STS - Worldwide:

Africa

Americas-Latin

America-North

Asia
Europe

Oceania
STS - Worldwide:

Africa

Americas-Latin

America-North

Asia

Europe

Oceania
STS - Worldwide:

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Europe
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STS - Worldwide:

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Asia

Europe

Oceania
&nbsp;
We have only just begun to plant STS in Central and South America.

Simply the Story

Guatemala
We have planted STS in Dominican Republic, Honduras, Peru and Panama.

In 2010, we led our first workshop in Brazil, which we hope was the first of many there.

Our instructing teams are in great need of trained STS instructors who speak Spanish.

In 2011 we hope through workshops to plant STS more deeply in Argentina, Honduras and Mexico.

We send instructors when countries host teams and gather people for workshops, and as the Lord supplies funds.

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Brazil

“I am glad to contact you, and tell you the wonderful blessing that was to help in a workshop in Satarem...”

“Many brothers and sister were blessed as they received this tools for they ministry, some of them, work...”
“They told us that this method would be of great Impact in their ministry. A man told me, ‘I have more than 25 years of experience in ministry but this is the first time I have heard anything about storying. I will use this method to help people understand the Word of God!’”

Stalin Soto, Instructor from Dominican Republic

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**Team Visits Colombia**

An STS team gathered from USA, Dominican Republic and Colombia flew to Bogotá to lead a workshop. The team reported, “The Colombia workshop was truly a blessing: 28 Colombian nationals all committed to working with the Bible storying approach. The institute leadership listened and were ‘impressed with the method.’”

The five newly trained Colombians told stories there on Thursday night to the students. Six months after the training, some workers in Colombia who had partnered on a language version of God’s Story sent us their newsletter. They wrote asking for prayer for … “For God’s protection over the Colombian missions team and what He accomplished through them during their stay in the 4 villages.”

They reported that “the Bible storying method helped people to understand God’s Word and His plan of salvation, that an entire family became believers, and that many have asked for more teaching.”

“We are so thankful for the 8 dedicated Crisalinco missionaries who gave of themselves to go and serve where we as expatriates have not been able to travel since 1995. Pray for the opportunities that God has given us to use and model the Bible storying as well, such as being able to share the story of Daniel with a group of children and adults in a Ticuna village near Leticia this past May.”

We don’t refer to STS as “storying” as the two styles of using story are about 50% different in content. We call it “The Story of God.”

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**Guatemala: “Is Not Boring”**

After a workshop, students at a Bible school 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 last student comment has been his prayer]....“I learned how to use the story first in application to my life.”

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**Panama: Tribals Can’t Do Critical Thinking … We Were Told!**

The training took place in a jungle. See [Workshops for Non-literate] for full story.
Peru: “Nature Isn’t God”
"A short time ago we gave some of the MegaVoices to animistic Mapuches in the Andes that we thought might use them for evangelism.

At first I told them the story of Nathan the Prophet that you had in your story telling materials, and suggested that they use these stories to “confront” the non-believers.

“One man was a new believer that had never been discipled, because he lives so far away and there is no church where he lives. My pastor friend, Daniel, had shown him the Jesus film and he and his wife prayed to receive Jesus.

“But, after listening to God’s Story in Mapudungun for a month he said, "Now I understand that God is the God of nature, the God of the Bible, so once again we see that the stories of God speak to the deepest needs and misconceptions of mankind.

Missionary

Peru: A Scary Bible Story Turns Real
“On our family mission trip to Peru, towards the end of the morning of our third day of STS training in Ollanta, in the highlands of Cuzco.

“As I was teaching up front, we heard a loud cry go up from three houses down. "Rene has fallen, Rene has fallen!"

“Within moments the room was empty and I was left wondering what we were going to do about a guy who had fallen through a second story window. He was 16 stories below. We were 36 hours boat ride from the nearest hospital and there was no airstrip nor radio to call in help quicker.

“Rene had fallen hard and his ankles were in such a mess he could not bear his own weight and he had felt the top part of the story! (This is the story in Acts 20 of the man who fell 3 stories to his death when Paul was preaching one night.)

“Our middle daughter had adopted that story (of the 16 stories we as a family had prepared for this outreach), so I asked her to tell it in Spanish, which she did immediately.

“After a good telling I asked a couple of questions referring to parts of the story. We saw that Paul was focused and excited and that the disciples were among the rest until hours later when Paul had spent the rest of the night talking with the disciples and then departed!

“I asked everyone to pray, hooking our faith in the story (His Word) and we went off to lunch, leaving Rene in the capable hands of two or three friends.

“Two hours after praying for him and when we were back in the workshop training, Rene walked in unaided and alone, with a bandage on his head and his ankles bandaged and swollen.

“Now we were all so excited that we could hardly wait to discuss later the next day the ways we can use stories in our lives — even in the most traumatic of life’s situations!”

