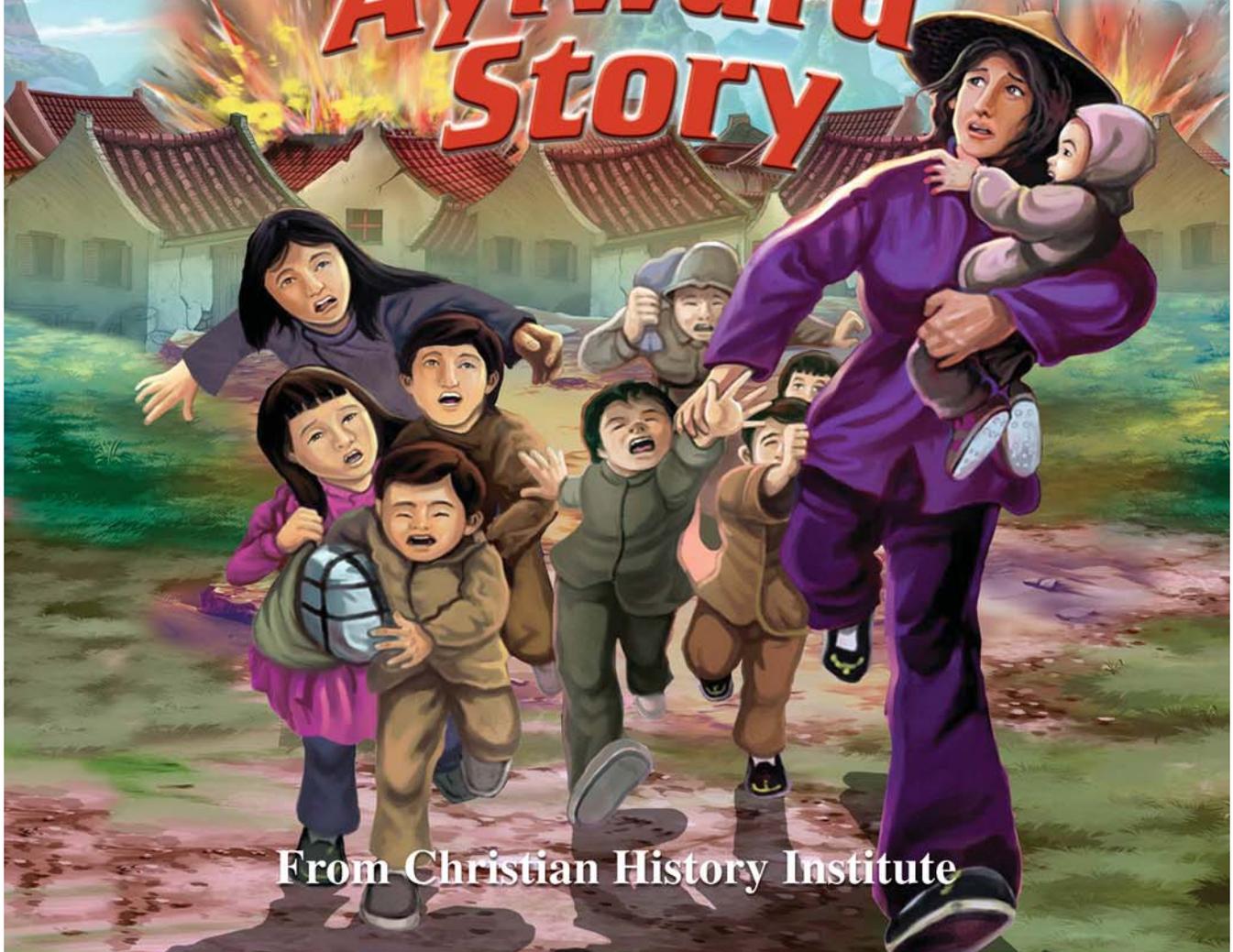




THE  
**TORCHLIGHTERS**  
HEROES OF THE FAITH

Leader's Guide for the DVD

*The Gladys  
Aylward  
Story*



From Christian History Institute

L E A D E R



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# Introduction to the Torchlighters Series

**Torchlighter:** *One who commits to serving God  
and passing on the light of the Gospel,  
even if the going gets tough.*

Kids today have no shortage of heroes. From Hollywood celebrities, to music artists and sports figures, it would seem that there are plenty of heroes to go around. The heroes being offered by popular culture are teaching children that physical perfection, financial success, and fame are the most important goals in life. The morals and values presented by these heroes are often in direct opposition to the standards parents want to pass on to their children. So, while there is no shortage of heroes, there is a dreadful shortage of heroes worth emulating.

