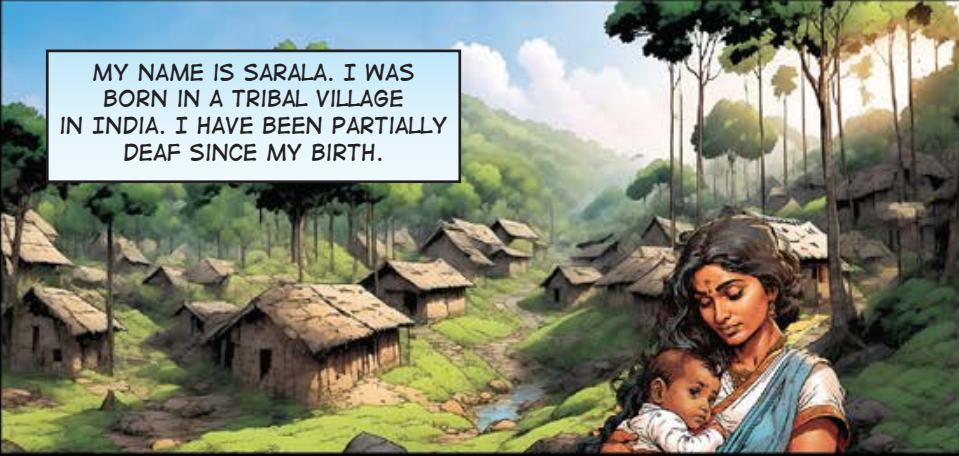



UNWANTED, UNLOVED, & ASHAMED

A TRUE STORY OF TRIUMPH


* SEE INSERT BETWEEN PAGES 20 & 21 FOR MORE INFO



MY NAME IS SARALA. I WAS BORN IN A TRIBAL VILLAGE IN INDIA. I HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY DEAF SINCE MY BIRTH.



MY PARENTS TOOK ME TO MANY DOCTORS, AND SPENT ALL THEIR MONEY ON MY TREATMENT, THEY EVEN SOLD THEIR HOUSE AND LAND. BUT NONE OF THE TREATMENTS HAVE HELPED ME HEAR.



I AM SORRY, THERE IS NO MORE I CAN DO, YOUR DAUGHTER WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO HEAR.

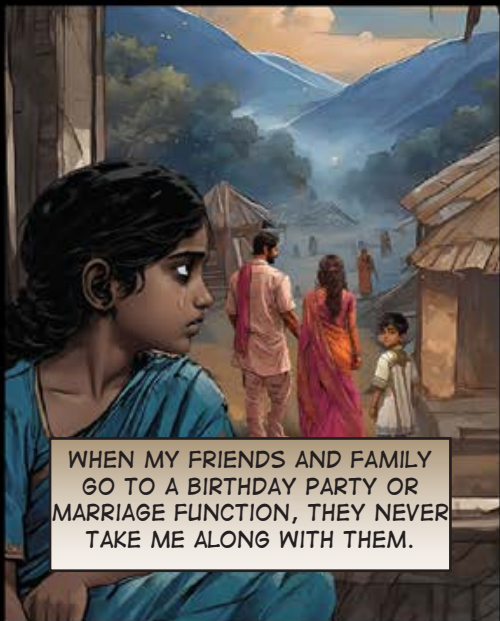
IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME GOING TO SCHOOL, THE OTHER CHILDREN CALLED ME DEAF AND NONE OF THEM WOULD TALK TO ME. EVEN MY OWN BROTHER IGNORED ME.



THERE'S THE DEAF GIRL.

I WONDER IF SHE KNOWS HOW STUPID SHE IS?

ALL OF MY FREINDS COULD DRESS UP NICELY, BUT I COULDN'T DO THAT. I WAS TOTALLY DEPRESSED AND COULD NOT BE LIKE A NORMAL GIRL.



WHEN MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY GO TO A BIRTHDAY PARTY OR MARRIAGE FUNCTION, THEY NEVER TAKE ME ALONG WITH THEM.



IF MY NEIGHBORS WANT TO TALK TO ME, THEY USE SIGN LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATE.

YOU CAN TALK TO ME, I CAN UNDERSTAND.

HA HA HA!
YOU SAD LITTLE DEAF GIRL, YOU ARE TOO DUMB TO HEAR US.



ONE DAY MY MOTHER WAS GOING OUT...

SARALA, PLEASE WATCH THE RICE FOR ME, I WILL BE BACK SOON.

BUT I COULDN'T HEAR HER...



...AND WHEN SHE RETURNED, THE RICE WAS BURNT.

