

## “Hey Kids, Let’s Talk !”

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**Gc KIDS**

is for the Christian child who has been taught missions and who displays an interest in worldwide evangelization. We aim to encourage this child to keep a mission vision alive through childhood, and to consider missions as a career. Target age is 9-13, but with adult help **GC Kids** may also be useful for a younger child. Older readers are welcome too.

This quarterly publication is mailed free to individual children or adult leaders of children.

For **suggestions, ideas or submissions**, send postal mail via the address below or email [elinor.young@worldteam.org](mailto:elinor.young@worldteam.org).

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“LT” graphic by Linda Dingeldein.



Issue 4: Adoniram Judson

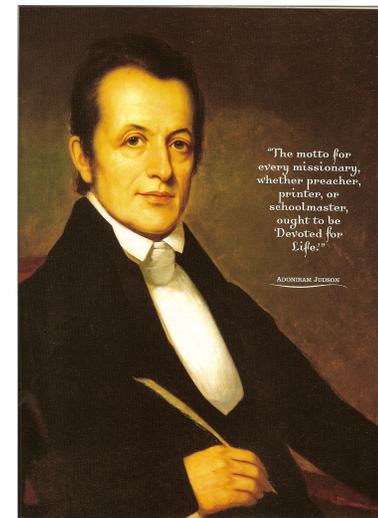
### Who Knows Best?

**Many are the plans in a man's heart but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.**  
(Proverbs 19:21)

The story of Adoniram Judson is the story of a man who thought he knew what was best for his life. He thought he knew how to plan, how to prepare and how to be a success when he grew up. Then he discovered that God knows best. God had the best plan and God's definition of success is the right one.

Who are you letting guide your decisions about when you grow up? Whose plans will you follow? What does success mean—having a lot of money or becoming what God wants you to be? Think about it.

*Suggested further reading:*  
Adoniram Judson: A Grand Purpose (YWAM Publishing)  
“Adoniram Judson”  
[www.reformedreader.org/rbb/judson/jindex.htm](http://www.reformedreader.org/rbb/judson/jindex.htm)



### Adoniram Judson Followed God's Plan

Finding Judson at a prayer meeting in a haystack would have surprised anybody, most of all Judson himself. After all, Adoniram Judson of Malden, Massachusetts, had big plans for his life. He would be famous and powerful, and he didn't need any help from God.

Being the smartest and best came easy to Judson as a child. He loved to study. At age three he learned to read. At age ten he studied Latin, Greek and theology. Adoniram learned more languages, how to tell north, south east and west by looking at the stars, and he studied all he could about the universe.

Portrait courtesy of the Peabody Essex Museum. (Not public domain.)

Judson's father, a minister, encouraged him and provided books for him to study. "You are unusually intelligent, Adoniram," he'd tell his son, "and I expect you to become a great man."

Into his teens, Judson was filled with pride and self-confidence because he was so smart. No problem was so large that it could stop him from fulfilling his exciting dreams. He planned to be somebody important, unlike his father, whose lack of imagination he scorned.

At sixteen, Judson entered Brown University and graduated as the top student in his class. There at Brown, he formed a strong friendship with E---, a talented student who shared his ambition to pursue political power. E--- was a skeptic; he doubted that the Bible was true. He believed that educated scholars should disregard Christianity because it is too narrow. Because of E--'s influence, Judson became a defiant unbeliever in God.

In 1809, a year after the two friends graduated, E--- and Judson happened to be guests at an inn, each unaware of the other's presence. In the morning

Judson discovered that E--- had died in the room next to his. The news of his friend's death disturbed Judson deeply. In his grief, he remembered reading in his father's Bible that his friend had no hope of life after death because he had rejected God. Judson

despaired for his friend and for his own soul. "I've been looking at life backwards," Judson realized.

"How can I please God?" became Judson's most urgent question.

"Knowing God is more important than my success." That morning he acknowledged Jesus Christ as King of his life.

What a turn of events! Judson's focus shifted as though he had been looking at his life through the wide end of a funnel. In the wide end, he had seen his own wide-sweeping, unlimited plans for accomplishment. He hadn't noticed before that the funnel narrowed. Now all he saw at the other end was empty pride.

However, Judson's new life in Christ brought a whole new view. Through the narrow end of the funnel he saw only Christ as the way to God. This helped him find God's best for his life.

"Many are the plans in a

## The Great Commission

After Jesus died and rose alive again, just before He went back to Heaven, He told his followers what they were supposed to do until He came back to earth again.

Look up Acts 1:8 in your Bible and write all the places Jesus told His disciples to go and tell people about Him.