The Torchlighters video series has been created to offer children real heroes from history that are worth emulating. The heroes we choose to portray have lived truly great lives—lives marked by moral depth, strength of character, and an unswerving commitment to faith in Christ. The impact of their lives has stood the test of time. These are not passing celebrities, but people who truly made a difference. By sharing in their struggles and small steps of obedience, we are all challenged to live lives of faith. It is our sincere desire that as children get to know these “torchlighters,” they will be challenged to follow in the footsteps of the greatest torchlighter of them all, Jesus Christ.

Learn more about the mission behind this new series and find more free resources at:

**[www.torchlighters.org](http://www.torchlighters.org)**



## Synopsis of *The Torchlighters:* *The Gladys Aylward Story*

Gladys Aylward may be small, but she serves a Big God! She's seen Him lead through countless trials and challenges. But now, after eight years of service in China, Gladys is facing a crucial decision. Her village is under attack by the Japanese and the children in her care are in danger. Desperate to get the one hundred children out of harm's way, the wounded Gladys awakens them in the night and begins a one hundred mile journey to safety. She is the only adult. There is no vehicle and no pack animal. They must carry what they need. It is a journey that can only be attempted with God at the lead.

As expected, the physical and emotional challenges of such a journey prove to be immense. Gladys must struggle through her own hunger, fatigue, injury, and illness in order to help the children persevere over the mountain. All the while they know enemy soldiers could attack. When they tire of singing songs, Gladys urges the children along with stories of God – sharing the many ways He has worked throughout her life.



Just when Gladys has given her all and seems unable to face one more roadblock, we find the tables have turned. The children whom she has protected, nourished, and led now offer hope back to her. They have learned well from their beloved role model and now remind her that God is still God and He will see them through. And indeed, He does.

Gladys Aylward's faith and courage are strong examples for us. As a young Christian, Gladys faced immense obstacles. She had few means, was a poor student, and was told she should not become a missionary. Yet, Gladys decided that if God asked her to do something, she would do it. No barriers or roadblocks would stop her as she trusted in His plan and provision. The road was often uncertain and difficult, but Gladys persevered with her Savior by her side. The small woman with a big God left a legacy of faith in her adopted land of China. Her story encourages each of us to follow as God leads and trust in His provision.



## Teaching Plan for *The Gladys Aylward Story*

Follow these steps to prepare for teaching on this episode of *The Torchlighters*.

**1. PREVIEW *The Gladys Aylward Story* before showing it to your students.** This will help you to recognize major themes and teachable moments that occur throughout the video. In addition, you will gain a better understanding of the flow of the story and will be equipped to answer questions your students may have.

Major teaching themes presented in this video and study guide include:

- God loves all people and calls us to share His love with others.
- When God calls us to do difficult things, He is with us in the journey.
- God still does miracles today. He answers prayer.
- Stories speak in a universal way, across cultural boundaries.

**2. REVIEW the Supplementary Information** - Review the various supplemental materials we have provided in this guide. The sections entitled “Key People in Gladys Aylward’s Life,” “The 20th Century World of Gladys Aylward,” and “Chronology of Gladys Aylward’s Story” will help to fill in details of Gladys’s life and prepare you to answer questions. You can find these resources beginning on page 13. Viewing the documentary “Gladys Aylward: The Small Woman with a Great God,” found on your DVD, is also an excellent way to learn more about Gladys Aylward’s amazing story.

**3. SELECT and PREPARE Teaching Material** - Follow the four lesson plans we have provided or mix and match the materials in a new way. All material is reproducible and designed to help children apply the teaching themes. Be sure to consider the age of your students and the time you have available.

**4. VISIT [www.torchlighters.org](http://www.torchlighters.org)** - The materials in this guide and the Student Guide are just the beginning. Visit our website for other free resources, such as unique ministry ideas, publicity posters, the *Torchlighters* theme song, Carry the Torch Craft and Relay, interactive quizzes and much more.