Stories from the Dominican Republic
Mona Hook and Betsy Mabry
All conversations while in DR took place with a translator.

Housewives of Houston
Several ladies came to one STS workshop. These wives traveled with their church on a short term mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Storytelling worked very well in the Vacation Bible School for children second grade and older. It was also a fabulous tool for door to door visitation.

VBS Story: The Haitians
On the first day of VBS we told the story of Zacchaeus, so they had that as a foundational story.
On the second day of VBS we told the story of the man who gave the banquet in Luke 14:16-24. The story was very applicable to this culture.

In the 8 year old group we discussed the kind of people that the host invited after his initial invitation was refused. The children understood that the lowest of the low in Dominican culture are the servants, so this little one grasped the profound nature of the host’s invitation.

In this group we asked children who wanted to accept the invitation of salvation. Many of them raised their hands. We prayed with them but there were too many to talk with individually, so we just trust God for the actual salvations from this group.

We told the story to all ages, but the most exciting response came from the oldest group who were 10-14 years old. They clearly saw the significance of refusing an invitation to a big dinner since their food is slightly above subsistence level.

They acknowledged that the excuses were flimsy, as they realized that to buy land or oxen you would have seen the land or oxen, so the man who gave the banquet correctly determined that the invitation was salvation.

Lastly, during application, we turned the question to whether any of them had accepted the invitation. Many said they had already accepted but they wanted to stay. When the room cleared there were at least 15 who stayed to talk and receive salvation. It was so exciting.

Door to door visitation story #1: Mind Had Been Opened
The first time Betsy did a story with people at their homes she told the story of Zacchaeus. There was a woman named Dulce at this house.

Our time went very well as we introduced the idea of story telling by asking them if they wanted to hear what the children had heard in Bible school. The woman was open to listening, so I told the story in a 40 minute format.

At the end during the application, I asked if she understood what salvation was. She was not sure. So, we went through the plan of salvation again and she was able to tell me that her “mind had been opened” in a new way. She also said that her headache was gone. It was a really exciting moment.

Door to door visitation story #2: Did Not Want to Be Bothered
Mona visited a house adjacent to our construction site. The weather was threatening thunderstorms. There were men from the Village Builders who were very busy working.

Mona asked if she had heard the VBS stories from her children. The wind had picked up, and the rain was driving down onto the house. The husband seemed unwilling to take the time to meet with us. So, the man agreed that the woman could invite us to sit on her porch and brought out chairs for us.

As Mona started the Zacchaeus story, the man was barely listening. As the story progressed, he started inching his chair forward until he was in the circle. Finally, he sat with his elbows on the table leaning forward, actively listening.

During the lead through the man started answering before his wife, even though she was very involved and excited about the story.

At the application, when Mona asked them to define salvation, the wife’s answer indicated that she was depending on her works for salvation. Mona and the group clarified that salvation is by grace through faith alone.

Then she asked the woman if she wanted salvation to come to this house today. The woman flew out of her chair and stood up. She was so happy! We could see a hardness in the man’s face, but by the time he prayed he was soft and glowing. You could just see the joy there.

On a final note, twenty feet away the construction men had no rain which would have delayed their work. One of the men told us he appreciated our visitation because we were in the right place at the right time. We had intended to show “God’s Story” on the Thursday night we were there. Unfortunately the rain was so intense that we had to forego the event. God’s timing is perfect… we just don’t know what that is.

Door to Door visitation story #3:
Betsy went to a home of a woman named Juana. It was said that her husband, Cli, was very ill in the hospital, and so we wanted to visit him. We met the woman and a younger man at the front gate.

Immediately after the first telling of the story, one of the women very indignantly asked, “Why are 7th day Adventist so... The Sabbath?” Betsy told her to hold that thought until later. We continued through a 40 minute story telling process.

We had intended to show “God’s Story” on the Thursday night we were there. Unfortunately the rain was so intense that we had to forego the event. God’s timing is perfect… we just don’t know what that is.

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When we got to application Betsy asked the woman to repeat her question. She said, “If I fell in a ditch would you help me?”

Well, because I didn’t want to get bogged down in a heavy discussion, I asked her which person in the story most clearly corresponded to her situation.

This was an answer from God for Betsy as this cut right to the heart of the matter without getting into a lengthy dialogue. She sat back in thought and was satisfied.

After the story was finished we talked about salvation, and it was clear that these women were believers. We had a good conversation, and I asked them to send a prayer for Cli’s health. I don’t know what his status is, but he is in the Lord’s hands. It was a great time together.

Other Door to Door Comments: Seeds Planted
I (Betsy) had another occasion to tell the banquet story, without any visible changes or dramatic testimony. But the women were more interested in talking about their daily lives and how they could be of help to others.