

David Livingstone

Part 1

The Young Man in the Organ Loft

It was a winter night when Dr. Robert Moffat, a well-known missionary from Africa, arrived to preach a sermon in a small Scottish church.



GOOD EVENING, DR. MOFFAT! WE'RE SO HAPPY YOU COULD COME. EVERYBODY IS WAITING.



THE LADIES WILL BE THRILLED TO HEAR YOUR STORIES ABOUT AFRICA.



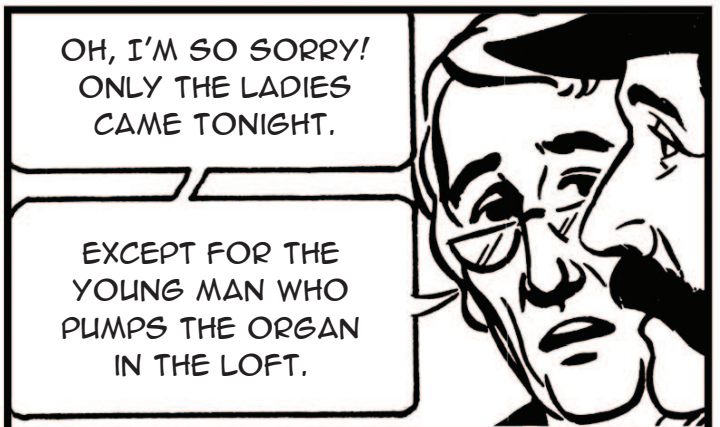
LADIES?

BUT, PASTOR, I'VE COME HERE TO APPEAL FOR MEN TO GO TO AFRICA AS MISSIONARIES!

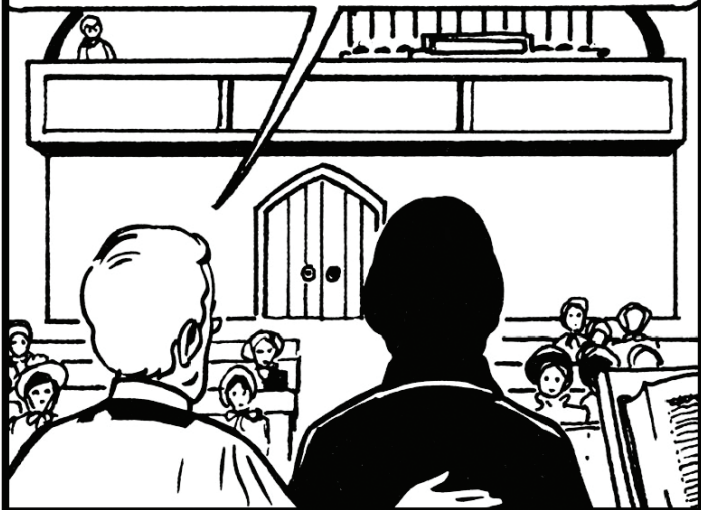


OH, I'M SO SORRY! ONLY THE LADIES CAME TONIGHT.

EXCEPT FOR THE YOUNG MAN WHO PUMPS THE ORGAN IN THE LOFT.



LADIES! I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE
YOU TO THE FAMOUS
DR. MOFFAT OF THE LONDON
MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

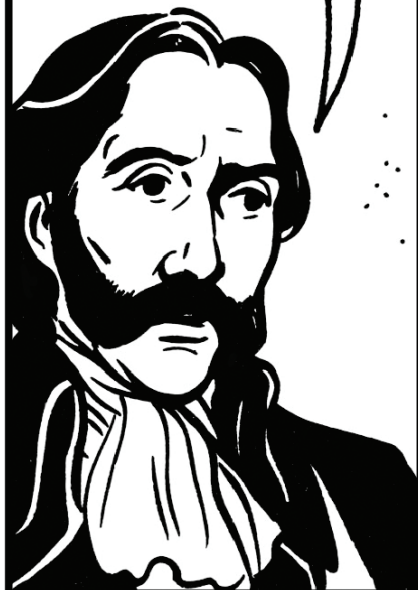


AHEM. PROVERBS 8:4 SAYS,
"TO YOU, O MEN, I CALL. AND
MY VOICE IS TO THE SONS OF
MEN" (NKJV).

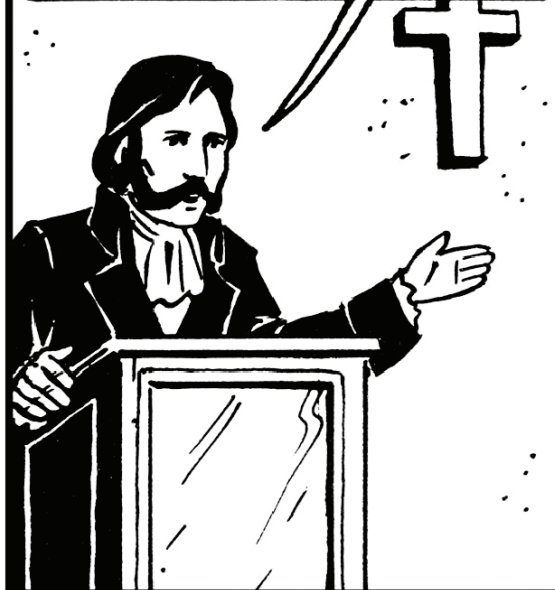


THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I
THINK I'LL CHANGE MY
SERMON TO SOMETHING
MORE SUITABLE.

MY FRIENDS, I HAVE
JUST RETURNED FROM
THE DARK CONTINENT
OF AFRICA.



