

70. GREAT CHRISTIANS INSPIRING LIVES

Bible Reading: Hebrews 11:32 - 12:2.

Aim: Do something great for God.

Introduction:

We all love inspiring, encouraging, true stories. The Bible is full of many people's life's stories who had a great impact on their country, generation and world for Christ. The exciting thing is that you and I can have a great impact on the world for Christ. We need to exercise our faith to pray and trust God to do great things through our lives, as we work together to win, baptise and teach people for Christ. Hebrews chapter eleven describes many people's lives of faith who did great things for God in freeing people from sin's bondage.

These are the "so great a cloud of witnesses" that are watching you and me today from heaven. Having run their race and finished their course, having passed the baton onto us today, they are cheering us on in the heavenly grandstands to best use our opportunities and talents to win this world to Christ.

The last 2000 years contain many Christians lives that can greatly inspire us. Let us consider some of their life's stories, so that we might be encouraged to attempt and to complete great things for God.

We will meet these people in heaven, so it's good to be encouraged by their lives now.

1. POLYCARP. 150 AD. *"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life". Rev. 2:10*

Polycarp was the last one to be taught personally by the Apostle **John**. Since there were no images of gods in early Churches, the heathens concluded that Christians did not believe in the existence of the gods, so they accused Christians of being atheists.

Polycarp was arrested and brought to an arena in Smyrna before a great multitude and urged to renounce Christians by saying "away with the atheists". He instead, pointed to the crowd and said "Away with the atheists."

The proconsul said "Deny Christ and I will release you." Polycarp said "86 years have I served Him, and He has never done me wrong. How can I blaspheme Him, my King, who has saved me? I am a Christian." The crowd called for him to be burned, and he was burned at the stake without ropes."

2. PETER WALDO. 1176 AD.

He was a rich merchant of Lyons, France who sold all his goods and gave money to the poor. He believed that the Bible was the only rule of faith and practice. He and his followers went about two by two preaching. They memorised large parts of Scripture.

They did not believe in purgatory or in masses. They believed that prayers said "in a house, to be just as effective as in a church. They grew so numerous that the Roman Catholic church's very existence was threatened. The Dominican and Franciscan Catholic orders were started to oppose the Waldenses, but they failed. Then the Roman Catholic church started the Inquisition to try them for heresy and kill them. In Southern France, there were too many Waldenses for the Inquisition to kill, so the Roman Catholic Church organised armies to march into Southern France to kill them. For 20 years blood flowed like water. The Waldenses fled to the high valleys of the alps and survive today. *John 16:1-3.*

3. JOHN WYCLIFFE. 1320-1384.

John Wycliffe was born in England in 1320 and became an Oxford University Professor. In 1376 he began to rebuke the wealthy, corrupt clergy. He declared the Bible to be the only rule of faith, not the Church. He translated the Bible into English from Latin so that all could read it. He called the Pope the "Antichrist." He and his followers (Lollards) spread Bibles and his teachings all over England. A law was passed to burn his followers as heretics. Thousands were martyred, but Lollardism continued to the Reformation. Wycliffe died in peace in 1384.

29 years after his death, Catholic clergy dug up his bones and burned them for heresy. Why? Because Wycliffe opposed mendicant friars selling indulgences, and the doctrine of transubstantiation. The Catholic church opposed translating the Bible into English.

"The Lord gave the Word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalm 68:11.

"Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book!... That they were graven with an iron **pen** and **lead** in the rock forever." Job 19:23,24.

4. JOHN HUSS. 1369-1414.

John Huss was born in 1369 in Czechoslovakia. He could see the Biblical truth of Wycliffe's teachings. Huss began to preach strongly against Catholic clergy corruption. The Waldenses and the common people heartily welcomed Huss' teachings and he won almost all Bohemia to Christ. Huss taught that:

1) The Church consists of all people who are saved.

2) Christ is Head of the Church, not Popes or Cardinals.

The great Schism in the Roman Catholic church was happening at this time, having 2 Popes, John XXIII at Avignon and Gregory XII in Rome. Pope John promised indulgences to all those who would help him fight Pope Gregory. Huss condemned the selling of indulgences as contrary to the Bible. Pope John XXIII then excommunicated Huss. Huss declared it null and void.

In 1414 Emperor Sigismund invited Huss to attend a Council, promising him safe conduct. Huss accepted. Pope John XXIII then put Huss in prison for heresy.

Huss, the Bohemians and the Emperor protested his arrest, but the Pope said it was alright to deceive and betray heretics, because heretics have no rights.

After 8 months in prison, Huss was cursed, degraded and burned at the stake. A Catholic army invaded Bohemia to kill Huss' followers. War raged for many years. When the Reformation began in Germany, Bohemia still opposed Roman Catholicism. "Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection. Others had trial of cruel mockings and scourings, yea of bonds and imprisonment. All these obtained a good report through faith." Hebrews 11:35,36,39.

