

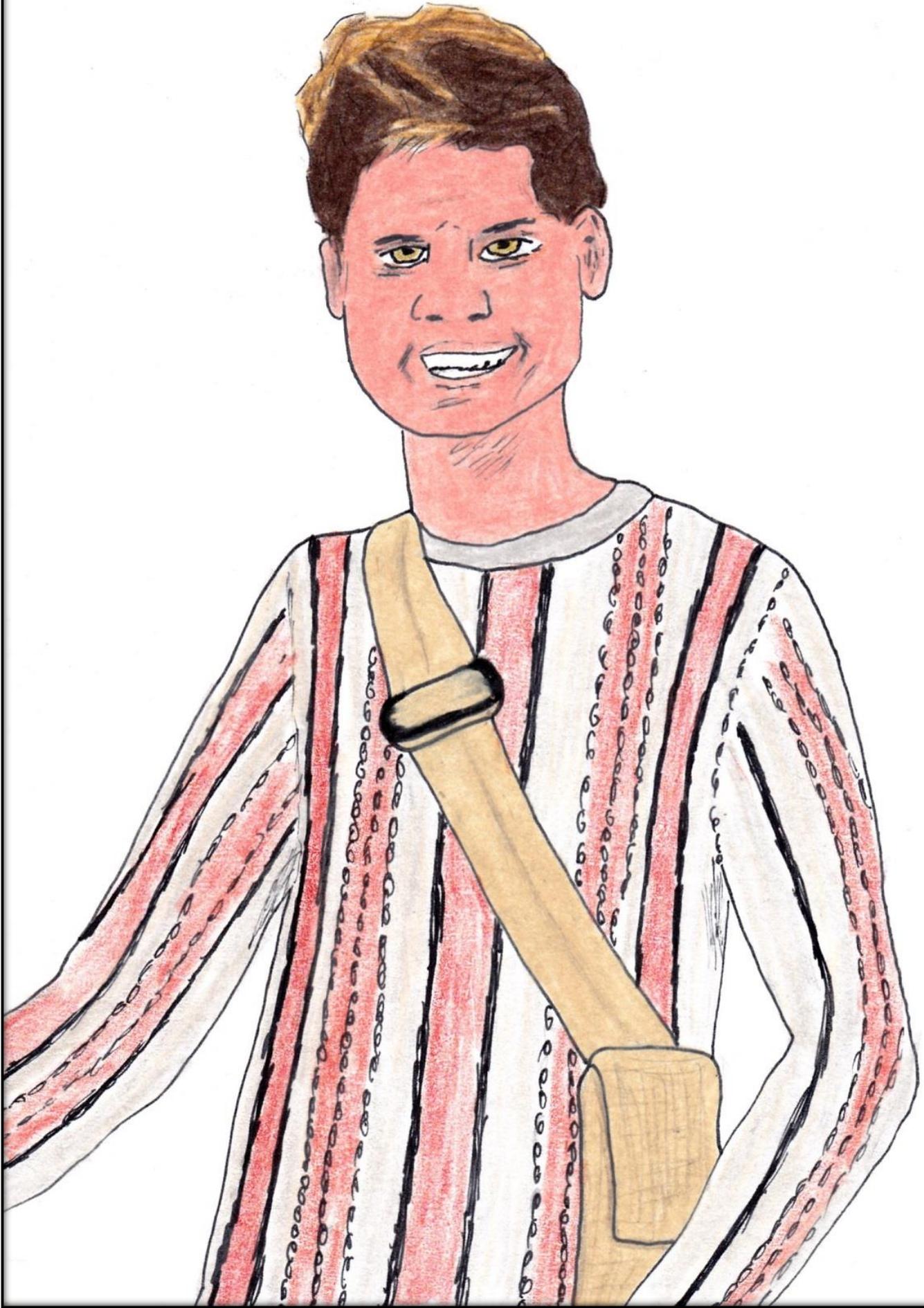
Fruit of the Spirit lesson

Galatians 5:22-23



The Fruit of the Spirit





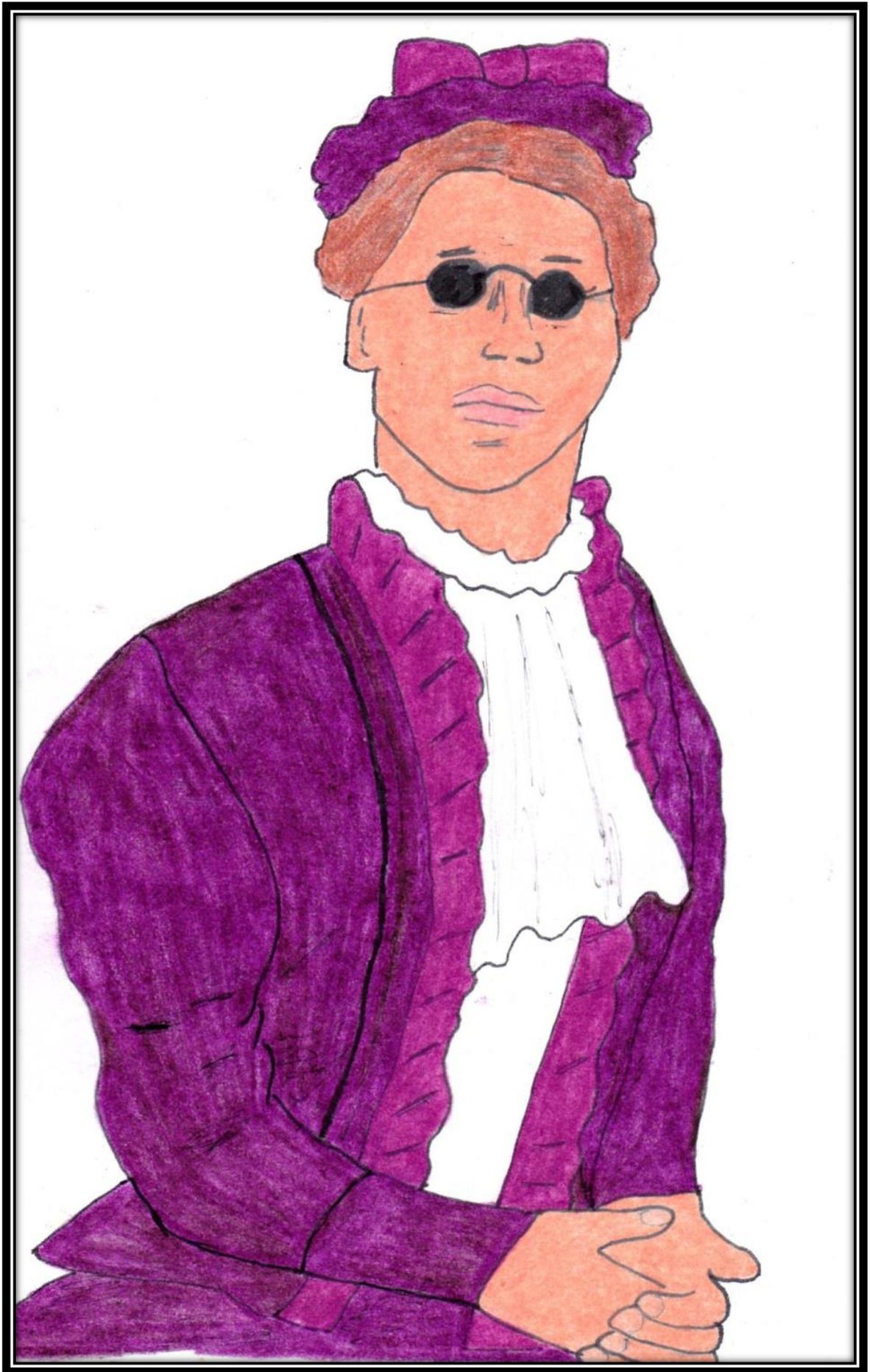
Love

Jim Eliot figured out while he was in college that he wanted to be a missionary. He went on several short term mission trips to Mexico. There he decided he wanted to go to a completely unreached people group and work. He worked on learning how to learn languages and translate the Bible into a new language.

Eventually he went with four friends to Ecuador to preach to the Waodani natives. They spent several months dropping presents from airplanes and playing messages over speakers to the people. They went on to meet with the natives, and they thought they were making great progress.

One day the natives met with them, but acted differently. Suddenly the natives attacked and killed Jim and all of his friends. Time passed, Jim Elliot's widow and the families of his fellow missionaries started to meet with Waodani natives, eventually living with them.

Slowly they brought the gospel to them, converting most of the village. Jim Elliot, his friends, and his family showed God's love by witnessing to people they knew might kill them, and his widow went back to the people who killed her husband.

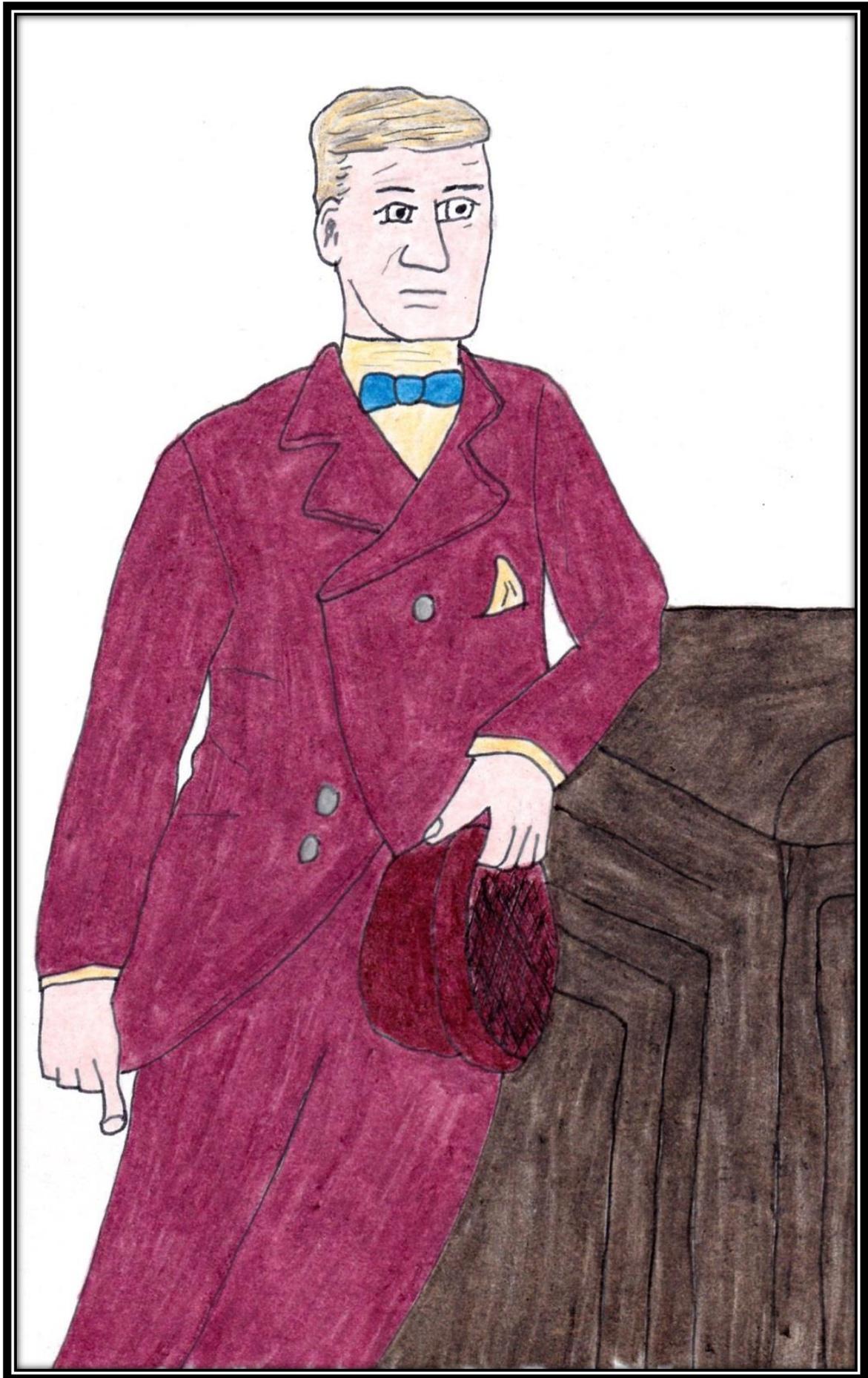


Joy

Fanny Crosby lived over 100 years ago. She wrote most of the songs people sang in church for over 50 years. One of her most famous songs, “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine,” is still sung today. Fanny Crosby wrote these amazingly uplifting songs while she was going through amazingly hard times.

Fanny was blind from infancy, but never lost her joy. She lost their baby to typhoid, and was never able to have another child. Fanny was never paid for any of the hundreds of songs she wrote, but the publishers sold thousands of copies.

Despite all of this, she was joyful and provided encouragement for thousands of people. She learned the secret Paul talked of in Philippians 4:12, “I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.”



Peace

Horatio G. Spafford was a wealthy man. He was a prominent lawyer, and worked with Dwight Moody to help spread the gospel by donating money and providing places to meet. His life was smooth sailing.

Until one day his four year old son caught pneumonia, and died. Horatio buried himself in his work, and bought several properties throughout Chicago. Then one day a horse kicked over a bucket with some coals in it, and the Great Chicago fire started. Most of Horatio's properties were burned and he lost a fortune.

Years later Horatio planned to go on a trip with his family, but when time came to leave, he was held up by business. His family sailed on without him. A week later he received a telegram, the boat his wife and daughters were on had sunk in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Crushed by the loss, Horatio took time to mourn his family and wrote the song, "It is Well With My Soul."

"When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot, God has taught me to say, 'It is well, it is well with my soul.'" Horatio G. Spafford had learned the secret of Peace in God.



