

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

When Enemies Became Family!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: GOD'S LOVE UNITES US

BIG IDEA

The love of Jesus is so powerful it can turn enemies into family. When God's Spirit fell on the hills of India, people who used to fight each other hugged like brothers and sisters!

THE STORY

Harry Scism grew up in India as the son of missionaries. From the time he was a boy, he saw the power of God on the mission field, and he grew up loving the people of India with all his heart. When he was older, he went back to the hills and faraway villages of Northeast India to tell the tribes about Jesus.

The work was hard right from the start! The land was rugged and sometimes dangerous. The roads were so bumpy they had to travel by foot, by jeep, and sometimes even on the backs of elephants to reach villages that had never heard the name of Jesus! Many of the tribes spoke different languages and had never welcomed strangers before.

But Harry and his team kept going. When they preached, they preached the whole wonderful message: repent, be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and be filled with the Holy Ghost!



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THE STORY CONTINUES

And then something exploded with joy! Among some of the tribes, whole villages turned to the Lord in just a matter of days! People who had worshiped spirits their whole lives gave it all up. They were baptized in Jesus' name in rivers and streams, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost with shouts of joy and speaking in other tongues!

But here is the most amazing part of all. In that part of India, many tribes had been enemies for hundreds of years. They would not even speak to each other! But when the Holy Ghost fell on them, something wonderful happened.

Former enemies hugged each other like brothers and sisters! The love of Jesus melted away the old anger, and people who used to fight became one big family in Christ. Then those new believers carried the good news to their own people, reaching places the missionaries could never have gone by themselves!

Harry told of many times God did the impossible.

There were times when God sent food and a way to travel when there seemed to be no way at all.

There were times when angry men who wanted to hurt the missionaries were turned away by what could only be an unseen hand of God.

And there were times when sick people were healed instantly during prayer in the name of Jesus!

One time, a tribal chief who had fought against the missionaries for years suddenly felt God touch his heart during a meeting. Right there in front of his whole village, he gave his life to Jesus! From that day on, he became one of the strongest helpers of God's work in his whole region.



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THE STORY

This great revival in Northeast India became one of the most amazing things God ever did in all of Asia. Thousands of people were baptized in Jesus' name, and hundreds of new churches were planted! The good news even spread into other nearby countries.

Harry Scism always said the secret was simple. It wasn't clever tricks or fancy plans. It was just preaching about Jesus and trusting God to do what only He can do. And God did, turning enemies into family, all because of the love of Jesus!



DID YOU KNOW?

- Harry Scism grew up in India because his own parents were missionaries there!
- The roads were so rough that the team sometimes traveled to villages on the backs of elephants!
- Some tribes had been enemies for hundreds of years, but the Holy Ghost made them hug like brothers and sisters.
- A tribal chief who had fought the missionaries for years gave his life to Jesus and became one of their strongest helpers!
- Harry Scism's true story is written in a real book called 'India to the World.'

MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"
Psalm 133:1

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Name some of the ways Harry and his team traveled to reach the faraway villages.

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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2** Tribes that had been enemies for hundreds of years became family. What made that amazing change happen?

- 3** Why do you think the love of Jesus is strong enough to turn enemies into friends?

- 4** The tribal chief used to fight against the missionaries, but God changed his heart. Is there someone you find it hard to get along with that you could pray for?

- 5** Harry said the secret was simply trusting God to do what only He can do. What is something you can trust God to do in your life?

LET'S PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You that Your love is strong enough to turn enemies into family. Help me to love people who are different from me, and to forgive those I find hard to get along with. Fill me with Your Holy Ghost and use me to share Your love. In Your name I pray, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Play a 'From Enemies to Family' game! Have the class start on two separate sides of the room, then come together in the middle for a big group hug or handshake circle, showing how the Holy Ghost brought the tribes together. Then think of one person you can be extra kind to this week, and find Psalm 133:1 in a Bible to read out loud together.