



Bible Stories Alive

For all the world

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Written and told by
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From the Lips of Little Children

It was Saturday morning. We had just finished breakfast. There were five of us, our two little children Ian and Myfanwy, my wife and I, and a teenage guest, Glenys. Our little daughter, Myfanwy, was then just over two years old, two years and three months. She called Glenys by her full name, Glenys Jones. When I got up from the table that morning to go to my study, I overheard this conversation.

Myfanwy: "Glenys Jones, my daddy is a pastor."
Glenys: "Yes, Myfanwy."

Myfanwy: "Glenys Jones, my daddy is going to preach tomorrow."
Glenys: "Yes, Myfanwy."

Myfanwy: "Glenys Jones, my daddy's gone to his study now, waiting to be blessed by Jesus."

I had never heard a better description of what a pastor is supposed to be doing in his study: "*waiting to be blessed by Jesus*". I wondered where our little girl had got the idea from.

It was from a song that her mother sometimes sang to her and her brother at bedtime. Bedtime went like this. "Mum" sat on a chair between their two beds

and read stories, an "everyday" story and a Bible story. Then they had "prayers", and mum sang a few songs. This was one.

Listen to the voice of Jesus—oh, so sweet!
As the children gather round His feet.
Little ones to His knees are climbing, there to rest.
Older ones stand round Him, waiting to be blessed.

And this little girl of twenty-seven months had applied the hymn to her daddy. I was one of the "older ones", who spent his time in the study "waiting to be blessed" by Jesus.

Yes, at twenty-seven months. (I still have the note of her age that I made at the time.) You might say, "Then, your little girl was precocious." But there is another answer: God had spoken to her through the gospel song she'd heard.

That is the answer Jesus gave when little children responded to His ministry. You remember the story. Little children were praising Jesus in the Temple and hailing Him as the Messiah: "Hosanna to the Son of



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David!” The chief priests and the teachers of the Law were angry and told Jesus to silence the children. They said to Jesus, “Do you hear what the children are saying?” “Yes,” Jesus replied. “Have you never read in the Scriptures what God does in the hearts of little children?” Jesus quoted from the Psalms.

Out of the lips of infants and nursing babies
You [Lord] have prepared praise.” (Psalm 8:2)

Jewish mothers nursed their children up to three, so these “nursing babies” were probably toddlers. And God had spoken to them.

The little children had heard what grown-ups were saying about Jesus: “Hosanna to the Son of David!” They had seen the miracles of Jesus. They had met Jesus. And the result? The Holy Spirit inspired these little children to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

This is what can happen when children hear the Gospel: the Holy Spirit can work in their hearts so that they trust and love the Lord Jesus.

What an encouragement to parents and Sunday school teachers! And to all of us who are concerned about the salvation and Christian growth of children: God’s Spirit works in the hearts of children

when they hear the truth about the Lord Jesus.

But children must first hear the truth. As the Bible says, “Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Christ.” (Romans 10:17) This is our part: to **tell** children about Jesus Christ.

We have now started our Tell the Children of China project, in partnership with Trans World Radio (TWR). We have edited six books (of Mrs. G’s 58 books), and TWR have begun to translate and voice the stories in Mandarin. We have a long way to go and we very much need your prayers and support.

Presenting the Bible stories in Mandarin will be costly in effort and money. But God’s Word can make an eternal difference in the lives and destiny of millions of children as the Holy Spirit works in their hearts—as they hear and read the greatest of all stories, the story of God’s saving love in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for being partners with us. We are workers together in God’s service.



President

God’s Spirit can work in the hearts of children when they hear the truth about Jesus.



Children in a classroom in China.



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