**Are you planning a *Torchlighters* showing or event?**

**Publicity is easy when you download free posters at**

**[www.torchlighters.org](http://www.torchlighters.org)**



## Session 1 – A Different Land

**FOCUS:** In this session, children will consider what it would be like to live in a different culture and explore God's love for all people.

- **FAR AWAY VISITS** – Ask each student to think of a place they've visited, without saying it out loud. Play a memory type of game with the places. Have the first student say, "I've been to \_\_\_\_\_," filling in the name of the place they've visited. The second student will repeat what was said and then add their own place by saying, "I've been to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." Continue around the room until a student cannot remember the list. Talk about some of the places that are the furthest away. **ASK:** *What was different about this place, compared to where you live? Was there anything that was hard to get used to? What did you like about this place?*
- **CULTURE SHOCK** – **SAY:** *Imagine you are moving far away to China. What things would be different there?* Give each student a small bowl of plain cooked rice or a Chinese-style dish and a set of inexpensive chopsticks (available at discount stores). **SAY:** *Let's pretend we've moved to China and need to learn how to eat new foods in a new way.* Allow students to practice using the chopsticks to pick up rice to eat.
- **BIBLE CONNECTION** – Acts 10:34-35 - Have a student read these verses aloud. **Ask:** *How many nations will God accept people from? Are there any children in your school from a different country? How can you reach out to them and show them acceptance?*
- **PREVIEW** – Show the one-minute video teaser, found at the beginning of *The Gladys Aylward Story*. Invite students to bring a friend next time. **SAY:** *Next time we will see a video about a woman who left her home and traveled to far off China to serve as a missionary. Gladys faced lots of trials and challenges in her life, but the biggest of all had to do with a very long and dangerous journey.*
- **CHINESE YO-YO INVITATIONS** – Cut a strip of wrapping paper 7' long by 4" wide, one per student. Glue or tape one short end of the strip to the end of a 6" dowel rod or unsharpened pencil. Roll the paper tightly around the dowel, kind of like toilet paper, with the printed side out. The paper will stay in the rolled shape, if rolled tightly enough. To use, hold the dowel and flick your wrist in an upward motion. Paper will yo-yo out and back in. Have each student unwind the end of their Yo-Yo enough to write in the details about next week's class, where you will show *The Gladys Aylward Story*. Encourage students to give their yo-yo's to a friend as a way to invite them.
- **CLOSING PRAYER** – *Lord, we thank you for the land in which we live. We thank you for the traditions and culture of this place. Even so, help us to respect those from other traditions and cultures as those who've been created by You. Help us to love all people, just as you have. Amen.*



## Session 2 – A Small Woman with a Big God

**FOCUS:** In this session, children will view *The Gladys Aylward Story* and will consider how God is with us through the ups and downs of our life's journey.

- **REVIEW** – Review concepts covered last time: Living in a different culture and God's love for all nations.
- **WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?** – Use this sheet (page 3 in the Student Guide) to introduce some of the interesting vocabulary in this program. See how many the students can get before viewing the video, but don't correct wrong answers.
- **INTRODUCE THE VIDEO** – **ASK:** *Who can remember what country we were talking about last time? (China) Today we will see a video on the true story of Gladys Aylward. While she was a missionary in China, Gladys took a very dangerous journey. As you watch, look for clues to any vocabulary answers you are unsure of.*
- **SHOW** the 30-minute program *The Torchlighters: The Gladys Aylward Story*.
- **STUDENT QUESTIONS** – Allow students time to process the video and ask questions about flow and content. Review the "What Does that Mean?" worksheet and clarify any vocabulary that is still uncertain.
- **FURTHER DISCUSSION** – Lead discussion using appropriate questions from the "Dig into the Story" and "Dig Deeper" sections (pages 4 and 5 in the Student Guide).
- **EIGHT HAPPINESSES ACTIVITY** – The Inn that Gladys and Jeannie opened to minister to muleteers was called the "Inn of the Eight Happinesses." Purchase fortune cookies ahead of time, enough for each child to have one. Carefully remove all of the fortunes and replace them with strips of paper that say the "eight happinesses":
  - Devotion: strong commitment
  - Virtue: morally good
  - Gentleness: kind and considerate
  - Tolerance: accepting of those who are different
  - Loyalty: devoted to another
  - Truth: based on facts
  - Beauty: attractive
  - Love: deep devotion and caring

Use some words twice, if needed. Say: *In China, eight is a special number. That is why Mrs. Lawson chose the name the "Inn of the Eight Happinesses" for her inn for Muleteers. The eight "happinesses" she had in mind are hidden in these fortune cookies.* Distribute the cookies. As children reveal the words, ask them to give an example of how that relates to happiness and faith.



