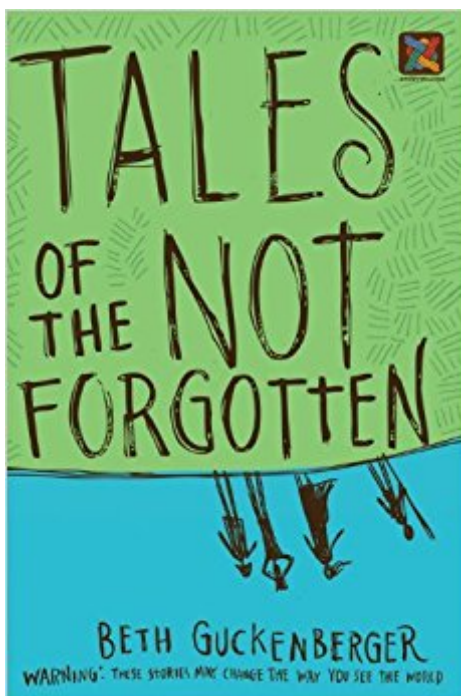


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# Tales Of The Not Forgotten (Storyweaver)



## Synopsis

Follow these real-life stories as they take you on a journey to faraway lands and unknown faces. Travel through their challenges and see the hand of the great Storyweaver writing endings you can't even imagine! Joel dares to ask for what he can't have. Seraphina sacrifices what she can't afford to give. Ibrahim looks for an answer buried out of reach. Christiana, saved by a mission, searches for her own. These are the tales of the ones the world doesn't see . . . the tales of the not forgotten. In this collection of four real-life stories written for preteens, a compelling storyteller paints a picture of God's dynamic movement in four foreign cultures, inspiring children to trust that God is weaving a story in their lives as well. This resource will shrink the macro picture down to approachable, individual stories of real children and teach about fundamental survival issues. The stories address some of the challenging questions that kids have and weave God's promises to orphans into each one. The Tales of the Not Forgotten Leader's Guide is a 6-session kids' missions resource (sold separately) that walks adults through an easy-to-follow guide for making the abstract real and for designing an action plan to help others. Preteens will be challenged to answer the questions: How do I pray? What can I give? Where can I go? Who will I serve?

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Beth wrote her first book in third grade about a frog. Since then she has written other books, such as *Reckless Faith* (2008) and *Relentless Hope* (2011). Beth has a houseful of kids—some carried in her body and some in her heart. She and her husband, Todd, live in Monterrey, Mexico, where they serve as executive directors of Back2Back Ministries. They invite you and your family to come be a part of their story anytime.

I got this book thinking it would be a valuable resource to use in our children's ministry at the church I pastor, but I instead returned the book because it's not the type of missions work I want inspiring and informing our kids. The book IS inspiring and well-written, but it tragically omits the true gospel. Let me explain. *Tales of the Not Forgotten* indirectly teaches a social gospel which displaces prioritizing spiritual needs with prioritizing material needs. I think that our kids (and our adults) DO need more exposure to the unfathomable physical anguish that millions are suffering all around the world, but we MUST NOT lose sight of the true gospel as the essential solution to these problems. To paraphrase John Piper, Christians should care about ALL suffering, but ESPECIALLY eternal suffering. In my examination of this book, I sadly didn't find the true gospel anywhere. On P. 191, there's a "Remember This" blurb which includes the exhortation: "Our job is just to be involved; it is God who makes it all come together. God is the one who changes lives. The gospel isn't about what we can do; it's about what God's already done for us! We just get to get to tell stories and live in stories that share this truth-- the truth that.. no one is forgotten." According to this book, that's the gospel: that no one is forgotten. I want the kids in my church to learn that there is great suffering in this world because of sin, and the only solution to sin is the gospel (as revealed in the Bible). That's why the Bible says that Christians are to be ambassadors for Jesus. What is the message Jesus wants His ambassadors to tell people? That they're not forgotten? No!!! The message Jesus commands His ambassadors to declare to everyone in first-world countries AND third-world countries is this: you must be reconciled to God! My heart aches when I read about the suffering that so many in this world are enduring right now. I long to see an army of Christians cross oceans and cultures with the love and truth of Jesus. But if that army ONLY does acts of kindness and tells these people they are not forgotten, then they've put bandaids on cancerous tumors. Sure, in the moment, those suffering people will feel a little less suffering, but if they do not obey the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:8), they will spend eternity suffering judgment from God that is infinitely worse than what they suffer now. In the likelihood that my review is an unpopular perspective, consider 2 Corinthians 5:14-20 and decide if I'm wrong: "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have

concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

"I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." (Isaiah 49:15-16) Tales of the Not Forgotten is one of several books now by Beth Guckenberger weaving stories from the world of orphan care ministry with the Scriptural promises of God's comfort and faithfulness. This book is aimed specifically at students: 4 stories in 4 chapters, with exercises for reflection at the end of each chapter. The 5th chapter serves to draw the storyline together and pose a challenge to the reader to consider the Story God is writing with their life. Though aimed at students from upper elementary through high school, we used this with adults as something to read quickly on the plane ride down to Mexico. It worked well in framing our mission and serving experience, and helped keep our eyes open to what God is doing.

