they ever find their way?

It was not long before a car pulled up.

"Taxi?" said a young man.

"No dinar," said Reona, meaning 'no money'.

The car drove back in the direction that it had come. Soon the car returned. The young man got out, took their suitcases and motioned to the women to get in. This time they did not argue. The taxi drove them to the Yugoslavian border for no cost. "Why would a taxi driver do this?" they wondered. "Was he an angel in disguise?"

From here, another driver offered them a ride to Italy. They did not know the driver, but at the end of the journey he pushed into their hands a large number of silver coins. They had exactly enough money for the bus and train fare back to Switzerland, where Christian friends had been praying earnestly for the safety and protection of the two women.

Activities – Reona Peteron

1. Find the country of Albania on a map. Albania is in which continent?
2. Name some countries that border it.
3. What did the government think about people who believed in God?
4. How did the two ladies get into Albania?
5. What did Mary tell the two ladies about carrying Christian books and leaflets?
6. How did Reona and Evey hide their Bibles and leaflets?
7. What did they intend to do with these?
8. How were they caught?
9. What is an interrogation?
10. What happened just after they thought they were free?
11. What miracles happened to get them to Switzerland?

God is our Protector

God has a whole army of angels fighting for us. We don't know who the taxi driver was in this story. The Bible tells us that we should take care in entertaining strangers, because these strangers just might be angels. Angels don't have to have a white gown and wings. They could look like ordinary people. The taxi driver may have been an angel. He had certainly been sent by God to help Reona and Evey. God wants us to pray for protection, not just for ourselves, but for others too. Reona and Evey had friends who were praying for them.

James Irwin

Born 1930, died 1991, U.S.A.

James Irwin worked as a test pilot before training with NASA as an astronaut.

James Irwin was the eight man to walk on the moon and the first to ride in the Lunar Rover. The Apollo 15 was a 'J-Mission,' which meant that the two astronauts, James Irwin and David Scott spent an extended period on the lunar surface – almost three days, where they collected 170 pounds (77 kg) of geologic material including the famous "Genesis Rock."

Outside their spacesuits, the temperature on the lunar surface was 150 degrees. The two astronauts felt extremely hot, even in their space suits. Perspiring so much meant that they were in danger of losing minerals from their bodies which could bring on a heart attack.

While Irwin did not suffer a heart attack, flight surgeons on earth who monitored the men were alarmed when they saw both astronauts develop irregular heart rhythms.

As Irwin moved about the lunar surface, apparently unaware of his dangerous health situation, he was struck by the size of the earth – about the size of his thumbnail.

"I was just amazed to see the earth," he said. "It reminded me of a Christmas tree ornament – a very fragile one, hanging majestically in space. It was very touching to see earth from that perspective."

At one point, Irwin had trouble with a planned science experiment. He was having trouble with the experiment. Frustrated in his attempts to get the experiment to work, Irwin decided he would pray.

While raised in a Christian home – and a believer and churchgoer since age 10, he was a nominal Christian at this stage of his life. He did not take the Christian faith seriously.

But now he really needed wisdom due to this problem and he said, "God I need your help right now."

Suddenly Irwin experienced the presence of Jesus Christ in a remarkable way, unlike anything he ever felt on earth. The Lord showed him the solution to the problem and he was able to perform the experiment.

He was completely overwhelmed at seeing and feeling God's presence so close. At one point, he turned around and looked over his shoulder as if Jesus was standing there.

This unusual encounter with Jesus – some 238,000 miles from earth, changed Irwin's life forever.

After his return from the moon, Irwin and Scott rode through the streets of New York. There were thousands of people lining the street and he was trying to see all their faces.

But Irwin did not care for fame. God dropped it in his heart that he had a responsibility to mankind to share Jesus with everyone after that.

Like other men in church history who have experienced dramatic encounters with God, the result was an increased power to witness for Jesus Christ, a confidence and boldness that fueled his passion to become a witness for Jesus Christ to the nations.

Within a year of Irwin's return from space, he resigned from NASA in order to carry on his Christian work.

"God decided that He would send His Son Jesus Christ to the blue planet," Irwin said, "and it's through faith in Jesus Christ that we can relate to God. Jesus Himself said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes unto the Father except through me.'

"As I travel around I tell people the answer is Jesus Christ, that Jesus walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon."

