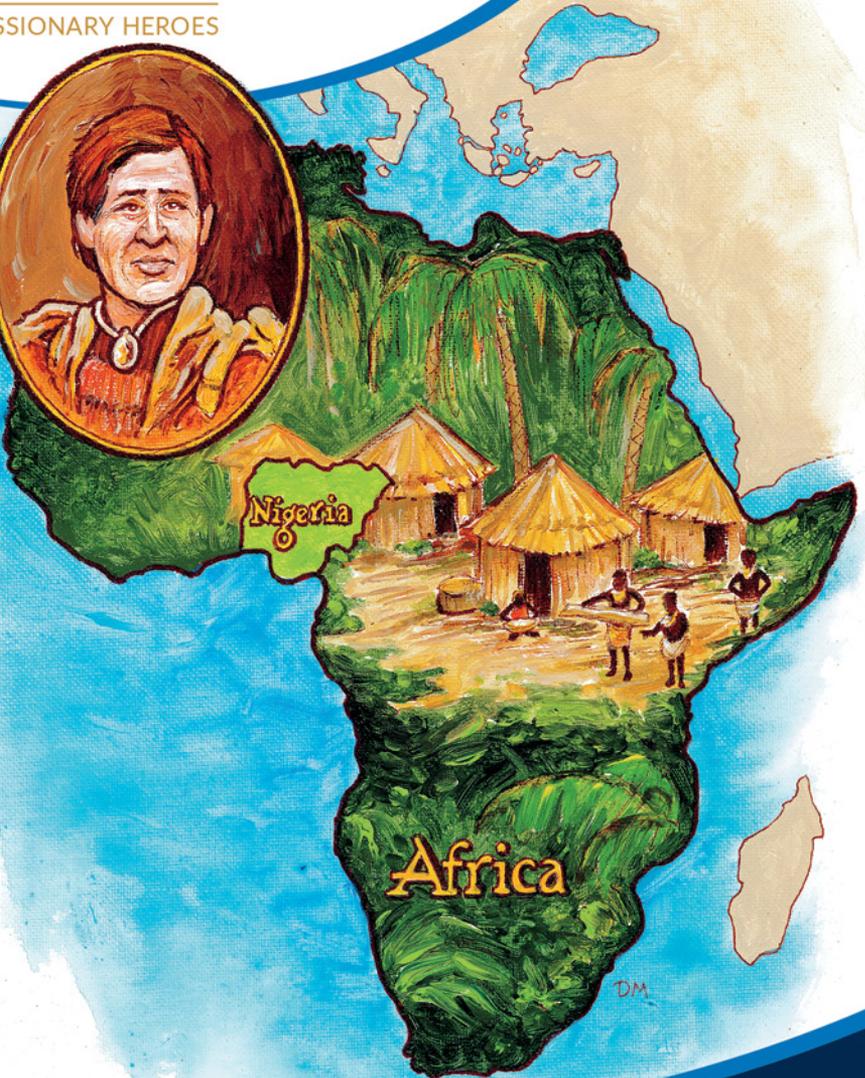


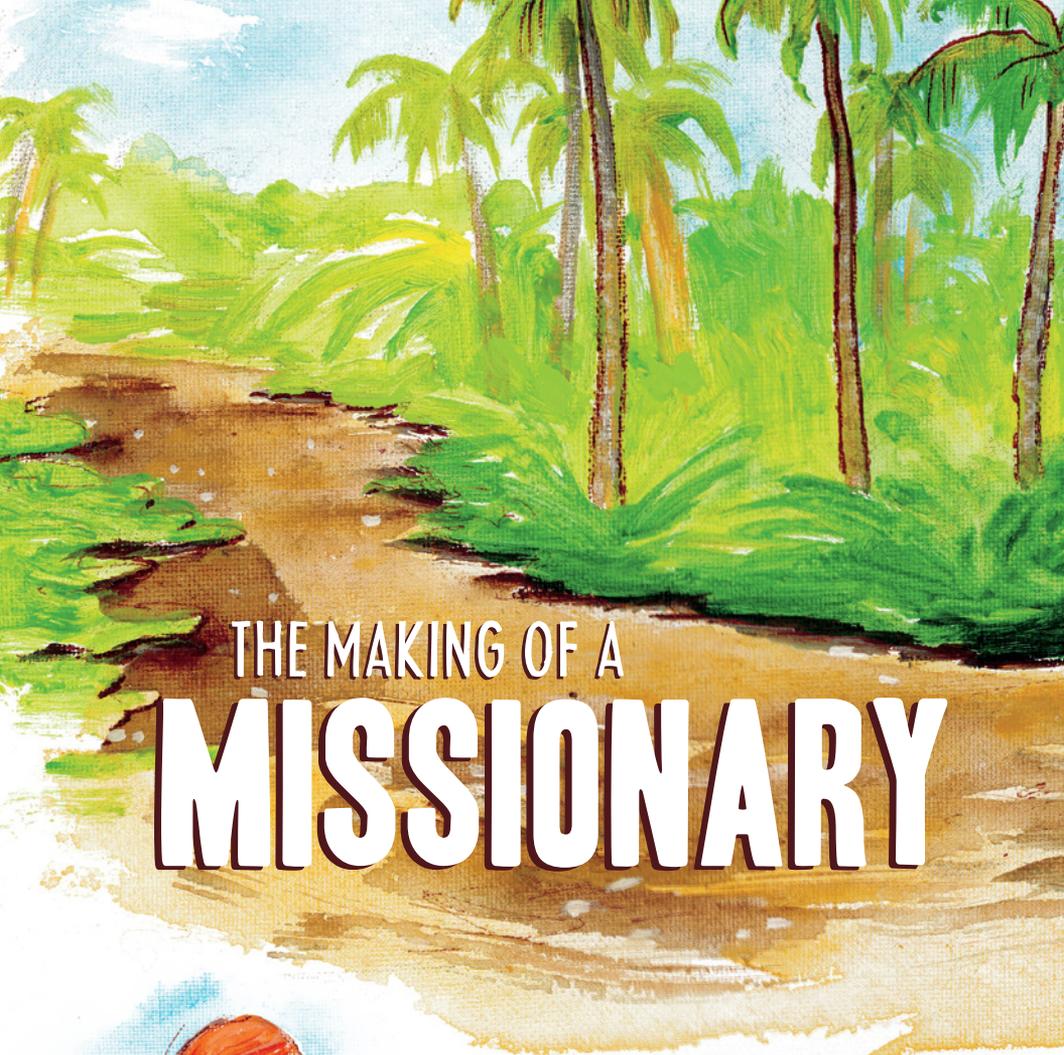
engage Kids

Volume 8 | Issue 4

MISSIONARY HEROES



FORCES for CHANGE



THE MAKING OF A MISSIONARY



Abandoned and hungry, little Mary Slessor lived a life of poverty and abuse with her alcoholic father and six other siblings in Dundee, Scotland. Life for her was hard! Instead of taking care of his family like every father should, Mary's dad, in a drunken rage, would sometimes throw her out on the street. She had every opportunity to be angry and blame God for what she suffered, but



instead she turned to Christ at a young age and dedicated her life to Him.

As she grew up, her Sunday school teacher would talk about missionaries around the world. This was so exciting to Mary. In her eyes they were heroes. She asked God to place that calling on her own life so she could be a missionary as well. Mary had a particular interest in the children of Africa, but she never knew if her dream would become a reality. However God knew what was ahead of Mary. He already planned for her to go and evangelize the African people in a country called Nigeria. And while she would go to the mission field as a single lady, God gave her a spirit of courage and boldness to answer the call even in the face of danger.

Mary never stopped pioneering new mission works until the day she died. Even as an old woman she passionately pursued the missionary call God gave her in answer to her childhood prayers.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Sometimes life on a mission field is filled with difficulties or hardships. The memory verse says even as a young person, you can make a difference. One way you can do this is by praying for missionaries today. Missionaries rely on people's prayers to help them be effective. Decode the message below from Mary Slessor to see what she said about prayer.

KEY:

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Answer: If you are ever inclined to pray for a missionary, do it at once wherever you are.



MEMORY VERSE

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an
example of the believers, in word, in conversation,
in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12



ON A ROYAL MISSION

