

# The Life of Lottie Moon

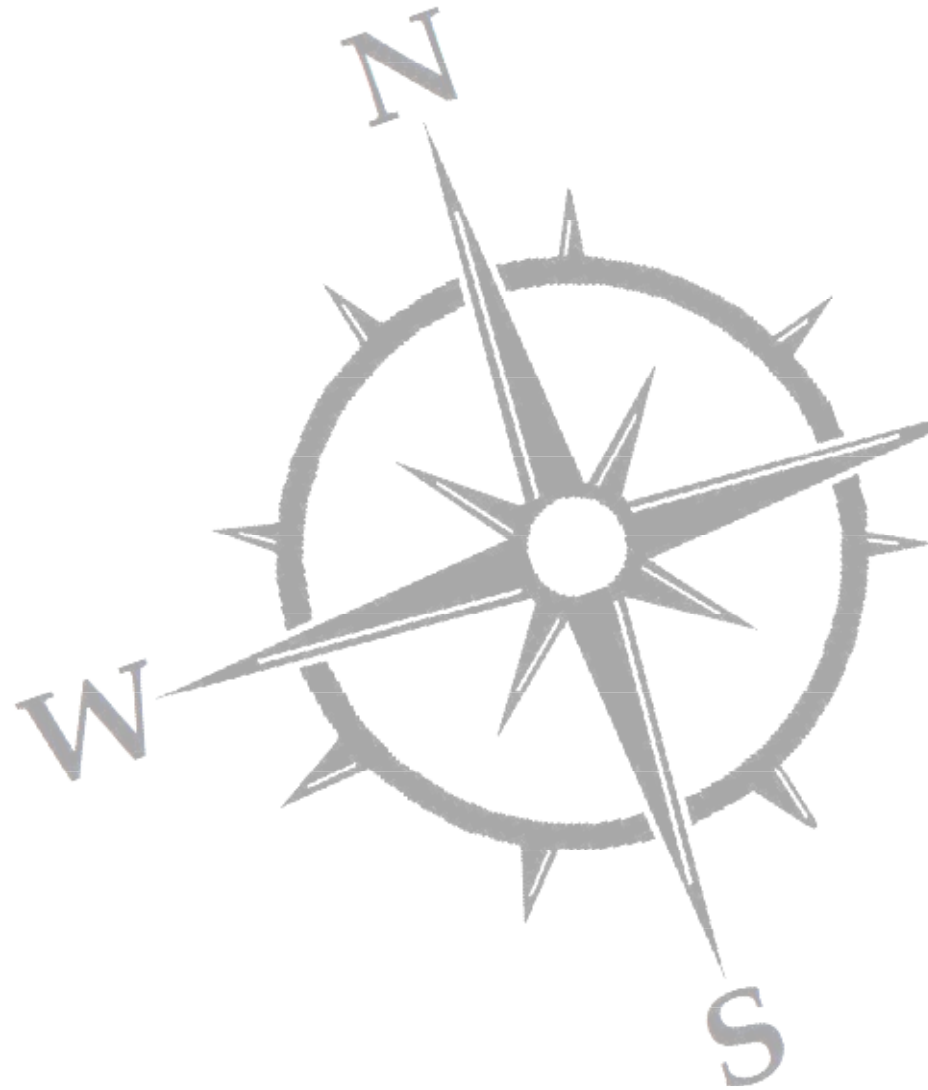
(1840-1912)