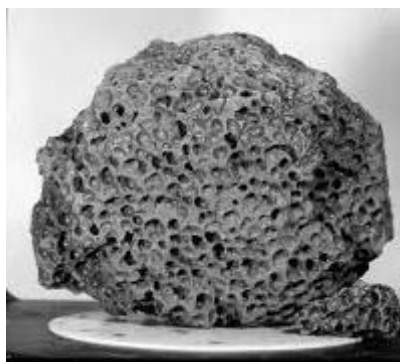
For two decades, Irwin traveled the world and presented small flags he carried from the moon to the leaders of various countries. And for each flag that he presented, he was able to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

Irwin continued to suffer heart problems after he left the space program. On the 20th anniversary of the Apollo 15 mission, he spoke in Aspen, Colorado. The next day he took a long bicycle ride. After the ride, he collapsed due to a massive heart attack and went to live forever with the God he loved – the same one he encountered on the surface of the moon.

It is ironic, perhaps, that his heavenly homecoming was within hours of the 20th anniversary of his earthly homecoming from the moon.

The day before he died, Irwin said to his best friend, "All I want to do is be faithful."

<http://blog.godreports.com/2011/03/encounter-with-jesus-on-the-moo>



Genesis rock, collected by James Irwin, Apollo 15

Christopher Columbus

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

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 and died in 1506. He was an Italian explorer and navigator, but worked for the king of Spain. He completed four voyages across the Atlantic Ocean and is most famous for his discovery of the east coast of America in 1492, (although it is believed that the Vikings discovered northern Canada in the 11th century, traveling across the sea from Greenland.)

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

Columbus set out from Spain in 1492. He was in charge of a fleet of three ships. Columbus himself commanded the 'Santa Maria', his best friend commanded the 'Pinta', and his brother commanded the 'Nina'. As the long days passed without any sight of land, the crew became more and more afraid. They planned to get rid of Columbus and sail back home. 'Perhaps the world is flat after all,' they thought. 'What if we fall over the edge?'

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

Discussion

Columbus had confidence in continuing the journey, even when everyone else wanted to turn back. His confidence was in God. Can you think of anyone in the Bible who trusted God while making a journey?

1. What are the similarities between the two stories, 'The Journey to the Promised Land' from last week, and the story of 'Christopher Columbus'?
2. Why were the members of the crew afraid?
3. What is the meaning of mutiny?
4. Why did the mutiny not occur?
5. What was the name of the island discovered by Columbus, and where was it?

James Cook

James Cook was born in 1728 and died in 1779. He was a British explorer and navigator. He made three voyages to the Pacific Ocean, discovering the east coast of Australia and the west coast of America.

As a teenager, he had a love for ships. When he was old enough he started working in a shop. One day, the captain of a ship came into the shop and asked if James would like to learn to become a sailor. James was offered employment on a coal ship at one of the ports in England. He scrubbed the deck and painted the ship with special waterproof paint so that the ship wouldn't leak. He became very good at all the work sailors had to do. He also learned navigation, which was the skill of plotting the course of the ship across the sea.

He then decided to join the Royal Navy and became known for his excellent mapping skills. In 1760, he mapped the jagged coast of Newfoundland, Canada. In those days, the King needed people to go exploring so that they could discover new lands. The Royal Society was a society set up by the king, to hire people to go exploring. The Royal Society was very impressed with Cook's skills and in 1766, they hired him to travel to the Pacific Ocean to observe and record a transit of Venus across the Sun.

Cook's First Voyage (1768-1771)

Cook was given a boat called the Endeavour. On board the Endeavour were 71 crewmen. Twelve were soldiers who would protect the ship against pirates. Nine were naturalists whose job was to discover new plants and animals. The Endeavour left England in 1768, and sailed to Tahiti where he built a small fort and observatory to study the planet Venus, as it traveled across the sky in front of the sun. This is called an eclipse.

Cook had also been asked to search for a great southern continent. The Royal Society believed that there could be a great continent between the equator and the South Pole, similar to the great continent of Europe in the north. Cook explored the South Pacific looking for the great continent, although Cook had some doubts as to whether it really existed. In fact, he proved that there was no such continent.

From Tahiti, he sailed to New Zealand, which until then had been visited by Europeans only once, by Abel Tasman in 1642. Cook mapped New Zealand's complete coastline, discovering Cook Strait which separates the North Island of New Zealand from the South Island.

Next, he went on to Australia, where he discovered its east coast. (Previously only the west coast of Australia had been discovered by Dutch explorers Dirk Hartog who landed in 1616 and William Dampier in 1699 who sailed along the western coast. Van Diemen's Land, now called Tasmania, had also been discovered by Abel Tasman in 1642.)

