

## The God's Story Project Praise & Prayer Report #2 of 2009

Dear Friends of God's Story,

Sorry! Since Jan 22nd I have not shared any of the TGSP excitement with you. For example, this photo shows delivery of *God's Story* to a pastor in a refugee camp. The deliverer, with face blocked due to sensitive nature of the location, wrote, "I had given *God's Story* to this pastor on the MegaVoice solar audio player in December. In his first playing, 3 adults came to Christ while other current believers repented for many things. He continues to use the MV each week as people are still being encouraged and growing through TGSP. Now, as you see, we gave him the video and a projector to play *God's Story* for many hundreds."

Feedback from a **Middle East** *Simply The Story* workshop...A participant from the Coptic Orthodox Church, used the STS technique in his youth group, and said, "Since I started using this method, the response has been amazing." The pastor of an Amharic language congregation said, "STS changed my style of teaching Scripture to my congregation."

Another person said, "It has affected my daily meditation." Still another said, "I always found it difficult to memorize Scripture. Now I learned how to remember the exact words in a Bible story easily." One innovative participant even shared a story in an online chat room and 25 people joined in. Some of these amazing pastors serve as exiles away from their homeland.



**Read down to see why a pastor said..."Instead of leading my mother to Christ, I wept and put her to sleep."**

Out of our little "headquarters" so far this year we have seen 12 new versions of *God's Story* completed and 6 more were produced and are waiting for final approval. On top of that, our USA teams just led *Simply The Story* workshops in Pakistan, Dubai, Cambodia, Hong Kong, two locations in the Philippines, Guatemala, Peru and two in USA. We leave for Louisiana tomorrow and a team leaves in a few days for St.Lucia and another for UK, Ireland, Scotland and Kosovo. There may be openings in this Europe trip. In case you (or someone you know) might want to attend, contact The God's Story Project office.

As I write this we are praying for help in Europe since one of the main instructors just emailed about a family emergency and told us to go without him. Oh NO! On the 2nd of May the team of 6 splits and goes in 3 directions by twos to separate countries. One alone cannot do the training. Hum??? Shall we say to our God, "You brought us out into the wilderness to die." No! He is able. Please pray for this situation.

Overseas teams leave for Calcutta and Bangladesh, while yet others are training now in Zambia and then go on to DR of Congo. These instructors need a lot of prayer as political and religious upheavals are currently taking place in most of these regions. Workshops continue in locations where STS is firmly planted. See [www.SimpleTheStory.com](http://www.SimpleTheStory.com) for some of the workshops coming up AND check the home page link for amazing video, "Dallas Theological Seminary Graduate, PhD BIOLA, & career missionary gives view on STS."

But what is being accomplished? Besides all of us being stretched spiritually and physically, here are sample of responses to God's Word in *God's Story* and *Simply the Story* training.....

**Mostly Mus.lim Country:** A 17-year old girl from a remote tribal group came to our STS workshop. She is the first believer among her people. Shy at first, she soon became bold. "This is for us! "I can understand the Bible now and I can go back and share these stories and talk about them. My people will listen."

**New Zealand:** "At the moment I am teaching a busy mum to use storytelling to her young family of 4 to teach them the Word of God. It has been amazing when I have used STS how my group members have said they can't stop thinking about the Bible story all week! How much more will impressionable children learn God's word this way.

"We continue to distribute the G.S DVD/VCD when ever possible. Even though the DVDs/VCD are not going out in large numbers it is so encouraging to have them going out in a steady trickle all over New Zealand."

**Senegal:** A USA missionary led a man Senegalese man to the Lord. After some discipleship, and more recently exposing the African convert to the STS way of witnessing using Bible stories, this happened. "...more details about the new converts in Senegal. Three of them were Catholic and two of them were Musl.ims. In the original e-mail, J P mentioned 10 people, so I'm assuming the other 5 were either animists or family members. Still, new conversions are very rare among the Senegalese, especially among the Musl.ims.

"J P told me that they used the stories of Jesus walking on the water and Jesus turning the water into wine--two of my favorites! I think I mentioned these stories to him in advance. He said that when the people heard these stories they realized that our God is the true God."

**Hong Kong:** [110 attendees from 7 countries were just trained, many of whom are cell and house church leaders.] "Yoshi a youth pastor from Japan shared the first day how the Martha/Mary touched him. He said, "In Japan people make group decisions, but it touched me that Martha and Mary both made individual decisions."

"Cynthia shared the first day (from another story) that she was amazed at the fact that even though the leper was unclean, Jesus STILL had compassion. This sparked good discussion."

**Laos:** "i was asked to share God's word in an international church and of course i used sts about Martha and Mary, you know because we did enjoy discussions and the spiritual treasures that we discovered we didn't noticed that we talked almost two hours and they don't want to stop!"

**India:** "In the last month there was a girl came with the problem of leg pain, her name is S kupta, not able to walk and her parents took her to all the hospital at last they brought to church. Praise God, God worked while I shared about the story of the woman who had the problem of 12 years she touched to Jesus cloth she healed. The story repeated several time by asking question so she understood the part of touch. She trusted to touch Jesus, Because of that God Healed her. Praise the Lord "share the story, save the soul"

**USA:** "All I can say is, I've been spoiled for the ordinary following learning STS--I can't help it! When I sit in a service now, I'm taking the passage that's been read aloud and begun an internal dialogue, asking questions and gleaning sweet morsels to take home with me! I like it a lot!"