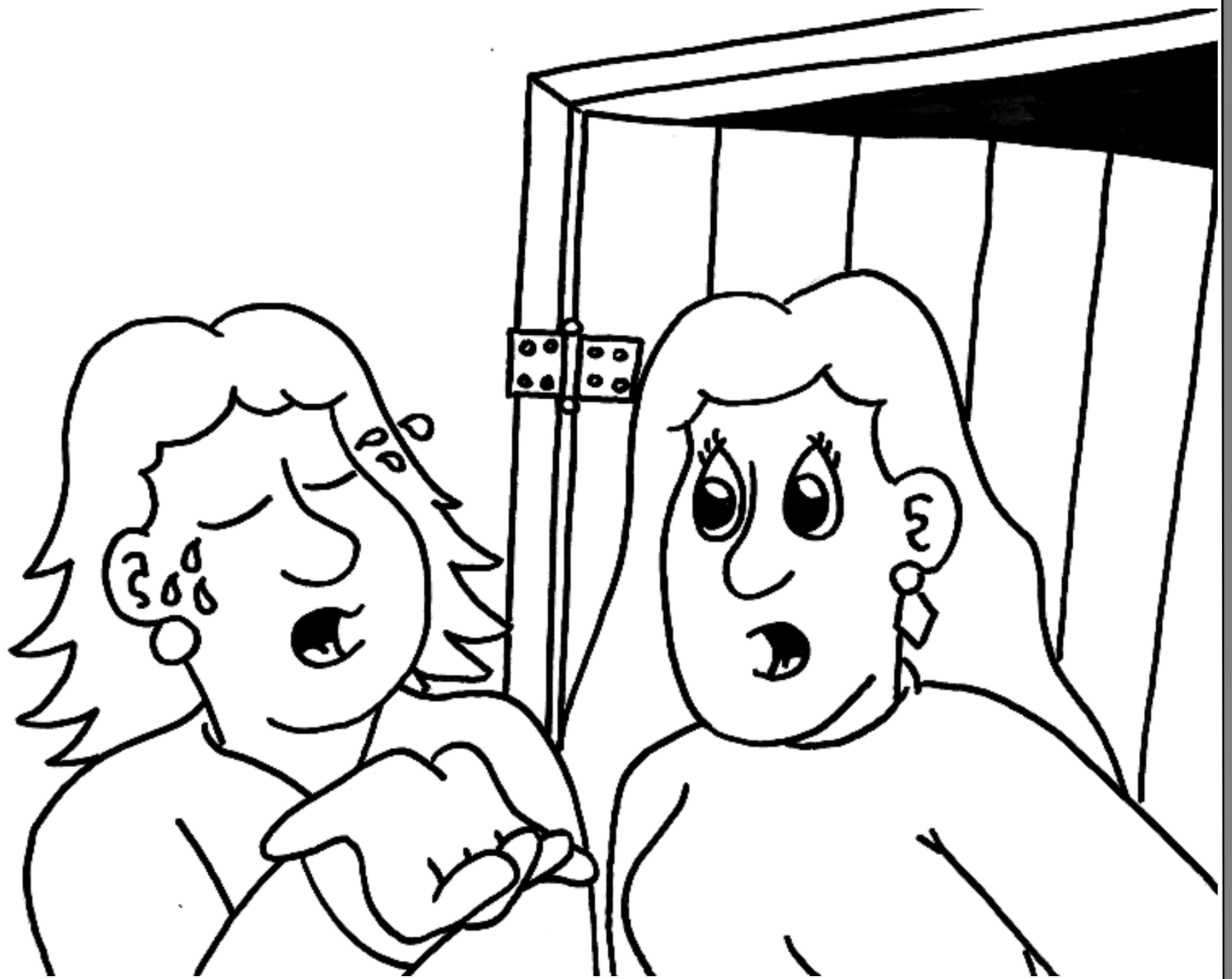
---

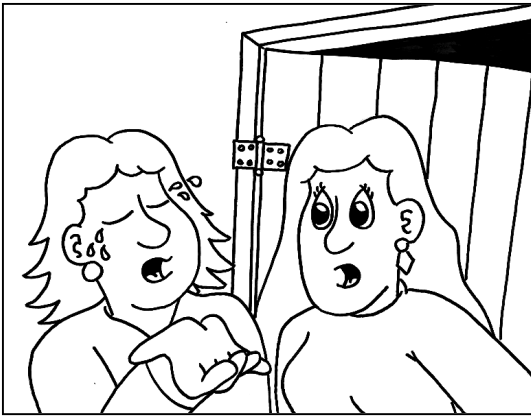
## Lesson: 2.27 – Boldness Missionary Snapshot Series

This story encourages us not to be afraid of the world. The world will put pressure on us to conform to their way of living, but a Christian must have the courage to stand for what is right. Having Jesus in our heart is like wrapping us up in the biggest and strongest armor in the world. Nothing can harm us! Lottie Moon was about to face some very scary things. She would have to trust in the Lord to protect her and keep her safe.