- **PARENT LETTER** – Distribute this letter to help parents understand the lessons you are sharing in class (p. 12 in the Leader's Guide).
- **PRAYER** – *Lord, thank you for calling people to do difficult things for the Kingdom. Thank you for your promises to always be with us, no matter what we go through. Be with us now as we journey into a new week of serving you. Amen.*
- **CLOSING** – Say: *Next time we will meet with a friend who is experienced in hiking and backpacking. He or she will share about what it is like to travel long distances on foot as Gladys and the children did.*

Note: Refer to the answer key for answers to selected student pages.





## Session 3 – Faith in the Journey

**FOCUS: Our journey can be difficult, but God is always faithful.**

- **REVIEW** – Give a brief summary of Gladys' story for those who didn't see the DVD. Use the *Hidden Dangers* worksheet (page 6 in the Student Guide) to help students understand the many dangers Gladys faced during her journey. *ASK: If you were facing all these dangers in this situation, would you have taken this journey?*
- **BACK PACKER'S INTERVIEW** – Invite someone experienced in backpacking or wilderness living to share with your class today. This person should come prepared to share some of the challenges they've faced. Encourage your guest to display and explain their backpacking supplies. Have children try to carry the pack. Use the interview questions (page 7 in the Student Guide) to get the discussion going.
- **BIBLE CONNECTION** – Share the story of the Israelites packing to leave Egypt, found in Exodus 12:31-39. *ASK: The Israelites were leaving a life of slavery, yet it was the only life they had ever known. How do you think they felt as they followed Moses out of Egypt? What worries did they have? How did they travel? What does the Bible say they took with them?*
- **PACK YOUR BAGS** – *SAY: Imagine you are faced with a long journey, like the children in the Gladys Aylward story or the Israelite children. Imagine you may never come back home and you can only take what you can carry. Use page 8 of the Student Guide to help students connect to this challenge. ASK: Would this journey weaken or strengthen your faith? Why?*
- **PRAYER** – *Lord, help us to realize that the most important things in our life are not things we can carry or move. Help us to value your love above all else. Amen.*

Note: Refer to the answer key for answers to selected student pages.



## Session 4 – God Answers Prayer

**FOCUS:** In this session, students will explore ways that we hear from and follow God.

- **REVIEW** the story of Gladys Aylward with *Story Mix-Up* from the Student Guide, page 9.
- **PRAYER AND GLADYS** – Divide your class into two groups and challenge them to come up with as many answered prayers as possible from *The Gladys Aylward Story*. Share the answers aloud after a few minutes.
- **LISTENING TO GOD WORKSHEET** – *SAY: Sometimes Gladys Aylward had conflicting advice about what to do, but she always tried to listen to God's calling.* Use the worksheet on page 10 in the student guide to help students appreciate Gladys' commitment to follow God.
- **GOD ANSWERS PRAYER WORKSHEET** – *ASK: What are some ways you've seen God answer prayer? SAY: Sometimes when God doesn't answer our prayers the way we want, we think He isn't listening, but God is listening.* Use the worksheet on page 11 of the Student Guide to help students appreciate the many ways God answers prayer.
- **BIBLE CONNECTIONS** – Share the story of how the Israelites followed God in the wilderness by reading Exodus 13:21-22. *ASK: How did the Israelites know God was with them? How do you sense God is with you?*
- **MY FAITH STORY** – *Say: Every person has a unique faith story to share.* Use p. 12 in the Student Guide to help your students reflect on their own faith journey. Stress that each faith story is still unfolding. Allow time for a few students to share their stories.
- **FOOTSTEPS PROJECT** – Help students prepare a memento to remind them of Gladys' life and mission, with p. 11 in this Leader's Guide. Copy the page on to heavier paper, one per student. Using paint, have students make mini footprints diagonally on the page as follows: Make a fist with the right hand, dip the bottom of the fist (side away from the thumb) into the paint and use it as a stamper to create a footprint near the bottom of the page. Use the left hand to make a second footprint and then one more with the right hand, as if the feet are walking up the page. Use a little finger dipped in paint to add the toes. If desired, have each student personalize their paper with their name.
- **PRAYER** – *Lord, you have given us a great privilege in the ability to pray to you. Help us to use that gift more often and to trust your answers to our prayers. Help us to walk in faith. Amen.*

Note: Refer to the answer key for answers to selected student pages.

