

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

When Heaven Came Down in the Mountains!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: GOD CONFIRMS HIS WORD

BIG IDEA

Sometimes we have to wait and keep trusting God even when nothing seems to be happening. Then, at just the right time, He shows up with mighty power!

THE STORY

Bug and Nona Freeman had already spent more than ten years telling people about Jesus in Africa. Then God put a brand new place on their hearts, a beautiful, ancient land of tall mountains called Ethiopia.

Ethiopia was a hard place to bring a new message. The mountains were rugged, the people were set in old ways, and other preachers had tried before and struggled. But the Freemans packed up and went anyway, carrying the very same message they always preached: repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus, and be filled with the Holy Ghost!

At first, it was discouraging. The meetings were small. People listened politely but didn't seem stirred. Some nights Bug and Nona sat in their simple little room and wondered, 'Did we really hear God right about coming here?' But they kept on praying and preaching.



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THE STORY CONTINUES

Then one night, everything changed!

It started like any ordinary service in a small rented building. The singing was nice but not loud. The preaching was plain and simple.

Then, all at once, with no big buildup, the Holy Ghost fell on the people with tremendous power! Men and women began to weep and cry out to God.

Within minutes, dozens of people were speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave them words, exactly like happened on the Day of Pentecost in the Bible! The service didn't stop at the usual time. People stayed for hours and hours. Some felt fear and old chains breaking off of them, and joy pouring in.

The amazing news spread from village to village. People started walking, some for two or three whole days, just to get to the meetings!

The sick were carried on stretchers and in little carts pulled by donkeys.

And oh, what God did! Blind eyes opened. Deaf ears heard. People who couldn't walk got up and walked. Things that had troubled families for years were sent running away in the name of Jesus. Nona said she had never seen anything like it. It was like the book of Acts had come alive right there in the mountains!

Night after night, the wonderful outpouring continued. Many new believers were baptized in Jesus' name. Young men who got filled with the Holy Ghost felt God calling them to preach, and off they went to tell their own villages! New churches popped up in places that had never heard about Jesus before.



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THE STORY

Years later, when Nona told this story, her voice would go quiet with wonder. 'We didn't do anything special,' she would say. 'We simply preached the same message the apostles preached, and the same Holy Ghost confirmed it.' And that revival in Ethiopia is still remembered as one of the greatest things God ever did in Africa!



DID YOU KNOW?

- Ethiopia is a real country in Africa known for tall, rugged mountains and very ancient history!
- Some people walked for two or three whole days just to get to the meetings.
- The sick were carried to the services on stretchers and in little carts pulled by donkeys.
- Nona Freeman wrote about this true revival in her book 'Unseen Hands: The Story of Revival in Ethiopia.'
- What happened was just like the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2, when believers were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in other tongues.

MEMORY VERSE

“And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.” Mark 16:20

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. At first the meetings were small and slow. How did Bug and Nona keep going even when they felt discouraged?



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2** What happened during that ordinary service that suddenly made it extraordinary?

- 3** People walked for days to get to the meetings. What does that tell you about how badly they wanted to know God?

- 4** Nona said they 'didn't do anything special,' they just obeyed and trusted God. Why do you think God did such big things through people who stayed humble?

- 5** Is there something you have been praying for and waiting on? How can this story help you keep trusting God?

LET'S PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You that You always show up at just the right time. Help me to keep trusting You and praying, even when it feels like nothing is happening. Fill me with Your Holy Ghost, and let me see Your power. In Your mighty name I pray, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Make a 'Mountain of Praise'! On a big piece of paper, draw the tall mountains of Ethiopia. Around the mountains, write or draw the miracles from the story, blind eyes opening, the deaf hearing, people walking. Then, as a class or family, take turns naming something you are still praying for and trusting God to do.