Patience

William Tyndale lived in the 1500s. This was a time of great change, Martin Luther was working to change the church, the printing press had made the Bible available to more people. But it was written in Latin, only the very rich or clergy learned Latin.

One day William got into an argument with the priest over what the Bible said, the priest said, “The people can’t handle reading the Bible, they are too stupid.” William said, “If I live long enough the boy who pushes the plow will know more than you do.” He made it his life’s work to translate the Bible into English.

He traveled around preaching to the people as he translated, but it was against the law to translate the Bible into English.

Eventually William Tyndale was arrested and imprisoned. He spent over a year in jail before being executed. The whole time Tyndale spent praying the eyes of King Henry would be opened, and the Bible would be translated into English. Fifty years later another king of England, King James, would commission what we now call the King James Bible.



Kindness

Corie ten Boom lived in the Netherlands during World War 2 with her parents and her sister. One day a young woman showed up on her door step asking for help, she was a Jew and the Nazis were trying to put her in prison. Corrie and her family took her in and hid her because they believed the Jews were still God's Chosen People.

The ten Boom family was betrayed; the Nazis found and arrested them. They were sent to prison where Corrie's father and her sister died. "We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark and sinful world and the spiritual agents are from the very headquarters of evil. Therefore, we must wear the "whole armor of God," that we may be able to resist evil in its day of power and that even when we have fought to a standstill, we may still stand our ground." Corrie said. Corrie was released shortly before the war was over due to a mistake and moved back to the Netherlands. There she opened a rehabilitation center for the people who worked with the Nazis, the same people who had betrayed her. Corrie showed true kindness risking her life to save people who could never repay her.

"Often I have heard people say, 'How good God is! We prayed that it would not rain for our church picnic, and look at the lovely weather!' Yes God is good when He sends good weather. But God was also good when he allowed my sister, Betsie, to starve to death before my eyes in a German concentration camp. I remember one occasion when I was very discouraged there. Everything around us was dark, and there was darkness in my heart. I remember telling Betsie that I thought God had forgotten us, 'No, Corrie,' said Betsie, 'He has not forgotten us. Remember His word: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear Him."' Corrie concludes, 'There is an ocean of God's love available- there is plenty for everyone. May God grant you never to doubt that victorious love- whatever the circumstances.'"



Goodness

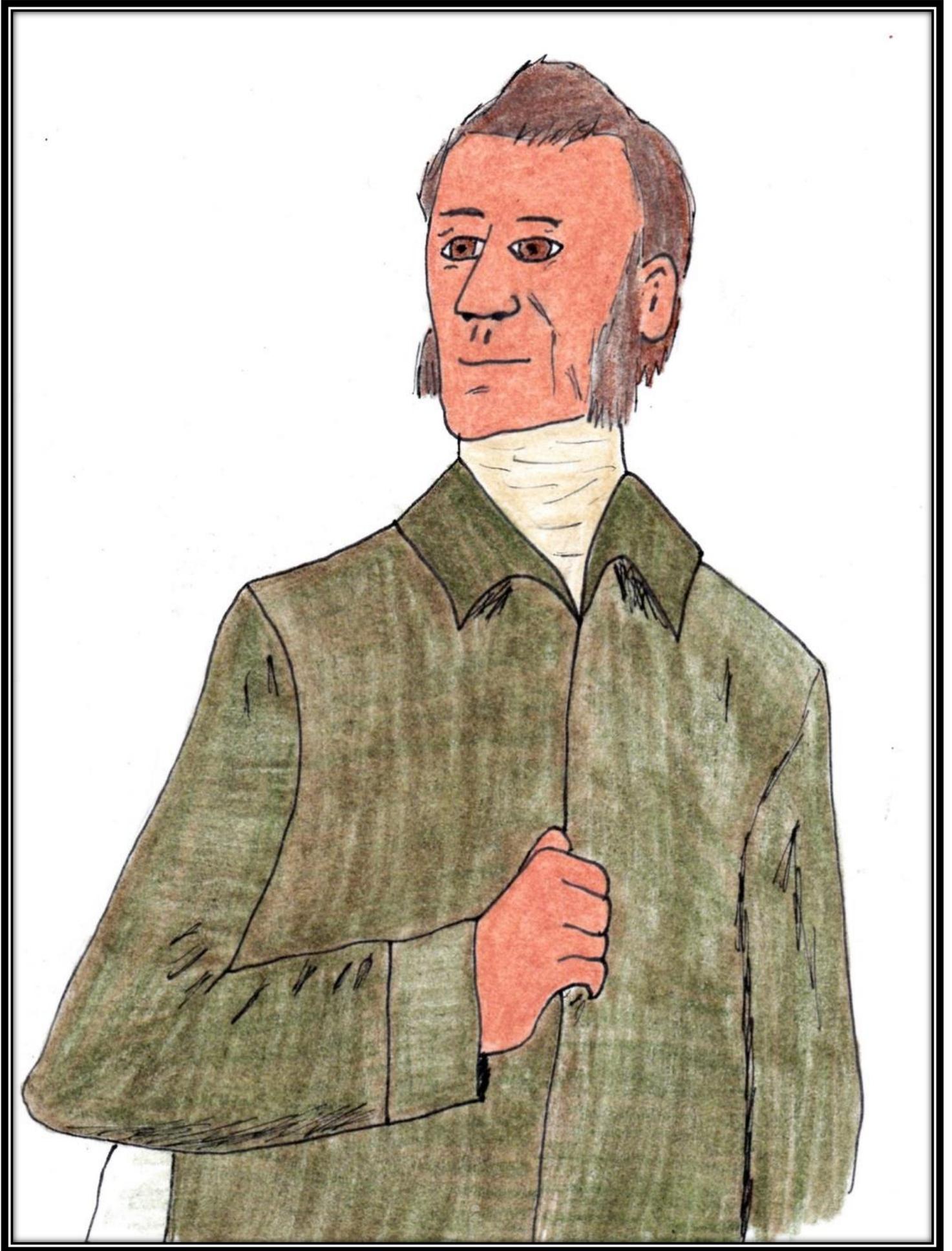
Eric Liddell was the fastest man alive. He had a promising career as a runner, and was set to compete in the Olympics. Everyone saw his great races and was sure he would be an amazing athlete for years to come.

But, Eric felt God calling him to the mission field. Shortly after, he left the racing world to become a missionary in China. One day a reporter came to see his work and asked Eric if he missed racing and the fame he received. Eric replied, "It's natural for a chap to think over all that sometimes, but I'm glad I'm at the work I'm engaged in now. A fellow's life counts for far more at this than the other."

Japan invaded China, and Eric was sent to a prison camp. There he became a leader, encouraging the other prisoners and helping them find more food and medical supplies where he could.

One of his fellow prisoners said later, "Often in an evening I would see him bent over a chessboard or a model boat, or directing some sort of square dance- absorbed, weary, and interested, pouring all of himself into this effort to capture the imagination of these penned-up youths. He was overflowing with good humor and love for life, and with enthusiasm and charm. It is rare indeed that a person has the good fortune to meet a saint, but he came as close to it as anyone I have ever known."