*How beautiful are the feet of them  
that bring Good News!*

Isaiah 52:7

Dear Parents,

Today in Sunday school, your child viewed a Torchlighters video depicting the life of Gladys Aylward, 20th century missionary to China, made famous through the feature film *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness*.

Gladys Aylward is a terrific role model for children. She overcame supreme obstacles to follow God's call to become a missionary. Once in China she repeatedly trusted in God to help her through any trial. Whether negotiating with riotous prisoners or finding resources to care for abandoned children, Gladys knew that her God would always provide. With this strong base of faith she faced the greatest challenge of her life. Wounded from the war, Gladys set out on a 100-mile journey with 100 children in order to get them out of harm's way.

Through Gladys' story, children find a hero worth emulating. They also see how a life of service to others can yield great fulfillment. Though she willingly gave all she had to reach the people of China, she found herself all the more blessed with immense joy. We hope this experience of learning through one of God's heroes of faith was a meaningful one for your child. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



## Key People in Gladys Aylward's Life

### Dr. and Mrs. Fisher

Dr. and Mrs. Fisher were a missionary couple recently retired from China. After Aylward was dismissed from the China Inland Mission Center around 1929, the director suggested she work as a maid for the couple. Through the Fishers, Aylward heard stories about China, and was encouraged to watch and pray for an opportunity.

### Sir Francis Younghusband (1863-1942)

Sir Francis Younghusband was an adventurer and explorer in the British army who traveled the Far East and Central Asia, including China. For a time Aylward was employed as a housekeeper in the Younghusband household. During her employment there, Aylward was able to borrow various books on China and consequently learn much about the country.

### Mrs. Jeannie Lawson

Mrs. Lawson was 73 years old and a missionary widow from Scotland who was looking for a young woman to help her in China. At a Methodist prayer meeting Aylward heard of Mrs. Lawson and wrote to her about the position. After a few weeks Aylward received a reply that if she could reach China on her own she could work with Mrs. Lawson. Mrs. Lawson and Aylward opened an inn called the Inn of Eight Happinesses. A few months after Aylward's arrival Mrs. Lawson fell from a second story balcony. She passed away a few weeks later.

### Yang, the cook

Yang, the cook, was the elderly cook for Mrs. Lawson when Aylward arrived. After the Inn of Eight Happinesses was opened, Yang cooked for the guests. Yang taught Aylward her first words of Chinese to bring the muleteers to the inn. He stayed at the inn with Aylward until the Japanese bombed Yangcheng in 1938, and then left for his native village. Aylward would never see Yang again, for he died in 1939.

### The Mandarin of Yangcheng

The Mandarin of Yangcheng was the local magistrate of Yangcheng. Around 1933 the Mandarin appointed Aylward official foot inspector. Aylward was to travel around rural Yangcheng and stop the old practice of foot binding. That initial encounter marked the beginning of a long friendship between the two that would continue through most of the war. Aylward became one of the Mandarin's top advisers, resulting in deep mutual respect. Around 1939 a feast was held at which the Mandarin stated that because of what Aylward did for him and the people, he wanted to become a Christian.

### Mei-en or "Ninepence"

Mei-en or "Ninepence" was a young child whom Aylward bought from a child seller for Ninepence hence the nickname "Ninepence." Mei-en, meaning "Beautiful Grace," was the first of many children Aylward adopted. After the war Mei-en married and lived in Shanghai.



### **David and Jean Davis**

David and Jean Davis and their son Murray were missionaries from Wales who came to China around 1937, settling in Tsechow, about a two day's journey from Yangcheng. The Davises and Aylward became good friends and a source of mutual encouragement. Like Aylward, David Davis stayed in China after the Japanese occupation. Davis would be arrested and later accused of spying by the Japanese. After two years of torture and prison he was released, but upon finding his wife and children in an internment camp decided to spend the rest of the war with them.

