

Jesus used stories throughout His ministry to impart eternal truths in a way the people could understand. The art of storytelling has the ability to engage audiences of all ages, and to penetrate even the hardest of hearts. That's the spirit behind The Master's Storyteller.

# Jonah is Ready!

The story of Jonah is one of the earliest Bible stories we hear as children. And why not? It's not everyday we hear about a man being swallowed by a whale and living to tell about it. Jonah ends up on the beach and obeys God in preaching in Ninevah. A happy ending, right?

Well, behind the cartoonish tellings of our childhood, the real lesson of the story has a serious message: Sometimes, God will call you to go someplace you would rather not go, and when He does, He has a reason for it.

In this new DVD, Wesley Putnam, The Master's Storyteller, tells the story of Jonah as a Louisiana Cajun. It will give you fresh insight into the nature and faithfulness of God. You will laugh a lot, and you may find your assumptions challenged. But one thing's for sure, you'll never see the story of Jonah the same way again!

### "I'm afraid our people won't come out at night for a meeting...

...at the church." This is a phrase we hear over and over again from pastors who are considering bringing "The Master's storyteller" into their community. They have expressed amazement when the room filled up night after night.

There is a unique power in the simple stories that grabs hearts and minds, motivates them to come

and even bring their friends with them. In this world today, there is a deep hunger for the things of God. Among all the uncertainties of life, there are the unchangeable truths that have stood through the centuries. Those life-changing truths still have power to change lives!

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#### Lives Are Changed At Camp

We love camp ministries. My first experience as a storyteller was in 1979, and I've not missed a single year since. I can't begin to tell you how God has worked in the lives of these boys and girls across these years. There have been thousands of children who have surrendered their lives to Christ, hundreds who have committed to vocational ministry or other significant life decisions.





We added a new camp this year. We were invited to Sacramento United Methodist Camp in New Mexico. As a bonus, all of my children and grandchildren joined us in this time of ministry. We had a cousins camp going on at the same time as the elementary camp. During worship each night, the family was the worship band and the grandchildren got to hear their PawPaw tell stories. It was an amazing time!



#### Mission Opportunity 2015

One of the blessings of this ministry is the opportunities we have for missions outreach. We have been to Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, and Ghana, where we have seen the stories bridge the language gap to communicate God's love. In March we have been invited to minister to churches and pastors in Jamaica.

Rev. Merlin and Kay Pratt, who are with PaPa's Ministry, invited us to come and be a part of their outreach. "After long years of witnessing your ministry, we are confident that even in this cross cultural ministry here, your ministries of music, drama and storytelling can help teach and encourage the existing congregations and provide wonderful evangelistic opportunities for our beloved Methodist Family in a variety of settings; urban and rural outposts."

We are so excited to have this incredible open door. Please put the dates of March 6-16 on your calendar and pray for us as we go.

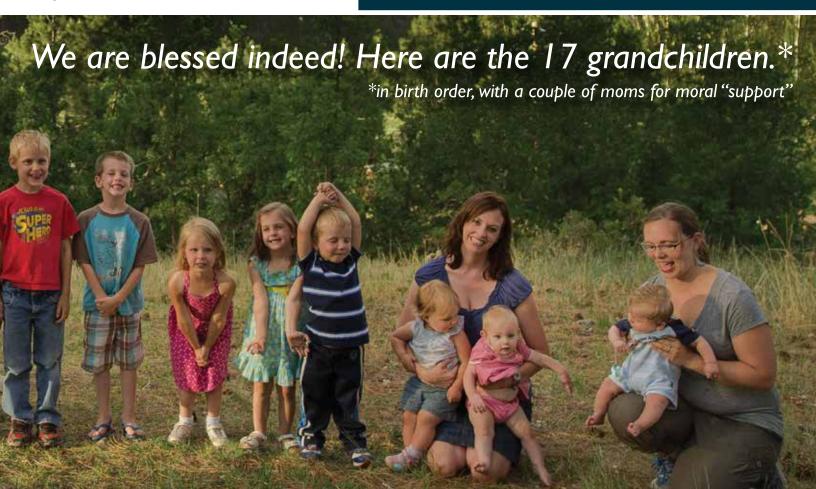
#### Storytelling Opens Doors in Schools

In the nearly 34 years of our ministry, we have been given many opportunities to speak in public and private schools. We have averaged over 10,000 kids per year for over 30 years. That's over 300,000 who have heard a presentation from the Master's storyteller. Many are



amazed that a Bible story can still be told in schools, but the truth is that the Bible has not been banned from our schools.

You can still find the Bible in all the school libraries, and there are even courses that use the Bible as part of assignments. I can't pray (out loud), but I can tell the stories!



## **BibleQuest**



BibleQuest is at the very heart of this ministry. Whether we have 10 children or 60, my heart thrills to give each child a BibleQuest memory book with nearly 200 specially selected verses that lead a child to love and trust Jesus Christ.

I wish you could see their faces light up as they learn the books of the Bible and see if they can sing them at hyper-warp speed! Children are mesmerized by the dynamic short stories told especially for them.

They learn how easy it is to memorize scripture. I tell each group about our World Record Medal Winners across the years:

- a 4-yr-old who memorized 23 verses,
- a 5-yr-old who memorized 27 verses,
- a 6-yr-old who memorized 32 verses
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who memorized 77 verses
- a camper who memorized the whole book
- a 6th grader who memorized 102 verses
- And a little girl who brought 27 friends!

It is our hope these children will keep working in their books long after we're gone, and continue to hide God's Word in their hearts.



#### What An Amazing Year!

Felicia and I have had one of our busiest years of ministry in nearly 34 years. We have been delighted with the continued enthusiastic reception this ministry of music, storytelling, and children's ministry has received. So many lives have been eternally changed by His power. He is answering that simple prayer we have prayed since our ministry's beginning, "Lord, use us to make a difference."



Here is a photo of Felicia helping drive the motorhome to another place of ministry. We were blessed this year with gifts from some of our donors that enabled us to repair and update our 10 year old ministry RV. We're so grateful to have this vehicle that allows us to travel and not move in and out of motel rooms 200 days each year!

Follow us on www.wesleyputnam.org as we continue to share the Good News.

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To schedule your event call 817-285-8008 or visit wesleyputnam.org