

Bible Stories Alive for All the World

Originally written and told by Kitty Anna Griffiths
Edited and expanded by Gerald Griffiths

December 2023

Immanuel – God with Us

This is who Jesus is: God's presence with His people. Jesus promised His disciples that He would always be with them. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ...and I will be with you always."

Yesterday, I read the story of the missionary John Paton (1824–1907). He'd had some medical training, and as a city missionary for ten years he had seen the worst part of Glasgow transformed by the gospel. In his early thirties, John Paton felt compelled by God to go to an island in the South Pacific to tell the good news of Jesus Christ. The people were hostile cannibals, painted and naked. John and his wife were all alone. They built themselves a house. Then soon after this, John's wife and his little son died of tropical fever.

John dug the grave and conducted the burial service of his loved ones while the islanders looked on, still hostile. But there was worse to come. John Paton had to sleep every night on the grave to protect the bodies of his dear family from cannibals. Years later, when John Paton wrote about this terrible experience, he said that he would have gone mad and died beside that lonely grave if Jesus had not been with him. The presence of Jesus sustained him.

During World War II I listened to the testimony of a German Christian, who for some reason had been released from prison by the Nazis and had fled to Britain. He was then travelling from place to place to give his testimony to Christians in churches and to students in Christian Unions. The Nazis had done everything to break his spirit. They had put him in solitary confinement

and given him just enough food to keep him alive. This was to torture him. But it didn't work. He told how Jesus was with him, and His presence gave him so much joy that he had to ask God not to give him more joy because his body was too weak to take it.

A pastor visiting an old lady who lived alone, with no other house in sight, asked her, "Aren't you lonely?" She replied, "No, Jesus is with me all the time." Jesus was living with her in her home as a friend.

The first step to salvation is to believe that Jesus died for our sins that we might be forgiven, and to give ourselves to him to serve Him. Then we are to live by His promise: "I am with you always." Jesus gives us more than forgiveness. He gives us His constant friendship.

This is the good news that we must tell the children and young people of the world, where there is no hope except in Jesus Christ.

We now have opportunities to expand our ministries. But we need more supporters. We have included an extra copy of our newsletter. We would be grateful if you could pass it on to your pastor or friend to make our ministry more widely known.

A blessed Christmas to you and your family and friends.

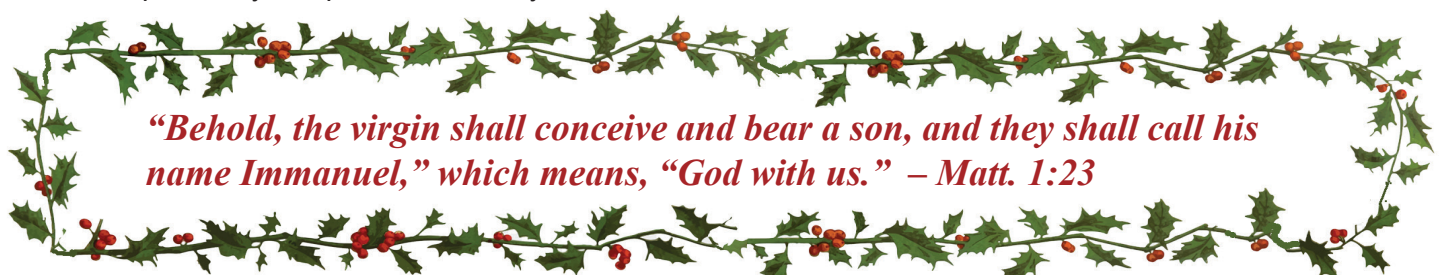
With gratitude.

Yours in Christ,



Gerald Griffiths, President

**Jesus gives us
more than
forgiveness.
He gives us
His constant
friendship.**



"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which means, "God with us." – Matt. 1:23

China – a project completed

You will be glad to hear this news from TWR's China ministry regarding Bible Stories Alive tablets: "We are excited to see the production of the BSA tablets completed and the tablets delivered to China. W. will deliver these tablets to the students who attend the training (courses) in China. We pray that these tablets, covering 36 BSA books, with a total of 284 Bible stories, will bless the recipients and churches in China." (Name and locations omitted for security reasons.)

Bangladesh – a new outreach

An organization in Bangladesh wants to translate BSA stories into the Bengali language. Bangladesh has a population of 165 million, and is 91% Muslim, 8% Hindu, and 0.3% Christian. Christians are persecuted, and it is difficult to evangelize directly. So they seek to promote the gospel through educational and medical services.

There is very little ministry to children in the churches. A single pastor often oversees multiple churches, so their time is limited. There is a lack of qualified individuals to teach the Bible to children, and a scarcity of curriculum and instructional resources for children. The people are very poor. They hope to raise the funds from an outside charity to translate and voice BSA stories in Bengali. Please pray for this new outreach.

Cambodia – a recent report

For over 20 years Mrs. G's stories have been an essential part of TWR's ministry to children in Cambodia. The radio program in the Khmer language, called Happy Children's Garden, is aired weekly on 17 FM stations. It is also heard by children in listening clubs in churches and small villages. While children hear the Bible stories, their listening club leaders reinforce the lessons with games, crafts, and Bible-story activity books supplied by TWR Cambodia. The children write letters to record what they learn from Mrs. G's stories, which helps to

strengthen their understanding of Scripture. Thousands of these letters are sent to TWR every year.

TWR's Cambodia team also holds listener rallies which are attended by between 200 and 300 children at a time. The children are served a meal, hear Bible stories presented live, and take part in singing and other activities. All of this is done with the objective of presenting the gospel to the children of Cambodia, and giving them an opportunity to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Kenya – responses to the stories

From children:

"The Bible program helped me understand the importance of forgiveness and how it can change lives."

"From this story, I have learned that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow."

"I loved listening to the Bible stories of Jesus the boy and the son, then Jesus and the trip abroad. It helped me feel closer to God and understand the teachings better."

"I love listening to Bible stories, especially the stories of Jesus, because they teach me about God's love and how to be kind to others."

From parents:

"I always listen to every bit of the program on Saturday as we relax with my 7-year daughter. Ever since [she started listening], she's been outgoing and she challenges others in matters [of the] Bible."

"I like the program so much for it educates our children and has promoted growth in these young stars."

Donations:

You may donate by cheque payable to "A Visit with Mrs. G Ministries" or online at www.biblestoriesalive.org/donate

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