

George MacDonald's
Wee Sir Gibbie

*A children's adaptation of the author's book,
"The Baronet's Song"*



Written by Sandy Harris
Illustrated by Catherine Sue Fribley Price
Designed by Norma Hays

Dedicated to God's new generation who will go
into the darkness and carry the light of the
love and forgiveness of Jesus.

With gratitude especially to my family and to the
Brady, Hansard, and Walls families, who are
training special warriors for the kingdom.

Special thanks to Catherine Price
who dared to dream this project with me.

Sandy Harris



“That the generation to come might know them,
even the children which should be born; who
should arise and declare them to their children:
That they might set their hope in God, and not
forget the works of God, but keep his
Commandments.” Psalm 78:6-7 KJV

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A Tale of Forgiveness
and
Sacrificial Love

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Long ago in a large city in Scotland, a shaggy-haired, eight year old street boy with piercing blue eyes raced through the dirty alleys. Wee Sir Gibbie, as he was known, was motherless and unable to speak.

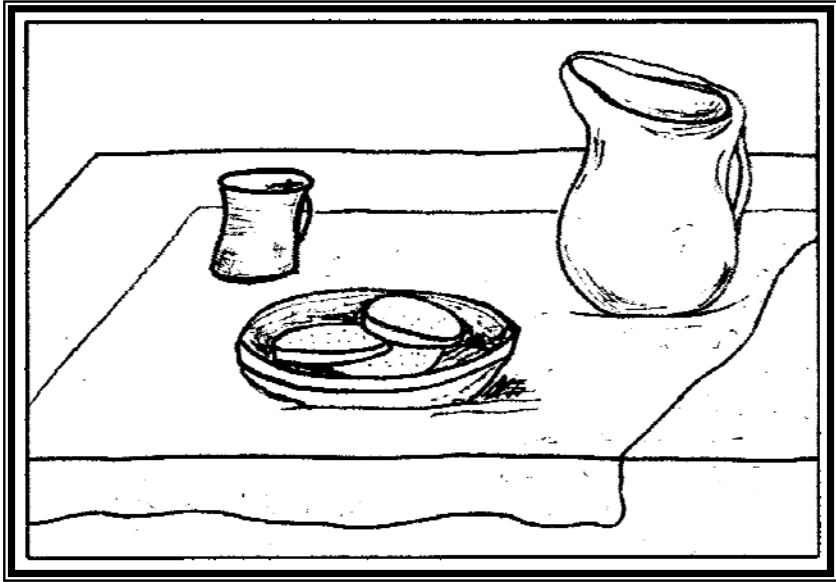
His father spent most of his time drinking with his friends. Sir George Galbraith, Gibbie's father, was a sad man whose wife had died soon after Gibbie was born.

Gibbie's grandfather had been a baronet, a gift of title and fortune given to him by King James VI. Grandfather died when Gibbie was about a year old, and his father was so grief-stricken that his drinking increased.

Because of his father's drunkenness, Gibbie was often hungry and neglected. One night, Gibbie's father put the lad on his knee and explained to him, "Someday people will call you by the title Sir Gibbie Galbraith."

It was the last conversation they ever had, for that very night Gibbie's drunken father fell to the floor and died.







After living on the streets for a while, Wee Sir Gibbie fled the city into the rural farm land by following the River Daur. Day after day, he walked until at last he could go no farther.

