

WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD

Written by:

Kristina Roy

Illustrations by:

Suzanne Gilmore

PLEASE NOTE!

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Biography of Kristina Roy

The lives of Kristina Roy and her sister are a testimony to others. Their lives show what great things God can do through simple, weak people who give themselves to Christ and are willing to submit to Him.

When Kristina accepted Jesus as her Saviour and Lord, she committed her life to His service. She gave herself unselfishly. Despite many obstacles she wasn't afraid, and walked boldly with Jesus to reach her goal. She firmly believed the verse from God's Word which was written on the wall of a nursing home in Stara Tura, the "Domov bielych hlav" (home of white heads). The verse was, "... *if you would believe you would see the glory of God*" (John 11:40). She lived according to these words.

Kristina was born in Stara Tura, Slovakia, on 18th August 1860, into the family of a Lutheran pastor. She and her sister Maria started their public activity as initiators of Modry Kriz (Blue Cross), an abstinent society associated with the Lutheran Church. They shared the Gospel and thus fought against the national sin - drunkenness.

Love for Christ and people compelled them to do social work as well. First they cared for underprivileged children and later on they took care of orphans.

A simple orphanage was established, later a hospital, a hostel, then a nursing home. Everything was supported by donations. Christian workers were trained in a school, and then served the Lord without any provision for health insurance or pension.

The Roy (Slovakian Royova) sisters loved the Lord very much. They also loved their homeland Slovakia and their compatriots. Their love can be seen in their songs, in which they praised God and showed the way to Him. They composed and arranged over 100 songs, many of which were translated into German and other languages. Many songs are known abroad. Kristina is also known for her literature work. She used her gift of writing and speaking in the magazine "Vecemica", as well as in over 50 books written for all ages. She is famous in many countries, and her books have been translated into 25 languages.

Kristina's first book "Without God in the World" was written in one night - down on her knees in the attic, by a lighted candle. It was translated into 21 languages including Chinese, and was the first Slovak book to be translated into a foreign language.

Kristina died in 1936 in Stara Tura, where she lived almost all her life. Everyone who was around her drew from her hope, strength and vision. Her life and work influenced people of her generation and subsequent generations. Her songs and books have much to tell, and can help to form a healthy Christian character.

Without God in the World

Special Emphasis

- 1 To help children understand God's plan of salvation
- 2 To awaken in Christian children a desire for a closer relationship with Christ and to share the Gospel with other children

Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)

Song

"Jesus loves the little children"

Lesson

Flashcard 1

Even the old people scarcely remembered a more severe winter than the one that December. (It was during the 1800s.) One evening a woman's body was found near the churchyard. She had frozen to death. The village people did not know who she was, nor where she came from. Everyone felt sorry for her, especially when they found her baby. It was a little boy and he was still alive! What was to become of him?

Well, the little boy did have a roof over his head, because the mayor's wife decided to keep him. They called the boy Martinko. It wasn't so bad at the mayor's house. They fed him and gave him clothes. As a baby, he slept in the chimney corner, but when he became five years old, he was moved to sleep in the stable. The rabbits and an old cow lived there too.

The old cow looked at him every time he went to bed and she thought it very strange that he never prayed. Before lying down, she bent her knees first and sent up a sigh to God. She never knew that in order for Martinko to pray, he would have to be taught what to do. But nobody was concerned about whether Martinko knew how to pray. The mayor's wife did not care. Maybe she never prayed herself anyway. She was glad that Martinko was obedient and that he didn't argue with her.

And what about you? Do you thank God when you go to bed, for the day, for His protection? Do you thank Him in the morning that He gave you another day? Do you thank Him for your clothes, your food, parents, brothers and sisters, and for all the good gifts you receive from Him?

Martinko wasn't taught to pray, and he wasn't sent to school. The mayor's wife thought that since he was an orphan, he didn't need to go to school. Besides, she always wanted him to stay at home, so he never learned to read or write.

Flashcard 2

When Martinko was 11, the mayor's wife died. That brought about changes in his life. He was still able to live at the mayor's, but he was sent to work for the village shepherd, Old Andrej. Old Andrej was weak and ailing, and the pastures were far away. Martinko proved himself to be a good shepherd. He learned to love the animals at the mayor's, they were his best friends there. The animals loved him too. Cows, calves and even some of the sheep ran after the sounding horn. The horn was a sign that they were going out with Martinko. Old Andrej's dog, Bundas, was a good help to him. They loved each other and looked after the cattle as a good team.