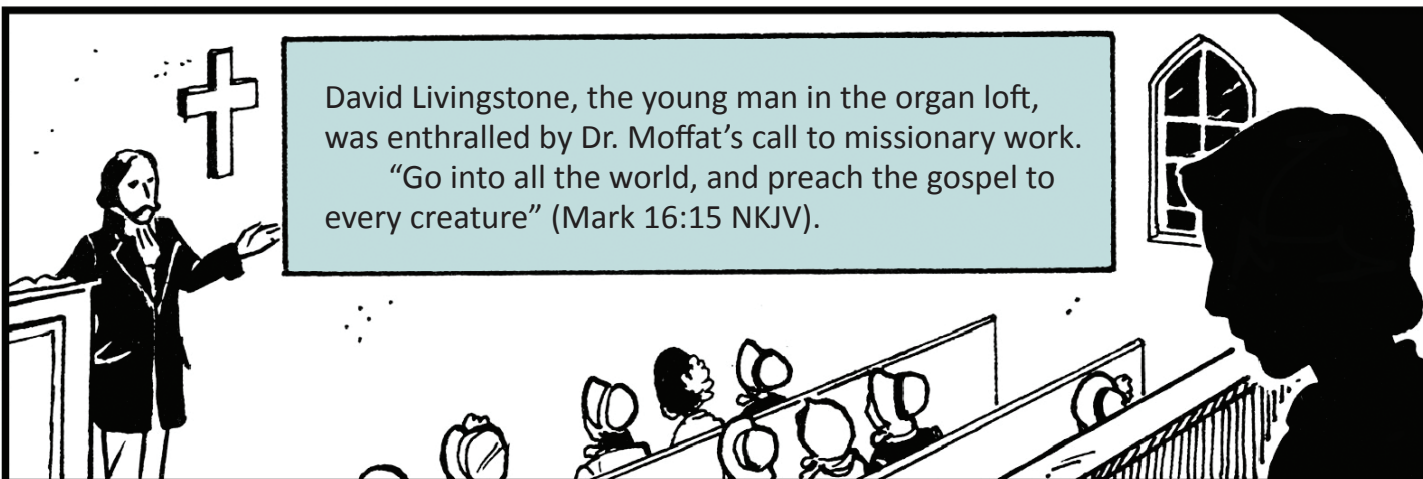
DARK BECAUSE MOST OF
IT HAS NEVER SEEN THE
LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL.



NO. FOR SOME
REASON I FEEL THAT
GOD WANTS ME TO
GIVE THE TALK THAT I
HAD PLANNED.



David Livingstone, the young man in the organ loft,
was enthralled by Dr. Moffat's call to missionary work.
"Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to
every creature" (Mark 16:15 NKJV).



David Livingstone's earlier life:

David Livingstone was born in the small Scottish village of Blantyre on March 19, 1813. Because his family was poor, when David was ten, he left school to work in a cotton mill.

DAVID, I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR THAT WE HAVE TO WORK FOURTEEN HOURS A DAY FOR SUCH POOR WAGES.



WELL, AT LEAST WE'RE NOT STARVING LIKE SOME BOYS, TOM.

DO YOU WANT TO WORK LIKE A SLAVE IN A COTTON MILL ALL YOUR LIFE, DAVID?



NO, I WANT TO GO STUDY AT A UNIVERSITY TO BE A LAWYER OR A DOCTOR.

HA! YOU'RE SUCH A DREAMER. HOW WILL YOU HAVE TIME TO STUDY WHILE WORKING IN THIS MILL?



WITH GOD'S HELP I WILL, TOM!



YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO UNTIL YOU TRY.



With his first week's wages, David Livingstone bought a schoolbook.

For many years he would finish work at eight o'clock and then go to evening school until ten.

THE RUDIMENTS OF LATIN. THAT WILL BE SIX PENCE.



He then continued his studies at home until midnight, or sometimes even later...



...until his mother would stop him.



David Livingstone's father and mother were good Christians and made sure that David's studies didn't stop him from being taught the Bible.

DAVID AND TOM, I THINK IT'S TIME THAT YOU BOYS CAME TO KNOW JESUS AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR.



YES, I'D LIKE TO RECEIVE JESUS AS MY SAVIOR.



DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON BOOKS AND RELIGION, DAVID!



IN FACT, I'D LIKE TO BECOME A PREACHER LIKE YOU, PASTOR!



THIS ISN'T FOR ME! I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY LIFE.

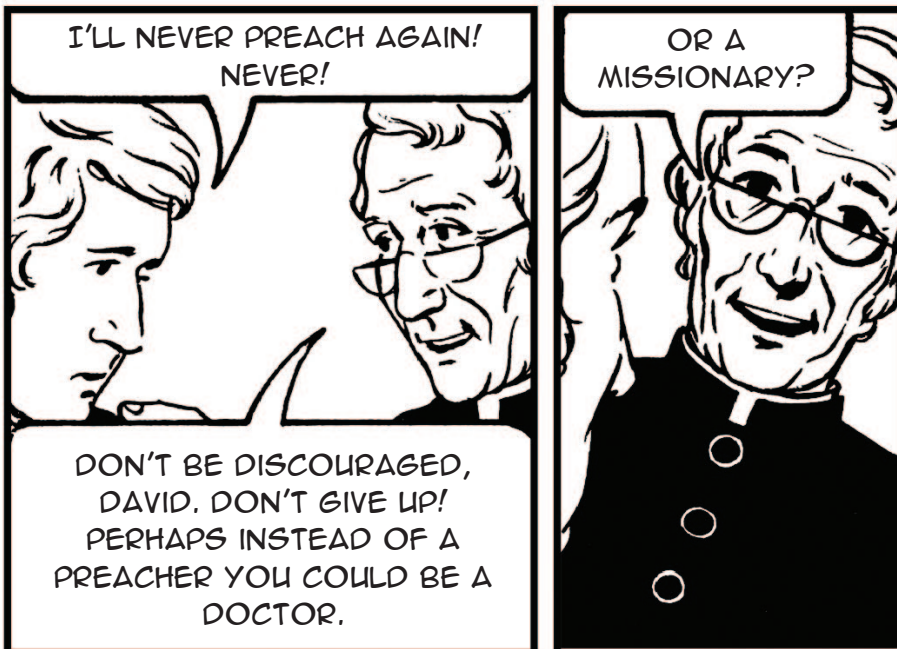


TOM!