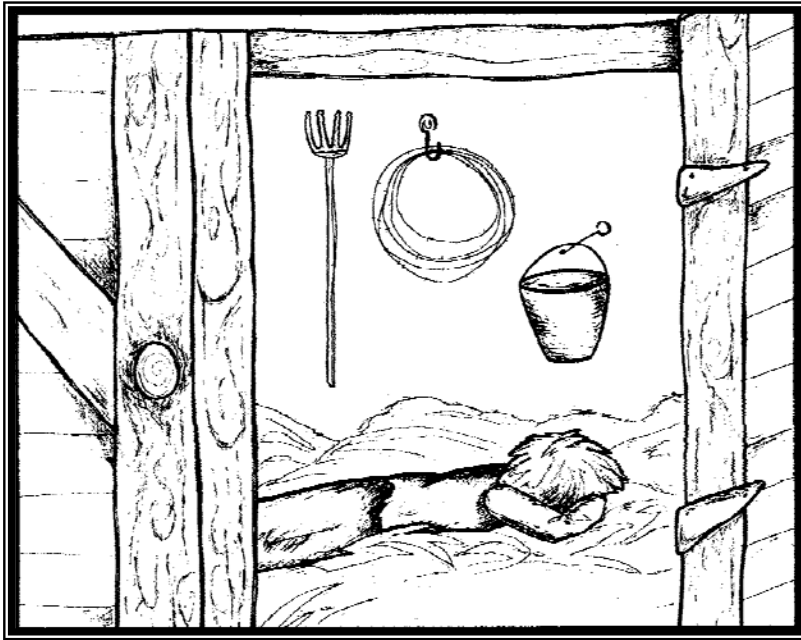
When he came near the top of Mt. Glashgar, he spied a small, white cottage. It was home to an older couple, Robert and Janet Grant. Gibbie knocked at the door and Janet called out, "Come on in, whoever ye be".

She had just finished reading in her Bible the words of Jesus: "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me".

Gibbie stood there, smiling his sweet smile, but unable to ask for anything. She gently led him to the sparkling table and put before him a dish of oatcakes and milk. "Sit down and eat," she said. "I wish I had more for ye, but it's all I have."

Gibbie was genuinely happy, for he felt he was eating the food of angels.







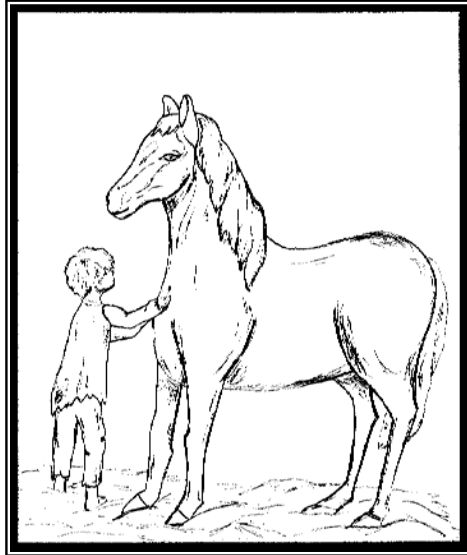
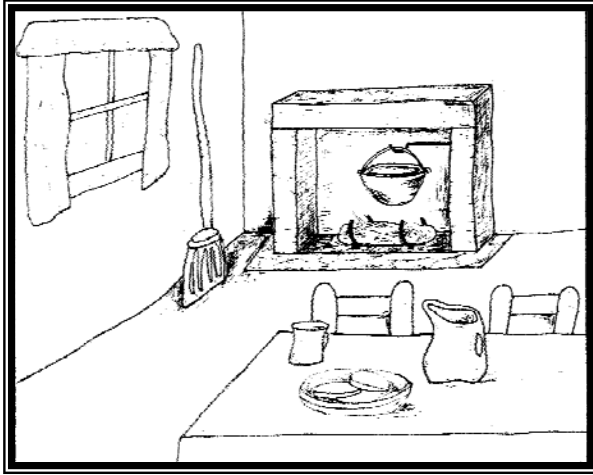
Unnoticed by Janet, Gibbie slipped out of his chair and ran to the top of Mt. Glashgar. He sat there amazed at the quiet beauty of the view which lay before him.

As Gibbie wound his way down the mountain, he wandered into a lush, green pasture, where Robert and Janet's fourteen year old son, Donal, was herding cows. Donal felt compassion for the ragged little orphan boy and gave Gibbie some of his oatcakes.

Gibbie returned the favor and rescued a stubborn cow which had strayed into the cornfield. Donal was impressed and Gibbie was thrilled; he had helped both Donal and the cow.

Gibbie followed Donal to the large farm where he worked, and unknown to anyone, the little lad would sleep in the barn.