Is Their Religion Enough?

People who should know better, tell me that the heathen are better off as they are, that their own religions satisfy them and meet their needs. Is that true? If so, then most certainly we should let them alone. But are they happy as they are?

a) I am thinking now of that **Mohammedan in Algeria** who slashed his head again and again with a large knife, until the blood flowed freely, then took newspapers and plastered them on top of his head; finally taking out a match and striking it, he set fire to the papers, hair, and blood. Can you imagine the agony? Why the self-inflicted torture? Because of his religion. He was laying up merit in heaven. Mohammedanism taught him to afflict himself, and he was doing it with a vengeance. Would you exchange places with him? Would you accept his Mohammedanism and give him your Christianity? Which religion would you prefer? Do you think Mohammedanism brought him peace and comfort and happiness; or the very opposite? I leave you to answer.

b) I am thinking of the **Africans** before Christianity, who killed their **twin babies**, believing them to be demon-possessed. If God should give you twins would you be willing to have them murdered? You would have to if you lived in Africa, for your religion would compel you to destroy them.

c) I am thinking of the **Hindu widows of India**, who because of their religion, have to lie down beside their husbands when they have died and allow themselves to be bound and burned alive. Thousands of them have gone into eternity screaming in agony, as they slowly burned to death. Would you exchange your religion for theirs? Do you think it brings them any pleasure, or any enjoyment? Yet you tell me to leave them alone, that they are better off as they are. What a callous philosophy!

d) I am thinking, too, of the pagans in **Africa**, who, when a chief dies, leaves orders for his widows-thirty, sixty, or a hundred of them to be thrown into the grave with him and bury them alive. Is that a pleasant prospect? Would you be satisfied with such a religion?

Until you, my friend, are willing to accept these religions with their consequences, and their abominable practices for yourself, you ought to be ashamed to say that the heathen are better off as they are. Their religions are religions of fear. They know nothing of peace and love. They have no hope. Jesus Christ alone offers them life, abundant life and that which satisfies the heart. Dr. J. Oswald Smith, The Sunday School Times.

5. MARTIN LUTHER. *November 10, 1483.*

He studied Law, but gave it up to become a priest. Luther visited Rome and was deeply shocked by Church corruption and evil. He deeply wanted salvation. So he tried to earn salvation by fleeing from the world and by doing good works. He couldn't find salvation in good works, so he studied the Bible more thoroughly. In 1512 he noticed Romans 1:17 "The just shall live by faith". He paused, he pondered, then joy unspeakable flooded his heart as he realised that he could be justified in God's sight by faith in Jesus Christ as his Saviour, without the works of the law.

His burden of sin rolled away. Up until now he had tried to earn salvation by his good works, but he had never been able to feel that he had done enough good works to take away his sins. God showed him that we are not saved by works, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Tetzel had earlier greatly angered Luther by selling indulgences to people in market places of towns, saying: "As a coin in you pop, a soul from purgatory doth hop."

Now that Luther was saved he could see many errors and abuses in the Roman Catholic Church. Luther saw Tetzel deceiving people for eternity, so Luther wrote his 95 Theses against indulgences and nailed it on the Church door at Wittenburg on 31 October 1517. People came that day to see the Church's 5000 relics, but they read the 95 Theses and realised that they were true. These 95 Theses were printed in their own languages and sent all over Europe in 4 weeks. This almost stopped the sale of Indulgences. Luther defended his 95 Theses to the Pope.

Indulgence sales brought the Pope an immense income. Luther loosened the priests' hold on the people, because the Pope said that without mass, penance, confession and indulgences there was no salvation.

Fundamental Reformation teachings were that:

1. Early Church Fathers showed that salvation is by preaching and receiving the Gospel.
2. All believers are priests who have direct access to God. We do not need a Roman Catholic priest to get to God.
3. A Church is a community of believers, not a hierarchy of officials.
4. The Bible, not church tradition, is the final rule of faith and morals.

The Pope summoned Luther to Rome to burn him as a heretic. Luther's powerful friend Frederick, Elector of Saxony vetoed this. Dr. Eck wrote an article against Luther, so Luther wrote 12 theses against Eck, showing that Rome's authority over other churches was based on forged documents. This greatly attacked the Pope's authority, so Eck challenged Luther to a debate at Leipzig. Eck got Luther to admit that some of Huss' ideas were right. This meant that Luther had sided with a condemned heretic. The Pope later excommunicated Luther with a Bull. Luther replied with a tract: "Against the Execrable Bull of Antichrist." Luther had read Valla's thesis which proved beyond the possibility of contradiction that the "Donation of Constantine" was a forgery. This enraged Luther to call the Pope an Antichrist.

The Pope got young Emperor Charles to judge Luther. Luther said: "I cannot recant unless proved wrong by Holy Scripture. My conscience is bound to the Word of God. Here I stand."