### **Colonel Linan**

Colonel Linan was a 35-year-old intelligence officer in the Chinese Nationalist Army. While the Nationalist army was in Tsechow, Colonel Linan and Aylward developed a deep friendship. During the war, Linan reportedly proposed marriage to Aylward, but she declined, stating the war had to be won first. Linan visited her once more after the long march, but Gladys again refused his proposal. This was the last time they met.

### **General Ley**

General Ley was a Dutch-Roman Catholic Priest who took up arms against the Japanese invading Shansi. Though not a "real" general, Ley led his armed parishioners into the mountains conducting a guerilla war against the Japanese. Aylward and Ley would become friends during the war until Ley's death.

### **Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925)**

Sun Yat-sen helped overthrow the last Chinese dynasty in 1911 and became the Republic of China's first president. He helped to unite many factions during his tenure and worked to modernize the ancient society. After his death, his party could not maintain its tenuous alliance with the communists, and soon the Japanese invaded the nation and ruled it until the end of World War II.

### **Madame Chiang Kai-shek (1897-2003)**

Madame Chiang Kai-shek was the wife of the Chinese Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek. During the war with Japan she established refugee centers for war orphans in different parts of China. One such center was at the ancient capital of Xian, which was Aylward's destination as she set out with the children around 1940. After the Communists took over China, Madame Chiang went to Taiwan with her husband. She emigrated to the United States in 1975.

### **Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989)**

Emperor Hirohito is known in Japan as Emperor Showa. He led Japan through its ambitious climb to become a great world power throughout the early 1900s, including the Russo-Japanese War and Japan's invasion of China. He was reviled in America after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Following Japan's defeat in World War II, Hirohito was not put on trial for war crimes and was permitted to retain the throne. He did, however, relinquish his status among the Japanese as a god.



## The 20th Century World of Gladys Aylward

Gladys Aylward was born on February 24, 1902 into a world of reform movements. Religious and social reform was the goal of many movements in her native England. Various Christian movements centered around a personal relationship with Christ as well as a vibrant mission to improve the life of common people such as workers, women, children, poor, and the mentally ill. The Young Life Movement and the Christian Association for Women and Girls that Aylward joined were typical of the day. During this time revivals and prayer meetings were common in the cities of England, and it was at one such revival that Aylward gave her life over to Christ. Fueled by a strong sense of the Great Commission, missionary agencies, such as the China Inland Mission, sent thousands of individuals throughout the world, armed with the Gospel and western advancements such as medicine and sanitation.

One country that benefited from western reform was China. Traditionally China had remained closed to foreign influences, as they believed themselves to be the center of the civilized world. All people outside of the Chinese empire were considered barbarians at best or *lao yang-kwei*, “foreign devils,” at worst. There was also a long cultural heritage of established belief and practices in China that remained unchanged. Two examples that Aylward faced were the official protocol for meeting government officials and foot binding.

For ordinary Chinese there were official guidelines for behavior that had to be followed when one met a government official. When Aylward went to Yangcheng she could not approach the local Mandarin because there was no protocol for a Westerner to meet the Mandarin, not to mention a western woman. Only after the Mandarin came to her did they establish protocol.

Another practice was the binding of young girls' feet. Foot binding had become a popular practice among the local people of China. The repeal of this practice allowed Aylward to become an official “foot inspector.” As such, she traveled the Chinese countryside visiting the villages to inspect for evidence of foot binding, while preaching the Gospel along the way. This position allowed Gladys to earn the funds she needed to remain at Yangcheng.

Europeans came to China in the 19th century after a series of wars that forced the Chinese to trade with them. The Europeans brought their own culture and religion, creating a feeling of ill will among the Chinese. As the number of “foreign devils” increased, the two cultures clashed. Finally, tension erupted into the “Boxer Rebellion” in 1899. Westerners, including missionaries, were targeted, as well as native Chinese converts to Christianity. Hundreds of Western missionaries were martyred including thousands of Chinese. The rebellion would end by 1901, but it received strong support from the people in the countryside. This partly explains the resistance Mrs. Lawson and Aylward first encountered in the mountains of China 30 years later. By 1912, the Chinese Imperial Dynasty had ended, and China became a Republic under Sun Yat-sen.