SARALA! YOU LET THE RICE BURN!



I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T HEAR.



MY MOTHER WAS SO ANGRY SHE BEAT ME.

YOU ARE GOOD FOR NOTHING! YOU ARE ONLY CAPABLE OF BEGGING!

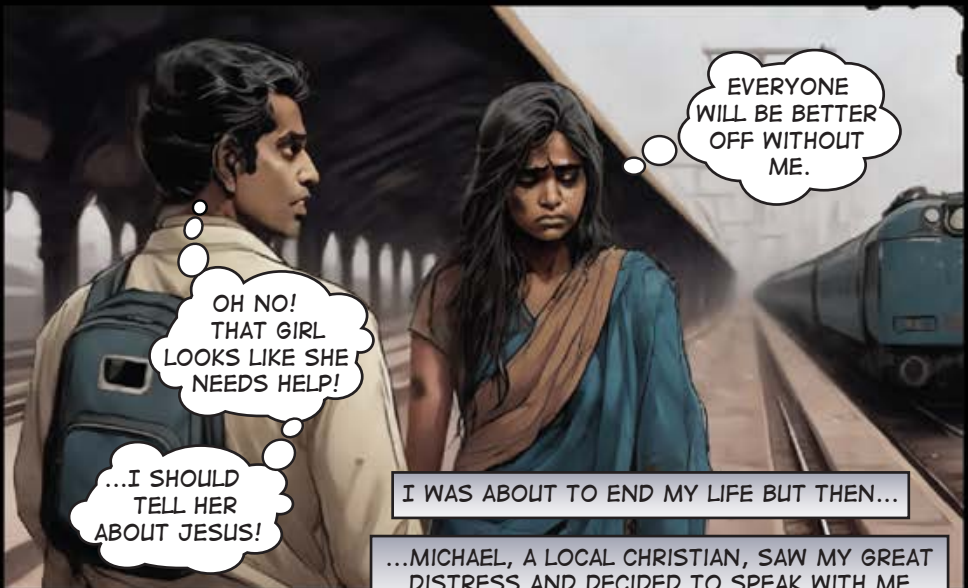


MAYBE SHE IS RIGHT, I AM WORTHLESS...



WE LIVED IN THE WOODS, SO I DECIDED TO GO TO THE TRAIN STATION TO END MY LIFE.

MAYBE I WILL THROW MYSELF UNDER A TRAIN...



OH NO! THAT GIRL LOOKS LIKE SHE NEEDS HELP!

...I SHOULD TELL HER ABOUT JESUS!

EVERYONE WILL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME.

I WAS ABOUT TO END MY LIFE BUT THEN...

...MICHAEL, A LOCAL CHRISTIAN, SAW MY GREAT DISTRESS AND DECIDED TO SPEAK WITH ME



JESUS LOVES YOU!

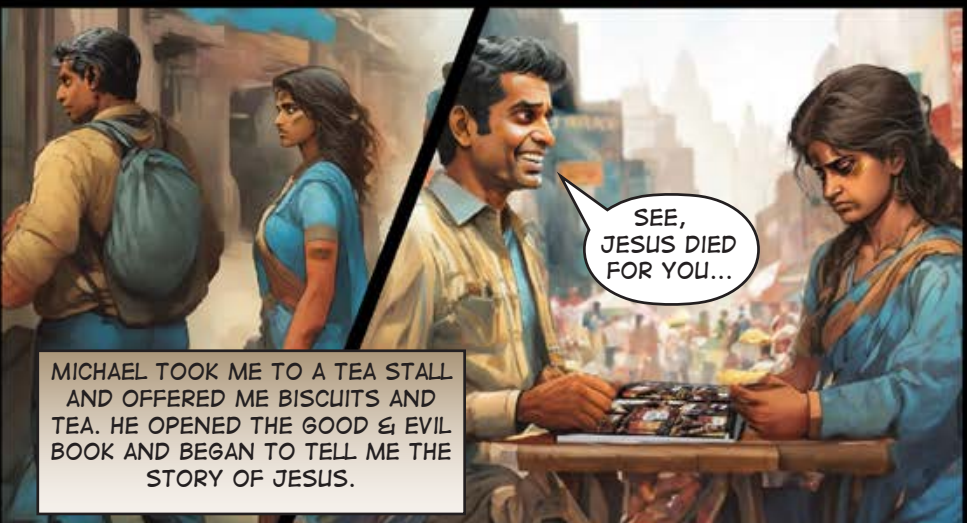


HA HA! WHO IS JESUS? NO ONE HAS EVER CARED ABOUT ME.



