

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE



STORIES OF
BAPTIST HEROES




Julie Whidden Long

CONCLUSION

Baptists are a mixed group of people! The Baptist heroes whose stories appear in this book are no exception. These Baptists are from all over the world. Some lived about four hundred years ago, and some still live today. These Baptists are missionaries, teachers, politicians, social workers, doctors, ministers, and more. Some of these Baptists are wealthy and use their money to help others. Others have little money because they have given away all that they have.

Each of these diverse Baptists holds at least three things in common. First, each of these Baptists worked for freedom. Some, such as John Smyth, John Clarke, and Theo Angelov, have fought for religious freedom as they worked to ensure the rights of all people to believe freely. Some, such as Leena Lavanya, William Knibb, Walter Rauschenbusch, Jimmy Carter, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Olu Menjay, have toiled to free others from the oppression of poverty or government or prejudice. Others, like Ann Judson, Louise Fleming, Lottie Moon, Jesse Mercer, and Addie Davis, have striven to help people understand the freedom that Christ brings to all people who follow him. All of these Baptist heroes are freedom lovers!

Second, all of these Baptists are ordinary people. Few were born into a special place in society or stood apart from those around them. Each of these heroes followed



Christ in ordinary places in the world, and their faithfulness resulted in extraordinary contributions. These everyday heroes can show us that when we take part in God's work around us, even ordinary people can make an extraordinary impact on our society and our world.

Third, each of these Baptists believed in the power of the individual. Baptists believe that the individual is important. Each individual has certain rights, and each individual has certain responsibilities! These Baptist heroes demonstrate that each person, with God's help, can make a significant contribution to God's work in the world around us.

Throughout the last four hundred years, Baptists have passed down their heroic makeup. They have shared their courage, their character, their insight, and their compassion. Those who have followed have been inspired by their stories. Through them and others, God has given each of us a colorful world of promise and hope.

You can follow their examples. What new portrait will you paint right where you are? As you remember the stories of these heroic Baptists, I hope you will be challenged to do your part to make a difference as you create your own strokes of faith in your community and our world!

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE

STORIES OF BAPTIST HEROES

Written by Julie Whidden Long, this 128-page book, designed especially for younger youth and older children, presents the stories of Baptist heroes. These heroes lived in various countries and centuries and represent many phases of Baptist life. By highlighting the biographical dimension of the Baptist past, these inspiring stories help readers appreciate the personal contributions of heroic Baptist men and women.



Rev. Julie Whidden Long is the pastor of First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon, Georgia. She previously served as minister of children and families (2005–2013) and associate pastor (2013–2018) at FBCX Macon. Additionally, Rev. Long was the associate director of Baptist Women in Ministry (2018–2019) and launched a coaching and consulting practice in 2020. A native of Fitzgerald, Georgia, she is a two-time graduate of Mercer University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christianity and History from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2002 and a Master of Divinity from McAfee School of Theology in 2005. She is married to Jody Long, executive coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia, and they have two children.