

JUST LIKE YOU AND ME?

Well – were they? Were these Christian women who span the centuries just like us? In what ways are we similar? In what ways do we differ? In what ways are they like Jesus Christ and how can we be more like him and them?

As you read the real life stories of these amazing people you will realise that they are indeed just like you. There are young teenagers, mothers, wives and single women. There are rich and poor, educated and uneducated. They are all heroines but they all have flaws – just like us. They are just ordinary girls and women who were given the gift of faith – faith in the one true God.

Christian Heroines

Some of these women show great bravery in the most dreadful circumstances. As we find out where their strength comes from, we will discover that this same strength is waiting for us to use in our lives.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. It is his strength that these Christians relied on. He will be your strength too.

As we look at this list of women we come across something quite amazing about the Christian faith. Where else would you see noblewomen and slaves given the same honour and respect? Those who were born to privilege and those who were born in poverty are equal before the eyes of God. Even today the gospel of Christ still brings people from all backgrounds, religions and nationalities together.

During the years when Christianity was considered by many to be a new religion, those who followed Christ were forced to face hardships, struggles and even death for simply following the Lord Jesus Christ. In later years Christians faced execution for simply reading the Bible for themselves or standing up for the truth of God's Word.

These men, women and children are the martyrs of the Christian church. But there are others who didn't face the scaffold yet they suffered too. Many saw husbands killed or thrown in prison. Others gave their lives to serve Jesus in foreign lands and perished from disease. Some were turned out of house and home by unbelieving fathers or husbands. However, throughout the ages the blood of the martyrs has been the seed

of the church. The lives and actions of believers have been used by God throughout history to spread his Word and build up his church. Many of these martyrs have been forgotten by the world, but in reading this book we endeavour to remember some of the women who are Christian heroines.

HOW THIS BOOK IS LAID OUT

There are different sections entitled:

THE EARLY CHURCH

THE REFORMATION

THE COVENANTERS

MODERN MISSIONARIES AND CHRISTIANS

Each of these sections begins with some ideas for *Things to do*. After each character's story there is a *Look It Up* section which will bring various Bible verses to light.