*"The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion." - Proverbs 28:1*







### **Introduction:**

Have you ever been afraid? Maybe you were afraid to go down into the basement when the lights were off, or maybe you were afraid to ride on a roller coaster at an amusement park, or maybe you were afraid to go swimming for the first time, or ride a bike for the first time without training wheels? Our story today is about a missionary to China. This missionary risked her life to go and tell these people about Jesus' love. There were many times that she could have been killed, seriously hurt, or bad things may have happened. Would God keep her safe and protect her? Let's listen carefully and see what happens in this story about Lottie Moon...

### **Missionary Story:**

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The noise of someone pounding on the front door echoed through the halls of my home in P'ingtu City, but this knock didn't sound like a person who was coming for a visit, this knock sounded serious. I opened the door to find one of the new believers from our brand

new church, Sha-Ling Baptist Church, with a worried look on her face. "Miss Moon," cried the woman, "you must come quickly and help us... something terrible is happening!" My missionary friend, Fannie Knight, and I invited the woman in quickly and asked her what was happening. Between gasps of breath and tears the story finally came out.

During the Chinese New Year celebrations, the people worshipped their family's ancestor tablets. Old Mr. Dan, who was the first person to become a Christian in Sha-Ling, and Mr. Li had decided that they were not going to join in the worship. Mr. Dan's relatives were so angry with him, that they had tied his hands and feet to a pole and had beat him up. The woman continued "And poor Mr. Li was then dragged by his hair until a part of it tore off of his scalp."

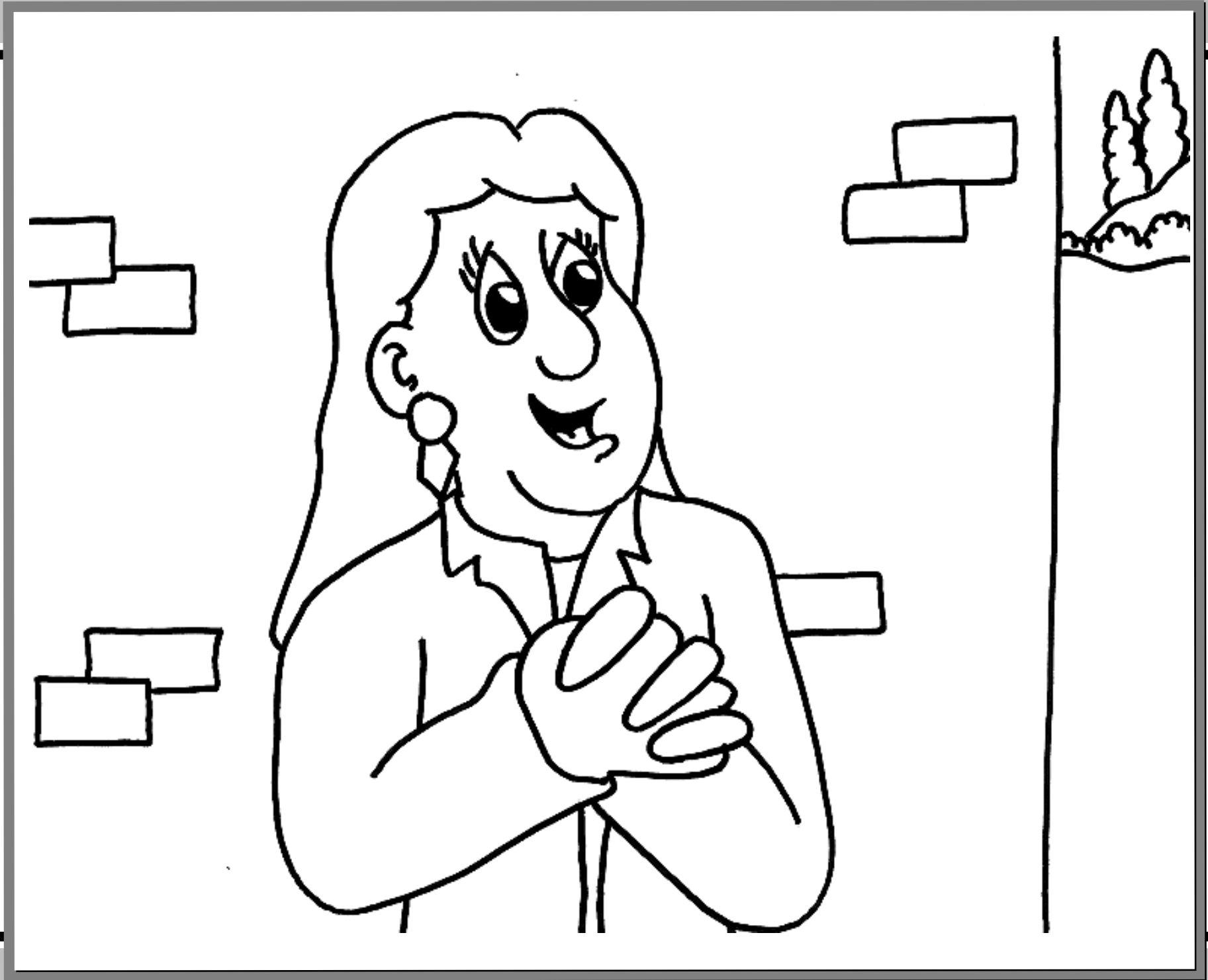
"Are they..." I finally spoke up but could not finish my question because I was afraid to for both Mr. Dan and Mr. Li's lives. The woman shook her head. "No, they escaped to another village," She said. "What should we do?" Fannie asked. "Come, let's pray, and then I will go to Sha-Ling." We finished praying and I gathered my things and set off to Sha-Ling.

