

# Winnie's Wish

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

Winnie



*Granny and Winnie did not mind walking a long way to worship God.*

“Winnie!” Granny called, “It’s time to go. We don’t want to be late for midweek service.”

“I’m coming, Granny,” Winnie answered as she stepped into her flip-flop slippers and ran her fingers over her braided hair. She hurried out the door and ran to catch up with her granny, who had already started down the path to the main road.

It was Wednesday afternoon when Granny and Winnie set out for church. They greeted neighbors who were resting beneath a mango tree during the heat of the day. Winnie wished she could sit with them, but they had a long way to walk before they arrived at church.

## The Long Walk

Winnie lives in Ghana [*locate on a map*]. Winnie’s granny did not own a car and did not have money to ride a bus or taxi, so they walked wherever they needed to go. Granny and Winnie walked several *hours* to church and back at least twice a week. Sometimes they sang as they walked along the highway; sometimes they talked about the coming harvest or a neighbor’s new baby. Sometimes they just walked along in silence.

When the rainy season brought heavy rains, Winnie and her grandmother could not go to church. And during planting and harvest times, Granny and Winnie had to work hard in their little garden. Sometimes they were too tired to walk to church for Wednesday evening’s service. But they made sure that they got up very early on Sabbath, so they would be on time for Sabbath School.

Granny often wished that they did not have to walk along the busy highway, where cars and trucks whooshed past them very fast. When Granny heard a bus or a truck coming, she stepped well off the road to avoid the dust and smoke the vehicles blew their way. Then they would step back onto the edge of the road and walk again.

## Granny! Granny!

One Wednesday afternoon Winnie and Granny set off for church. When they reached the highway, Granny

stepped between Winnie and the road to shield the little girl from the big trucks and buses. They chatted as they walked along. Winnie never heard the car coming behind them. Perhaps the driver saw a truck coming in the opposite direction and moved closer to the edge of the road to give the larger vehicle room to pass. The driver did not see Granny and Winnie, and his car struck Granny, sending her flying through the air.

Winnie ran to where Granny lay still on the side of the road. She shook Granny to awaken her, but Granny did not wake up. She had died instantly. Winnie sat back and wept silently. One moment Granny and Winnie were walking and talking, and the next moment Winnie was all alone, sitting beside a road with no one to help her. Tears streamed down her cheeks.

## A New Home, a New Church

Word reached the little church where Granny and Winnie worshipped, and one of the church families took Winnie into their home. She now lives near the church and does not walk for hours to church on Sabbath morning. But she misses her granny.

The church members miss Granny too. In her memory they started a Branch Sabbath School in Winnie’s former village. Winnie is happy that now her former neighbors can learn to love Jesus as Granny did. But sometimes she wishes that the church members had started the Branch Sabbath School long ago. Perhaps then Granny would still be alive.

Winnie knows that one day, when Jesus comes, she will see her granny again. That makes it a little easier to live now. Winnie wants to tell everyone that Jesus loves them, so Jesus can come soon and she can see her granny again.

## We Can Help

How can we help Winnie’s wish come true? [*Let children respond.*] Yes, we can pray for people who do not know Jesus, and we can give our mission offerings so that grandmas and grandpas, mothers and fathers, and boys and girls around the world will hear that God loves them and wants them to come and live with Him real soon. 🌍

# Let's Speak Akan

Akan (ah-KAHN) is the language of the Ashanti people of central Ghana. Practice saying these words until you feel comfortable with them before attempting to teach the children. As a guide, vowels represented by the following letter combinations represent the sound found in the word following it. *A* as in cat; *ay* as in say; *ih* as in fit; *eh* as in bed; *ee* as in bee; *oh* as in oh; *u* as in foot; *aw* as in hot; *oo* as in boot.

## Common Phrases

## Say It

Happy Sabbath	hoh-MIH-dah pah (or) ah-NEE-jay hoh-MIH-dah
Welcome	ahk-WAH-ah-ba
Hello	HA-loh
Good morning	mih-mah WU a-CHEE
Please	mih pah wu choh
Thank you	mih-dah wu ah-SEE
You're welcome	MIH-mah wu ah-KWAH-ah-ba
Yes	a-nee
No	DA-bee
Goodbye	bai-bai (same as bye-bye)
My name is . . .	mee-DEEN dih . . .
What is your name?	wu DEEN dih sehn
How old are you?	WUH-dee mi-FYIH sehn
I am 10 years old.	ma-DEE m'FYIH doo
Happy Birthday	ah-WU-duh PAH
Where is Ghana?	hee-fah nah GAH-nah waw

## Foods

bread	PAH-noh
rice	EH-moh
soup	n'KWAHN
water	n'syo
banana	kwah-DOO
corn	a-BROO
orange	ahn-kah
yam	bai-YEH-reh

## Counting

one	ba'uh-KOH
two	mee-ehn-OO
three	mee-ehn-SAH
four	nahn
five	noom
six	n'SEE-ah
seven	n'SOHN
eight	n'waw-CHIH
nine	n'KROHN
ten	doo
eleven	DOO ba'ah-KOH
twelve	DOO mee-en-NU

## Days of the Week

Sunday	kwah-SEE-uh-duh
Monday	D'WAW-uh-duh
Tuesday	bih-NAH-duh
Wednesday	woo-KWAH-duh
Thursday	ya-WO'AH-dah
Friday	FEE-ah-duh
Saturday	mih-MIH-nih-duh
Sabbath	hoh-mih-dah