



Mission – Aniwa Island

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmvmWlfvC8>

Questions:

Part 1:

Recall questions:

- 1) What is the name of the missionary? John Paton
- 2) Where is he from? Scotland
- 3) Where is the missionary going to share the Gospel about Jesus? Aniwa Island

True or false questions:

- 1) The island was a bad place to live in because the people were mean to the missionary. FALSE (There was no clean water on the island.)
- 2) The missionary wanted to help the people find clean water to drink. TRUE
- 3) The people got their drinking water from the ocean. FALSE (The people got water to drink from dirty ponds and swamps after it rained, and from coconuts. They drank coconut milk.)

Bible question:

The story mentions the Bible verse 1John 3:18: **“My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love. And we should show that love by what we do.”** How did the missionary apply this Bible verse in his life in the island?

John loved the people and wanted to give them what they needed. His mission was to teach the people about the Bible, and that Jesus loved them and died for their sins. He also would show them he loved them by helping them find clean water.

Part 2:

Recall questions:

- 1) How would John find clean water? He decided to dig a well by digging a hole in the earth.



- 2) What did the people think about the idea of John digging a hole in the earth? The people never heard of such a thing. They thought that it was a crazy idea.

True or False questions:

- 1) John was not able to dig the well because the people thought it was a crazy idea. FALSE (John went ahead to dig.)
- 2) John knew how to dig a well. TRUE
- 3) On this island, people had built wells before. FALSE (They had never seen a well.)
- 4) In Jesus' life, people insulted Jesus even after He performed miracles. TRUE

Bible question:

What is the Good News about Jesus?

Jesus did not let people who made fun of Him stop Him from helping us. Jesus died for other people's sins. He died for our sins, too.

Part 3:

Recall questions:

- 1) What did John do to get help with digging? John asked people to help. He also had a creative idea. He gave one fishhook for every three buckets they dug.
- 2) Something happened that made people not want to help dig anymore. What happened? One morning, most of the dirt went back to the hole. They had to start all over again.
- 3) How did the natives feel about this incident? The natives were frightened.

True or false questions:

- 1) Later, the well collapsed. TRUE
- 2) The natives helped John build the well after it collapsed. FALSE (The natives were frightened. They left John to work by himself.)
- 3) John gave up building the well. FALSE (John built the well again. He felt that the things happening in his life at this moment were trials of his faith in God.)



STORIES ABOUT MISSIONARIES

Bible question:

John decided to keep digging. With God's help, John was building endurance. John listened to the Bible verses, James 1:2-4: **“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”** How can you be like John when you experience something difficult?

With God's help, you too can build endurance. Never give up.

Part 4:

Recall questions:

- 1) Why did John not give up digging? John knew that the people needed clean water.
- 2) What did John believe he could share about God if he continued to dig? John believed that if God would give the people clean water, they would believe and follow Jesus.

True or false questions:

- 1) After John dug 30 feet deep, the chief of the people felt that rain would come from the ground. FALSE (The chief did not believe that rain water would come from the ground.)
- 2) When John dug 32 feet deep, water came out and filled the hole. TRUE
- 3) The chief tasted the water and said that it was just like rain water. TRUE

Bible questions:

- 1) The chief asked John how he got to make the water come out from the ground. What did John say?
John said that God gave the water in answer to labor and prayer.
- 2) Titus 3:14 says that **“Our people must learn to use their lives for doing good deeds. They should do good to those in need then our people will not have useless lives.”** How did John live this Bible verse in his life?
John worked as hard as he prayed. It is good to know that with God's help



we can have a useful life with good deeds to help others know how wonderful Jesus is.

Part 5:

Bible questions:

- 1) How did the chief of the people respond to the miracle of having rain water come out from the ground?

Because God gave rain from the earth, the chief was ready to give up his idols and believe in Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. The chief and other people brought their idols to be burned.

- 2) John 4:13-14 says that “. . . **Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.**” What two kinds of water did the people receive?

The people had fresh water from the well. Even better, they had the Living Water that Jesus gives to everyone who believes in Him. The Good News is if you turn from your sins and invite Jesus into your heart and your life as your Lord and Saviour, then you too will receive His Living Water.

About the missionary: JOHN PATON

John G. Paton, to Cannibals on Pacific Islands

by Thomas John Bach



Less than one hundred years ago [written in early 1950s], the islands of the New Hebrides were occupied by cannibals. The Christian Church was stirred by reports, on the one hand, of the shedding of martyr's blood, and, on the other, of the work of the grace of God in the hearts of these savages. For instance, John



Williams was murdered on November 30, 1839. Only a few years later, one of the murderer's sons was building a church and the other was preaching the gospel.

