

# CORY TEN BOOM 1892-1983

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Cory Ten Boom lived in Holland when the Germans invaded and started their attacks of the Jewish people. Her family became connected with an underground railroad. In her house a secret room was created so that Jews could hide. After a while, her house became well known as a haven for the Jews and her family began to worry that the Nazi's would find out about their house and arrest them.

Then it happened, while Corrie Ten Boom was ill, a man working for the Nazi's discovered what the Ten Boom house was hiding. The Nazi's entered and called them to the family room. In turn each member of the family was beaten for information and arrested. They were taken to the prison where Cory Ten Boom was put into a cell by herself due to her illness. She was taken to a hospital where a nurse managed to smuggle a packet containing a toothbrush, some soap, and four gospels copied from the Bible.

At the prison, they were questioned, and Corrie managed to convince the chief that God existed and told him some of what she believed about God. He tried to help her during the time she spent in the prison after that. At the prison she spent four months in a cell by herself. An ant was her only companion. The only food was a bowl of porridge in the morning and a piece of black bread in the evening. Ten days after entering the prison her father died. One day the prisoners were marched to the train station and shipped to a labor camp in Holland. The people there lived in a barracks and were forced to make radios for the German aircraft (she was careful to make lots of mistakes). Punishments were very severe and even included execution by shooting. Then there was news of an allied invasion so their captors destroyed roads and railway tracks.

After that the Nazis shot 700 of the male prisoners, and shipped all the rest of the prisoners to Ravensbrook concentration camp using cattle trucks. This was the worst camp in which she would ever be imprisoned. The 1400 prisoners were stuffed into a barracks meant for 400. The barracks was also full of flees. Role was called at 4:30 every morning and usually took hours. They were only fed a potato and some thin soup at lunch and a bowl of turnip soup for dinner.

When people became very sick they were taken to the hospital which didn't do anything for them or they were gassed to death. On the way in the prisoners were striped of all their belongings. However, Corrie managed to smuggle in a small Bible and a container of vitamin drops. The guards even beat and whipped prisoners for not working hard enough. In the barracks Corrie read to the other prisoners out of the Bible and shared her vitamin dopes (which lasted a very long time). The Bible and vitamin drops weren't taken from them because there were so many fleas in the barracks that the guards wouldn't come in.

During the time at Ravenbrook, Corrie's sister died. Than one day a guard told Ms. Ten Boom to report after role call. When she reported she was given a card that said Entlassen (released) and so she was released. One week later all the women of here age were put to death and Ten Boom learned that here release had been a mistake.

After that she traveled around the world and told the stories of what she had been through and how God had helped her. She even spoke in Germany where she met some of her former guards. She also wrote several books about her experiences. When she became too old to travel, she finally settled down but continued to visit people in places such as prison. She died on 4/15/1983, her 91st birthday

## WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Corey Ten Boom

Defended The Jews During Nazi Occupation in Holland

Women's Discipleship Group

Terri McFaddin Series #5-4

Scripture Focus: Psalm 146: 5-9

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,<sup>6</sup> the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the LORD, who remains faithful forever.<sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free,<sup>8</sup> the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

### Opening Statement:

Cory Ten Boom and her family helped persecuted Jews escape to freedom during Hitler and the Nazi occupation in most of Europe. Her house was like an underground railroad. Cory was the Holland's equivalent of Harriet Tubman, who worked to free Black American slaves using the Underground Railroad. Cory's life took a different turn when she was captured and placed in a Nazi concentration camp. Her story of courage, endurance and finally a miraculous deliverance is legendary in the Christian faith. The following questions are a review of her triumphant story.

1. Paragraph 1. What did Cory Ten Boom and her family have in common with America's Underground Railroad?
2. Paragraph 2. What type of persecution did Cory Ten Boom face during the Nazi occupation?
3. Paragraph 3. How did Cory demonstrate her faith in the midst of adversity?

4. Paragraph 6 What two items did the Lord give Cory that was instrumental in her survival?
  
5. Paragraph 7. What adversity did Cory use to her benefit in order to spread the Gospel?
  
6. Paragraph 8. How did the Lord demonstrate his miraculous faithfulness to Cory Ten Boom?
  
7. How does Cory Ten Boom's story encourage you in your own life?