

# A Visit with Mrs. G

Bible Stories Alive for All the World

Written and told by Kitty Anna Griffiths

December 2018

## Tell All the Christmas Story

Children love bedtime stories that go on and on. The Christmas story is like that. It takes four chapters in the Bible: Matthew 1 and 2, Luke 1 and 2. And Mrs. G told it as a you-are-there story, with details so that children could see and hear everything as it happened.

The edited story in Chinese, called *Jesus the Baby*, begins before Jesus was born and continues until he was a little boy of about 2 years old.

As told in the Bible, the Christmas story takes children to many places: Persia, Rome, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, all the way down to Egypt and back again to Nazareth. And in the story they meet all kinds of people: Priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, the angel Gabriel, the shepherds near Bethlehem and the angels, saintly old Simeon and the prophetess Anna in the Temple in Jerusalem, the wise men from the east, the emperor Augustus Caesar, and Herod the Great. All these different places and people are part of the story. And they are saying something important about the coming of the



Lord Jesus to reveal God and to redeem the world from sin.

Mrs. G rightly starts the Christmas story with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had listened to the serpent – Satan – and rebelled against God. Sin entered into the world and ruined everything. Then God pronounced a curse upon the serpent and promised to send a Saviour into the world, born of a woman, who would crush the serpent's head – who would defeat Satan. God kept this promise by sending His Son into the world. And God's word promises that when Jesus comes again He will destroy all evil.

This is good news that children around the world need to hear.

Thank you for helping us to do this.

A blessed Christmas season to you!

Gerald Griffiths, President

### Updates

- **Somali.** TWR Denmark are going to record all Bible Stories Alive in Somali for children who are refugees in Ethiopia. This will be a five-year project, funded by TWR Denmark.
- **Swahili.** A radio mission (not TWR) has asked to air our Swahili BSA program on its FM stations in Kenya and Uganda on a free-airing time basis.
- **Mandarin.** A Chinese missionary is eager to promote the use of BSA in Mandarin for Chinese churches and Sunday schools in Germany.

# God Surprises Us

**B**ible Stories Alive (BSA) and Trans World Radio (TWR) Canada are producing BSA in Mandarin, Persian, Arabic, Spanish and Swahili. The partnership began in a surprising way. Ray Alary, President of TWR Canada, tells the story.

I was in China. I had spent a few days in a big city with all of the conveniences we have in North America: subways, packed highways, beautiful hotels. Nothing had prepared me for my next experience. One minute I was in an ultra-modern city, and the next minute I thought I was back in rural Africa. In essence, there were two Chinas: the modern China and the rural, undeveloped China. This story focuses on rural China.

I will never forget our first stop. The vehicle went from a paved road to a gravel road to a path, to a big pile of manure. The church was right there. It was a room with a blackboard, cement blocks with wood across them to form a bench, and two plastic chairs for the speakers.

The room was almost full. Everything I said was through a translator, but somehow I felt I was part of their family. I shared the Word with them. Then I asked them: "If we were going to do one thing for you, what would it be?" Their answer surprised me. They said, "We need stories for our grandchildren."

One of them explained why they wanted children's stories. In their honour/shame-based culture, they couldn't let younger people know that they themselves didn't know the basic stories of the Bible. If they had children's stories, they could learn the stories themselves and then share them with their families.

We went to another small church, and they made the same request. Our final meeting that day was with a younger woman who taught Sunday school classes in her area. Her request was the same: "We need to share the Bible in a story format."

I left with a new burden and no idea how TWR Canada could help.

After I returned, I was asked to present a plaque to Mrs. G in appreciation of her ministry with TWR for 40 years. Mrs. G's program had made an impact on my children when we were serving on Bonaire as missionaries. On Saturday morning at 7:00 am, we aired two children's programs, and one of them was A Visit with Mrs G. Our children and most TWR children got up early on Saturday to listen to these programs. We also aired the programs in Africa. So presenting this plaque to Mrs. G was a great privilege for me.

I heard how the program had started and grown, and I asked, "Why have you only done this in English?" Mrs. G answered, "No one in TWR has asked us to do it in another language." At this point, my mind was going a thousand miles an hour! I thought back to China and the repeated requests for children's stories. God had just provided an answer to their prayers!

*A Visit with Mrs G* is an amazing program! When it began, no one [in Christian missions] was talking about orality, the idea of using a voice to share the message instead of the printed word. Today, we are discovering that the oral way is often the best to share about Christ – untold millions can't read. The Griffithses were actually 40 years ahead of their time! I think of this program as Thru the Bible Story by Story for children. But it isn't just for children. In most cultures it is for the whole family.

We are now doing projects in five languages. All this has come from a simple conversation with Mrs. G.

There is still much more to be done. We need to get BSA on to media players. We recently got feedback from our TWR Swahili team in Kenya. Their report is like the story of my own children. The children listen to the story and then they discuss what they've heard. They gain knowledge of the Word, then they apply it to their lives.

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