At one point Eric was given the chance to leave the prison as part of a prisoner exchange between Japan and the British government, but he decided to stay and gave his spot to a pregnant woman so she could be free. Eventually Eric died in that camp of a brain tumor, working until his death to encourage others and show them the kindness of God. Eric brought many people to Christ because of his actions. Remember his words: "We are all missionaries. Wherever we go we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ."



Faithfulness

George Muller knew God wanted him to preach, and didn't know how that was to happen. He tried several ministries as a young man, but none were the right fit. Eventually George took a job at a church as a preacher, but felt convicted not to take a salary, so no one would feel obliged to give out of duty. Instead he decided to trust in God's faithfulness to supply everything he and his family needed.

Then God led George to start an orphanage. He and his wife took in 30 girls, and taught them from their home. Every day they would pray and trust in God's faithfulness for what they needed. And God provided for them. Over the span of his life George helped raise 10,000 children.

But that was not all God led George Muller to do. He also prayed mightily, and while he never asked for any money, he was able to support countless missionaries, and purchase and give away almost 2 million Bibles.

When he turned 70 he felt God called him to travel into the mission fields, and so he travelled all around the world to tell others about God's good news. Travel was expensive, and he never asked anyone for money, but people always gave just what he needed to get to the next place.

Why did George never ask for money? To strengthen the faith of other believers. "Now if I, a poor man, simply by prayer and faith, obtained, without asking any individual, the means for establishing and carrying on an Orphan-House: there would be something which, with the Lord's blessing, might be instrumental in strengthening the faith of the children of God besides being a testimony to the consciences of the unconverted, of the reality of the things of God. This, then, was the primary reason, for establishing the Orphan House... The first and primary object of the work was, and still is that God might be magnified by the fact, that the orphans under my care are provided, with all they need, only by prayer and faith, without any one being asked by me or my fellow-laborers, whereby it may be seen, that God is FAITHFUL STILL, and HEARS PRAYER STILL."

At his death, thousands lined the streets to say good-bye to a simple man who had prayed in millions of dollars to spread God's word and to help the "least of these."



Gentleness

As a young girl Amy Carmichael prayer God would change her eyes from brown to blue. God never answered that prayer the way she wanted, but as she grew older she accepted her eye color.

Amy grew up and heard Hudson Taylor talk about all the work that needed to be done in China and other countries, and she felt called to go.

Amy went through training and just as she finished it and was ready to go, she became sick and was told she would not be allowed to go because she was not healthy enough. She waited and prayed and went to Japan with three other new missionaries.

She was so passionate to spread God's good news she decided to go out with an interpreter before she learned the language. Amy was advised to wear a kimono, but she was feeling cold, so she kept her Western clothes. They visited an older woman who talked for quite some time, and was asking more and more questions about God when she noticed Amy's fur-lined gloves and stopped asking questions about God, but asked about her clothes. That day after she left Amy declared she would never wear Western clothes again, but always wear native clothes, so nothing would come between others and God.

Eventually her illness became so bad, the doctors told her she needed a new climate, so she travelled on to the warmer climates of India.

There she discovered why God never answered her childhood prayer. If her eyes were blue, the people would never have accepted her as quickly. Instead her brown eyes and darker hair let her blend in more with the people there, and the people trusted her.

There Amy found her true calling. She traveled from village to village and helped free young girls from slavery. Often when families were not doing well they would sell their daughters to the temple for some money or food. These girls were forced to work however the priests wanted them to. Amy would dye her skin dark to pass as a native Indian and would sneak the young girls out to rescue them.

Over time Amy was able to rescue hundreds of girls and boys from temple slavery and raise them and teach them about Jesus. Because of Amy's work temple slavery was outlawed. She showed the gentleness of God in her work and caring for these young girls.



Self-Control

As a young man Francis loved to play, and have fun. His father was wealthy, so he could have whatever he wanted. He would travel from city to city doing whatever he wanted, and wasting his life.

Then God got ahold of his life and heart, Francis said, "I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, He can work through anyone." Francis' heart changed, and he went from a man who delighted in spending money on himself to one who gave all he had to God.

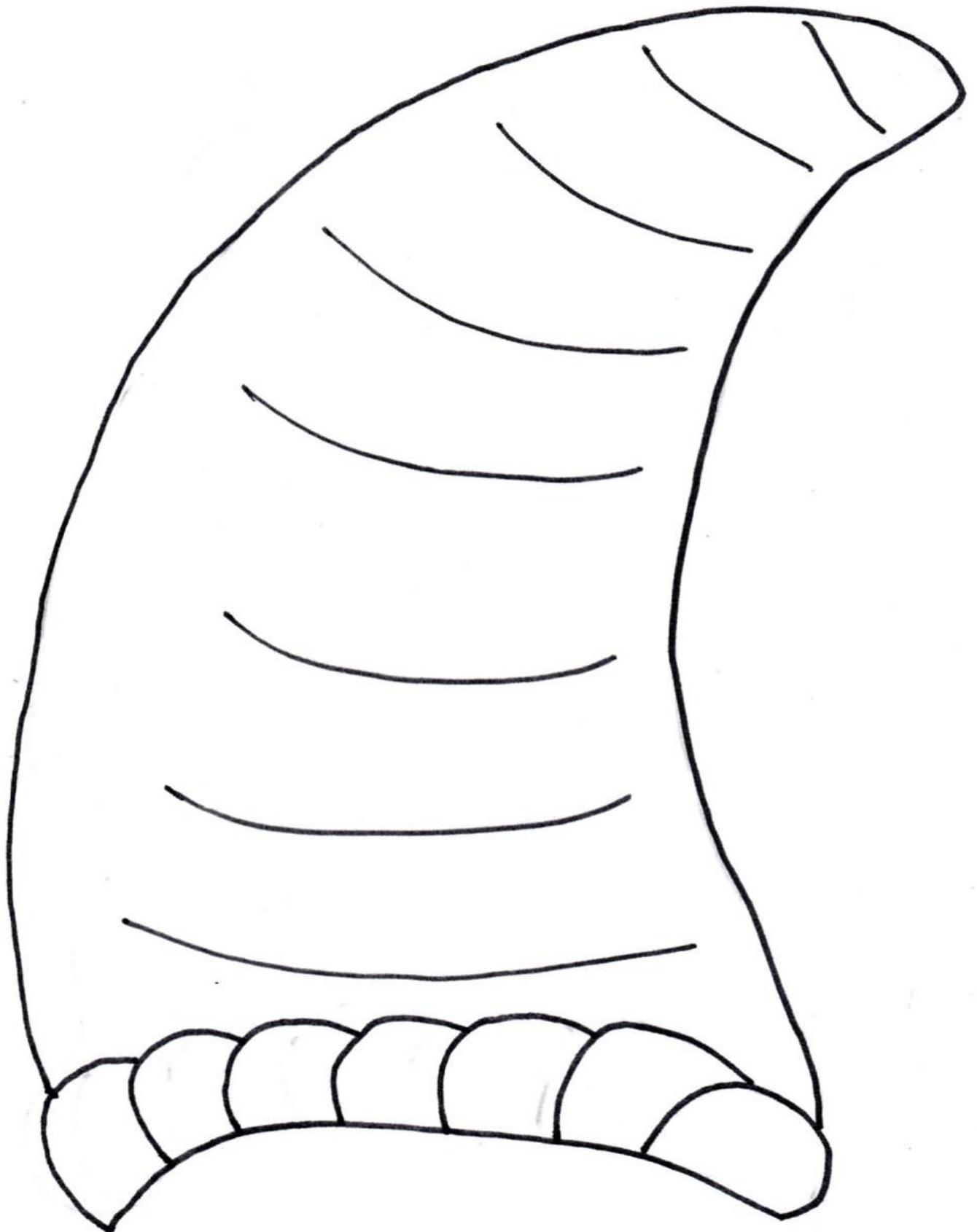
He returned home and sold some of his clothes and his father's fabric to help build a church. His father was enraged and beat him, then took him to court. There Francis said he had no father, and gave up any ties to wealth. Slowly he went and rebuilt the decaying churches in his area.

