

“Hey Kids, Let’s Talk !”

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By Linda Dingeldein

GC Kids - Let's Talk
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There are still people in Africa who have never heard of Jesus. Will you pray that someone will take them the good news of the Gospel?

GC KIDS is for children ages about 9 to 13. It aims to **nurture a passion for missions** that will encourage children to be active in the Great Commission throughout their lives.

This quarterly publication is mailed free to individual children or adult leaders of children. (For multiple copies see the information below.)

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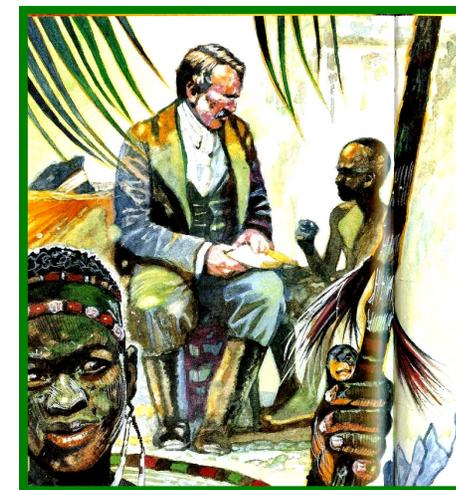
Issue 16: David Livingstone

Opening Roads for the Gospel

How do we take the Gospel to people who haven't heard it? David Livingstone did that in two ways:

- 1) He went where no other white person had gone in central Africa so he could find tribes who didn't know about Jesus and help other missionaries get to them.
- 2) He treated sick people who had never heard the Gospel. This opened their hearts so he and others could tell them about Jesus.

There are still places in the world where people have never heard about Jesus. We don't need anyone to build roads for cars to get to them, but we do need to find ways to open "roads" to their hearts. Think about that as you read this issue of GC Kids.



David Livingstone: Africa Holds His Heart

Ten year-old David is somehow keeping his mind on his cotton mill job and at the same time learning Latin from a book propped up on the spinning Jenny machine. The year is 1823. David's family is very poor, so David has to work to help out. His parents taught him to read. He has never been to school, but that doesn't keep him from learning all that he can, especially about nature and science. He loves to explore the countryside around his village of Blantyre, Scotland, on Sunday afternoons – his only time off.

When David is twelve years old, the cotton mill starts a school for the children who work there. Even though he works from 6:00am to 8:00pm six days a week, David is thrilled to attend school at the mill from 8:00pm until 10:00 pm. Now he can really learn!



David Livingstone's life continued in this manner until he was given a better job at the mill at age 19. When he was 20, he became a true follower of the Lord. David began to be interested in missions as well as in science. Before long he heard about a need for missionary doctors in China. "So," he thought, "this is why I love studying science and also have a heart for missions. God made me this way so I will be a missionary doctor!"

David worked hard, saved his money and became a doctor. By then, though, there was war in China; he could not go there.

One day David heard missionary Robert Moffat talk about the need for missionaries in Africa. Mr. Moffat said that he had "sometimes seen in the morning sun the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary had ever been." Then David knew—he would go to Africa.

David joined the London Missionary Society (LMS) in 1840. They assigned him to Kuruman in South Africa to work with Robert Moffat.

At Kuruman, while David treated the people's infections and bound their wounds, he listened to them tell about their customs and beliefs. He preached the Gospel, but only to those people who wanted to listen. His polite approach earned him the respect and hospitality of local chiefs. Not only that, it gained their cooperation with traders, Christian missionaries, and others who wanted passage through their territory.

David was disappointed that there were not more Christians among the Africans at Kuruman. He believed that if local African people became missionaries,

Think About It

In Romans 10:4-5, the Apostle Paul asked some good questions. Think about how you would answer them:



from Isaiah 52:7 when he says, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

What is the "good news?"

- How can people believe in Jesus if they haven't heard about him?

Think about all the places David Livingstone went in Africa to open the way for other missionaries to take the Gospel to people who didn't know about Jesus.

- How can people hear about Jesus unless someone tells them?

