**“The Hiding Place” -- Background Information**

Casper Ten Boom and his two daughters, Cornelia and Betsie, owned a shop where they sold watches and clocks in Haarlem, North Holland. Together they ran a household that became legendary, remembered for being committed to hiding Jews and for being a major base for anti-German resistance activities.

In late 1942, Casper, Corrie, and Betsie formed the Beje Resistance group, an organization whose name came from the abbreviation of Bartelijorisstraat, the street where the Ten Boom family lived. The Beje Resistance group found shelter for dozens of Jews, including many children. Corrie then helped the children to find a safe house, or she passed them on to a representative from another district. The Ten Booms also opened their home to a large amount of fugitives and Resistance workers. During the war, about eighty Resistance workers belonging to various underground movements were regular visitors at the Ten Boom’s home. Throughout all this time, Corrie took charge of providing food for the many people hiding in her home.

Over and above the deep concern the Ten Booms showed for those hiding in their home, Corrie also looked out for fugitives hiding elsewhere. Whenever other safe addresses were located, Corrie insisted on checking them out before sending people to hide in them. After Jews had moved into a hideout, Corrie maintained regular contact with them and supplied them with ration books.

Throughout the war, the Ten Booms managed to maintain good relations with the police. This proved especially useful after Corrie’s sister Nollie was arrested; the police warned Corrie of imminent problems. Nollie knew about the Jews hiding with the Ten Booms and about Beje, and consequently all those involved fled to various other addresses.

Financing the upkeep of so many people was never a problem. The wealthier Jews paid for the less well off; Beje members acquired money from various sources; and the remainder came from the profits earned by the Ten Boom’s business.

On February 28, 1944, the Ten Boom family was betrayed, and their home was raided. The people in hiding managed to escape in time. However, all the members of the Ten Boom family and thirty other co-workers were apprehended and taken to prison for interrogation. In spite of fierce pressure to do so, the Ten Boom family did not reveal any new information to their interrogators.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **I learned…** | **It surprised me...** | **I wonder…** |
| 1.  2.  3. | 1.  2.  3. | 1.  2.  3. |