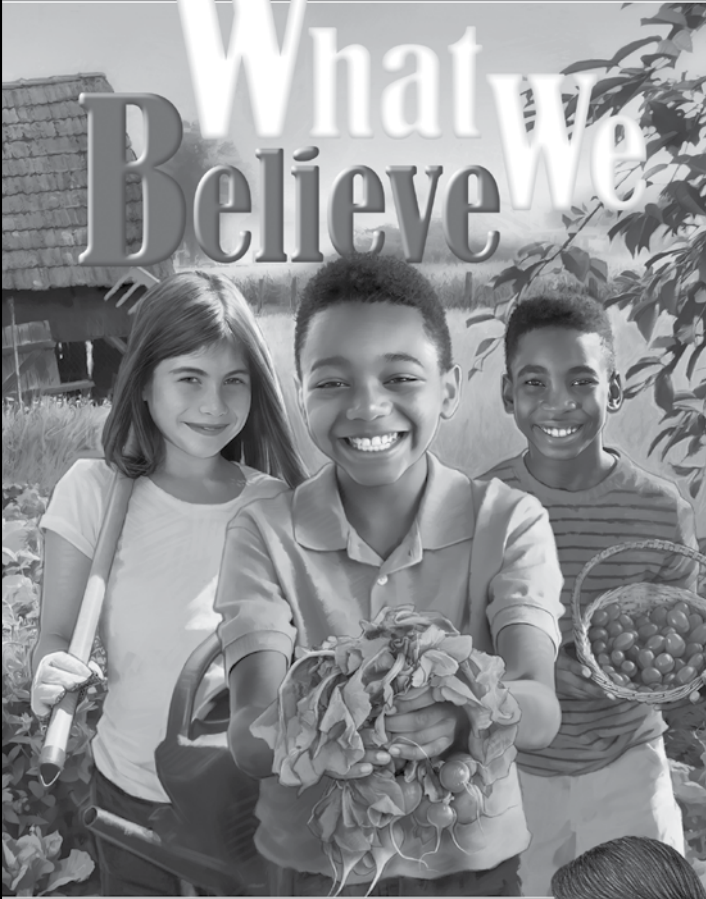


Laura Sámano, editor

What We Believe



Seventh-day
Adventists
BELIEVE

28 True Stories
With Study Guides
for Guide Readers



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A special thanks to the authors we were unable to locate. If anyone can provide knowledge of their current mailing address, please relay this information to Laura Sámano, in care of Pacific Press® Publishing Association.

Mother's Mysterious Plan

By Isabella Pechaty

Faith Seed 1: The Holy Scriptures

The Bible is the written word of God.

Marie! Come here!"

Ten-year-old Marie ran quickly to her old house that sat comfortably on a hill. At the door stood Mother, her hair messy and frayed from a busy early morning of work.

"I need you to get me some tomatoes and celery. I can't finish dinner without them." Mother shoved a basket into Marie's hands and rushed back to the messy kitchen to work on supper.

Marie took the basket and began the long journey to the market. She arrived at noon, one of the busiest times for the market. People scurried from stall to stall, hoping to finish last-minute shopping, but something was terribly wrong. The tension in the air was uncomfortably thick.

Marie noticed a somber crowd of people near a wall. Curious, Marie pushed her way to the front of the anxious crowd. The sight that met her eyes was horrible. Pinned to the wall was a large sign that said: "No Bibles allowed—Any Bibles found will be burned."

Marie's knees nearly buckled, and her mouth went dry. For as long as she could remember, a group of cruel men had controlled her country, Czechoslovakia, and many other countries. These men, who called themselves Communists, had formed a government that allowed people no freedom. If one nasty word was said about them, trouble was sure to follow for those who had said it. Marie had heard several stories about the horrible things that the Communists did.

But I never dreamed that they would burn Bibles, thought Marie. Forgetting the tomatoes and celery, Marie dropped the basket and ran toward the safety of home. She

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found her sisters playing happily in the yard. In spite of their protests, Marie herded her sisters inside and slammed the door.

Marie ran to the kitchen, where her mother waited expectantly for the tomatoes and celery. After taking a deep breath, Marie let out the awful news about the sign in the market. When she finished, her mother sank into a chair and stroked the family Bible lovingly.

“No,” she said after a long silence. “The Communists will not find our Bible. Anna, dress Esther for bed. Marie, help Helen bring some flour from the pantry.” Everyone rushed out of the room to carry out the instructions. Helen and Marie asked Mother again and again about what her plan was, but Mother’s answer was just a triumphant smile.

Before long, Mom sent the girls to bed, but Marie couldn’t sleep. She tossed and turned under her quilt until the sounds of cupboards opening and closing stopped, leaving the house quiet and still. Calmed by the sounds of her sisters’ quiet conversations, Marie was soon fast asleep.

Wake up! Wake up!” Little Esther was bouncing on Marie’s bed, chanting. “Wake up! Wake up!”

Marie groaned and rubbed her sleepy eyes. Then she remembered: *The Communists were coming!* Today! She was out of her bed in seconds. She found everyone in the kitchen, anxiously eating their breakfast. Only Mother seemed calm. She was wiping up spills and washing dishes just as she did every morning.

Marie was eager to learn about her mother’s plan for protecting the Bible, but the only thing different that day was some lumpy bread dough rising in the living room.

Marie was puzzled. *Is that Mother’s great plan? But how could—?* Her thoughts were cut short by a loud, sharp knocking at the door. Instantly the kitchen flew into action. The girls rinsed their plates, combed their hair one last time, and sat down quietly in their chairs. Marie’s palms were sweaty, and her dress itched terribly, but Mother remained calm. She smoothed her hair and walked to the door.

Outside stood a group of five men. The one in the front, a man with an unusually bulbous nose, spoke in a very nasally voice. “By order of the government, we have permission to search your house for any Bibles.” He spat out the last word in a disgusted way.

“If you will excuse me, I have something to take care of,” replied Mother coldly. She went into the kitchen and placed the bread dough carefully in the oven. “You may begin your search,” she said.

Mother's Mysterious Plan

The bulbous-nosed officer nodded, and the other four men leaped into action. They overturned pictures on the mantelpiece and searched through the girls' clothes closets. They looked in the cellar and under the beds. They even looked under a loose floorboard. Not a single Bible was found anywhere, but they did smell the delicious aroma of bread baking.

Having found nothing, the four men joined their leader and gave Mother vicious looks. They slammed the door and trudged away. As soon as they left, Mother started laughing. She laughed until tears rolled down her cheeks. When she recovered her composure, she led her four puzzled children to the kitchen, where she took the bread from the oven. All the girls watched as their mother carefully cut the bread in half. When she pulled the golden-brown halves apart, the family Bible was there inside.

This time everyone burst into peals of laughter!

This was not to be the last of the family's troubles, but throughout the rest of their lives, Marie and her sisters had confidence in God. They repeated the scripture that they had heard countless times after the Communists took over:

Do not fret because of evildoers,
Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,
And wither as the green herb (Psalm 37:1, 2).

Just as mother treasured her Bible, we treasure the Holy Scriptures as God's inspired Word—although we may never have to hide our Bibles from soldiers!

Digging in the Word

1. Who inspired the Bible, and how can it be put into practice each day? 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105
2. Where can we find truth? John 17:17
3. How is the Bible described in Hebrews 4:12 and 1 Peter 1:25, NLT?
4. According to 1 Corinthians 10:11, NLT, why was the Bible written?