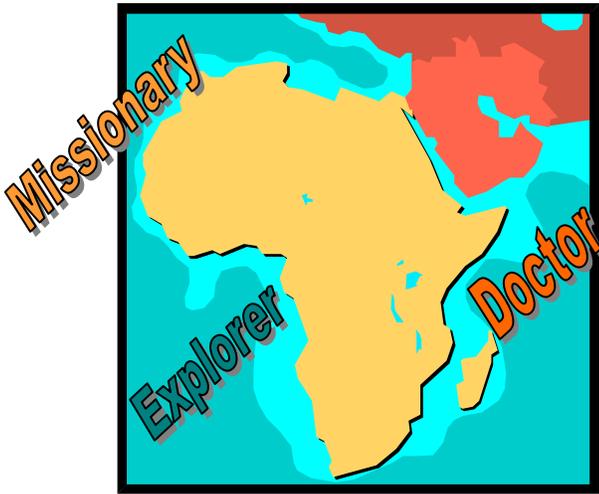


David Livingstone



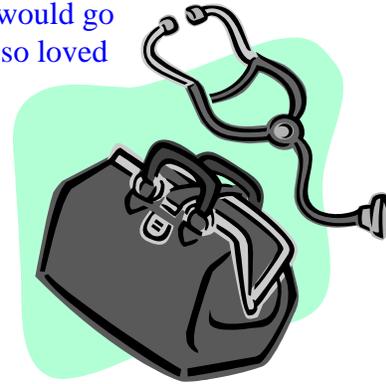
Many years ago, there lived a boy in Scotland named David Livingstone.

His family was poor, surviving on a diet of porridge, cheese, and a little milk. At age 10, David went to work in a yarn factory, spinning and mending the yarn.

At the factory, David read his Bible between work tasks. He memorized Psalm 119 which had 2337 words! He worked from 6 am to 8 pm, then went home and continued to study until very late into the night. He loved to learn.

David dreamed of becoming a missionary – someone who would go to another country and tell people about Jesus Christ. He also loved science and medicine, and he decided he become a missionary doctor.

David worked very hard. One time he had a great disappointment when he had to preach a sermon in order to become a missionary. He was very nervous, and when he stood up to preach, he froze! He forgot everything he had prepared to say. He failed that test and had to work even harder to get a second chance. But the next time, he did much better.



In 1840 David went to South Africa as a missionary doctor.

He went deep into the heart of Africa, to places missionaries had not gone before. He travelled through swamps and land infested with snakes, scorpions, and spiders. He went into many little villages where the natives didn't trust him at first.



David helped many people and tended to their sicknesses. Everywhere he went, he told people about how Jesus Christ died to save them from their sins and to give them a better life. They had never heard that before.

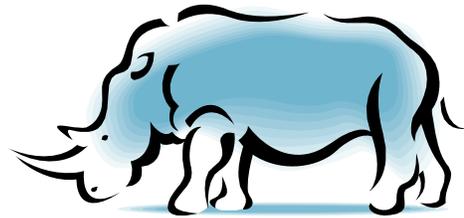
Once David was attacked by a fierce lion. The lion bit into his shoulder and left many puncture holes, so that David took several months to recover. He could never fully use that arm again! Many other times he was very sick, and yet he continued to work.



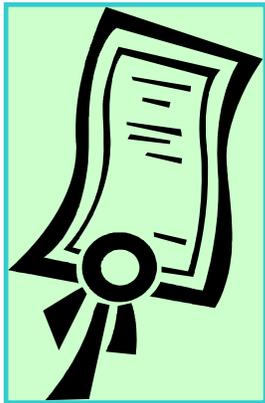
David was also a fine scientist.

He learned about many African animals and plants. He knew what plants the rhinoceros liked to eat, and even the kinds of worms it carried in its stomach.

He made maps of all the land. His science earned him a great deal of fame. Queen Victoria of England met him once, and said he was the most famous man in Britain.



But David didn't seek praise. He always put the work of God first.



By age 50, David was very tired from all the hard work. Many nights he could not sleep from pain and bleeding in his body.

At age 60, he died in his tent one night. The people missed him greatly because they trusted and loved him. They remembered David Livingstone long after he was dead.

And today there are millions of Africans who believe in Christ because David planted the seeds long ago. While he didn't see many people come to believe in his own lifetime, he prepared the way for other missionaries to follow, and the word of God took root.



When he was still young, a village native looked at David and said, "This white man is not strong. He is skinny. He will break down like an old woman."

But David had the strength of God supporting him. God allowed him to finish the work he went to do.

The life of David Livingstone teaches us that if we put the Lord Jesus first in our lives, He will give us the strength to finish well, no matter how hard the way. Be faithful, work hard, help others – and most importantly, tell people about the Lord.