With bright blue eyes and fiery red hair, the Scottish Mary Slessor did not fit into the culture of West Africa, but that did not keep her from doing mission work to reach the villagers. While staying with the tribes, Mary worked hard to learn their languages and practice their ways of living. The Nigerians saw that she had become one of them, and they began to respect and listen to her. This opened the door for her to share the gospel.

Living among the African tribes was especially dangerous because of their many superstitions. The villages were filled with cannibalism; women were sometimes buried alive with their dead husbands, and babies were killed just after birth if the parents decided they no longer wanted the child. Perhaps the most striking practice of the Nigerians was their belief in the curse of twins. Many sets of twins were killed due to this



superstition. As Slessor saw all this taking place, her heart's prayer became, "Lord, the task is impossible for me but not for Thee. Lead the way and I will follow. Why should I fear? I am on a Royal Mission. I am in the service of the King of Kings."

Mary began doing what she could to save the mothers and children, especially twins. She showed her deep love and concern for others by adopting several babies and raising them as her own.

Because of Mary's persistence in sharing the gospel message, many positive changes were made throughout the country of Nigeria. With God's help she became a force for change that confronted their superstitions and caused many of their evil practices to stop. Through Christ alone, Mary Slessor's determination paved the way for the gospel to transform lives and for other missionaries to follow her.



Louie's treehouse Lair



BE THE CHANGE

Mary Slessor was just a child when she began preparing her heart to make a difference on the mission field. What are five ways you can start being a force for positive change in your life? Make a pledge poster for your wall.

Here is what it might say:

In speech, I will not gossip or swear.

In life, I will do what pleases God.

In love, I will care about others.

In faith, I will pray and trust God.

In purity, I will choose what is right.



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