BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2328 ~ Elisha and the Oil Pots.

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

The history of human civilisation has been greatly damaged by the slave trade, which has continued throughout the generations up to the present day. In early times, people captured in war were taken as slaves to do the unpaid, physically hard work of their owners. Women were taken as secondary wives or sex slaves. Tragically, however, slavery is still going on in parts of the world today.

In the Bible's Old Testament times, people who owed money to someone else could become a slave to the lender until the debt was paid in full.
At the beginning of Elisha's ministry in today's *Bible Adventure,* one of the sons of God's prophets died, leaving his widow and two young sons with a huge debt to be paid back, and a threat of the two young sons being taken into slavery to pay off this debt.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

Here's a story that started with a big problem but thanks to Elisha's help and the family's obedience to God's instructions, everything turned out with a happy ending. Notice though, that the widow had to play her part: she had to act in faith by collecting all the pots and containers for God's miracle to happen. The oil only stopped flowing when the last container was filled. If the widow had only collected a few containers, she'd have little oil to sell to get out of debt. If she'd collected more containers than she did, however, she would have had even more oil to sell and money to live on. Our faith and obedience affect how much blessing we receive from God.

Imagine the widow's joy at having the burden of the debt paid off! How she must have praised and thanked God for her deliverance! An attitude of thankfulness and joy comes from knowing and serving God. One man known for his joy in the Lord is an American named Robert Reid. Robert had many struggles in life as he tried to cope with his disability of cerebral palsy and its effects on his daily life. He had to use a wheelchair and his speech was slurred. Rather than let his disability defeat him, Robert rallied on and with the support of family and friends, graduated from high school, then college, then he received a master's degree, spent 21 years as a missionary in Portugal, married, and had a child. Robert's story is an inspiration for anyone suffering through adversity. How did he do it all?

One of Robert's college friends wanted to ask God about Robert's health condition: Why would God put such a sharp mind as Robert's into such a broken body? Why would God make it so hard for Robert to speak and use his hands when he's already bound to a wheelchair? What's to become of a person with so many challenges? How could anyone unable to do even the most basic things that most people take for granted every day, learn a way to share Christ and the Good News of the Gospel? Robert wanted to become a missionary after taking mission trips to Paris, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal with another missions-minded man. Robert decided to live and work for the Lord in Portugal. But why choose Portugal? Robert said: "They are calm, wonderful people, and the food was great. The best part is the two-hour lunches." During those two-hour lunches, Robert would meet people in the park and talk to them about why a physically challenged American would travel to a distant country, learn a new language and share God's Word with them. He learnt to speak Portuguese fluently and he found acceptance and respect in the Portuguese culture for all that he had to overcome.

Robert Reid, who was a full-time missionary in Portugal from 1972 to 1993, was able to share his love for the Lord in spite of his illness and yet often because of his illness. It wasn't always easy being a missionary, especially being a missionary in a foreign country which required him to earn the trust of people living in a different culture who spoke a different language.

However, Robert became a noted inspirational speaker in time and he found that his disability opened up special opportunities to meet people and share Jesus with them. His passion today is speaking to others about the blessings that God has brought into his life and showing others the ways that God can take our weakness and transform them into tools for His kingdom.

Robert said that he makes sure to thank God every day for the life he was given, and to him being able to share his faith with others. He said: "I just thank God that he gave me the opportunity to get an education and lead a normal life. It's amazing what God can do." Yet most of us wouldn't consider being limited to a wheelchair a 'normal life'.

Robert ran private Bible study lessons and established many churches, with most still remaining with local leadership and preaching. Robert was particularly effective in nurturing and guiding young men into leadership, teaching and preaching activities when doing so.

One of several people Robert had led to Christ during the first seven years after Robert had settled into Portugal was a married lady called Julia. Julia and her husband met Robert on the street. They visited and then started studying the Bible together. One month later, Julia became a Christian. Julia invited Robert to her mother's house to meet the rest of the family. That's when Robert and Rosa met. Rosa said that she'd never met anyone like him before.

Robert and Rosa dated for about a month before they decided to marry. Just after one month? Well, that's another amazing part of their fantastic story. Rosa said that when she went to get the marriage license in Portugal, she was greeted with resistance and prejudice: "The lady asked me why I wanted to marry someone who was retarded. I told her Robert was NOT retarded, and who was she to judge my decision." Robert just laughed and said, "I've heard that one before."

It was clear that the government officials were going to make it very hard for them to marry. It was also about time for Robert to return to the United States and gather sponsors for his mission work. Rosa's life was about to radically change by being uprooted from her country and culture, being introduced to a radically different life in America and learning a new language. Was there a positive in all of that upheaval in her life? Yes, there was. They were successful in getting the marriage license in America and married in 1979.

Living 'happily ever after' didn't happen for Robert and Rosa. After seven proven years of work in Portugal, Robert lost his job and missionary support. They were unemployed newlyweds. Rosa also had a hard time adjusting to a different culture and was quite homesick. It was an incredibly difficult start to their marriage. Rosa said, "God was seeing how far and how much I loved Him and Robert."

Things have a way of getting better with time when you live in faith. Robert and Rosa returned to Portugal to help start up a new church. Then the Lord blessed them with a beautiful baby girl! Countless lives have been touched and changed for the Kingdom because of Robert's and Rosa's love for each other and their faith in the Lord.

Robert found his cerebral palsy handicap a great way to meet people and to share the Good News of the Gospel of Christ. He is currently a volunteer at a state prison back in America, where he and Rosa minister to inmates and tell them about the love of Christ. His passion is speaking to others about the blessings God has brought into his life and showing ways that God can take our weaknesses and transform them into strengths for His kingdom.

Robert said: "We're all handicapped; we handicap ourselves in a lot of ways." But seeing what Robert has accomplished, there's no excuse for us not to be living in faith or focusing on serving the Lord. We limit ourselves in our own mind when we don't rely on God's mighty power and enabling grace to do all that God asks. God will use whatever we bring to Him to accomplish His work. It's simply amazing what God has done with a couple like Robert and Rosa who were willing to work together in and for His glory! The question for us is really pretty simple: What are we bringing to God for Him to use? The more we ask this, the more we find that God wants our whole lives – everything! – and to love others as He loves us.

In 1st Corinthians, Chapter 1, the Apostle Paul said: "God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty." Paul was reminding the church at Corinth that they had very few among them who were famous, wealthy, highly educated, powerful or influential when they first believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

The very things that put some people ahead in the world may actually put them behind with God. It is often the feeling of inadequacy that makes people aware of their needs, and this often draws them to the Gospel.

For those of us who've committed our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul's words to the church at Colosse, in Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 11-14, encourage us: "We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father! He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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