After hearing Beth speak at a conference I wanted to check out some of her books and started with The Tales of the Not Forgotten! It is a quick and very enjoyable read! What I loved most about it was the way that it increased my awe and love for God as she portrayed stories of God working in stunning ways to orchestrate and care for those who are on the margins of society! It reminded me that we never know what God is up to as we are being faithful in doing what God has called us to do! Also, looking forward to reading this book to my kids as it will inspire the same kind of awe and love for God in them. Written in a way that it is accessible to young kids (I would say 5 and up) while still moving and inspiring for adults! Also plan on recommending the books to the teens in our youth group!

God is a great storyweaver. One weave or strand is weak but He brings so many weaves into our lives to make us stronger and better. One weave that I have been blessed over the years to have been able to meet and hear her heart is Beth Guckenberger. Beth's heart for the orphan is

overflowing. You may have read it from Reckless Faith or Relentless Hope two fantastic books she has written. You might have been privilege to experience it by working along with her and Back2Back Ministries [...] on one of the multiple sites spanning the globe. Beth has always had a way of bringing the stories of the children come alive. She can bring you up, tear you down, give you a glimpse of hope, or a glimpse of pain. But in it all she shows how God's story has never stopped. His plan, His will, and His provision will win! Beth just had a new book come out in press from Standard Publishing. Tales of the NOT forgotten is a book written for young adults to capture them in how the master Story Weaver has each of us in His plan. I bought this book for my 9 year old who is traveling with me this year to visit the Monterrey Campus of Back2Back. Dakotah, my daughter, has heard the stories. She has seen the pictures and even communicates with one girl around her age who lives in Casa Hogar Douglas. I want her to fully be captured by the James 1:27 call. But mainly I don't want my child to ever think that she is Forgotten. So anyways, I got this book for my daughter. But of course I had to read it first. I picked it up and could absolutely not be pulled away from it. In a matter of about 2 hours I had digested the entire book. What an AMAZING title. These stories are fresh, amazing and well written about children who Back2Back serves. In it all I was challenged about what the Story Weaver has for me. Through all my life things and people have been woven into my life to help me, to challenge me and make me who I am and mold the passions I have for the orphans. Beth starts this book with the story that started this journey for her and her husband Todd. While reading I was drawn back to 2004 and a trip I was on with a non-profit to China. One of the first homes that we visited, it was a stone building. There was a room with one window near the roof. I was walking down the path in the tale of the group, really just asking God to help me be prepared for what I might see. Prepare me to love these kids even if I am overwhelmed. As I was walking I clearly heard singing coming over the breeze to me. "I am a promise. I am a Possibility. I am a Promise. With a capital P..." To this day I am unsure where it came from. I didn't find a single child there who spoke English. No radios to play a tape. Nothing that could have emanated those words that calmed my spirit and set my heart on the roller coaster that it has been on for the last 12 years. It was definitely God. Later that same trip I met a young girl named Zhihong. I have mentioned this story in previous blogs but the short version was this: She was the age or my niece, around 12 or 13 I thought. We had journeyed to a home for Mentally handicapped adults, and met her. At first I thought she was the workers child, but shortly found out she lived there. I spent the afternoon jumping rope, playing hide and seek and other games with her. At one point she saw my sunglasses and stole them from me to wear. When I didn't chase she gave them back to me. I in turn motioned for her to keep them. So all day she had them and ran. When it came time to leave

she tried to give them back, so I grabbed Sherry our interpreter who told her they were a gift. At this the tears came and the story broke. She had been forgotten. She and a friend had lived at 2 other homes where they had been sexually abused so they were sent here. Her friend had been adopted leaving her by herself and her 13th birthday was fastly approaching which meant she would be made to leave the home. This gift was the first gift she had ever received. I have prayed for this young girl who now would be about 20 years of age. I pray that she knows that she is NOT FORGOTTEN. We never know the weaves that God puts in our lives and how they will effect us later on in life. It has been 8 years since I was in China on that trip. Almost 8 years to the day. And in hopefully 2 months I will be making a trip again to that same area to bring home 2 little children whom God has NOT FORGOTTEN. Why? Because each one of the 148 million orphans of this world are a Promise. A Possibility. A great big bundle of Potentiality just waiting to be given the chance. Buy the book, buy many. Read them, give them away, share them... Start a revival. God is wanting to bring hope to these children, and that hope begins with YOU. ARE YOU LISTENING?

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