

365 Stories

82. Weak beginnings !



82. Weak beginnings ! Robert Mouffat.

An elder in a Church one Sunday morning approached his Pastor and sadly said to him, firmly : There is surely something that is not right in your sermons ?

Or in your pastoral work, because we have won only one member to the Church this year and it is just a young and little boy !

The old Pastor remembered what the secretary had written in the register of the Church in a Scottish lingo :
"He is so small that he doesn't even count !"



The Pastor preached that day with a heavy heart, and finished his sermon with tears in his eyes.

He would have liked to preach for the last time and to lie down for his last sleep and finish under the cypresses of the old cemetery.



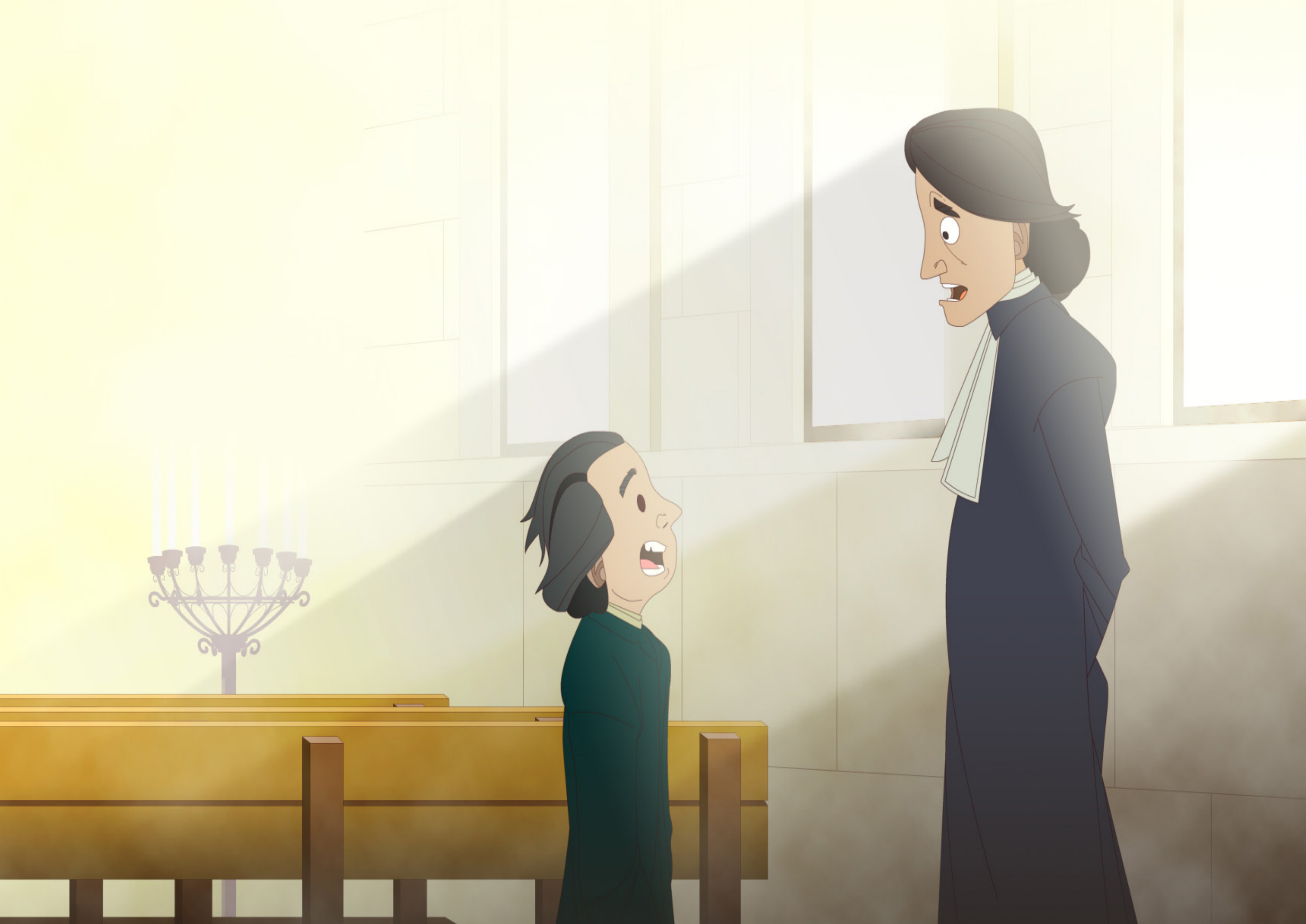
He lingered in his dear Church, looking for a heart to heart with God, when a young boy, the one he had baptized this year, approached, with a weary face. Here you are, Robert ! the Pastor said.

The child asked : Do you believe that if with alot of work, I could become a Preacher of the Gospel ?

A Preacher of the Gospel ? The Old Pastor replied with surprise. Yes, maybe even become a missionary insisted the child.

Long silence, tears bathed the Pastors cheeks, and the wound in his heart was healed. Robert, he said. I see the had of God. May God Bless you my son.

Yes, I think that you will preach the Gospel !



This young boy was Robert Muffat who later, added a new region to the Church. Translating the Bible into tribal languages and enriches the world with geographical discoveries.

Yet, Robert Muffat was of modest origin. He started by becoming a gardener, but in 1814, he presents himself to the Missionary Society of London. And in 1816, he was sent to Southern Africa. After having spent one year with the afrikaner chief who he succeeded in converting. Muffat returns to Cap and gets married, from this union was born his daughter who later marries the well known missionary David Livingstone. In 1820, the family moves to the interior of South Africa among the Bechuana tribe living near the west of Vaal River. He worked there as a missionary until 1870, making numerous visits in the neighboring territories all the way to Matabele.



All his travels were communicated to the Royal Society of Geography and to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

He published a book that becomes a reference
'The missionary work and life in South Africa in 1842'
Then, translated the entire Bible and the travels of the pilgrim in the Tswana language one of the Bantoue languages (one of the official languages of Southern Africa and of Boswana)

Robert Muffat also became a contractor, carpenter, blacksmith, gardener, farmer and tutor...

Robert Muffat is an example from the long list of ordinary men who have done extraordinary things, as soon as they met the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.