

Bible Stories Alive for All the World

Originally written and told by Kitty Anna Griffiths

October 2022

Update from Refugee Camp in Kenya



Every Saturday morning children in this refugee camp are eagerly listening to Mrs. G's Bible stories on one of TWR's Swahili radio stations. Now seven hundred, yes, **700** children in this camp are listening to her stories every Saturday morning. Also, these children are now going to local churches. And more. At first, the parents were curious to know what had happened to their

children. Now they are going to church with them! "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:23)

At 16, Kitty Anna dedicated her life to serve the Lord as a missionary in Kenya to teach children in Swahili. It didn't happen in her lifetime, but it's happening now. These Swahili broadcasts remind us of the great work the Lord has done through Mrs. G on the basis of prayer and faith alone. These broadcasts cost us \$15,000 per year. If you wish to donate, please mark your gift "For Swahili".

Bible Stories Alive Version 2

In Version 1 Mrs. G wrote and told Bible stories. Now in their 49th year of broadcasting, the response to these stories is greater than ever.

In Version 2 our aim is to **help** Christians in other countries to tell Bible stories which are true to Scripture and **teach** what the story says about God and His Son the Lord Jesus. The story we write is intended to be adapted by the translator and storyteller for his own country and age group. Our stories are written for the age group of 2½ to 14 years.

Right now, we are writing stories to show the Lord

Jesus to the children. Our prayer is that through these stories they will come to know and love Him, and to trust Him as their Saviour and serve Him as their Lord. Below is a sample story. Please pray for us and for the nine teams of translators and storytellers.

Thank you again for your prayers and help. Together this is our goal: in all languages to tell the children of the world how much God loves them.

Gerald Griffiths

The Riot in Nazareth

Luke 4:14-30

Jesus was now beginning His work in Galilee. In the power of the Holy Spirit, He was performing miracles of healing, teaching in the synagogues, and preaching the Good News of God's kingdom. Everywhere people were praising Jesus.

Then He went back home to His own town, Nazareth. He had grown up there as a boy and everybody had loved Him.¹ On the Sabbath He went to the synagogue. The people were glad to see Him joining in their worship again. The women and children sat in the side galleries. Jesus and the men and the boys, 12 years old and over, sat on the stone benches on the ground floor.

The meeting always ended with a message from the Bible. The ruler of the synagogue invited any man to speak who had a message for the people. Jesus stood

up. He had a message from the book of the prophet Isaiah. He was given the book, and He found the words He wanted to read.² They were the words which the Messiah would read when he came to save God's people.

Jesus read them aloud: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because he has chosen me. He has sent me to tell good news to poor people, to tell prisoners that they are free, and to help blind people to see again. The Lord has sent me to rescue those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time has come for the Lord to save His people."³

Jesus gave the book back and sat down to teach. Every eye was fixed on Him. What was Jesus going to say? Jesus began, "While you heard Me reading those words just now they were coming true." Jesus meant that what He was doing – healing and teaching people all over Galilee – were the very things the Bible said the Messiah would do. So Jesus was the Messiah!

¹ Luke 2:52

² Isaiah 61:1-2

³ Luke 4:18-19 (Paraphrase, with help from various translations.)

Continued on page 2

The people were excited. As they listened to Jesus, they smiled and nodded their heads, and the men said out loud, "That's right! That's right!" Everybody agreed that Jesus was the promised Messiah. And they marvelled at the beautiful words He spoke.

But suddenly everything changed.

The men sitting on the stone benches in front of Jesus stood up and turned their backs on Him. They talked to each other. "Hey, isn't Jesus the son of Joseph? Joseph was a carpenter in this town. A very ordinary man. So how can Jesus say He's a prophet and the Messiah when His father was just a carpenter?"

The men in the synagogue no longer believed that Jesus was a prophet, because Joseph – whom they thought was His father – was only a carpenter. Of course, Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus had already proved from the Bible that He was the Messiah. And the people in the synagogue had agreed. Yet now they wanted more proof.

Jesus knew what they were thinking: "Show us Your power. We've heard that You did miracles in Capernaum. Now do these things here in Your home town."

Jesus refused. He had already given them enough proof. But that was not the problem. Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth. A prophet is not accepted in his home town."

The people in Nazareth now looked down on Jesus. He was no longer a famous prophet from a faraway place. Jesus was just a "local boy." They knew His father (so they thought), and His mother, and His brothers and sisters.⁴ Jesus belonged to a poor family in Nazareth. So He couldn't be a prophet, and for sure He couldn't be the Messiah.

The men in the synagogue turned against Jesus, and Jesus had to leave His home town. But before He left, Jesus reminded them of what God had done in the past when the Israelites rejected His prophets Elijah and Elisha.

In the time of Elijah, it didn't rain in Israel for three and a half years and food was scarce. People were hungry, and many widows needed help. Yet God did not send Elijah to help these widows. He sent him to help a widow who lived in a town outside Israel.

In the time of Elisha, there were many lepers in Israel. Yet Elisha only healed one leper, and he was a foreigner – Naaman, who came all the way from Syria to be healed.

Jesus told the men in the synagogue that when the Israelites rejected their prophets, God used them to help people in other countries. In *other* countries. This made the men in Nazareth mad.⁵ God was NOT

the God of other countries, they thought. God was their God, and their God only.

"Jesus is a false teacher!" the men in the synagogue shouted. They boiled over with rage and shouted, "Kill Him! Kill Him!"⁶ Nothing would stop them from killing Jesus at once.

They grabbed Jesus. They drove Him out of the synagogue and out of town, then up Nazareth hill to a cliff.



The view from Nazareth hill.

They were now ready to push Jesus over the edge of the cliff and kill Him. But Jesus turned around and walked right through the mad mob! Nobody dared to touch Him. And Jesus went to another town to heal the sick and tell His Good News.

Yes, God loves the Jews. But He also loves everybody, in every family and tribe and nation. The Bible says, "The Lord is good to everyone, and is merciful to all he has made."⁷ The Bible also says, "We must never become tired of doing goodWhen we have the chance to do good to anybody, we should do it."⁸

This is especially true when we have the chance to do people *the greatest possible good*. That is, to tell them the Good News of Jesus Christ – that God has loved the world so much that He gave up His only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life and will not be lost.⁹ And now Jesus says to you and to me, "Go everywhere and tell everybody this Good News."¹⁰

⁴ Mark 6:3

⁵ See also Acts 22:21, 22

⁶ Deuteronomy 13:1-5; John 8:59; 10:31; Acts 7:58, 59; 14:19

⁷ Psalm 145:9 (International Children's Bible)

⁸ Galatians 6:9-10 (The Simple English Bible)

⁹ John 3:16 (paraphrase)

¹⁰ Mark 16:15 (paraphrase)

Donations:

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

Canadian Charity #118797505 RR0001