The site of his first landing on Australia's east coast was Botany Bay. This would later be the site of the first British colony in Australia. It was also the site of the first

European contact with Australian Aborigines and the first European sightings of Australian plants and animals. Cook also discovered the Great Barrier Reef, in which his ship narrowly escaped running aground. He then sailed through Torres Strait, between Australia and New Guinea, again becoming only the second European to do so (the first being a Spanish sailor in 1604).

Captain Cook would never allow swearing on his ship and on Sundays he asked the crew to wear clean clothes. Cook kept his crew members healthy. He insisted on good hygiene and the ship was kept very clean. Many sailors died in those days, due to a disease known as scurvy. It was caused by a lack of fresh fruit and vegetables, particularly Vitamin C in citrus fruits and other fruits. Captain Cook learned about the cause of scurvy and showed wise leadership in this regard. He forced his men to eat citrus fruits such as oranges and lemons, and they were punished if they did not comply.

The Endeavour sailed for Batavia, the capital of the Dutch East Indies, (now Indonesia), and anchored for some time to repair the ship. Batavia was known for its outbreaks of malaria, and much of Cook's crew contracted the disease. They had to return to England. The year was 1771.

Cook's journals were published upon his return and he became a hero among the scientific community. But among the general public, Captain Cook's botanist, Joseph Banks was a bigger hero. He had brought back with him samples of amazing new plants, and insects species and drawings of unusual animals.

Cook's Second Voyage (1772-1775)

On this voyage Cook became the first European to cross the Antarctic Circle in 1773. In his ship, the Resolution, he discovered South Georgia Island, an island off the coast of Antarctica. Cook almost discovered the mainland of Antarctica, but turned back north towards Tahiti to resupply his ship.

He then returned to England and was given an honorary retirement from the Royal Navy, but he could not be kept away from the sea. A third voyage was planned to find the Northwest Passage. The North-West passage was the passage of sea that we know today, between Siberia and Alaska. If a passage was found, ships could sail around the north of America to Europe. Cook would travel to the Pacific, around the Cape of Good Hope, and then north.

Third Voyage (1776-1779)

Having made two very long voyages before, Elizabeth, James Cook's wife, did not want him to go on a third voyage. Each voyage took well over a year. Already two daughters had died of sickness while Cook had been away, and now, with the birth of another son, Elizabeth wanted her husband to retire.

But Cook wanted to make just one last voyage. On this last voyage, he once again commanded the Resolution. In 1778 became the first European to visit the Hawaiian Islands, which he named the Sandwich Islands. From there he travelled east to explore the west coast of North America. He explored and mapped the coast from California all the way to Alaska.

As they traveled further and further north the conditions became extremely difficult. Their small ship was not made for such icy, hazardous conditions. All the time the crew kept thinking that they must get through before winter or else their ship would get stuck in the ice. Eventually they had to abandon their efforts. Cook decided to turn around and go south. They would try again after the big freeze was over. The next try was more successful. But again, they had to turn around and go south. By this time their ship was badly in need of repair. Cook decided to stop in Hawaii for a while to mend the mast.

They were given a wonderful reception by the Hawaiian people. In fact, they believed that Cook was a god which had been told about in their legends. The people bowed down and worshipped him. Then the high priest told the people that they must give the crew gifts of produce from the island in order to please the gods.

Finally, the mast was mended and Cook and his crew prepared to leave. The head chief was very pleased that they were leaving because they could not afford to give any more food, or they would not have enough for themselves.

Not far out to sea, the mast broke. They would need to find land again in order to repair it. One of the crew members acted as Cook's interpreter. He was familiar with the ways of the Hawaiian people and had learned some of their language. He knew how the chief was feeling about Cook and the crew. He knew that the chief would not be pleased if they returned. The interpreter tried to explain to Cook that they must not return to the island. They must find another island for repairing the ship.

But Cook would not listen to this wise advice. He did not see anything wrong with returning just for a few days. So back to the island they went. The chief was angry. The crew had overstayed their welcome. Also, it was now obvious to the high priest that Cook could not have been a god after all. They had given all their produce away to someone who was not really a god.

"Three days," Cook explained to the chief through the interpreter. "We will be away from here in three days."

However before three days were up they fell into the hands of the Hawaiian warriors. There was a great massacre at the water's edge. Cook was speared to death. Those who could climbed aboard the ship and headed out to sea, but Cook's dead body lay floating in the shallows. Many of the crew were speared along with him.

Although Cook had been a great sea captain on previous voyages, and had made wise decisions, this final unwise decision was the death of him. Although he was a captain, he should have listened to the person who had more wisdom than he did regarding the ways of the Hawaiian people.