YOU GO YOUR WAY, DAVID. I'LL GO MINE!



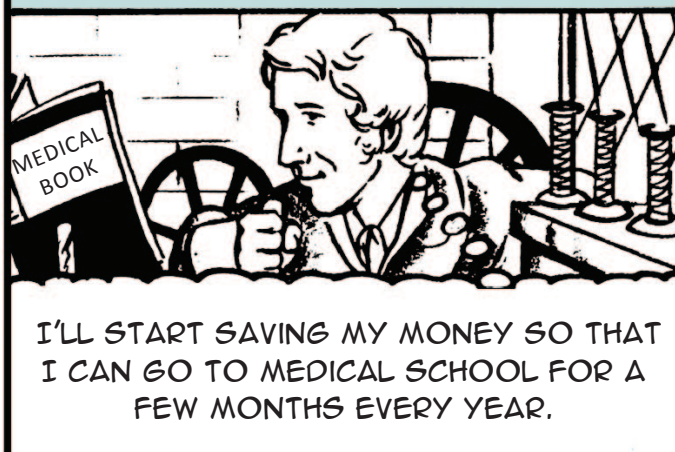
And so David Livingstone decided to become a preacher. But his first attempt ended in failure.



Livingstone then decided to devote his life to preaching the Gospel in foreign lands.

He began to study medicine to help him care for the sick in his missionary work.

At the age of twenty-seven, after working in the mill for seventeen years...



...Livingstone became a qualified doctor.



David Livingstone

Part 2

The Apostle of Africa

Dover, England, 1840.



MAY GOD BLESS YOU, DAVID! WE'LL BE PRAYING FOR YOU. HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY!

WATCH OUT FOR CANNIBALS, HEAD-HUNTERS, AND OTHER DANGERS.



FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, I BEG YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MIND AND STAY HERE IN ENGLAND.

THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS, FOR YOUR CONCERN. BUT HOW CAN I BE AFRAID WHEN JESUS' LAST WORDS IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW WERE...



...“I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD” (MATTHEW 28:20 KJV).



THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS THE WORD OF A GENTLEMAN. A PROMISE THAT HE CANNOT, AND WILL NOT, BREAK.

SO WHAT HAVE I TO FEAR? COME, LET US BE GOING.



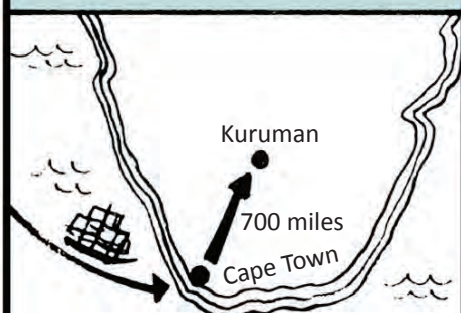
And so David Livingstone set sail.

After a voyage of three months, during which he spent much of his time talking to the sailors about God, Livingstone arrived in South Africa.



AT LAST, AFRICA! I CLAIM THIS LAND FOR YOU, JESUS.

Livingstone landed at Cape Town, and then traveled seven hundred miles by oxcart to a mission station at Kuruman run by Dr. Moffat.



At Kuruman, Livingstone spent his time preaching the Gospel, curing the sick, and studying the local languages.



Soon he felt God calling him to go further north into the country of the tribes that had never heard about Jesus.

FROM HERE ON, DAVID, YOU'RE ENTERING COUNTRY THAT IS COMPLETELY UNKNOWN TO WHITE MAN. IT IS INHABITED BY FIERCE AND SAVAGE TRIBES, LIKE THE MATABELE AND BAKWENA.

JOSHUA 1:3

GOD BE WITH YOU, DAVID. REMEMBER THAT HE HAS PROMISED YOU EVERY INCH OF GROUND THAT YOU SET FOOT ON.'

As Livingstone traveled, he faithfully made maps and records of everything he saw—the rocks, the hills, the trees, and the animals.

THANK YOU, JESUS,
FOR THE WONDERS OF
YOUR CREATION!

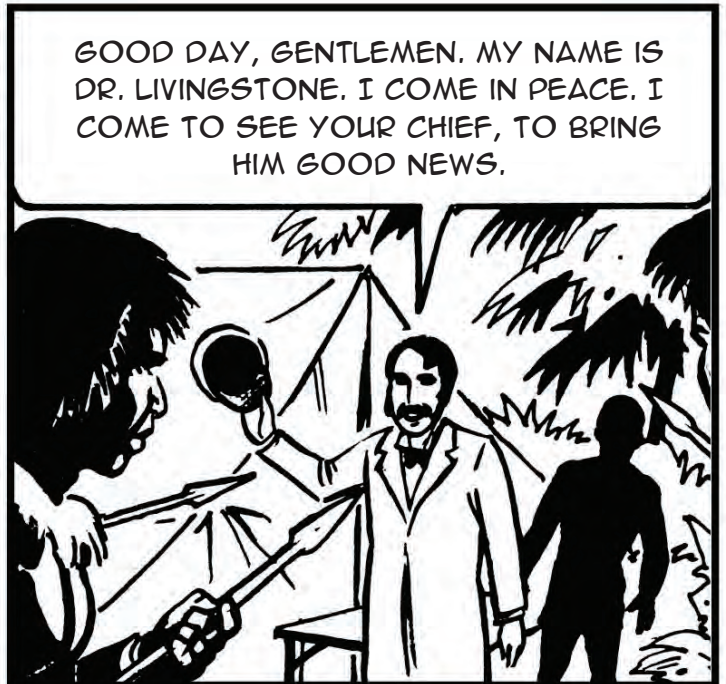
But suddenly.