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in \_\_\_\_\_, and in all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_."**

One who heard this was Philip. Philip became a well-known witness for Jesus. Where-ever he went in Jerusalem, Judea or Samaria, Philip told people about Jesus. Crowds came to listen and many people accepted Jesus as their Savior. Philip was doing important work.

One day God sent an angel to tell Philip, "Go down to the Gaza desert." Philip could have said, "But I'm needed here where there are a lot of people. No one lives in the desert." Philip didn't say that, though. He believed that God knew what was best. He obeyed, and on the desert road he saw one man, a government official from

Ethiopia. He was reading the book of Isaiah trying to find out about God, but he didn't understand what he read. Philip offered to help him, and soon the Ethiopian became a true follower of Jesus. When he returned to his own country he witnessed to many people who believed in Jesus, too. They started a church (groups of believers) that still exists today.



## Think About It

Why do you think God could trust Philip to be a good missionary to the Ethiopian man? (hint: what had he already been doing?)

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why was just one man, the Ethiopian, not less important than the crowds Philip usually witnessed to?

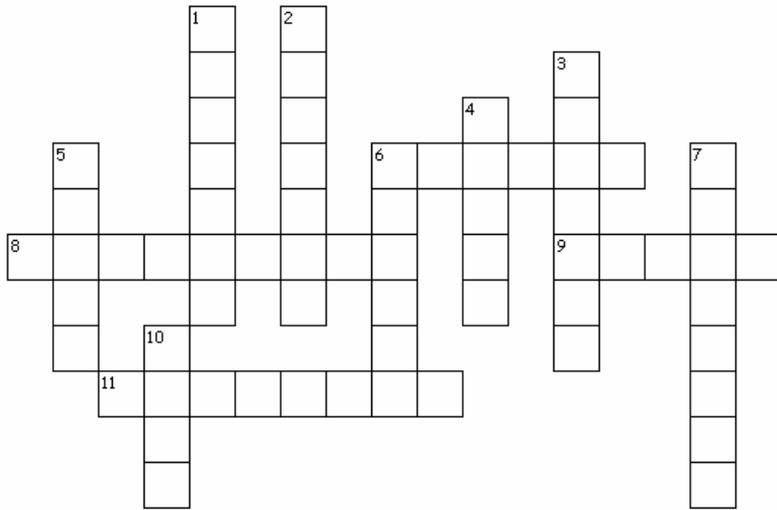
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**If God wants you to be a missionary to a few instead of a teacher of many, will you obey? Why?**

# Crossword Puzzle: Adoniram Judson



Answers to the clues are in the story about Adoniram Judson.

## Across

- 6. What Judson and his college friends did regularly at a haystack.
- 8. To put something into another language.
- 9. Judson learned to read at age \_\_\_\_.
- 11. Adoniram Judson's father was a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

- 1. Judson translated the Bible into this language.
- 2. What the nation of Burma is called now.
- 3. Someone who doubts that the Bible is true.
- 4. One of the languages Adoniram Judson knew by age ten.
- 5. Adoniram worked among this tribe.
- 6. To \_\_\_\_ God became Judson's urgent desire.
- 7. The study of all things about God.
- 10. One important morning Judson acknowledged Jesus Christ as \_\_\_\_ of his life.

man's heart," Judson understood at last, "but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." (Proverbs 19:21).

"How can I please God?" became his most urgent question.

Soon Judson wanted more than anything to be a missionary. He longed to go to Burma, today called Myanmar. At Williams College, he found friends who shared the same desire. They met often at the haystack and prayed earnestly that God would show them his plans for their lives.

On the mission field in Burma, Judson's life opened out into thirty-eight years of personal sacrifice among the Karen people. He starved, spent time in prison, and lost family members. In 1850 he died at age 62.

By his boyhood standard, success never came. Yet, in the wide end of Judson's life, there was more success than Judson could have imagined. At the haystack, the small, fervent group didn't have any money to go and be foreign missionaries, so they prayed for financial support for missions. As a result, Judson helped start the American Baptist Missionary Union. It still serves today as a channel through which Christians can send support money to missionaries in whatever country they serve.

Not only that. Judson translated the entire Bible into the Burmese language. He began compiling a Burmese dictionary that was completed after his death. He established sixty-three churches with the Burman and Karen people. To this day, believers are still found among those people in Myanmar. Thousands came to Christ even after Judson's death. Why? Because Adoniram Judson committed to follow God's plan for his life, not his own.

B. J. Campbell, author of this article, calls Post Falls, ID, home. She has been to Asia on a short-term mission trip.

