## **Discussion Questions**

### **Chapter 1**

- 1. How did Gertrude respond to the sick woman when she referred to death closing about her? In response, what important truth did the sick woman state?
- 2. What was Gertrude's reply after Mechild offered her to join other believers in the oratory?
- 3. In Totman's recollection of their missionary journey from Ireland to Germany, what year did they arrive in the land of the Thuringians to start their work for the Lord?
- 4. According to Geila, the Herzogin, why did the Chawaris break into their land? What was her solution? Was that solution successful?
- 5. How did Iberius show faith amid tribulation?
- 6. What did Gozbert ask Abbot Colman to do for him? After witnessing this victory through the help and aid of the Lord, how did Gozbert respond?
- 7. At the end of the chapter, what grievous news befell among the Christians at Wirtsburg?

### **Chapter 2**

- 1. How many brethren from Ireland came to Germany as missionaries?
- 2. What was the Herzog's desire before he passed away? What did the Herzogen Geila do instead?
- 3. How did Gisilhar boldly confront the Herzogin when she invited a pagan priest to the Herzog's deathbed?
- 4. What did Gisilhar do after seeing that the Herzog did not have long to live?
- 5. What was Hedan's accusation towards Gisilhar and what did he do to show and prove his reign over the believers? What was the believer's response towards this pagan injunction?
- 6. What was Bellaheld's response to Gisilhar's claim of Woden being the devil?
- 7. What kind of characteristics should the men of God look for in their wives?

- 1. How did Heimerich boldly confront Hedan at the funeral?
- 2. How were Hezzilo and Pullig unfaithful in their witness about the event which took place before the death of the Herzog? Why did they bear false witness? What foolish oath did Pullig declare to ensure his false claim?



## **Discussion Questions**

- 3. What dreams did the Herzogin Geila dream after the death of her husband?
- 4. What is the contrast between Geila's description and Bellaheld's description of a suitable wife?
- 5. What did Hedan ask Bellaheld at Abbot Colman's dwelling?
- 6. What dilemma did Bellaheld face in this choice of accepting Hedan in marriage or not?
- 7. How did Bellaheld respond to this request at first? Why did the response change?

### **Chapter 4**

- 1. Where did Hedan send his mother, the Herzogin, to retire?
- 2. What message did Hedan give to Haimerich to be announced to the Christians? What motivated Hedan to allow the worship to continue? Was it because of his Father's dying wish?
- 3. How was the Herzogin tormented with horror after horror?
- 4. What was her plan after learning all of this?
- 5. What did Bellaheld do as she spent time in solitude in her cabin before she was ready to marry Hedan?
- 6. How did Totman, the aged friend of Bellaheld's father, describe Christian humility? Also, what did he instruct Bellaheld to do when placed under the title of a Hergozin?
- 7. Which passage of the Bible did Totman exhort from and how did he counsel Bellaheld in through that passage?

- 1. Why was Haimerich not afraid while the Herzog, Pulling, and he rode in the forest during a storm?
- 2. In the pagan religion of Pulling, what did he have to do to have the wrathful gods pass over him during the storm? Do Christians need to do this in the middle of the storm? What do we do?
- 3. Even if these false gods cannot hurt Pulling's right hand, according to Haimerich, Who can?
- 4. What happened to Pulling as he continued in his ritual by maintaining his vulnerable position?
- 5. Contrary to Hedan's supposition of the gods rendering judgment upon Pulling's hand, how does Haimerich view the reason for this incident coming to pass?



## **Discussion Questions**

- 6. Did Pulling confess his sin of bearing false witness?
- 7. What had become of Hezzilo for his untruthfulness, and for Geila who sought to deceive Bellaheld and Hedan?

### **Chapter 6**

- 1. What was the blessing Totman gave to Bellaheld and Hedan in front of the congregation?
- 2. What was the greatest treasure which Bellaheld took with her to her new home with Hedan?
- 3. Why did Kathalt's radical hatred vanish, being replaced with a heart of love towards Christians whom he once wished to destroy?
- 4. How did Bellaheld treat her servants, both Christian and the heathen? What would she always remember to do right before she started her daily labor?
- 5. What are some fruits which Bellaheld saw through her loving actions towards the heathen? How would you characterize Bellaheld's character so far in this chapter?
- 6. Amid these trying times for Bellaheld, what news reached Wirtsburg which caused Hedan to be even more absent from her presence?
- 7. What did Bellaheld explain to Hedan about prayer and his need for Salvation?