AARRGH!

BAKWENA TRIBE! THEY
WILL KILL US!



HAVE FAITH, MY GOOD MAN. WE ARE GOD'S MESSENGERS, AND HIS ANGELS PROTECT US!²



GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN. MY NAME IS DR. LIVINGSTONE. I COME IN PEACE. I COME TO SEE YOUR CHIEF, TO BRING HIM GOOD NEWS.



THEY ARE SURPRISED, BWANA, THAT YOU SPEAK AFRICAN TONGUE.



COME!



Tumm...
Tum...
Tum!



At the Bakwena village of Mabotsa.



WHY IS HE LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

HE HAS NEVER SEEN A MAN WITH PALE SKIN.

I AM SECHELE, CHIEF
OF BAKWENA. ARE YOU
A GOD?



NO, BUT I AM SENT BY
GOD WITH A MESSAGE
FOR YOU AND YOUR
WHOLE TRIBE.



IT IS WRITTEN IN THIS
BOOK. I'LL READ IT TO
YOU.



A little later.

GOD HAS SENT ME TO TELL YOU THAT
HE LOVES YOU AND SENT HIS SON TO
DIE FOR YOU, SO THAT YOU AND YOUR
PEOPLE CAN GO TO HEAVEN!



WHAT HAPPEN IF MAN
DOESN'T BELIEVE THIS?



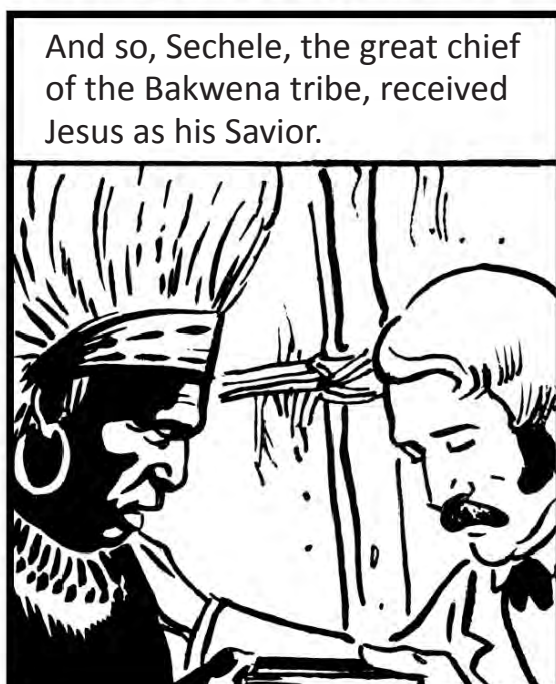
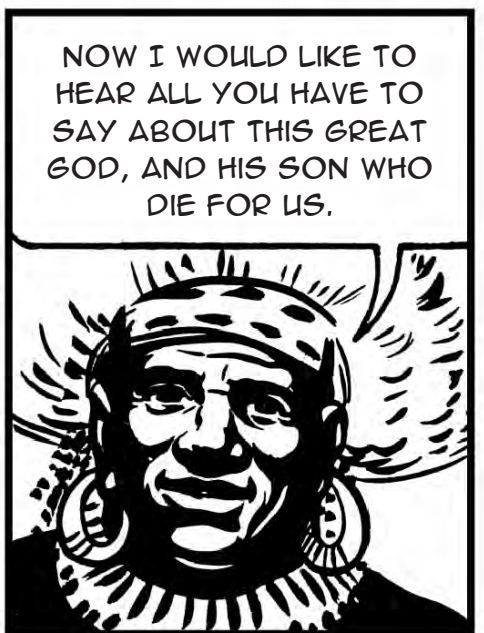
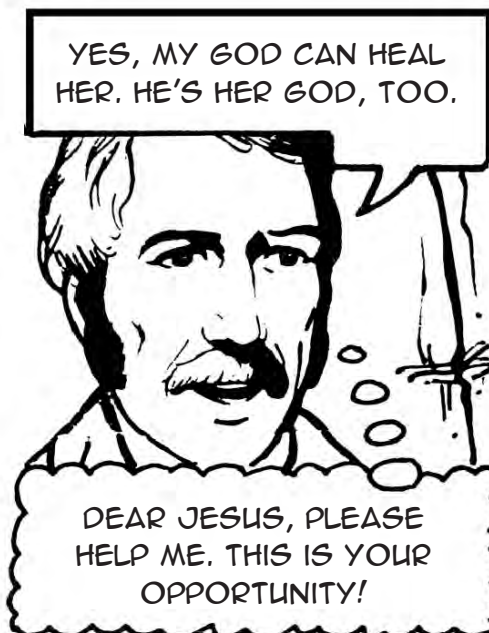
WHY, THEN HE DOES NOT GO
TO HEAVEN.

THEN WHY DID YOUR PEOPLE NOT
COME TO TELL US THIS STORY
BEFORE NOW? THIS IS NOT GOOD!



DEAR JESUS, IT'S GOING TO
TAKE MORE THAN WORDS TO GET
THROUGH TO THE CHIEF. IT'S GOING
TO TAKE A SAMPLE OF YOUR LOVE
AND POWER.





WHIPS? WHY WHIPS?



MY PEOPLE WILL DO NOTHING UNLESS I BEAT THEM.