Activities: Draw a basic outline of a world. Trace Cook's three voyages. Use a different coloured line for each voyage.



First voyage:

England → Cape Horn → Tahiti → New Zealand (around both islands) → Australia's east coast (Sydney and Barrier Reef) → Torres Strait (between Northern Australia and New Guinea) → Indonesia → South of Madagascar → Cape of Good Hope → England.

Second voyage:

England → Cape of Good Hope → New Zealand → South Georgia Island (just north of Antarctica) → Tahiti and circling the South Pacific twice → Cape Horn → England.

Third voyage:

England → Cape of Good Hope → South of Australia → New Zealand → Tahiti → Californian coast → Alaska → south of Alaska then back to Alaska again → Hawaii

Don Richardson (New Guinea)

This is a true story of a whole group of people who changed their life-style from one of killing and cheating to a life of peace and happiness as they came to know the true peace-maker, Jesus Christ.

In 1962, Don and Carol Richardson went to live among the Sawi people of West Paua (New Guinea). West Papua is the western part of New Guinea. The Sawis had only occasionally seen white people. These were the men sent by the Dutch government to observe the area. The Sawis lived in deep tropical jungle on the edge of the crocodile infested Kronkel River. The Sawis stood in awe of white people, with their planes and helicopters, their jet-propelled rafts and their precious gifts of steel axes and razor blades.

It was a great privilege to have Don and Carol as their very own white residents in their small village. However, for Don and Carol, life was unpredictable, completely foreign to their own way of life, and very dangerous. Only their faith in God gave them the courage they needed to live among the Sawis. They had an inner certainty that Jesus had sent them on a special mission... to bring the Good News to people who lived a life of violence and fear.

At the foundation of all Sawi life was treachery and mistrust. Children were brought up to hold in high esteem the killing of another human being. The Sawis, along with their surrounding tribes, were head-hunters. At least this was the case until the mid-sixties, when Don and Carol penetrated the world of the Sawi.

The Sawis used a tactic of 'fattening with friendship'. To befriend a member of the enemy tribe, gain his confidence, and then kill him when he was not suspecting it, was a deed highly honoured among the Sawis. It was not surprising then, that as Don started to share the Gospel story, Judas was the hero, not Jesus. Judas had done the very thing that the Sawis honoured. That is, to become a friend of Jesus, and then later, turn Him over to the enemy to be killed.

"How can the Gospel be shared with these people?" thought Don. The whole foundation of their society would have to change before the Sawis could even begin to understand why Jesus had to die for them. It was a task too difficult for Don and Carol. They knew that only the Lord could open the minds of the Sawi people by some enormous miracle. Don and Carol concentrated their work on three Sawi tribes. These were the Haenam, Kamur and Yawi tribes. To these tribes they gave medicine, supplied implements and worked at learning their language so that they could share the Gospel with them. They also taught some of the Sawis to read, in their own language, for the first time.

Working with the three tribes, however, brought about some problems. Don and Carol's work brought the three tribes into closer contact. This meant that fighting among them was becoming more common, and contagious diseases were spreading more rapidly. Don concluded that their past habit of living in small isolated groups had been the key to their survival. Before Don and Carol arrived, potential enemies were out of sight and there were fewer occasions to shed blood. Don and Carol decided that for the good of the people they should leave them. Otherwise the three tribes could die out altogether.

The leaders from two of the warring groups confronted Don. "Tuan," as they called him, "don't leave us!" they pleaded.

"But I don't want you to kill each other," replied Don.

"Tuan," one of them said, "We're not going to kill each other. Tomorrow we are going to make peace!"

Don and Carol hardly slept that night, wondering what daybreak would bring. Few of the Sawis slept either. All through the night voices could be heard. Then as daylight broke all was deathly quiet, just as it had been before previous battles.

Then one of the tribe members, Mahaen, and his wife climbed down from their houses. Mahaen was carrying a child, one of his own sons on his back. His wife Syado was sobbing violently. The people of the tribe also started descending from their houses. All eyes were on Mahaen, Syado and the child. Suddenly Syado wrenched the boy from her husband's shoulders and ran off with him. She was not going to give him up. Now all the other women of the Haenem tribes clutched their babies close to their breasts. Someone had to give up their baby.

Finally a man named Kaiyo decided that he would be the one.

"It is necessary," Kaiyo reminded himself. "There's no other way to stop the fighting. And if the fighting does not stop, the Tuan will leave."

