

A Missionary - Missionaries

- They are specially called by God to do His mission
- Sent to a specific area
- To spread the gospel and preach the Christian faith
- Some may perform ministries of service: education, literacy, health care, social justice and economic development

Mission in Philippi - Lydia

- Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia (Acts 16: 9-10) and believe that God had called him to preach to gospel to them
- Paul and Silas sailed to Macedonia, to the port of the Philippi
- Paul and Silas knew the background of Philippi, by holding a prayer meeting outside the city near the river
- They met with a small group of women and began preaching the gospel to them and the Lord has opened the heart of one of the women called Lydia, to respond to Paul's message (Acts 16: 14)
- She and the members of the household were baptized

Mission in Philippi - Jailer

- Paul and Silas was seized and dragged to the authorities for making the slave girl's evil spirit left her
- Paul and Silas had been severely flogged and thrown into prison
- Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God
- Violent earthquake has shaken the foundation of the prison, the doors opened and everybody's chains came loose
- The jailer was about to kill himself but stopped by Paul
- The jailer was the one who asked Paul what must he do to be saved (Acts 16: 30)
- Paul and Silas shared God's word to him and his family and they had come to believe in God and he was filled with joy

God the Holy Spirit

- God the Holy Spirit is the one behind the explosion of evangelism
- The Holy Spirit calls the believers to spread the gospel
- The Holy Spirit brings the preacher to the listener
- The Holy Spirit gives the preacher to share the gospel with wisdom and authority
- The Holy Spirit opens the heart of the sinner
- The Holy Spirit makes the sinner realizing their sins and the need of repentance
- The Holy Spirit gives the joy in the heart of new believers

John Gibson Paton

- John was born in Scotland on 24 May 1824
- The eldest of 11 children of James and Janet Paton
- Since 12 years old, he started helping out his father in the trade of stocking manufacturing
- During his teenage years, he was greatly influenced by the devoutness of his father who would go for 3x a day to his prayer closet and conducted 2x a day for family prayers
- During his youth, he felt that God called him to be a missionary. He moved to Glasgow to study theology and medical. He also distributed tracts, teaching at school and laboring as a city missionary in Glasgow
- In March 1858 (34 years old) he was ordained by Reformed Presbyterian Church
- He married Mary Ann Robson then in April 1858, they both sailed from Scotland to the South Pacific

Relationship with his father

I watched through blinding tears, till his form faded from my gaze; and then, hastening on my way, vowed deeply and oft, by the help of God, to live and act so as never to grieve or dishonor such a father and mother as He had given me. The appearance of my father when we parted has often through life risen vividly before my mind, and does so now as if it had been but an hour ago. In my earlier years particularly, when exposed to many temptations, his parting form rose before me as that of a guardian Angel. It is no pharisaism, but deep gratitude, which makes me here testify that the memory of that scene not only helped to keep me pure from the prevailing sins, but also stimulated me in all my studies, that I might not fall short of his hopes, and in all my Christian duties, that I might faithfully follow his shining example.

John Gibson Paton

- In Nov 1858, John arrived in the island of Tanna
- The natives were cannibals, believed in superstitious, and barbarism. They were not wearing any clothes and women wearing grass or leaf apron to cover.
- Feb 1859, John's son was born. 19 days his wife died because of tropical fever. 39 days later his baby son also died.
- He buried his wife and his son and spent nights sleeping near their grave to protect from the cannibals.
- Paton continued his missionary work, during one attack, he was rescued by a ship, escaped and landed in the island of Aneityum
- John returned to Scotland after visiting Australia to recruit more missionaries and raise money for sailing ship to evangelize the islands
- In 1864, he remarried again with Margaret Whitecross

John Gibson Paton

- In 1866, John and Margaret arrived in New Hebrides at the island of Aniwa
- They built their own house and two houses for orphan children. Then they built a church, a printing house and other buildings.
- John has 10 children in Aniwa but 4 died in infancy. His 4th son, Frank Hume Lyall Paton was also a missionary.
- John learned the language and reduced it to writing. Margaret taught a class of about fifty women and girls who became experts at sewing, singing and plaiting hats, and reading. They trained the teachers, translated and printed and explained the Scriptures, ministered to the sick and dying, dispensed medicines every day, taught them the use of tools, held worship services every Lord's Day and sent native teachers to all the villages to preach the gospel.
- Enduring many years of deprivation, danger from natives and disease, they continued with their work and after many years of patient ministry, the entire island of Aniwa professed Christianity. In 1899 Paton saw his Aniwa New Testament printed and the establishment of missionaries on twenty-five of the thirty islands of the New Hebrides.

John Gibson Paton

- Margaret died in 1905 and John Paton died in 1907, at the age of 82. Their grave is in Kew, Victoria, Australia.