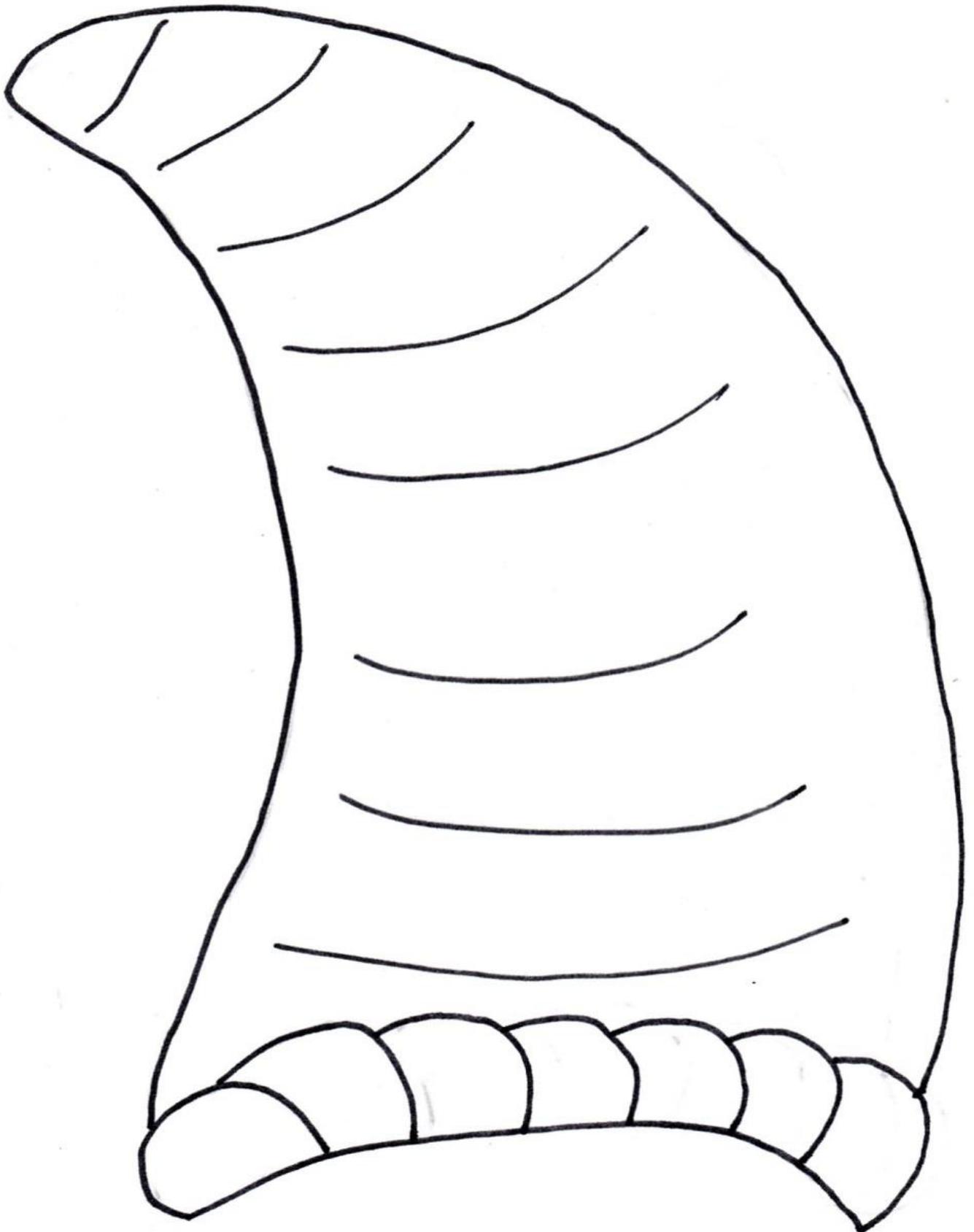
One Sunday he heard a sermon on Matthew 10:9-10, "Do not take any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts- no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or staff, for the worker is worth his keep." Francis decided he would follow Jesus words and show self-control, he would live like a beggar and preach God's word.