Kaiyo reached down and picked up his only child, six-month-old Biakadon. He held the soft, warm gurgling body of his son close to his chest one last time. Kaiyo's wife, Wumi, did not yet know of the decision. Then her eyes flashed towards her husband, who, with Biakadon in his arms, was running towards the other tribe. Wumi screamed and ran after Kaiyo, but Kaiyo did not look back. Wumi felt her feet sinking into the bog. She had missed the trail. There was no hope now. He was too far ahead.

As Kaiyo reached the Haenam tribe his heart was breaking. The men of the village were grouped together waiting to receive the child. The peace ceremony began.

"I give you my son, and with him my name," Kaiyo said as he held forth little Biakadon. Mahor, of the Haeman tribe received him gently into his arms.

"It is enough!" said Mahor. "I will surely plead for peace between us."

Then a father from the Haenam tribe held up one of his sons.

"Will you plead peace among your people?" Kaiyo was asked.

"Yes!" replied Kaiyo.

"Then I give you my son and I give you my name," said the father.

Kaiyo took his newly adopted son, Mani, into his arms and ran quickly back to his own tribe. In each village young and old, male and female, filed past the babies and laid their hands upon them, sealing their acceptance of peace with the other tribe. The adopted babies were then decorated, ready for a peace celebration.

Don tried to comprehend what had just taken place. He questioned one of the men.

"Why is this necessary?" he asked.

"Tuan," was the reply. "Don't you know that it is impossible to have peace without a peace child?"

"What will happen to Biakadon and Mani?" asked Don. "Will they be harmed?"

"They will not be harmed, Tuan," was the reply. "In fact both our villages will guard the lives of these children even more carefully than they protect their own children."

The exchange of the two babies did actually cause the two warring groups to cease fighting. But for Don and Carol, the peace child illustration meant so much more. Now, finally a way of explaining the sacrifice of God's son had been demonstrated before their

very eyes. Don was now able to explain the Gospel in a way in which the Sawis would understand.

"Like Kaiyo," said Don, "God had only one son to give, and like Kaiyo, He gave Him away. The son you gave was a son you loved. The Son that God gave was a son He loved even more. God has sent me to tell you that God has sent a peace child. His name is Jesus. From now on, let Sawi mothers keep their own babies. God has given His Son for YOU! Ask His Spirit to live in your hearts and He will keep you in the way of peace."

For three months Don kept telling the Sawis about the Peace Child of God, but still no one had committed their life to Christ.

"What else will it take to draw these men and their families to Jesus?" he thought. And then it happened.

One afternoon Don and Carol and their two baby boys took a boat trip upstream with their Sawi house-boy. Suddenly the boat hit a submerged log and the boat capsized. All four were thrown into the strong currents of the crocodile infested Kronkel River. Both parents holding the babies, they managed to grab hold of the up-turned boat. Then, by a miracle, a man in a canoe came by and rescued them before they were swept away. The Sawi people could see from this experience that God really did give peace and protection. As a result, one whole family gave their lives to the Lord.

"When I saw that God could give you peace, even when your two sons almost drowned, I knew that everything you said about the Peace Child was true," said one of the Sawi leaders. "I decided that He could take care of us too."

As Don and Carol continued to live among the Sawi people, they saw more miracles as people gave their lives to Christ. Gradually old customs and evil practices gave way to a new life of peace and happiness. Because of the Peace Child story, the Sawis had a new hope. Instead of hate and mistrust between villages, they developed a bond, which kept them from war. That bond was peace through Jesus Christ.

Story retold from 'Peace Child' by Don Richardson, (Used by permission).

Discussion

How was the Sawis experience of giving up the peace child similar to God's sacrifice for us?

The parents of the peace child made a great sacrifice to bring about peace. As each gave their son, and the peace-child was received by the other tribe, the people were able to experience peace. We could also say that receiving the peace child was a kind of promise that they would stop fighting and instead, be friends with the other tribe.

God our Heavenly Father made a great sacrifice in giving His only Son, Jesus. As people receive God's Son, they experience peace in their hearts and lives. Receiving God's Son, Jesus, is making a promise that we will, from this point on, to stop going against God, and instead, become His friend. Being a friend of God means doing what HE wants us to do, and not always what WE want to do.

2 Corinthians 5:19

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. (NLT)

Imagine two friends who have a fight or argument. They are no longer friends. They stop speaking to each other. The friends gradually become strangers. To become friends again there must be reconciliation. To be *reconciled* is to be restored to friendship. When old friends forget about their differences and restore their relationship, reconciliation has happened.

Now let's think about the broken friendship between people and God that occurred in the Garden of Eden. Every person born after that event has sin in their life. One of God's laws is, "no one who has sinned can be a friend of God". But God sent Jesus to give people an opportunity to become friends again with God. When people receive Jesus, and ask Him to take their sin, He looks on us as if we have no sin, and therefore we can be friends with God.

