



Bread for China .. Update..

An English missionary to China in the 1900's, Gladys Aylward, came to understand the real power of the word of God one afternoon, in the middle of nowhere, somewhere in northern China.

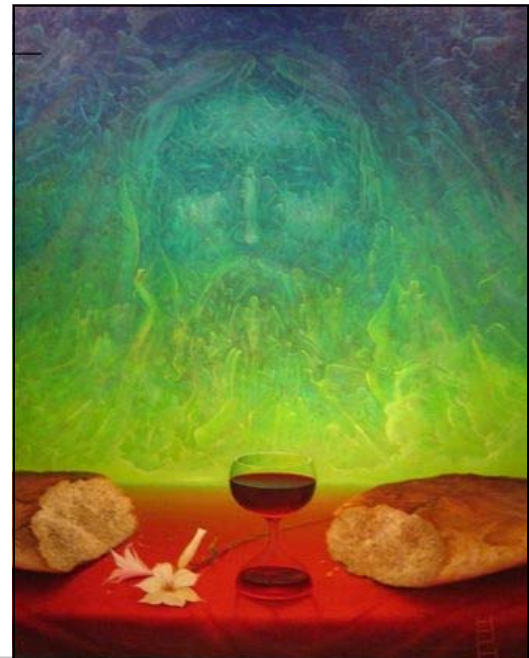
She and her companion, a Chinese doctor were exhausted from walking and knelt down on the grass and prayed, she prayed for food and shelter , her companion prayed 'O God, send us the one you want us to tell about Jesus' They then broke into songs of praise. At that point a man appeared on the brow of a hill; he was a llama (Buddhist monk). He beckoned them and took them to his monastery way up on top of a mountain.

They were taken to see the abbot and he showed them a scrap of paper, that one of the monks brought back years before from a town where they sold their crops, it read 'For God so loved the world, that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life' (Jn3:16). That was all, but they learned from that short passage that there was a God who loved and they all read and re-read that passage and wanted to know who the God who loved was.

They sent monks out to towns and villages to try and find out. One heard that Jesus had commanded his disciples to 'go out into the whole world, and proclaim the good news' The abbot reasoned that if the first passage was true, the second was too and that eventually someone would come and tell them the rest of the story.

Gladys and her companion stayed on for many days and laid out the Gospel story for them. Every night after they finished, there would be a queue outside their rooms of Buddhists wanting to know more...

Thanks for your donations for the Bibles for China, **220 pounds** has been sent to Asia Harvest so they can produce **110 more bibles** in Chinese and local dialects:- it has been observed that for every 1 new bible that arrives in China a further 3 to 5 converts are won..*not bad for the price of a pint or a cup of tea and slice of cake !*



CSI Slave Redemption in Sudan



I read an account recently of a young girl who was a slave from the plantations in America before its abolition some centuries ago; one passage was about praying for freedom and went like this :- "Mammy would put the kettle in the corner of the quarters, way back in the dark corner, and put her head inside the kettle so's the sound wouldn't carry and she'd pray in a whisper. (Slaves were not allowed to pray then as now). She swore they could hear like cats up at the big house and the only way to keep safe was to pray in the kettle. I one time put my head in the kettle with her. "Lord Jesus" she said talking to the bottom of the kettle "Lord Jesus, you come be making us free. Free Someday. In Your Name, amen."

The same prayer is rising from the Sudan still.

Its been 10 years now since you started to support this project and the first 50 pounds was sent to set one person free. Now you have rescued **186 people**. **They are free because of your giving, sacrifices and prayers.** CSI are committed to carry on until all are free, I hope we can journey with them until that day comes. Another **250 pounds** was sent this time and a further **250 pounds** to the littleway association whose contacts are helping with the many drought victims in southern Sudan and Somalia. Thank You so Much .

INDIA:- Thanks to all who collect aluminium cans/foil ,printer cartridges and old mobile phones as this has now funded 22 students in India (over the years) for one year college courses, a big help in the struggle out of poverty. You have collected more then 2 tons of scrap metals now....feels like more doesn't it ? They have studied a diverse range of careers like teaching, mechanics, computers, nursing etc ..a future & a hope ! One more student has been sponsored (**60 pounds**) during this period.



Just before Easter we were able to attend the graduation ceremony at the Laura Vicuna school on the Island of Negros. Its a further education centre offering courses in Commercial Cooking, Hotel & Restaurant Services ,Business Office Technology, Garments and Housekeeping .Its mostly for the children of the sugar cane workers, who for generations have farmed the massive plantations of the few wealthy landowners; a bit like feudal England before the industrial revolution. Many are the first literate family members.

A Story from Sr Marilou...(former head of the school)

There are many success stories:- Nena who lives in a remote fishing village in Victorias. Her family built a small shanty on the water supported by bamboo poles. She comes to school diligently save for the times when it rains because the water enters their small house. Poverty and life's miseries did not prevent her from pursuing her dream. She enrolled as a one year Business and Office Technology student. The administration sent her to Manila Diamond Hotel for her on the job training After 10 months of training, because of her excellent values and skills, she was absorbed by the hotel and now works as the executive secretary of the President. When she received her first allowance from her training, aside from paying back her school fees, she bought more bamboo poles to elevate their house. Now that she is already a regular worker, she hopes to find a decent place where her family could settle. What is beautiful about these young men and women is that, they have cultivated a sense of gratitude which St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello (founders of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians) passed on to the Sisters, educators and young people. It is so touching to see them now transformed from shabby looking to clean and dignified looking young men and women. They come back to school and always say their thank you to the Sisters and educators. Some of them now hold good positions in companies and would hire students coming from the school. They pay forward the goodness that they have received from the Sisters, educators and benefactors. They are now "evangelizers" in their work places by sharing God's goodness and Our Blessed Mother's loving care and guidance.

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SIR's Backpack Appeal

The backpack appeal for SIR's project in Malawi is here again, so if you want your parish or school to participate then just download the information leaflet from our website (download section) which has all the info you need on what to put in it etc.. its a great joy for the kids to receive these and it will really help them along in the school year **Try it in your parish/school this year**



This is a marvellous project, it costs about **300 pounds** for 1 student for the years training. Often they pay it back (when they begin to earn) so another student is helped the next year .

We sent **600 pounds** to LVC this time for their many projects in the Philippines. One local family were kind enough to send about 20 kids from Manila that LVC care for, on a holiday to Negros,-a week on the beach (photo above) and a Don Bosco retreat or camp as well-they had a great time.

Remember, you can't take it with you; but you can send it on ahead !