

My Volcano Adventure

Lesson 1 Biographies

Mary Jones

Mary was born to a poor English family in Wales. After Mary learned to read, a whole new world opened up to her. She often went to a neighbor's house to read books. She spent much of her time reading one special book—the Bible. Mary loved reading the Bible and longed for a Bible of her own. Young Mary decided that she would take on extra work to earn the money she needed to buy a Bible. It was long, hard work, but Mary did washing for other people, sold eggs from her chickens, babysat for younger children, weeded gardens, and even sold socks she knitted. Finally, after six years of working, Mary had saved enough money to buy a Bible!

In those days, Bibles were difficult to buy. Not a single person owned a Bible in Mary's village. That's what we call "Bible poverty" today. But someone told her that she could find a Bible in a town twenty-five miles away. Clutching her money, Mary walked twenty-five miles all alone to buy her Bible.

When she reached her destination, the pastor told her that the Bible had already been promised to someone else! Mary was heartbroken. As she explained her story, Mary began crying. The pastor immediately decided that Mary truly deserved the Bible. The other person would just have to wait. As she walked all the way home with her very own Bible, Mary praised God again and again!

News of Mary's determination and hard work spread across England. Because of Mary, many people became dedicated to Bible translation. Other people around the world started Bible societies to completely wipe out Bible poverty—so that everyone who wanted a Bible could have one.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think Mary would have worked that long or hard for just any book?
2. Why do you think the Bible was so special to Mary?
3. How long might it take to earn enough money to buy a Bible today?
4. Would you save your money for six years if that was the only way to have a Bible?
5. How far did Mary walk to purchase the Bible?
6. What are two geographical locations you are familiar with that are that far apart?
7. Do you think the pastor did the right thing in selling the Bible to Mary when it had been promised to someone else?

8. When Mary's story spread across England, what difference did it make to people around the world?

Henry M. Stanley

John Rowlands grew up in England. At the age of 18, he boarded a ship headed to America. He arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, and got a job working for a man named Henry Morton Stanley. John later adopted this name as his own.

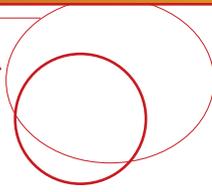
Henry fought in the American Civil War. When the fighting was over, he became a news reporter for the New York Herald. One day, the newspaper gave Henry a surprising assignment: go to Africa and locate the missing Scottish missionary, David Livingstone.

Henry was ready for the challenge. He carefully packed his trunks—first for the long journey across the ocean, and then through the mysterious continent of Africa. Among his possessions were seventy-three books that weighed 180 pounds. As Henry and his African helpers trekked through the hot rain forest, Henry began to feel sorry that he had brought so many heavy books. When they stopped for the night, Henry sorted through the books and left some of the less important books in the forest. Each month Stanley left more books behind. He realized he didn't really need them. His group journeyed further and further through the dense African rain forest until at last, the only book Stanley kept was his Bible. Stanley figured he could live without the other books, but not without his Bible. He treasured the Bible so much that he read through it three times during this journey.

After two years, Stanley finally found Dr. Livingstone. God had guided Stanley through the tropical forest to find and help the famous Scottish explorer and missionary.

Discussion questions:

1. How hard do you think it was for Henry M. Stanley to leave all those books in the jungle?
2. Why did he only keep his Bible?
3. Why do you think the Bible was so important to him?
4. How many books did Stanley start out with?
5. How much did they weigh?
6. Why did he leave them behind?



Samuel Morris (Prince Kaboo)

Prince Kaboo was born in 1872 in Liberia (Western Africa). His father was king of a tribe that was at war with a neighboring tribe. When the other tribe won, Kaboo's father didn't have enough money to pay the war tax. So the king sent his son, Prince Kaboo, to the other tribe until the tax could be paid. During the time Kaboo was with the other tribe, he was treated very harshly, like a criminal.

Once while Kaboo was being beaten, a blinding light flashed before him and a voice from heaven said, "Rise up and run." Even though he was wounded, Kaboo suddenly had the strength to get up and run away. He escaped into the jungle, and God sent a light to guide him to safety.

Many days later, Kaboo met missionaries who told him about Jesus. He listened with excitement to the story of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus in Acts 9. Kaboo exclaimed, "That happened to me, too. A light flashed, and God spoke from heaven." Kaboo knew that God had spoken directly to him.

Prince Kaboo became a Christian. At his baptism, he took on the name Samuel Morris. He traveled to the United States to study God's Word at Taylor University. God continued to bless Samuel as a student. People often invited him to preach and to tell the story of how God had rescued him. Many people who heard Samuel speak turned their hearts over to Jesus.

In the winter of 1892, when he was only twenty years old, Samuel became sick and died. But his life inspired many other students to become missionaries in his place.

Discussion questions:

1. The Bible seemed to be alive to Prince Kaboo. What does it mean that "the Bible is alive?"
2. How is the Bible "alive" to you?
3. Why do you think God allowed Samuel to die at such a young age?
4. What happens to a Christian who dies at a young age?
5. How was Samuel Morris like the Apostle Paul?