Isn't this good news? Don't you think the whole world should know about this?

2 Corinthians 5:18

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. (NLT)

Who has the job of telling the world that they can be reconciled to God?

Don Richardson Activities

1. Find West Papua on a map. Name a country that borders it.
2. Why did the Sawi tribe stand in awe of white people?
3. Why do you think the Sawis wanted Don and Carol to live with them?
4. How did the Sawis "fatten with friendship"?
5. Why do you think the Sawis saw Judas as the hero in the gospel story, and not Jesus?
6. Why did Don and Carol almost decide to leave?
7. What stopped them?
8. What had to happen for peace to be made between two tribes?
9. How was the practice of giving up a baby similar to God's great sacrifice?
10. Unjumble this message. It is based on 2 Corinthians 5:17:

YNOEAN HWO GEBLSON OT SCHIRT SI DAME WEN.

David Wilkerson

Born 1931 Died 2011

David Wilkerson was born in 1931 in Indiana, USA. He was brought up in a strong Christian home. His father and grandfather were both excellent preachers.

David Wilkerson began to preach when he was about fourteen. After high school, he studied at an Assemblies of God Bible college. And in 1952 he was ordained as a minister.

David Wilkerson married Gwen in 1953. He served as a pastor in small churches in Pennsylvania, until he saw a photograph in Life Magazine in early 1958, of seven teenagers who were members of a gang in New York known as "Egyptian Kings". He was moved with compassion for these teenagers and felt the Holy Spirit telling him to go to New York in order to preach to them.

On his arrival, Wilkerson went to the court in which the teenagers were being prosecuted. He entered the room and asked the judge for permission to tell them something, but the judge would not allow him to speak to the boys and asked him to leave. Feeling a failure, he traveled back to Pennsylvania. Yet the idea of helping the seven boys on trial kept nagging David. It was not long before he traveled to New York again. As he neared the city centre he had a strong feeling that he should park the car and get out. He had only walked a few metres when he noticed seven teenagers standing together smoking, looking bored. One of them came up to David.

"Aren't you the preacher that got kicked out of our trial?" the boy asked.

"Yes," said David. "I wanted to help you but I'm sorry I couldn't."

"I'm Tommy," said the boy. He then introduced David to the other gang members. They were all willing to talk with David except for one. The one stood with a mean look on his face. Then finally he came up to David.

"Davie," he said, getting out his knife, "if you ever turn on boys in the town I will kill you."

David had made his first contact with a teenage gang. David moved to New York and began a street ministry to young drug addicts and gang members, which he continued into the 1960s. Later in 1958, he founded Teen Challenge, a centre where drug addicts could get free from drugs.

Coming off drugs was not easy. Once the addicts stopped taking drugs they would experience 'withdrawal symptoms'. There is first a deep craving for another dose, which makes the person nervous, fidgety and unhappy. Then the addict begins to sweat. Then they experience painful stomach cramps. Then they start to feel sick and start vomiting, sometimes for hours on end. They see images, more horrible than any nightmare. Usually this goes on for three days and nights without a break. When the person is finally free of drugs, they can start the recovery process. The only way is to never touch drugs again.

Girls as well as boys were helped at the centre. Many gave up drugs and came to know Jesus. Some could not be helped and returned to their drugs and life of crime. During the first six months of the Centre's existence, over 2,500 young people came to know Jesus. They became young people with a new outlook and purpose in life. They changed from being criminals to active citizens with something to give.

Jackie Pullinger

Rescuing Drug Addicts

<https://mylordkatie.wordpress.com/2015/04/22/jackie-pullinger-rescuing-drug-addicts/>

Imagine going to work every single day in a slum area. Everywhere you walk you are slushing through the worst imaginable sewage. You walk with your head down in case someone from the building above you throws their slop out their window. The streets are filled with homeless men and women and children. Most are lying in a drug-induced stupor. Many of these will die soon. You cannot help them all. You are only one person.

But you can be faithful to your calling and follow where God leads. You can do all you can for even a few people. You can make opportunities for the young, especially, so that they can come off drugs and look forward to a totally different life. You accept this call for the long term knowing that poverty and danger from gangs will be your daily lot in life. You have very little outside help.

What kind of a person does this? A person who loves her Savior Jesus Christ and accepts His love for the lost will do this – a person like Jackie Pullinger.

Jackie was born in London in 1944. After attending the Royal College of Music, she left for the mission field. She went to Hong Kong in 1966.