THE REFORMATION.

The Reformation reformed the church, but it also reformed many nations political, economic, social and cultural life.

On Luther's return from the Leipzig debate with Dr Eck, five men kidnapped him and hid him in the Wartburg Castle at the orders of Frederick the Wise for 10 months. During this time he translated the Bible from Latin to German, the language of the people. Step by step many important changes took place to make a vast difference between Catholic and Protestant.

1. The papacy was rejected.
2. The distinction between clergy and laity was rejected. Hebrews 4:16 teaches that all believers are priests having direct access to God.
3. There are no sacraments (not 7), but only two ordinances being Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
4. The sacraments are not needed for salvation. This was a big load off people's backs.
5. Praying to Mary and to the saints was done away with.
6. Worship of images was done away with.
7. Veneration of relics was done away with.
8. Pilgrimages to Rome and Jerusalem are not necessary.
9. Religious processions are not necessary.
10. Holy Water is not needed.
11. Outward asceticism, (going without to an extreme) is not needed.
12. Entering a monastery to retreat from the world are not not needed.
13. Prayers for the dead are not needed.
14. Belief in Purgatory is wrong.
15. Transubstantiation is wrong. The idea where the bread and wine are changed to the body and blood of Christ.

Luther added these extra changes.

1. The State should be above the church.
2. He translated the Bible to German. Church services were held in German, not Latin.
3. He established schools everywhere to ground children in Bible doctrine.
4. He wrote a new hymn book. The song "A mighty fortress is our God", was written by Luther.
5. He said that the Roman Catholic Church had left the New Testament Church's teachings.
6. In 1525, Luther married Catherine Von Bora, an ex-nun. He showed that priestly celibacy was not necessary. Titus 1:5,6.

6. ZWINGLI.

In Switzerland, Zwingli reformed the church. In 1518 he attacked the sale of indulgences, removed statues, abolished the mass, altars, relics, processions, and transubstantiation. He said that in the Lord's Supper, the bread and grape juice symbolised Christ's body and blood. He died in battle in 1531.

7. CALVIN.

Calvin reformed the church in France. He was born in 1509. He studied logic, the Church Fathers' writings, Bible and Law. Calvin fled Roman Catholic persecution and taught small groups in secret places. A new torture was invented to lift the victim in and out of the fire, instead of burning him all at once. Calvin fled to Basel, Switzerland where he studied and wrote "Calvin's Institutes." He sent it to King Frances I of France to show that Christians as firm Bible believers, deserved better treatment. Calvin went to Geneva where Farel enlisted his help in Switzerland. All of Norway, Sweden and Denmark embraced Lutheranism. Calvin translated the Bible into French. Both Luther and Calvin believed that Christians should be thoroughly grounded in Bible doctrine, and that salvation was by faith in Christ alone. He wrote a catechism.

Calvin's motto was "My heart for thy cause I offer thee, Lord, promptly and sincerely."

8. ANABAPTISTS.

Baptists existed since John the Baptist, Christ and the Apostles. Anabaptists were so called because they rebaptised people who had been sprinkled as babies. Anabaptists believed in:

1. The Fatherhood of God.
2. The Deity of Christ.
3. The Church as a body of converted believers, not a state church.
4. The Bible as God's authoritative word.
5. The Second coming of Christ.
6. Christ's commandments of love, holiness, self denial, humility and peace.
7. Passionate missionary concern to win lost people to eternal life in Christ.
8. Infant baptism was wrong, believers immersion was right.

They soon spread through Switzerland, Austria, South Germany, Bohemia, and Holland. Because of baptism by immersion, Roman Catholic, Lutherans, Calvinists, and Zwinglians relentlessly persecuted Anabaptists.

9. JOHN KNOX. *Proverbs 28:1 "The righteous are bold as a lion." 1514-72.*

John Knox reformed the church in Scotland. Scotland had a weak King fighting with Scottish lords, corrupt clergy, great poverty and universities of a low standard. Several young Scotsman went to Luther's Wittenburg University and returned to Scotland to spread Luther's doctrines. John Knox was ordained a Roman Catholic Priest. He was captured when the French invaded St Andrews and he worked as a galley slave. Knox helped Archbishop Cranmer of England write the 42 Articles for the church of Ireland. Knox after visiting Calvin returned to Scotland and preached against the Mass. In 1555 Knox urged Queen Mary to favour the Gospel. Being a strong Catholic she sentenced him to death, but Knox had fled the country, so she burned an image of him instead. Knox and his friends pledged to further "the most blessed Word of God and his congregation." After Knox returned to Scotland, the Reformation swept ahead rapidly. His preaching was powerful, direct, vigorous and plain. He used wit and cutting satire. Of his preaching they said: "Others lop off the branches, but Knox strikes at the root."