Do you think his feet were sometimes sore, calloused and dirty?

- How can anyone tell unreached people about Jesus if no one helps them to go where the unreached people are? ("Unreached" means no one has told them about Jesus.)

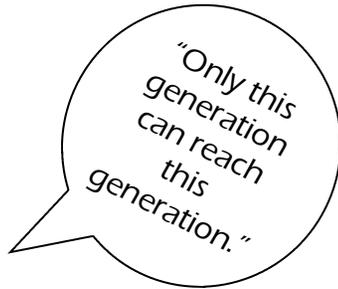
What would Jesus call Livingstone's feet?

How can you make your feet "beautiful?"



After he asks those questions, Paul quotes

David Livingstone often said,



In other words, only people alive now can talk about Jesus to the rest of the people alive now.

How did David Livingstone's love of studying nature and science prepare him to serve God in a special way?

What do you enjoy learning, and how might that help you to serve God as a missionary?

The Great Commission



Romans 10:14-15

And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?

And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

And how can they preach unless they are sent?

As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

other Africans would be more likely to listen and become believers in Jesus Christ themselves. Convinced that this was the best approach, Livingstone made it clear in 1844 that he wanted to work further north with the Kgatla people at Mabotswa. This was where traders, hunters and Afrikaner settlers often passed. It offered many chances for interaction between missionaries and these travelers as well as with the local people.

Livingstone felt strongly that trade and Christian missions should be planted in central Africa. In fact, his motto was "Christianity, Commerce and Civilization." This saying is carved into a statue of him at Victoria Falls. As the first white man to see these falls, he named them in honor of the queen of England at the time, Queen Victoria.

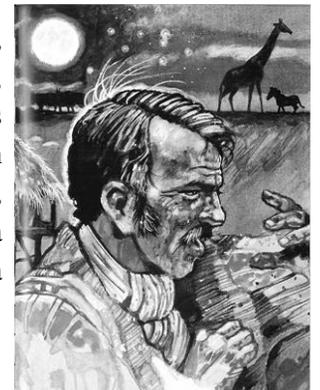
As time passed, Livingstone believed God wanted him to explore the interior of Africa and open up new areas to mission work. In 1857 he resigned from the London Missionary Society. He eventually explored all the way through central Africa. It was not easy – once he was attacked by a lion. It broke his

shoulder, an injury that bothered David Livingstone the rest of his life.

As he passed through villages and treated the sick, they learned to trust David and told him their legends. When they asked him about his childhood and the things he had done, David told them about his faith in God's son, Jesus. Later, Christian missionaries, who brought education and health care, and men who brought business and colonization, travelled the roads Livingstone established.

At age sixty, kneeling in prayer beside his bed, David Livingstone died of the tropical sickness malaria. His faithful helpers, Chuma and Susi, carried his body a thousand miles to the sea where it was put on a ship and taken to Britain to be buried.

