

# Gladys Aylward

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## Part 4



Do you remember what job Gladys Aylward had? *(Allow response.)* She went to many villages around Yangcheng, China to tell them about how it was wrong to tie up baby girls' feet. While she did this important job, she did something even more important—she told people about Jesus!

While she was doing this job, the people she spent time with began to respect her. God had more work for her to do and He was going to give her a family. One day, as Gladys was walking home, a woman with a young girl dressed in rags, blocked her path. “You can have this child for 35 cents,” the woman whined.

Gladys wasn't sure how to respond. This woman was selling a child?! Gladys hadn't particularly wanted to take care of any children, but she knew God wanted her to do something for this child. She reached into her pocket and pulled out all the money she had with her—five Chinese coins, which was about nine pence in England at the time (14 cents then and around \$2.50 today). “This is all I have,” she said.

The woman nodded and pushed the child into Gladys's arms. Gladys carried the little girl home and named her Ninepence. Gladys cared for her, and in a few days she looked so much healthier. Ninepence could walk and talk with Gladys.

Soon a little boy named Less came to stay with them. More orphans continued to arrive until Gladys eventually had a large family of her own living at the inn. And the number kept growing—10, 20, then 40 children. Gladys prayed to God one night, “Dear God, I don't think I can take any more. I believe 40 is a good round number for one woman. Please don't send anymore.”

But God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we think He should. That year was the year World War II came to China.

**How would the war change things for Gladys and her growing family? Would Gladys and her children be safe? Would she be able to continue to share God's love with the Chinese people? Come back next time to find out!**