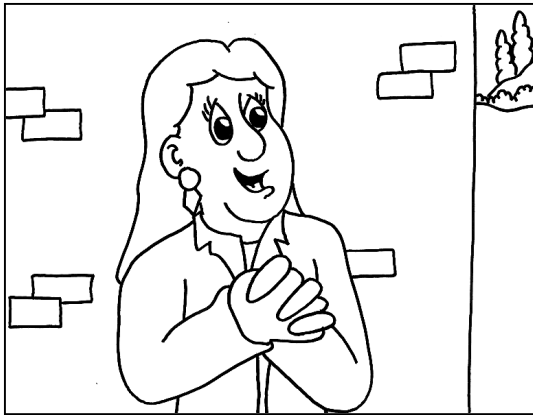
As we traveled, I thought back on the last several years here in China. I remembered when I had first arrived and noticed all of the Chinese women's tiny crooked feet as they tottered down the street with their heavy parcels. Foot binding was a terrible practice of the Chinese people. Having been a teacher back in Virginia, I decided the best thing we could do is give these women and young girls a Christian

education. But starting a school had been a lot harder than it seemed. The Chinese thought that schooling would just get in the way of the main things that a Chinese girl needed to do, which were getting her feet bound, getting married, and doing all the lowest forms of work. Even after I convinced several parents to send their girls to my school, I had a hard time convincing them to stop the foot-binding process. In China, regular sized feet were thought to be ugly. In order to make their feet smaller, a very young girl's feet were bent and bound with pieces of cloth to keep them very tiny. This would eventually break some of the bones of their feet and make them far more deformed and ugly and would also leave them in constant pain.

One other practice of the Chinese, was that the parent would decide when you were a little child who you were going to marry someday. I remembered one of the girls in our school, whose father-in-law who had just become a Christian. I spoke to the man and said "since this girl will someday marry your son, show her some Christian kindness and allow her to unbind her feet." The man agreed and the cloths were taken off and I was so happy to see the girl's feet growing normally.