After a year, Old Andrej died too, and Martinko was chosen to be the village shepherd himself. Andrej left him an old hut to use. The windows were stopped up with straw so that the sun did not shine in, in summer, and the cold did not blow through in winter. The walls were all crumbling and covered with cobwebs. The floor was thick with rubbish, straw and dust from over the years.

When Martinko saw it, he sat down on the doorstep and cried. For the first time in his life, he realised that he had nobody in the world to care for him - he was alone. As he sat and cried, suddenly he heard a little bird chirping above his head. He looked up and saw a swallow's nest. The swallows had come from a far distant land and were cleaning out their little house.

Martinko felt ashamed. He decided he wouldn't let his house remain so filthy either, and began to do something about it. When some local women saw what he was doing, they decided to help him. They whitewashed his hut, men repaired the roof and they made him a table and a bench. Martinko was happy and grateful.

He kept his house tidy but his favourite place to be was out in the forest. He loved the beauty of nature. When the cattle grazed quietly, he wove with wicker; he made baskets and then sold them. Often he wondered, "Who made all this beauty? Who commanded the sun to rise every morning and to go down every evening? Perhaps it was God, whose name the mayor used when he swore, and of whom the women spoke when anyone died: 'The Lord God is good, that He has taken this person to Himself!' If it is He, who has made everything so good, He surely must be a great and wise Master!"

Martinko had nobody to ask. He looked up to heaven and said: "My God, I don't know anything at all about You. But since You can do everything, please make it possible that I can learn something about You." He believed God had heard him. He was so absorbed in his thoughts that he didn't see that one of his sheep had fallen down into a thicket. He was able to save her and bring her back to the flock.

Some women saw him as they passed by, and one of them said: "That was just like the Good Shepherd that Jesus Christ was talking about." Who was that Good Shepherd and who was Jesus Christ? Martinko didn't know anything about it. No one had told him that Jesus was the Son of God. Martinko had a lot of questions about Jesus Christ, but there was nobody to answer them.

Flashcard 3

(The black line in this picture shows that sin separates.)

It was Sunday. Everyone went to church but Martinko was driving his flock up to the pastures. He had never been to church in his life.

Once in winter he wished to go there, but the people argued that he had no proper clothes for church and he couldn't read. He went to his mother's grave and cried. When the gravedigger saw him there he felt sorry for the boy. He tried to make him happy by saying that the parish would buy him a new suit, and when winter came he could go to church. Now Martinko was happy again. Are you happy when you go to church, to Sunday School or to Good News Club®, or do you go there unwillingly?

Martinko drove his flock to the river. He heard the church bells ringing and suddenly he was so sad. He was sad because while others were in the church listening to God's Word, he had to tend the cattle.

Suddenly he saw a stranger coming. He was still young, clean-shaven, and dressed like the townsfolk. He asked the way to the village. He saw that Martinko was sad. They started to talk and Martinko found out that the man was going to be a pastor.

Martinko asked the stranger to preach for him because he had never heard a sermon. When the young man found out how little Martinko knew about Christ, he was astonished: "Oh, my lad, you are without God in the world and without Christ!" And he started to preach to him about Jesus' birth. "That's what Christmas is about, when we are reminded that God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Before He was born, on earth, Jesus was with His Father up in heaven. God wants all people to be there someday. People were disobedient, and that is what God's Word calls sin. Sin separates people from God. God is holy, without sin, and He cannot stand sin. He loves people. He loves them so much that He decided to send His only begotten Son." The young man read that verse from the Bible which we have been learning today.

(You can say the verse John 3:16 together with the children.)

Jesus was born as a little baby, just as you or I were born. He grew up the same way as you did, He had the same problems as all children, so He understands you. In contrast to everyone else, He never sinned. He obeyed God. If you're not obedient, it's a sin. He shows us in His Word, the Bible, what He wants us to do. For example, in *Ephesians 6:1* we read: "*Children, obey your parents.*" If you don't obey your parents, you've sinned, because you haven't obeyed God. Or ... *(give some concrete examples of sin)*. Jesus never sinned - neither in His thoughts and words, nor in His actions. He did only good, but not everyone loved Him.

People didn't want to hear they were sinners. They are just the same today. Many children and adults think they are not sinners, or they don't think about their sins. But God's Word says: "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (*Romans 3:23*). All - that means you and I. We have sinned. Back then people didn't want to repent of their sins, and they decided to kill Jesus. Jesus died on the cross - they nailed Him there.

