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Simply The Story(STS)
Oral Bible Schools (OBS):
[Need](#) , [Design](#) , [Starting](#) and
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[Special Simply The Story](#) (STS)
Oral Bible Schools (OBSs) -2014 Update

Need for Oral Bible Schools

Question: If someone becomes a



believer in Jesus and is not literate, where could that person go to Bible school? Right! Nowhere!

Actually, there is some help available. Dotted around the globe, there are schools that do teach students

The STS-OBS also teach Bible stories and encourage the telling of stories to others, but in addition, the

STS-OBS began in July 2009, all because a Filipino Christian touched by STS workshop training felt the

But this Christian's idea prompted us to set up some pilot STS-OBS whose curriculum was to teach only

Now praise God, *Simply The Story* Oral Bible Schools are springing up in various nations.

Design of STS Oral Bible Schools

Twelve students, hosted locally, shepherded by national STS instructors, learn Bible stories and study

The students, who are a mixture of non-literate, semi-literate and preferred oral learners, learn how to di

After trying different models, we settled on one that saw the most success. The students attend two wee

So the students alternate. For two weeks, students are in school and learn stories and practice them so

This schedule allows the students to learn about 15-20 stories in that two-week period, and then they go

As well, that time home allows students to keep tending their ministries, homes and fields, making the s

Then the students come back to their schools and learn more stories.

Most graduates know close to 200 stories, which they then carry everywhere in their heart pockets. The

Starting an STS-OBS

Local pastors and Christians who have seen the value of STS arrange for a school in their region. After

The selected students, their church, family or village provide the students' food.

As possible, STS headquarters in USA endeavors to pay for solar players with recorded Bible stories, G
When recorded stories are not available, headquarters assists in the recording of the stories.

The school begins when local STS instructors lead a 5-day STS workshop in which they teach the twelve

The believers who host, often pastors, serve as spiritual guides and problem solvers. For the schools wh

Although we originally anticipated that most students would be single, young and non-literate, the popula

During each of the two-week sessions of school, weekends are generally used for practical use of story

Brief Results of STS Oral Bible Schools

In-depth reports found on [OBS Results](#) .

India (One School) This pilot school ran for six months straight. Students learned an

Learning of stories was not dominant, and the leadership who oversaw them was not highly skilled in ST

Kenya (Seven schools initially [decommissioned on this site](#) in April 2011, his red base
[graduation celebration](#)

To give a glimpse, they learned 120 stories in four months!

Nepal (One School) Tamang people. Of twelve students who started, eleven stayed in

As a result of telling their stories and people saved, the Tamang students planted six churches near the

A local Nepali pastor who had been involved for 19 years in trying to disciple the Tamang said, “I

Philippines (Two Schools) As explained in [Philippines Results](#) from our previous posts, the

Zambia (One School) “We managed to bring the oral school to the end with the total of

My Best Day Ever!

A missionary in Uganda who uses STS, traveled to Kenya to investigate the Oral Bible Schools. He, and
With only these three sites, [Simply Tell Story](#) some of the Oral Bible School students, the students felt the f

Five of the many stories told to the visitors by the students:

A lady said, “My sister died this morning. The family is there, but I had to make a decision. My sister is w

Another female student shared, “None of the other students knew about me when we all started the sch

“But the stories. Oh, the stories. So many stories we learned and discussed showed us about love and f

Yet another student told this. “I am a single mother. To take care of my children, I do any jobs I can find,

“Well, I was invited to come learn some Bible stories. Taking off a day of work would be hard for me, but

“Then again I was shocked. I came to find out that these five days were the beginning of a two weeks or

“Let me tell you what is happening. I now go to school for two weeks and keep learning more and more .

Our leader told us, “While we talked with the various ladies in this school, the husband of one of the wor

One of the students in the men’s school told a story to the visitors that meant a great deal to them. “No o

“Well, I got mad and I fought them and that’s when I got hit on the head with the machete.

“So, even though I was at this school learning Bible stories, inside I was angry and just waiting for the ch

The student spoke with intensity. “Now one of the stories we did was about the children of Israel after th

“So I went back again to my village, but people didn’t trust me well not at first. They said, ‘You’re coming

Fruit Bearing, First OBS Graduation in Africa

As God told us in His Word, there is a time to plant and a time to reap. The celebration of the first STS O

We are transcribing some [video testimony Ann Kaingo](#) testimonies told to us at this Kenya celebration and

Any day when this plucky five-foot, 65 year-old widow can't get a ride to school, she walks 10 kilometers

Ann's comment may reveal even more. Could it be that her perceived "need" to carry her Bible to give h

Keep looking on our "What's New" corner on the web site for more OBS audio and video testimonies.

Seventeen leaders from outside Kenya, representing eight countries, came to observe this celebration a

Some of these students had never been out of their villages, so the fellowship of these believers and joy

How Schools Operate

The OBSs have been in session in Kenya for two months to one year. The students from Vihiga, the first

The schools scattered throughout the southern part of Kenya operate two weeks on and two weeks off.

About two-thirds of the students actively serve as pastors or on a church staff. Nearly half of the studen

Of the 120 students who began attending these OBSs only four have dropped out! One student was dis

So far, leaders in Kenya and other African nations of Ethiopia, Sudan, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso

Because these schools are largely student-supported, only people hungry to learn Bible in an understan

For the first week of a new school, a qualified STS overseer leads an STS workshop. That training is fo

Overseers for the schools are selected from the growing pool of qualified STS instructors in Kenya. We

None of the instructors are paid STS staff, and as rural pastors, they live on meager incomes. But, when

After the initial two weeks together, the students organize their own study schedules. However, at the e

TGSP (the ministry that [Simplify The Story](#)) covers the cost of sending the overseers to the school

During the students' year of learning stories, they study together for two weeks. Then they go back to th

Interaction With The Graduates

We sat and talked with ten of the twelve members from Vihiga, the village that hosted this first graduation.

The other absent student was on a month-long suspension. His classmates, all who serve as pastors, do not know why.

The ten graduates with whom we conversed told us why they first came to the school and why they continued.

A new crop of students has already started a second OBS in Vihiga.

One of the challenges the men named was the distance some of them had to travel to attend school and to assist.

“Humm,” I mused, “Good questions. I am wondering why Jesus didn’t think to have more than twelve disciples?”

“But if there were a lot more students than twelve in a school, what would happen to accountability among the students?”

I wanted the students to solve the problems of schools being too far away and the need for schools to be self-sustaining.

I suggested, “You live in different villages, and stepped out of the boat to see if the OBS was really from the Spirit.”

All ten graduates stated that they wanted to start assisting in workshops so they could become certified.

Future Plans, “We Want to Go There!”

The majority of the students in all ten schools expressed their interest in learning to teach and in becoming certified.

When the Kenyan STS instructors met before this graduation celebration, they looked at the map being used for the STS-OBS.

So as you will see on the [STS-OBS map of Kenya](#) [STS-OBS map of Kenya](#), the instructors mapped out the locations of the schools.

We first met instructor “By Fobi, By Ganes, By Aibus” in 2008. He shows us the difficult ways that he has to travel to reach the schools.

Hopefully, prayerfully, by God’s grace these motivated instructors, who are willing to make to make these journeys, will continue to grow.

More

[Results of OBS](#) and listing of

[OBS in Session](#)