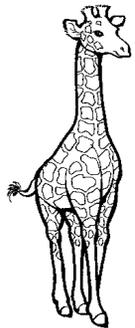
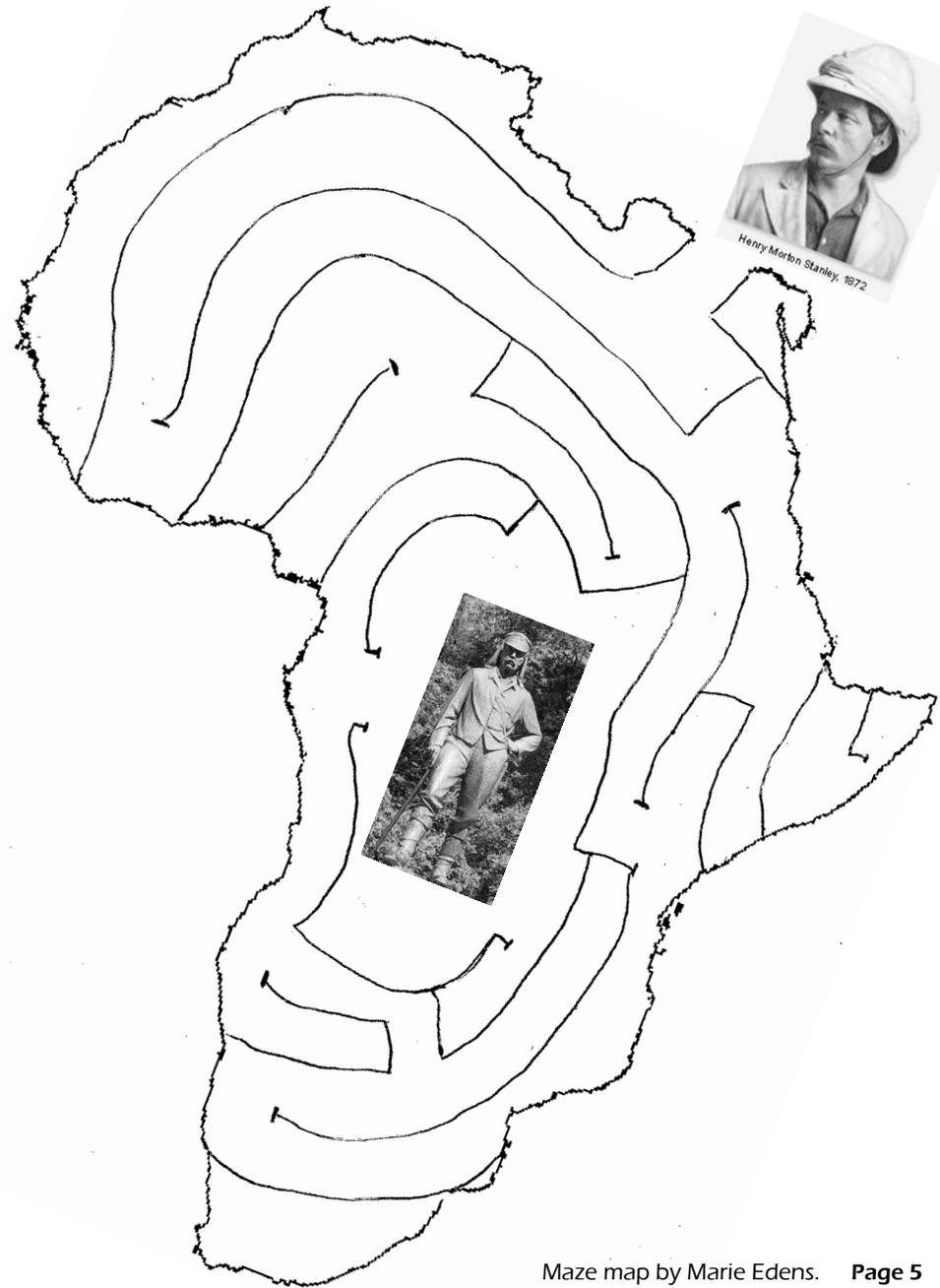
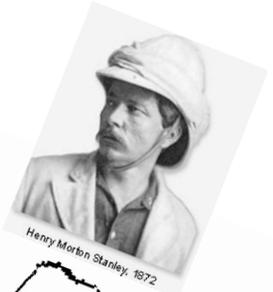
His heart, though, was buried in Africa, under a Mvula tree. ■



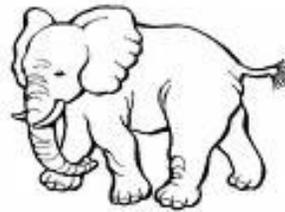
Story by BJ Campbell with Elinor Young. Illustrations on pages 1-3 by Bryan Pollard in the book, "David Livingstone: Courageous Explorer:" YWAM Publishing, © 2004. Used by permission.

Help Mr. Stanley find Dr. Livingstone.

By 1871, no one had heard from David Livingstone for four years and they feared he was dead. But, on November 13, 1871, an expedition led by newspaper journalist Henry Morton Stanley, on the edge of Lake Tanganyika, Central Africa. Dr. Livingstone was frail and short of supplies, but alive. The search had taken eight hard months.



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