



Monday Matters - June 25, 2012

Through It All

The group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean north east of Australia is known as New Hebrides Islands. The people of these islands were cannibals until the 18th century and were very backward. When John Williams went to work among them as a missionary, they killed and ate him. Then they handed over his bones to those who came seeking him. This happened in 1839 and it shook the whole world. But it aroused a spirit of challenge among the young people of British Scotland. Twelve youths stood up and said they would go to the Hebrides Islands to turn the man-eaters to Christ.

John Patton was born in 1824 in Scotland. His father would take time three times a day and pray for his family and for Scotland. John Patton, who saw him doing this, followed suit and began to walk close with God. His mother was also intent on bringing up the children in the fear of the Lord.

As an early teenager John Patton had yielded his life to Christ. He was praying with a deep desire to serve the Lord. When the opportunity presented itself, he gladly joined the Theological College in Glasgow. He devoted himself to ministry, even while at college, among the backward people living close to his college. Nobody turned to the Lord in the beginning. Through it all he was faithful in his ministry and continued it without losing heart. That made him achieve the impossible. Many began to turn to the Lord.

For ten years, he served the Lord among these people. It was then that a Presbyterian missionary shared in a meeting the need for a young man to work among the tribal people of the Hebrides Island. He heard the Lord's still small voice telling him to commit his life to the cause of the tribal people in the Hebrides. John Patton readily obeyed the call, stood up and said he would go. At the age of 34, John Patton, with his young wife Mary Ann, left for the Hebrides Islands in the year 1858.

Over the years that followed John Patton experienced many tragedies and situations during his time on Tanna

(Click on Image)



Through It All

By Andrae Crouch

I thank God for the mountains,
and I thank Him for the valleys,
I thank Him for the storms He
brought me through.
For if I'd never had a problem,
I wouldn't know God could
solve them,
I'd never know what faith in
God could do.
Through it all,
Through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all,
Through it all,
I've learned to depend upon
His Word.

Quote of the Week

"Understanding your talents
and areas of expertise will help
you define your dream."

-- Tommy Barnett

and Aniwa Islands. His wife and child died within a few short years of ministry. His life was constantly under threat. The tribal people stole everything he had. Through it all he continually asked God for his protection against the cannibals, the evil spirits and the sorcerers.

Patton translated the New Testament in the Aniwa language and later the Old Testament as well. After 10 years of hard work, the gospel began to spread in many of the Hebrides islands. By his efforts, two orphanages, churches and schools were built. A school exclusively for girls was also started. With the spread of the gospel, incidence of social crimes and murders drastically reduced. More missionaries came there and worked in 30 islands. The Church of Aniwa grew in strength. A Bible School was started to train local evangelists. John Patton toiled in Aniwa until the end of his life, January 28, 1907 at the age of 83.

John Paton's ceaseless and untiring work brought to the fold of Christ even man-eaters. Through it all - fear of death, death of his beloved wife and son, loss of possessions and unbearable sufferings - it didn't deter him from going ahead with his commitment to love Christ and to preach the gospel. As the song says, ***"I'd never know what faith in God could do. Through it all, I learned to trust in Jesus. I learned to depend upon His Word."***

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