- 1. Who came back with Geila, the former Hergozin who was already a burden to Bellaheld?
- 2. In what ways did Bellaheld and her fellow believers experience persecution?
- 3. Who interrupted the meeting of Bellaheld and the Abbot on Sunday morning? What was his reason?
- 4. What was Bellaheld's response to Gisilhar's request to depart from Hedan?
- 5. What was Pillung's message from Hedan?
- 6. What troublesome and unnecessary news did Regiswind, Geila's maiden, reveal to Geila? How did she conclude Bellaheld's sudden retreat into solitude?
- 7. What devastating news did Bellaheld receive from the horsemen late into the night?



## **Discussion Questions**

### **Chapter 8**

- 1. What happened at the frontlines of the battlefield where Hedan fell at the feet of his enemies?
- 2. Why did Geila triumph in her son's death?
- 3. Disappointed in Regiswind's report, what does Geila ask Regiswind to do about what she had seen and heard? What was Regiswind's response?
- 4. How does Regiswind boldly emphasize, recalling to her experience, the greatness and the work of God in salvation to Geila?
- 5. Did Geila accept this heartily? What became of Regiswind?
- 6. What did Bellaheld do after she heard the news of the horrific event which would take place the next day?
- 7. What news did Pillung secretly reveal to Bellaheld?

- 1. After discovering that the wounded man lived, what did the three men do?
- 2. Who was this man which Brother Lando escorted to his cabin?
- 3. What surprised Geila as she was about to continue her pagan ritual to remember her son's death?
- 4. Who else was there to prove Geila's false claim?
- 5. How did Hedan conclude Bellaheld's flight from the Burg? What did he pray to God for in light of this realization?
- 6. Why did Willebrord address Geila as Anna?
- 7. Even during the dark centuries that came about in the era of Bellaheld and Hedan's daughter Immina, how did the church thrive in the midst of it?



### **Answer Key**

#### **Chapter 1**

- She responded with a reminder to yield all to the will of God for His thoughts are thoughts of peace, and not of evil. Death with God is powerless. Christ is the resurrection and the life: he that believes in Him, though he were dead, yet shall live.
- 2. She replied that comforting the sick is no less a service to God than joining with the congregation.
- 3. They arrived in the year of our Lord 685.
- 4. She concluded that this circumstance was a pagan god Woden's revenge because his worship had been neglected. Her solution was for the Herzog Gozbert to appease the injured gods by sacrificing the blaspheming foreigners on the forsaken altars. Her method only kept them away for less than a year. Within a year, the Chawari came back with tenfold the number, burning and murdering with ruthless fury.
- He raised his voice in the counsel and confronted the men to die as confessors witnessing for the Lord rather than be killed by the Chawari.
- The Herzog asked the Abbot to pray for him. After this, Herzog Gozbert believed and was baptized after being instructed in the truth.
- 7. The Herzog died.

### **Chapter 2**

- 1. 12
- The Herzog tried to express his desire that the Abbot should be sent for to pray with him, but instead of sending for the Abbot, Geila sent pagan priests.
- 3. He asserted that the Herzog is a Christian, and while he lives, his will is paramount, and not another person's will. He also threw the pagan priest out of the room declaring that no matter how many goats and boars he kills as a sacrifice, he will not hinder the Herzog from departing in peace to his Lord and Master.
- 4. He called three Christians and three heathen freemen to his bedside and had them witness Gozbert testify of his son's reign 7. as his successor and to have the men of God continue their holy work in peace, not hindering or troubling them.
- 5. Hedan accused Gisilhar of assuming lordship over him by hearing the Hrzog's oath with the witnesses without permission. He proved his reign by cracking down upon the believers by not allowing worship to take place for a month. Some objected to this injunction that this is not God's will, some obeyed and worshipped the Lord in their cabins in silence. They also prayed for the new Herzog that the Lord will turn his heart and give him thoughts of peace towards them.
- She responded that if you believe that Woden is non-existent, you cannot treat him as existent by identifying him as the dev-3.
  II. The devil is existent and present in this world, but the false god, Woden is an idol that is nothing.
- The wives of the men of God should not be heathen girls (that is, not unbelievers). Their wives must be true, zealous, hum-

ble-minded, God-fearing, and faithful Christians.

