

The God's Story Report

Prayer & Praise Report # 3 of 2012 April-June | *God's Story (GS) & Simply The Story (STS)*

Dear Friends of God's Story,

Persecuted Church Impact. A team traveled to Egypt and led two back-to-back workshops. The believers they trained experience beatings, threats, surveillance, disappearances and more. In the workshop Egyptians asked, "How can we face what we see coming on our land?" "How can we help our flock with what is happening around us?"

This new partner in Egypt just sent this exciting testimony on GS and STS results.

We have trained over 500 people on the story telling and the use of the Bible story to reach the unreached for Christ. We also recorded God's Story in Egyptian, printed a program for children (this year program includes 11 lessons taught on 11 days designed according to the STS way) and trained Sunday school teachers and the program is reaching more churches and more unreached areas.

Knowing that Egypt is a country we've prayed for, one being turned upside down politically and with massive challenges to believers, makes that report most exhilarating!

These photos show 3rd and 4th generation storytellers in a nation not friendly to Christianity as they tell stories in the marketplace of life. Many hearers are being saved and baptized.



I wish I could reveal this next country to you, but it is so high on the persecution scale that I dare not. Some believers were secreted out to a nearby country for STS training. We later received a note telling how "the brothers and sisters are enjoying telling the story."

Telling story in STS format become our lifestyle. Now we started to reach some unreached places with STS and now the quality of believers life is improve and the passion to tell God story in their heart language, also the blessing they have using STS in personal devotion.

Only Stories? What About Evangelism? When we talk about telling stories and discussing them with unbelievers, some people rightly inquire about using “only stories.” They express caution that “with just a story all that occurs is a moral lesson.” I suppose this could happen. But in action, what we see over and over is that God’s Word reaches people spiritually. As unsaved individuals see the character of God demonstrated in people’s lives, they ask, “How can I know this God?” For example, we heard from Nepal:

We used the STS story of Abram & Sarai in audio with lots of questions [Practitioner Audio Training] on 14 unbelievers. These Hindu and Buddhist men discussed story more than two hours. They expressed strong feelings about how Abram acted. They said Pharaoh was better man and talked how God treated Abram nicely. After, the men asked if they could talk about some more stories like this.

Later we heard that within 7 months, 13 of the 14 men had accepted Jesus and 6 churches had been planted! That is just one of many reports we hear that demonstrate that the “goodness of God” (as seen in stories throughout the Bible) “leads to repentance.”

Notice in Sudan how a story (inside *God’s Story*) impacted a listener.

A boy here was furious with a classmate. So he brought a knife to school intending to kill the other boy. We had just given the teacher of this class a solar player with *God’s Story* in Juba Arabic. That very day, the teacher played the story of Cain and Abel for the class.

When the angry boy heard that Bible story, something happened. He took out his knife—and gave it to the teacher, confessing his plan! God had touched his heart. That day, the boy asked God to forgive all of his sins and accepted Jesus as his Savior.

New Resources. We now have brochures for *God’s Story* and [Simply The Story](#). Also we completely restructured our [STS Handbook](#), printed it, and recorded it for use in audio. This stand-alone book now allows people not only to learn the how-tos of STS, they can also find testimonies of STS impact and obtain some of the reasons (the apologetics) for this way of preparing and sharing Scripture. We completed a booklet, *Practitioners Guide*, that helps newly trained people use STS in ministry and shows how to easily hand off their new skills to others. We also prepared a syllabus of 3 courses for use in seminaries.

Contact us if you want any of this material or check the search feature on web site to see if there are downloadable versions.

God’s Expansion. While we were developing needed material, the Lord helped staff lead STS workshops in 5 of 6 continents of the world. (None in Antarctica!) Trainings were done all over USA, India and Kenya. Also we trained in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Mexico, Southern Ireland, New Zealand, Burundi, Uganda, Togo, Mozambique and many other countries. The settings ranged from prestigious seminaries to outdoor village locations.

We joined 41 academic leaders from around the world who gathered at Wheaton to investigate how to incorporate oral strategies into theological education. After a few delegates voiced concern about stories being done without the larger framework of Scripture, a professor who uses *God’s Story* in his courses on narrative spoke up, “*God’s Story* is the metanarrative you need. Have you not seen it?” [metanarrative=big picture]

Over 60 STS-Oral Bible Schools (OBS) in 9 countries are in session or beginning and STS is now used in 96 countries. Four new languages of *God's Story* were finalized: Egyptian Arabic, Spoken-arz; Giryama-nyf for Kenya; Bisu-bzi for Thailand and Pyen-pyy for Myanmar, plus 15 other new language versions wait for final approval.

Advanced Trainings, Joys and Challenges. The advanced training in Kenya is going so well that country leaders are on a waiting list to participate in the October class! The 6-week course, Comprehensive STS Leadership Training, covers STS training, advanced leadership skills, multiplication methods and setting up Oral Bible Schools. The August class has 15 students from 7 countries on 3 continents!

An African denomination's leaders had observed the impact of STS on their people, so they believed in STS and had called for an advanced training so that OBSs could be set up throughout their country. The team of African instructors arrived at the location only to find that none of the STS Assistant Instructors to be trained had shown up! It seems that when those well-meaning country leaders discovered that those who had come for the advanced leadership did not have formal Bible education, the leaders sent those uneducated people home and selected instead people who were "qualified," people who had certificates—but people who were not STS trained!

After a time of explanation, the leaders realized that they had not understood how STS opens Scripture so it can be learned and shared by anyone "who has an ear to hear." They grasped the principle that STS is an oral way to learn, and that oral learners can teach their nearly 100% oral congregants as well as (possibly even better than) those educated in Bible in a literate style. So a beginning workshop for the selected Bible school graduates was done instead of an advanced training. Below see the heartwarming and insightful responses of the "educated" attendees.

"I've learnt so much within the short time I have been here for this training. I wish I was taught this way in the bible school I attended."

"This is what our people need. You have talked about OBS, do you have plan to open one in my village? My people need this."

"It is amazing how we just discovered so much treasure in the story and we even didn't finish the whole story. Who taught you this wisdom? We are so happy that you came to teach us this."

"I think the school I attended forgot the non-literate people because they only taught us to teach in literacy way. So the people we have been reaching do not get it. Thanks for this new way you have taught us this week."

The leaders themselves said, "You told us that every school should have twelve students, this will give us a 'problem' in selecting the twelve. Already there are so many people who want to attend the school."

Thank you for your prayers and support.
Dorothy A. Miller, TGSP