























participants) and keeps NBS\_\_\_\_\_ in view long after the mission ends. They are usually treasured by participants. Typically the button background includes the national colors or part of the national flag, and the foreground should include the NBSI dove from our logo and the name “Network of Biblical Storytellers \_\_\_\_\_(name of country).” The first batch needs to be produced here and it may be easy or less easy.

Example: In Cameroon, participants proudly wore their buttons every day and to church the following Sunday – and so far as we know, are still wearing them. In the Philippines, the design – agreed to after consultation with the liaison and sponsor, and produced after long struggle with Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, was so popular that the new NBS Philippines made more as a fundraiser for their future workshops, and also produced vinyl banners with the logo.

**Packets:** Besides the button, participants will want to take home material they can use to study and to help them lead workshops. There are a number of items in the Appendix based on the packet created for the Philippine institutes. The packets are extremely popular. Work with your liaison to decide what will go into the packet and how it will be produced.

Note: in the Philippines, which has a strong internet and most folks have smartphones, we made the decision to only include references to resources that could be accessed for **free online**. In Cameroon, where the country’s internet service is still in its beginning stages and smartphones aren’t yet abundant, we offered mostly printed materials. In both cases, we did not emphasize books. There are many great books for beginners, but as you consider what to include in the packet, keep in mind that not all participants may be literate (or literate in English), and most participants will probably not be rich enough to purchase materials.

But do collect a separate list of books that a seminary may want to purchase for its library, to give to interested folks. And take *Story Journey* copies, with blessings autographed by the team, to give to the local team leaders.

Example: In Cameroon, the team printed and carried materials which were put together in plastic envelopes by young participants. The plastic envelopes were especially appreciated as the rainy season began. In the Philippines, the packet materials were reduced in size so that they could be printed locally, half size in a booklet for every participant. The colorful posters for the institutes, designed by a student of the liaison, formed the cover, and they came to only a dollar apiece. Since the pages had been provided in a larger font, they were quite readable at half-size.

**Certificates:** Certificates are optional, but in most cases, they are treasured. Certificates are the only credential many of the participants have ever received in their lives, and they will be seen framed and hanging in homes. Decide what the requirements will be for earning one. Typically attendance for the whole institute, or for three days if an institute is followed by a Mini-FG, are required. If you have time, certificates can be handed out in a formal graduation ceremony; if not, team members can hand them out to their small groups after the final session.

Example: In Cameroon, we brought pre-printed certificates which team members with good calligraphy lettered the night before the last institute day. In the Philippines, the local folks who handled registration also printed the certificates. The team leader only had to provide a .jpg of her signature. Lovely!

**Budget:** By now the airline tickets have been paid for and the final budget is coming together. Remember to include a “contingency” category. As team leader, you may also want to bring an extra contingency stash of your own, since if anything goes awry you will be responsible for fixing it, and a group

trip is not a place to be unwilling to spend what's necessary to solve a problem. But in most cases you will come back with your stash untouched.

Example: In the Philippines, we had budgeted a generous daily amount for food and water. But our hosts treated us to ten wonderful meals – so we all brought back “food money” unless we spent it on souvenirs!

## Stage Four: We're Really Here!

Congratulations! Now the planning is done, the details are as nailed down as they're going to get, and it's time to simply execute the plan. As leader, you will gently steer things in the right directions, in collaboration with your liaison partner, but your local partner's team may have everything well under control! Wonderful!

Be sensitive to the presence of VIP's, and as appropriate, be attentive to them. This will benefit both NBSI, the new NBS\_\_\_\_, and your local liaison and sponsoring organization(s). You may be called on to formally inaugurate NBS\_\_\_\_\_ and install its officers. Be as joyfully official as you can!

### Review

At the end of the trip, **meet once again with the team and your local liaison and sponsors** for a review. Share what the small group members said in your evaluation sessions.

**Strategy Planning Meeting:** Ask for volunteers who would like to lead the new NBS\_\_\_\_\_ to meet with you and a couple of other NBS leaders for a commitment session. Encourage discussion on how they will continue the work, their leadership and reporting structure, etc. Above all, ask how NBSI can partner with them in the future, which leads to –

### Watering the Newly Planted Seeds

As soon as possible after your return home, collect the **email addresses**, and cities if possible, of your sponsoring organization's team members. Do two things with them:

Send **thank-you notes** to the sponsors and locals who contributed to the success of the mission. Send further instructions to the newly formed local leadership group on how to keep the new group progressing. Periodically, leaders will ask for more materials. Be prepared to keep sending them.

Add your leaders to the **NBSI database**, or ask Beth Galbreath to do so. NBSI will send an electronic copy of each edition of *The Biblical Storyteller* to each of the leaders whose contact information you submit.

If some of your contacts in this list are **academics**, also send the information about them to **Tom Boomershine**, who wants to provide his own latest book and other resources to teachers.

Contact the **NBSI communications director**. Collect your best **pictures** from the trip, and encourage your team to do so, and email them to her. She will contact you for a follow-up article if that's in the plans. Send your pictures to the NBSI International Board Director too, to be included in the International Storyworks video or presentation for the next Festival Gathering.

Stay in contact with your liaison and sponsoring organization. If the new NBS\_\_\_\_\_ has a Facebook page (which often appears even before the end of the trip), follow it and cheer on news about workshops. Or when you receive email reports of workshops and new chapters, celebrate them! Send suggestions and encouraging emails. Water the seeds!

## Being a Mission Supporter

We aren't all able to lead or even participate in international mission trips. It takes health, resilience, stamina, and a fair amount of cash! But anyone can be a mission supporter, and the International Storyworks group needs mission supporters! If you have a passion for mission but can't personally go, please consider:

1. **Prayer support** for a particular mission. Leading a team can be hard, often frustrating work. Any team leader would love to have a prayer partner they could share their progress and struggles with by email, and who would commit to praying for the effort.
2. **Financial support.** No gift is too small (or too large), and all gifts to NBSI are fully tax-deductible. Financial support can come from: and can be designated to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your congregation</li> <li>• A small group in your congregation</li> <li>• Women's or men's groups</li> <li>• Yourself</li> <li>• A friend interested in biblical storytelling</li> <li>• Your Scripture by Heart group</li> <li>• Your local NBSI guild or regional network</li> <li>• Your church's district or conference, presbytery, etc.</li> <li>• A grant making entity you might know</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group expenses for a mission (printing, etc.)</li> <li>• A specific need of the mission (gift copies of <i>Story Journey</i>, etc.) Example: Elaine and Richard Davies have made a gift of the buttons to four missions so far!</li> <li>• A sponsorship for a team member who otherwise would not have the funds to go</li> <li>• Seed money for the new NBS_____, such as travel expenses for workshop leaders, biblical storytelling radio shows, printing costs, etc.</li> <li>• Scholarships for local participants</li> <li>• Scholarships for international FG participants</li> <li>• Support for Scholars, Seminar members teaching short-term classes at international seminaries</li> <li>• Undesignated international mission needs</li> </ul>
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3. **Hosting and Guiding** international members who attend NBSI Festival Gathering or NBS Canada's Festival Gathering.