#### **Chapter 3**

- He confronted Hedan by questioning him if he truly believes that the false gods would admit Gozbert to Walhalla. He also boldly stated that these false gods will otherwise send him to Hell.
- 2. In order not to injure the heathenism in which they trusted, Pullig and Herzog affirmed the false tale by announcing to all attending the funeral that the Herzog "repented" and turned back to paganism. Hezzilo considered that nothing would be hurtful to the cause of his false religion than to have Christianity re-established, so he instructed Pullig to join him in this detestable proclamation of lies. Pillung declared that if whatever he said was a falsehood, he would let Woden crush his right hand which was raised towards him.
- She dreamed of Gozbert lifting both hands towards the cross, Gisilhar praying an endless prayer, Haimerich leading the little band of Christians back to Wirtsburg, and finally, the Druidess Walda bursting out and exclaiming that Hel has received her husband, which was quite a nightmare for her.
- Geila's description is of fierceness, a woman born into violence, wild, and having the character of a proud warrior. Bellaheld's description, back in chapter 2, is of humble-minded, God-fearing, and faithful Christian.
- 5. Hedan asked Bellaheld, amongst all maidens in the land, to be his wife, and in doing so, he would not further forbid the worship of the Lord.
- 6. This is a very serious request. Hedan would probably not take refusal lightly, and if refused, it might bring about persecution towards the church as Hedan attempted in the first place. At the same time, marrying a heathen Herzog is to be unequally yoked.
- 7. Bellaheld responded and refused his offer by choosing to stand firm in what the Scripture warns about being unequally yoked. Her response changed to accepting Herzog's offer after he threatened to persecute the church if she did not change her position on this matter.

- 1. Hedan sent Geila to Hamelburg.
- Hedan had Haimerich announce the continuing of worship freely with bell-ringing and Psalm-singing. His motivation came not from his father's dying wish, nor his heart, but rather, it came about from the wish of his future bride, Bellaheld.
- She learned that the future wife of Hedan is a Christian, she realized the change in his perspective upon Christians, and worst of all for her, she realized that it would be impossible to wage a successful war against Christianity and to drive the Irish missionaries away.



### **Answer Key**

- 4. She planned not to move to Hamelburg, but remain in Wirtsburg to make sure that her destructive plan to persecute the church would be carried out.
- 5. She considered the thorny path before her and prayed to God for strength to walk that path in obedience. She also prayed for 6. wisdom when she encounters her mother-in-law and to honor her without compromising the firmness she possesses in her Christian faith.
  7.
- He described humility to Bellaheld as the bloom on the fruit of every Christian virtue. He also instructed Bellaheld to humble herself before God, know her state in front of God, even as a wife of a Hergoz.
- 7. 1 Peter 3:1-2. He instructed Bellaheld to be subject to her husband, but never allow herself to be kept from prayer, maintain the meeting with the brethren in the house of God, and be a faithful champion for the Christian people.

### **Chapter 5**

- Haimerich, a Christian, was not afraid because the living God is his sure defense. Others might have a reason to fear the passing of Woden if there was such a deity but Haimerich knew that Woden was just an idol.
- In his pagan religion, Pulling had to lie flat on the ground with his face to the ground, having the right hand clutch earth, and then call upon Hertha's protection. No. For Christians, we trust in the One who created the wind, thunder, and storms. We pray for His protection to be upon us.
- 3. God can.
- 4. A beech tree fell upon Pulling's right hand, eventually requiring him to have it amputated.
- It is not the gods, but the One God, who made heaven and earth, who showed His power upon Pulling because he perjured himself, bearing false witness against His Kingdom.
- 6. Yes. He confessed that he bore false witness from beginning to end, just as Hezzilo taught him to.
- Hezzilo lost his right hand by the Herzog's command, and Geila was banished to the Hamelburg.