WE HAVE SO MANY GODS IN OUR TRIBE, WHO IS THIS JESUS THAT IS SO BIG TO HAVE LOVE TOWARDS ME?

COME, LET'S GET SOMETHING TO DRINK, AND I WILL TELL YOU.



SEE, JESUS DIED FOR YOU...

MICHAEL TOOK ME TO A TEA STALL AND OFFERED ME BISCUITS AND TEA. HE OPENED THE GOOD & EVIL BOOK AND BEGAN TO TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS.

...HE WAS CRUCIFIED BECAUSE OF YOUR SINS, AND TOOK YOUR CURSES, ILLS AND WEAKNESS ON HIMSELF, SO THAT HE COULD TAKE YOU TO HEAVEN TO LIVE WITH HIM.



WE ARE A HINDU FAMILY AND WE WORSHIP SO MANY GODS...



...WE USED TO SACRIFICE GOATS, OXEN, AND HENS TO THEM.



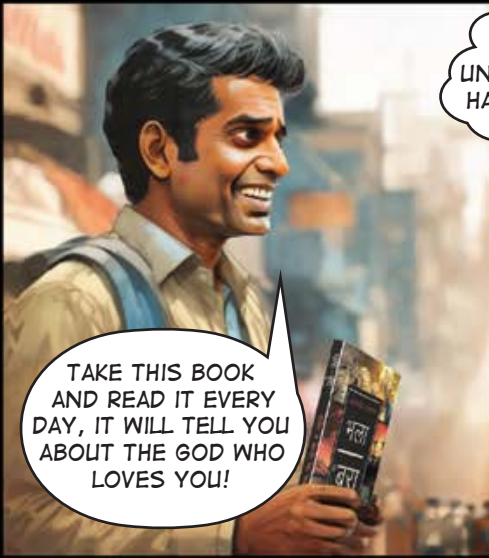
ONCE, I RAN NAKED WITH A MOUSE TIED AROUND ME.



I EVEN WENT TO VELANKANNI MADHA CHURCH AND WALKED ON MY KNEES.



I HAVE GONE TO ALL THE GODS AND OFFERED MY SACRIFICE, BUT I NEVER HEARD OF ANY GOD WHO HAS SACRIFICED FOR ME!



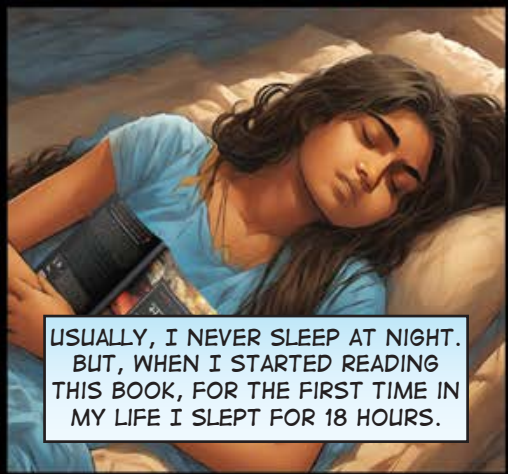
TAKE THIS BOOK AND READ IT EVERY DAY, IT WILL TELL YOU ABOUT THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU!



AN UNKNOWN GOD HAS LOVE FOR ME?



WHENEVER I READ THIS BOOK, I FEEL LIKE I AM RELIEVED OF MY BURDEN.



USUALLY, I NEVER SLEEP AT NIGHT. BUT, WHEN I STARTED READING THIS BOOK, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I SLEPT FOR 18 HOURS.