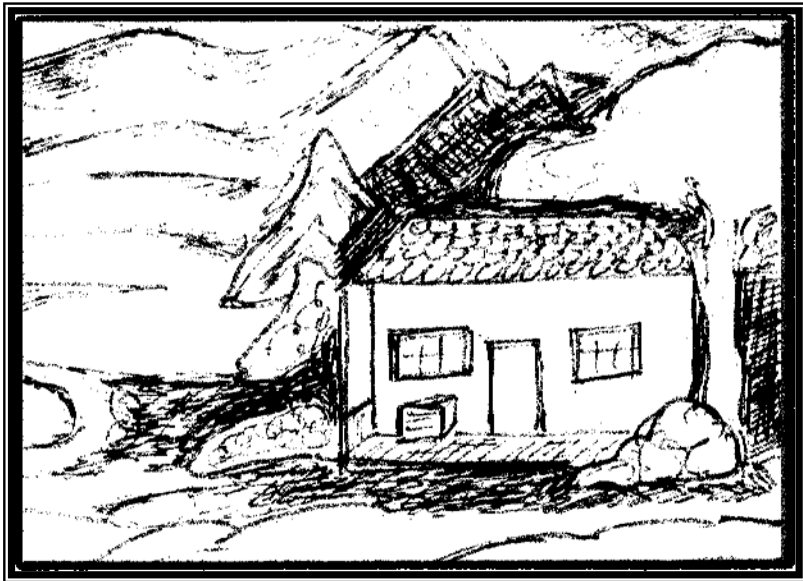




He'd get up before the farm workers, sweep the
kitchen, build and start the fire,

and brush and feed the horses.







The workers thought a fairy had come in the night and done the work. The owner of the farm asked Angus, one of his workmen, to stay up all night and find the fairy. It took several nights, but he finally caught Gibbie.

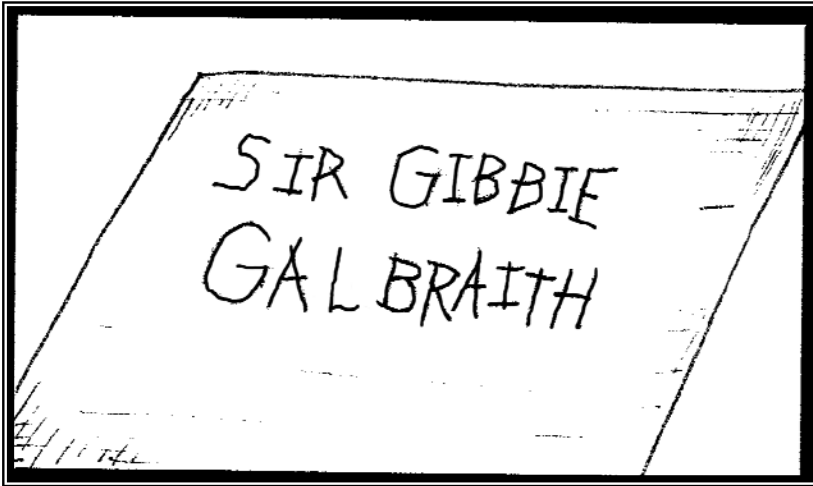
Because Gibbie could not answer Angus when he asked why he had done this, he hit Gibbie on the ears many times and beat him with a whip. When Gibbie fell unconscious to the floor, in rushed Ginny, the farmer's nine year old daughter. She screamed and flung herself across Gibbie's body and would not allow Angus to hit him again.

Gibbie staggered to his feet and fled out into the darkness of night. He could not understand why he had been beaten, because he had only wanted to help.

Running up the mountain, he came to Janet's cottage. In great pain, he staggered and fell in front of her. "Oh!" she cried. "What have they done to ye, my wee little laddie?" She carried Gibbie gently to her bed and felt his arms holding on to her for dear life.

Donal arrived later and was shocked to see Gibbie so hurt and sleeping in his parents' bed. "He's the best laddie," said Donal, "and this is how they treated him."