In the pulpit he was so energetic, he seemed to pound it to pieces and fly out of it. His preaching was like a spark in a gunpowder keg. People smashed images and statues. In

1560 the Scottish Parliament changed the countries religion from Catholicism to Protestantism. The Pope's and Priest's authority was abolished and the Mass was forbidden. Maintenance of the true religion was declared to be the prime duty of Government. Their order of service had: prayer, Bible reading, offering, sermon and singing. The Reformation was preserved unintentionally by Catholic Mary Queen of Scots by her immoral life, the burning of Protestants at the stake and her other unwise actions. These caused the leaders and people to turn to Protestantism. Knox died in 1572.

10. THOMAS CRANMER. (1489-1556).

Cranmer was the first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury. The English Reformation passed through four stages.

- 1) **Henry VIII (1509-1547),**
- 2) **Edward VI (1547-1553),**
- 3) **Mary (1553-1558),**
- 4) **Elizabeth I (1558-1603).**

In 1525 Tyndale translated the Bible into English while being greatly persecuted.

In 1536 Tyndale was martyred near Brussels.

- 1) **Henry VIII** applied to the Pope for a divorce from Catherine to marry Ann Boleyn. The Pope did not reply, so Henry passed a law declaring himself to be the head of the Church of England. If anyone opposed this, they'd be killed. Catholic Thomas More who had burned many Lutherans at the stake, opposed this and was beheaded. Galatians 6:7 says that what you sow, you reap. Henry took land away from the monasteries and gave the estates to his loyal friends. Henry rejected relics such as Malcus' ear, stones that stoned Peter, a crucifix that could turn its head, roll its eyes, move its lips and foam at the mouth and shed tears. A mechanical device was found inside it, which priests manipulated in order to deceive the people.
 - 2) **Edward VI** came to the throne at age 9 years. He favoured the Reformation. That same year (1547) Parliament passed a law stating that:
 - 1) All people could partake of bread and grape juice.
 - 2) Images should be removed from churches.
 - 3) Celibacy of priests and nuns was done away with.
 - 4) The Prayer book dropped prayers for the dead.
 - 5) They adopted the 39 articles. Then Edward died of Tuberculosis.
 - 3) **Bloody Mary (1553-58)** a strong Catholic came to the throne and reversed all the Reformation work of Edward. In 1555 she burned 75 Christians at the stake, including Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley. Her next victim was Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, appointed by Henry as the first Protestant Archbishop. After Henry VIII death, Cranmer was the main moving force behind the Reformation in England. The Pope excommunicated Cranmer in 1555. Cranmer weakened and was pressured to sign a statement denying Protestantism. Mary then decided to kill him in 1556. Just before he was to die, he renounced his denial, and once more strongly declared his Protestant faith. The hand which signed the denial, he held in the flames until it was burned to a crisp. He then was burned as a martyr and a hero. Mary died in 1558 having burned over 300 people to death.
 - 4) **Elizabeth I (1558-1603)** was Mary's sister. Mary's persecutions were aimed at destroying Protestantism, but it greatly aroused anti-Roman Catholic anger. In 1559 Parliament rejected all Papal authority over England.
- * At this time the eight Protestant countries were England, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

- * Now Rome formulated a creed at the Council of Trent of 1545-63.
- * Emperor Charles V wanted to destroy Protestantism in its early days, but God raised up the Moslem Turks to attack Charles and a French war which distracted him from attacking Protestantism.

Catholicism was revitalised by 3 new weapons:

- 1) The Index, a list of banned books.
- 2) The Inquisition to try, torture and kill Protestants.
- 3) The Jesuit's job was to win countries back to Catholicism. They won back most of Poland, Austria, Ireland, Belgium, Bavaria and parts of South Germany.

11. FRENCH HUGUENOTS. 1562-1629. French Protestants.

France, like Germany was divided between Protestants and Catholics. The Huguenots were a strong, prosperous, intelligent, nobility class, but they were a minority.

Civil war broke out between Catholics and Protestants in 1562. In 1570 a brief peace was made. Catholic extremists alarmed Catherine de Medici with reports that Huguenots were plotting to take the throne. Catherine convinced Charles IX of this and they plotted to massacre all Huguenots.

All leading Huguenots were invited to the wedding of Henry and Margaret in Paris. On August 24, 1572 which was St. Bartholomew's day, bells were rung to signal the massacre to begin. Over ten thousand Huguenots were killed that day. Most French Huguenots fled to the new world (America) or other countries.

