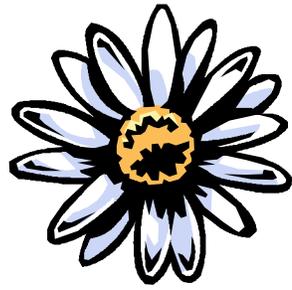# Book Nook
Chosen to Live
by
Johanna-Ruth Dobschiner
Contributed by Johanna

Johanna Dobschisner was a young Jewish girl growing up in Holland during the time that Adolf Hitler was in power. Things were hard for her family because they were Jews. When she was about 9 or 10 years old, the Gestapo took her two older brothers and her two cousins. She never saw them again. Now she had to work even harder to help her parents make a living. Her family lived in constant fear of being taken by the Gestapo.

Johanna had a desire to be a nurse and help sick people, but her parents did not want her to become a nurse. When she was 16, her family took in three orphaned children to take care of until homes could be found for them. A few days later, Johanna was sick - so sick that she couldn't even get out of bed. A few nights later, the Gestapo raided her house. They took the children and Johanna's parents, but they didn't even bother to search the house. So the soldiers did not take Johanna, who was in her bedroom! She thought it was a miracle! While the soldiers were rounding up the children, her parents snuck into her bed-

room and said good-bye. Tears came to Johanna's eyes at the very thought of losing her parents and never seeing them again.

The day after they had been taken away, Johanna began preparing to leave the house that she had known most of her life. She decided to go to the hospital. Her family was friends with a nurse at the hospital who could help her to find a place to live - she could even get Johanna a job at the hospital if they needed her! Johanna went to the hospital and got a job there. She was doing what she loved - helping the sick and injured.

Then one day the Gestapo raided the hospital claiming that they had too many staff members (the truth was that the hospital needed *more*). Besides some of the Jewish nurses and doctors, they also took some elderly patients who were also Jews. The soldiers loaded Johanna in a wagon with some elderly people. One elderly lady asked Johanna what ward she had been assigned to while she had worked at the hospital. Johanna replied, "I worked with patients who had contagious diseases." The people were shocked! They didn't want someone who might have germs of dangerous diseases with them! The old people politely asked her to get out. Johanna got out and marched up to an officer and told him what had just happened and asked to be taken back to the hospital. He consented! She was amazed that he would let her go just like that! There were many more times when God rescued her from being taken away to a horrible death (I don't want to tell you the whole story so that you can read it for yourself). Up to this point, Johanna was not a Christian, but when she read the Bible, it changed her life forever. She now knew that God had a purpose for her life.

I really liked this story because it showed how much God loves and cares for each one of us and takes care of us. We don't have to worry about what is going to happen to us, what we are going to eat, and where we are going sleep. God is in control of everything!