It wasn't that He couldn't defend Himself. Jesus was willing to die. He came to earth to die for people. God punished His innocent Son, Jesus Christ, instead of you or me. God's Word says: *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust" (1 Peter 3:18)*. He died so that you might live forever. Then they put Jesus' body in a tomb.

Here the young man had to stop, for Martinko was weeping as he thought of how Jesus had to die for him, to save him from hell. He was crying so bitterly that he wouldn't stop until the young man started to read from the Bible. He read about how Jesus was buried, but He did not stay in the grave. He was resurrected on the third day. For 40 days He stayed on earth. He appeared to His disciples and a lot of people saw Him. Then one day He went to heaven.

Now He's there and He has all the power in heaven and on earth. He's God and sees you in every situation. He knows everything about you. He loves you and wants to take you to heaven when He comes back one day. Jesus has promised that He'll come back and take His own with Him. Do you want to be among those who will go to heaven with Jesus? Are you not sure what to do? Look what Jesus says in *Revelation 3:20*: *"I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

Jesus knocks at the door of your life, and calls you to confess your sins to Him, because He wants to forgive you. You can do that right now, here, or at home, or in some other quiet place. I'll pray now. If you feel in your heart that you want to confess your sins now, you can pray in your heart with me: "Lord Jesus, I know that I haven't been obedient to you lots of times and that I've sinned. I believe You were punished for my sins. Now as You knock at the door of my life, I open it to You. Please forgive my sins and come into my life. I want You to be my Lord and Saviour. Amen."

Martinko liked the words the stranger read. He longed so much to have God's Word and to read it daily. But he had one big problem - he couldn't read.

Are you thankful to God that you can go to school? Remember to respect your teachers, who teach you writing, reading, maths and other good things at school. Not every child has this opportunity. If you can read, read good books, and especially read the Bible each day. You will learn many good things, which will be very useful for you.

Martinko wanted to learn more about God and Jesus, and especially about that beautiful place where Jesus will take His own. He prayed to Jesus to send him somebody who could teach him to read, and he believed that God heard him. One day he would be able to read from that holy Book by himself.

(If you want to tell the story in two lessons, you can stop here.)

Flashcard 4

Another boy in the village was left an orphan, when his mother died. Jozko was aged eight, so he was younger than Martinko. He was already attending school and could read and write. Martinko asked the mayor if Jozko could come to live with him, and his request was granted.

When they moved Jozko's things to Martinko's hut, it was so exciting for Martinko to discover a Bible among other books. Martinko's desire to read it was increasing daily. Just imagine - he now had a Bible in his home but he couldn't read it.

Do you desire to read the Bible? Do you have your own Bible? Is it lying on the bookshelf and you occasionally remember that you should read it? Do you bring it along with you to Sunday School or Club?

Martinko longed to know everything that was written in the Bible. He longed so much that he even started to learn to read. Jozko showed him one letter every day and while he was at school, Martinko tended the cattle and practised the letter. In the beginning it went slowly and he was not very successful, but he was persistent and in a short time he was able to put words together. His greatest day was when he was able to read some words from the Bible and didn't need to wait for Jozko.

Later on he was better and better at writing and reading, and in winter he could go to school. He was much older than the others, but the teachers and his classmates liked him a lot because of his courage and determination.

Now Martinko could go to church. In the summer he sent Jozko there because he had to tend the cattle himself. Afterwards, Jozko told him everything that happened in church and taught him the songs they sang there.

When Martinko could go to church he was very happy. He never missed a Sunday. And how beautifully he sang - from his whole soul, because he loved God and His Son Jesus so much. He was happy that he could read the New Testament given to him and Jozko by a man who was selling Bibles in the village. They were given pretty pictures as well.

Martinko wasn't sad anymore and he sang while he was in the pastures. His heart was overflowing with love for the Lord Jesus and he longed very much to see Him and to be with Him. He wondered, "When will it be? When will Jesus come for me, in the evening or in the morning?" The woods echoed "... the morning, the morning ..." so he took "the morning" for an answer and was very happy.

Flashcard 5

The people in the village loved Martinko and respected him. They saw his good work, and in other things too he could be an example

to anyone. Martinko knew that God saw him and knew everything, and he didn't want to make Him sad. He exhorted others not to sin against God.

