



## Mary Slessor Missionary to Africa

Twenty-nine-year-old Mary Slessor was a young Scottish woman who had worked long hours in the factories of her homeland when she landed in Duke Town, Africa, as a missionary. The Duke Town mission had spread the word of God up and down the coastal areas, but no missionary had ventured inland successfully. As soon as Mary learned the languages, she traveled farther and farther from the mission and found the need greater every step she went. At night she would pray, "Oh Lord, I thank Thee that I can bring these people Thy Word. But Lord, there are other villages back in the jungle where no white man has gone. They need Jesus, too. Help me reach them!" She was given her own outstation at Old Town, and her first view coming up the river was of skulls above the doors of the huts. Mary was successful in teaching these people the Gospel of Jesus, but she was burdened to reach the remote and dangerous Okoyong tribe. The Okoyong were far more wicked than anything Mary had seen: they respected only vengeance and cruelty, but she made slow and steady progress with them and did what no soldier, trader, or diplomat had been able to do: open the region up to the outside world and change their hearts with the Gospel of Christ. Known as the "White Queen of the Okoyong," Mary traveled further inland and brought the gospel to the cannibal Azo tribe. Now in old age, Mary prayed that the Lord would give her strength to finish the work she had begun with the cannibals. Mary went to be with her Lord in January 1915 and left behind her an Africa changed by the Gospel of Christ.





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