May 24, 1824, in a humble, straw-thatched cottage near Dumfries in South Scotland, a child was born. He was called John Gibson Paton. About fifty years later, Charles H. Spurgeon introduced him to the audience of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London as the "king of the savages."

The parents had little of earthly belongings. John was brought up in a deeply religious home, with a profound reverence for the Word of God. From that humble home came three ministers of the gospel. John in his youth accepted Christ as his personal Saviour. He attended the parish school and learned stocking-making, the trade of his father. Out of his small earnings he saved enough to attend the Dumfries Academy for a short period.

As a young man, John Paton enjoyed the highest reputation for his loyalty to Christ, his noble efforts to secure an education, and his devotion to his parents. The West Campbell Street Reformed Church in Glasgow appointed him district visitor and tract distributor. At that time he also attended the Free Church Normal Seminary. He married a spiritual young lady, and together they offered their lives to the Reformed Church of Scotland for missionary work among the cannibals on the island of Tanna in the New Hebrides, not far from the island of Eromanga.

On April 16, 1858, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Paton sailed from Scotland. They landed on the island of Tanna on November 5, 1858. On March 3 of the following year, Mrs. Paton died. The task of learning the language and gaining the confidence of the people of Tanna Island required much patience and God-given wisdom.

After living on that island for almost four years, the missionary was driven out by the natives, who hated the Christian teaching. He went to Australia and back to Scotland for a visit. There he married Margaret Whitcross. His society appointed the Patons to settle on the island of Aniwa, only a short distance from Tanna.



A Well of Water

At that time, drinking water was extremely scarce. When the missionary began to dig a well, the heathen became frightened. They could not understand that water could be found by digging down. Had he not struck water, his missionary efforts on Aniwa might have ended as they did on the island of Tanna. But, after going down thirty feet, he found an abundant vein of good water. From that day, the great opposition to his missionary work disappeared. The first one to accept Christ as Saviour on the island of Aniwa was the chief, Mamokei. The first communion service was held there on October 24, 1869. Twelve converted cannibals took part in the Lord's Supper.

In 1884, John G. Paton was again in Britain. His principal purpose was to present to the Christians at home a picture of the transforming power of the grace of God among the people of the New Hebrides and to raise money for a larger ship to sail among the islands.

Work on the island of Aniwa progressed rapidly. Churches and schools were established, and the native Christians themselves became messengers of the gospel.

John G. Paton was unusually effective in his deputation work, both in England and Scotland and in America. His presentation was a vivid description of his mission field. He was both scriptural and spiritual in his appeal and never failed to recognize with gratitude those who helped him in his missionary work.

Through his lectures and his autobiography (written at the insistence of his brother James), he was able to turn many Christians from indifference toward missions to both interest and faith in the power of the gospel to transform even the worst of the heathen.

When he was seventy-nine years of age, he and his wife returned to his beloved Aniwa for about a year. Because of failing health, they had to return to Australia. There she died in 1905, and there he died on January 28, 1907, at the age of eighty-three.



STORIES ABOUT MISSIONARIES

The continuation of his missionary work was placed in the hands of the "John G. Paton Missionary Fund."

From *Pioneer Missionaries for Christ and His Church* by Thomas John Bach.
Wheaton, Ill.: Van Kampen Press, ©1955.

Source: <https://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/biopaton14.html>



Mission – Japan

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyJN6iVjfx8>

Questions:

Part 1:

Recall questions:

- 1) How many names did the boy have? He had three names.
- 2) What was his first name? Neesima
- 3) Where is he from? Japan

True or false questions:

- 1) The boy was the prince's son. FALSE (The boy was born in a prince's palace but he was not a prince's son.)
- 2) The boy was greatly interested in America and other foreign lands. TRUE
- 3) As a young boy, he did not know yet what he wanted to be when he grew up. FALSE (At a young age, he knew that he wanted to be a scholar.)

Bible question:

“The path of those who live right is like the early morning light. It gets brighter and brighter until the full light of day. But the path of the wicked is like a dark night. They trip and fall over what they cannot see . . . Don't bend the truth or say things that you know are not right. Keep your eyes on the path, and look straight ahead. Make sure you are going the right way, and nothing will make you fall. Don't go to the right or to the left, and you will stay away from evil.”

