

George Muller

In the 1830s, George Muller 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.

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.

God is Provider – Themes for Christian Studies 7

Activities – George Muller

PART A

1. George Muller did not receive money for the orphans by asking people for it. How do you think he received the money?
2. Describe the education that the children received.
3. Do countries such as Australia and U.S.A. produce more than enough food?
4. What often happens to the surplus?
5. What prevents poor countries from receiving the surplus?
6. Why is it that some countries cannot produce enough food for their population?
7. What do you think God would want people to do about the food crisis?
8. Has God provided enough food for the whole world?
9. Who is responsible for the hunger that many people experience?
10. What happens to the person who shares his food with the poor? (Proverbs 22:9)

PART B

God is provider

Because God has given people a free will, He cannot change the hearts of people who are selfish and greedy. He cannot change the hearts of people who start wars and deliberately pollute the earth. However, Christians can do their part.

How can I share what I have with the hungry?