- * Protestants were burned at the stake as heretics in Italy, Spain, France, England, Scotland, but most in Holland (18,000). Phillip II of Spain tortured, burned, drowned and buried alive many Protestants. Spain and Holland fought each other in a bloody 18 year war. England supported Holland until Holland won a peace in 1609.
- * Phillip II of Spain formed an enormous fleet called the Spanish Armada of 130 ships, 180 priests and 30,000 men to conquer England. God defeated the Armada by sending a terrible storm which destroyed most of the ships. 5 years later, Phillip sent 100 ships to conquer England for Rome. God sent a gale destroying most of his ships. "Praise the Lord...stormy wind fulfilling His Word." Psalm 148:7,8.
- * The Thirty Year War (1618-48). Rome and Catholics attacked Germany to destroy Protestantism. When things looked hopeless for the Protestants, King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden brought his armies in to win the war for the Protestants. Peace came in 1648. The German population was reduced from 15 million to 5 million in the 30 Years War.
There have been no major boundary changes since the treaty of Westphalia in 1648 between Protestants and Catholics. "I saw the woman drunk with the blood of saints." Revelation 17:5,6.

12. OLIVER CROMWELL.

Cromwell led English independent Christians in a war against Charles I who had persecuted Puritans after Elizabeth's death. Cromwell's 21,000 cavalry went into battle singing psalms. When not fighting they studied the Bible, prayed and sang hymns. They were never defeated. The King surrendered and was beheaded in 1649.

13. WILLIAM OF ORANGE.

In 1685 James II a strong Catholic came to the English throne, aiming to restore England to Catholicism. James II plotted with Louis XIV of France to attack England. The English in their distress appealed to William III of Orange (Holland) to help them. William with his army crossed the sea in 1688 and drove out James II. William and Mary were then crowned King and Queen of England.

As a result of William's bravery he saved England, Holland and America for Protestantism and liberty against Catholicism. There were no more Protestant/Catholic wars after 1689.

14. COUNT VON ZINZENDORF.

He was born in Czechoslovakia, in 1700. As a child he saw a picture of Christ on the cross saying: "This I did for you. What do you do for me?" This made a great impression on him and his entire life was controlled by a love for Jesus and a burning desire to win souls for Christ. When aged 10 years old he started a club to promote personal holiness and the evangelization of the world.

When aged 15 he and his classmates promised on every occasion to confess Christ and to seek the conversion of men. He bought a large area of land near Dresden. In 1722 he gave Christian David permission to let the Pietists come and live on his estates. He devoted his life to reorganise this group of 300 people to win the world to Christ. Where they lived was called Herrnhut, meaning the Lord's lodge. They were later called Moravians. Zinzendorf looked on the members of the Moravian church as soldiers of Christ who were to go to all the world to conquer it for Christ.

The Moravians were the first Protestant body to take seriously the Great Commission. They established missions in Africa, Asia, Greenland, Lapland, to the American Indians, and home mission work. There are 70,000 Moravians today in United States. They had an impact on other denominations to soul winning, entirely beyond proportion to their small number. They first lit the torch of Protestant missionary zeal. "Go and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

A Moravian asked Wesley if he knew Christ. This triggered Wesley's desire to be saved.

CONCLUSION:

Will you be like the Moravians?

Will you stand up for Christ like Protestants in Europe?

Will you deny Christ as Cranmer did only to feel shame afterwards?

Will you seek to win Countries for Christ like Knox?

70b. THE CHALLENGE OF MISSIONS

Bible Reading: Revelation 3:7-13.

Aim: To challenge us with opportunities that exist to be soul winners and Bible teaching missionaries.

Introduction: What will you do with your God-given life? Each of us are faced with many opportunities to serve God, yet we often don't notice them. We can be greatly inspired by stories of missionaries in the Bible. These became the basis for missionaries over the last 2000 years.

We have the Great Commission of Christ in Matthew 28:18-20. God calls all of us to be a missionary either at home or overseas.

a) If you are a **young man** pray and ask God if he wants you to be an overseas or home missionary. Then get prepared by learning Soul Winning and Bible teaching here and now. You say "I need a job to provide money." Then get a trade or source of income while you are preparing for missionary work. Trust God to supply your needs. He will not let you down. He hasn't let anyone else down yet.

b) **Mothers:** Train, equip and encourage your children to be missionaries. If I had 100 children I'd want them all to be missionaries here or overseas. God had one begotten Son and He made him a missionary.

c) **Men:** God may be calling you to train to be a missionary somewhere one day. Your life isn't finished when you retire from your secular job. Aim to retire early so that you can be a missionary until you die.

d) **Young ladies:** Train to be a Soul Winning, Bible Teaching missionary. Marry a man who has the same goals.

- 1) The Philadelphian church in Revelation 2 was a missionary church that God gave an **open door**. Today, God has given us open doors all over the world.
- 2) They had a **little strength**. So do we. God uses those with a little strength.
- 3) They **kept Christ's Word**. Avoid modern Bible versions that omit much of God's Word.
- 4) People **hated this church**, because Christ says that he will make their enemies worship before their feet, and to know that I have **loved thee**. That Christ loved this church is what mattered.
- 5) This church will be **kept out of the Tribulation**. Why? Because they kept God's Word.
- 6) This church had a **crown** reward in heaven.
- 7) Overcomers in this church will become a **pillar** in God's heavenly temple.
- 8) "He shall go no more out" means no more rejection as you get in soul winning, visitation and persecution. I go soul winning/door knocking each week so that I won't get scared of doing it.
- 9) I will **write** on him my new name and the city New Jerusalem's name.