### **Chapter 6**

- He blessed them by praying to God for wisdom in ruling, and strength to confess and stand by the truth at all times. He also prayed a blessing upon Bellaheld that she would be a true and faithful wife, and that no man put asunder the relationship God has joined together.
- 2. The greatest treasure was that same Gospel book Gertude had read to Bellaheld's dying mother.
- 3. His hatred towards Christianity vanished under the loving treatment and discipleship given to him by the brethren.
- 4. She showed unvarying kindness to all her servants and practiced great forbearance with the attitudes of the heathen. She gathered around Christian woman-servants with her, read with them a portion of the Gospel, and prayed with them.
- 5. The heathen neighbors valued her kindness and rested greater

- confidence in her, and some begged her to give them Christian instruction. Answers will vary, but some characteristics may be humble, kind, pure, gentle, patient, loving, and obedient.
- Horsa, the Herzog of the Saxons had invaded the land, and many of the heathen nobles had joined him and waged war against those in Wirtsburg.
- 7. Bellaheld explained that the Christian's prayer is not a tool to force God to do our will, but it is a plea to do whatever is right according to His eyes. After Hedan remarked that he had done much good towards Bellaheld's God, Bellaheld responded by saying he may have done his duty for the Christian cenoby, but not to himself for his salvation.

### **Chapter 7**

- She returned with her attendants, all who were heathen, and a number of pagan priests with their wagons containing all the necessary items needful for pagan sacrifice.
- In the morning, while Bellaheld read the Gospel with her fellow believers and united in prayer, the heathen servants would interfere with the believers' worship with their own singing, taunting, and distractions. Whenever the Christian servants ventured abroad, they were reviled and buffeted.
- Gisilhar. It grieved him beyond measure to see Bellaheld in this situation, being married to a heathen Herzog and being tormented daily by the former Hergozin, that he came to interfere and teach Geila better. He also came to advise Bellaheld to depart from the marriage with Hedan.
- 4. She responded that she was Hedan's true wife, and she will keep her vow made before God. She has no intention to dishonor the name of Christ and leave the Christians vulnerable to persecution resulting from Hedan's act of vengeance.
- His message was that Hedan's army rose victorious over the enemy.
- She revealed to Geila that Gisilhar had been sighted at Hochheim. Geila concluded that there is some affair and some understanding between Gisilhar and Bellaheld.
- 7. The Herzog was dead.

- 1. He was overtaken by the enemy who came from a direction where he least expected them. He was struck down by a blow from a club.
- 2. She wrongfully concluded that this was the revenge of the gods for not worshiping them and not giving them proper honor.
- 3. She demanded Regiswind that she twist her testimony and witness to accuse Bellaheld of doing the exact



### **Answer Key**

- opposite of what she did. She stated that the particular request Geila presented may be a work for a heathen, but not for a Christian as she is now.
- 4. She emphasized that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, but it is blessed to become His child and taste His love. God had enabled Regiswind to quicken her conscience and brought light into her darkened soul. She also let Geila know of Bellaheld's intercession for her that she would receive grace and forgiveness of sin.
- 5. She did not. Geila made sure that Regiswind would be included in one of the victims at the great sacrifice she intended to offer up to Woden in memory of her son's death.
- 6. She prayed and cried out to God for deliverance, strength to withstand, peace in sorrow, and submission to the Lord's will for her.
- Pillung encouraged Bellaheld to flee at once. He was also chosen to be the victim who would be slaughtered the next day, and a more terrible fate awaited the Hergozin in the morning.

- 1. They called upon the Lord to be gracious unto this man and restore his life.
- 2. Hedan
- She was surprised to see that Hedan, the very man whom the ceremony was held for, arrived on the scene. Ironically, this frightened her rather than rejoicing to see her son return safely.
- 4. Gisilhar himself, whom Geila thought fled with Bellaheld, stepped out of the crowd to answer the charge against the Hergozin.
- He concluded that this was God's just retribution for his sinful distrust towards Bellaheld. He prayed to God to make him better than his former self.
- 6. Her name was formerly Geila, but after repenting of her sins, and turning away from idolatry, she embraced Christ and was converted and changed her name to Anna.
- 7. The pure light of the gospel stood firm amid centuries of the darkness of this world. The preaching of the old unchangeable Gospel truth of Christ, the only Savior of men, enabled the church to thrive and it was not quenched by the darkness of this world.

