

“HEY KIDS, REMEMBER...”



Miss Annie G. Soper

If Annie Soper could take the truth of Jesus to people who had never heard it, so can you!

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GREAT COMMISSION KIDS aims to nurture a love 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. To financially contribute to this project or for other matters, Contact the editor at: elinor.young@worldteam.org.

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Issue 40: **Annie Soper**

Annie Soper - Pioneer Missionary



“It’s no use Senorita,” said Severo, his teeth chattering slightly. “We can’t cross. We’ll have to spend the night here.”

It was 1922. Annie Soper and her friend Rhoda were on a trip over the high Andes mountains of Peru, going from Lima to Moyobamba. The whole trip would take five weeks. The first part had been 400 miles by ship. But from the coast east across the steep Andes mountains there were no roads. It was a narrow trail, riding mules and walking. Severo was one of the mule handlers helping the two English women. Annie looked helplessly at the broken bridge. The river rushed down the ravine in full flood, and the rain continued to pour steadily, as it had done all day. The ground was thick with

mud and rotting leaves. Where could they find any sort of shelter from the driving rain?

The men, shivering in their thin clothes, led the mules down the slippery bank to a hollow, and started to unload. Their stiff fingers almost couldn't loosen the saddle straps and lift the saddles off the mules. Then they piled the heavy boxes and trunks one on top of another, and when they had covered them with a canvas sheet, they led the way up the muddy slope again.

Dragging their saddle bags, Annie and Rhoda followed, too cold and too tired to speak. As they climbed up the hillside, mud oozed over their shoes.

"There you are, Senorita," said Severo. He pointed to a tiny cave. He and the other men entered a different cave. Bending almost double, Annie and Rhoda went in.

The cave was filthy. Their feet sunk inches deep in slimy mud. They looked around. The cave was so low they could not stand upright and so muddy they could not lie down. But they had no other



Annie Soper and Rhoda Gould

choice. Night was coming quickly, as always in the tropics. The rain was beating down outside and the men were already lying down in the

other cave. The women sat on a log and tried to sleep. But they couldn't.

As she sat there in the darkness listening to the sound of the rain and the rushing rivers, Annie Soper began to wonder if she had made a mistake. She had been so sure God wanted her to be a missionary on the other side of the Andes in Peru, where there was no one to teach the truth about Jesus. Was she wrong? Many had told her she was too weak and too often sick to do such a thing.

Years earlier, when she was young, she went through nurses training, convinced that Peru was the place to which she should go. Even though eleven doctors said she was too sickly, Annie was convinced that she must go to Peru. When someone told her of the need for the Gospel in Moyobamba, Peru, she knew that she must go there.

But now, crouching in the cave, wet and shivering, her feet deep in mud, Annie Soper

☆ Think About It ☆

A **pioneer** is the **first person** to go somewhere, have an idea, invent something or do something.

A pioneer missionary is someone who is among the first to take the Gospel somewhere; whether a city, a country, a tribal area or a small village. With that and Romans 10:20-21 in mind, answer:

1. How was Annie Soper a pioneer missionary?
2. How can other people (maybe you one day?) be pioneer missionaries?



The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more



The Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:20-21,

"It has always been my ambition to **preach the gospel where Christ was not known**, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather, as it is written:

"Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

Annie Soper thought the same thing as Paul. She wanted to go where people did not know the truth about Jesus.



Annie and Paul were
Pioneer Missionaries

was tired and afraid. Both women were almost at the end of their strength. The river was blocking the way ahead, and the only way back was over those terrifying mountain ranges.

Annie felt she could not even pray . . . She could not even believe . . . Then Annie and Rhoda began to sing a song about God's love. It reminded them that God was with them and they became confident again.

Dawn came at last and the rain quit. The sun even shone for a short time, though not long enough to dry their clothes. The men worked hard to repair the bridge, and said that tomorrow they would be able to cross.

That night, wrapped in blankets which they had wrung as free from moisture as possible, the two women slept until morning.

Going down the mountains was worse than the climb had been. Annie and Rhoda walked most of the way after that, partly because of the steepness of the path, partly to keep warm. They almost ran out of food. One night, after scrambling downhill all day, they went to sleep after a meal of hot water and a small piece of cheese.

But they made it! On July 27th, 1922, nearly five weeks after setting out from Lima, they rode into Moyobamba, where they would begin their work.

Annie worked in Moyobamba for many years, then went to other areas inside northern Peru that did not know the true Gospel.

Annie did not retire and leave Peru until she was 83, when she went back to England, her home country. By then many Peruvians had become Christians and were teaching others God's Word in the 60 churches Annie helped to start.

Annie went to heaven in 1979, when she was 96 years old. Annie once said,

"When God wants someone to serve Him, He at times chooses even the weakest, often the most physically unfit, to carry out His purposes."



Use crayons to color this picture of the kind of mules and helpers Annie Soper used on her trips over the Andes mountains. Do not use markers because they will soak through the paper.