When an NBSI member from another country wants to come to visit us, home hospitality can enrich their experience of the U.S. or Canada and also keep costs down.

And when they attend FG, they need a guide to help them feel at home and make the most of the experience. The role of the Guide is also to introduce them to members, explain what's going on, what to sign up for, help them make choices at the Resource Center, while at the same time leaving them room to mix with others and feeling at home at FG. Their work does not end there. They are to keep in touch throughout the year, be their direct link to NBSI, compare notes about their biblical storytelling activities and encourage each other to attend the next Festival Gathering.

## Principles for being a good guest

**Everyone on the team needs to know and agree to follow these principles.**

- Know the food and water situation in your host country. Is food plentiful or scarce? Will those who prepared your food eat only from the leftovers? If so, be sure you do not take more than your share, and never waste food. Don't ask for "western" foods that aren't readily available. Do express appreciation for whatever you are served and those who served it!
- Never, never criticize anything about the culture in earshot of any of our hosts. This includes non-verbal reactions such as sighs and eye-rolling! Never even *discuss* struggles with transportation, hard beds, strange food, cold showers, or strange toilet facilities, either current or on previous travels, in public. Even if you aren't technically criticizing your hosts, these discussions can only appear to be critical to anyone listening.
- Accept gifts graciously, even if you know that you cannot bring them into your home country. If you can't bring them home (such as flowers or foods), try to find someone who can use them; never discard them.
- Is the culture you are visiting a "direct" or "indirect" language culture? Western cultures are generally direct: people say what they mean, even if it is "No, I disagree." Many hot-climate cultures are indirect. People will say "yes" when they mean "no." They are not lying, they are being polite; it's up to you to discern what's going on.
- Be sensitive to the culture's social deference patterns. All cultures have pecking orders. Western cultures' hierarchies are based on wealth and formal authority structures (offices, titles) but are relatively fluid. That is, a lower-status person doesn't have to do *everything* a higher-status person says. Many traditional social hierarchies are based on age or inherited authority and are less fluid; younger or lower-status persons never challenge their superiors. This can be a problem when teaching, because students will almost never tell you to slow down, or that they don't understand. It's up to you to figure out when the stares turn blank!
- Know the rules for tipping and follow them. This may take some research. Online travel sites are helpful, plus the advice of your local contacts. On the other hand, know the lines where tipping slides into bribery, and your sponsor's policy on bribery, and follow that.
- Do not give or promise to give individual participants money unless they happen to be friends of yours from other situations, and in that case, be careful not to be seen doing so! We need to discourage individuals from asking team members for money. Many team members have provided scholarships for individuals or support for organizations *after* returning from a mission – if you feel moved to do so, that's a different thing. And of course if we attend church we'll put something in the collection, or give coins to a beggar on the street. But if you are solicited by an individual *during* a mission, simply say, "I'm sorry, our NBSI policies don't allow it."

## Policies surrounding NBSI missions and new NBS national organizations

The Network of Biblical Storytellers International is a loose network of mutual encouragement with the goal of *encouraging everyone to learn and tell biblical stories by heart*.

Groups associated with NBSI include

- **national NBS organizations,**
- local *guilds* or *regional networks* under them,
- and *individual members* of NBSI

NBSI is in the process of working out how, in the future, NBSI might refer to the overall international network, and “NBS USA” might be one associated national NBS organization equal to all others. For now, the board of the “Network of Biblical Storytellers International” is also the board of NBS in the United States.

NBSI asks minimally that associated new national NBS organizations:

- Name themselves the Network of Biblical Storytellers \_\_\_\_\_ (name of country).
- Local associated guilds or regional networks may name themselves however they wish, as they do in the United States as well.
- Are ecumenical and open to *all* people.
- Use the term “associated with” the Network of Biblical Storytellers International rather than “affiliated with” or other terms for their relationship with NBSI. This is an important legal distinction.
- Emphasize the art of telling the text as it has come to us.
- Emphasize an understanding that the overall story of God’s love leads to peace rather than justifying conflict.

### **Finances and gifts:**

#### **During the mission:**

- On an NBSI mission, the team will pay for its own expenses, program materials and the expenses of local team members, as detailed elsewhere in this manual.

#### **Giving gifts:**

- A mission team will want to bring thank-you gifts, such as copies of *Story Journey*, to members of the leadership teams of institutes.
- During the mission, individual team members may make contributions to *churches or organizations* if they wish, but -
- Local leaders are asked to discourage institute participants from *asking* for money or other gifts.
- Team members should not give money to *individual participants during the mission*.

### **Receiving gifts:**

- Participants may wish to give gifts to the mission team, and the team members should receive these graciously, keeping in mind regulations of their own nation which may prohibit the import of raw foodstuffs, especially fresh fruits and vegetables (as U.S. Customs does). If such a gift is offered it can be quietly shared with others on the team before embarking for the U.S.

### **At the end of the Mission:**

#### **NBSI team convenes a local leadership team.**

- The newly formed associated national NBS organization chooses its own leadership and raises and manages its own funds.
- However, a new national NBS organization and its leaders may have financial needs which individual NBSI members, team members, or the NBSI board, through its international fund, may wish to help with.
- Decisions about such support will be made according to need and on an individual basis. The new national NBS organization should work to become financially self-supporting and self-sufficient as soon as possible.
- All financial gifts to national NBS organizations for their work, or to individuals for scholarships or expenses related to NBSI, are to be forwarded through the **NBSI office in Indianapolis**. Coordinator Ellen Handlin will receive the gift, record it in the international fund, and forward it to the national NBS organization according to the donor's instructions.

#### **Support flows both ways.**

- National NBS organizations, like local guilds or regional networks in the U.S., are invited to make contributions toward the work of NBSI if they are able.