**USA:** We showed *God's Story* at MGC this Wednesday, with only 2 days of notice, and using only flyers as advertising. We had 15 students and 5 adults attend, which I thought was very good for the amount of advertising we had! They listened very attentively and thanked us for showing it. No obvious results yet, but the day after we showed it they were still thanking us."

**USA:** "I have always been taught that God only heals today if it is for the furtherance of the Gospel. I listened to the Story4All podcast [programs 45-46] and knew I had to come learn about how to really listen to the Bible and how to learn and tell a story. I heard the *One Leper* story yesterday. Jesus had compassion on the leper and touched him and then Jesus healed the leper and told him NOT to tell anyone what had happened but to go tell the priests. I saw that Jesus had compassion and healed, and it was not for witnessing, so I asked God to heal my back. I have had pain for 20 years and could not bend without pain. Look! I can bend. I have no pain!" Keith Jackson

**Zambia:** "The overseer of the denomination called Glory Tabernacle stood in front of the group with tears in His eye. He said that he had been trying for three years to talk to his mother, who is 89 years about Christ. It had been practically impossible for him to even relate a verse as concentration was very difficult for the aging mother.

"This time he went home after the third day of training, and that was just after learning about the story of Jonah. He went and just sat at the bed side of the mother. He told the story slowly. After going half way the story, and as he was trying to emphasize on Jonah going to Tarshish, he looked at his mother and was surprised at the face. She was following the story. When he got to the end of the story, the mother said, "so going to TARSHISH IS RUNNING AWAY FROM GOD, I have run away too. Can I come back?"

"He said that instead of leading the mother to Christ, he wept and put her to sleep. He asked us to pray for courage as it was difficult for him to see such a time he longed for the whole of his ministry to see his mother come to Christ. He looked at me and said, WHERE WERE YOU? MAY BE MY FATHER WOULD HAVE ALSO RECEIVED CHRIST BEFORE DEATH. He whispered and said 'simply a story' He came back the following day with the news that his mother received Christ."

**Zambia:** "The people were very moved by the presentation that was made on this story, because the man with a withered hand in the story was played by a real man with a real withered hand. At the end of the story, the man (with real withered hand who played the withered hand in the story), stood up and said 'this will remain true of my hand, I will do all I could not do with this hand from now on'. He then moved on and picked a chair using the same hand and shouted 'it is working, it is working'. There were tears in the hall. This is real in my head even as I write. We've just closed the meeting as am writing and the man is reading what I'm sending to you before I leave tonight. I wanted him to know that other people have been praying for the meeting. "

"I was resting in my room after the training on Thursday, just after the story of the withered hand. A pastor came into my room and said 'sir do you have gifts of healing? I said why? He said 'that man was healed during the story'. I said 'oh'. Then he said 'should we be picking people with real issues in the church to do stories?' I said NO. That man volunteered. I said, storytelling is about the Bible stories, the bible is alive, and God is still working, but please don't use story telling for anything else other than just bringing the truth out of the word of God. Leave everything else to God.

**Philippines:** [From a national who ministers among Mu.lims.] "The 18 students that i am teaching on STS were so amaze of the dynamics of the methods. In fact i got more people everyday to learn the skills. the 18 students are preparing themselves to do cross cultural mission with in 10/40 windows."

**Guatemala:** After a workshop, Bible school students gave their view of STS. "To study thoroughly"--- "God's word is not boring"---"a lot more than I knew before"---"how to tell a story in Spanish and in my dialect" The Bible school's professor said this student's comment has been his prayer...."I learned how to use the story first in application to my life."

The students wrote how they plan to use what they learned---"to help others know what God did in those times"---"to help people who have not had the opportunity I have had (to learn the Bible stories)"---"to tell those unreached to Christ"

"God gave me the opportunity this morning to tell a story to a drunk where all the buses depart and even if he could not appreciate it the lady serving the breakfast I bought him and her other patrons heard it."

The students quickly went to the streets and the local hospital to tell a story from the Bible. Some told family back home over the phone. The school director said, "I plan for the students to story God's word with inductive questions in the daily chapel times."

**Cambodia:** Sue S., who has been in ministry in Kampong Thom witnessed, use of some players [MegaVoice solar-powered audio-players formatted with *God's Story* in Khmer] "These were given in local areas immediately around town. She said "it's the most effective thing I've seen."

"My friends expressed that they found it possible to share the gospel to superiors with them, as they are too shy to speak to anyone older than them (including especially their parents) in this hierarchical culture, to any result. They said the MVs were different, as people listened to those."

One person chronicling the MV use reported, "They had tried taking it apart to use the solar panel for something else, but after failing at that, decided it was useful for what it was designed for. Actually, this was a theme for all the ones Dave distributed so he started making a joke about it, accusing people before they said anything. In every case they admitted to it!"

"The most excited recipient of all. We initially gave him two and he wore them out trying to pass them around to about twelve different house churches. He begged us for more, and we didn't have them yet so my friend told him to pray for them. We eventually gave them five more.

"Man with MV wasn't home when I went back to see him, but he arrived from working in the fields shortly after I came. I asked him about the megavoice player, and he pulled it out of his pocket! He'd been listening to it while working. This was almost a year after I gave it to him."

Please pray for those who see and hear *God's Story* that they will come to know Jesus, and for the teams world wide producing new language versions and that are training others in STS.

Thanks for your prayers, encouragement and support. We are grateful to you. Ultimately we praise and thank our God as He continues to honor the use of His Word in *God's Story* and *Simply The Story*.

In His service,

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Declare his glory...his wonders among all people." Psalm 96:3