Thanks to Martinko, the village started to think about God and His commandments. If you have given your life to Jesus, if you love Him, does your life prove it? Do you live in a way that Jesus would be satisfied with you, and so that your parents, teachers, and friends see that your behaviour and speech have changed? Do you try not to sin, and tell others not to sin and to accept Jesus as their Saviour?

Martinko didn't make any baskets on Sunday and he dressed up even when he couldn't go to church. "It's Sunday in the forest and God sees me there, as well," he used to say. He sat on the rock, read the New Testament and sang. Thus he kept Sunday as God's special day.

While reading the New Testament, he came to the last book of the Bible, called Revelation. He learned many things about heaven. He read that God is preparing a new heaven and a new earth for His own and that Jesus went there to prepare a place for us. In that new world, there will be one large city built of precious stones, with 12 gates. Each gate is made out of a single pearl, and the streets are paved with gold. The Lord Jesus has His golden throne there and He is King over those whom He has taken to Himself. These people will serve Him and will see Him and God the Father also, and will live there forever. Martinko also read that only those whose names are written in the Book of Life will be allowed in the city.

A great fear crept over him. He thought, "Who knows if my name is also written there?" He fell down on his knees and prayed: "Lord Jesus, You said that You give us everything we pray for, and so I ask You to write my name in that Book. I do want to come to You and serve You forever, because You loved me and died for me." Martinko believed that Jesus heard him and that his name was written in the Book of Life, and so he would enter the city with gates of pearl and streets of gold. He was very happy about that.

Do you know if your name is written in the Book of Life? If you do, thank God for that and serve Him faithfully. Tell others that God loves them so much that He gave His only Son to die for their sins, so they might live with Him forever. Do you remember the verse which talks about that?

(Say it together with the children and then give them the opportunity to say it.)

If you're still not sure if your name is written in the Book of Life, Jesus assures us that, *".. the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out"* (John 6:37). He died for your sins and wants to forgive you. You can confess your sins to Him. As Martinko did, you can say that you give your life to Him and ask Him to write your name there in the Book of Life. He will do it because He promised: *"If anyone ... opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me"* (Revelation 3:20).

If you accept Jesus into your life, you will live with Him forever. If you have some questions about how to do this, and you would like to talk to me, come after we finish the lesson to (*say where*) and I will help you.

Flashcard 6

The hut where the boys lived was very old. Jozko was frightened when one wall began to fall in. The hut could crumble down upon them - it was only held up by the large rock it leaned against. The people advised the boys to sleep in the shed. If the hut crumbled down, it could kill them. So they took the only quilt they had and moved to the shed.

That summer was wet. Martinko had more cattle than usual and more sheep were born. They both had a lot of work. Jozko helped in the forester's house and Martinko was alone with the cattle.

One evening Jozko was kept longer than usual in the forester's house and Martinko was obliged to drive his flock home alone. The cattle had been very impatient that day, and there were so many of them. When he came home, he found one sheep was missing. It was the miller's wife's sheep. She called Martinko every bad name she could think of. She even told him he never belonged there and he only did harm for the village.

Martinko stood a while and did not know what to do. He was sorry that he made the miller's wife so angry, but sorrier still that he lost the sheep. He was so worried about the poor animal that he started to cry. He ran back to the forest to look for the sheep.

It was quite dark, only the moon lit the way. Martinko flew along, not stopping until he reached the forest glade. Wet through with perspiration, he lay down on the ground to quiet the beating of his heart. After a while he began looking for the sheep and calling out. He called a long time - in vain - all was still! He called anxiously in a tearful voice. At last he heard a pitiful bleating in the distance.

Very relieved, Martinko called soothingly to the sheep as he followed the sound of its bleating. He charged through bushes and undergrowth, and jumped over fallen tree-trunks and roots. When he fell or became entangled, he didn't notice. His feet were cut and he was bruised. He just kept on searching and calling. Finally, there it was - the sheep lay deep down among the rocks. Its wool was entangled in the thorns. It couldn't move. If he couldn't get it out, it would die!

Martinko stood still, and an inward voice seemed to say, "... *the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*" (*Luke 19:10*). Oh, now he understood the verse! Just as the sheep would never be able to get out alone, so sinful people could never climb up to heaven. The thorns held the sheep tight, and sin and the devil hold man

back. That is why the Lord Jesus came. He calls out, and whoever answers His call is sought, found and brought to Him.