## Sample Letter of Introduction (Updated with current naming and URL's)



at Christian Theological Seminary, 1000 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St., Indianapolis, IN 46208  
1 317-931-2352  
[nbs@nbsint.org](mailto:nbs@nbsint.org)

March 2, 2007

The Right Reverend Dr. Solomon Tilewa Johnson  
Bishop of The Gambia

Bishop Johnson,

I am writing to introduce Mrs. Juliana Rowe, an active member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers International (NBSI). NBSI is an international organization whose purpose is to communicate the sacred stories of the biblical tradition. Our mission is to encourage everyone to learn and tell biblical stories. Among the more exciting developments growing out of our mission over the past twenty years has been the development of biblical storytelling communities and NBSI guilds in international settings in Australia, Asia and Europe.

Mrs. Rowe has been active for several years with “Metro NBS,” our guild in the New York City area, and a participant and workshop leader at the annual Festival Gatherings of our network. Recently, our Board of Directors learned of her interest in introducing biblical storytelling to The Gambia. We understand that this would begin with a visit later this year, in hopes of laying the groundwork for an educational event that would be held during 2008, for which NBSI may be able to provide leadership through the involvement of some of our storytellers and leaders.

Our Board of Directors is thankful for the vision and commitment to biblical storytelling that Juliana Rowe is demonstrating in her desire to introduce biblical storytelling to The Gambia. We see this as a strong extension of the mission of NBSI and of the kind of international ministries we have been privileged to experience in the past. As we strongly recommend Mrs. Rowe to you, we also look forward to the possibilities of forming new partnerships in ministry with the Lutheran Church in The Gambia and the various faith communities of your country.

Please feel free to contact me if any further information is needed in our support of Mrs. Rowe and her extend the mission of NBSI to The Gambia.

Yours in Christ,

J. Lynn White, D. Min.  
President  
Network of Biblical Storytellers International



**Juliana Rowe**  
**Director of International Relations**

August 23, 2014

Mr.  
Director at

### **Letter of Introduction**

Dear

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

By way of this letter, I want to introduce myself, and the organization I represent, the Network of Biblical Storytellers International (NBSI) to you. I want to also thank you for your support and partnership.

My name is Juliana John Rowe, an active member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers International (NBSI), and now on the Board of Directors with responsibility for international missions and relations. I have successfully led teams of scholars and dedicated biblical storytellers on missions to the Gambia and Cameroon where we trained pastors, Christian Educators and laity to use biblical storytelling to revitalize their worship service and ministry.

NBSI is an international organization whose purpose is to orally communicate the sacred stories of the Bible, as in the ancient oral tradition. Its mission is to encourage everyone to learn and tell Bible stories - orally. (See our web site [www.nbsimt.org](http://www.nbsimt.org).) Among the more exciting developments growing out of our mission over the past thirty years has been the development of biblical storytelling communities and guilds in Australia, Asia, West and Central Africa. In these places, the oral telling of scripture has replaced the poor reading of lessons during worship. We stand ready to bring this exciting art of telling the Gospel to the Southern part of Africa and to the people of Botswana in particular.

Our Board of Directors is thankful to you and your organization for your commitment to partner with us for our upcoming mission. We support your vision...

I look forward to hearing from you.  
Sincerely,

Network of Biblical Storytellers, Int'l.  
800-355-6627 1000 West 42nd. St. Indianapolis, IN. 46208-3301  
Web: [nbsint.org](http://nbsint.org) email: [nbs@nbsint.org](mailto:nbs@nbsint.org)  
[boodydede@aol.com](mailto:boodydede@aol.com),

## Sample Institute and Mini-Festival Gathering Schedule

Example of a two-day Institute schedule:

### Network of Biblical Storytellers Institute, Davao, Oct. 23-24, 2014

<b>Day 1, October 23</b>	
8:00 a.m.	Registration
8:45 – 9:15 a.m.	Gathering and welcome
9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Session 1	Plenary: Rev. Dr. Larry Paul Gusto, Wycliffe Philippines <i>Introduction to Biblical Storytelling - The Bible as performance literature.</i>
10:15 – 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. - noon	Small Group Session 1
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00– 2:00 p.m. Session 2	Plenary: Rev. Beth Galbreath, NBSI vice president <i>Internalizing and telling a story with your voice, face and body.</i>
2:00– 2:15 p.m.	Break
2:15– 3:30 p.m.	Small group Session 2
3:30– 3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45 -4:45 p.m. Session 3	Carole Danby, NBS Australia <i>Biblical Storytelling with children</i>
4:45– 5:00 p.m.	Break
5:00– 5:50 p.m.	Small group 3

<b>Day 2, October 24</b>	
8 a.m.	Gathering
8:30– 9:30 a.m. Session 4	Phyllis Hostmeyer, professional storyteller <i>Digging in to the story!</i>
9:30– 9:45 a.m.	Break
9:45– 11:15 a.m.	Small Group Session 4
11:15– 11:30 a.m.	Break
11:30– 12:30 a.m. Session 5	Penelope Ferguson, Shenandoah Guild <i>Connecting your story and your spirituality with the scripture story</i>
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30– 2:30 p.m.	Small Group Session 5
2:30– 2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45– 3:30 p.m. Session 6	Jim Cyr, certified master storyteller. <i>Biblical Storytelling in community: resources, groups, and guilds</i>
3:30–3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Karl Hallsten, professional storyteller <i>Preparing to tell</i>
4:00-- 6:00 p.m. Session 7	Dr. Larry Paul Gusto, Dr. Julie Bustamante <i>Epic Telling and Graduation and Commissioning NBS Philippines</i>

Example of a three-day Institute schedule:

**Network of Biblical Storytellers Institute, Quezon City, Oct. 27-29, 2014**

<b>Day 1 Oct 27</b>	
8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:15– 9:45 a.m.	Gathering and welcome
9:45– 10:45 a.m. Session 1	Plenary: Rev. Dr. Larry Paul Gusto, Wycliffe Philippines <i>Introduction to Biblical Storytelling - The Bible as performance literature.</i>
10:45–11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	Small Group Session 1
12:15– 1:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15– 2:15 p.m. Session 2	Plenary: Rev. Beth Galbreath, NBSI vice president <i>Internalizing and telling a story with your voice, face and body.</i>
2:15– 2:30 p.m.	Break
2:30– 3:45 p.m.	Small Group Session 2
3:45– 4:00 p.m.	Closing; Q&A
<b>Day 2: Oct. 28</b>	
8:30– 8:45 a.m.	Gathering
8:45– 9:45 a.m. Session 3	Carole Danby, NBS Australia <i>Biblical Storytelling with children</i>
9:45– 10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Small Group Session 3
11:30 a.m.—12:15 pm	Lunch
12:15– 1:15 p.m. Session 4	Phyllis Hostmeyer, professional storyteller <i>Digging in to the story!</i>
1:15– 1:30 p.m.	Break
1:30– 2:45 p.m.	Small Group Session 4
2:45– 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00– 3:50 p.m. Session 5	Penelope Ferguson, Shenandoah Guild <i>Connecting your story and your spirituality with the scripture story</i>
3:50– 4 p.m.	Closing; Q&A

