



Monday Matters

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Mary Slessor was born in 1848, in Aberdeen, Scotland to a poor working-class family. Her father was a shoemaker by trade but when Mary was eleven years old her father had to take a job as a laborer. He was an alcoholic and it appears was a violent person as well. It is said that she had a fear of speaking to males as a result of father's behavior. Not long afterwards, Mary's father died. Mary took a job to help support the family at this time. Her mother was a Christian and raised her children accordingly.

When Mary was in her 20's she heard about the death of Dr. David Livingstone in Africa. He was a medical missionary and had spent his life serving the people in Africa. He had pleaded that someone would need to carry on his work. Mary heard the plea and in 1876 sailed for Africa where she would spend the rest of her life serving the Lord and the people in Africa.



By this time she had overcome her fear of speaking to males. Her early work in Africa was working with children, both girls and boys. Mary was helping abandoned children who were not accepted in their tribes for various reasons. Eventually Mary was able to demonstrate a true missionary spirit through her belief in Jesus Christ and evangelism, through education and literacy, through health care and economic development. She stood firm against abuses but loved the people of Africa wholeheartedly.

When Mary died in 1915, 100 hundred years ago, the people in Africa grieved but were also thankful for her willingness to sacrifice her life for them. In the process, with the Lord's help, she had found the power to overcome her nightmarish childhood to reach out to so many others who needed to overcome their fears.

In the 1950's, Queen Elizabeth of England visited Nigeria and the grave site of Mary Slessor. She paid tribute to this great missionary woman who had brought so much hope to the people of Africa.

In Psalm 27 it says, "Light, space, zest - that's God! So, with him on my side I'm fearless, afraid of no one and nothing." (Msg) Overcoming our fears can be a long process, sometimes for a lifetime. The possibility of overcoming those fears is knowing that love is greater than fear and knowing that God loves us totally.



Remember - "Our fear is as great as our trust in the Lord is small; as one increases, the other must decrease." (author unknown)

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