

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

When the Ground Shook and God Held On!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: GOD PROTECTS HIS HELPERS

BIG IDEA

Even when the whole world feels shaky, God is strong and steady. He keeps His people safe so they can help others and tell them about His love.

THE STORY

Far, far away in a beautiful land called Guatemala, there lived a missionary family named the Thompsons. Brad and Regina Thompson had moved there to tell the people all about Jesus. They loved their neighbors, and their neighbors loved them right back.

Guatemala is a country with tall green mountains and bright, warm sunshine. Every day the Thompsons would pray, sing, and share the good news of God with the friends they had made. They felt happy serving God in their faraway home.

One day, the ground began to shake. It was an earthquake! The dishes rattled and the walls trembled. The Thompsons' house was hurt badly by the shaking, and so were many houses all around them.



MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

THE STORY CONTINUES

But do you know what? In all the shaking, God reached out His big, strong hand and held the Thompsons safe. Not one person in their group was badly hurt. God had watched over every single one of them!

When the shaking stopped, the Thompsons looked around. Many of their neighbors were sad and frightened. Their homes were broken, and they did not know what to do. The Thompsons knew exactly Who could help.

'Let's go help them!' the Thompsons said. So they rolled up their sleeves and got busy. They gave food, they gave hugs, and they helped people fix what was broken.

But the very best thing they gave was hope. The Thompsons told their neighbors, 'God kept us safe, and God loves you too! He is right here with us, even now.'

When the people heard how God had protected the Thompsons, their hearts filled with wonder. Many of them gave their lives to Jesus! Out of something scary, God grew something beautiful.

The believers in Guatemala became braver and stronger in their faith.

They saw with their own eyes that God is faithful and good, even on the hardest days.

And the Thompsons kept right on serving, smiling, and telling everyone the same wonderful truth: when the ground shakes, God never lets go!





MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

DID YOU KNOW?

- Guatemala is a real country in Central America, full of tall mountains and volcanoes!
- The Thompsons, Brad and Regina, really served as missionaries in Guatemala for many years.
- The Thompsons wrote a true book about their adventures called 'A Lifetime in Guatemala: Our Story.'
- Earthquakes happen when the ground far below us moves, but God is always bigger than anything that shakes!

MEMORY VERSE

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. What happened to the Thompsons' house when the earthquake came, and Who kept the family safe?
-

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GODS WORD

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2 After the shaking stopped, what did the Thompsons decide to do for their neighbors?

- 3 Why do you think people gave their lives to Jesus when they heard the Thompsons' story?

- 4 The Bible says God is a 'very present help in trouble.' What does it mean that God is always close, even on scary days?

- 5 When something hard or scary happens to you, how can you remember that God is holding on to you?

LET'S PRAY

Dear God, thank You for being strong and steady when everything around us feels shaky. Thank You for holding on to us and keeping us safe. Help me to trust You on hard days and to help others who are sad. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Build and Shake! Stack some blocks or cups into a tall tower, then gently shake the table to make a pretend 'earthquake.' Talk about how God keeps US steady even when things around us fall. Then draw a picture of the Thompsons helping their neighbors, and think of one kind way you can help someone this week.

