



International Bible Society

Mana Bible to Disabled Czech Students

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I Cannot Walk, But My Jesus Walks Towards Me



Can you guess what the 18 year old girl is dreaming as she sits in a wheelchair? Perhaps she dreams of walking, skipping or running. Perhaps she recalls the memories of when she could run and play with other children. Sadly, as a young teenager, a car accident rendered her a paraplegic. Life would never be the same again. Unable to take a single step, she depended on others for help. The accident also caused partial paralysis in Veronica's hands.

“It was difficult to attract her attention toward any activity,” said Joseph, working as an educator in the boarding school for disabled students. He continued, “The disabled students tire quickly, and yet they must be encouraged to practice repeatedly in order to improve. Therefore, I was very

surprised and pleased when I saw Veronica's enthusiasm and determination when asked to draw a picture based on a favorite Bible story.”

All of the students listened very carefully as the teacher read the Bible stories. They eagerly asked, “What is the next story? Please read it now!” They were searching not only for a story to illustrate as part of the Mana Bible project, but also for a story that spoke pointedly to their needy lives. Which Bible story captured Veronica's attention and motivated her to exert the challenging effort to hold a paintbrush in her injured hands?

There are 60 stories in the MANA Bible, including thirty from both the Old and New Testaments. Usually the children are attracted by well-known adventure stories such as Noah's Ark, Adam and Eve, or Daniel in the Lion's Den. In contrast, the story that spoke most vividly to Veronica was **Jesus Walks on the Water** from Matthew 14.

Hundreds of pictures were submitted during the MANA Bible School Project last year, but only two pictures were submitted to illustrate the story **Jesus Walks on the Water**. Not a single healthy student illustrated the story, but two students confined to wheelchairs were most attracted to



Jesus' miraculous walking on the water. [*The other student, Peter painted one picture more: Jacob's Dream at Bethel*].

There are only a few words spoken by Jesus in the story. One significant word was, "Come!" Peter wanted to walk on the water and Jesus invited him to "Come". (Mt. 14:29, NIV) [Jesus also said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." (Matthew 14: 27, NIV)] The Jesus who could walk toward those He loved and take away their fear attracted Veronica.

"See you in September," said Veronica to her friends and teachers as she left Jedlicka Boarding School in Prague, Czech Republic, in order to spend two summer months of vacation with her parents. How proud her parents were to see Veronica's illustration in her new copy of the Mana Bible 2003! No one realized as her family left the boarding school that Veronica would never return. During the summer at home, Veronica died in her sleep. Because she had come to Jesus, trusting him to become her Savior, Veronica awoke in heaven. All fear and paralysis are gone for Veronica.



Thanks to MANA Bible project Veronica had the opportunity to learn about and trust Jesus as her Savior. International Bible Society appreciates all of the finances donated so that students such as Veronica can receive a Bible.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such these." (Mathew 19:14, NIV).

The purpose and passion of International Bible Society is to faithfully translate, publish and reach out with God's Word so that people around the world will become disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His Body.