

A Visit with Mrs. G

Bible Stories Alive for All the World

Originally written and told by Kitty Anna Griffiths

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God's Call Fulfilled After Many Years

Kitty Coe was sixteen years old when she responded to a call to serve the Lord as a teacher in Kenya with the Africa Inland Mission. She was told to obtain certification as a school teacher in England and then apply to teach in Kenya. Her life's work, she thought, was to be in Kenya, teaching God's Word to children in Swahili and to teens in English. But we met in college, and Kitty became a pastor's wife and God's greatest earthly gift to me.

Nearly 40 years later, Kitty received an invitation from Trans World Radio (TWR) US to tell stories on their global missionary broadcasts. The response from Africa was overwhelming, with thousands of letters from teenagers and young adults who had come to faith or had been strengthened in their faith through Bible Stories Alive (BSA). But there were no letters from children in Kenya – because they speak Swahili and do not learn English until they are almost teens.

Mrs. G received constant requests to have her stories translated and broadcast in Swahili. She longed to do that, but she had no way to do so. Then two years ago TWR Kenya and TWR Canada came to us with their vision to produce BSA in Swahili. Our ministry agreed to cover the production costs, and TWR Canada promised to cover airing costs on two radio stations and follow-up costs for the first two years.

A talented all-African team has produced an imaginative radio program, which is now on the air every Saturday morning. Children go to the studio to listen to the story and discuss it. Listeners phone in with their questions and comments. In African fashion, the whole family listens at the breakfast table and discusses the story. Listeners ask the broadcast team to come to their village to teach their children in their schools. Swahili BSA is on Internet, with a potential of up to 100 million listeners in East Africa.



This is the Lord's doing. If Kitty Coe had gone as a single missionary to Kenya, she would have helped some children. But God had a far greater ministry planned. Though Mrs. G is now in heaven, the call she received at 16 to teach God's Word to Kenyan children is being fulfilled in a wonderful way through these Swahili broadcasts.

But now we have a challenge. The TWR donation for the airing and follow-up costs ends in December, and we ask you to pray with us for this funding – \$280 per week, \$14,560 annually. If you feel led to donate, please mark your donation "For Swahili BSA".

Thank you for helping to tell the children of the world that God loves them and has given the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour.

Gerald Griffiths, President

Why I loved Mrs. G's stories as a child

Mrs. G made Bible stories come alive for children. Whether it was hiding in the bulrushes with Miriam, or marching around the walls of Jericho with Joshua, or vying to catch a glimpse of Jesus with Zacchaeus, Mrs. G's detailed scenes brought me back to biblical times, and kept me engaged throughout the program (quite a feat when you consider that I started listening to her stories as a toddler!). Her ability to hold an audience and accurately convey biblical teachings to such young minds is a feat in and of itself. But I believe her stories did more than that.

Mrs. G understood children. She had an uncanny ability to gauge their capacity for understanding. She was aware of the often underappreciated intellectual abilities of children, meeting them where they were, rather than talking down to them (as adults are wont

to do). Through her unique ability, she was able to really engage children's minds and hearts, teaching them rather than lecturing them. She would not skirt around challenging topics or dumb them down, but would work to apply them to a child's context, making the Bible exciting and accessible for the youngest of God's followers.

Children are pure of heart and sharp of mind, and Mrs. G appealed to this nature in all of her stories. It is also precisely for this reason that her stories continue to appeal to adults as well as children. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

—Abigail Mazurek, a university student,
one of Mrs. G's 32 great-grandchildren

For Praise and Prayer

- **Translation and Audio Productions.** TWR has translated and produced audio versions of 21 BSA books in Mandarin, 14 in Arabic, 12 in Persian, 8 in Swahili, and 7 in Spanish. Some recordings include two original books. BSA in Mandarin is also in eBook format for Sunday school classes.
- **In Somali.** TWR Denmark will soon begin to produce and fund BSA in Somali. Somalia is almost 100% Muslims and there is no Bible ministry for children.
- **Tell me the stories of Jesus.** We have completed the editing of Book 2: *Jesus the Boy and the Son of God*.
- **Seven Teams.** Pray for all involved in editing the English, and translation and audio production in Mandarin, Arabic, Persian, Swahili, Spanish and Somali.

From Swahili listeners

"Hello, I thank God for the Bible Stories Alive program. My children are enjoying the teachings and it gives them Sunday school lessons every Saturday morning. They also say the way it is told is interesting."

"A few weeks ago, my radio broke. This was a nightmare, since my children love listening to the Bible Stories Alive program every Saturday. For two Saturdays they were sad and kept going to our neighbour's house in order to listen to the program. I thank God that I was able to buy a new radio and now my children are enjoying the program from home. Thank you for always airing programs for our children. There is hope for our children."

"Ooooh! The Bible Stories Alive Program! Thank you for the life-giving program. I listen to it faithfully and I love it, even though it is for children."

Donations may be sent:

By cheque: Please make your cheques payable to "A Visit with Mrs. G Ministries"

Online: Please visit www.biblestoriesalive.org/donate

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