

Bible Stories Alive

Originally written and told by Kitty Anna Griffiths on A Visit with Mrs. G

December 2019

The Christmas Story and the Snake

One Sunday morning before Christmas I was the preacher at a church in Toronto. Mrs. G's Bible story books and CD's were on display in the foyer. A lady picked up a book called *Jesus the Baby*, the story of our Saviour's birth. She was shocked to see on the first page a picture of a snake. She came to me at the end of the service and asked, "Why did Mrs. G spoil her Christmas story with that snake? The snake has nothing to do with Christmas."

The truth is – the snake has everything to do with Christmas. If there had been no snake, there would have been no need for Christmas. The snake, of course, was the devil in disguise.

The first prophecy about a Saviour coming into the world is about that snake. You remember the story, how the devil, using the serpent as his mouthpiece, persuaded Adam and Eve to disobey God and go their own way. Adam and Eve sinned, and God drove them out of the garden He had prepared for them. And something worse happened: "Sin entered into the world" (Romans 5:12). Like a deadly virus, sin spread and spoiled all creation and the future human race.

This is what the serpent, alias the devil, did. But God put a curse upon the serpent and announced that a man "born of a woman" would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). He would destroy the devil.

God kept His promise: The Saviour was born of Mary in Bethlehem. The Son of God became man, a perfect man to destroy the devil.

Jesus called the devil "the ruler of this world". And as He faced His death on the cross, Jesus said, "...now the ruler of this world will be cast out [dethroned]. And I,

when I am lifted up from the earth, **will draw all people to myself**" (John 12:31-32 ESV).

Jesus was lifted up on the cross to die for the sins of the world. He then rose from the dead and ascended to heaven as Lord of all.

Ten days later, on the day of Pentecost, Jesus drew 3,000 people to Himself. How?

The proclamation about Jesus is what draws people to Him to receive salvation.

Peter preached the good news about Jesus – who He was, what He had done, and what He offered to all who repented and believed in Him. And as Peter preached, Jesus drew people to Himself – to believe in Him and receive forgiveness and eternal life.

This is the Lord's strategy. The proclamation about Jesus is what draws people to Him to receive salvation.

This applies to our ministry: It's not enough to tell children Bible stories. The Bible stories must point to Jesus. And when they do, children and young people come to faith.

We have now embarked on our biggest venture – the editing, translating, and recording of the Bible Stories Alive series called, *ALL THE STORIES OF JESUS* – in six languages.

It will be costly. Please pray that the Lord will inspire churches and individuals to support this big venture.

If the Lord enables us to do it, it will be a great resource to families, churches, and missions. Above all, it will bring eternal benefits to the children and young people of the world.

Thank you for your prayers and help. A blessed Christmas to you.



Gerald Griffiths, President

“Thank you so much for helping me to know Jesus”

“I was in a little gang in my village before. I liked to beat other children that were smaller than I was, and curse them. However, after I listened to the program, I came to know Jesus and His Word, and the way that He wants me to live my life, and to follow Him. Now I have changed. I don’t beat others or curse them. Instead I have started to love and help others. Thank you so much for helping me to know Jesus.”

“I really liked the Bible story. It attracted my heart and I wanted to know more and listen more. So I continued coming to listen to this program. After I finished listening to the series of the Christmas story, I decided to accept Jesus as my personal Saviour, because I know that I’m a sinner and only Jesus can save me from sin. And I’ll be in heaven with Him one day.” —*Kilita*

These two letters are from young teens in Cambodia who listen to TWR’s radio program *Happy Children’s Garden*. The program has singing, a health lesson, and a Bible story, the heart of the program. The Bible story is a Mrs. G story. Nearly 20 years ago, TWR Cambodia asked Mrs. G for permission to translate and voice all 56 books of Bible Stories Alive.

Families in Cambodia are often too poor to afford a radio. So the children hear the program in “Listening Centers”, in churches and homes, with a trained leader who follows up the Bible story with a discussion. The radio response has been amazing – on average 20,000 letters per year, with testimonies of conversions and children and young people being helped to follow the Lord Jesus. The program is now in its 18th year.

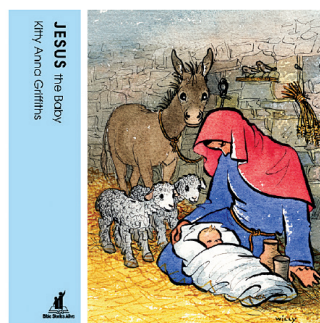
Team #7: Somali

More than 99% of the 20 million Somalis worldwide are Muslim. Half of them are under the age of 18. About 5 million Somalis live in Ethiopia. Because there is no biblical children’s programming in Somali, there is an urgent need to create one to present the Gospel to the children. Norea Media Mission in Denmark plan to fund a Bible Stories Alive radio program for Somalian refugee children in Ethiopia. They will do this in partnership with a local church.

TWR Canada will produce the program and contextualize for Somali culture. They will train Somali-speaking children to present the stories. The programs will include life-applications from the Bible story. Also, there will be a 5-minute message for parents and guardians on child-rearing.

The programs will be distributed on CDs, USBs and SD cards for free distribution. The partner church in Ethiopia will promote the program and follow-up with listeners by visiting villages and collecting feedback through letters, e-mails, text messages, telephone calls and social media.

Please continue to pray for our seven teams as they edit, translate and voice Bible Stories Alive in English (editing), in Mandarin (for Sunday schools in China), and for Internet and radio in Spanish, Arabic, Farsi, Swahili, and Somali.



You may download Mrs. G’s recording of *Jesus the Baby* (Part I and II) in MP3 format for \$4.00. Visit biblestoriesalive.org.

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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