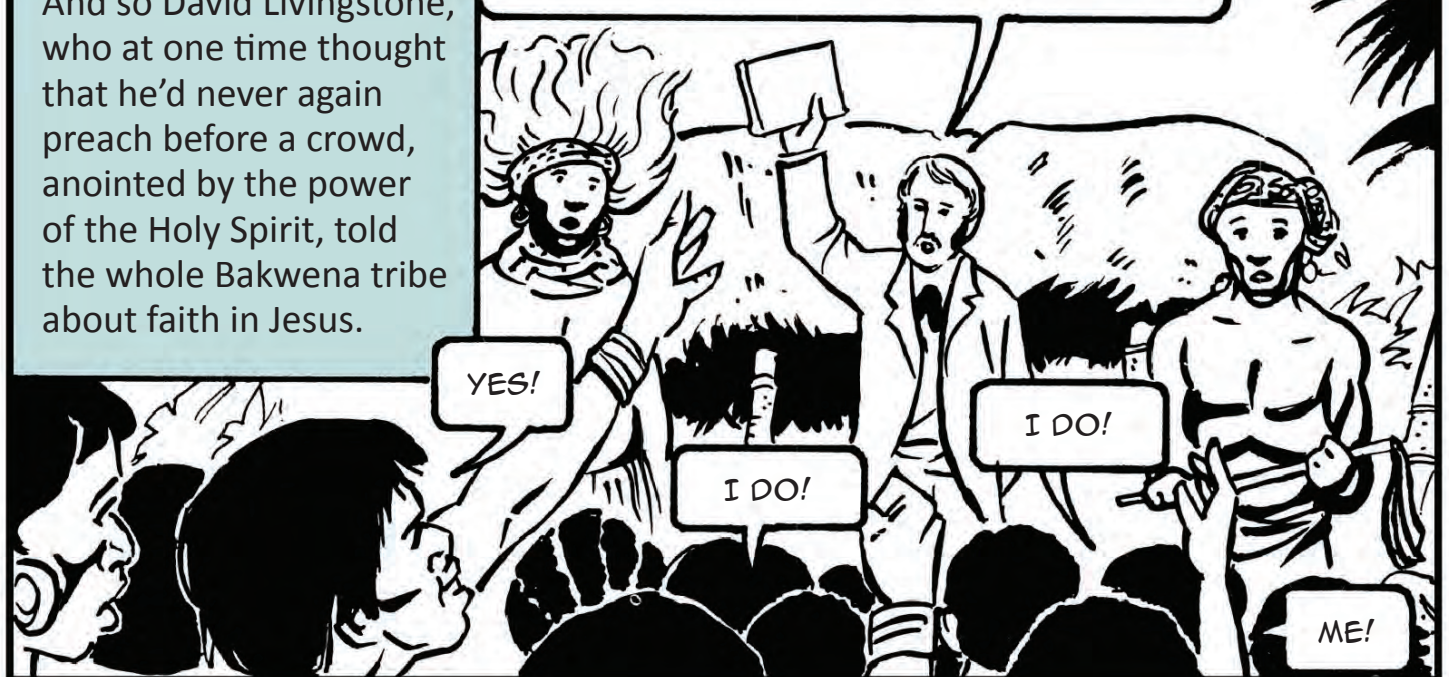


NO, SECHELE! THE GOSPEL OF PEACE IS NOT TO BE TAUGHT BY VIOLENCE. FIRST LET ME TALK TO THEM.



And so David Livingstone, who at one time thought that he'd never again preach before a crowd, anointed by the power of the Holy Spirit, told the whole Bakwena tribe about faith in Jesus.

WHO WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT JESUS?



WHAT A MIGHTY GOD THIS IS WHO HAS MADE MY PEOPLE INTERESTED ...



...AND WITHOUT THE USE OF WHIPS!

In 1842, David Livingstone started his first mission station at the Bakwena village of Mabotsa, far from all other white men, and surrounded by wild and savage tribes. Because Livingstone loved and cared for them, they too came to love and trust him.

During his thirty years as a missionary in Africa, Livingstone taught many thousands about Jesus.

After living at Mabotsa for two years, David Livingstone married Mary Moffat, the daughter of Dr. Moffat, the famous missionary who had first inspired him to go to Africa.

In 1847, they built a new mission station eighty miles north of Mabotsa at Kolobeng.



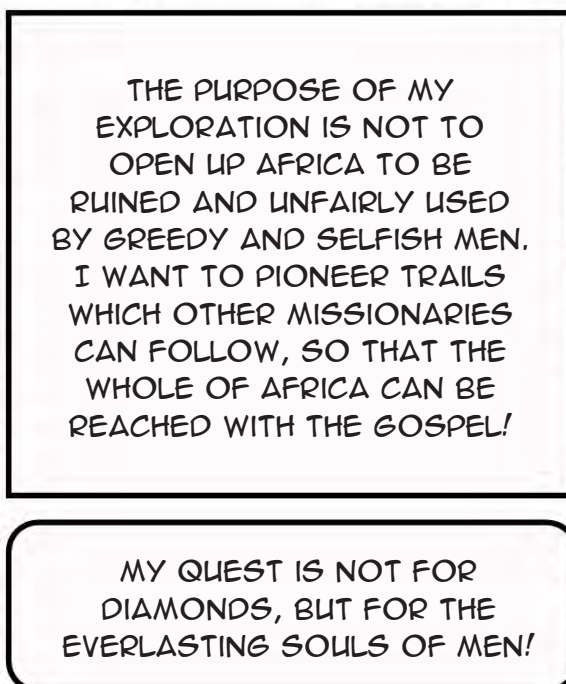
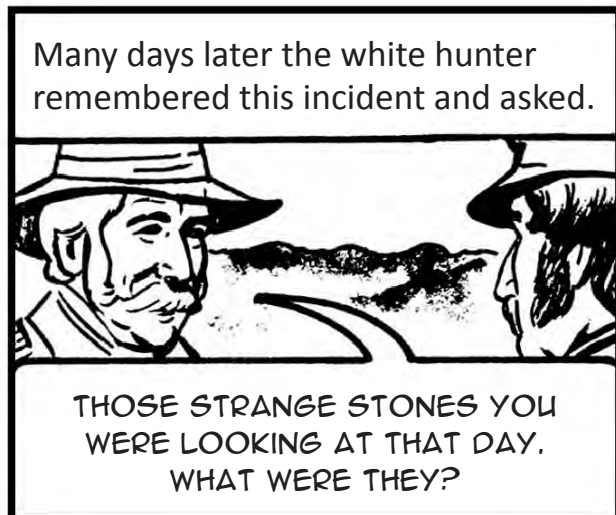
Livingstone and Mary had six children. Sometimes the children would travel with their father on his missionary journeys.