<b>Day 3: Oct. 29</b>	
8:30– 8:45 a.m.	Gathering
8:45– 9:45 a.m. Session 6	Jim Cyr, certified master storyteller. <i>Biblical Storytelling in community: resources, groups, and guilds</i>
9:45– 10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00– 11:30 a.m.	Small Group Session 5
11:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Karl Hallsten, professional storyteller <i>Preparing to tell</i>
1:00– 4 p.m.	Dr. Larry Paul Gusto <i>Epic Telling and Graduation and Commissioning NBS Philippines</i>

## Example of a Travel and Logistical Schedule

### 2013 NBS Workshop Logistics – Cameroon February 24 – March 10, 2013

February/March 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>24</b> Arrive Douala  Supper @ restaurant  Spend night @ European Rest House	<b>25</b> Breakfast at ERH  Travel to Ndop  Supper at St. John  Accommodation St. John the Baptist Rest House	<b>26</b> Debriefing meeting  Visit PresPot  All meals @ St. John  Accommodation St. John the Baptist Rest House	<b>27</b> <b>Institute- Day 1</b>  Breakfast/supper @ St. John  Accommodation St. John the Baptist Rest House	<b>28</b> <b>Institute – Day 2</b>  Breakfast/supper @ St. John  Accommodation St. John the Baptist Rest House	<b>March 1</b> <b>Institute – Day 3</b>  Breakfast/supper @ St. John  Accommodation St. John the Baptist Rest House	<b>2</b> <b>Mini-Festival Gathering</b>  Breakfast/supper @ St. John  Accommodation St. John the Baptist Rest House
<b>3</b> Worship at various churches  <b>Epic Telling</b>  Breakfast/supper @ St. John  Accommodation St. John the Baptist Rest House	<b>4</b> 7:30 leave Ndop travel to Bamenda shopping  12 travel to Mutengene  Breakfast St. John Lunch PresCafe Supper Mutengene Accommodation CBC Rest House	<b>5</b> Free Day  Breakfast/supper RH  Lunch @ restaurant  Accommodation CBC Rest House	<b>6</b> <b>Institute- Day 1</b>  Breakfast/lunch/ Supper RH  Accommodation CBC Rest House	<b>7</b> <b>Institute- Day 2</b>  Breakfast/lunch/ supper RH  Accommodation CBC Rest House	<b>8</b> <b>Institute- Day 3</b>  Breakfast/lunch/ supper RH  Accommodation CBC Rest House	<b>9</b> <b>Mini-Festival Gathering</b>  Breakfast/supper RH  Accommodation CBC Rest House
<b>10</b> Worship at CBC  Free day  Breakfast & Supper/Lunch restaurant  Accommodation CBC Rest House	<b>11</b> Breakfast at RH  Lunch/supper restaurant  Pastor George & Sharon accommodations Catholic Rest House Douala	<b>12</b> Fly to Brussels from Douala Flight at 10:30pm  Pastor George and Sharon return to North West				

Possible activities on free days:

### **Ndop/Bamenda**

- **PresPot** – visit a working pottery workshop. You will see how they harvest and store the clay from the nearby river bed. How the clay is molded into beautiful works of art and shop for gifts to take back home. The settlement was started by the Presbyterian's many years ago and still operating.
- **PresCraft** – is a wonderful handicraft center showcasing local artist in the Northwest region. Started by the Presbyterian's years ago as an outlet for artistes to sell their arts and crafts.
- **Visit a Palace** to meet a traditional ruler/chief or as called locally a Fon.

### **Buea/Mutengene / Limbe**

- Mt. Cameroon hike to explore the Rain Forest – for the very fit persons \$15
- The Wild Life Sanctuary **a must see** we will have lunch here and meet the man that talks to the Apes \$6 admission to zoo; lunch \$5 to 10
- The **Botanical Garden** a wonderful setting we will sit and look out at the Atlantic Ocean \$6 each
- **A half day boat trip to Crater Lake** and explore the Rain Forest \$30 each

### **Douala**

- Lunch on the catch of the day on the river
- Visit and shop at the Artist Center

## Story List for Institutes

You'll need to adjust the number of stories chosen from Mark to the number of people on your team. After the plenary speakers have chosen (or been assigned) the stories they wish to teach from the *Shema* and the overall list in Mark, the remaining stories are available for the team members to pick for teaching in their small groups. For example, this is the final list from the 7-member Philippines mission. If you have more team members you'll need more stories. Pick texts that are relatively short and full of action, and add up to a good chunk of Mark. The last two small group meetings on the schedule are for Q&A, practice, planning and evaluation, so only three stories per group are needed. A similar schedule was followed in Cameroon.

<p><b>Section A: Stories from Mark 1-4</b></p> <p>A1) Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-15)</p> <p>A2) Call of the disciples (1:16-20)</p> <p>A3) Healing the man with the unclean spirit (1:21-28)</p> <p>A4) Healing the leper (1:40-45)</p> <p>A5) Sabbath healing (3:1-6)</p> <p>A6) Parable of the Sower (4:1-9)</p> <p>A7) Calming the storm (4:35-41)</p>	<p><b>Suggested Plenary stories</b></p> <p><i>Shema</i>, Deut 6:4-7 – session 1</p> <p>Bartimaeus, Mark 10:46-52, deep study and voice-face-body expression</p> <p>The Paralyzed Man, Mark 2:1-13, connecting with the story</p> <p>Parable of the mustard seed, Mark 4:30-32, children's work speaker</p>
<p><b>Section B: Stories from Mark 5-9</b></p> <p>B1) Jairus' daughter (5:21-24, 35-43)</p> <p>B2) Woman with the hemorrhage (5:25-34)</p> <p>B3) Feeding the five thousand (6:34-44)</p> <p>B4) Jesus walks on the sea (6:47-52)</p> <p>B5) Healing the Syrophenician's daughter (7:24-30)</p> <p>B6) The Messianic confession (8:27-33)</p> <p>B7) Transfiguration (9:2-9)</p>	<p>The Resurrection of Jesus, Mark 16:1-8, last session</p>
<p><b>Section C: Stories from Mark 10-16</b></p> <p>C1) Blessing the children (10:13-16)</p> <p>C2) Entering Jerusalem (11:1-11)</p> <p>C3) The scribe and great commandments (12:28-34)</p> <p>C4) Anointing at Bethany (14:3-9)</p> <p>C5) The last supper (14:22-25)</p> <p>C6) Peter's denial (14:66-72)</p> <p>C7) The death of Jesus (15:33-41)</p>	

## Legal Paperwork for Each Team Member

As team leader, you should collect the legal documents as soon as possible from each NBSI member, before the trip begins. Hard copies are preferable, but scanned copies can be emailed.

