

September 13
Memory Verse

My times are in thy hand:

deliver me from the hand of mine enemies,

and from them that persecute me.

Make thy face to shine upon thy servant:

save me for thy mercies' sake. Psalm 31:15 and 16.

Tiny children can learn the words in **bold** and understand that “thy” is “your” – that is God's – hand. Two children can learn the lines by one saying the words in green and the other the words in orange. The uncoloured words may be said together. These memory verses form a prayer. In the previous verse (14) the psalmist tells us that he trusts in God. We can pray the same prayer if we love Him. Who are the enemies that persecute us? The devil and his angels who would accuse us of sin. But if we are God's servants, His face “shines” on us. He will save us because in his mercy he has sent his Son to die for us.

Something to read from medical history



Major Walter Reed, M.D., U.S. Army (1851–1902)¹ was born on **13th September**. In 1901 he wrote jubilantly to his devout Christian wife, “The prayer that has been mine for 20 years that I might be permitted in some way or time to alleviate human suffering has been answered!” He had been able to confirm a major discovery that was to save hundreds of lives and make a major difference to the whole geography of the United States! What was it that he had found out?

At this time when Major Reed was carrying out his work, Yellow Fever was the scourge of the tropics and subtropics. This viral disease killed some 7 percent of those who caught it and because it was not realised how the disease was spread, attempts to control it were a failure. It was a particular problem in the American army where it was responsible for more deaths than actual battles and it also plagued the construction work that was being carried out on a canal that had been started in **Panama**.² If you find Panama on a globe you will see at once why a canal in this part of the world was needed. American ships could not pass from the east to the west coast of the United States without travelling all round South America and through the dangerous **Straits of Magellan**. Epidemics of Yellow Fever had halted the attempt by Ferdinand De Lesseps, the French engineer who had master-minded the Suez Canal, to build a canal through the Isthmus of Panama.

Major Reed had already discovered what caused typhoid fever, another scourge of armies, to be transmitted. He was sent to **Cuba** to head a team whose job was to test a theory that had been put forward by a Cuban doctor, Carlos Finlay. Finlay thought that Yellow Fever was transmitted not directly from one patient to another by contact but by a particular tropical mosquito which would bite an infected person and then transmit the disease by biting someone else. How could Major Reed test out this idea?



There was only one way of doing it. Brave volunteers came forward to be bitten by mosquitoes infected with Yellow Fever. This was very dangerous work but it paid off. The mosquito was indeed to blame. An eradication programme began in Panama and the Americans were able to build the canal that had defeated De Lesseps.

1 Information from <https://crev.info/?scientists=walter-reed>

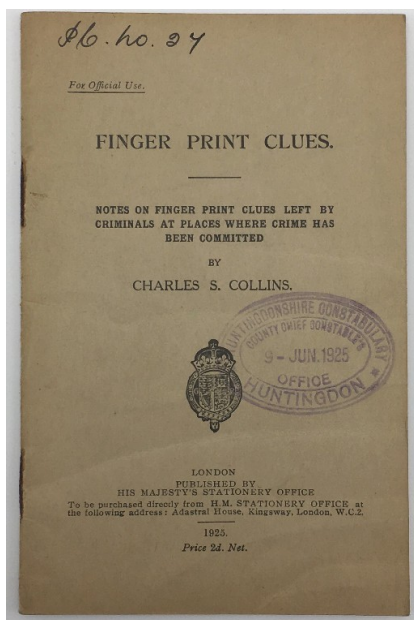
2 See lesson for 4th May.

“Major Walter Reed is the most hono[u]red military physician in our history,” writes one American commentator, “He was the son of a Methodist minister, described as 'a young Christian gentleman from Virginia.’”³ Major Reed was able to use the gifts God had given him in a remarkable way that benefited his country and saved thousands of lives.