It was a happy marriage, for although there was a serious side to Livingstone's nature, he had a keen sense of humor and was always ready for what he called "merriment and play."



During his many travels, Livingstone never forgot that his chief reason for being in Africa was to spread the Gospel and make it possible for others to follow in his footsteps. He once summed up his feelings to a hunter who briefly traveled with him on his great west-to-east journey across Africa.



David Livingstone

Part 3

God's Explorer

In 1856, after spending sixteen years in the jungles of Africa, David Livingstone returned to England for a short visit. To his surprise, he was greeted as a national hero.

DR. LIVINGSTONE!
WELCOME HOME! HOW
DOES IT FEEL TO BE
THE MOST FAMOUS
MAN IN ENGLAND?

WELCOME HOME, LIVINGSTONE!

APOSTLE OF
AFRICA!

NO, PLEASE! A MAN MAY
BOAST WHEN HE IS PULLING
OFF HIS ARMOR, BUT I AM
JUST PUTTING MINE ON! ¹

¹ Explaining that he had only begun his battle to win Africa for Jesus, here David Livingstone refers to the king of Israel's comment in 1 Kings 20:11, "A warrior putting on his sword for battle should not boast like a warrior who has already won" (NLT).

I AM NOTHING BUT A
SERVANT OF GOD, WHO
HAS SIMPLY FOLLOWED
THE LEADINGS OF HIS
HAND.

Livingstone received many honors and awards from all over England.

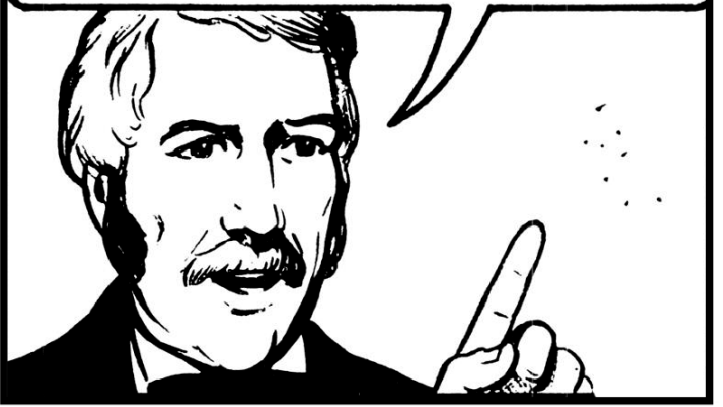
DR. LIVINGSTONE, THIS IS IN HONOR OF
YOUR GREAT WORK AS A MISSIONARY IN
AFRICA, AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREAT
SACRIFICE YOU HAVE MADE!

SACRIFICE? HA!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I NEVER MADE A SACRIFICE! NO MATTER HOW MUCH I GAVE UP, GOD ALWAYS GAVE ME BACK MUCH MORE.



CAN THAT BE CALLED A SACRIFICE WHICH IS SIMPLY A SMALL PART PAID BACK OF THE GREAT DEBT THAT WE OWE TO GOD, WHICH WE CAN NEVER REPAY?



SACRIFICE? IT IS NO SACRIFICE! RATHER IT IS A PRIVILEGE!



WORRY, SICKNESS, HARDSHIPS, OR DANGER MAY SOMETIMES CAUSE OUR SPIRITS TO WAVER AND SINK; BUT LET THIS BE ONLY FOR A MOMENT! BECAUSE ALL THESE ARE NOTHING WHEN COMPARED TO THE GLORY WHICH SHALL HEREAFTER BE REVEALED IN US, AND FOR US!¹²

(¹² ROMANS 8:18)



SACRIFICE? OF SUCH A WORD WE OUGHT NOT TO TALK WHEN WE REMEMBER THE GREAT SACRIFICE THAT JESUS MADE WHEN HE LEFT HIS FATHER'S THRONE ON HIGH, TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR US!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I NEVER MADE A SACRIFICE!



Livingstone's speeches and writings while in England inspired many other missionaries to go to mission fields.

In 1858, Livingstone returned to Africa, where he spent much of the next eleven years preaching the Gospel and exploring. By 1871, no one in England had heard any news from him for four years.

HE PROBABLY DIED OF MALARIA.

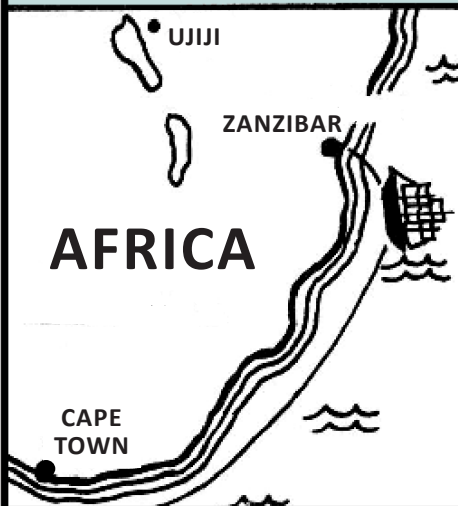


OR WAS KILLED BY WILD SAVAGES.



In order to find out what had happened to him, a Welsh reporter named Henry Morton Stanley was sent to Africa by an American newspaper.

Stanley started his search from Zanzibar on Africa's east coast.



