

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GOD'S WORD

The Question That Changed Everything!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: OBEYING GOD'S WORD

BIG IDEA

When we read the Bible carefully and do exactly what it says, God can use one brave, obedient choice to change the whole world!

THE STORY

It was springtime in the year 1913. In a big, sunny field in California, hundreds of people set up tents and gathered together for a giant meeting. They came from all over America and Canada, and they all wanted the very same thing - to feel God's Holy Spirit move in a powerful way!

Day after day, the people sang, prayed, and listened to preaching.

The air felt like it was buzzing with excitement. Everyone could tell that God was about to do something BIG.

One afternoon, a quiet preacher named R.E. McAlister walked up to the front. He wasn't famous. He wasn't on any of the big posters. He just held up his Bible and said, "Look very carefully at how the apostles baptized people."



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THE STORY CONTINUES

The whole tent grew quiet. McAlister opened to the book of Acts and read verse after verse. Every single time someone was baptized in the Bible, it was done in the name of the Lord Jesus! Then he asked a question that made everyone's heart skip a beat: "If the apostles never baptized any other way... why do we?"

You could have heard a pin drop. A young preacher named Frank Ewart felt those words go straight into his heart, like a lightning bolt.

He couldn't stop thinking about them - not that day, not that week, not even months later!

That night, people grabbed their Bibles and read by lantern light until very late. Some were upset. Some were amazed. But Frank Ewart kept searching the Scriptures, and the more he read, the more sure he became.

Finally, Frank knew he had to obey. He and his friend Glenn Cook found a big water tank behind a little building in Los Angeles. There were no crowds and no cameras - just a few friends watching. Frank baptized Glenn in the name of Jesus, and then Glenn baptized Frank the very same way.

When they came up out of the water, something wonderful happened.

God's presence fell on them so strongly that they would never, ever forget it. They felt washed, brand new, and full of joy!

Soon the good news spread like a happy fire. In a city far away called Indianapolis, a powerful preacher named G.T. Haywood heard about it.

He and 465 people from his church were all baptized in the name of Jesus together! From two friends in a quiet water tank, the message went out to the whole world.



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THE STORY

And it all started because one humble man opened his Bible, read it out loud, and dared to ask: "What if we did it exactly the way they did it in the Bible?"



DID YOU KNOW?

- This big meeting happened in a place called Arroyo Seco, which means "dry stream" in Spanish!
- People lit lanterns and read their Bibles deep into the night because they didn't have electric lights in their tents.
- G.T. Haywood baptized 465 people from his church - that's enough people to fill a whole movie theater!
- This true story happened more than 100 years ago, and people are still being baptized in Jesus' name all around the world today.

MEMORY VERSE

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why do you think the tent got so quiet when McAlister asked his big question?
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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2** Frank Ewart kept reading his Bible to find out what was true. Where can YOU go to find out what God wants you to do?

- 3** It can be scary to obey God when others might disagree. Can you think of a time you did the right thing even when it was hard?

- 4** The message spread like a 'happy fire' from just two friends. How can you share something good with a friend this week?

- 5** What is one thing in this story that you want to remember and tell someone at home?

LET'S PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for the Bible that tells us the truth. Help me to read it, believe it, and obey it - even when it's hard. Make me brave like Frank Ewart, and let me share Your good news with others. In Your name I pray, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Be a Bible Detective! Ask a grown-up to help you find Acts 2:38 in a real Bible. Read it out loud three times, then try to say it from memory. Draw a picture of the big tent meeting with people reading their Bibles by lantern light, and show it to your family!

