

FACING THE LION

By Mary Kate Crumpton

SIMONE'S LIFE BEFORE WORLD WAR TWO

- ◉ She lived in Mulhouse, France.
- ◉ Her life was filled with joy and happiness.
- ◉ She wanted justice and fairness to all.
- ◉ Simone and her parents were accepted by all of their family.
- ◉ She went to an advanced school.
- ◉ She was very religious and was Catholic.
- ◉ Simone enjoyed playing with her doll Claudine.
- ◉ Her trips to Mass with her grandparents were fun.
- ◉ She enjoyed playing with her cousin.

REEDUCATION

- ◉ Simone was sent to Wessenberg's Reformatory for Girls.
- ◉ It was for girls from four to fourteen.
- ◉ It taught them how to act right in society.
- ◉ Simone received a lot of responsibility and hard work.
- ◉ It was a very quiet and strict place.
- ◉ Many girls received harsh punishment.
- ◉ She also was able to be role model to all the other children in the reeducation center.
- ◉ In the reeducation center they were not to allowed to have personal items.

REEDUCATION CONT.

- ◉ Emma Arnold (Simone's mother) sent letters to her until she was arrested.
- ◉ Her Aunt Eugenie visited her many times and was even allowed to take her out of the reformatory.
- ◉ Simone had to cook, clean, sew, mend, and take care of a little child in Wessenberg.
- ◉ As a responsible child, Simone was able to go outside on many occasions.

AFTER THE WAR

- ⦿ The group of witnesses grew from 35 to 60 even when under ban.
- ⦿ Simone was picked up by a woman who claimed to be her mother.
- ⦿ It really was her mother but her mother had many cuts on her face and was horribly skinny.
- ⦿ Then they took the train home and found their home and town were not destroyed.
- ⦿ Simone's aunt had come everyday waiting for them to come.
- ⦿ Her father had not come home yet and was pronounced dead.

AFTER THE WAR CONT.

- ⊙ Then one day her father came home all torn up crawling up their stairs.
- ⊙ He had escaped the “lion”.
- ⊙ Even though they were all together it wasn't the same as before.
- ⊙ At her family reunion none of them want to hear what Simone's parents went through.
- ⊙ Simone was not a child anymore . In those two years she changed.
- ⊙ She went to art school just like her father did.

SCHOOL

- ◉ Simone liked school very much.
- ◉ The kids at school did not like it when she would preach to them.
- ◉ She was expelled for not saying Heil Hitler.
- ◉ After this she attended a regular school, where she was to sit and listen to the class only.
- ◉ She was beat by her principal for not sorting trash because it would help the war efforts.
- ◉ She also was forced to stand in front of the whole school while the rest of the school said Heil Hitler.

THE “VITAMINS”

- ⦿ The “vitamins” were code name for literature and publications.
- ⦿ Simone on one occasion helped a man print the Watchtower in German form French.
- ⦿ If they would have got caught, they would get in serious trouble.
- ⦿ They made special pockets to hide their “vitamins” in their clothes.
- ⦿ Simone and her mother had made a secret compartment to hide their Watchtower.

NOW

- ⊙ She got married in 1956 to Max Liebster who was also a Holocaust survivor.
- ⊙ Her husband died May 28, 2008.
- ⊙ She is still one of Jehovah's Witnesses.
- ⊙ She is in her 80s.
- ⊙ Today she is currently living in France.



The family gathered together for the Catholic baptism of Marie Simone Arnold, carried by the midwife



Photo of Simone taken in June 1943 as a souvenir for Emma. By this time Emma must have known the date of Simone's departure for the re-education home.



The Arnold family in 1945