

L Muriel Lester Lines of Transmission

Print the title page on tan or light brown paper or card stock as the cover. Color print the next page—the photo of M. Lester. Print the text page on the back of the picture page.

Muriel Lester

Kingsley Hall
1883-1968
United Kingdom

Life Lines

(Lines of Transmission: Influences and Mentors)



◆When Muriel Lester was young she was very patriotic. She was proud of her country, the United Kingdom. She was proud of her country's power. But this didn't last long. When she was 18 Muriel came upon Leo Tolstoy's book, *The Kingdom of God is Within You*. She said, "It changed the very quality of life for me." She later wrote

"Once your eyes have been opened to pacifism, you can't shut them again. Once you see it, you can't unsee it. You may bitterly regret the fact that you happen to be one of the tiny minority of the human race who have caught this angle of vision, but you can't help it."

◆Through his writings Tolstoy convinced Muriel that Jesus really meant LOVE when He said "Love your enemies". He convinced her of the importance of taking Jesus seriously. Since Jesus is God, He deserves, REQUIRES His followers to follow His teachings in every aspect of life no matter who (government, teachers, parents) might say acting the opposite of Jesus' teachings is acceptable.

◆India suffered because of the domination of Muriel's beloved United Kingdom. As Gandhi set about to free India from foreign rule Muriel became interested. What was the problem that involved her beloved country? What does Gospel Nonviolence say to British rule of India?

Muriel became a serious follower of Gandhi, even going to India for several months. There Muriel grew in her understanding of Nonviolence in her relationship with Gandhi. When Gandhi needed to visit England to attend a series of meetings about India independence from Britain he stayed with Muriel Lester and the poor at Kingsley Hall.

◆We have spoken about Tolstoy and Gandhi.
Do you know who influenced Leo Tolstoy?
Do you remember who influenced Gandhi?
Who else was influenced by Gandhi?