

Mary Jones and Her Bible



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Mary Jones as a Child

Many years ago, in the year 1794, lived a little girl called Mary Jones. She was 9 years old and she lived with her parents in Llanfinghael-y-Pennant, North Wales.

Her father was a weaver and he worked very hard to provide for his family. They were poor but happy.



Mary Jones as a Child

Mary was a happy and dear child. She always helped her parents care for the animals and clean the house.



Going to Chapel Every Sunday

Like most people in Wales at that time, Mary and her family went to chapel every Sunday. She particularly enjoyed going to Sunday school where she could read the Bible.



Going to Chapel Every Sunday

She was very keen to have her own copy of the Bible as she would be able to read it whenever she wanted to, rather than only on a Sunday. Her father gently explained that Bibles were very expensive and they could not afford one.



A Bible of Her Own!

Mary was determined to save enough money to buy her own copy. She decided to do any work in the village so that she could save enough money to buy a Bible. She collected eggs, cleaned houses, worked on farms – anything to save enough money!

After six years, when she was 15 years old, she had finally saved enough money.



Walking to Bala

Mary knew that a man named Thomas Charles, who lived in Bala, was selling Bibles. She decided to go to Bala and buy one.

So, in 1800, Mary set off on the long walk to Bala, which was 25 miles away. She walked over hills and streams on the way and although her mother had bought her new shoes for the journey, in order to keep clean, she walked to Bala in her bare feet! She took bread and cheese to eat on her way.



Finding the House of Thomas Charles

At last, as the sun was setting, she arrived in Bala. She knocked on several doors trying to find the house of Thomas Charles.



Finding the House of Thomas Charles

Eventually, she found the house of Thomas Charles. Mary was so excited! She told him how she had saved money for six years, doing all sorts of jobs, and how she had walked for 25 miles in her bare feet to reach him in order to buy a Bible.



Thomas Charles

Thomas Charles listened to her story with a sad expression on his face. "I'm very sorry, but I do not have any Bibles left," he said.



Mary was heartbroken on hearing this and she began to cry. The thought of all the years of working and saving was too much for her to bear.



Thomas Charles

Thomas Charles felt very sorry for Mary. He decided to sell her his own Bible. Mary was delighted.



The Legacy of Mary Jones

But the story of Mary Jones doesn't end there. She had made such an impression on Thomas Charles that he told influential people in London about her struggle to buy her own Bible.



The Legacy of Mary Jones

Everyone was astounded when they heard her story. They decided to make more Bibles, in many different languages, and at a reasonable cost so that everyone could afford their own copy.







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