

# Facing the Lion



Simone Arnold Liebster

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# Simone's childhood



No. 46, Rue de la mer Rouge



Bergenbach

- Simone was born in Husser-Wesserling which is in Alsace, France
- Simone's childhood was spent in Mulhouse where she lived with her mother and father. Her summers were spent in the beautiful country parts of Bergenbach where her grandparents lived.
- Simone loved going to her grandparents home where the smells of smoke, hay and cereal calmed her spirits of the city atmosphere.

# Survival

- During this time period there were many cultural and historical events that happened. This was definitely a time of National Socialism.
- This was a hard time for you if you were not of pure German blood.
- The need to reform to Hitler's beliefs, laws and commands resulted in conflicts that made worldwide history.
- The results were at times life threatening.
- Because of Simone's intense love for God she along with her family and friends experienced these harsh results from Hitler and his army. As a result she was put into a institution for juvenile education.



Chrimhilde Lederle, overseer of the  
Wessenberg Institution for Juvenile Education



Wessenberg Institution for Juvenile Education



# What was the Purple Triangle?



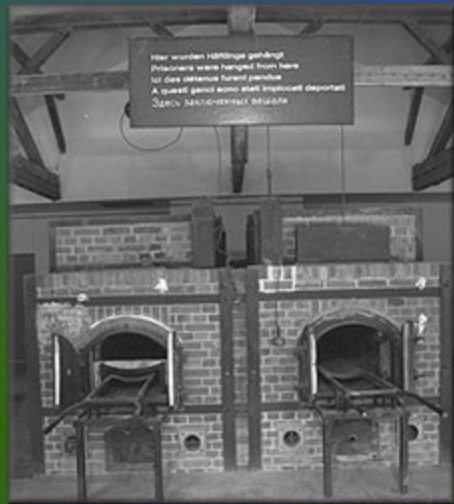
The purple triangle was a Nazi concentration camp badge used by the Nazis to identify religious prisoners, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses (Bibelforscher). Likely Simone's father had to wear this during his stay at the Dachau concentration camp.

(Above) A shirt from a concentration camp member with a purple triangle on it.

(Right) The symbols to identify the group people were in.

**Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge in den Konz. Lagern**  
Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen

	Politisch	Berufs-Verbrecher	Emigranten	Bibelforscher	Homosexuell	Rassial
Grundfarben	Red triangle	Black triangle	Black triangle	Black triangle	Orange triangle	Black triangle
Abzeichen für Rassisten	Red triangle with horizontal stripes	Black triangle with horizontal stripes	Black triangle with horizontal stripes	Black triangle with horizontal stripes	Orange triangle with horizontal stripes	Black triangle with horizontal stripes
Häftlinge der Strafkompanie	Red triangle with a black dot	Black triangle with a black dot	Black triangle with a black dot	Black triangle with a black dot	Orange triangle with a black dot	Black triangle with a black dot
Abzeichen für Juden	Yellow Star of David	Black Star of David	Black Star of David	Black Star of David	Orange Star of David	Black Star of David
Besondere Abzeichen	Yellow Star of David	Yellow Star of David	Red circle	2507	Häftlingsnummer	Häftling Ia
	Jüd. Rassist	Rassistin	Fluchtverdächtig			
	Red triangle with 'P'	Red triangle with 'T'	Red triangle			
	Pole	Tscheche	Wehrmacht Angehöriger			



*Many of the dead were burned. Though most prisoners sentenced to death were first moved to another camp, many prisoners died of starvation and disease. In addition, Russian soldiers were shot to death and buried in mass graves nearby.*



# Why My Mentor?

- During the time Simone was in school she had to face ridiculing teachers and the persecution of many. She was asked to salute Hitler. Although she responded "The apostles said there is only one name under heaven by which we can be saved. 'Heil' means salvation, and salvation only comes through Jesus!"
- Simone Liebster and her husband Max are my mentor because she went through so much at such a young age and she stayed faithful to what she believed in.

## Cultural Marker

During the Nazi Era to 'heil' Hitler was something that was expected of citizens of France and Germany.



Max and Simone, 1993

## How she kept strong

- These were sayings that kept her strong:
  - “If Jehovah sees in your heart the firm determination to keep faithful to him he will give you the means for it no matter the circumstances. No one can stand up by himself. Always remember that!”-Mother
  - “Hope is the greatest treasure. If a man has lost everything he still possesses hope.”-Marcel



# Jehovah's Witnesses Today

The teachings that Simone appreciated and applied haven't changed. These teachings helped Simone to know that what the Bible teaches is true and benefits our lives, even if it meant persecution. Simone's life is Jehovah God. This is true today for the 6.5 million Jehovah's Witnesses.



**Helping Teens in Trouble**

**The Pressures Facing Today's Youths**

**This is from one of our  
*Awake!* Magazines**

**This book is used  
among millions of  
youths today.**



**Young People Ask**



# Interview with Simone

- What is one thing that still sticks with you that your parents said in regards to encouraging you to stick with Jehovah, and what words of encouragement do you say to young people today?

Jehovah never forsakes his servants and if He lets pressure and persecution put us on trial, it is because this is beneficial for us.

Happiness comes from faithfulness. Faithfulness finds its root in love and appreciation, and that specific kind of joy we feel when we overcome a test is a strong proof that our decision is the right one. This satisfaction creates the determination to continue to stay faithful.

- Do you still live in France with Max?

We are very grateful to Jehovah to have been able to stay in the fulltime work until now and for the past 40 years in that beautiful section of France: the Alps .Max has now become an elderly man, he is 92, and I'm happy to be his help wherever is needed.