Gibbie stayed with Donal's family, and each morning Janet would read to Gibbie from the Bible. Before long, he wanted to follow Jesus with all his heart. He began helping Robert with the sheep, and in spare moments, Janet taught Gibbie to read and write. On the day Gibbie wrote out his name, Sir Gibbie Galbraith, the Grant family finally learned the name of their new laddie.

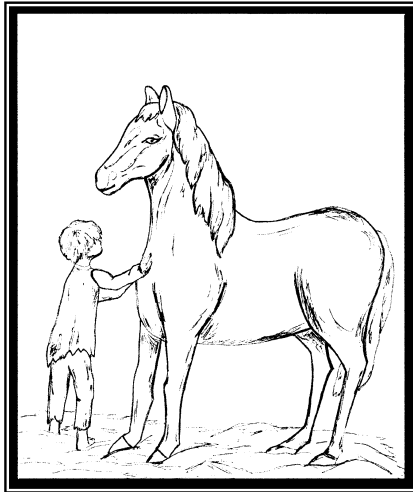
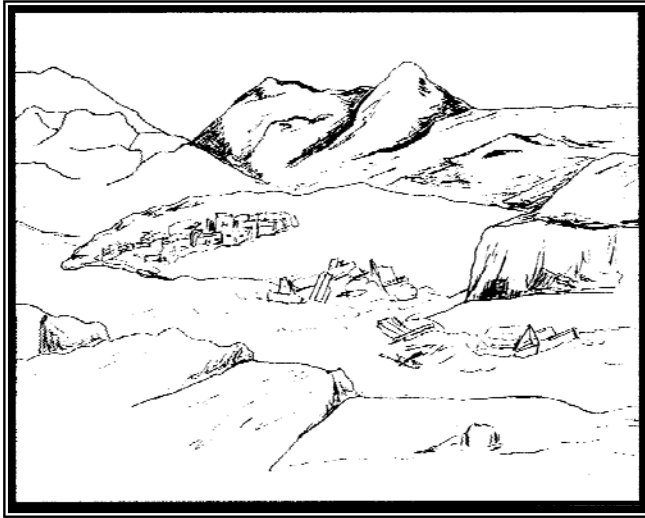
As Gibbie grew to be a young man, he always loved storms on Mt. Glashgar.

After a severe rain one night, Gibbie rushed outside. While he was viewing the steamy mist of the fog below, the ground shook and part of the mountain cracked open. Through the crack a raging torrent of water burst forth, then another and another. Everywhere Gibbie looked, water was rushing toward the valley to devour everything in its path.

Gibbie safely got Janet and Robert down the mountain, but he knew he must return to care for his sheep. Gibbie was thrilled to find the cottage and barn still standing.

After he got the sheep safely in the barn, he ate his supper and read his Bible, as he did daily. He came to these words, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."







As the wind continued to blow, the water from the storm joined together in all the streams and rivers to make one rushing, muddy sea. Houses were torn apart and huge trees looked like toothpicks floating in the roaring waves.

“I must run down the mountain to help others.” he thought to himself. He rushed through the dangerous water to Ginny’s home and rescued her along with the housekeeper.

He didn’t even hesitate to help Angus, the man who had once beaten him. Angus had been swept away by the raging flood and was holding onto a tree to keep from sinking in the murky water. Gibbie floated a barrel, with a rope attached, into the water and pulled the drowning man to safety.

Returning to the main farm where Donal worked, Gibbie heard the fateful cry of a horse, and recognized it as the voice of Snowball, his favorite. Gibbie climbed the embankment and saved the handsome horse from drowning. Amid cheers of everyone at the farm, Gibbie was welcomed home as a hero.





Soon after, a pastor, who had known Gibbie's father, came looking for the lad. He came and shared with Robert and Janet that Gibbie had inherited a fortune and the title of baronet after his father had died. He wanted to take Gibbie to the city and give him a proper education.

Although it was hard for the Grants to let Gibbie go, they were happy for his good fortune and future. He worked hard to learn and grew to be a godly young man.

When Gibbie finished his schooling, he purchased the large run down building where he and his father had lived in a shabby, rented room. He had the building fixed up, cleaned and repaired until it sparkled.





