Elie Wiesel

Today we're going to talk about Elie Wiesel…in just a minute.

Elie Wiesel was born in Romania in 1928. When he was 15 years old, his family was deported to Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration camp, where his mother and younger sister were immediately murdered. Wiesel and his father were forced to perform hard labor and were later sent to Buchenwald. While Wiesel and his older sisters survived the camps, his father died shortly before liberation.

After World War II, Wiesel moved to France, where he worked as a writer and translator. For years, he refused to speak about the horrors he had endured. But in 1958, he published his first book: Night, a memoir of his experience in the concentration camps and his subsequent crisis of faith. Considered a classic of Holocaust literature, Night has been translated into 30 languages and has sold millions of copies worldwide.

Wiesel moved to the US in the 1950s. He became a professor of religion and philosophy, published more than 40 books, and spoke out for human rights around the world. In 1986, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, with the selection committee hailing him as a "messenger to mankind." Wiesel died in 2016 at the age of 87.

In what ways was Wiesel a "messenger to mankind"?