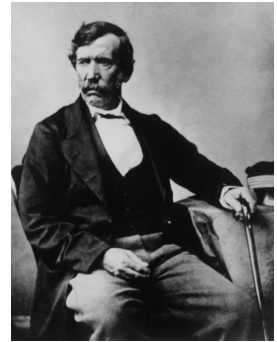


David Livingstone (1813-1873)

David Livingstone was born to a Christian family who lived at Blantyre, Scotland in 1813. As child he worked in a local mill during the day and went to school in the evening.



He wanted to become a missionary and work in China. He qualified as a doctor of medicine to help with this ambition. He heard a talk from Dr Robert Moffat who was a missionary in Africa. He decided to go to Africa (China was a closed nation at war at that time).

Livingstone went to Southern Africa and was soon travelling inland looking for sites for mission stations. These journeys took many months and allowed Livingstone to rapidly learn the language, culture and customs of the Africans.

In 1845 Livingstone married Dr. Moffat's daughter. They made other exploratory journeys in Africa and in 1855 reached what we know as Victoria Falls. Livingstone was rapidly becoming a household name back in Great Britain.

In 1858 Livingstone made an ill-fated expedition to explore the Zambezi river and its tributaries. Many of his companions became ill, including his wife Mary who later died of the illness.

In 1865 Livingstone made his last journey to Africa to find the source of the Nile. The trip took seven years. During this time Livingstone disappeared from public view and a journalist H M Stanley searched for him and found him. Livingstone refused to leave Africa with him and carried on the exploration.

On the first of May 1873 David Livingstone was found dead in his tent. His heart was buried in Africa (a local custom) and his body was taken back to England where, amongst national mourning, it was buried at Westminster Abbey.

William Carey (1761-1834)

William Carey became a Baptist minister in England but his thoughts were on missionary work in India. In 1792 he persuaded the Baptists to start the Baptist Missionary Society and Carey was their first missionary.

The start of this mission was a disaster. They were destitute, ridden with sickness and living in a shed next to a swamp. But things improved when Carey was offered a job as a planter, although they were still affected by illness and one of their children died as a result.



Then God's plan for them began to be seen. A new set of families joined Carey from England and for thirty years this group of people led the Christian work in India.

William Carey translated the whole Bible into five Indian languages and parts of it into thirty more languages. Christian converts spread throughout India. From such a discouraging start God grew His church in India.

Mildred Cable (1878-1952)
Eva French (1869-1960)
Francesca French (1871-1960)

These three women worked together for many years. They were wonderful missionaries with an inspiring story of their dedication for Christ and His great commission.

From an early age Mildred wanted to be a missionary in India. However in 1902 she went to China. Eva French was already there, she had joined the China Inland Mission before the Boxer rising of 1900 in which many Christians were killed. Her sister, Francesca joined them later on.



The three women worked in China for nearly twenty years, setting up schools and a rehabilitation centre for opium abusers. But they began to feel the need to take the Gospel to new areas where the missionaries had not been to.

In 1923 the three women went to Kanchow, travelling on the Silk Road and evangelizing as they went. There they trained Christians and travelled throughout the region holding tent meetings. But they knew that their destination would be the Gobi desert, a most inhospitable place with few inhabitants who were scattered throughout the area.

In 1926 they returned to England and their story caught the public imagination. Less than two years later they returned to the Gobi desert and stayed until they were forced to leave in 1936 during a time of political uprising. They had survived in a hostile environment and successfully proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the region.

The three women returned to England after 36 years in China and worked for the British and Foreign Bible society for the rest of their lives.

Amy Carmichael (1867-1951)

Amy Carmichael was born in North Ireland. When she was 18 her father died and the family went to Belfast where Amy became involved with mission work in Belfast itself.

As a child Amy Carmichael had been strongly influenced by beggars and homeless children. She had organized groups within her church to help children, particularly those who were ill from working in the mills.



Now the desire for missionary work was in her heart. She was accepted by a missionary group and in January 1892 she went to Japan to join a group doing missionary work there. She failed to meet up with this group but was taken in to a family where she learnt the local customs and the language. She fell ill and was sent to China for treatment. From there she went to Ceylon and by 1904 she was back in Japan.

However she was now ready for the work that God had planned for her. She was asked to go to India which she did. In the mountains near Bangalore Amy discovered her work was to set up a home for young girls who had been rescued from the Hindu temples where they had been forced into prostitution.

This is a practice still around today! Later she built a house for boys and a community hospital.

She ran these homes for fifty-five years until her death in 1951.

Lillian Trasher (1887-1961)

Lillian Trasher was born in Georgia in America on September 27, 1887.

Even at an early age she was prepared to dedicate her life to God. Later on she worked at an orphanage. Little did Lillian know that this is where she would get her training for her missionary work.



Lillian attended a bible school, pastored a church, did evangelical work then returned to the orphanage. She became engaged to be married but ten days before her wedding she heard a talk given by a missionary from India. She was deeply moved. She cancelled the wedding knowing that God had called her to Africa and that she must obey.

She did not know what to do but she collected her meagre possessions and went to a missionary convention. She knew that God would provide, after all it was His calling. Lillian and her sister Jenny were soon in Egypt and at a place called Assiout.

It was a beautiful place but was full of poverty and homeless children. Lillian was now on her own and living in a small house with no support from the missionary society. She was reduced to begging. She rode about on a donkey asking for food and collecting children as well as donations!

By 1914 the Assemblies of God were supporting her work. A year later she had fifty children in her orphanage. By 1923 she had three hundred orphans and widows in her care. In 1927 the Egyptians rose up against the British rulers but God protected her and the orphanage. Houses were looted and burned but the orphanage was untouched. Lillian told everyone of God's power.

She was really on her own during the American depression because all of her support ceased. But it was God's work and the orphanage increased in size.

In 1961, after over fifty years in Egypt and a lifetime of obedience to God, Lillian finished her work on this world and was with Him in the next.

Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983)

She was born in Holland into a Christian family who loved the Word of God. This upbringing, with the focus on Jesus, meant that Corrie behaved as she did when the world, in the form of German troops, invaded Holland in 1940. The Germans despised the Jew and were persecuting them with great savageness. Their property was being possessed and Jewish families were being split up with men, women and children being shipped to work camps and concentration camps. Throughout Europe over five million Jews were murdered by the Germans, all of this within the lifetime of many people alive today!



Christians should stand up to what is good and publicly decry what is evil and Corrie was no exception. She opposed this evil in her society and joined the underground movement in an attempt to hide Jews from the Germans and to smuggle them to safety.

She and her family were eventually betrayed and imprisoned. Corrie and her sister were shipped to various concentration camps where they continued to teach fellow prisoners about Jesus Christ. Her sister died whilst they were imprisoned. Corrie was eventually released through a clerical error and during the week following her release all of the women of her age were gassed.

Following the war Corrie helped in rehabilitation camps and she travelled all over the world telling people of her experiences and of how faithful and loving God is.

Her story was written down in the best-selling book *The Hiding Place* and a film, based on the book, was made by the film company established by Billy Graham.

Source: www.christianheroes.com viewed 16/2/2012