through a revolution, personal illness, and much more. Jennie went home to America. When Fareida was four, her brother took her away. It broke Lillian’s heart. Fareida soon died. Later Muslims came and took away all Lillian’s Islamic children.

Mostly Lillian’s stress was because money and food were scarce. During the Great Depression, days would pass without the donation of a single cent.

One day, Lillian gave up. She called the children to her. “I must send you all away,” she told them. The children began to sob and pray. Lillian promised she would try to keep them. That night they ate their last bit of rice and bread.

Next day there was a letter in the mail. A farmer in Kansas had addressed it to Miss Lillian Trasher Assiout, India. Although he wrote to the wrong country, the letter had come to them! Inside was a check for $1,000. How Lillian and the children praised the Lord.

Unscramble these words from the story. Then take the letter indicated by red and fill the blank at the right to spell a new word.

PHARON _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (3rd letter) —
RRAS'TEH _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2nd letter) —
TUSSIOA _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (1st letter) —
YONDEK _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (6th letter) —
PYGET _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (1st letter) —
SKRIBC _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (2nd letter) —

Night of Prayer

Another time, during World War II, Lillian closed school and asked all the children to pray for food. Although desperately tired, she prayed until 2:30 in the morning. Next day a telegram arrived from the American ambassador in Cairo.

Lillian could not imagine what he wanted her for but hoped it had something to do with the night of prayer. She took the train to Cairo. The ambassador told her a Red Cross ship had been forced to land in Egypt. On the wharf were thousands of crates of food, clothes, and medical supplies. Could she use any of it? Lillian wept. Once again God had showed his power. The ambassador even paid to ship the crates to Assiout.

Late in the 1950s Jennie returned to Egypt to look after Lillian who was ill. In October 1961, Lillian’s weak heart gave out and she went to be with Jesus.

Being Poor Was More Fun

Lillian’s earliest years had been spent in Boston, Massachusetts. Money was plentiful and she lived in a grand home. But her family became poor and moved to a little cottage by a canal in Georgia.

As far as Lillian was concerned, being poor was more fun. She could roam the woods, swim in the nearby river, or ride a horse with her best friend, Jerdy.

Lillian Trasher

Lady on a Donkey

Lillian learned to trust God as a young girl, and when she sent her to Egypt, she learned to ask him for everything her orphans needed—and he always honored her faith.

Lillian Trasher (1887-1961)

Ask Yourself

1. Do you agree with Lillian that being poor could be more fun?
2. Have you ever taken a risk because you trusted a promise from God?
3. Can you tell about an answer to prayer you received?
4. What do you know about the Coptic Christians?
**Caring for Orphans**

On her way to her newspaper interview in Atlanta, Lillian had spent some time with Miss Marker, who operated an orphanage. Miss Marker had invited Lillian to come help her. Now she would.

Soon Lillian was cutting cloth, sewing clothes, changing diapers, cooking gruel, and tending babies. There was always another child to tend, and never quite enough to eat. One winter day, weak and tired, she decided she must spend her last 20¢ (about $3 today) to buy a little food to regain her strength. Just then, Miss Marker knocked on her door and asked for the 20¢ to pay a delivery boy. Without a word of protest, Lillian gave it.

Already slender, she grew thin. Not until spring did her strength return.

Her thinness did not keep a young preacher named Tom Jordan from noticing her. Soon they were engaged. Ten days before the wedding date, Lillian attended a mission conference. She came home certain that God wanted her to be a missionary. She had to tell Tom that the wedding was off. She knew it would break his heart. “But I have to obey the Lord,” she said. She believed the Lord wanted her to go to Africa.

**God Will Provide**

Lillian soon learned that she would have to trust God to provide for her. By mistake, Miss Marker’s sister paid a bill with money that was supposed to take Lillian to a missionary conference in Pennsylvania. She had only enough to get to Washington, D.C. She started out anyway. In Washington, she stayed with a friend of Miss Marker. The Dunnings, missionaries to Egypt were there. Shocked that Lillian would consider becoming a missionary without a church or family to support her, they told her to go home to her mother.

Lillian said no, God would provide. That night the Lord changed the Dunnings’ hearts. In the morning, they asked Lillian to join them in Assiout, Egypt. They promised her room and board, but said she would have to find her ship’s fare. God had arranged half the answer!

Step by step, God provided Lillian’s fares to the conference, the fare to Egypt, and $70 more, which she set aside for an emergency. He even provided a stamp to mail a letter to her older sister Jennie. Jennie left her snug little home in California to accompany Lillian to Egypt until she was settled in. She said Lillian needed love and looking after.

**Orphanage in Egypt**

Three months after Lillian arrived in Egypt, a young man begged her to help a dying woman. In the hut was a baby. It was almost a skeleton and stank. Somehow Lillian found the ability to kiss the smelly, screeching child. With her last breath, the mother begged Lillian to take the little girl, whose grandmother was ready to drown her in the Nile.

Unable to find an Egyptian to care for the baby, Lillian took her back to the Dunnings and named her Fareida. Lillian and Jennie fed her with an eye-dropper, stroking her throat so she would swallow. Fareida cried for two weeks straight. No one could sleep. Finally Mr. Dunning ordered Lillian to take the girl back.

“Back to where?” asked Lillian. In that hour, she made up her mind. She would move out and rent an apartment with her emergency money. Mr. Dunning warned her if she left, she could never come back to live at the mission.

Trusting that God was leading them, Lillian and Jennie left. Once again Lillian was keeping her promise, “Lord, if ever I can do anything for you, just let me know.” Now she understood why God had sent her to work with Miss Marker. He had been training her for this hour. Fareida was the first of thousands of orphans Lillian cared for. The odd thing was, Fareida learned to drink as soon as they left the Dunnings, and slept normally.

**Lady on a Donkey**

To provide for her orphans, Lillian had to ride long miles on a donkey in blazing heat, gathering donations.

Riding donkeys was considered lower class. Lillian didn’t care. If Jesus could ride one, so could she. On longer trips, she slept in jails just to have somewhere safe to lay her head. Assiout had many Coptic Christians. Although very poor, they gave what little they could to feed the orphans. Muslims helped, too.

When Lillian outgrew her apartment, she agreed to buy some land. Next day God sent the money to pay for it. The older children made sun-baked bricks to build homes. After that, whenever a new building was needed, Lillian would start construction, even if she had only 50¢. Every building was paid for by the time it was complete. Through her example, the children learned to trust God, too. In 1927 a revival swept the orphanage with hundreds of children asked the Lord and each other for forgiveness.

**The Day Lillian’s Faith Waivered**

Lillian’s life was stressful. She lived without a church or family to support her.