A while later, the man's son heard about what his father had done and stormed over to the school. "You must bind my future wife's feet immediately," he growled angrily. "Do you want me to be the laughing stock of the whole town? Having a wife with big feet is craziness!" Though the man was angry, I would not back down. When I told him that I





would not bind her feet, he went and got his father. Now, his father kind of changed his mind. “Just so that we can have peace in our family, maybe you should bind her feet again,” he said. I was determined not to let this horrible practice continue. “It is a cruel thing to bind this girl’s feet, when she is almost a woman. I will not allow someone to suffer like this in my school. If you insist, you will have to take her out of my school.” I then reminded him of several reasons that foot-binding was not something a Christian should do. Finally, he took his grumbling son away and allowed the girl’s feet to stay unbound. Many other girls had been allowed to unbind their feet. We even started the Heavenly Foot Society and many years later most Chinese Christians had done away with the practice.

We had traveled to several other villages and seen God at work in the hearts of the Chinese people. God had indeed been working in P’ingtu City and the surrounding villages. This year alone we had baptized six new believers, four women and two men, which was enough to form a brand new

church. Mr. Li, who used to be a Confucian scholar and studied the ways of Confucius, was now studying the Bible so that he could become a pastor. “God is so good!” Fannie had just said a couple of weeks ago. “Indeed He is,” I replied, “but we need to stay alert. Persecution always seems to follow when Satan sees that the church is growing.” And little did I know how soon that persecution would begin.

When I arrived in Sha-Ling, I went straight to the church where the frightened new Christians were gathered. A large crowd of people had gathered outside the church and were screaming threats and insults. I stepped out of the door and stood between the large crowd and these new Christians. “If you attempt to destroy this church, you will have to go through me first. Jesus gave His life for Christians and I am not afraid to die for Him!” I shouted to the crowd. One of the men in the crowd stepped forward and pulled out a large knife and glared at me. “Come inside,” the Christians said pulling at my clothes, “he will kill you!” I shook my head, “Jesus always watches over us, He can protect us even now!” I said quietly. I did not move, I did not flinch... then suddenly, one by one, the crowd began to leave. Even the man with the knife, put his knife away and turned and left. One man turned back though. He came right up to me and spoke, “I saw old Mr. Dan take a beating for what he believed, but he did not change his mind. Tonight, I saw you stand up to a man with a knife. Please, tell about this Jesus who gives you all such courage.” I smiled and slowly led the man inside our church and closed the

