Hey, Teachers! The manual on CD contains Slide Show Presentations for the True Missions Story. There are several versions to choose from, including an extended version of the story (contains additional illustrations), and an extended version with audio built in! For more information, see the “Read First” file found in the Slide Presentations folder.

From Trouble to Triumph

What a beautiful, exciting day this is! missionary Becky Hoshaw thought as she piled into the van with three other teachers and two preschool students from their Latin America Child Care (LACC) school. It was September in Honduras, and they were going to march in the Independence Day parade for the very first time. She started up the van and began the 30-minute drive to school, where she would collect the rest of the students.

The trip was going to take a little longer than usual, because many roads had been washed away by Hurricane Mitch. But the government had made detours around the worst places so that people could get back and forth from the capital city of Tegucigalpa (tay-goo-chi-GAHL-pah).

It was hard to believe that it had been a year since the hurricane hit—some of the roads were still under water. In one place, a policeman stood directing traffic. Becky looked out the window and could see that so much water was running over the road, it looked like a waterfall.

“Is it safe to cross?” she asked the policeman. “Yes, you can cross here,” he said.

Becky carefully began to drive the van through the water. They could feel the push of the strong, rushing water against the van. They prayed for safety. Finally they made it past the worst part.

Just past the rushing waterfall, the road took a sharp turn to the left. As Becky turned the corner, she felt the van slip a little. She gave it more gas, but the van would not go.

The policeman made his way through the water and told her, “Your passenger-side wheel has slipped off the road. You’ll have to get out.” No one could get out on the passenger side, so they all climbed out the driver’s door.
When Becky climbed out of the van, she could see where the wheel had slipped down into a ravine. She was thankful that God had protected them from tumbling down, but now what would they do with the van? How could they get it back on the road? She prayed that help would come.

Soon some men who were nearby came with a rope. They tied one end of the rope to the wheel axle and the other end to a tree to try to pull the van back onto the road. But it was soon obvious that the rope was not strong enough. They would need a tow truck and a chain. One man went to find someone who could help. This was before the days of cell phones, so it took a long time.

Finally a man came with a big truck and chain. He connected the chain to the front axle and began to pull with his truck. But by then, more of the van had slipped down. The only way to get it out was to lift the back end. Becky and the teachers continued to pray.

Then out of nowhere, twenty men appeared. They climbed into the ravine and lifted up the back of the van while the truck pulled. Little by little the van moved forward until it was finally out of the ravine and back on the road.

By then, Becky and the others with her had mud up to their knees and their marching clothes were filthy. But they felt only happiness to be on their way once again. They made it to the school, collected the rest of the children, along with their instruments, and went to march in the parade.

When they arrived, the parade was already over and everyone had gone back to their homes. But that didn’t matter. The teachers lined up the students, and they began to march. The student band began to play.

When the people heard the music, they came out of their homes to watch. This made the teachers and students very happy. Not only did they get to march in their very own parade, but their LACC school got a lot of attention. The following year, more students enrolled in the school than ever before.

For many months after that day, every time Becky would drive past that washed-out place, she always stopped to thank the Lord for His protection. What had begun as trouble that day turned into triumph for the LACC school!

Information for this story was provided by missionary Becky Hoshaw and is used with permission from Assemblies of God World Missions.