Jackie Pullinger knew that she wanted to be a missionary from the time she was a young child. Even before she really knew what missionaries do she made the decision to be one in her Sunday School class at age five when she heard a missionary speak.

Growing up, Jackie put her thoughts of missionary work aside and lived as any other young girl in Britain. Eventually she went to the Royal College of Music.

After visiting with Christian friends, she had a dream about missionary work and was determined to follow her girlhood dream and serve the Lord on the mission field. She decided to go to Hong Kong. She would end up working in the Walled City, a place known for violence and drugs.

Opium and heroin abuse was and still is an epidemic in the Walled City. The Walled City was a mere six acres, but had a population of at least 30,000 people.

Many of the addicts used a method where they smoked the opium rather than injecting it. Injected drugs were very strong and it was too easy to overdose.

When Jackie got to Hong Kong she started a Youth Club. Many of the boys who came were members of the Triad gangs. These boys were rough and used to violence, including murder. They were skeptical of this British woman but gradually over the years as Jackie continued to live among them they began to trust her.

Most missionaries who went to Hong Kong only stayed a few weeks or a few months. They had money and lived in nicer homes. As soon as their money ran out or they got tired of the filth of the Walled City, they went home. They did not have much credibility with the gangs. The gang members expected Jackie to leave like all the rest. But Jackie not only stayed, she lived among them.

One by one many of the gang members became Christians. When the gang members kicked the drug habit they stayed away from drugs for life. The boys turned to Jesus. Many of them went on to witness to their families and former gang friends. When the addicts who really wanted to change could see the miracle of healing that faith in Jesus brings, they were willing to listen to the Gospel. Not all accepted the truth, but many did.

Some were afraid of going “cold turkey” from their addiction. The pain of the withdrawals was horrific and some even died during withdrawal. But many of those who turned to Christ for forgiveness and trusted in Him for their new life never went through the withdrawals. Some didn’t even have so much as a headache. These miraculous healings helped to draw others to Christ.

Not everyone of course had complete relief. And some who turned to Christ did not reform immediately. They needed help. Jackie opened up homes and soon many were begging her to give them a place to stay and overcome their addiction. Jackie would try and keep them for as long as possible while they reformed and really learned how to live a Christian life.

Over the years Jackie’s efforts led to an amazing degree of success. She not only helped gang members kick their habit, but she even had a chance to speak to some of the dangerous gang leaders. She won their respect. In fact, on one occasion after vandals destroyed her Youth club, a gang boss sent guards to watch her building and make sure it didn’t happen again.

The gangs had a rule that once you were a gang member you were a gang member for life. It was dangerous for the boys to leave their gangs. Jackie told them that they could not serve two masters. They had to choose the gang or Jesus. The boys who left the gangs could expect severe retribution or even death. Here again God intervened. Jackie got the gang bosses to promise that they would not bother the boys who left the gang.

You see, strange as it may seem, the gang bosses did not like their men on drugs. A drug addict could be worse than useless. They wanted to make money by selling drugs to others, but they wanted their own men to be drug free. Since Jackie had success in getting men and boys to give up drugs completely, and the gang bosses had been unable to do this, they had much respect for her.

Years rolled by and Jackie opened several more homes. The work expanded and with the help of some American missionaries she set up the St. Stephen’s Society. It is still in existence today and is one of the most successful organizations in the world, rescuing hundreds of young people from a life of misery on the streets.

The Walled City was eventually pulled down and cleaned up in the 1990’s. Jackie has continued her work there. Today there are hundreds of people living in different homes coming off of drugs and being helped to a new life. The work has expanded to other countries including the Philippines. Jackie Pullinger continued to give her life to the poor and forgotten. Her desire to reach the lost for Jesus is being realized every day as those who were rescued from drugs then go out into the world with the Gospel. Many now have a blessed life in Christ instead of a tragic life on the streets thanks to Jackie’s faithfulness.

Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.

Martin Luther

Martin Luther was born in Germany in the town of Wittenburg in the year 1483. His parents were poor, but they worked hard so that their son could go to University and become a lawyer. They taught Martin that if he sinned God would punish him. So he grew up to fear God, not to love Him. One day when he was a student he went for a walk with his friend. Suddenly a fierce storm broke out. A flash of lightning struck Martin's friend and killed him. Martin fell to the ground sobbing. "God has punished my friend for his sins," he cried. "If he spares me I will give my life to God and become a monk!" His parents were sad when he said goodbye to them. But the monks in the monastery were pleased for he was a clever student and they welcomed him gladly.

