



## David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer

*Janet Benge, Geoff Benge*

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## **David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer Janet Benge , Geoff Benge**

"Each true story in this series by outstanding authors Janet and Geoff Benge is loved by adults and children alike. More Christian Heroes: Then & Now biographies and unit study curriculum guides are coming soon. Fifty-five books are planned, and thousands of families have started their collections Braving danger and hardship, David Livingstone crisscrossed vast uncharted regions of Africa to open new frontiers and spread the message of the gospel to all who would listen (1813-1873).

## **David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer Details**

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## **From Reader Review David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer for online ebook**

### **Indie says**

I love how he saved people and went on adventures!

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### **Bonnie says**

The book was fine, but I didn't have a very good feeling about David Livingstone by the time I finished it. He seemed to have very little concern for his family, leaving them for months at a time, or putting them in dangerous situations over and over again. At one point he promised his wife he would meet her in Scotland in 2 years, 4-1/2 years later he realized how long ago he had made his promise and finally made the trip home. I understand his compulsion to share the Gospel with the African people, but doesn't your family count for something too? His children hardly knew him. He wasn't around enough to do his job as their father!

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### **Hank Pharis says**

Yet another incredible hero of faith. I find men like Livingston and Cam Townsend and Bruce Olson to be as great of innovators as Bill Gates or Steve Jobs. Except of course that by God's grace their accomplishments will have eternal benefits rather than just temporal ones.

(Note: I'm stingy with stars. For me 2 stars means a good book. 3 = Very good; 4 = Outstanding {only about 5% of the books I read merit this}; 5 = All time favorites {one of these may come along every 400-500 books})

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### **Rlouiseg says**

This book is well written and easy to read. The story of David's life is quite an amazing one. I really felt for his family though who hardly saw him.

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### **Lea Peters says**

#### **Faith and sacrifice.**

We have been reading the series Christian Heroes Then and Now for some time as a family -and we have enjoyed every one we have read. This account of David Livingstone (a personal favorite) did not disappoint. We highly recommend this account of faith and sacrifice for The call of God.

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**Jacky says**

David Livingstone was a great missionary that many people including i liked for what he did in africia.

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**Tim says**

Any look at the life of this extraordinary man is compelling. Written with an evangelical audience in mind, this biography is simple and speaks primarily to Livingstone the "missionary". He was a very complex man that paid the ultimate price to live out his dream. We need to be able to accept the flaws found in such men and still appreciate the servant of God that he was. A very good light read. Recommend.

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**Katheryn says**

This was a great biography of David Livingstone. I had no idea that he was the first white man to see and name Victoria Falls in Africa. I think I learned as much geography about Africa as I did about his life. Fascinating life and story of a neat man who risked his life to take the gospel to every unchartered territory in Africa. It was appropriate for my daughters to read. We read it out loud as a family and could not wait until it was time to read together again.

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**Wes Smith says**

I didn't know much of David Livingston's story. He is an amazing picture of what it means to be a pioneer for the gospel. He is a picture of endurance, courage, and boldness. Amazing that so much of what he did he was not only the first missionary but the first white man to see that part of Africa.

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**Treasure Bermudez says**

I really liked this book. It was sad when he died though.

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**Terry says****Very Readable Story of a Driven By a Desire to Bring the Gospel Message to Africa**

From very humble beginnings you are immersed in the story of a man who felt driven to share the gospel message as a missionary to Africa. It's hard to stop reading once you get into the story of David Livingston.

He possessed an indefatigable spirit once he made his mind up to accomplish something. A spirit which, as

you will see, is both a blessing and a curse. A spirit which led him to courageously brave the dangers of Africa when no other man would.

Easily readable, it is an inspiring story of courage, blessings and tragedy. Yet none of this stopped David from his intended goals of opening up Africa to the native tribes of a continent that even then was being exploited by Europeans.

You will learn about the Boers, the African culture, the dangers of missionary work and the life of a man who did what no others would to the day of his death. Left me both amazed and a bit humbled at the courage of a man who did what no others would do rising from conditions of humility and poverty to a level of deserved but unintended (and even unwelcome) respect.

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### **Heather says**

I knew close to nothing about David Livingstone before reading this. I learned a lot about Africa during the 1800s, including the Boers, slavery, and mission work.

I admire many things about Livingstone (drive to end slavery, passion for sharing the Gospel with the natives, ability to learn local languages, adventurous spirit, not complaining about hardships). However, I do not admire his lack of involvement with his wife and children. His life's work was suited for a bachelor. I sympathized with his wife and neglected children multiple times. He was away from his wife for 4 years, twice!

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### **Victoria Goodbrand says**

Wasn't the best. I was really annoyed that David was so estranged from his kids and wife.  
2.5 stars.

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### **David says**

I enjoyed this dramatic account of David Livingstone's life. What it missed largely was his ministry - it leaves me wondering what it was. I will be doing further research to fill in those blanks, whether through another biography or online investigation.

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### **Heather says**

I was disturbed at how little this Christian book about a Christian man spoke of God's work in his life. It is well-written and it is interesting, but it is missing the most important things. If you were to believe this book, David Livingstone accomplished what he did largely because of his own personal qualities. Very little talk about answers to prayer. Almost nothing about his own dependence on God. Nothing about his conversion. Nothing about his own struggles with sin. He is a "hero" and the focus is on him, not on what God did

through him. How different is this from what Hudson Taylor said: "all God's giants have been weak men who counted on God being with them."

I imagine the authors didn't want the book to be preachy, however, it could easily have given praise to God without being preachy. But I would argue more than this, I would argue we need books a little preachy when it comes to the fact that exploits for God are not done in our strength but in His strength. If we teach our children that those who have done the most for the kingdom did it because of their own personal determination and perseverance, they may decide they could never measure up and never even try to be a missionary. Could it be that such books as this one which presumably extol missions are actually killing missions? Certainly fewer and fewer people are going to the mission field. Is it because of the missionary biographies we have been giving them as children? What would happen if we gave them biographies filled with the weaknesses of men and the shortcomings of men (Much like how the Bible presents men) and the greatness of God who used them in spite of themselves? Would we then see more young people willing to venture wholly on such a God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, to venture even to the furthest corners of the earth?

I speak as one who has gone to some of the furthest corners of the earth and whose courage didn't come from any personal qualities, on the contrary, all I saw in myself were reasons to stay home, my courage came from what I knew God could do and from what I had seen him do in the lives of the missionaries I have read about. Our children need the same stories, stories that emphasize God's grace and power, even if it becomes a little preachy at times, because only there will they get the courage to go themselves.

I went through the book, looking for references to reliance on self and missed opportunities to give God the credit. Here's what I found:

"Other people might drop out, David thought to himself as he read, but not me."

"Captain Donaldsen's stubborn determination kept the ship afloat."

"Then, to David surprise, clarity suddenly came to his mind."

"In an instant, a plan flashed through David's mind."

"So David's threat to tell people in Europe what the Boers were up to changed the Boers minds about attacking and won the day."

"He had done it. He had made the 2000 mile journey..."

The references to God and answers to prayer were few and far between and generally anemic. The best reference was of David opening to Psalm 121 and reading the verse about "my help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth"

I would encourage parents to screen the books they give their children for these things. Don't just assume that because it claims to be a Christian book that it has a Christian message. Many parents are careful to ensure that the books their children read don't have the bad things as defined by Hollywood, bad words, innuendos, graphic violence, but there are a host of things that are bad for our children that Hollywood knows nothing about. Self-reliance and self-righteousness are far more dangerous and have, I fear, undermined far more gospel teaching than Hollywood-ratings-based immorality.

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