Note: This Philadelphian Church is represented by the church from around 1700 to the Second coming who hold the truth of God's Word out to a lost world. Let us look at some well-known missionaries of this period and be encouraged to follow their example.

15. DAVID BRAINERD. 1718-1747. To American Indians.

Brainerd was born in Connecticut, USA. He was saved in 1739 and entered Yale College to study for the ministry. He was expelled from Yale for criticising a tutor and for attending a revival meeting forbidden by the rector. He was later appointed missionary to the American Indians and ordained in 1744. That year his health was poor and he saw little success among the Indians. But on 3 January 1745 he prayed and fasted all day for God to pour out his Holy Spirit on his work. The Lord laid John 7:37 on his mind: "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink."

He preached this verse continually among the Indians. A key breakthrough occurred that year when his interpreter **Moses Tautamy** and his wife received Christ as Saviour and asked for baptism. Moses was a constant drinker and often had been drunk while interpreting.

After being saved, the change in Moses was dramatic. He interpreted differently and would often continue on preaching after David Brainerd stopped, exhorting the Indians to come to Christ.

Wherever David Brainerd went, revival broke out and many received Christ as their Saviour all that year. In 1747 tuberculosis compelled him to abandon his work. He went to Jonathan Edwards house and became engaged to his daughter, but died in October 1747. Jonathan Edwards later published his work and it inspired many to follow his work among the Indians. Missionaries such as William Carey, Henry Martyn and others were inspired by him.

16. WILLIAM CAREY. 1761-1834.

He was called the "Father of Modern Missions." His vision was to take the gospel to the entire world. He was saved at age 18 in a shoemaker's shop where he worked. He mastered 5 languages. He was ordained by the Particular Baptists in 1787 and began to urge that worldwide missions be undertaken. An older Calvinist preacher rebuked him for this, saying, "When God is ready to convert the heathen, he will do so without your help or mine."

One of Carey's famous quotes was: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

In 1792 the Particular Baptist missionary society was formed and they sent Carey to India as their first missionary.

Carey took a job as a manager of an Indigo plantation to pay for the work. He founded 26 churches, 126 schools (with 10,000 students enrolled), translated the Bible into 44 languages, produced dictionaries, organised India's first medical mission, savings bank, Bible College and newspaper. He performed many agriculture experiments. He helped eradicate suttee (the practice of burning a widow when her husband died). He formed India's first printing company, paper mill and steam engine. He baptised his first Hindu convert in 1800. He inspired the formation of the: London missionary society in 1795, Netherlands missionary society in 1797, American missionary society in 1810, and the American Baptist Missionary Union in 1814. He sparked the entire Christian World to carry out the Great Commission.

17. JOHN WESLEY. 1703-1791. Founded Methodism.

Born in Epworth, England, the 15th child of Susanna and Samuel Wesley, a non-conformist pastor. At age 6 the house burned down and he was rescued from death. He saw himself as "a firebrand plucked out of the burning." They started the "Holy Club" at Oxford University and were called Methodists, meaning one that lives according to the method laid down in the Bible. He valued a "clean heart, a single eye, a soul full of God." John and Charles sailed to Georgia, America to convert the Indians, but failed miserably. On the way home, the ship almost sank and he saw how 26 Moravians sang and trusted God, showing no fear of death. Spangenburg asked Wesley, "Do you know Jesus Christ?" Wesley did not know Christ yet. Wesley found no peace with God, because he sought it not by faith in Christ, but by the works of the Law. "I went to America to convert the Indians, but who shall convert me?" In England, they met Peter Bohler, a Moravian who taught a faith of complete surrender, instant conversion and joy in believing. Wesley while reading Luther's preface to his Romans Commentary regarding the change which God works in us through faith in Christ, then trusted Christ alone for salvation, and received assurance that his sins were taken away and saved. He believed that one should be able to tell the exact circumstances, time and place of their conversion.

Wesley's life spanned the entire 1700's. England was in a contest with France for world supremacy. England then laid the foundation of her empire in India, North America, Australia, South Africa and Africa. England then became an industrial manufacturing power. Most preachers did nothing for Christ, and morals were low at the time.

In 1739 George Whitfield, an Anglican minister began preaching outdoors to Bristol miners. He invited Wesley to join him. Wesley then began 50 years of outdoor preaching in England, Scotland and Wales. The Anglican church closed its doors to Wesley. "I look upon the world as my parish," he said. He gathered those who were saved into "Societies". He issued society tickets to be renewed quarterly to weed out people of false conversion. Each society was divided into classes of 12 members, who paid one penny weekly to pay off the property.