**Keep one copy with you on the trip and send the other to the NBSI office.**

Older participants on Medicare need to check with their Medicare supplement insurance provider to see whether the supplement insurance covers the trip. Medicare does not cover outside of the country. They'll need to know several months before the trip if they need to buy supplemental medical insurance and that may or may not be easy to find.

Be sure that none of the documents you carry include participants' social security numbers, and keep the emergency documents as safe as you possibly can, on your person or entrusted to another team member. Don't leave them in checked baggage or hotel rooms.





## Network of Biblical Storytellers, International

### Volunteer Release Memo

TO: Volunteers participating in an Overseas Biblical Storytelling Mission Trip  
FROM: The Network of Biblical Storytellers, International (NBS Int'l)  
RE: Safety, Liability, Insurance, and Contacts

If you are volunteering to participate in an Overseas Biblical Storytelling Mission Trip, you should be aware of risks, be cautious and use good safety procedures.

Some of the areas volunteers might visit may have unusually high risks of unsanitary food or water, disease, civil disturbances or crime. There are dangers inherent in travel and in movement around the country. Be a good steward of your life and health. Find out what the risks are and be prepared to meet them. Volunteers should be informed by reading up on the country to which you are travelling and checking with the US or Canada travel safety alerts for the country concerned.

Persons volunteering to serve overseas are not employees of NBS, Int'l. Therefore, they are not covered by any Worker's Compensation Insurance or accident or group health or life insurance with NBSI. You should obtain any insurance you need. If traveling outside your country, you should check to make certain that you have appropriate medical insurance coverage in effect outside your country. Check with your employer or your medical insurance plan.

To help NBSI we ask that you sign a Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement, provide information about your medical insurance, and give us the name of two people to contact back home. Of course, we hope we will never have to use this information, but it is a necessary precaution for overseas travel.

If you have any questions, contact your trip organizer.

**Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement  
Network of Biblical Storytellers, International**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of the city of \_\_\_\_\_, state/province of \_\_\_\_\_ shall be traveling with The Network of Biblical Storytellers, International (hereafter "NBSI") from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_, for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ hereafter referred to as the Mission Trip.

I understand and agree that neither NBSI, nor its Board, representatives, or employees, may be held liable in any way for an occurrence in connection with the Mission Trip which may result in injury, harm (including death), or other damages to the person or property of the undersigned. Rather, I agree that I alone shall be responsible for any property damage, personal injury or death that may occur during our travels.

As part of the consideration for participating in the Mission Trip, I, \_\_\_\_\_, release NBSI, its Board, representatives, and employees from any claim for damages, injury, death, or loss of any kind, which may occur while participating in the Mission Trip. I further agree to save and hold harmless NBSI, its Board, representatives, and employees from any claim arising out of or participation in any form or fashion in the Mission Trip. This agreement shall be binding on my relatives, personal representatives, heirs, beneficiaries, next of kin, or assigns and shall inure to the benefit of NBSI.

I understand that in the event of death, it may not be possible to return the participant's earthly remains to their home at the participant's expense. I understand that it may be necessary to bury or cremate the participant's body at a location outside of the USA or Canada and hereby consent to such burial or cremation. If return of the remains is possible, they should be returned to this mortuary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer cremation if possible \_\_\_\_\_ I prefer burial if possible

I understand the terms of this agreement are contractual and not mere recital; and that I have signed this document of my own free act and volition. I further state and acknowledge that I have fully informed myself of the content of this agreement and release by reading it before I signed it.

I have executed this Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Medical Insurance Coverage

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Insured/Relationship to Insured \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have checked with my insurance company and my current health insurance does cover the trip to \_\_\_\_\_ for which I have been accepted.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have checked with my insurance company, and my current health insurance does not cover the trip to \_\_\_\_\_ for which I have been accepted.

If your insurance does not cover your trip, you can purchase travel insurance for coverage during the time away.

Since my current policy does not cover me out of country, I will be insured for the trip by the following company:

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Information

Please list 2 contacts for while you are on this trip.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address: \_\_\_\_\_



**Water considerations:** Even in cities with potable water, you will probably want to drink bottled water (which your group will obtain from a reputable dealer of filtered water, or from the restaurant or hotel desk) because water is simply different and you are used to the water you have at home. You may want to obtain a Steri-pen to use with a wide-mouth half-liter juice or tea bottle; several people on the trip could share this solution. Be aware that at some airports you will be required to leave your bottle at security, even if it's empty! So don't bring your favorite expensive water bottle.

**Electronics:** You are allowed to carry batteries for electronic devices (cameras, phones, sound recorders, tablets, pads, CPAP devices) *inside* the devices. Most airlines will not permit extra batteries in checked or carry-on luggage. So re-chargeables are a great idea. Also be aware that airlines are not liable for electronics pilfered from your luggage, and that your luggage may be searched at any time. So pack electronics only in your carry-on luggage where you can keep an eye on them. Of course, you will also research the electricity situation in the country you'll visit – shape of plug, voltage, etc. Carry any adapters you will need, including 220-volt transformers, with you; don't expect the hotel to have one. Most modern electronics handle both 220 and 110 voltage, so read the very fine print on your device and bring a transformer if you have doubts.

**Medication:** for the whole trip and a few days longer, just in case, but not more than that. Carry medication in the original bottle with your name and prescription information in your carry-on – remove the extra pills and leave them at home.

**Money:** Traveler's checks are far less accepted than they used to be. Carry your cash next to your body in a money belt or a passport case under clothing. After you change your money, take small amounts out to carry with you each day as needed. Carry one credit card for emergencies and let the bank know the dates you will be traveling, and where.

