Uses & Users:

Academic

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story4all

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- **Read Article** From Dallas Graduate/PhD BIOLA
  - **See and Hear** His Live Testimony!

- **Paper** from Career MAF Missionary/Teacher

- **Testimony** of Fuller PhD Ministry to Secular Jews
Academic

Numerous Bible schools and seminaries throughout the world have invited STS instructors to introduce oral strategies and *Simply the Story* to their faculty and students. This invitation to introduce these strategies continues to come to us.

As well, here and there, STS is being woven into curriculum and being offered as a course. We are prayerfully on the lookout to assist in formatting the existing teaching material of STS into a standard curriculum style.

We offer a few reports here of schools and seminaries that have incorporated STS into their offerings. More is seen in the reports from Africa and West Africa.

**Moving Up the Ladder**

You may recall that several years ago the South India Bible College first used STS in their summer ministry outreach in the slums. They saw such an excellent response in the slums that the principle included it as a class.

Now, as a result of the impact on their students, we were asked to lead a training in the seminary. The training is going on well by His grace, both Bachelor and Masters degree students at South India Seminary are showing great interest to learn STS.

The Principal and the board want to use STS as one of the major subjects in their academic curriculum.

**“Show a Deeper Walk”**

Grace Bible College, the largest Bible school in India, now uses STS as part of their curricula.

Reports from their staff state, “Our graduate evangelists are seeing greater responses to the Gospel and growth of the village believers than ever before.

The evangelists themselves, who have been trained in and use God's Story and STS, show a deeper walk with the Lord and better understanding of the Bible than our previous graduates.”

**Response Among the People**

South India Bible College and Seminary used STS for summer outreaches in the slums. The school directors saw such an excellent response that the students ministered, that the directors decided to add STS to their training program in the college and seminary.

**Testimony of the Rediscovery, through *Simply the Story*, of an Ancient Jewish Tradition—Storytelling for Effective Jewish Ministry Today**

My wife Diana and I have served as missionaries to the Jewish people for twenty-nine years. We ministered for eight years in Israel in pastoral and teaching ministries.

The Jewish people, known as “the People of the Book,” are also people of books. Historically, their high education and learning have needed to become learned and intellectually well-equipped to effectively reach and minister to Jewish people.
After achieving my goal of attaining a PhD degree, I believed I was intellectually prepared for ministry to Jewish people. But over the years, I was becoming quite weary of using apologetics and argumentation. Jewish people, and especially the educated Jews, are not impressed by being lectured to.

Then, about two years ago, I met Larry Dinkins, another missionary with a PhD. He began to tell me his story of how his training was not working in Thailand. He came to understand that the Thai are largely oral learners. He learned of Simply the Story (STS), experienced a paradigm shift, and began using this to revolutionize his teaching and ministry.

This impressed me, but I assumed storytelling was generally an approach used with non-literate and uneducated people, so my first response was to think it not relevant to Jewish ministry. But it did not take me long to think twice—stories would be Jewish-friendly, if one used the stories of the Hebrew Bible.

Well, long story short—I have been using Simply the Story now in a weekly Jewish Seeker's Bible Study for about two years in the Los Angeles area. We have between twenty and thirty participants. Several Jews are attending, and they have been very responsive. I have been coaching Jewish believers to lead in the STS model, and they are growing in leadership skills as they do so.

STS provides a context for discipleship as well as leadership training. I have been coaching Jewish believers to lead in the STS model, and they are growing in leadership skills as they do so.

One Jewish man embraced Yeshua as his Messiah through our group several months ago. Several Jewish seekers are attending, but it has taken them several months; they have not yet embraced the Messiah, but they are participating in the stories and bonding to the group.

A Jewish man is his early 80s, who lived most of his life in New York City, came to faith in Messiah about three years ago. He told me recently, "I never really knew the stories the way I have learned them now; they have come to life!"

STS will continue to be a major element in my ministry repertoire in the future.

By Rev. Bill Bjoraker, PhD
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Director Operation Ezekiel
Faculty, Academic Advisor, William Carey International University

For specifics on how Simply the Story treats Scripture see Design of STS.