After the death of Sun Yat-sen in 1925, local warlords, communists and the National government all vied for power. During this weakened state Japan sought to build an Asian empire and attacked China in the summer of 1937. The Japanese conducted a campaign of terror and intimidation in the hopes of subduing the Chinese. In her journeys as foot inspector, Gladys Aylward often saw where the Japanese were stationed. As a Chinese citizen, she felt responsible to share this information and was thus branded a spy. By 1940, the Japanese placed a price on Aylward's head, which forced her famous trek over the mountains, leading about 100 orphans to the ancient Chinese capital of Xian.



## Chronology of Gladys Aylward's Story

- February 24, 1902    Born in London, England
- 1920                Around the age of 18 attends revival meeting and decides to give her life over to God and become a missionary. Joins the Young Life Movement and reads about China in their magazine.
- 1928/9             Enrolls as a student at the China Inland Mission Center, but fails the examinations and is dismissed.
- 1929-1932        Works for a retired missionary couple, Dr. and Mrs. Fisher, who ministered in China.
- Works in Wales for the Christian Association of Women and Girls as a “rescue sister” helping prostitutes find a safe place to spend the night.
- The dream of going to China never leaves her, and she returns to London in order to save up money to go to China.
- Works as a maid for the British explorer/adventurer Sir Francis Younghusband, where she is exposed to books about China.
- Writes to Mrs. Jeannie Lawson after receiving news that she was looking for someone to help her in China.
- Oct./Nov. 1932    Sets out for China, traveling through war-torn Russia by the Trans-Siberian railway. Reaches the city of Yangchen to work with Mrs. Lawson.
- 1932                Along with Mrs. Lawson, opens the “Inn of Eight Happinesses,” with a goal of reaching the Muleteers that pass by regularly.
- 1933                Death of Mrs. Lawson.
- 1933                Appointed official “foot inspector” by the Mandarin (magistrate) of Yangcheng. As such, she travels to villages to enforce new laws forbidding the binding of girls’ feet. She shares the Gospel along the way.
- 1934                Single handedly stops a violent prison riot. Afterwards becomes known as Ai-Weh-Deh (A-Weh-Deh), “Virtuous One.”



Adopts her first child by buying her from a child seller. Officially names the child Mei-en “Beautiful Grace” but nicknames her “Ninepence”—the price she paid for her. Over the next years, she takes in more and more children.

- 1936                      Becomes a citizen of China.
- July 1937                War begins between China and Japan.
- Spring 1938            Yangcheng is bombed by Japanese forces.
- Spring 1939            Meets Colonel Linan and the two begin a courtship that resulted in a proposal of marriage, that Gladys turns down. Also begins to spy for the Chinese Nationalist forces.
- 1940                      A price is put on her head by the Japanese. Is shot while fleeing Japanese forces. Marched out of Yangcheng with 100 children, and after an arduous journey of over three weeks reaches safety.
- 1941-1947              After recovering from fever and sickness, ministers throughout China by starting refugee centers, working with lepers, and others.
- 1947                      Returns to England in poor health due to Japanese mistreatment.
- 1949                      Communists take over China resulting in the expulsion of westerners.
- 1957                      Desiring to continue in missions work, goes to Taiwan, Republic of China (R.O.C.) and founds an orphanage.
- January 1970            Dies in Taipei, Taiwan and is buried at Christ Church College Cemetery in Taipei.



## Additional Resources

- ***Gladys Aylward: The Small Woman with a Great God*** - Don't miss this fascinating documentary included on your Torchlighters DVD. This bonus resource features interviews with biographer Carol Purves and Gladys' adopted son, Clifford Liu. Gladys' own words are interspersed throughout.
  
- **DVDs** (available from Vision Video at [www.visionvideo.com](http://www.visionvideo.com) or 1-800-523-0226)
  - *The Torchlighters: The Eric Liddell Story* takes place in China during World War II, as does *The Gladys Aylward Story*. Use these together for a study of faith during World War II China. Extend the study by including *The Richard Wurmbrand Story*, releasing Fall 2008 and set in World War II Romania.
  - *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness* portrays the life of Gladys in a feature film. Be aware that some inaccuracies exist in this film.
  - *Agent Abbey* features an American teenager who travels to China and gets caught up in an adventure involving persecution and the underground church.
  - *China Cry* is the true story of a Chinese girl who escaped from Communist China to Hong Kong. A gripping story of faith, love, struggle, and freedom. Recommended for ages 12 and up.
  
