

Biblical Characters Help Tell The Story—Make Lasting Impressions

Created to Teach Young People,
Use in Occupational Therapy

By FRAN MAIER

Dressing dolls to Mrs. Scott Purvis is not a hobby, she has a real purpose in mind. They are used as visual aids to make a more lasting impression.

The dolls were first dressed for masters name around their necks. Another scene shows Princess Bithia when she finds Baby Moses in the River Nile.

FOR the past year Mrs. Purvis has been using the Biblical characters in occupational therapy at Ponce State hospital. After telling the story she tries to show the characteristics of the doll in relation to the story.

After the story is told, each patient dresses a doll which is given to her for her very own. With many of the patients having children, they become prized possessions.

THE FIRST characters to emerge from the Bible are Adam and Eve, parents of the human race. Although the dress of these two characters is very simple there is much meaning behind it.

To Mrs. Purvis it has become a symbol or clue to the mystery of life as it is woven throughout the whole fabric of the Bible. "Adam is dressed in brown, the color of death in the fall because it reminds us of death we must know to be reborn and Eve, God's second creation, is dressed in green, the color which reminds us of new life in spring," remarks Mrs. Purvis.

IN CANAAN Abraham learns at the age of 99 that Sarah, who is now 90 is to have a child. Abraham and Sarah both laughed at this but learned that with God all things are possible. They did have their first child at this old age and they named him Isaac, which means laughter.

Abraham and Sarah were happy with their son, Isaac, and when he became of marriageable age, as was the custom in those days, Abraham was to choose a wife for him.

ABRAHAM'S servant was sent back to the land of Haran to choose a wife for Isaac. At Haran, Abraham's servant meets Rebekah by the well, and by her actions he knows this is the girl for Isaac.

With the authenticity of the costumes and the grouping around the well (as pictured) one can understand that the Bible story leaves a more lasting impression with the use of the characters.

THE STORY of the Bible is continued with individuals or groupings in clothing representative of their era.

There is Joseph, the son of Jacob, as he was when he lived in the land of Canaan when his father made him a coat of many colors. Then after he was sold and took the dress of the Egyptians. Dress of the slaves in the palaces of the wealthy lords is accentuated by an inscription of the

JOSEPH, in his coat of many colors before he was sold as a slave to Potiphar—then as the King of Egypt.

DAVID, the Shepherd boy, and Goliath, the giant, a story of complete faith in our power to do the impossible.



DEBORAH, the Prophetess, who sent out messengers to unite the tribes of Israel against Jabin, King of the Canaanites. Leader of the tribe refused to help Deborah, except Barak, who offers to help her if she will stay at his side. The leaders all said, "Who could defeat such an army as the Canaanites have?" Deborah says, "The host of the Lord could! Even the mighty waters of Kishon shall aid us, O Pagans!"



AT HARAN, ABRAHAM'S servant meets Rebekah at the well. He immediately knows this is the girl for Isaac and presents her with two golden bracelets and a golden earring. Rebekah is taken back to Canaan to marry Isaac. Also having a major part in the Biblical story are Sarah, Abraham and Isaac, son of Abraham.



DOLLS, dressed to represent Biblical characters by Mrs. Scott Purvis, 1447 Henrietta, Birmingham, help her tell the story.

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