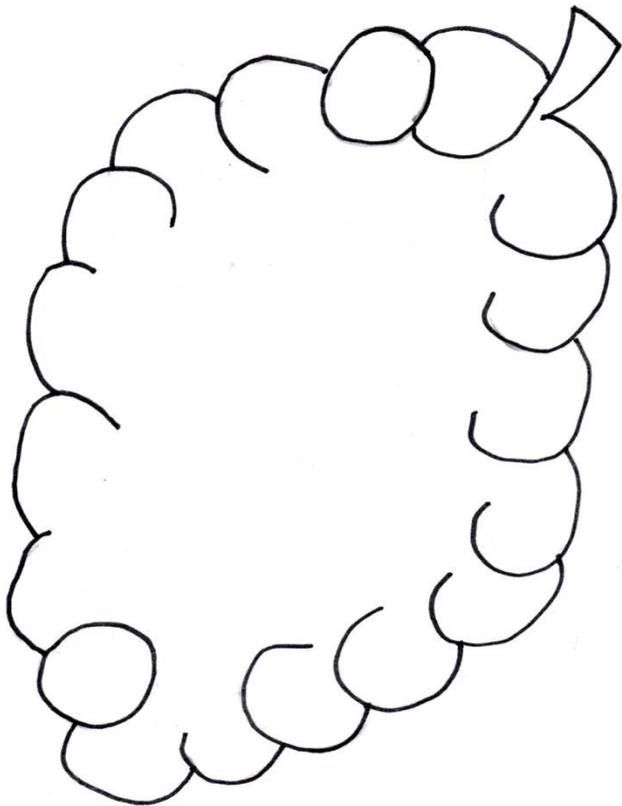
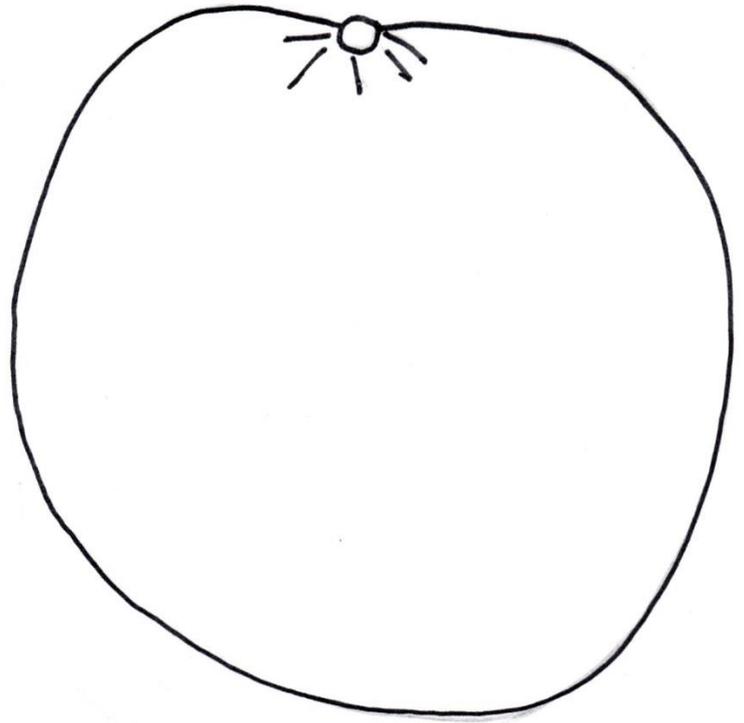
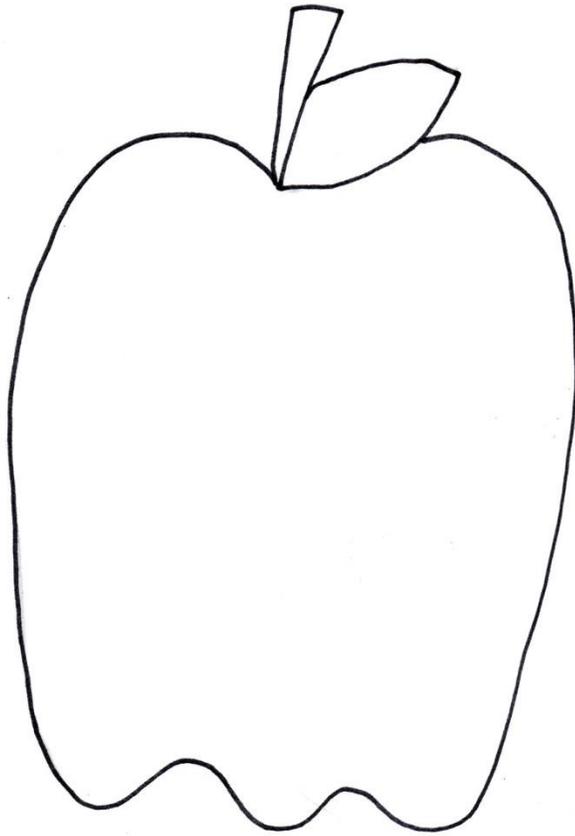
Quickly he gained a follower and within a year had 11 men who taught and worked with him, all having taken a vow of poverty, to have no wealth or money.

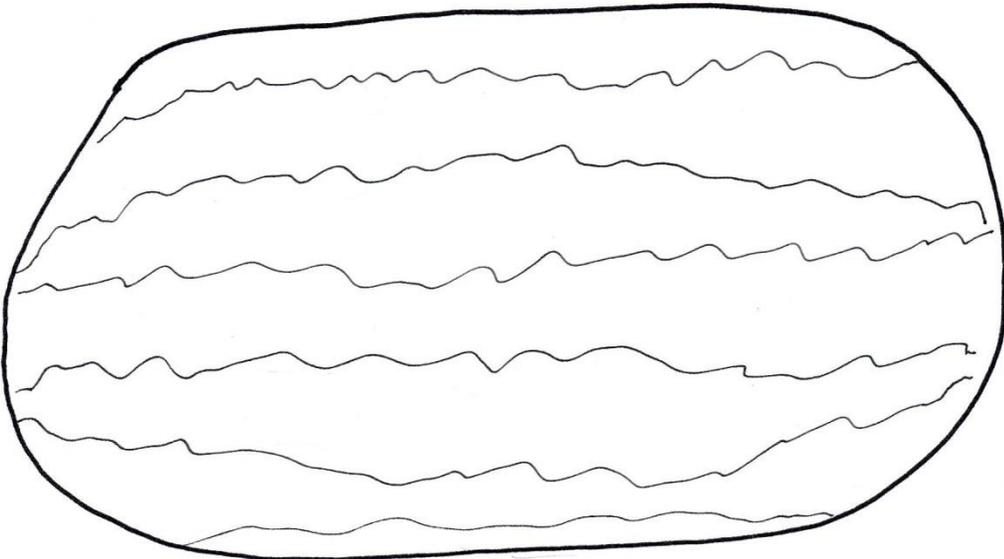
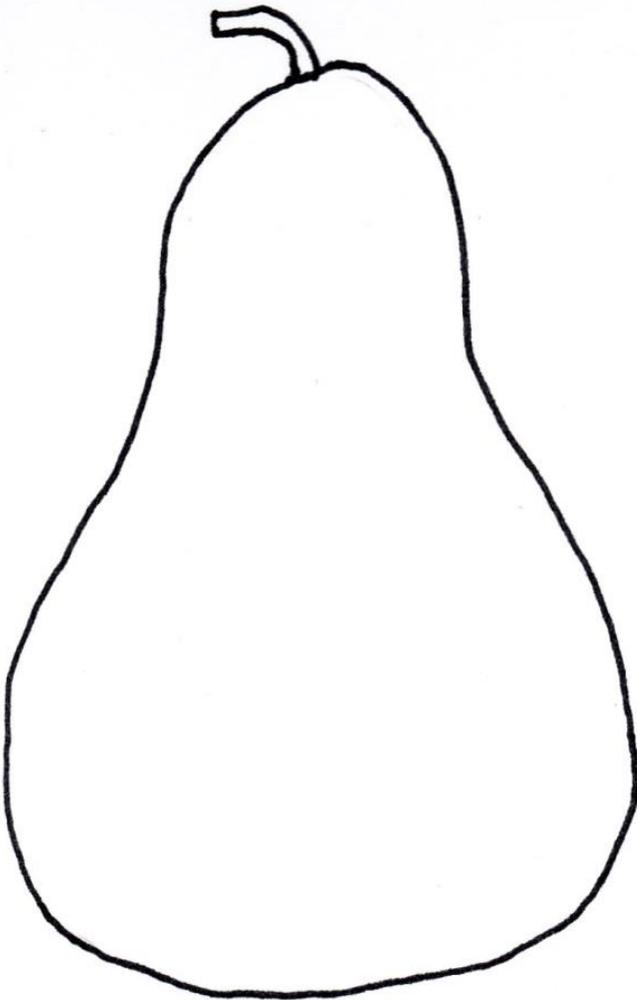
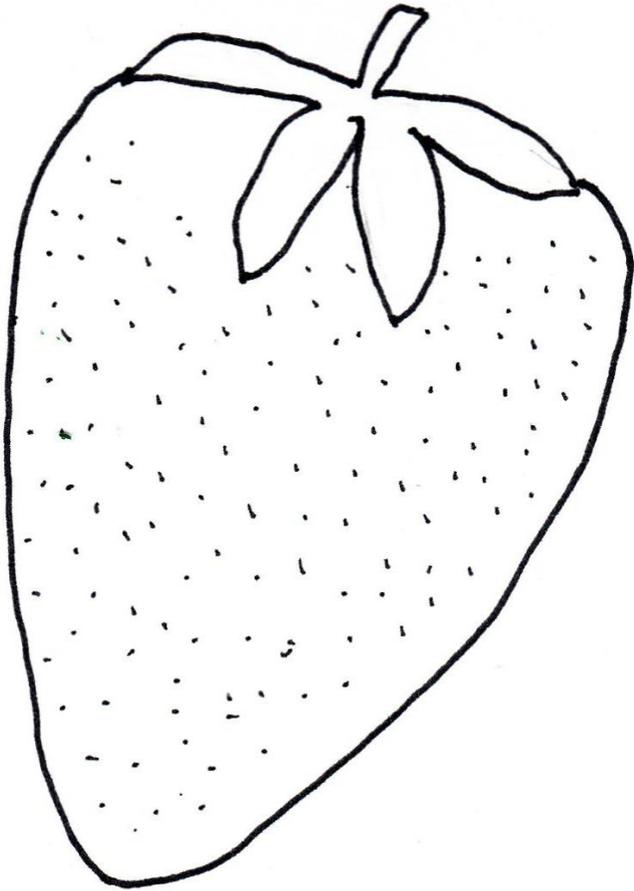
Francis wanted to take his work out of Italy, where he was born, and head to Israel, and preach God's news to the Muslims living there. He first went to Egypt to attempt to win the Sultan for God or die trying, and did speak with the Sultan, but no one knows what happened. It was not written down.