He divided areas into circuits where travelling preachers spent 8 weeks in one place. Charles Wesley wrote thousands of Christian songs. John Wesley urged his lay preachers to study at home and he published many cheap, short, plain books for Christians, which made him wealthy, yet he gave it all away. He worked with Wilberforce to abolish slavery. On ordaining his own preachers, he broke from the Church of England. They forbade him to preach in their churches. So he first preached on his father's tombstone to a large crowd. He believed that people accepted Christ of their own free will. He was not a Calvinist as was Whitfield. He breathed new life into many other churches. Those influenced by him were **John Newton**, **William Wilberforce** who helped stop slavery, **John Howard** who reformed bad prison conditions, and **Robert Raikes** the father of Sunday Schools. He preached his last outdoor sermon in 1790 on Isaiah 55:6 "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

He died on March 2, 1791 and memorial services were held throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. It is said that he stopped the French Revolution from spreading to England.

18. HUDSON TAYLOR. 1832-1905.

He founded the China Inland Mission. Born into a Methodist family, his parents and grandparents had entertained John Wesley in their home. His father had a deep concern for China. At age 5, he wanted to become a missionary to China. He was **home-schooled** because of his ill health. In 1849 he was saved at age 17 while reading a tract on the finished work of Christ in his father's study. That year he offered his life to Christ for full time missionary service. The Lord called him to China. He began to prepare his life to go to China. He learned the Mandarin language, Medicine and Theology. He learned to depend on God for everything. One day he was out visiting the poor, when a man asked him to come and pray for his wife. In the house, he found that it was full of starving children, a sick mother and her baby near death. He gave the last coin he had to buy medicine and food for the family resulting in the mother's life being saved. Later that day a package of money arrived unexpectedly for him. In 1853 he set sail for China. No one met him on arrival. He travelled inland, which was dangerous but he preached the gospel, and handed out tracts and gospels to many people. He dressed as the Chinese do, winning him great respect. In 1858 he married Maria Dyer. In 1859 he took over the London Missionary Hospital in Ningpo. By 1860 the work was growing, but the labourers were few. He had to return to England to recover his health. Here he recruited many more missionaries who went with him to China. He founded the China Inland Mission. The work soon spread over much of China. His wife and son died in 1870.

He remarried in 1872. More workers came to China from 1876-78. He died in 1905.

What so greatly influenced Hudson Taylor to become a spiritual giant for God?

1) A **Spiritual Home**. His father was an evangelist and his mother a woman of prayer. His father began to pray for China two years before Hudson was born. The family always honoured Christ, the Bible and prayer.

2) A **definite call from God**. Today, teenagers are not expected to get serious about God's will for their lives. Hudson dared to seek God's will for his life.

"I asked God to give me some work to do for Him, because Christ had done so much for me."

God then convinced him to become a missionary to China.

3) **God prepared him at home to sacrifice and serve.**

He trusted God to meet all his needs, he did away with all material comforts, he exercised, lived on a plain diet, he economised and learned how to do without. He therefore had extra funds to share with others.

4) A **love for all God's people** and a **desire for wide usefulness**. He prayed "Lord give me wide usefulness."

5) He **depended wholly on the Lord**. He discovered the secret of the exchanged life in Galatians 2:20. Three Scriptures were the key to his life:

- 1) Mark 11:22 "Have faith in God." He sought the will of God through prayer and Bible study. He then committed the matter to God, and trusted God to work.
- 2) I Samuel 7:12 "Ebenezer.....hitherto hath the Lord helped us."
- 3) Genesis 22:14 "Jehovah Jireh.....the Lord will provide." The Lord will see to it.

CONCLUSION:

Will you surrender to be somebody for God? Will you trust God with your future as a missionary? Surrender today for God's purposes to be achieved in your life.

70c. FAMOUS MISSIONARIES LIVES

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 3:16-21; Romans 10:14,15.

Aim: To be challenged by the lives of missionaries to win people to Christ through missions.

Introduction:

One thing common in all greatly used people of God is that they had very little material resources, but they were strong in faith and set out to serve God not knowing how God would work things out.

Missionaries encountered many obstacles such as:

- 1) People they spoke to were suspicious of another culture.
- 2) Local superstitions.
- 3) Dislike of foreigners.
- 4) They wanted to cling to the religion of their fathers.
- 5) Modernist missionaries and cults giving a false Gospel.

19. HENRY MARTYN

He topped mathematics at Cambridge University and said "I was surprised to find that I had grasped a shadow." He obeyed God's call to India in 1806. He translated the Bible into Hindustani and Persian. His journals and letters appeared in 1837. These motivated many young men to missionary work. He died of illness at age 31.

20. ADONIRAM JUDSON 1788-1850.

He was an American missionary who sailed to India in 1812. He adopted Baptist views on board ship and severed his Congregational ties. In 1814 he went to Burma. He mastered the Burmese language and learned Buddhism so that he could interact with the people. He translated the Bible, made a dictionary and wrote many tracts. He trained evangelists and pastors informally.

