Welcome to Spotlight. I’m Liz Waid and I’m Collin Lowther. Spotlight uses a special English method of broadcasting. It is easier for people to understand. No matter where in the world they live.

Once I knew only darkness and stillness. My life was without past or future but a little work from the finger of another person fell into my empty hand and then my heart suddenly opened to the wonder of living.

Helen Adam Keller wrote these hopeful words. Her childhood was dark and silent. Yet she became an encouraging writer and teacher for many people. Today’s spotlight is on the writer and educator Helen Keller.

Helen Keller was born in 1880 in the United States. She was a healthy baby. But Helen became very sick when she was one and a half year-old. No one knew what kind of sickness she had. Now experts think she may have had scarlet fever or meningitis. Her sickness was very serious. He family believed that Keller was going to die. Hellen did not die. She seemed to recover from her sickness. Her family was very happy but all was not well. Helen’s mother saw that Helen behavior had changed. Helen did not react to noise. She did not react to movement either. When Helen’s mother placed her hand in front of Helen’s eyes Helen did not move. She could not see. She could not hear. The sickness had left Helen’s blind and deaf. Life for Helen and her family was difficult. Helen became a troublesome child. She smashed things in the house. She was angry. She was intelligent but she had no way to communicate. By the time she was 6 years old Helen family needed a new way to help her. They travelled to an institute for a blind. Doctors there said that Helen was never see or hear again. But the director of the institute told them not to lose hope. He said Helen could learn, she only needed a teacher.

This teacher was Anne Sullivan. Anne was a twenty years old student at the institute for the blind and lost most of her eyesight at the age of 5. At the institute for the blind she had operation on her eyes then she could see better. Anne went to live with the Keller family as Helen’s teacher. Later, Helen wrote: “Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much. Walking with a friend in dark is better than walking alone in the light.”

Anne changed Helen’s life. She showed Helen love and support. Helen began to trust Anne. Soon, Helen behavior improved. Anne also began to teach Helen words and use her fingers to write the letters of words on Helen’s hands. Helen repeated the finger movement. But she did not understand the meaning of the letter and words.

Then a small event changed Helen forever. One day, Helen and Anne were walking outside. They passed a water well. Anne took Helen’s hands. On one hand, she wrote the letters w-a-t-e-r. On the other hand, she poured cool water. Suddenly, Helen understood the meaning of the word “water” she now understood the symbol of language. After this, Helen wanted to know more and more. Anne continued to teach her words and their meaning.

Soon Anne taught Helen to read and write. Helen did this through her sense of touch. People were very surprise that Helen could read write and communicate. This was not common for blind people in the 1800s. Helen did not ever give up. She wrote

When we do the best we can we never know what miracle is made in our life or in the life of another. In 1900 Helen went to Rand Cliff College in England. Helen became the first deaf and blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. At college Helen also began to write about her life. Helen wrote many books. Some of the books were about her life. Other books were about her Christian faith. Much of her writings were political.

Helen saw that many blind people live in poor condition. Blind people did not get a good education. But Helen showed that it is possible for blind people to live happy productive life. She wrote the public must learn that blind man has a mind that can be educated. He has a hand that can be trained. He has dreams that are right for him to work towards.

Helen was also very interested in justice for blind people in other countries. She travelled to forty countries around the world. She gave speeches brought hope to many people. The community that Helen Keller visited increased their effort for blind people.

Helen did not only work for justice for blind people, she did not like justice of any kind. She works for social right women’s rights and for peace. She believes that God created all people equal. She though that all people has equal rights to a good life. She said the world is full of suffering, but it is also full of overcoming sufferings. I am only one but still I am one. I cannot do anything, but still I can do something. Helen Keller kept writing and giving speeches until she was an old women. She won many awards and news many famous people. But after she turns 80, Helen has some health problem. She moved back to her homes and lived simply.

Helen Keller died peacefully at age of 88. Her life brought hope and courage to millions of people and she continues to encourage people all around the world with wise words suggest biss.

True happiness is not found through helping yourself but through faithfulness. To a good purpose. The best and most beautiful things in life cannot be seen or touch. They are felt in the heart.

The writer of this program was Marina Santi and Rina Damn. The producer of this program was Rina Dam. The voices you heard was from the United States and the United Kingdom. All quotes were adapted for this program and voiced by Spotlight. You can listen to this program again and read it on the internet at [www.radioenglish.net](http://www.radioenglish.net/). This program is called the amazing life of Helen Keller. You can also leave your comments on our website or you can email us at radio@radioenglish.net you can also find us on Facebook just search for spotlight radio. We hope you can join us again for the next spotlight program. Goodbye