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# George Muller

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A Father to the Fatherless

# George Muller

- Born 1805 in Prussia
- Father wanted him to be minister
- Attended a Lutheran church for years, but lived in sin
- Later said he never heard the gospel preached in that church
- Made the mistake of reading lots of Christian books, but not much Bible

# How He Lived As A “Christian”

- George drank
- Partied
- Gambled
- Borrowed money with no intent to repay
- Lied
- Stole
- Cheated

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# “The Christian” Was Born Again

- Was “born again” in a home Bible study
  - Was challenged by three senior Christians to be baptized.
  - He said he was already baptized as a young child in the Episcopal Church
  - Didn't see a need to be re-baptized
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# Scriptural Baptism

- He was asked to study:
- Acts 8:35-38: “Believe with all your heart, then be baptized.”
- Romans 6:3-5
- Baptism is the beginning of the new life.
- Did Muller show that after his first baptism?

# As You Have Received The Gift

- He realized that many like himself who thought they were Christians, were really not, until they were born again.
- Decided to become a missionary to help reach others.
- He told told his plans to a pretty young girl, named Ermagarde, who he hoped he could marry.

# Who Wants To Be A Missionary?

- Ermegarde's response: "whatever made you think of such a ridiculous thing.
- I could never be a missionary's wife.
- Missionaries are poor and wear drab clothes.
- George, you have a good mind. Be a doctor or lawyer. Leave the missionary job for those who have nothing better to do."

# Muller The Soul-Winner

- He joined a Baptist Chapel
- In 12 months there were 65 conversions
- One conversion was of a man who threatened to kill his wife if she did not stop attending the church
- There were so many coming to the altar for salvation that it would take 3-4 hours to deal with them.



# A Godly Wife

- Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1830 George married a lady named Mary. She was not as pretty as Ermegarde, but she was very godly.
- George asked her to get rid of all the valuable furnishings from her family.

# Much Faith

- Mary cried, but she said to her husband: “if you have that much faith, I guess that I can too.”
- “Without faith, it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6
- For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

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# Muller Wanted To Sow Seed

- In 1834 Muller began the “Scripture Institution For Home and Abroad”
  - During his lifetime, that Institution distributed 282,000 Bibles and 1.5 million New Testaments.
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# A Father of the Fatherless

- "Share your reason for wanting to start an orphan house here in Bristol," Henry Craik asked George Mueller" in 1835..  
" The main purpose is to show to others that God is alive, a "Father of the fatherless," If I can provide food, shelter, and education for a few orphans solely through prayer alone, then God will be glorified."
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# A Passion For The Fatherless

- In April 1835 he felt called to be a missionary to orphan children. He had about 50 cents to his name.
- The following week a missionary sent him an offering toward establishment of an orphans home
- Two days later a man promised to give Muller 4 shillings per week “as long as the Lord provides” (faith promise).

# Muller's Primary Goal

- Was not the saving of souls
- It was that God would be glorified
- “I longed to train up the orphans in the knowledge and fear of the Lord, but more importantly:
- I wanted the world to see that the orphans were taken care of by God through prayer and faith only.”

# You Have Not Because Ye Ask Not

- Mr. Muller and the staff had a policy that they would never ask anyone for funds, nor would they in any way solicit funds for the orphanage.
- All needs were to be prayed for and the orphanage work would be entirely funded through faith and prayer.

# Everything But Orphans

- He prayed for a place, funds, supplies and his prayers were answered.
- They advertised for orphan children, but none came.
- Mrs. Muller told George the reason there were no children was because they had prayed for everything but children.
- They prayed and God sent the children.



# First Orphanage

- He rented a house, filled it; rented a second and third and filled them.
- The houses provided for 150 orphans.
- There was no more room for additional orphans without getting a bigger facility.
- Neighbors began complaining about all these noisy children to take care of.
- George Muller and staff prayed.