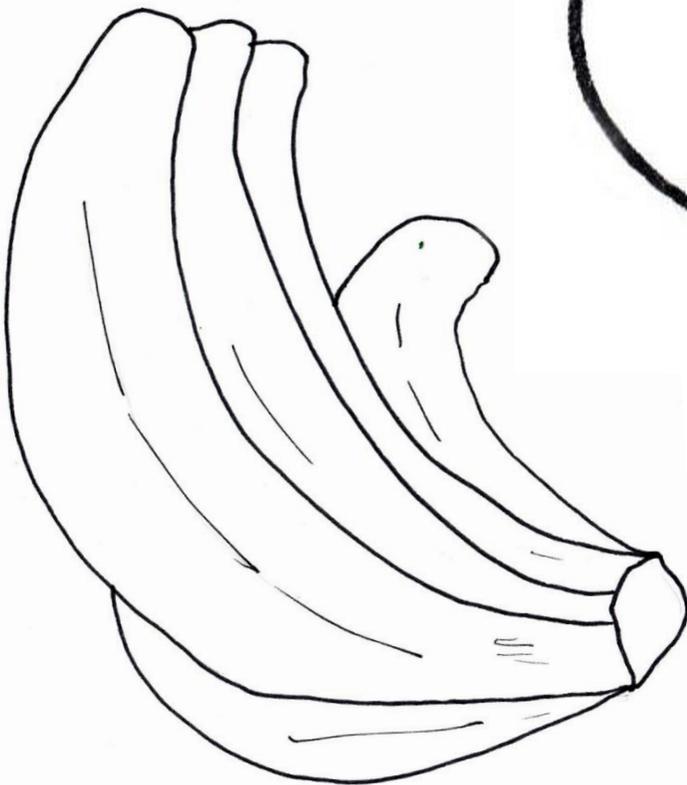
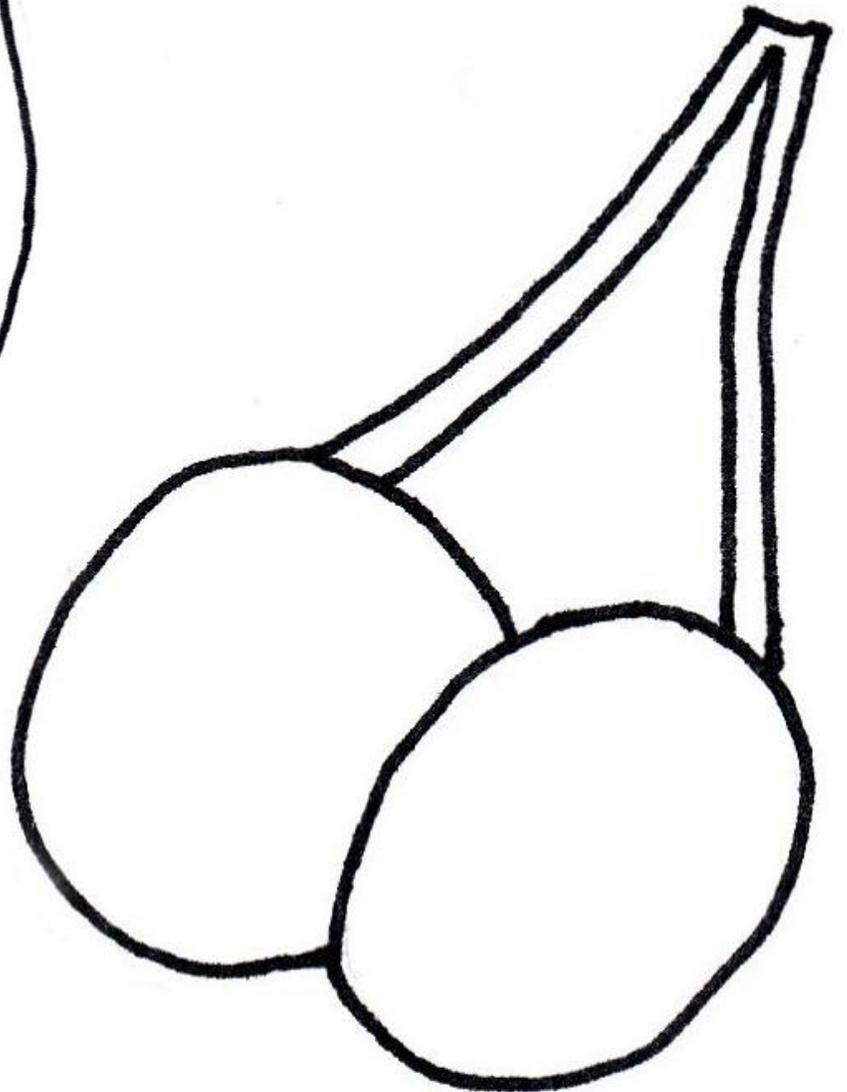
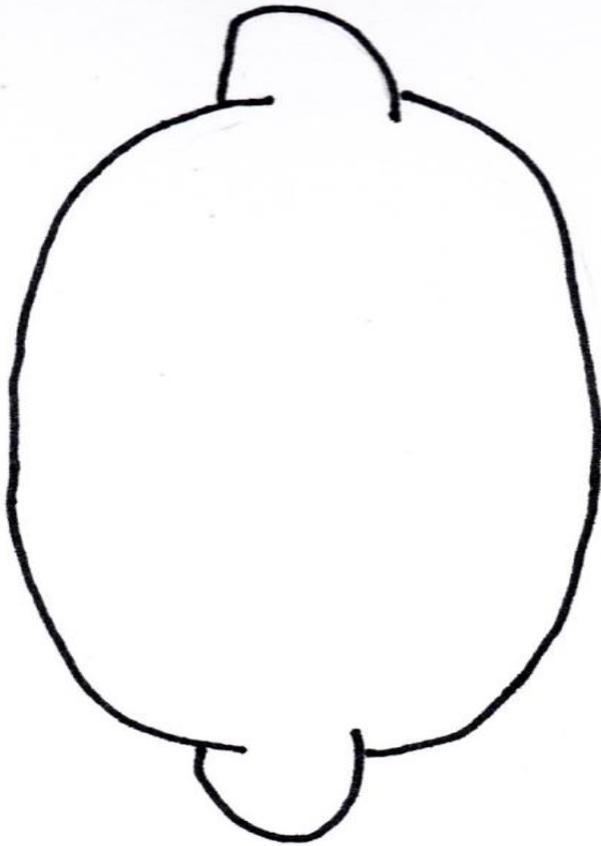
Francis' leadership brought Christianity back to Egypt and Israel, and the Franciscan order stayed in Israel, when all other Christians were expelled by the Muslims, they alone were allowed to stay because of the example Francis set, living in poverty, and showing God's love to everyone.

