

YORKMINSTER PARK REFLECTS

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STEWARD OF THE STORY

Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write a careful account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught. – Luke 1:1-4, NLT

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. – John 20:30-32, NRSV

During my twenty-plus years as editor of the Baptist women's magazine then known as The Link & Visitor (now live), I tried to ensure that every story was told accurately and well. But every once in a while I was entrusted with an exceptional story that had the potential to change a reader's view of herself, her world, and her call to mission in that world. As steward of that story, my task was to present it in a way that would do it justice, engage the reader's mind, stir her heart to prayer or action, and honour God – the ultimate Author of the story.

Yet none of those stories was as precious, or as important, as the Story entrusted to the first followers of Jesus – and to all of us who claim to be Christ-followers.

I'm no longer a magazine editor, but I'm still a steward of the Greatest Story Ever Told. As a volunteer teacher of English in the Czech Republic, I've been able to build Christmas and Easter lessons around the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. But I could not cross the language barrier without the help of some other stewards of the Story – my students who are believers. Their joy resonates in telling it to their classmates who have little knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Like Luke, these Czech Christians are eager to give a careful and accurate account of the life and work of Christ, so that those who hear will be convinced of the truth. Like John, they desire that those who hear will "come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing [they] may have life in his name."

Prayer: Gracious God, forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful stewards of the precious Story of your love revealed in Jesus Christ. May your Spirit of Truth open our eyes to the opportunities and give us the words to tell those who know little or none of this Story, so that they might believe and have life in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen