

MISSIONARY STORIES

REAL STORIES ABOUT SPREADING GOD'S WORD

The Miracle That Opened the Jungle's Heart!

THIS STORY IS ABOUT: GOD'S POWER OPENS HEARTS

BIG IDEA

Sometimes God does a miracle so amazing that it opens a door no one else could open. When God heals, hearts that were closed can swing wide open to Jesus!

THE STORY

Deep in the rainforest, along the great Amazon River, there was a little village far away from any city. There were no hospitals, no doctors, and no medicine. To get there, you had to travel through thick green jungle full of birds, bugs, and monkeys!

In that village lived a powerful leader called a chief. The chief was the boss of the whole village, and everyone listened to him. But there was one thing the chief did NOT want to hear about - and that was the gospel of Jesus. He had said no, again and again.

A missionary named Bennie DeMerchant had come to the Amazon to tell people about Jesus. But how could he reach this village when the chief kept his heart locked up tight, like a door with no key?



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THE STORY CONTINUES

Then one day, something sad happened. The chief's own daughter became very, very sick. She lay burning with fever, and there was no medicine to help her. The chief was frightened. His little girl was slipping away, and he could do nothing!

In his fear, the chief did something he had never done before. He looked at the missionaries and said, 'You may pray for my daughter.'

The door that had been shut tight was finally cracking open!

The missionaries gathered around the sick little girl. They bowed their heads and prayed in the mighty name of Jesus. 'Lord Jesus,' they prayed, 'we ask You to heal this child. Show this village Your power!'

And Jesus heard that prayer. Right away, the little girl began to get better! Her fever cooled. Her eyes brightened. In just a short time, she was completely well - running and playing like nothing had ever been wrong!

The chief could hardly believe his eyes. His precious daughter was healed! He knew that no medicine had done this. It was the power of Jesus, plain as day. His heart, once locked tight, swung wide open!

The chief and many people in the village were amazed. They wanted to know more about this Jesus who could heal. They opened their hearts to the gospel, and before long, a brand-new church was started right there in the jungle!

Bennie always remembered this miracle. He said it showed how God can use one healing to open a door that words alone could not. Jesus didn't just heal a little girl - He opened up a whole village to His love!





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DID YOU KNOW?

- Bennie DeMerchant was a real missionary pilot who flew his airplane over the Amazon jungle to reach faraway villages!
- The Amazon is the largest rainforest on Earth and is home to jaguars, monkeys, colorful parrots, and the giant Amazon River.
- Many Amazon villages are so remote that the only way to reach them is by boat or small airplane.
- Bennie and his wife helped start over 650 churches and 35 Bible schools during their years serving God!

MEMORY VERSE

“They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” Mark 16:18

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why was it so hard for the missionaries to reach this village at first?
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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 2 What made the chief finally change his mind and let the missionaries pray?

- 3 How did the miracle change the way the whole village felt about Jesus?

- 4 The story says God opened a door that words alone could not. Have you ever seen God do something that surprised people?

- 5 Is there someone you know whose heart seems closed to Jesus? How could you pray for them this week?

LET'S PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You that You still heal the sick and open closed hearts. Help me to trust Your power and to pray boldly for people who are hurting. Use me to share Your love, just like Bennie did in the jungle. In Your name I pray, Amen.

TRY THIS!

Make an Amazon jungle scene! Color or paint a rainforest full of green trees, a river, and bright animals like parrots and monkeys. In the middle, draw a little village with a happy, healed girl and a church. Use it to retell the story of how one miracle opened a whole village to Jesus.

