

Simply The Story (STS) Oral Bible Schools (OBSs) Nov-2014

We began testing OBS in 2009. In 2010, we started in Kenya, designing schools based on what we learned from running the first three schools in three different countries. By the end of 2011, 10 schools were operating in Kenya. As people observed the fruit of these schools, particularly the ones in Kenya, they began to ask how to establish a school in their country and region.

As of Nov 2014

Active and/or Graduated: just under 4,000 schools in 16 Countries.

Curriculum: Learn 296 stories STS style.

Duration of Course: As long as is needed to learn the prescribed 296 stories.

Goal: Learn and complete inductive Bible study STS style on 296 stories, and to be able to teach them to others in a discovery-discussion.

Purpose: To understand the Word of God in a deeper way, be impacted personally by the Word, to be enabled and motivated to live out the impact, and to be able to share the Word with others in a way they can understand it, be personally impacted, live it and share it with others.

Schedules Created and Used:

- One hour per day during lunch, 5 days a week
- Three hours daily after work, 5 days a week.
- Four hours daily starting at 2:00 pm, 5 days a week, three weeks on then one week off.
- Two weeks on, two weeks off
- Six months straight.
- One to Five evenings weekly in a home.

Customized schedules continue to be created by locals to fit their needs. All schedules tried have proven useful except the 6-months straight schedule was found to be too hard on the students. Six months away from home proved to be a burden on the student's families, finances and ministries. Additionally, we found that periodic breaks in the learning of stories were vital. Intermittent time away from school was needed so that students could go to their homes and marketplaces of life and use the stories they had just learned in order to imprint the stories solidly on their memories.

*Some countries found Home Bible Schools (HBS) a more appropriate method of learning the 296 stories.

Some of the Countries with OBSs and HBSs

Bangladesh-13 HBS

Benin-1 OBS (early stage)

Egypt Over 2,000 HBS

Ethiopia-49 OBS (9 have graduated. 40 have just begun with plans for more.)

India-1 OBS (Now has over 1,785 *HBS)

Kenya-46 OBS (12 have graduated)

Maldives-4 HBS

Nepal-1 OBS (Moved to HBS, number not available yet.)

Niger-7 OBS (Difficult environment, but they want to set up many.)

Nigeria North-4 OBS (early stage)

Philippines-6 OBS (3 are on different islands, so regular oversight is done by cell phone.)

S. Sudan-2 OBS

Senegal-1 OBS

Singapore-1 HBS

Sri Lanka-20 HBS

Togo-9 OBS (More planned soon)

Plans are set for opening OBSs soon in Burundi, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

Statements of some country directors who are setting up Oral Bible Schools:

Niger Director:

I do have this decision to continue planting OBS's in Niger. Why? Because Niger is one of the countries with very high need for such of means in order to make the word of God available to everyone and to bring about a multiplication in the body of Christ.

Togo Director:

I have planed to continue planting OBS because people love it, there is real change in lives during the school and the impact in the area is obvious.

Kenya Director:

About 60% of our OBS students are literate and 30% are gradates of traditional Bible schools. Interestingly, five of the OBS graduates already had seminary and/or masters degrees or PhDs when they began the OBS.

We keep receiving reports of OBS graduates going back to their churches and ministry jobs and soon receiving pay raises and being elevated to higher positions. In each case, the Bishops and ministry leaders said they had observed the increased spiritual depth and wisdom of these graduates.

Philippines Director:

Most of the OBS students are oral learners, but most of the students in two of the schools graduated in Bible college. One of them is a Doctor and owner of a Hospital here.

I like to do more OBS because it is a life changing and it helps the people losing their bondage from the power on the believers of the enemy who captured them. And I see how powerful the OBS compared some traditional Bible schools.

One of the German missionaries came to me and bring his students because he heard the OBS during my workshop. He believed that OBS is most powerful way to educate and transform the servants of the Lord in good service in his kingdom ... and also influence the world and brings them into the genuine Word of God.

I believe that OBS must be planted all over the world because it is a big help for moral recovery program in the community. This is proven because one of the not so Christian churches here is famous for doing debates in radio and televisions. They are very hard to convince because of they are so strong in their doctrines. But when I did STS workshop on radio, and also class discussion on air, this pastor was turned to Jesus Christ because He told me that I never mentioned any doctrines and yet He said the application are so real and very approachable to them.

***Home Bible Schools (HBS)**

Egypt Director:

Many people are changing their way of approaching the Word of God and the way they reach others for Christ. Though our nation is oral by nature, church leaders were trained to use literate and topical subjects. Now we help them use oral strategies which are suitable for our people.

A house church is between 8 and 25 according to the location and other factors. I really don't know how many people are using this 296 series for house churches but almost all of the 8 thousand house churches of Egypt use stories as the leaders got the training. Normally they use one or two stories in a week as they learn one story in a meeting.

We printed and gave many books of (*Ministry That Multiplies*)-MTM with the stories and the context. Last month we started selling instead of giving for free so we sold about 80 to eighty leaders. I expect in a year from now we will sell more than 800 copies with the stories

In Sudan we expect even greater success than Egypt. [Since we received this testimony, they are now seeing that anticipated success.]

India Director:

Now we have about 1,785 HBS going on in 30 states of India and more than 15 thousand leaders in these HBS classes are learning God's Word. Each of our state leaders (leaders who have undergone the STS training) started HBS with their own churches and with their friends and Bible fellowships. In India many churches have Bible study classes once in a week. They gather in one of the believer's house. When churches saw the results and spiritual maturity after using STS, then each church or pastor started to use STS.

After STS workshop first they use MTM books to learn. After 12 sessions then they use 296 stories chronological method in their weekly Bible classes. Now we gave them the name "Home Bible School." HBS are blowing / going like wind all over India. The Holy Spirit of God bringing more results than before because people are going deep in God's Word and everybody in the group has the chance to speak and to learn

together with the help of the Holy Spirit. What a God's plan through STS. Praise God.

I will continue to start or setting up HBS (Home Bible Schools) all over India because it gives spiritual maturity and unity among believers because they all study the Word of God together with their own way (Oral way).

When we conduct a workshop in a particular place, each leader (who attends the workshop) will then use what they learned in a practical ministry.

They tell stories at neighboring homes or market at the evening. They will start HBS where people (both believers and non believers) show their interest to learn more deeply in the Scripture. So STS users first introduce this method in that house and it spreads like a wind to neighboring places.

Maybe 25 to 30% of the HBS leaders have workshop experience and then they follow Ministry That Multiplies books in the new HBS. Some Bible school graduates also join HBS because they see the value of going DEEP in the word of God in STS method they never seen during their Bible College studies.

Some HBS meet twice in a week, some meet 5 days a week (except Sunday & Friday) some HBS meet everyday as family devotion. Some HBS meet twice in a week, depending on their availability.

Each HBS has at least 10 students, in some places 8, 12, 13 or 15, but not more than 15 because it takes much time to handle. If more people come then they divide into 2 HBS.

Each month HBS students learn at least average of 25 stories. It depends on how much time they spend on each story and how many times they gather in a week. Some HBS students learn more than 25 stories.

Maybe 60 to 65% illiterate people attend HBS in rural places, but in the city 30 to 40% people are illiterates and rest of them are literates. About 1/3 of each HBS students will try to find treasure and ask questions, but they need to practice with several stories with the group and personal home (devotion also needed) work also need.

We have had more than 50 HBS graduations. Now HBS has become their local Bible School, which produces the instructors to start local workshops with one senior Instructor.

Now we see many HBS turn to be house churches.

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