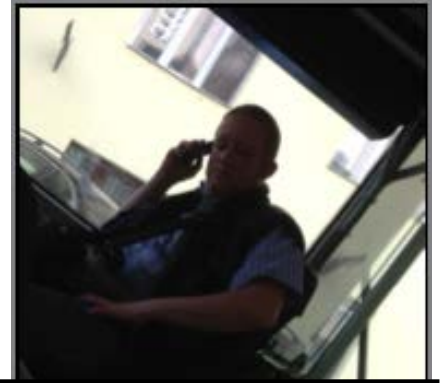


The God's Story Project (TGSP)
Prayer & Praise Report # 3 of 2015, June-July
"Inconvenient or God Convenient?"

Dear Friend of *God's Story*,

Inconvenient or God Convenient?

It never ceases to amaze me how God uses inconvenient situations to reach the lost. We exited the train station in Budapest, Hungary, looking for the right bus. However, due to construction in the area, our leader didn't know where the bus stop had moved. One man took time to guide us a few blocks and made sure we boarded the right bus.



On the bus in Hungary listening to *God's Story*

His English was almost as good as our Hungarian, but we had a solar player with the recently finished Hungarian *God's Story*. I started the player and handed it to our new guide who boarded the bus with us. He smiled. Our guide continued listening to *God's Story* when we all exited the bus. After several more minutes, our guide left us still listening to the player we gifted him.

Vajta, Hungary. The Calvary Chapel (CC) School of Missions at their Bible College desired to incorporate STS into their missionary training in Europe. Pastors from large congregations in the states, attending the conference, were impacted and now want training for their people.

The director of the CC European Bible College, whose experience as a missionary spans service in Russia, Ukraine and Germany, immediately practiced what she learned from the STS training with small groups and counseling sessions.

Slovakia. One 19 year-old young man, after a day of training, saw a woman working in a field and started a conversation with her. We had not covered yet how to do the shorter conversational version of a Bible story. However, he shared a Bible story anyway and discovered the woman was a backslidden believer who had "lost her way" (her own words) in the occult. She was so impacted by the story and hour long conversation that she wanted to get right with God!

Farsi Immigrants in Europe

One instructor wrote that she did blind Bartameus (Mark 10:46-52) with about 80-100 Iranian immigrant men. Many were afraid to speak. A few did speak up, and the men went from a little attention to having much attention. The people were all hugs and smiles after the Bible story.

How can a spark start a fire?

In 2014, a man, working in East Africa, attended an STS training on the East coast by a third generation instructor. Shortly after, this man spoke at a church in Illinois that was attended by a

family of home schoolers. The home schooling family could not remember the speaker at their church or where he worked, but did remember one sentence he shared about *Simply The Story*.

The mom called the office, spoke to Dorothy, who then called our leader in Illinois. Our leader spent a few hours with several home schoolers. Amazingly, this leader happened to be pivotal in the home school movement years ago, and the family knew of him for that reason!

As a result of God orchestrating these events, STS is being adopted rapidly by the home schoolers in Illinois and Kentucky.

Headquarters welcomes a wonderful retired couple.

A couple coming to serve at TGSP headquarters stopped at a camp in the Texas hill country to visit their son and his family. Their son and family are on staff at the camp. The couple was asked to do a story for the volunteer worker program one evening. Twenty young adults crowded the living room as they told the story of Jesus calming the storm and had a lively discussion.

The director of the volunteer program attended, wanting to see how the young people reacted to this interactive method of teaching. The next morning at the camp staff meeting, the director shared his excitement about the response of the youth to *Simply The Story*. Then another director mentioned that someone on staff at their sister camp in New Mexico had been to a STS workshop and also felt this would be an awesome way to engage the volunteers and teach the Word to campers. God brought STS to the staff from 2 directions at the same time.

Could anything good come from Guinea?

A team traveled to Gambia for the first STS training in that country. Our Guinea leader reports the following.