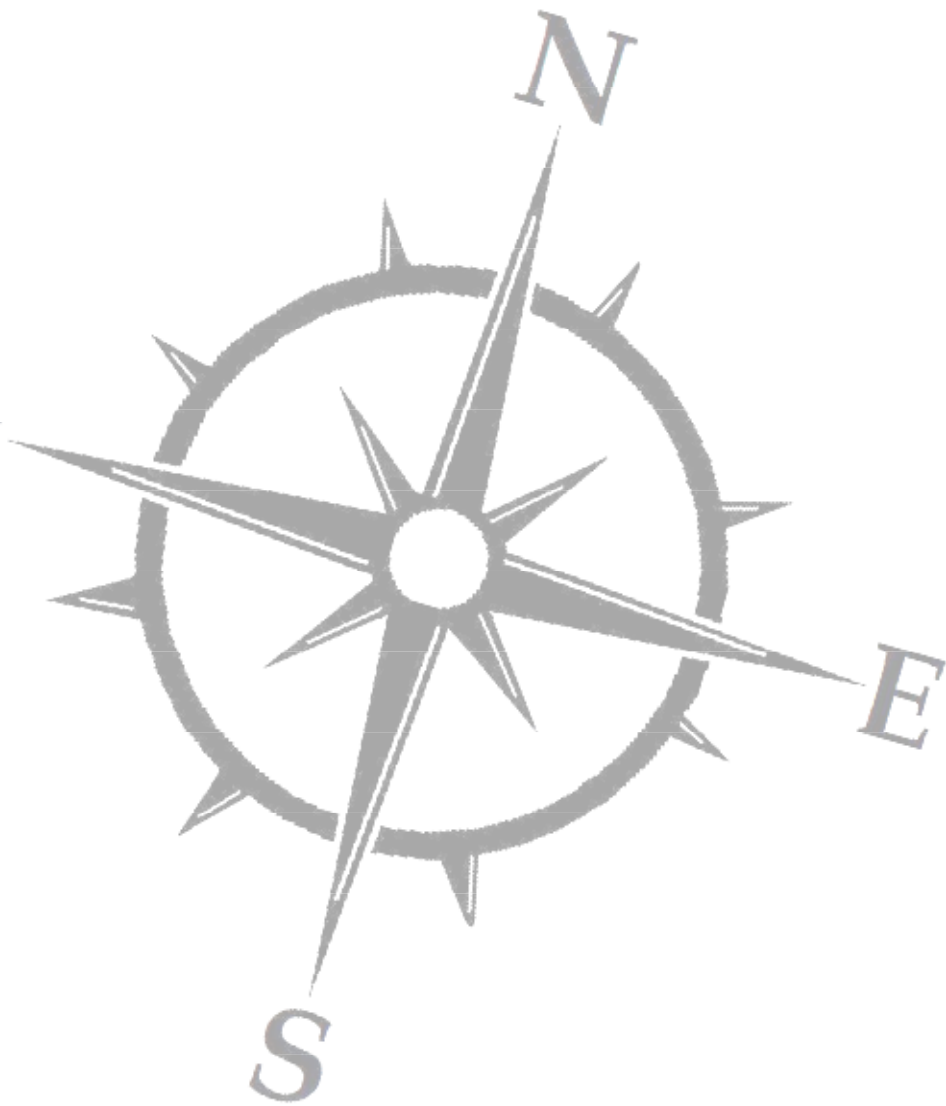
door.

### **Application:**

You know, boys and girls, Psalm 118:6 tells us to be brave and to not be afraid of what people will say or do to us. The safest place that we can be is right where God wants us to be. God protected Lottie Moon as she worked in many places in China. Lottie was only about four foot, three inches tall, but she was not afraid to stand up for the Lord against some terrible practices in China. Lottie trusted God to protect her and was not afraid to tell others about Him.

Lottie Moon worked in China for over 39 years. She saw over one thousand people accept Christ as their Savior. But her work wasn’t only in China. She often wrote letters to women back in the United States encouraging them to come to China. In one of her letters, she asked how a place like the United States that had a million Christians, could only send three of them to China? Her letters inspired Christians to take up a special Christmas offering each year and millions of dollars have been sent out to support missionaries. No person is too small to do great big things for the Lord with their lives if they give themselves fully to the Lord.

*(For additional information, discussion questions and materials on this lesson please refer to **lesson 2.27 on page 90 in your Burma Expedition - Leader's Guide.**)*



# References

For further reading or to obtain more information on this portion of the life of this missionary, please consult the following sources from which we obtained information from:

Anderson, G. (1998) *Moon, Charlotte ('Lottie') Diggs (1840-1912)*. Retrieved from <http://www.bu.edu/missiology/missionary-biography/l-m/moon-charlotte-lottie-diggs-1840-1912/>

Benge, J., & Benge, G. (2001). *Lottie Moon: Giving her all for China*. Seattle, Wa.: YWAM Pub.

Hull, L. (n.d.) *Lottie Moon, Missioanry to China*. Retrieved from <http://www.historyswomen.com/womenoffaith/lottiemoon.html>

Jackson, D., & Jackson, N. (2005). *Hero tales: Volume 3*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House.

Schrock, D. (n.d.) *Lottie Moon: A brief Biography*. Retrieved from <http://cgbcbelton.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/lottie-moon1.pdf>

Shibley, D. (1994). *Heaven's Heroes*. Green Forest, AR: Green Leaf.

The International Mission Board. *Lottie Moon. Fast Facts*. Retrieved October, 2006, from <http://ime.imb.org/lottiemoon/fastfacts.asp>

