

Trekkin' Times

For no one can lay any foundation other than what is being laid, which is Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 3:11 (NET)



One of the storytellers sharing a Bible story with a laborer



← Our house's foundation!

Dear Friends, we've been thinking about foundations recently, because we are building a house in E's home country! As we watched the foundation being laid, a certain parable came to mind: Jesus said, "Everyone who *hears* these words of mine and *does* them is like a wise man who built his house on a rock." (Matthew 7:24, emphasis mine).

Jesus is our foundation. We need to *hear* His words (The Bible) and *do* them. But how can we do them, if we've never heard, as Paul says in Romans 10:14? Thank you for standing with us, to help many people *hear* God's Word, so they can *do* it and build their lives on the foundation of Jesus!

Laying the groundwork for Bible translation – Sometimes Bible storying helps people get at least a *little* of the Bible, when they would not otherwise get *any* in their language (because their language is dying out, for example). In many cases though, Bible stories are the first experience of the Bible that people get in their language, even as a written translation is planned or in progress. Oral Bible stories become the foundation of the written Bible that is to come! It is crucial that the Bible stories are translated accurately, just as for the written Bible.

In addition, when Bible stories are being shared and discussed, people are hearing it and engaging with it. It's not enough to own a printed Bible – you have to engage with it too! Bible storying helps people practice that before and after they get a printed Bible.



A Bible "SFG" – Story Fellowship Group

Please don't share this newsletter without asking us first – thanks!

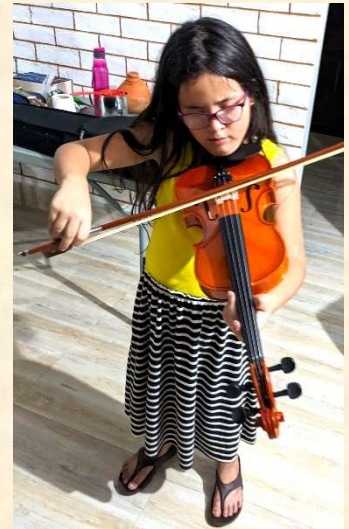
A foundation of understanding – I got to meet some of the national leaders that supervise the Bible storying project here. It was so refreshing to meet them in person! I learned that our project funds are likely coming this summer. In the meantime, the "gap" funds are still there for the team to continue promoting Bible storying.

Going deep - Just recently, I got to use Bible stories for a week of “story-based trauma healing” training. There were 7 young adults who learned about heart wounds, how to grieve well, how to listen well, etc. In one lesson on forgiveness, there was a story about a person who stole from his neighbors. That same day, five of the participants’ cell phones were stolen! The police were informed, and we are praying for the return of the phones. At the same time, the participants were so thankful that they could use the principles they learned to be at peace in that painful experience.



New Year’s Day with members of our church in Asia

A strong financial foundation – We are so thankful to be able to start to build a home in these challenging times. How are we able to do it? First, by God’s grace. Second, through the partnership of many of you! Third, by living rent-free – first at our home church’s Fellowship House in Minnesota, and now with E’s family. Fourth, many building expenses cost less here. We are also trying to save by not eating out much and cutting out unnecessary expenses. It may take a little longer, but we plan to build so that, when the house is finished, we will be debt-free. We are thankful to God and to you for this great opportunity. We appreciate your prayers in this whole (slightly scary) process too!



Family Foundations – The kids are almost done with another grade in school. Soon, L1 will start 11th grade, J will start 9th grade, and L2 will start 3rd grade – wow! E is managing most of the home building. She knows the language(s) and the culture, so she directs the workers and keeps them on the right track. I have had the chance to share Bible stories at church on Christmas, New Year, and several other times. We are all enjoying the mild winter weather here.



Thank you for your continued prayers, notes and financial partnership with us in our Wycliffe ministry. We are feeling more settled here, and privileged to partner with you by bringing Bible stories to people in Asia!

With joy,

*The T Family
S, E, L1, J, and L2*



The T Family
To contact the T Family, please contact the VCC church office!



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Thank you!