- **Books** (many available from [www.ywampublishing.com](http://www.ywampublishing.com))
  - *Gladys Aylward: The Little Woman* by Gladys Aylward and Christine Hunter (Moody)
  - *Gladys Aylward: Adventure of a Lifetime* by Janet & Geoff Bengé (Christian Heroes: Then and Now series, YWAM)
  - *Gladys Aylward: Daring to Trust* by Renee Meloche and Bryan Pollard (Heroes for Young Readers, YWAM)
  - *Flight of the Fugitives* by Dave & Neta Jackson (Trailblazer series, Bethany House)
  
- **Websites**
  - [www.torchlighters.org](http://www.torchlighters.org) - Visit our website to learn about upcoming episodes of Torchlighters. This is also a great place to give us your feedback and suggest heroes for future episodes.

**Give us your feedback:** Christian History Institute values your input. If you have comments or recommendations on the Torchlighters series, please share them through our website at [www.torchlighters.org](http://www.torchlighters.org).



## *The Torchlighters: Heroes of the Faith Series*

**Jim Elliot** - Jim Elliot spends his youth preparing to share the Gospel with those who have never heard it. But nothing can prepare him for the dangers and challenges he faces in the jungles of Ecuador. Will Jim and his fellow missionaries ever be able to break through and carry a torch of faith to the remote Auca tribe, determined to attack all outsiders?

**William Tyndale** - In 16th-century England, translating the sacred Scriptures into English is William's calling. It won't be easy with the English government and the established church planted firmly against anyone who even speaks the Scripture in English. Follow this brave fugitive on a journey of faith as he works to complete his task.

**John Bunyan** - To stop preaching just to save his own skin is unthinkable for this hero. But, how will his work continue from the confines of a cold, hard prison, while his wife and blind daughter struggle to survive alone? Watch as John serves his Lord in the most trying of circumstances, and writes an all-time best seller, *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

**Eric Liddell** - This hero has committed his Sundays to worship and rest, and he intends to keep that commitment. But with all of Scotland begging him to run for Olympic gold, it will be difficult to stand firm. Watch as the fastest man in the world chooses to honor God rather than chase a gold medal. Then watch how God uses Eric to bring the Gospel to China.

**Gladys Aylward** - With war raging about her and soldiers closing in, the wounded missionary Gladys Aylward sets out on a 100-mile trek over the mountains to a safe haven. But it's not her own safety that concerns her, it's the safety and well-being of the 100 abandoned children in her care. Watch as Gladys' strength and faith are stretched to the limit, all for the sake of the children.

**Richard Wurmbrand** - In war-torn Romania, there is only one way for churches to get the protection of the government: give their support and allegiance to the ruling communists. Instead, Pastor Richard Wurmbrand chooses to speak up for Christ. When Richard's choice lands him in a communist prison, his faith and witness are tested to the limits. See how this Torchlighter's amazing story continues to impact the world today.

**Perpetua** - In the days of the Early Church, this young mother and new believer is imprisoned, charged with being a Christian, a traitor to the Roman gods. A simple offering of incense to the gods would set her free. Will she remain true to her new faith in Jesus?

**Amy Carmichael** - As she makes her rounds preaching in the countryside of India, Amy learns of the terrible plight of the temple girls. These girls are given to the temple "gods" at a very young age, never again to taste freedom. Though she is warned repeatedly, there is nothing she can do, but Amy will not give up. Can this determined missionary and her team work against entrenched customs and superstitions to free a special girl named Preena?

**William Booth** - This hero is determined to bring the life-changing Gospel to London's worst neighborhood, the East End. But when the local pub owners realize some of their best customers are becoming Christians, they hire big strong thugs to get rid of the preacher once and for all. Watch as William's ragtag band of followers marches into the East End with Bibles and Prayer as the weapons of choice. William's legacy lives on through The Salvation Army.

**Samuel Morris** - Since his father can no longer meet his captors' ransom demands, young Prince Kaboo knows he is to be tortured until death. But when a blinding light appears and the ropes that bind him fall away, a heavenly voice urges him, "Run, Kaboo, Run!" The dramatic events that follow lead the boy prince to take the new name "Samuel Morris." Nothing will stop Samuel from sharing his growing faith with all who will listen.



Visit [www.torchlighters.org](http://www.torchlighters.org) for resources and up-to-date information on new releases.