“Four pastors ... know that I came from Guinea they all turned me down, because they were not expecting anything good coming from Guinea, and I’m not from the western world. Two of those pastors came at the workshop and they asked me to forgive them for not allowing me to host me, and they regretted that all their leaders were not there to benefit from this very powerful teaching.”



“Almost all of the participants had done a story telling workshop and most of them are church planters. Almost 30% of the participants were working for... they came to the meeting to see how we were doing our workshops, but it was a surprise for them to see how we are going deeper in the word of God and they were so impressed with us and some even asked me to help them to work with us.”

“One of the pastors told me ... he had been a pastor for over

10 years but he has never been so humbled before because we really showed him how to be humble and in a simple way we teach the bible. He was able to go deep in the bible than ever before.”

Pastors and Leaders moved to action.

We praise the Lord for the many Lao and Thai people who attended the STS trainings in Thailand over the summer. One lady who was the head of a Thai competitive team, attended one training. She loved it so much; she followed the instructors to the next 3 trainings!



India

We praise the Lord, the Ao Naga Simply The Story handbook has been completed and is available for free download on our website. Go to the Resources > Gift STS Material. We now have 15 languages versions of the STS handbook available.

The organizer of the Nagaland workshop shared with our India Director after the STS training, “We have invited many speakers to our mission and they came and gave lecture and went. We did not continue to practice what they have taught but the day one STS leaders came to our place we all are involving to learn together in the word of God. STS is a practical training so that everyone can learn the scripture and go in deep, we (...have 24,000 membership in their Churches) are going to adopt STS to our Churches and mission to continue to train many leaders.”

Could a Bible story be relevant to the situation?

Our Latin American team conducted 3 trainings in El Salvador and Costa Rica; one included 18 tribes from 4 different countries. Several more countries have invited STS teams to come as a result. The following story came from the training in Costa Rica.

The team was preparing the story of the fiery snakes in Numbers 21:4-9, when a tribal man received a phone call. A poisonous snake had bitten his dad. The man feared for his dad’s life. The instructor realize the story they were doing applied to the situation ... how God brought life and health to those bitten by snakes!

The group prayed for the tribal brother and for his father. His dad was in a remote part of the country and getting him to the hospital looked out of the question. The dad tightly bound his arm with some cloth, but his arm was badly swollen with the poison. The team waited for the next 24 hours.

The answer from God came. The father made it to a hospital, and then a specialized hospital in another city. He was soon discharged and home, completely healed!!

Snapshots From Around the World - Praises and Prayers

- Our Simply The Story Israel trip is now set for February 2016. Brochures and registration forms are available here: <http://tinyurl.com/STS-Israel01> or go to SimplyTheStory.org and click “Upcoming Workshops.” There are “al-la-cart” options for training and/or tour. The tour is designed to include our group and those around us as we experiment with the interactive Bible study method God has given us.



- “I was leading a bible study in my home for the last ten years for my Church. After coming here I realized there was no life in my home group. So I resigned leading. This is my home group now...because, here there’s life.” – Andrew, a Business man in North Carolina that gathers weekly in the marketplace with a business networking group that uses STS.

Watching *God’s Story* by choice!

- “Just used STS at the Orange County fair in CEF’s Noahs Ark booth last night and God led 12 more little ones to Himself.” Darlene in Southern California
- We look forward to reporting about a recent training in the Sudan that included 150 military chaplains.
- The team in Congo has grown tremendously, using STS every week. We are praying for a way to get the 3 leaders to an STS Comprehensive Leadership Training.
- Our first STS Oral Bible School in the USA has been going since 2014.
- STS trainings in past couple of months have occurred on 5 continents!
- A great blog post by a recent STS attendee from France: <http://tinyurl.com/STSFrance01>
- A team is on the way to a country in Asia to record the first language of *God’s Story* for that country. Please pray as this has been a difficult language to complete.
- Flooding in Myanmar has killed an unknown number of people and left many homeless. These photos were sent to us by our leader there who orchestrated *God’s Story* on national TV two times this year. Please pray for Myanmar.



Grateful to the Lord, Andrea
Executive Director
The God’s Story Project