MAY THE LORD GO WITH YOU, STANLEY.



WELL, THANK YOU. BUT I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN LIKE DR. LIVINGSTONE.

After many months, Stanley heard stories from local Africans of an old European man lying sick at Ujiji.



Stanley at last reached Livingstone.



He saw the white face of an old man among the natives. The man had on an old cap with a gold band around it, and a short jacket of red blanket cloth.

Stanley greeted Livingstone.



DR. LIVINGSTONE, I PRESUME?

YES.

A historically famous meeting on the African continent.

Stanley stayed four months.

MEET MY TWO MOST FAITHFUL SERVANTS, SUSI AND CHUMAH.



HOW DOES HE MANAGE TO LIVE HERE? IS HE CRAZY?

I have found myself wondering at this solitary old man who carries out everything that is said in the Bible, "Leave all things and follow Me." I marvel at his love, his gentleness, his enthusiasm, and good humor, the earnestness with which he goes about his business. I must admit that his love and compassion are becoming quite contagious.

Then one night.



SIR, WHEN I CAME TO AFRICA I WAS AN ATHEIST.

BUT SEEING THE WAY YOU LIVE HAS CHANGED ME.



GO BACK?

I WILL GO ANYWHERE—PROVIDED IT BE FORWARD!



The time came for Stanley to return to England.



FOR YOUR HEALTH'S SAKE, SIR, I BEG YOU TO COME BACK WITH ME!

A few years later Stanley returned to explore more of Africa.

Two days after Stanley left, Livingstone wrote:

March 19, my birthday! My Jesus, my King, my life, my all! I again dedicate my whole self to Thee! Accept me, and grant, O gracious Father, that before this year is gone that I may finish my work for Thee! In Jesus' name I ask it, amen.



It was just one year later that Livingstone went home to be with the Jesus.

During that last year Livingstone made one more journey, though he was a sick man and in constant pain, often not able to sit up. But he pushed on.

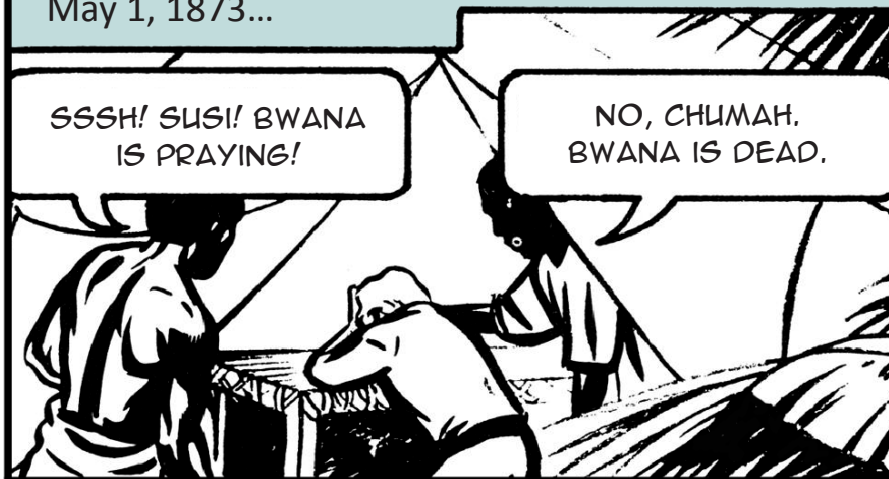
WE PRAISE THEE,
O GOD!



He finally reached Old Chitambo, where on May 1, 1873...

SSSH! SUSI! BWANA
IS PRAYING!

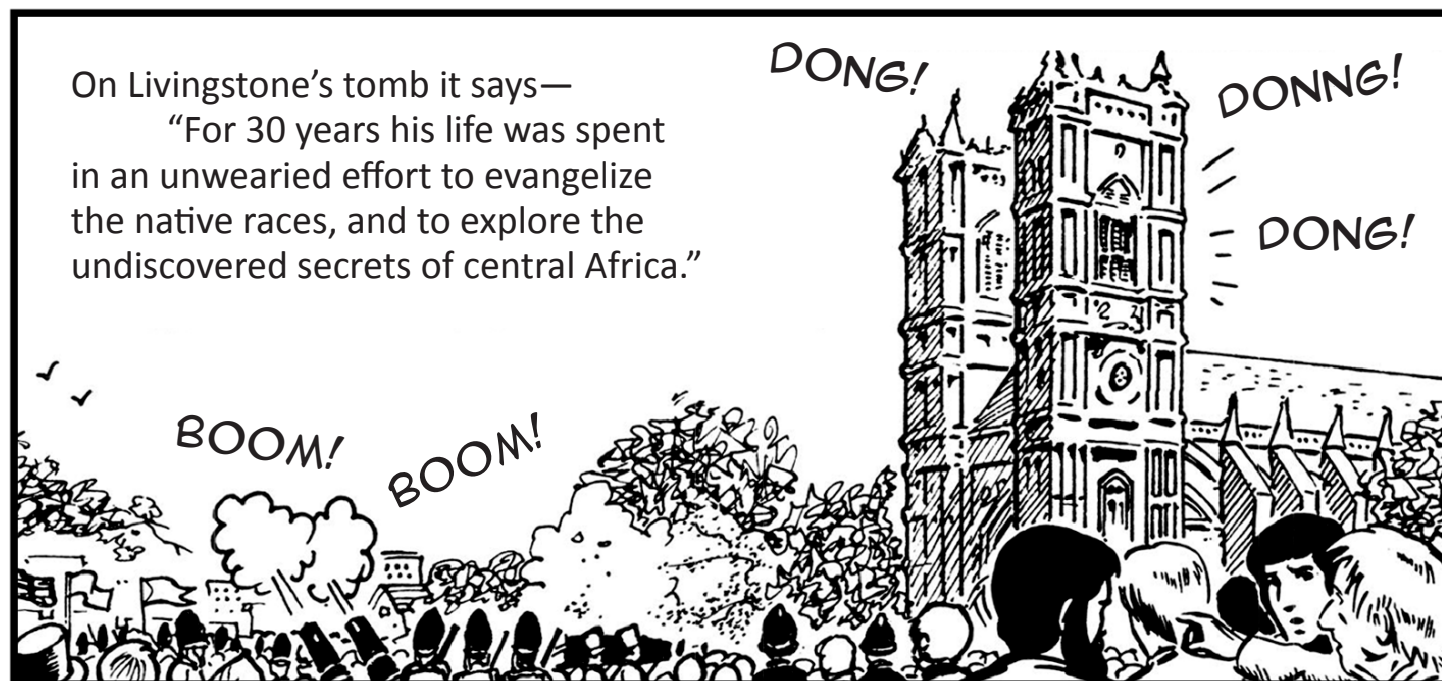
NO, CHUMAH.
BWANA IS DEAD.



