

Biographies Level 6

The following biographies are studied in *Themes for Christian Studies* Level 6

Christopher Columbus	2
Mel Tari	4
Ian McCormack	6
William Booth	11
Hudson Taylor	13
Jim Elliot	15
Corrie ten Boom	18
Don Richardson	21

Christopher Columbus

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

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. Columbus had confidence in continuing the journey, even when everyone else wanted to turn back. His confidence was in God.

God is Wise – Themes for Christian Studies 6



Activities – Christopher Columbus

PART A

1. Why were the members of the crew afraid?
2. What is the meaning of mutiny?
3. Why didn't the mutiny occur?
4. How did Columbus know he was approaching land?
5. What was the name of the island discovered by Columbus, and where was it?
6. Which Old Testament hero trusted God while making a journey?
7. Why was the voyage of Columbus and his crew similar to the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land? Choose the correct answers:
 - a) None of the travellers had been to the new land before.
 - b) Both events took place on the continent of Africa.
 - c) God was guiding them.
 - d) All the travellers trusted in God for the whole of the journey.
 - e) The travellers did not always trust their leader.

PART B - God is wise

Read:

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

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I know what God wants me to do?

I can learn what the _____ has to say.

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

I can listen to His voice when I _____.

I can listen to what my conscience is _____.

Missing words: right saying Bible pray

Miracles in Java

This is a true story of a man who was raised from the dead in Indonesia during a period of great Christian revival. The account is told by Mel Tari, in his book, *"The Gentle Breeze of Jesus"*, in which he writes about his experiences in Indonesia in the 1960s and 70s.

In January of 1973, a man and his wife were walking home at the end of a long hard day's work. They had been weeding their rice fields outside their village in Java and they were terribly hot, tired and dirty. As they trudged up the road, they passed their neighbour's house. All at once they heard loud crying from inside the house. They were shocked. The wailing was so loud that something terrible must have happened.

They knocked on the door but there was no answer. The sobbing just continued louder than ever. Finally, they pushed the door open and walked in. There in the dim half-light of the little room they could make out a form lying motionless on the bed and a woman kneeling on the dirt floor.

"What on earth is the matter?" the couple asked.

"Oh, my husband has died," the lady sobbed.

"How long ago?"

"I don't know. Several hours at least. I've been crying ever since."

The couple walked over to the bed. The corpse had no breath and no pulse. In fact, it had already become so still that they couldn't move its arms or legs. It didn't take too many brains for the farmer and his wife to work out that the lady was right. Her husband was dead.

"Oh, we're so sorry," they said, trying to comfort her. "We must go back home right now to wash and change our clothes. Then we'll tell all our friends what has happened and make arrangements to have him buried. But first we want to pray for you."

Now actually, the farmer and his wife were brand-new Christians. Four months before, they had been Moslems. But since their conversion they were trying to learn everything possible about the new faith.

"Our pastor told us last Sunday that Jesus never changes," they went on. "If He could bring dead people back to life two thousand years ago, He certainly can do it again for us today. So let's ask Him to let His perfect will be done."

They bowed their heads and began to talk to the Lord. "O dear Lord Jesus, if You want to, please raise this man from the dead. You know how this lady needs her husband."

Then they said good-bye and walked outside the house. They had only gone about 20 metres when all of a sudden, the lady ran to the doorway. "Come back! Come back!" she yelled. "As soon as you left my husband started to move!"

By the time they got back inside the man was sitting in the middle of the bed, smiling from ear to ear.

"What happened to you?" they asked.

"Oh, I died and went to heaven to be with Jesus. It was so wonderful up there. I really didn't want to come back to earth."

This true story is a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit who is able to work miraculously today. Jesus is just as powerful today as He was when He was on earth two thousand years ago.

