

Mood management talk

Robert Raikes was concerned about the effect that the Industrial Revolution had upon children, especially boys. He became enraged by their treatment, because he saw that because of a six-out-of-seven day working week, they had no means of moral, religious or educational development.

He thought that a day-long school session held on Sundays and using the Bible as the textbook would teach the boys how to read and introduce them to Christianity. Good students would then have the educational skills – like reading and writing - to help them out of the grind of poverty as well as equipping them with good morals and biblical knowledge.

The children were to come after ten in the morning, and stay till twelve; they were then to go home and return at one; and after reading a lesson, they were to be conducted to Church.

In 1780 he started a Sunday school in his own parish of St Mary de Crypt, hearing the children's reading and awarding prizes.

The idea spread. **By 1786, 200,000 children were said to be involved.**

It is thought that Raikes' idea was the beginning of the modern State education system.

He died in 1811.

Mother Teresa took her vows as a nun in 1931, and began teaching history and geography in Calcutta at St. Mary's, a high school for the daughters of the wealthy. She remained there for 15 years and enjoyed the work, but was distressed by the poverty she saw all around her.

In 1946, Teresa traveled to Darjeeling for a retreat. It was on that journey that she realized what her true calling was: "I heard the call to give up all and follow Christ into the slums to serve him among the poorest of the poor."

In 1948, Teresa set aside her nun's habit – adopting instead the simple sari and sandals worn by the women she would be living among – and moved to a small rented hovel in the slums to begin her work.

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One of her first projects was to teach the children of the poor – drawing on her experience with teaching the children of the rich. She didn't have any equipment or supplies this time, but she taught them to read and write by writing in the dirt with sticks.

In addition to promoting literacy, Teresa taught the children basic hygiene. She visited their families, inquiring about their needs and helping provide for them when she could.

Word began to spread about Teresa's good works, and soon she had other volunteers wanting to help. By 1950, she was able to start the Mission of Charity – a congregation dedicated to caring for “the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone.”

She went on to open a hospice for the poor, a home for sufferers of leprosy, and a home for orphans and homeless youths.

She died in 1997.

Micah 6:8 And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God

Matthew 21:13 My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.