



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1928 ~ Reorganised for Work.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

In this *Bible Adventure*, the next stage of rebuilding the city of Jerusalem takes place under the enthusiastic leadership of Nehemiah, the new governor of Judah. Although the destroyed Temple of God had at last been rebuilt, the people said that building the city walls were too hard to do. They'd tried once but then had been stopped by the king of Babylon. So the Judeans now thought very negatively about trying again to attempt such a huge task.

When Nehemiah came from the King of Persia's palace in Babylon and talked enthusiastically with the people in Judah, he told them that God was with them and reminded them not to be afraid. So, in time, the people agreed to work together to fix the city's big problem.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

In Chapter 3 of the Bible book of Nehemiah, Nehemiah named the heads of the different families and gave them sections of the walls to build close to their homes. This had a twofold purpose. One, the families would be less inclined to do a second-rate job of building their section of the wall if this meant putting their own family's security at risk. And two, the workers would be close to their families if their enemies from outside made an attack. Some of the builders came from other cities within the kingdom of Judah to help. They stayed there in Jerusalem while the building work was going on.

The success in getting the work started on the wall came from the teamwork that Nehemiah established with the people. They had to bring in supplies and make the mortar to hold the stones together, remove rubbish and rubble from the site and providing food for the workers. People from all walks of life had to work together on these tasks. If we belong to Christ, our focus must be on building up His heavenly kingdom here on earth. Nehemiah also knew all the people on the worksites by name, what job they were doing and encouraged them. He didn't criticise them. Nehemiah coordinated their work efforts and gave them a clear vision of the project's goal. Then he delegated authority to area supervisors so that all decisions didn't have to be constantly referred back to him.

Despite this teamwork success, it wasn't long before Sanballat, the governor of Samaria, and his friends, tried to discourage the workers. Sanballat criticised and mocked the work being done on rebuilding the walls. As soon as Nehemiah started doing something for God, he came against opposition. We too, can expect spiritual battles when we stand up as citizens of Christ's kingdom. Satan will oppose us at every turn. We need to expect this and not be discouraged when setbacks come. It's ironic that the Almighty God, who created the heavens and the world, wants willing human hands to do His work here on earth. God could have used His angels but no, He wants people who've been redeemed from the death penalty of their sin to become partners with Jesus Christ to carry out God's program of saving and caring for people here on earth. However, when we refuse to yield to God's call and divine demand over our lives, we oppose the primary aim of redemption, and put restraints on how we'll help in God's program.

God doesn't want us to be like the nobles of Tekoa, who were reluctant to work in God's building agenda. What use is your position on earth if you don't use it to fully support God's work? God often puts His people into positions that enable them to fulfil His eternal purpose, but each person must prove him or herself to be dependable. It's a sin of omission to know God's burden for others that He lays on your heart yet refuse to respond to it. Maybe the reasons we can give include a feeling of inadequacy for the task, or being so disorganised that others think you're too lazy to care, or the person in need doesn't really deserve help.

Like Nehemiah, today missionaries sometimes travel a very long way to reach the place where they believe God wants them to spread the good news of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. One such person was a lady called Isobel Kuhn, a Canadian missionary who travelled to China before going overland to a people group near the Burmese or Myanmar border with China. It took her 10 years to get to the people she was called to help.

Isobel, or Belle as her family called her, was brought up in a Christian family. Her mother was president of a church missionary society and missionaries were often staying at her house whenever they were departing to and from their fields of service. Belle knew firsthand of the hardships and language difficulties the missionaries faced and so when she was 14 years of age, she decided that she would never leave the comforts of her home for some isolated part of the world.

Belle was a very good student and decided in her heart that she'd go to university, specialise in English and become a university lecturer. At Belle's very first English literature class, the lecturer set the tone that no one believed in Genesis of the Bible or God creating the world these days. He asked if any student did. Belle and another person put up their hands, but afterwards, doubts settled in her mind. Did she believe in creation of the world only because her parents had taught her so? Although she had seen many startling answers to prayer, did that really prove that God existed?

She stopped reading her Bible each morning and going to church. As she was still living at home, her parents weren't happy about her decisions but they didn't try to force her to go to church with them. She met a returned soldier, who was the answer to her dreams of falling in love and for two years, they were constantly seeing each other. They planned to marry after their studies were finished.

But one day in her final year at university, a friend broke the news to Belle that her boyfriend was taking out another girl behind her back. She said goodbye!

As the following weeks went by, Belle fell into depression and couldn't sleep. One night, a voice in her head told her to end her life. She got out of bed to follow the instructions but then heard her father groan in his sleep. How could she treat him so badly by killing herself? To do so would be so utterly selfish, and especially during the Christmas season. Belle went back to bed and thought about a section of literature in which the author was a Christian and believed in God. More than that, the author believed that peace could be found by knowing and doing God's will.

Belle decided to make a bargain with God. She said: "God, if there be a God, if You will prove to me that You are, and if You will give me peace, I will give You my whole life. I'll do anything You ask me to do, go anywhere You send me, for the rest of my life." She fell asleep and she had the best sleep she'd had since the breakup. She decided not to tell her parents about her arrangement between herself and God. One Sunday afternoon, Belle allowed her mother to talk her into attending a Bible class. The teacher was an educated and gentle Christian man and he intelligently refuted many of the liberal ideas that she'd been taught at university. Belle got back to reading her Bible and times of prayer.

In the months that followed after, Belle committed herself to missionary service in China. And just as it happened to Nehemiah in the Bible, opposition to going there quickly came. For Belle, it was hard to take, because her own parents, who'd helped so many other missionaries go abroad, stood against her going overseas. Another obstacle Belle had also to face was a lack of money for her study full time at Bible College.

But God has ways of working through people's problems for anyone who's willing to do His will and pray about all things. In many ways, God overcame Belle's obstacles for reaching the people of the Lisu tribe near the Burmese border. She married fellow missionary and linguist, John Kuhn, in her second year of arriving in China.

John and Belle ministered to the Lisu people for 16 years. When the rainy season arrived each year and all normal farm life had to cease, Belle took advantage of the people's availability by holding a 'Rainy Season Bible School', where she presented the Christian Gospel and taught the basics of Christian faith. From these classes, countless men became believers, and then evangelists and pastors, and they took the Christian message to untold numbers of nationals and travelers throughout China.

Her life of doing God's work can be summed up in the words of Job, Chapter 23, Verse 10: "But He (that's God) knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