God is Powerful – Themes for Christian Studies 6

Activities

PART A

1. Where is Java?
2. What is meant by 'a period of great Christian revival'?
3. How do we know that the people in this story were poor?
4. What evidence is there in the story that the body was actually dead.
5. Why did the farmer and his wife believe that this man could come back to life again?
6. What does this miracle show us about God?
7. Read the story of a little girl who came back to life. (Mark 5:22-43)
8. Did the father believe that Jesus could bring his daughter back to life? (verse 23)
9. What did Jesus say in verse 36?
10. Do you think that Jesus could perform miracles today if people believed?

PART B - God is powerful

Copy and fill in the missing words:

God is powerful today, just as He was in _____ days. He can do miracles for you and me if we _____.

Missing words: Bible believe

What does the Bible say about God's power?

The things which are _____ with men are _____ with God. (Luke 18:27)

Missing words: impossible possible

A Scuba Diving Adventure

Ian McCormack was a young man who loved adventure. In 1980, at the age of 24, he decided to leave New Zealand to see the world. Surfing and fishing in South-East Asia, sailing on a schooner, and observing African wildlife were just some of his experiences. While deep-sea diving off the coast of Mauritius, late one night, he was bitten by not one, but five, deadly box jellyfish. Here is his story.

While in Mauritius, Ian had made good friends with the local divers. They helped him to learn about the wonderful deep-sea life off the Mauritian coast. One night, his Mauritian friend, Simon, invited Ian to come night diving. Now Ian knew that night diving could be dangerous. 'Tonight's conditions look pretty risky,' he thought to himself, as he watched some electrical storms hovering further out to sea.

"Don't worry," said Simon. "This storm will miss us."

Although Ian felt a little nervous, he could not resist an opportunity for an exciting new experience. Night diving proved to be more wonderful than he had ever imagined. There, right before them, lay huge crayfish and sleeping parrot fish, all for the taking. Meanwhile, the nocturnal life of the sea had come to life. He was seeing things he had never seen before.

Suddenly Ian saw a huge cray. Just as he was about to reach out to grab it, an unusual sort of jelly fish swam past. Ian had never seen one of these before. He touched the weird creature, which was almost invisible. Its transparent form was box-shaped and it had long tentacles.

Ian reached out for his cray. Suddenly a huge electric current hit his arm. Something had stung him. Ian looked at his arm but could see no sign of a sting. He rubbed his arm and immediately felt pain. Ian did not know it, but he had just been bitten by a box jelly fish, or sea-wasp. He had also just rubbed the venom further into his blood stream.

The box jellyfish is described in first-aid books as "a jelly-like creature with long venomous tentacles... and... little can be done if a lethal dose of venom is received."

Ian did not realize the seriousness of the sting. Holding the cray, he made his way back to the boat. As he swam, his arm started to feel numb. Swimming became more difficult. The arm soon became paralysed. Ian looked below him and saw thousands of the jelly fish. The electrical storm had caused them to come in closer to the reef. By the time Ian had reached the boat he had been stung another three times on the same arm. The same electric shock went through his body each time.

Reaching the boat, Ian signalled to his friend Simon. As he put his head down into the water to gain his friend's attention, another jellyfish surged towards him. It was in front of his face. Ian held up his arm to protect his face. The tentacles of the fifth jellyfish stung the same arm. Simon surfaced and swam to the boat. Simon looked at the arm which had now swollen to twice its normal size.

"Invisible?" asked Simon in French. ('Invisible' was the term given to the box jelly fish by the Mauritian divers.)

"Yes." said Ian.

"How many?" asked Simon.

"Five," said Ian.

Simon looked horrified. "One!" he said, "and that's the end of you. You must get to a hospital immediately!"

Only now did Ian realize the seriousness of the situation.

Normally one bite was enough to cause death. The tentacles had stung him directly across his main artery, sending the poison directly into his blood. Death should occur in 15 -20 minutes.

Ian's friends would now have to get the boat back to shore the quickest possible way. That was directly across the reef and into the lagoon. With all aboard the boat, progress would be slow, and the bottom of the boat risked being torn open by its scraping on sharp coral. For the lightest possible load, they decided to send Ian ahead with the youngest member who was about 14 years old. As soon as they reached the shore the young boy decided that he must go back to get the others.

