

**Kathy Hood Culmer  
Storyteller, Teacher, Writer**

### **Experience in Storytelling**

**Since 1990, I have told stories before audiences, ranging from toddlers in age to seniors. I have told stories to these audiences on topics that range from folk and fairytales, to personal, to historical, and to faith and Biblical stories. But even before I came to be called a storyteller, and certainly long before I attended a N.O.B.S. conference or even knew there was such a group, I was telling stories of faith that were taken from the Bible or based upon Biblical truths.**

**As a Sunday School teacher, and then, later, as a storyteller in and for various church occasions, I have told these stories in various ways: by adding dialogue to Ezra's story and having the students act it out; by adding rhythm and rhyme to make a poem of David and Goliath; by adding a hand clap game and chant: "Friends for life, friends to the end. Thank you, God, for my good friend" to help communicate the depth of friendship between David and Jonathan; by setting God's work of creation within the frame of a song.**

**When it comes to telling the story, and especially the faith story or the Biblical story, my desire is that whoever is hearing and seeing and sharing the experience will "get it." That they will "get" whatever the story has to offer, and that they will be enticed enough to go to its source for more. So, whenever asked to tell the story I have always asked, "How do I tell it, so they (whoever the audience may be) get it?"**

**For all the occasions, and in all the ways that I have told the stories, I had never thought to simply tell them as they are written on the page. Not until I attended my first N.O.B.S. Festival Gathering in 2002, could I even imagine it. It was there that I first realized the power of the Word, all by itself. It was there that I realized the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word – working through the teller – to accomplish His glorious purpose.**

**Since that time, it has been my desire to help others realize the power of the Word and to help empower them to also "go and tell it." This I have done through performances and workshops at churches, conferences, and other gatherings.**

### **Issues I would like to see addressed by scholars**

**Since I am a recent-comer to Biblical storytelling, I know very little of the scholarship related to the subject. Therefore, I am eager to learn what the issues**

are and to hear discussion on the various sides of the issues. I am, however, especially interested in learning the most effective ways and resources for doing Biblical research.

**What I have learned as a result of practicing this spiritual discipline/craft and art**

I have learned and continue to learn with each occasion I have to share stories from God's Word. As I said earlier, I have witnessed the power of the spoken Word, all by itself. Additionally, I have come to realize people's hunger for, need and desire to know God's Word. When they hear the stories, they are delighted, refreshed, and filled in a way that seems to take them by surprise.

Let me share a short story. There were two sailors who were assigned the night watch on their ship that was out at sea. During the night the waves from a raging storm washed one of them overboard. The sailor who drowned had been in the most sheltered place, while the one who survived was more exposed to the elements. What made the difference? The man who was lost had nothing to hold on to.

The stories of the Bible give us the something we need to hold onto in this life to sustain us, to keep us from drowning or being overcome, and that draw us ever nearer to the Savior. Learning these stories so that we can tell them "by heart" is like planting seeds of life and hope into our own spirits, so that His Spirit might water them and cause them to spring up into something useful for nourishing others. God's Word is a living, breathing, and life-giving thing. I am profoundly privileged to give breath to its truths.