Gibbie hired Mrs. Croale to be his housekeeper. She had been the one person who had befriended him as a young child.

While she tended to household duties, Gibbie would go out in the streets at night to find poor, sick, and homeless people who needed a place to stay. He would lead them by a secret entrance to his home. He fed them and gave them a room on cold winter nights.

After a few years had passed of helping people in the city, Gibbie married Ginny. He had loved her since the day she had tried to save him from Angus and the whip.

Together they dedicated the rest of their lives to helping people who needed a touch of the love of Jesus.





Questions For Parents To Share With Your Children

1. What handicap/disability did Gibbie have?
2. What title did Gibbie's father say people would call him someday?
3. Why was Gibbie beaten with a whip?
(He could not answer Angus, to tell why he helped on the farm.)
4. Who befriended Gibbie and took him into their home?
(Robert & Janet Grant)
5. What was the best gift the Grants gave to Gibbie?
(They taught him about Jesus.)
6. What made Gibbie able to save Angus from drowning?
(Gibbie read in the Bible that we ought to lay down our lives for others.)
7. How do you think Gibbie could forgive Angus for beating him? (Only Jesus and His love could help Gibbie forgive Angus.)
8. After Gibbie received his fortune and an education, what did he do with his money?
(He bought the old building where he and his father had lived, fixed it up, and used it to help poor, sick and homeless people.)

This short story is based on the 1879 novel by
George MacDonald, "The Baronet's Song."





About the Author:

Sandy Harris is a retired teacher who lives on a farm on Lookout Mountain, GA., with her husband Sam. She is the mother of three and grandmother to Ethan, Evan, Haelee, Taelor, Kaitlyn, and Rebekah.

Sandy is the author of the following books:

Blazing New Trails, the history of Chattanooga
Secret on Lookout Mountain and Traitors or Patriots?
(two historical fiction books for children)

My Book of Bible Verses, Soldier of the King, The King's Princess,
God's Proverbs in a Kid's World, and Fluffy's Fairies

The last five books can be viewed on the web:

www.bibleversesbooks.com

About the Illustrator:

Catherine Sue Price lives in Ooltewah, TN., with her husband, Brent. She is the mother of Emily, Catherine Joyce, and Michael, and Nana to Noah, Owen, and Augustus. Since 7th grade, she wanted to be "a wife, a mother, and an artist". She LOVES adding Nana to that list! This is her first attempt at illustration. She enjoys her family & friends, reading, sewing and quilting, making things, and collecting fabric, sewing machines and art supplies.

