

Ranjid

This is based on a true story and fits well with the importance of reading the Bible.

Most of the story is told by storytellers however the number involved depends on availability. Ranjid, Teacher, Manager of Bible Society are key characters but others can be added Ranjid's mum and dad, village children, mission school children.

To create the ravine a tunnel can be built but high enough for the child to run through.

Ranjid lived in Uganda and was 8 years old in 1988. He had never been to school because his parents could not afford to send him. Ranjid's job was to keep the house tidy and look after the hens. His mum was seriously ill and never went out of their hut. His dad worked long hours in the fields to earn money for food and medicine.

The other boys in the village made fun of Ranjid because he did not go to school and could not read or write.

One day Ranjid's dad heard that a Mission School had been opened by the Church in a nearby town and that education was free to all who could not pay. It was agreed that Ranjid should go to this school.

There were a few problems with this arrangement: it was 3 miles away across the bush; it started at 8a.m.; Ranjid would have to travel alone as his dad was at work and his mum too ill; and he had to go through the ravine before the sun shed its light down into this gully of steep sided boulders.

It was 8a.m. before the sun's light got into this ravine.

It was this ravine which scared Ranjid most, the other children in the village who all could afford to go to the village school had told Ranjid that the ravine was full of ghosts and ghoulies when it was dark and they came out and attacked those who went through it before the sun rose. Ranjid was terrified by these stories.

The first day he went to the mission school he left at 7a.m. and on approaching the ravine he broke into a run and went through the ravine at a great pace, this happened for the first week but every day he thought he felt hands trying to grab him and pull him back, and he heard strange noises in his head.

The next week he decided he would be late for school, he hung around outside the house until the sun was high in the sky. He knew then that the sun would be in the ravine. Now Ranjid felt it was safe to set off for school but even so he still ran fast through the ravine.

The teacher at the mission school was concerned that Ranjid was always late for school but he was too ashamed and scared to tell the teacher why.
(Teacher takes Ranjid aside and tries to speak with him)

After a few weeks the Bible Society of Uganda, who had been sent gospels and Bibles from England, decided to visit the mission school.

The manager of the Ugandan Bible Society arrived late one evening and so as the mission school started at 8a.m. he gave all the children a copy of the Gospel of St Mark.

(This could be an opportunity to give all the children present a Gospel)

He had just finished giving them out and packed up his boxes and put them back in the jeep when Ranjid arrived at the school.

The manager said to Ranjid **'You are too late, if you got to school on time you too would have had a book telling you the Good News about Jesus, but now I have packed them all away.'**

Ranjid cried out **'But I need God to help me more than all these children, because I am in fear of my life every time I come to school.'**

Then Ranjid told everyone the whole truth, and the manager went to his jeep took his own Bible from the seat and gave it to Ranjid. He told him to treasure the book and to learn to read it.

***Manager:* 'But first of all I want you to learn this day to read Psalm 23 and for your teacher to tell you what it means especially "When I pass through the dark valley of death I will fear no evil because the Lord is with me." And the next time you go through that ravine say those words to yourself over and over again. And remember that God has promised to be with each person who asks him to go with them.'**

No longer was Ranjid scared of going through the ravine when it was dark before the sun shone its light in. In fact he used to walk through quite slowly reading this Psalm. Never again was Ranjid late for school.

(Get Ranjid to read the Psalm whilst in the tunnel created, and with a microphone and speaker in the tunnel it is possible to create an echo.)

Ranjid learnt to read by going through the Bible and it changed his life.

The children in his village noticed a difference in him, and Ranjid was able to tell them the Good News about Jesus.

Later Ranjid had help to train as a Christian minister and on becoming a Minister he went around villages in Uganda telling adults and children the Good News about Jesus.

As God spoke to Ranjid through the words of the Bible so he can speak to us today from that same book, but like Ranjid we have to read it.