# Larger Facility Needed

- There was a need for a larger orphanage to house 300 orphans.
- They needed to buy land to build on.
- The owner of the ideal property was asking 200 pounds per acre. Mr. Muller only had enough money to pay 120 per acre.

# God Intervenes In The Affairs of Man

- Mr. Muller tried to see the owner, Mr. Hazelwood, at his work and at his home, but couldn't contact him until the next day.
- Mr. Hazelwood told Mr. Muller: I was asking 200 per acre yesterday, but I could not sleep at all last night. God kept telling me to sell my property to you for 120 pounds per acre.
- I won't make a profit, but I will sleep.

# Pressed Down, Running Over

- After paying for the land, numerous donations were received in the amount of over 1700 pounds.
- The “New Orphan House” was completed with the capacity of 300 (140 girls, 80 boys, and 80 infants).
- June 1849 the orphans moved into their new facility on Ashley Down.

# Cast Your Bread Upon The Waters

- Besides monetary donations, there were many donations of valuable things.
- For all the things that Mary had given up to go into the ministry, many times more were given to the orphanage for the ministry.
- “Give and it shall be given unto you...”

# The Ministry Blessed

- As Muller increased the number of orphans, he built orphanage numbers 3, 4 and 5.
- They were nearly out of funds.
- They held prayer meetings for 35 days straight.
- On the 36<sup>th</sup> day, a huge offering was received. Enough to cover one year's expenses.

# God Uses The Base And Lowly

- 98% of the donors were people that Mr. Muller had no knowledge of.
- One widow lady sold her home and gave all of the proceeds to the orphanage.
- Mr. Muller requested a meeting with her and asked her to take the money back as she might need it, being a widow. She refused and said it is of the Lord.

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# A Donation From Australia

- From a pastor in Australia, Mr. Muller received this letter: “Dear sir, I enclose an offering from a young man in my church. He was addicted to smoking and decided to save the money he would have spent on smoking and send it for the orphans.”
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# The Widows Mite

- A poor crippled woman living far from Bristol began sending one penny per month to the orphanage.
- Later the Lord blessed her and she was able to send much more.
- With one of her offerings she sent this note:

# Giving Is Living

- “Give, give, give...be ever giving. If you are living, you will be giving. Those who are not giving, are not living.”

# The Power of Faith and Prayer

- In Nov. 1844, Mr. Muller began praying for the conversion of five people.
- After 18 months of prayer, one was saved.
- After 5 years the second was saved.
- After 11 years of prayer the 3<sup>rd</sup> was saved.
- “After 35 years of praying these two friends from my youth, have not yet been saved, but they will be.”

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# A Godly Woman Praised

- After nearly 40 years of marriage, Mary Muller died of rheumatic fever.
  - It was the largest funeral Bristol had ever seen.
  - Hundreds of church people and 1200 present and former orphans marched behind the casket.
  - Hundreds of letters were received from orphans who had lost “their mother.”
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# Satan Attacks God's Works

- His orphanage Institution has been called one of the most remarkable in history.
- God so blessed.
- And Mr. Muller endured so much. Many lies were spread about how the orphans were abused and nearly starved to death.
- The truth was just the opposite.

# Blessings of Christianity

- Compared to all orphanages in England, Mr. Muller's had the lowest death rate.
- Those who had grown up and left the orphanage had an overwhelming praise for the way they were treated.

# Orphans



# Faith In The Future

- Mr. Muller's last sermon preached at Bethesda Chapel, March 1898:
- His text: II Corinthians 5:1?
- “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were destroyed, we have a building of God, an house not made of hands, eternal in the heavens.”
- Mr. Muller quietly went to be with the Lord March 10<sup>th</sup>, in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year.



# Give Tribute Where Tribute Is Due

- All the businesses in Bristol closed.
- Windows were draped with black curtains.
- Thousands lined the streets to watch the casket go from the Orphanage to the Chapel
- 1500 orphans marched in the procession
- 7000 stood at the cemetery

# True Happiness

- During 69 years of ministry, Mr. Muller was noted for being exceptionally happy.
- He was asked why he was so happy.
- His answer:
  1. He had a good conscience toward God.
  2. He loved and read the scriptures.
  3. He lived very simply and frugally.
  4. He was a very hard worker all his life.

