

The God's Story Project (TGSP)

Prayer & Praise Report # 6, October & November 2024

Precious Partners

God's Grace in Tough Regions

In the last 2 years, an organization has been distributing *God's Story* accompanied by the full Bible audio, mostly on audio players, in key areas of Africa. Here are some amazing results.

More than 7300 copies have been distributed including Juba Arabic, Chadian Arabic, French, English, Dinka Rek, Bari, Tigigna, Turkana, and Arabic languages.

In Chad, those receiving the audio devices are first-generation believers, largely unfamiliar with the Bible. They have greatly appreciated *God's Story* as an introduction and overview of the Bible. *God's Story* helps them better understand the full Bible.

This past year, a partner of our ministry working in Africa gave a South Sudanese bishop an audio player with God's Story and the audio Bible. A woman in the area heard about his audio device and began pestering him for the player. Because of her persistence, the bishop gave her his only player, not telling her it was his personal device. Sometime later, the bishop went to visit this woman. On that visit, the woman shared that she had dreamt about God's Word on the device. What's more, she became an active believer and started attending church. When our ministry partner last visited his friend, the bishop, he was able to give him a new audio player. The bishop was overjoyed!

Our ministry partner also shared with us that another pastor told him that Bible storytelling training, along with audio Bibles have had a significant impact on the church's ministry. Our partner wrote that God's Story is an invaluable resource to include on audio devices alongside the full Bible. It offers the

unchurched and oral learners an overarching narrative of the Bible, helping them connect the many individual stories to the larger Biblical story. This approach enhances the impact of the full Bible.



Partnering with the Lutheran Braille Workers.

In early February we met a gifted young lady who writes her own songs, plays banjo and other instruments. Brooke is the Director of Outreach for the Lutheran Braille Workers (the primary provider of free Braille and Large Print Bibles and other Christian materials to the blind around the world), she loves the Lord, working on her PhD, and is blind. In that meeting Brooke participated in two Bible stories, including the story of blind Bartimaeus. The impact from this story led her to completely rewrite one of her doctoral papers, and gave her an amazing understanding of how to equip and empower those she leads, most of whom are

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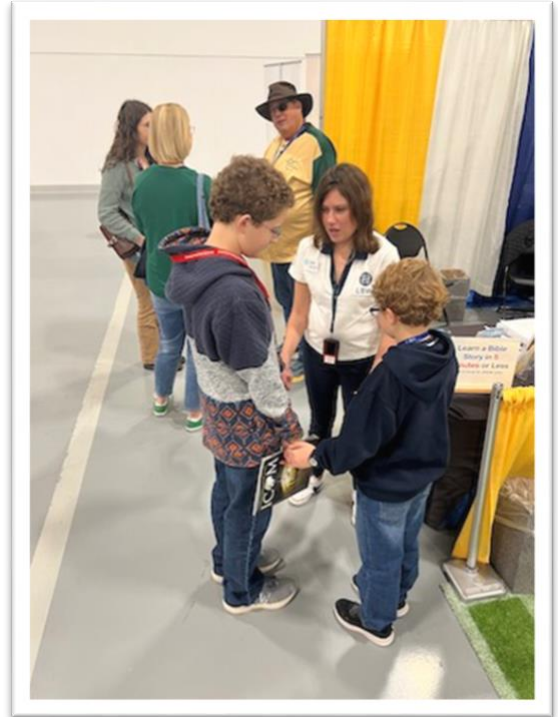
blind as well. She has since attended both an STS regular and an advanced training.

Brooke recently represented both Simply The Story and the Lutheran Braille Workers at two separate conferences in Kentucky. She wrote to tell us, "...I use and train others in STS in the service of Lutheran Braille Workers, I was amazed at the easy harmony that connected our two ministries."

At the most recent conference Brooke had the following interaction with a pastor serving in Mexico.

"After explaining the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers, I demonstrated the STS method by telling a five-minute story:

"And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?' (Exod 4:11). The conversation that followed saw this missionary's view on blindness shift from affliction to sacred calling, particularly for a young man in his home congregation. He explained that despite its best efforts to the contrary, the church had been taking care of this blind man rather than equipping him to serve God and neighbor, saying that, 'He's part of the Body of Christ, and I realize now that we have not viewed or treated him as such.' As I explained a few ways to begin equipping and training blind individuals, the task seemed to him less daunting with the STS method and the continually increasing materials produced by Lutheran Braille Workers.



"I am far from the first blind person to be moved by Simply The Story, and based upon both my use of the method and these recent conferences, I am assured I will not be the last. I pray and believe that through Lutheran Braille Workers and other ministries, STS will be mightily used by God to bring more blind individuals to the church than ever before, and to raise many of them up as leaders, willingly led. As He proclaimed through the Prophet Isaiah, 'And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.'" (Isa 42:16)."

Girls in Asia, Flourishing!

A ministry in Asia has rescued more than 15,000 girls from sex trafficking. When this ministry's leader realized that about half of the ladies end up in the sex trade again, he went to prayer. God showed him it was a heart issue for these young women. At that point we began actively working with this organization to help address the spiritual root of the problem with God's Word using *Simply The Story*. This leader recently shared that 97% of the girls now come to faith as a result of the gospel reaching their hearts through the STS method. Many of these women go on to acquire business skills and

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contribute to their villages both spiritually and economically. The program this ministry has developed is replicable and available—simply contact us for more information.

Evangelist Backpack, Redesigned for a New Generation

Years ago, we introduced the evangelist backpack, which included a DVD player, solar panel, power source, and light, with optional features such as a waist-band PA system and village speaker. After thoughtful prayer and consideration, we are relaunching the evangelist backpack with significant improvements to better serve those in need.

Over the past few years as we premiered *God's Story: From Creation to Eternity* we have valued the partnership with leaders from the local church body as well as the local villages. That combined with our historical success using the evangelist backpacks has led us to reintroduce this tool.

We are offering two versions of the evangelist backpack. The House-to-House Backpack, with a portable tablet, power source, solar panel, and light, and the Village Backpack, which includes all the same resources except a light weight projector replaces the tablet.

For those who find themselves with opportunities to do both village and home outreach, we have a special price for the projector and tablet.

All of these versions range in price between \$650 and \$950. Call for more information.

If anyone would like to sponsor a backpack for any of our language premiers, please contact us or select “evangelist backpack” when donating online. We will select the appropriate version of the backpack to use based on the language and location situation.



Recording More Languages of God's Story.

A team of two of us are traveling to Central Asia this week to record 5 new languages. Please pray. The spiritual attacks started the moment we said yes. Seven recording specialists could not go for various reasons, leading us to reduce the languages from 7 to 5, and to travel with 2 recordists rather than the original 3 we planned.

Too Old? Don't think so.

One of the ladies in our office continues holding signs as a way to minister to those on the streets and in cars. At more than 80 years old, we appreciate her love for people and her courage.

Thank you, dear friend.

We met Alex Saks in 2006. For the last six and a half years, his voice has been heard opening and closing every Heart Pocket Podcast. He became one of our instructors traveling often to India, Mexico and other parts of Latin America blessing people with his kind demeanor and love of the Lord.

Alex graduated from this world to be with our Lord and Savior on November 1, 2024. Please be praying for his family and all those who love and miss him. Thank you, friend, for being a blessing to so many.

We are a partner supported ministry. Thank you to all our praying partners, ministry partners, and our donor partners. May the Lord bless your Christmas and New Years with friends and family.

Andrea & The whole staff of The God's Story Project (TGSP)
Executive Director

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