**Identification:** Always carry your passport, of course; it is your most crucial possession. In addition: **Scan the full two-page layout of your passport**, the first pages that contain your picture and ID information. Print the scan, in color if possible, and carry it with your cash in your passport case or money belt. Email the scan to yourself if you have a web-based email system so that you can access it from anywhere. On your outward trip, print boldly on an 8 1/2 X 11 paper, your name, address and contact information in your mission country, **and put it on top of your packed items. In case your case is opened or misdirected, you can be contacted. For some countries, you will be directed to tape this to the outside of your case.** On your return trip, do the same with your US information.

## Group Equipment & Supplies Checklist

As team leader, you are responsible for the health and safety of your team and the group money.

If certain expenses have been handled before the trip, such as hotel reservations or rental for the venue, you will have that much less to be concerned about.

You will have individual spending and team expenses (transportation, for example) that need to be covered by “team budget” money. You can avoid one person carrying all the team money by letting each person keep the money they brought, keep a tally of what each person owes the team or has paid for, and settle up as needed.

As leader you might choose to carry small amounts of: Over-the-counter medications:

Cold and intestinal preparations such as Nyquil, Dayquil, Imodium, Pepto-Bismol tablets;

headache remedies such as aspirin, Tylenol, ibuprofen; sunburn remedy, antibiotic ointment, band aids.

**Sewing supplies**: needles, a good supply of thread, and buttons. Remember you can pack small scissors only in your checked bag.

Example: One team member tore his pants the first day in Cameroon and it took three women’s thread supplies to mend them!

Steri-pen. Team members who share it will save the team some money, but don’t buy one if you don’t have one or get it as a gift; it will take a lot of bottled water to equal the cost.

Cell phone: If a cell system exists in your mission country, carry one phone that will work there. You can:

- Pay for a short-term international contract on your own phone, if it is compatible, and charge the cost to team expenses
- Buy a cheap phone there and load it with minutes, or if your phone is compatible, buy a SIM card for your phone that carries local system minutes.
- Ask your local partner to provide a phone for the team’s use, and return it at the end of the mission.

Be aware that the cheaper the phone, the harder it will be to understand if you have a hearing loss. You will need a way to contact your local partners, hotels, etc.

- Carry your smartphone to use for GPS info and as a clock and alarm clock and turn off the phone access so no one can accidentally call you.
- Or a combination.

Example: In the Philippines, Beth knew from experience on a previous trip that borrowing her church’s local Philippines phone and loading a SIM card wouldn’t work – she couldn’t hear the other speaker clearly! So our local partner lent the team an inexpensive cell phone that she *could* hear, and she kept her own smartphone for GPS use. As the taxi from the airport got totally lost, she called the local partner and handed the phone to the driver to get directions from him. Later, as she and Carole took a taxi to a church, Beth was able, finally, to get the driver to follow her directions, which she was watching on Google Maps.

## Sample Participant Packet inclusions (from the 2014 Philippines packet)

### Digging in and Connecting the story with our stories – Some approaches for teens and adults

#### QAR – Question Answer Relationship

Type of Question	Examples
<p><b>On My Own</b> – Everyone can answer this type of question. It is asked before they even know what story they will be hearing. They do not need to know or hear the story to answer this.</p>	<p>Have you ever been surprised by something unexpected?            What types of things do people in your community do to honor someone who has died?            What are some common burial customs in your community?            Why do you think it might be important to follow traditions surrounding burial?</p>
<p><b>Right There</b> – The answer is found one place in the words of the story. If you had a written text, you could literally put one finger on the answer.</p>	<p>Who was walking to the tomb with Mary Madgalene? (<i>Mary the Mother of James and Salome</i>)            What were the women bringing to the tomb? (<i>spices</i>)            What covered the entrance to the tomb? (<i>a large stone</i>)</p>
<p><b>Think and Search</b> - The answer is also found in the words of the story but you will have to look more than one place to find the answer. These questions usually require more thought.</p>	<p>What did the women discover when they reached the tomb?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The stone was already rolled back.</i></li> <li>• <i>A young man in white was inside.</i></li> <li>• <i>Jesus was not present.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Author and Me</b> – These answers rely upon information from the story and your own background information. These are the most difficult questions to answer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did the women’s emotions change from the beginning of the resurrection story to the end?</li> <li>• The last line of the story says the women were afraid. What do you think the women feared?</li> <li>• Why do you think that none of the disciples went to the tomb with the women?</li> </ul>

Another way to discuss a story is to look at the characters, their motivations and desires, the conflicts that arise and the resolutions to those conflicts.

Somebody (characters)	Wanted (motivation or desires)	But (conflict)	So (resolution)
The three women	to anoint Jesus’s body	they were worried about the large stone	they discussed among themselves whom they might find to help them
The young man	to speak with the women and tell them what to do	they were frightened and alarmed	he told them not to be alarmed and proceeded to talk with them and give them instructions

■ *Phyllis Hostmeyer*



# Engaging people of all ages, especially children, in telling Bible Stories

## Claiming the Space

- Make the gathering space welcoming and bright with a visual emphasis on the Bible – Bible open and on a stand, story stole, cross, coloured cloth and Treasure chest or box wrapped in gold paper if you have one.
- We stand on holy ground when we share our faith stories with others – children.



## Drama Techniques for exploring Scripture

### Echo Mimes

Divide the bible story into small phrases or single words, then put an action to each one and invite the assembled group to copy what you say and do what you do until you say 'The End'! Example –

One day	Hold up one finger
Jesus went to Jericho	Point away from you
To see some friends	Put hand over eyes, looking
Zacchaeus	Draw a 'Z' in the air
Wanted to see Jesus	Put hand over eyes, looking
But he could not	Shake head from side to side
Because he was too short	Indicate a short person at your side with hand

### Liquid Pictures

Divide the Bible Story into 6 or so segments that can be easily said by young children. Assign one segment to each of 6 or so children and invite them to say the line 3 times and do an action to match what is being said. Then when they are finished, they freeze and the next person says their segment 3 times and freezes. A leader introduces the story and ends it. Here is an example from John's Gospel –

Leader: The story of the first Easter.

- The Stone is gone!
- Jesus is gone!
- Peter, Jesus is gone!
- I don't believe it!
- It's true! Jesus is gone!
- Mary!
- Jesus is alive! Alleluia!

Leader: Jesus told Mary to tell everyone the Good News and she did!