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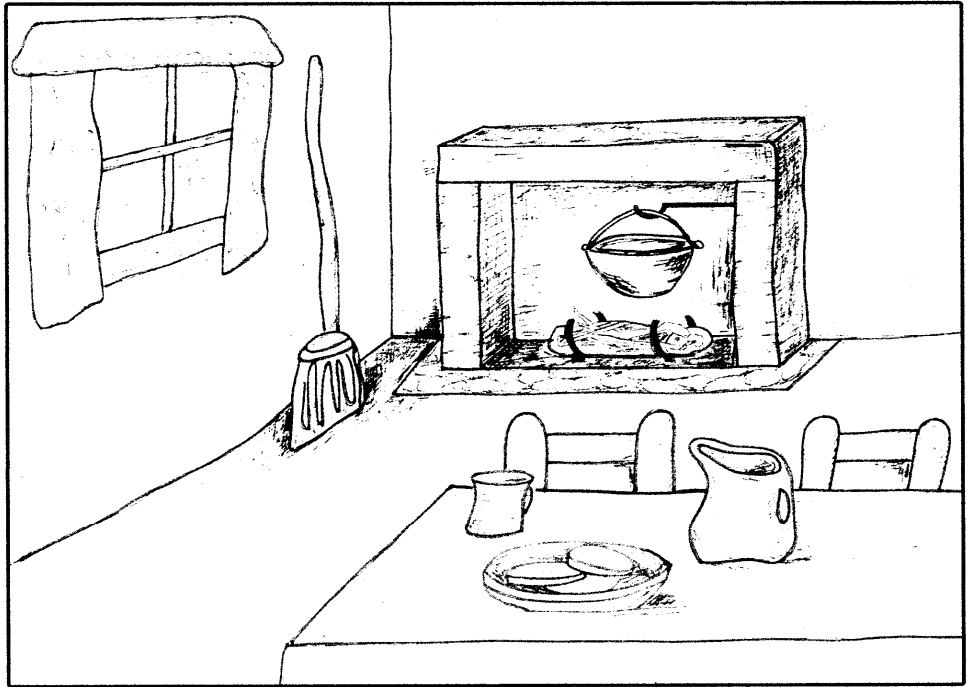
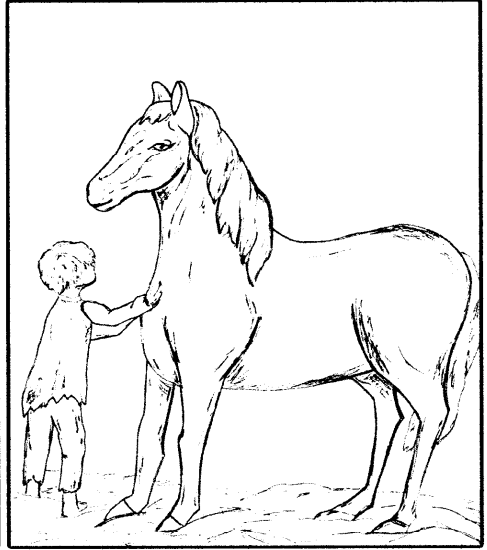
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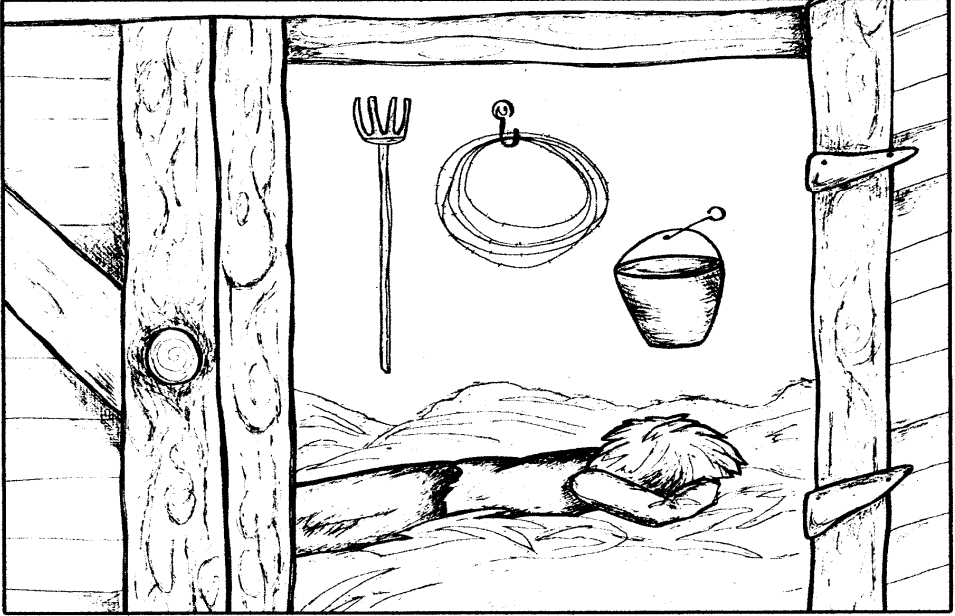
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Illustrator: Catherine Sue Price, Ooltewah, Tennessee







Wee Sir Gibbie,
the little mute boy who had been beaten and made fun of,
forgave those who had hurt him. He put his own life in
danger to rescue them from the flood and grew up to
dedicate his time and money to serve others. Only Jesus
could cause someone to be able to forgive his enemies and
love others with such a pure, unselfish love.



“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse
you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who
spitefully use you and persecute you.”

Matthew 5:44