Proverbs 4:18-19, 24-27

Neesima wanted to be a scholar. To be a scholar, one must be well-educated and wise. To be wise, one must understand many things and be able to do those things correctly. God's Word is the best place to get direction and wisdom. Like the boy, how might you apply these Bible verses in your life?

Like Neesima's life, your life is a journey. You will need wisdom to go the right way. You will keep your eyes on God's path and look straight ahead at Him. Pray that God will give you wisdom and show you the right way.



Part 2:

Recall questions:

- 1) What book did Neesima find? Neesima found part of a Bible written in Chinese.
- 2) What were the very first words that Neesima read from the Bible? Neesima read this: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- 3) What did Neesima learn about God? Neesima learned that God made the world and that God made him.

True or false questions:

- 1) When Neesima realized that God created him, he thanked God and believed in Him. TRUE
- 2) Because Neesima did not know how to pray, he did not pray at all. FALSE (This was Neesima's first prayer: "If you have eyes, look upon me. If you, God, have ears, listen to me.")
- 3) He did not know yet how to start a prayer and say, "Dear heavenly Father". TRUE

Bible question:

Proverbs 9:9-10 says that **"Teach a wise man, and he will become wiser. Teach a good man, and he will learn even more. Wisdom begins with respect for the Lord. And understanding begins with knowing God, the Holy One."** How are these Bible verses applicable in Neesima's life?

When Neesima realized that God created the world and He created him, he was grateful to God and believed Him. He continued to read the Bible and knew that God spoke to him through His Word.

Part 3:

Recall questions:

- 1) Neesima had three names. We already know the first one. What was his second name? Joe
- 2) What did he do when he was twenty years old? He decided to leave Japan to learn all that he could abroad.



STORIES ABOUT MISSIONARIES

3) How did he travel? Neesima took a ship to China.

True or false questions:

- 1) Neesima found a Bible with the New Testament on the ship to China. TRUE
- 2) He read that the same God who made the world was his heavenly Father. TRUE
- 3) The sailors got to know a lot about him. FALSE (The sailors knew nothing about him and called him Joe.)

Bible question:

What did Neesima Joe learn about God's Good News?

First, Neesima Joe learned that God created all things and that he needed to be thankful to God. Through the New Testament, he learned that God wanted to know him and save him for eternity.

Part 4:

True or false questions:

- 1) Neesima Joe rode a ship to Boston Harbor. TRUE
- 2) This was his dream to reach America. TRUE
- 3) He was able to take care of himself when he arrived in America. FALSE (He had no money and there was no one to take care of him.)

Recall questions:

- 1) What was the name of the owner of the ship? Alfred Hardy
- 2) Why did he take Neesima Joe as his adoptive son? He heard that Neesima Joe wanted to go to school. He sent him to an academy and then to Amherst College.
- 3) Did he finish college? Neesima Joe was the first Japanese college graduate in the United States.

Bible question:

According to Romans 12:7-8, **“Whoever has the gift of comforting others should do that. Whoever has the gift of giving to help others should give generously. Whoever has the gift of leading should work hard at it. Whoever has the gift of**



showing kindness to others should do it gladly.” How do we see these Bible verses applicable in the lives of Alfred Hardy and Neesima Joe?

Alfred Hardy loved God and desired to help others. He took Neesima Joe in his home when Alfred found out about Neesima Joe’s great wish to go to school. Later on, Neesima Joe would help the people of Japan to know the Living Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Part 5:

Recall questions:

- 1) How long was Neesima Joe gone before he returned to Japan? He was gone for ten years.
- 2) Neesima had three names. What were they? Joseph Hardy Neesima.
- 3) What did Neesima do when he returned to Japan? He built a school called Doshisha University.

True or false questions:

- 1) Neesima returned to Japan as a strong Christian. TRUE
- 2) Neesima received his three names when he was baptized into the Christian faith. TRUE
- 3) Neesima was not the first missionary in Japan. FALSE (Neesima was the first modern missionary in Japan.)

Bible question:

How did Neesima live for Jesus when he returned to Japan?

When Neesima returned to Japan, he was a strong Christian. He got baptized and received the name Joseph Hardy Neesima. He built a school. In this school, he taught, preached, and prayed to bring his own people to Jesus Christ to whom he had given his own heart and life.



About the missionary: Neesima Shimeta

Neesima Shimeta: A Joseph for Japan



Japan remains one of the great mission fields for the Christian Gospel. Although many Japanese have great admiration for Jesus Christ, only 1% of the 125 million population is in Christian churches.