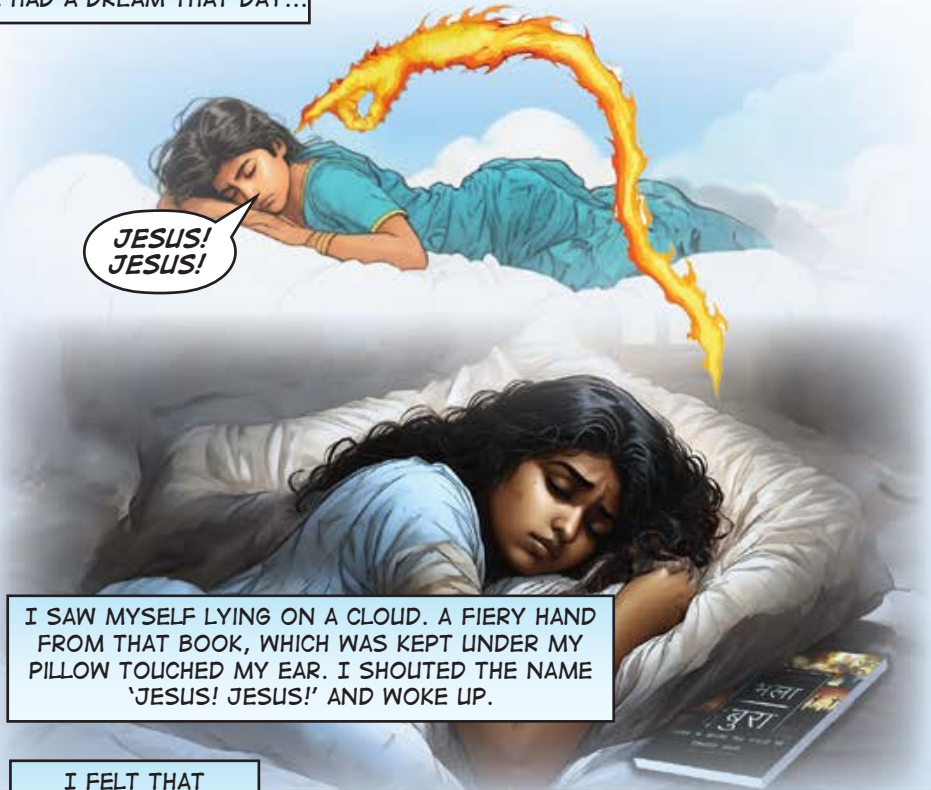


ONE DAY, WHEN I WAS READING THE BOOK OF MOSES, I LIKED THE WAY GOD FOUGHT FOR THE PEOPLE AND LED THEM THROUGH THE DESERT, FEEDING THEM AND SEPARATING THE RED SEA.

IF GOD CAN DO THESE WONDERS, CAN'T HE DO A MIRACLE TO MY EAR, SO THAT I CAN BE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON?

WILL THIS GOD DO A WONDER TO MY EAR?

I HAD A DREAM THAT DAY...



**JESUS!
JESUS!**

I SAW MYSELF LYING ON A CLOUD. A FIERY HAND FROM THAT BOOK, WHICH WAS KEPT UNDER MY PILLOW TOUCHED MY EAR. I SHOULDED THE NAME 'JESUS! JESUS!' AND WOKE UP.

I FELT THAT SOMEONE STRONGLY GAVE A SLAP ON MY EAR.



GASP!



**CHIRRP!
CHIRRRP!**

ZZZZ...

BUZZ..

WHAT IS THAT SOUND!

FOR THE FIRST TIME I HEARD THE NOISE OF THE BUZZING INSECTS WITH MY OWN EAR. EVEN I CLEARLY HEARD MY BROTHER'S SNORE. I WAS WONDERING WHETHER IT WAS REAL OR ONLY A DREAM.

...OH,IT'S ONLY THE INSECTS OUTSIDE. I MUST STILL BE DREAMING...

IT WAS ABOUT 4 'O CLOCK
IN THE MORNING AND I
WOKE MY PARENTS.

BABA, MA! I
CAN HEAR! I CAN
HEAR!!!

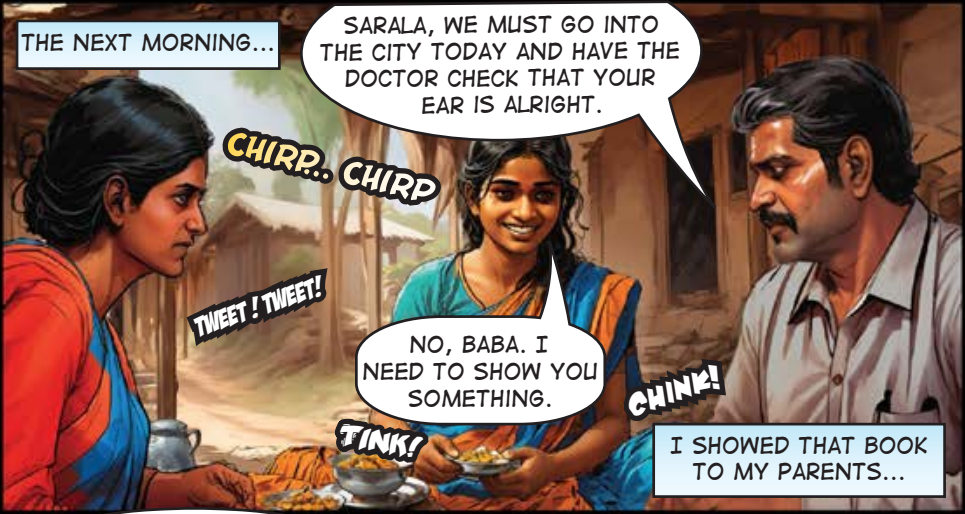
WHAT?? YOU ARE
NOT ONLY DEAF.. NOW
YOU HAVE GONE MAD!