He was unwillingly caught up in the British Burmese War. He was imprisoned, bound with 5 pairs of fetters and suffered fever, heat and hunger. He miraculously survived. He baptised his first convert after 6 years. His first two wives died. He later died at sea.

21. JOHN GEDDIE 1815-1872 New Hebrides.

He encouraged his Presbyterian Church in Canada to send a missionary to the New Hebrides but no one volunteered. So he went himself in 1847. He learnt the language, translated the Bible and other books and Bible study aids. "When he landed in New Hebrides there were no Christians. When he left in 1872 there were no heathens." Praise God.

22. JOHAN KRAPP 1810–1881.

He established a mission in Mombasa 1844 (Kenya) to reach 8 million Gallas people. His wife and newborn child died of fever. He studied languages and explored East Africa. He translated a Swahili New Testament, grammar and dictionary.

23. ROBERT LAWS 1851-1934.

This Scottish missionary established missions in Malawi and Tanzania. When he left in 1927 there were over 700 primary schools, a 60,000 member Christian community, 13 ordained African Pastors. He aimed for a Bible reading, self extending and self supporting evangelizing church with national leaders.

24. ERIC LIDDELL 1902-1945.

He was born in China of missionary parents, but educated in England. He represented Scotland in International Rugby. In the 1924 Paris Olympics he disqualified himself from the 100 metres heat because it was held on a Sunday. He went on to win a gold medal in the 400 metres race. A note of 1 Samuel 2:30 was slipped into his hand which read: "Them that honour me, I will honour." He went to China as a missionary and died of a brain tumour in a Japanese concentration camp in 1942.

25. D. L. MOODY 1837-1899.

Moody was an independent, non denominational evangelist. He was saved as a shoe salesman and started the YMCA for evangelising youth. His independent stance greatly influenced later American Fundamentalism. From 1873-75, he and Sankey (his song leader) held a crusade in England with immense success. He returned to the US as a national hero and was invited everywhere to preach.

His message was as simple as 3R's:

RUIN by sin
REDEMPTION by Christ
REGENERATION by the Holy Spirit.

He majored on saving souls. He said: "I look upon this world as a wrecked vessel. God has given me a lifeboat and said to me, Moody save all you can."

He believed: Get people saved first, then all else will be added later. He promoted Dispensational Premillennialism. Torrey and Schofield were his associates. He took over and renamed "Moody Bible Institute" to train gapmen to do soul winning. He started the Student Volunteer Movement in 1886. His motto was "evangelization of the world in this generation."

26. GEORGE MULLER 1805-98.

He was born in Russia and became a British citizen. He was saved in 1825 at a home prayer meeting. He set out to train to be a missionary to the Jews, but ill health led him to Pastor Ebenezer Chapel which grew from 18 to 227 in 3 years. He believed and taught that God would supply material needs by believing prayer alone. He founded a Bible institution

to spread Bible truths. He copied Franke faith orphanage in Germany for Bristol. He eventually housed, educated, and trained 2000 children in 5 houses at Bristol. At age 70 he set out with his wife on a worldwide mission lasting 17 years. He blessed many by testifying to the prayer answering God. A well known incident was how at his orphanage, he thanked God for food, with nothing on the table. Then came a knock on the door with bread coming from a bakery from a broken down cart.

27. R. A. TORREY 1856-1928.

In 1889 Moody asked Torrey to head up Moody Bible Institute. From 1894-1906 he pastored Chicago's Moody Memorial church. From 1902-06 he did mass evangelism with Charles Alexander in Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Japan, Germany, Britain and Canada. In one tour of England he saw over 70,000 people saved in 4 years. He wrote many books against liberalism and how to serve God.

28. BOB JONES 1883-1968.

He was a famous evangelist and founded Bob Jones University, South Carolina. Bob Jones opposed the worldliness of Christians. He opposed the atheist drift in educational institutions. He upheld Bob Jones University doctrine and moral standards. Billy Graham trained here.

29. CHARLES FINNEY 1792-1875.

He was the father of modern revivalism. He studied law in 1818, being saved in 1821, and ordained in 1824. He was against Calvinism. An estimated 1 million people were saved in his revivals in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and the United States. He stressed the ability of people to repent.

30. MARY SLESSOR 1848-1915.

She was born in Scotland. She received a meagre education. She became a Sunday School teacher and a mission helper. In 1876 she was sent to Calabar, West Africa, which was uncontrolled by any colonial power. It was divided into warring tribes. It was ruled by witchcraft and barbarous customs such as killing twins at birth. She was in constant danger all her life. Slessor won the confidence of tribal chiefs and peoples by her fearlessness and dedication, medical and language skills, and sense of humour.

She opened Africa to the Gospel and to trade. She opposed slavery. From 1903 she opened up new territory to the north and west. She died at age 66, worn out by service to Africa.