### Number Stories

Example: 1 day Jesus was going 2wards Jericho with 5 of his disciples. As all 6 of them were leaving, 1 man, Bartimaeus, son of Timaetus, a blind beggar was sitting next 2 the roadside. When he heard that it

was the 1derful Jesus going by, he called out 2 him in a gr8 big voice, 'Jesus, Son of David, have pity 4 me!'

**Sound Effects** – YEAH, WOW, UHOH, APPLAUSE, OOOHH, AAAHH, HISS –

Make signs with one word on each and invite 7 children to hold one sign each. Tell or read a story and encourage the holders of the signs to step forward whenever they think the rest of the group should call out the word on their sign.

### **Drama/Story Bags**

Two-way stretch sacks made from stretch Lycra material. Children place these over their heads and step into the footholds sewn into the bottom of the bag. A Bible story is read or told and those in the bags respond to what they hear by moving inside the bag. Rules – do not move your feet and no talking while inside the bag.

### **Puppets**

Children can make puppets from paper bags, or adults in your church can make handle-bag puppets from fabric scraps, a handle, and a head. Heads can be made of many different found materials! And when the puppets are made, the children can act the story with the puppets. If an adult has a smartphone they can make a video of the story. Here is a video demonstration about handle-bag puppets and drama bags:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_KuH7s1apQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_KuH7s1apQ)

### **Storyboarding**

Give each participant a sheet of paper and instruct them to fold in half, then in half again, then in half again. This will divide the page into 8 sections. Tell a story and then invite children to draw the story as far as they can recall. Then tell it again and ask them to fill in any blanks. Then children can turn to someone next to them and use their story map to tell the story to someone else. OR, you can draw a storyboard in sand or dirt the same way.

### **Prayer with actions for younger children**

Creator God, I give you today, all that I think, and do, and say. I give you the good times, as well as the bad, the time when I am happy, the times when I am sad. Fill me with grace and make me strong. With you by my side, I can never go wrong. Amen

### **Music**

*God Delights in You* with Actions and Dancing

*Great Big God* with Actions

*God's Love is* with Actions

*Shalom, Peace to You* with Actions

*Kingdom Rap* with Movement

■ *Carole Danby*



# MULL

The acronym *MULL* is a helpful way to remember how we learn biblical stories by heart. It stands for *Master, Understand, Live, Link*.

## Master

We master the text by practice, by repetition. Aim for 75% or better word accuracy based on your chosen translation, but don't worry about being "word-perfect" – after all, none of us will be telling in Hebrew or Greek, so the translation is already not "word-perfect!" Here are some suggestions for finding times and ways to practice "when you are at home, and when you are away; when you lie down and when you rise."

- Mouth the text – read it and repeat it out loud whenever you can.
- Move your body: repeat the story to yourself or out loud, while you're walking or cycling – but only if it's safe to take a little of your attention off the road!
- Imagine the images of the story as you repeat it.
- If you can, write out the text several times. If you can write it in longhand that's best.
- Tell it out loud in the shower or in the car (but only if it's safe to take a little of your attention off the road!)
- Repeat it with a friend. Repeat it when you're cooking or washing dishes or pulling weeds in the garden or doing other chores.
- Whisper it to yourself if you can't sleep.
- Repeat it mentally (including thinking about your expressions and gestures) while you're waiting for the bus, or waiting in line anywhere, or riding to your destination.

## Understand

Understand the text thoroughly by study. Aim for 95% meaning accuracy. Your goal is to understand how the original tellers and hearers would have understood the story *so that* you can tell it with integrity in your own community today.

- For your base translation, use the Bible used in your congregation in worship. That's so you'll be welcome to tell in worship! Be sure it's a good translation, rather than a paraphrase.
- In preparing, though, you can read several translations. See the page in your packet about free online resources. It's OK to pull a word or phrase from another version or even make culturally appropriate translations and corrections. For example, when telling to teens, you might say "to a teenager whose name was Mary."
- Take advantage of good Bible study classes offered by your church.
- Read *recent* Bible commentaries to understand the nuances that the first audiences would have picked up in their context. For example, "Samaritan" and "Centurion" don't have the same emotional content for us that they did for their first hearers. Rather than changing the words you'll want to understand that, and express the emotional content through your face and voice – maybe disdain, followed by surprise when they turn out to be heroes after all!
- If you're telling in worship and you're not the preacher, ask the preacher which points he or she is going to emphasize. Remember that a story can often be told several different valid ways.
- Read the context of the story to understand the "before and after," and the viewpoint of the whole book. For example, consider the story of Jesus going to Gentile territory and confronting a gentile





barriers in some places, but you are welcome to use the community to ask questions, share successes and set up your own hangouts with other tellers in different parts of the Philippines, for free. Email Joyce Orr at [cindaynbs@gmail.com](mailto:cindaynbs@gmail.com) for information on joining and using the community.

## RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH



**[textweek.com](http://textweek.com)** *The Text This Week* offers links to resources for study, reflection and liturgy for the Revised Common Lectionary. Also includes a scripture index for those who don't use the RCL.

**[scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/Greek\\_Index.htm](http://scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/Greek_Index.htm)** Online (and also downloadable) free Greek (and Hebrew) interlinear. It's in English, but very helpful.



**[sacredstorytelling.org/parables-today](http://sacredstorytelling.org/parables-today)** The website of Dr. Robert Bèla Wilhelm, theologian and storyteller. Pairs lectionary texts of all three Revised Common Lectionary years with sacred stories and folktales from around the world that connect with the meaning of the texts.

**[story-lovers.com](http://story-lovers.com)** offers collections of Epics, Fairy Tales, Folklore, Fables, Nursery Rhymes, Myths, Legends, Bible, Classics, Facts and Fiction from Ancient Egypt to the present day. Storytelling and Educational Resources & Information for Storytellers, and advice from professionals all over the world.



## RESOURCES FOR CREATIVITY IN GENERAL



**[accidentalcreative.com](http://accidentalcreative.com)** Articles and podcasts on how to be prolific, brilliant, and healthy. Todd Henry's material will help you boost your creativity when preparing to tell stories.



**Abbey of the Arts**

**[abbeyofthearts.com](http://abbeyofthearts.com)** is a virtual monastery offering a variety of online classes, reflections, and resources which integrate contemplative practice and creative expression.

## RESOURCES FOR PERFORMANCE

**[storydynamics.com](http://storydynamics.com)** *Tips for the Storyteller* newsletter from Doug Lipman gives many tips on improving your storytelling performance.



