

# engage Kids

Volume 8 | Issue 2

MISSIONARY HEROES



## HELPING the HURTING

# SETTING OUT TO SERVE



Her feet felt like ice as she struggled to take each step through the deep snow. The air was bitter and cold. Her breaths were short as she trudged forward through the night, trying to find the way. Doubts began to settle into her mind. What was she doing here as a single woman trying to become a missionary to China? The train she had been riding through Russia to get there had stopped due to the increasing danger of the war taking place. She had then begun to travel by foot through the snow only to hear the sounds of gunfire and wolves off in the distance.

Gladys Aylward had already been denied acceptance as a missionary due to her lack of progress in learning the Chinese language. Rather than letting that stop her, she set out on





her own for China. But the current circumstances seemed too much to overcome. Feeling inadequate for the job, the young Gladys was completely reliant on the Lord. Only He could help her arrive in China and bless her ministry there.

God did indeed use Gladys in a mighty way. She arrived in China and immediately began mission work with Jeannie Lawson. Together they began the “Inn of Eight Happinesses.” This was a place where travelers could stay, and the ladies would provide hot meals and a room. They would also share the gospel with the travelers in hopes of introducing them to Christ. This was only the beginning of Gladys’ work as a missionary.



## Helping the Hurting

A custom in Chinese culture was foot binding. A young girl's foot would be wrapped so tightly with material that it would change the shape of the foot as it grew, making it appear smaller. While this was considered beautiful, it was an incredibly painful process for women, and it limited their ability to walk!

Gladys Aylward began to fight this custom and its infringement on the health of women. She was eventually appointed by government officials to become a "foot inspector" to reinforce the new laws that prohibited foot binding.



### MEMORY VERSE

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed,  
judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

*Isaiah 1:17*



# PROTECTING THE DEFENSELESS

Gladys Aylward one day was approached by a beggar woman who offered to trade her own daughter in exchange for money. Gladys gave all the money she had, which was nine pennies, to the woman in exchange for the little girl. She later named the girl Grace but called her Ninepence. This marked the beginning of Aylward's orphan ministry.

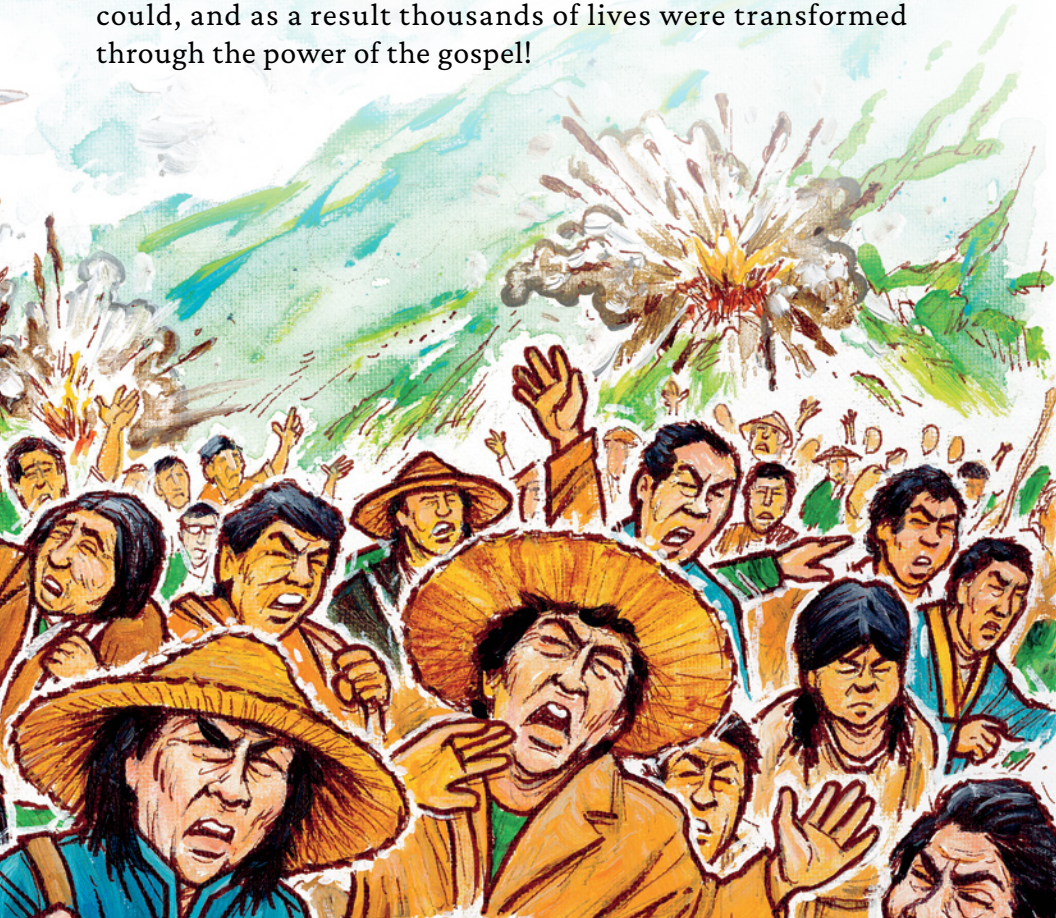


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A war had begun between the countries of China and Japan. Air raids had destroyed the Inn of Eight Happinesses where Aylward lived with her orphans. But Gladys knew of a shelter in a city across the mountains that could provide protection for her and the children. However, there was no way to get there other than traveling by foot. She and 100 children set out on the journey across the mountains. It took two weeks to reach their destination, but in spite of all the dangers not a single child was lost. God blessed the work and dedication of Aylward and protected her and the children from bad weather, dangerous animals, and the Japanese troops.

All through her life, Gladys Aylward showed great courage in not only being a missionary in a communist country but also defying the injustices put forth by the Chinese government, such as foot binding and the poor treatment of children. She fought to protect and assist the Chinese citizens in any way she could, and as a result thousands of lives were transformed through the power of the gospel!





# Louie's treehouse Lair



## MINDING THE MISSION

How about you? Do you see other people being treated wrongly? What are you doing to help them? Are you standing up for them and being their friend? Look for someone who is less fortunate and reach out, showing them the love of Jesus. He will use you to make a difference in their life just as He used Gladys Aylward.



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