"Come back!" shouted Ian, but it was too late. Ian stood there alone. He struggled along the road, his arm now completely numb, and his legs weakening as the poison gradually moved through his body. Although close to midnight in an isolated part of the island, surprisingly he came across a parked taxi with some people standing near it.

"Please, would you take me to the hospital?" he asked the Indian taxi driver.

"Where is your money?" asked the taxi driver.

"I don't have any money on me," answered Ian, "but I can pay later."

The three men started to walk away. Ian heard a voice inside him saying, 'Would you be willing to beg for your life?' Ian followed the men, begging, "Please, please, I need a hospital!"

One of the Indians turned around and walked towards the taxi. He opened the door for Ian. Ian climbed in and the car drove off. However, not to the hospital. The driver pulled up outside a tourist hotel. He opened the car door and pushed Ian out on to the ground. "The tourists can take care of you," he said, and he drove off.

Ian dragged himself up to the entrance of the hotel. Someone saw him. It was one of his Mauritian friends, Daniel. Daniel carried him inside, sat him in a chair, then called for an ambulance. All took too long. Ian knew that he was dying. Finally the ambulance arrived. In the ambulance, Ian started to see a picture in his mind. It was a picture of himself as a young boy. Then he saw another picture of himself as a teenager. It was as if he was seeing before him a video of his life. He thought about God for the first time in many years. Would God accept him when he died? How could He? Ian thought of the years he had lived independently from God. He had given no thought to God at all. He thought of some words his mother had once said to him: 'When you are in need, cry out to God with all your heart.' (Ian's mother was a Christian.)

That's what Ian did. God heard his cry. Ian asked Jesus to forgive him for his past life, and promised that for the rest of his life, however short it may be, he would love and

serve God. There in the taxi, he prayed the Lord's Prayer, which he remembered from his Sunday School days.

Desperately clinging to his life, he arrived at the hospital. The nurse took his blood pressure. Where was it? According to the instrument his heart had almost stopped beating. Surely the instrument was wrong. She tried another. It measured the same. When would someone realize the urgency of the situation? Finally, a doctor looked at him. Ian mustered up all the strength he had. He looked the doctor in the eye and said, "I am dying. I need anti-venom...NOW!"

The doctor rushed him to another room. The anti-venom was administered. But all too late. Ian could stay awake no longer. He fell into a deep sleep. He soon realized that this was not sleep. He had died! He was still himself, but he had no body.

For the next 15 minutes, Ian, minus body, was taken on a tour of the places in which one may spend eternity. The first place he visited was a place of darkness. Ian had never believed in hell before, but now he knew there was such a place. God showed him this place so that he would understand that he had been snatched from here by his death-bed prayer. Then suddenly he was swept up in a shaft of light. Now he was in heaven. Ian came face to face with Jesus. His face was so radiant that he couldn't make out the details.

"Do you want to stay in Heaven or do you want to go back to your earthly life?" asked Jesus. Then He added, "If you want to go back, you must see things in a new light."

Heaven was the most beautiful place Ian had ever seen. He not only saw beauty, but he felt peace, joy and wonderful, wonderful love. Why would he want to go back? Then he saw a vision of his mother whom he loved dearly. She would be so sad to know that her son had died. She wouldn't even know that Ian had given his life to Jesus.

Then Ian saw a vision of many, many people standing behind his mother. All these people needed to know about the reality of Jesus, and this place called Heaven. Ian decided that he would go back and tell them. He wanted to tell others that to be with Jesus in Heaven was the most glorious place anyone could be.