# What Happens To Orphans

- “A father to the fatherless”
- A census taken in England in 1851 showed the following statistics:
  - Orphans in the 39 orphanages in all of England numbered 3,764
  - Orphans in prison in England 6,000

# Rescue The Perishing

- The London Daily Telegraph wrote this about George Muller:
- “He robbed the cruel streets of thousands of victims, the jails of thousands of felons, and the poor houses of thousands of waifs.”
- And how did this humble man do these amazing things.
- By prayer and faith.

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# The Lord, Not George Muller

- Mr. Muller had always insisted that it was not his orphanage, but it was the Lord's.
  - A new leader took over. His name was Mr. Bergin.
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# The Lord, Not George Muller

- Mr. Bergin wanted to do something special for the 2,000 orphans, so he asked the staff to pray for 1 banana for each orphan.
  - Many days later, an importer came to the orphanage and said they had 4,000 extra bananas and wanted to know if the orphanage could use them.
  - The Father gave 2 bananas per orphan.
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# Know Them By Their Fruit

- During his 31 years heading the orphanage:
- 10,024 orphans lived at the orphanage.
- 2,813 orphans left the institution as believers. (roughly 3 out of 10)
- Subsequent letters and contacts indicated that hundreds more became born-again after leaving the orphanage.

# New Ministry Focus

- At age 70, Mr. Muller felt called to be a missionary.
- He traveled and spoke as a missionary for the next 17 years.
- As he was traveling about he came in contact with many who had grown up and left his orphanage.



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# Give and It Shall Be Given Unto You

- Hudson Taylor, missionary to China and his wife, were out of food and out of money.
  - Mail was only received rarely, but that day came a letter.
  - It was from The Orphan's Home, Bristol England
  - It was a large love offering to take care of Hudson and Mrs. Taylor.
  - Muller gave thousands to missionaries.
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# His Fruit Remained

- In England Charles Haddon Spurgeon attended Mr. Muller's meetings.
- In California he was reintroduced to one of his orphans who was being greatly used of the Lord in personal soul-winning.
- In Washington D.C. President Hayes invited Mr. Muller to the White House for a visit.

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# Be Not Weary In Well Doing

- In addition to managing the orphanages, he also pastored the Bethesda Chapel.
  - At the time of his death, the Chapel had a membership of over 2,000.
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# Real Faith

- At no time did he have funds to take care of the orphans for more than 3 days, yet he never turned down taking in an orphan, if there was room.
- Over the years in excess of 7 million pounds came in to construct and maintain the orphanage facilities and needs.
- No orphan ever missed a meal for lack of funds.

# Muller Orphanage, Bristol, England



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# Faith and Trust In Your Father

- In eleven years, he had received over five thousand answers to prayer.
  - He declares that his countenance never looks sad or anxious when in need, as he considers that would be dishonoring to God, and inconsistent with a perfect trust in the heavenly father.
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# Ask Your Heavenly Father

- “The support of his orphanage cost \$230,000 annually. The milk-bill amounts to \$10,000 yearly!
- He never asked a human being for a pence!
- He made it his uniform rule to go to his heavenly father in prayer, and ask Him for all his needs.

# The Father Works Through Others

- In prayer Mueller asked his Heavenly Father for all needed supplies.
- The Father moved men to give it; some giving out of their abundant wealth, and some out of their poverty. He has received as high as \$45,000. A principle of his has been never to contract a debt in connection with his orphanage.



# Our Father

- God is the “father of the fatherless”
- Psalm 68:5 says: “A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, God in his holy habitation.”
- Most of us live to see our father die.
- It hurts to lose your father.
- But we have a loving God, an everlasting father, a “father of the fatherless.”

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# Happy Father's Day

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Northwest Baptist Church  
Gives Glory To  
The Father of the Fatherless