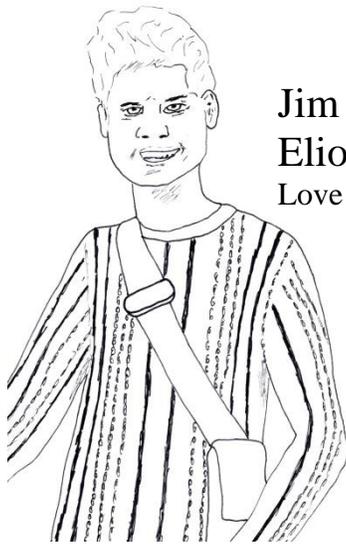






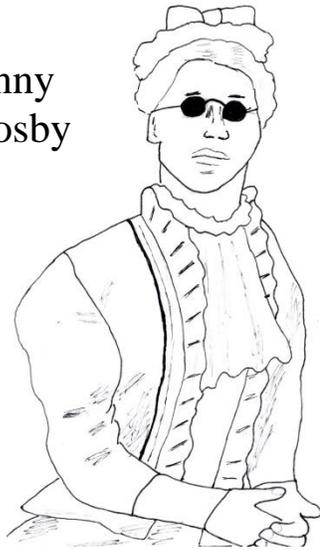




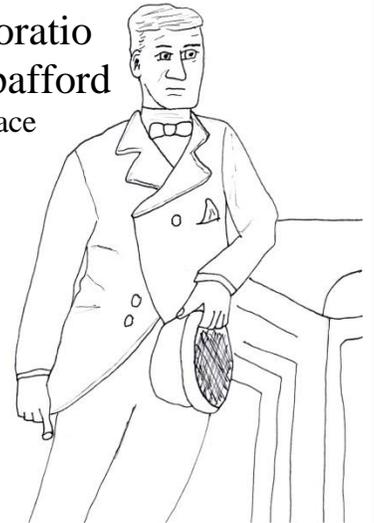


**Jim
Eliot**
Love

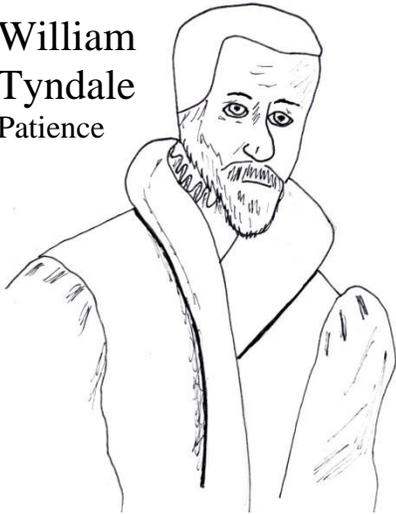
**Fanny
Crosby**
Joy



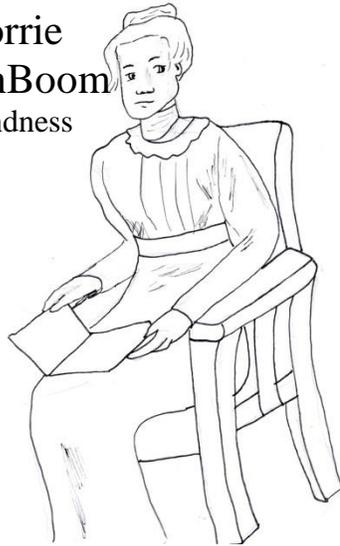
**Horatio
Spafford**
Peace



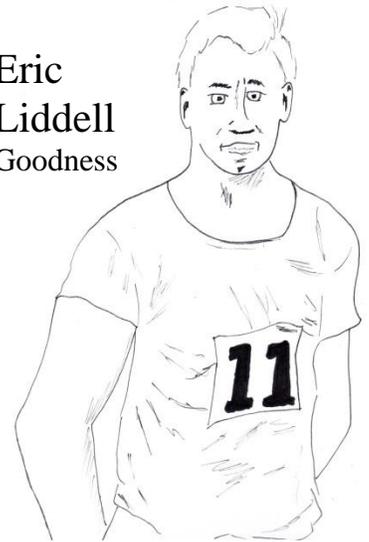
**William
Tyndale**
Patience



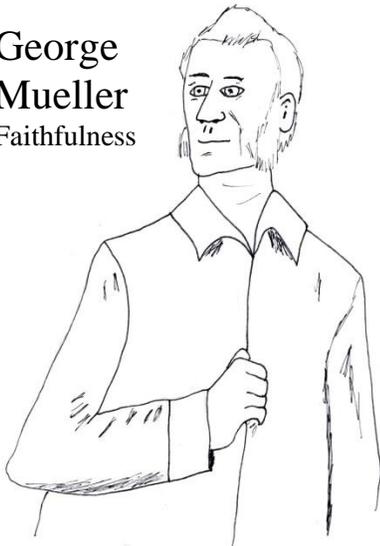
**Corrie
tenBoom**
Kindness



**Eric
Liddell**
Goodness



**George
Mueller**
Faithfulness



**Amy
Carmichael**
Gentleness



**Francis
of Assisi**
Self-Control



