

## Trusting God in troubled times

Louisa Stead was born in Dover, England in 1850. As a youngster she felt the call of God upon her life for missionary service but she was frail in health and this was ruled out as being impossible for her.

Eventually Louisa moved to the US, married and gave birth to a daughter named Lily. One beautiful day Louisa's little family went on a picnic outing at Long Island Sound, New York. While eating their picnic lunch, there were cries of help from a boy who was struggling against the wind and waves. Mr. Stead rushed into the water, but as sometimes happens, the struggling boy pulled his rescuer under the water with him, and both drowned before the terrified eyes of Louisa and Lily.

Louisa experienced all the challenges that a single mom must face including the financial challenges of providing for herself and her daughter along with seeking answers to the nagging question of Why? Soon she again felt that call of God go overseas to tell others about the love on Jesus and eventually she went to South Africa and ministered there for many years. She once returned to the states to recover from her poor health but again realized her place was overseas and she returned to Africa. Eventually her poor health took its toll and she went to be with the Lord in 1917 while serving in Zimbabwe.

Louisa left behind a powerful legacy in the life of her daughter who married a missionary and continued to reach out to others as her mother had done. Also, there was a second legacy she left behind, as well. In a letter of eulogy after her passing, some of her fellow missionaries wrote of a little poem that Louisa had written that was sung in many of the churches in Africa. The missionaries shared that on any given Sunday Louisa's little song was being sung by 5000 African Christians each in their own language and dialect. You might recognize the words to the song:

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
And to take Him at His Word;  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
And to know, "Thus says the Lord!"

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that Thou art with me,  
Wilt be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more!

Louisa had understood in spite of her lifetime of poor health and the premature loss of her life partner the Jesus could be trusted. As Jesus said:

**JN 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.**

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