No one in the monastery was more serious than Martin. He was always praying, going without food and punishing himself. He thought he would find forgiveness that way. But his heart was troubled and his mind was anxious. God seemed stern and distant and Martin had no peace. One day a kind monk said to him, "Why do you torture yourself? God is merciful and cares for you. Read your Bible. It will show you how Jesus came, not to frighten men but to comfort them."

In those days Bibles were scarce and written only in Latin. That was an old language of Italy which most people didn't understand. So Bibles were seldom read. Martin himself did not see a Bible until he was twenty years old. The church told people how to live and worship because most could not read the Bible for themselves. Now Martin began to read it for the first time. He read how Jesus taught people that God is our Father who loves and cares for us. He read how Paul taught that we are forgiven by our faith in Jesus. Then at last Martin Luther knew forgiveness and peace. Forgiveness for sins did not come to him from the leader of the church, (the Pope), and not from the bishops and priests as the church taught. Forgiveness came from knowing Jesus, and people could find out about knowing Jesus by reading the Bible. How joyful he was at his great discovery. Soon after this he was made a professor at the University of Wittenberg. Now he could teach other how to find the peace of God by personally knowing Jesus.

More and more Martin found himself growing angry with the church. They seemed to care more for their power than for their people. He went to Rome to see the Pope but this didn't help. Martin became even more angry with the church. One day a monk came to Wittenberg to sell pardons by the Pope. That meant that if a person gave the monk money, he would say, "The Pope forgives you for your sins." The Pope needed money because he was building a great church in Rome. In protest, Martin Luther wrote on a piece of strong paper called 'parchment', why he believed that these pardons were wrong. He walked into the market place and nailed the parchment on the church door, where other notices were posted. People came to read the notices, and news of Martin's post spread like fire. Soon everyone in Germany heard how this brave monk had defied the leaders of the church. Martin Luther wrote books on why the pardoning of sins was wrong and they were read by people all over Europe. Not many people bought pardons any more.

The Pope was very angry at being attacked by a common monk and especially angry at losing the money he wanted for his building. He ordered Martin to appear before the Cardinal in Augsburg to be tried. He was told to change what he was saying about the church, but refused to be bullied and would not later one single word of what he had written. Then the Pope sent Martin a letter. It was his solemn order casting Martin Luther out of the church. Martin burnt the letter on a bon fire outside the walls of Wittenberg in front of a cheering crowd. Then the Pope ordered him to go to the city of Worms to be tried by a council of the church. Martin's friends were anxious for his safety if he went. Martin said to them, "If there were as many devils in Worms as tiles on the housetops I would still go." The people of Worms welcomed him with cheers. He spoke boldly to the Council. "Unless you can prove from the Bible that I am wrong," said Martin, "I cannot take back a single word. Councils and Popes have been wrong, but the Bible is never wrong and I must obey it. I must obey God above men."

Martin Luther was now in terrible danger as being seized and burnt as a heretic. But the ruler of that part of Germany was his friend. His soldiers took Martin to a castle where he would be safe. Here he translated the Bible into German so that the people could understand it. Soon many rulers in Germany no longer put themselves under the rule of the Pope. New churches grew in Germany, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, and still today are called Lutheran churches.

Martin Luther married and had several children whom he loved dearly. He lived the rest of his life quietly in his home studying and writing. He wrote some fine hymns and tunes which are still sung today. Through his writings his influence spread. His greatest achievement was to make the Bible available to people in their own language and to show people that they could find forgiveness and peace through Jesus.

Martin Luther's protest against what the Roman Catholic Church was doing resulted in a separate group of churches called the 'Protestant' churches. The first Protestant church was the Lutheran church. Other examples of Protestant churches that exist today all over the world are Methodist, Baptist, Brethren, Presbyterian, and Church of England. Martin Luther's courage eventually woke up the Roam Catholic Church to the things they were doing wrong, and today Catholics are encouraged to read God's word and to follow what the Bible says.

Activities

1. Look up the dictionary definition of a 'monk'.
2. Was Martin Luther, as a young boy, afraid of God or did he love God? What about us? Are we scared of God or do we love and trust Him?
3. Martin was 'anxious' as a monk. What does 'anxious' mean? Does God want us to be anxious?
4. What language was the Bible printed in when Martin Luther was alive?
5. Were many people able to read the Bible?
6. How old was Martin Luther when he first saw a Bible?
7. In Europe, notices were posted on church doors in those days. How did Fijians pass on messages in the early days? How is information passed on today?
8. Read Galatians 1:10 and explain how this verse applied to the actions of Martin Luther.