Something to think about

Mosquitoes still spread disease today. Malaria is spread by mosquitoes. Malaria is especially dangerous for young children and kills many of them in countries where the disease is prevalent. Yet in Uganda, for instance, it is hard to fight Malaria. Money is supplied by Western charities to protect Uganda's wetlands. These wetlands breed a deadly mosquito that lives on human blood and passes on Malaria, killing children and weakening adults. The number of deaths from Malaria can be halved by spraying the insides of houses with insecticide. This is banned, however, because of the organic cotton farming in Uganda. The farmers have to keep pesticides away from their cotton plants and so the workers are not allowed to use it in their homes. This enables them to sell their organic cotton to big Western clothing chains.⁴

A story to read from science history



On 13th September 1902 at the Old Bailey in London Harry Jackson, a labourer, was convicted of burglary and sentenced to seven years in prison.

Jackson had broken into a house in Denmark Hill, London and stolen some billiard balls. There was wet paint on the windowsill of the house and in it Jackson had accidentally left his thumbprint. The police officer called to the scene had noticed the thumb prints and contacted the Metropolitan Police Fingerprint Bureau. The head of the bureau and the leading expert of finger prints at the time, Detective-Sergeant Charles Stockley Collins, (you can see his book on the subject on the left)⁵ hurried over to Denmark Hill at once. He photographed the print and compared it with those in the bureau's files. It matched that of Harry Jackson who had recently been in prison for burglary.

This was the first conviction in Britain using finger-prints as evidence. The skin on the surface of the hands and feet forms ridges known as papillary ridges. These ridges form patterns and no two people, not even identical twins, have the same pattern. “For the last 30 years, they’ve taken prints from huge numbers of people and put them into computer databases. Even from Egyptian mummies, and from paintwork that’s 3,000 years old, looking for a match. And so far—not one match. We’re all completely unique, just as God has designed us,” explains Christian Australian Police Superintendent, Gary Raymond.⁶ This is why detectives can compare finger prints collected at a crime scene with those in their records and if they find a match they know that the prints were made by the same person.

Something to think about for older children

Edith Hamilton (1867-1963), home-educated American popular writer about ancient civilizations, was worried that the free societies of the 20th century were losing the Greek spirit of individualism. “That frightens me much more than sputniks and atomic bombs,” she wrote. “Greeks thought each

3 <https://crev.info/?scientists=walter-reed>

4 For older children the details are found here:

http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1995199_1995197_1995176,00.html

5 Permission for image sought 12/05/21 by email. https://www.maggs.com/finger-print-clues-notes-on-fingerprint-clues-left-by-criminals-at-places-where-crime-has-been-committed_227179.htm

6 <https://creation.com/creationist-crimefighter>

human being different, and I take a lot of comfort in the fact that my fingerprints are different from anybody else's." The Bible teaches that God regards everyone as an individual. He watches of each of his children and even the hairs of our head are all counted. Matthew 10:30.

Something to do

Fingerprints are classified into broad types:

Arch (60-65% of all fingerprints) Loop (30-35%) and Whorl (5%)



There are various refinements to the system which break down the classifications further. You can easily take your own fingerprints using an ink stamp pad such as those used with rubber stamps. Press your finger onto the ink pad and then onto some paper. Take care not to move your finger as you make the print onto the paper. Can you identify an arch, a loop or a whorl? Try other members of your family. Which type do they have?



Fingerprints can be used for all sorts of interesting art projects.⁷ the apple tree picture above has been made by cutting out a tree shape in brown paper and sticking it onto a sheet of plain white. The leaves, fruit, butterflies and buttercups are all made out of fingerprints. The prints were made using coloured paint applied using just the tips of the fingers. Notice how two prints have been used for the buttercups and four for the butterflies with a few lines added to give a pretty effect.

⁷ Permission for image sought by email 12/05/21 <http://craftingwithcourtney.blogspot.com>

Something to read for older children

The Red Thumb Mark, by R. Austin Freeman is the first in a series of fascinating detective stories about a fictional detective, Dr John Evelyn Thorndyke (pictured on the right). Older boys and girls will enjoy these absorbing tales in which right always triumphs and justice is seen to be done. *The Red Thumb Mark* was written in 1907 when fingerprints were still an exciting new method of detection and as you will guess from the title they are very important in the story.⁸



⁸ Available on Amazon for about £5 or read online here <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/11128/pg11128.txt>