

Jesus Loves Me

by Jill Munoz, Vice-President, Christian Growth

Anna Warner and her sister, Susan, were blessed with a wealthy family home in New York City. Sadly, their mother died when Anna was five years old. In the panic of 1837, their father lost everything. They had no choice but to leave the city and go to their ramshackle farmhouse on Constitution Island in the Hudson River. Constitution Island is located adjacent to the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. This academy is the training grounds for future leaders of the US Army.

Anna invited the cadets from West Point to come to her home for a Bible study. Every Sunday afternoon, the cadets rowed across the Hudson River to Constitution Island to attend Miss Warner's Bible study. I'm sure many of them were homesick and received a "mother's touch" from visiting the Warner home.

Because of their dire financial situation, Anna and Susan started writing books. In 1860, Anna wrote a poem for one of their novels. That poem? "Jesus Loves Me." In the book, a Sunday school teacher reads this poem to a dying child. It was set to music by Dr. William Bradbury who wrote "Just as I Am" and "He Leadeth Me."

The cadets would sing "Jesus Loves Me" while on military duty at the Point. The popularity of the song was so great, that both sisters were buried with military honours because of the contribution they made to the

spiritual well-being of the soldiers.

We still sing this favourite children's song in Sunday school today. This ageless song is sung on the lips of the dying, the lonely, the new Christian, and the child.



*Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross to save us from our sins. He rose, victorious, on the third day with the promise that when we die we will rise again to be with Him forever.

*Jesus loves me He
who died,
heaven's gate to open
wide*

*He will wash away my sins,
let His little child come in.*

We see that Anna Warner's trouble became her opportunity; her mission to be used by God for His glory.

Dear Lord, I have troubles in life that make me sad. Please help me to accept that you will use these difficulties to deepen my faith. May I show forth your glory as I trust in you. Amen.