Martinko let himself carefully down the rocks toward the sheep. Suddenly a stone broke away from under his feet - the sheep could so easily be killed! Martinko just used his hands to let himself down, but then a stone he had clutched with his right hand began to crumble away. If the rock under his left hand fell down too, the poor sheep would certainly be killed. To protect the sheep, Martinko let go of the stones and slid down, down, down ... Then there was a roaring in his ears and everything was black before his eyes. There was a sound like a far-off peal of bells, then all was still. How long he didn't know.

At dawn he felt something warm against his face and he heard a strange whining sound. He opened his eyes and there was his dog Bundas, bending over his face. He had been howling - that was the strange whining sound. Jozko stood at the top of the hill, crying. Martinko remembered what had happened. The sheep was lying peacefully in the thorns, chewing. He had almost paid with his own life to save it, just as Jesus Christ had to die when He wanted to deliver you and me from destruction.

Flashcard 7

Wearily, Martinko walked back to the village. He had not had anything to eat since yesterday, and then he had lain all night on the ground until the dew covered him in the morning. Yet for all that, his greatest joy was to be able to bring the sheep, alive and well, back to the miller's wife.

He thought she would be glad as well. What a surprise it was when, instead of thanking him, she scolded him again, and the other women grumbled at him for coming so late to fetch their animals.

These words grieved Martinko more than anything ever had in his whole life. Jozko tried out everything he could think of to make his friend happy again, but without success. He did not even want to sing, he only read the Bible. It opened right to the place where the Jews wanted to stone Jesus because He healed a man on God's day of rest. But Jesus forgave them and even died for them. Martinko decided to forgive the miller's wife. Then he became his old self again. He looked after the cattle better than ever, and to Jozko and other people he was a great help.

But some things were different. He could not climb a tree again, only with great difficulty. When he drove the flock to the woods, he had to rest three times on the way. He ate almost nothing, but was always craving for water. His face looked so pale, and his eyes glowed strangely, like two stars.

When they were in the forest for the last time before the winter came, it was hard to say good-bye. Martinko felt so strange, as if he wouldn't see this pretty world anymore. The sun shone on the forest, every falling leaf seemed to call: "Martinko, goodnight! We shall never see you anymore!" As he drove the flock away from the woods, he continually gazed back again.

Flashcard 8

When they reached home, Martinko did not feel like eating supper. Jozko and Martinko read the Bible together, prayed and went to bed. They still slept in the shed. It was a very cold night. The flowers were all frozen. The boys were lying under one quilt and Jozko coughed in his sleep. Martinko was worried about Jozko getting a cold, so he covered his friend with the quilt and he curled up under an old cape.

It was so cold his teeth were chattering. Then he began to feel the cold in his chest, his sides, his whole body. He did not know what to do. He wanted to wake Jozko, but he couldn't speak. He started to call out to the Lord Jesus. He told Him how bad he was and how cold he felt. He prayed to Jesus to help him. All at once his limbs became warm, and he began to sweat.

At this time the gravedigger walked by the old shed. There was a custom in the village that every night at 11:00 he always sounded the horn. He was on his way home and went to see the boys. He often looked in on them while they were sleeping. He was surprised to see Martinko lying on the straw, talking to somebody; his forehead and cheeks were like fire and his eyes gleamed.

The gravedigger listened for a while and thought the boy was talking in his sleep. He didn't know Martinko was talking to his best friend, Jesus, who was now by his side helping him. He ran back to the village. He woke up several women and they all ran to Martinko's hut. They took him to a room and put him to bed. The women made tea from various sorts of herbs.

He came to himself and thanked them for their care and love, and that they had allowed Jozko to come and live with him. Martinko only complained that he had had to live so long in the world without God; that they hadn't told him about Him, even though they knew all about Him. He reproached them for acting as if there were no God.

The gravedigger was trying to cheer him up by saying that he would get healthy again and that he would tend the flocks again in the spring. The miller's wife promised to build a new hut for them, but Martinko knew he would never need it again. He knew the Lord Jesus was coming to take him to that golden city. He said good-bye to everyone and last of all to Jozko. He encouraged him to trust Jesus and told him the first verse from the Bible which he had learned. (*Say John 3:16 once more with the children.*) Then he went to sleep and never woke up again.

It was morning when Jesus took him home. Martinko's life on earth ended, but goes on in heaven. Everyone who gives his life to Jesus can look forward to living with Jesus forever in heaven.

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).