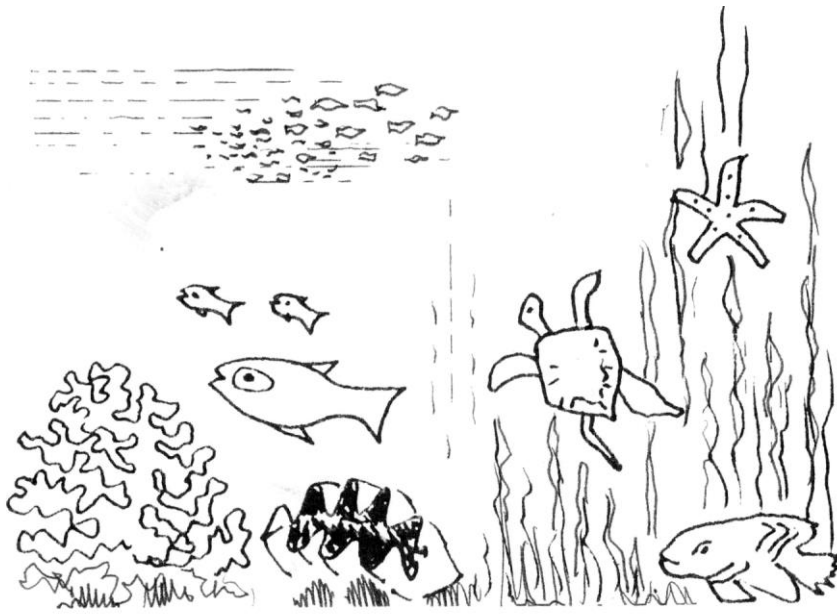
"Yes," said Ian. "I want to go back".

Ian woke up in his hospital bed. He had been dead for 15 minutes. The doctors and nurses could not believe their eyes. But there was more to come. Ian was still paralysed from the jelly fish stings.

"I don't want to live the rest of my life as a quadriplegic," he thought. "Lord, heal me!" he cried desperately. As he prayed, the feeling gradually came back into his body. Within a day, he was completely healed.

Ian has now dedicated his whole life to telling others about Jesus.

God is Powerful – Themes for Christian Studies 6



Activities – The Scuba Diving Adventure

PART A

1. Where is Mauritius?
2. Why was night diving so exciting?
3. Describe the appearance of a box-jelly fish.
4. How venomous is it?
5. What does it feel like to be stung by a box-jelly fish?
6. Why did they send Ian with a fourteen-year-old boy to get help?
7. How helpful was the boy once they had reached the shore?
8. Why did Ian start to think about God while he was waiting for the ambulance?
9. Describe Ian's picture of heaven.
10. Why do you think God wanted Ian to live?
11. What is eternal life? Read John 17:3

PART B - God is powerful

Read:

God has power to do anything He wants to do. However, because He is also wise, He does not act like a magician. He does not do miracles so that people can be entertained.

A miracle shows us that God is the greatest person in the whole universe. It also shows that He cares about people. He does not do miracles to impress people. He does them to help people.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can God's power help me?

It can help me to _____ God better.

It can help me to _____ others about Jesus.

It can help me to _____ for others.

Missing words: tell know pray

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 lights 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.

The Story of Hudson Taylor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activities

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

Death in the Jungle

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

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

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

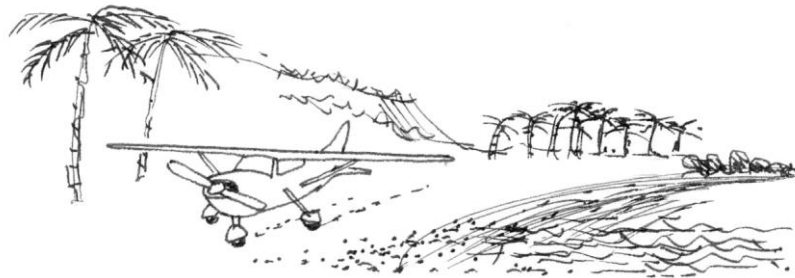
Each time they flew over there were more and more Aucas waiting to receive their gifts. They started flying lower with the hope of broadcasting a message to the Aucas through a loud speaker. With the help of Dayuma, they were able to translate the message into the Auca language. "We like you. We have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