**[artofstorytellingshow.com](http://artofstorytellingshow.com)** Podcasts of interviews with storytellers talking about the art of storytelling.

■ *Jim Cyr*

# How to Lead a Biblical Storytelling Workshop

A workshop can be one hour, two hours, or all day. A good beginners workshop is two hours. Be sure to collect contact information for participants so you can connect with them and encourage them later!

Choose the story you will use to teach and plan your workshop. should be 5-10 verses, with action (not just talking). *Mark* is a good place to start.



Here are some suggestions for a workshop – they are only suggestions!

1. Gather the people with singing, and from there go into the “Lion Hunt” for fun, as an icebreaker, and to get the idea of call-and-response going.
2. Tell Deuteronomy 6:4-7, the *Shema*. Point out that it tells us why we should learn Scripture by heart (so that we focus on loving God alone), and how we learn (repeat them to our children and others, tell them doing chores at home or on the road, and tell them once at bedtime and once on rising.) If you have more than two hours, you can teach the *Shema* with call and response.
3. Break!
4. Tell the story you are teaching. Show people how:
  - > to imagine the story vividly
  - > to break it into episodes, then chunks
  - > to design gestures that express the story – not too many! This is *not* sign language!
  - > to plan how voice and face can express the story
  - > to make a storyboard, if you have time
5. Lead the story with call and response, with gestures
6. Break into pairs. Each person will tell the story. The other will only help if needed. *If* you have provided the text on paper, urge the partners to look at the paper only if they can’t remember what comes next either. But paper is not necessary to learn. Switch roles. As leader, walk around and offer suggestions to the students for voice, face and body.
7. Combine pairs into fours. Again, each person tells the story to the other three.
8. Come back together. Invite sharing: How did it go? Does anyone want to tell the story? Applaud loudly *any* efforts! This is not about perfection!
9. Invite sharing: How does this story connect with your story?
10. Commission the folks with the Pentecost story or with the *Shema* – they are now biblical storytellers! Remind them to keep practicing.

# Staying Connected

Folks who have caught the passion for biblical storytelling like to practice their art and stay connected with other tellers! Here are ways to do that:

If you have a strong internet connection, join **NBS TOGETHER: The Online Guild**, which meets monthly for an hour and includes folks around the globe. Email Joyce Orr, [cindaynbs@gmail.com](mailto:cindaynbs@gmail.com), for information on joining.

Find your guild or regional network and connect: <http://nbsint.org/nbsguilds>

## Scripture by Heart groups

A Scripture by Heart group is a group of tellers in a single congregation who work with the pastor to present the Scripture reading by telling instead of reading in Sunday worship. They get together every month or so to decide who will tell which story that the pastor is going to preach on in the following month. If there are four members, each can easily learn one story per month.

## Guilds, or Regional Networks

When tellers from different congregations, even different denominations, get together, it's called a "guild" or a "regional network." Keep within the NBSI guidelines and values. Some suggestions:

- Help one another learn new stories
- Hold workshops to help others learn biblical storytelling
- Study difficult stories to help one another find the best ways to tell them
- Divide up a series of stories, or a whole book of the Bible, and hold an epic telling
- Travel to different churches upon invitation to present epic tellings
- Create and post video of tellings, to spread the art
- Connect with mission organizations who work in spreading the gospel through storytelling where people learn by listening rather than reading.
- Connect with (NBS local Coordinator) to plan and do many more great things, even holding a national Festival Gathering.
- Take up collections at epic tellings to fund missions or Festival Gathering scholarships.
- Use storytelling in working with teens to deal with the serious issues young people face
- Connect with Muslim and Jewish groups for interfaith story-sharing potluck events

## Prison Ministry

Perhaps the best thing a guild could do, if it can, is starting biblical storytelling groups in prisons. Biblical storytelling is a powerful way to share the good news of God's love with those in prison. NBS International is growing in its ministries and workshops in prisons as well as in churches; perhaps that might get started here. Amelia Boomershine can help:

[amelia@gotell.org](mailto:amelia@gotell.org).

-- *Beth Galbreath*



## Finding the Money

As was suggested in the section on “Being a Mission Supporter,” direct designated gifts to NBSI through the NBSI office are always welcome (and fully tax deductible).

Financial support can come from:

and can be designated to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your congregation</li> <li>• A small group in your congregation</li> <li>• Women’s or men’s groups</li> <li>• Yourself</li> <li>• A friend interested in biblical storytelling</li> <li>• Your Scripture by Heart group</li> <li>• Your local NBSI guild or regional network</li> <li>• Your church’s district or conference, presbytery, etc.</li> <li>• A grant making entity you might know</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group expenses for a mission (printing, etc.)</li> <li>• A specific need of the mission (gift copies of <i>Story Journey</i>, etc.) Example: Elaine and Richard Davies have made a gift of the buttons to four missions.</li> <li>• A sponsorship for a team member who otherwise would not have the funds to go</li> <li>• Seed money for the new NBS_____, such as travel expenses for workshop leaders, biblical storytelling radio shows, printing costs, etc.</li> <li>• Scholarships for local participants</li> <li>• Scholarships for international FG participants</li> <li>• Support for Scholars Seminar members teaching short-term classes at international seminaries</li> <li>• Undesignated international mission needs</li> </ul>
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If your congregation includes members who are immigrants from the country you are going to, let them know about biblical storytelling and your trip. Get them excited about the art, and you may find them very enthusiastic donors. Be sure to keep a mission button from your trip for them as a thank-you.

## Keeping team finances straight

If handling financial records is not your strength, appoint one member of the team to be the group treasurer. If there are other tasks you would like help with, and there are team members in whom you have confidence to fulfill them, then by all means appoint others to help. Know what your local partners can and will handle, and encourage them in that, by all means. But as team leader, you are responsible for the overall operation and success of the mission.

Handling two different currencies – or three, if some of your team members are not from the U.S. – is a real challenge. Beth Galbreath found it helpful to set up a purse-sized notebook with a double-page layout for each person, like this:

<u>Name</u> Itemized Expenses	Dollars in	Dollars out	Pesos in	Pesos out

This chart showed immediately what each person had contributed to the treasury (“in”) and what had been paid out to that person. Of course personal expenses – meals, souvenirs - were not tracked, but hotels were paid by the group even though they were charged individually. There was a separate page for group expenditures, which were divided among the team. She chose to “settle up” on the last day of the trip, but this kind of accounting can help the same way when group expenses are divided and reimbursed to the treasurer of the team every few days.