IT IS
THE MIDDLE OF THE
NIGHT! GO BACK TO
BED!

MY PARENTS WERE SHOCKED
AND COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

I CAN HEAR
YOU CLEARLY, THAT
YOU ARE ADDRESSING
ME ANGRILY.

WE
WILL GO TO THE
HOSPITAL IN THE
MORNING AND HAVE
THE TESTS.



THE NEXT MORNING...

SARALA, WE MUST GO INTO THE CITY TODAY AND HAVE THE DOCTOR CHECK THAT YOUR EAR IS ALRIGHT.

CHIRP.. CHIRP
TWEET! TWEET!

NO, BABA. I NEED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

CHINK!

I SHOWED THAT BOOK TO MY PARENTS...



WE HAVE PRAYED TO MANY GODS AND GONE TO MANY DOCTORS.



THE ONLY GOD, JESUS, RELIEVED ME FROM MY DEAFNESS. I DON'T NEED A DOCTOR TO EXAMINE MY EAR ANYMORE.

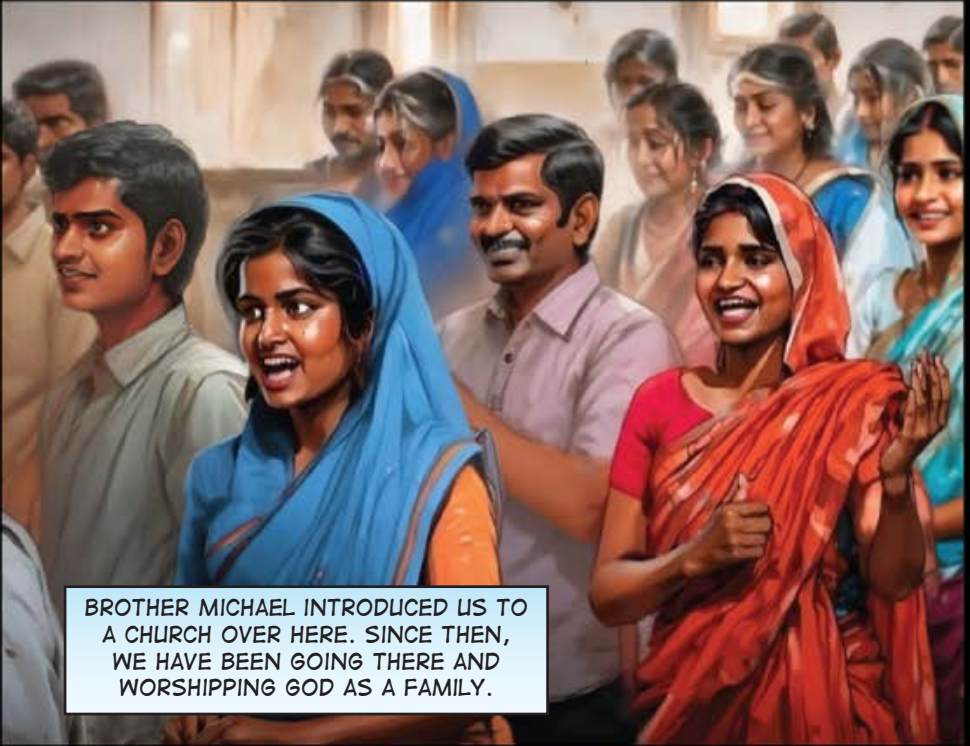
I SPOKE WITH MY PARENTS ABOUT JESUS. MY PARENTS ALSO STARTED BELIEVING JESUS.



LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT JESUS...

HOW IS IT THAT YOU CAN NOW HEAR?

SINCE 14TH APRIL 2023, MY EAR HAS OPENED AND I CAN HEAR CLEARLY. FOR THE PAST 5 MONTHS, I NEVER HAD ANY PROBLEM WITH MY HEARING.



BROTHER MICHAEL INTRODUCED US TO A CHURCH OVER HERE. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE BEEN GOING THERE AND WORSHIPPING GOD AS A FAMILY.



I'M SO THANKFUL TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO BRING ME THIS BOOK THAT SHOWED US THE TRUE GOD.

THIS TRUE STORY WAS RENDERED AND ILLUSTRATED BY JENNILYN GRIMES. (SHE IS NOT FOR HIRE).