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

By now, a fifth missionary, Roger, had joined the four. It was time to make a landing in Auca territory. Nat, the pilot landed the plane safely on a sandy beach four miles from the Auca settlement. They set up base here and prepared to stay for two weeks. They kept up their routine of flying over the settlement delivering gifts. It was not long before the Aucas realized that the plane was landing on the beach and their curiosity overcame their fear. Three Aucas came to investigate. The missionaries made friends with the three Aucas and one of them even agreed to have a ride in the plane. A couple of days later the men radioed their wives as usual, saying that they had seen ten Aucas heading towards the base. That was the last message they sent. A search party some days later found their bodies in a shallow river. The five missionaries had been killed by the Aucas.

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

God is a Servant – Themes for Christian Studies 6



Activities – Death in the jungle

PART A

1. Where is Ecuador?
2. Why were the four American missionaries exposing themselves to great danger?
3. How were the Quicha Indians different to the Aucas?
4. Describe the work of Nat.
5. How did the Auca girl, Dayuma, help the missionaries prepare for reaching the Auca tribe?
6. How did the missionaries try to make friends with the Aucas, before they actually visited them?
7. What kind of gifts did they deliver?
8. What gifts did the Aucas send back?
9. How did the missionaries know that the Aucas were accepting them?
10. How did the work of these men continue after their death?
11. Read about someone else who gave his life for Jesus (Acts 7:51-60)

PART B - God is a servant

Read:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He is the light that had been spoken about in the Old Testament. People who knew the Scriptures knew that someone would come who would be a light in their world of darkness. Many did not recognise Jesus.

Many people did not realise that He was the light that had come into the world. They were not listening. For people who did listen, they knew that Jesus had come to bring Good News. Jesus told people that they could be forgiven and healed if they believed in Him. People didn't have to offer sacrifices any more. Jesus had come to forgive their sins once and for all.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I help to spread the Good news?

I can tell God that I _____ to be his servant.

I can use my gifts and _____ for Him.

I can ask God to help me meet people who need to _____ about Jesus.

I can ask God to give me the right _____ to say.

Missing words: know words want talents

The Precious Vitamin Drops (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.

God is Provider – Themes for Christian Studies 6



Activities – The Precious Vitamin Drops

PART A

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?

PART B - God is Provider

Read:

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. You will remember the story of the loaves and the fishes, and the two stories in the Old Testament where 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.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How does God provide for me?

God provides through His _____.

God provides through my _____.

God provides when I _____ in Him.

God could do a miracle if I really _____ one!

Missing words: trust parents creation needed

Peace Child

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 Irian Jaya. Irian Jaya 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, 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.

Think about it...

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, try 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.



Activities – Peace Child

PART A

1. Find Irian Jaya on a map. Name a country that borders it. Find out which country Irian Jaya belongs to.
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. Why was life dangerous for Don and Carol and their children?
5. What is the meaning of treachery?
6. Explain the Sawi's tactic of 'fattening with friendship'.
7. Why do you think the Sawis saw Judas as the hero in the gospel story, and not Jesus?
8. Why did Don and Carol almost decide to leave?
9. What stopped them?
10. What had to happen for peace to be made between two tribes?
11. What were the names of the two babies that had to be exchanged?
12. How was the Sawis experience of giving up a peace child similar to God's sacrifice for us?
13. How did the Sawis lives change when they received Jesus?

PART B - God is peace

Read:

God our Heavenly Father made a great sacrifice in giving His only Son, Jesus. As people receive God's Son, they have peace in their hearts and lives. When you receive God's Son, Jesus, you make a promise that from now on you will become His friend, and do what He wants you to do.

Copy and fill in the missing words:

How can I have God's peace?

Find out from the Bible...

- a) I can confess my _____ . (1 John 1:9)
- b) I can become a _____ of Jesus. (John 15:14)