But seeds have been sown. One of the most notable efforts came from a young Japanese man over 100 years ago. Neesima Shimeta was born February 12, 1843 in Tokyo. In his youth, Japan was still closed off from the rest of the world, but changes were afoot. Admiral Perry arrived in Japan when Neesima was ten, and Japan began negotiating commercial treaties with foreign countries when he was in his mid-teens. Yet, Neesima's knowledge of the world beyond Japan's borders was limited. He first learned of the United States through books in Chinese written by missionaries to China. For the first time he heard of Christianity and a Biblical view of the world. He greatly admired what he read about the United States and wanted the Japanese to enjoy similar liberties. He wanted to go to America to learn more, but going abroad was then a capital offense. Neesima planned a way of escape, however.

In 1864, when he was 21, he went to Hakodate, a port in the far north of Japan which was open to foreigners. He obtained favor with Nicholai, chaplain of the Russian consulate there, and helped Nicholai learn Japanese. Nicholai later became the founder of the Russian Orthodox Church in Japan. When Neesima saw the great immorality in Hakodate, he concluded that Japan needed a great moral change. He hoped to find the key to this in the United States. He boarded an American ship to Shanghai. There he persuaded another American captain to



take him to the United States. The captain treated Neesima kindly, teaching him English and navigation while he worked as a cabin boy. When the ship stopped in Hong Kong, Neesima sold his samurai sword to obtain money for a Chinese New Testament. He didn't understand everything he read, but the words of John 3:16 made a strong impression on his soul.

Neesima reached Boston in 1865. He had no idea how he was to learn more about the God and United States he had read about in the missionary writings. But from reading Robinson Crusoe he had learned about praying to God. Neesima prayed that God would direct him. Alpheus Hardy, a wealthy businessman and owner of the ship which brought Neesima to America, began to take a strong interest in the young man. Hardy paid his way through Phillips Academy, Amherst College, and Andover Theological Seminary. While at Phillips Academy, Neesima was converted to Christianity and baptized.

Jo, a Joseph for Japan

The captain who had brought Neesima to America had called him Jo. Alpheus Hardy told Neesima that could be short for Joseph, and Neesima was to be like the Biblical Joseph to his people, exiled and preserved in a foreign land so he might later bring them the word of life. Neesima later took Hardy's name as a tribute to his kindness to him.

Neesima had a strong burden for his Japanese homeland. He longed to see Japan a Christian nation. Changes were sweeping across Japan - the western calendar was adopted, railroads built, an army and navy developed along western lines. The leaders of this new Japan were from the elite samurai class, and Neesima believed Christianity would become accepted most rapidly among the people if first adopted by the prestigious samurais. This group could best be reached through Christian schools.

Jo Won't Go If You Say "No!"

At the 1874 annual meeting of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, Neesima was commissioned to return to Japan as a missionary. With great emotion he arose and said, "I cannot go back to Japan without the money to found a Christian college, and I am going to stand here until I get it." Despite the



considerable skepticism of his American friends almost \$5,000 was raised to carry out Neesima's dream.

Once back in Japan, Neesima found that his father, family, and the people from many surrounding towns were eager to hear of Christianity. The prominence of Neesima's family and the uniqueness of his experiences abroad attracted much attention. In June, 1875, Neesima bought 5 1/2 acres of land in Kyoto, not far from the imperial palace, for a school. He called it Doshisha, meaning the one endeavor or the one purpose company. It was a purely Japanese association with no foreigners in its administration.

Foundation of Leadership

Soon thirty young samurai from Kumamoto on the island of Kyushu entered the school. These young men had become Christians under an American who had been instructing them in English and in western science. They studied at Doshisha for three years, and many went on to become the Christian leaders of Japan. Neesima envisioned Doshisha as a university with strong Christian commitments. He believed a foundation of Christian morality was necessary for Japanese civilization to advance. Ill health and weakness plagued Neesima and slowed the implementation of his plans. In 1884 he went to Europe and America for rest and recuperation. Even then, however, he worked for the christianization of Japan -- aiding a Christian newspaper in Tokyo, founding a medical school connected with Doshisha, raising money for Doshisha's library and medical school, and arranging for some of the Japanese teachers to study in America. When not yet forty-seven, on January 23, 1890, Joseph Hardy Neesima breathed his last. His final words -- "peace, joy, heaven."

Source: <https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1801-1900/neesima-shimeta-a-joseph-for-japan-11630575.html>