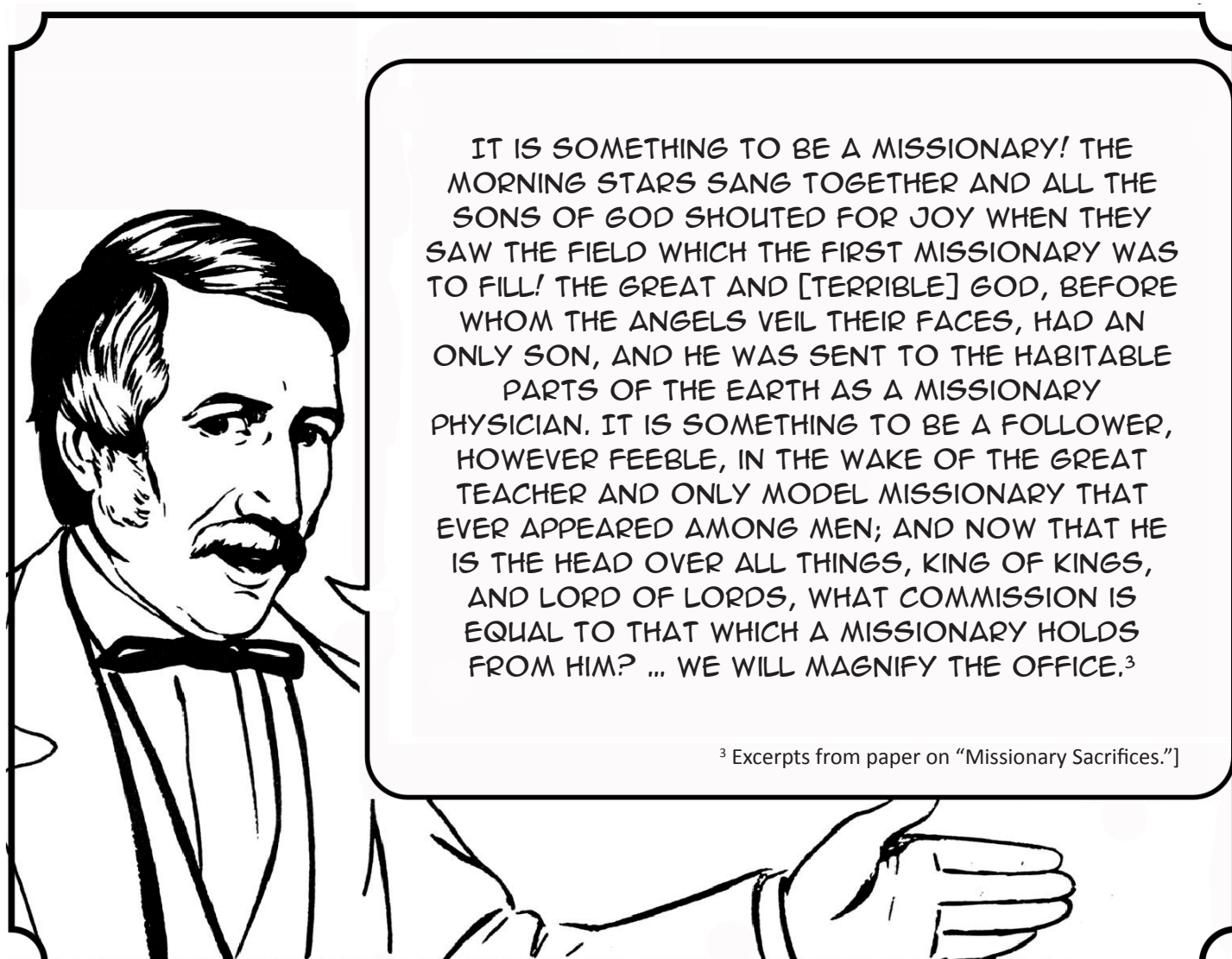
God took Livingstone while he was kneeling in prayer.

With great risk to their lives because of local superstitions about death, his two faithful servants, Susi and Chumah, embalmed his body and carried it, along with his diaries and medical supplies, 1,500 miles to the sea. From there his body was taken to England by ship.

And so, David Livingstone, one of the greatest men of the 19th century, was buried in the famous London church, Westminster Abbey. His funeral was one of the greatest that London had ever seen.



Most important of all are the thousands of people he taught about Jesus, and the many people he inspired in future generations to spend their lives as missionaries on the field.



Before David Livingstone, the whole of Central Africa north of Kuruman was unexplored. During his 30 years in Africa, Livingstone traveled 29,000 miles (46,671 kilometers), and mapped 1,000,000 miles (1,609,344 kilometers) of the African continent. He discovered six lakes and many great rivers, including one of the largest waterfalls in the world, Victoria Falls. He was also the first European to cross Africa from coast to coast.

