

Gladys Aylward

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Part 2



Who can tell me something about the missionary we started learning about last time? (*Allow response.*) Gladys Aylward was a maid from England who felt deeply the need for people in China to hear about Jesus. She decided to go to China even though it meant leaving everything she knew and going to a place where she didn't know the language or culture. Finally, after a long trip, she had made it to China!

Gladys arrived in the little Chinese town of Yangcheng (*yen-CHONG*) where she met Mrs. Jeannie Lawson, the 70-year-old missionary she had come to help. Jeannie had a plan to share the Good News of Jesus. "With your help, we'll turn this old house into an inn for mule drivers," she told Gladys.

Yangcheng was high in the mountains of North China. Many mule caravans passed through each day. "We will sell a hot meal and tell them Bible stories while they eat," explained Jeannie.

To help Jeannie, Gladys started learning Chinese. Some of the first words she learned to say were, "We have no bugs!" Why do you think she needed to learn to say that? (*Allow response.*)

Many inns where mule drivers stayed had fleas and other bugs, but Jeannie and Gladys made sure their inn was bug free.

Day after day Gladys stood outside the inn, calling, "We have no bugs! We have no fleas! Good food! Come in here!" The mule drivers would come to the inn, and Gladys would scrape the mud from the mules while the drivers listened to true stories from the Bible.

These mule drivers spread news throughout North China as they traveled. They shared the stories of God that Mrs. Lawson and Gladys had told them. They also told everyone the inn was the best place to stay. Soon the inn became famous all around Yangcheng! People were hearing about a God who loved them, and they carried stories and songs about God all over North China.

Gladys and Jeannie would also travel to nearby villages to tell them about God's amazing love.

At first, the people in Yangcheng and the surrounding villages didn't treat Gladys well. They called her a foreign devil, avoided her in the streets, and even threw things at her! But this didn't stop Gladys from loving these people. She worked hard to learn their language so she could tell them of all the amazing things Jesus had done for them. And soon, people grew to respect Gladys because of her good work at the inn.

Gladys helped Jeannie run the inn for a year. Then suddenly, Jeannie had a bad fall and died, leaving Gladys alone with no money and few friends. How would she manage?

Gladys wanted to keep the inn open, but she didn't have any money, and often there was barely enough food to go around. Gladys prayed, trusting God to take care of her.

Would Gladys be able to keep the inn open? Would God provide for her needs so she could keep sharing the Good News of Jesus at the inn? Or did He have another plan for Gladys Aylward? You'll have to come back next time to find out!

