

JAARS SPEEDING THE WORD TRANSCRIPT

Speaker
Jill Bryan

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Interviewer
Arthur Lightbody

Primary Topic(s)
Ventriloquism and the gospel

Other Topics
**Telling the JAARS story,
Jillybean Enterprises**

Location Discussed
Philippines, Guatemala

People Group (if named)
Isnag

Announcer:

Welcome to *Speeding the Word*, coming to you from the JAARS Center in Waxhaw, North Carolina, where JAARS speeds Bible translation for all people. And now our host Arthur Lightbody.

Lightbody:

Our special guest today is my friend Jill Bryan, a familiar face around the JAARS Center. Everybody knows her here and in the community because of the ministries she's been involved in. How are you today, Jill?

Bryan:

I'm doing great, Arthur. Thanks for having me.

Lightbody:

Jill has a ministry called "Jillybean Enterprises." It is not just Jill here—she has some friends with her. Is Jillybean here?

Jilly-Bean Voice:

Oh yeah, uh-huh. (Laughs.) It's kinda fun to be Jillybean. And then we've got lots of other characters, too.

Lightbody:

Who else is here today?

Bean-O Voice:

Beano-o the Dean-o. Thank you for having us.

Allie Voice:

Allie the Alligator.

Lightbody:

Oh boy! We've got them all here—this studio room is crowded here. Can you tell us about Jillybean Enterprises, Jill?

Bryan:

Yes. Actually, that started in 1983, when God changed my life dramatically. In that change 25 years ago began a not-for-profit organization after I was doing concerts. I was a singer, speaker, comedian back then. And over the years, God has allowed me to do ventriloquism and illusions also.

Lightbody:

So that is a quadruple threat?

Bryan:

Yes, probably.

Lightbody:

And these are all genuine talents, because I've seen you before. What are some of the things you use these talents and abilities for? What types of ministries do you bring?

Bryan:

Many times, Arthur, it is partnering with organizations to draw a crowd. I love street ministry—that's why on our Web site it says children, singles and bikers. Because when I can go on the streets and draw a crowd, then they will listen to how I share the gospel through whatever venue that would be—ventriloquism, illusions, or if I leave for Guatemala and I go down with Caring Partners [a Christian ministry]. Some of my favorites are with Missions at the Airport. While people are waiting for a helicopter ride, I would entertain.

Lightbody:

Let's jump to that—the JAARS aspect. What do your characters tell the people about JAARS?

Bryan:

It is fun to share with them about the meaning of "JAARS." When I moved here in 1998 and began partnering with Missions at the Airport, we had the acronyms and Bean-O-the Dean-O.

Bean-O Voice:

Yeah, I would say it stands for "Jumps Around the Really Shakes."

Bryan:

No, no, no. I used to stand for "Jungle ..."

Bean-O Voice:

No, it stands for "Just About Any Required Service."

Bryan:

Well, you are getting better, because that is what they do.

Bean-O Voice:

Just about any reliable service?

Bryan:

Yes, Bean-O, there are ...

Bean-O Voice:

Oh! I got a good one: "Jesus Abounds and Really Saves."

Bryan:

Well, that one's the best of all. Because of the art that JAARS uses to help Bible translation, they have many different ways to serve in the translation area. We were able to help people laugh while they were waiting for a helicopter or Helio Courier airplane ride at Missions at the Airport, and we got to go overseas and be part of the Isnag Bible dedication.

Lightbody:

So you saw the work?

Bryan:

Yes, firsthand. When I bring back a souvenir or a backpack, and when I do my programs and concerts now and I tell them I collect backpacks from around the world and those different countries, then I'm able to say, "You know, there are more than 6,000 languages, and there are at least 2,600-some to go, and you can be part of that." I can help children and youth and college students—anybody—to tell them, "You can be part of speeding God's Word to the unreached people groups by

partnering with the ministries.”

Lightbody:

We’ve appreciated that. Now God has taken you to a different state, and we miss you here, and we’ll talk about that in a minute. When we had more frequent JAARS Days—we have them four times a year—people used to tell me, “We came to see Jillybean.” Then you got to tell them and their children about the gospel. We had a blast with all those visitors. Now, I can’t see you quite doing that when you go to “Biker Week” in Myrtle Beach. What kind of approach—do you have one of these characters on the street?

Bryan:

Well, I have Chopper. He’s the New Yorker.

Chopper Voice:

Yeah. You lookin’ at me? Whadda you looking at, buddy? Come ‘ere. Hey, come ‘ere. Whadda you looking at?

Bryan:

Chopper makes the bikers laugh. Then as I’m able to have fun with the motorcyclists around the community—because I love riding motorcycles myself—when you get them laughing, laughter makes like medicine and it opens the door of their heart so you can share God’s love. Bottom line is, I just want to be a conduit of the Father’s love. And that’s what I do—through comedy and through song. After doing this for 25 years, I’m doing more music, singing and sharing my testimony than I am the illusions and ventriloquism, because my hands hurt.

Lightbody:

I’m sorry you can’t see the illusions in front of me and can’t see the ventriloquism, because it is high quality. Dare I ask you to sing?

Bryan:

They can see online—the best way is for listeners to go online, and they can see the puppets firsthand.

Lightbody:

Let’s give the Web site now.

Bryan:

Jillybean.org. Click on the children’s page and go to the video; there is a puppet giving a Bible verse every day.

Lightbody:

Can listeners order a JAARS video on that Web site?

Bryan:

They can. It is on the 25th anniversary DVD. On one of the DVDs, there are six performances on a two-DVD pack: the “Blonde Hair Days” and “The Brown Hair Days.” Should Jesus tarry, we just want to keep on sharing the gospel. They can buy the DVD through the Jillybean Web site or, if they are here at the JAARS Center, in the gift shop.

Lightbody:

That would be good for a Sunday school class, or if kids want to watch them at home, they can be learning about missions as well as having a good time.

Bryan:

It was fun to record, too, with all the puppets running the JAARS Center. Bosco the Bear was teaching Sid how to fly the Helio Courier airplane.

Bosco Voice:

Oh, yup, yup—that's Bosco the Bear. Yeah, there are a lot of things we do here at JAARS, Jillybean. We gotta make sure we get those Bible translators out into the field.

Lightbody:

Let's change to what God is doing now, because He took you to a different place, way out West.

Bryan:

He did. He allowed me to go to Lingle, Wyo., at North Hills Baptist Church. I've gone through breast cancer, and I'm glad to say I am cancer free after two years. I have an office in North Hills, and we have a Jillybean Biker Bed and Breakfast. The church gives me their building for two weeks, and people come through and we are able to share God's love. We hope that as we can raise \$10 million to do a Cherry Creek Bible Conference Grounds.

Lightbody:

Is that part of Jillybean? Are you one of the ministries involved?

Bryan:

Yes. Jillybean Enterprises is the not-for-profit organization that this is going through. I've been given 1,000 acres to put a runway out there, to help with missionaries in training and partner with all the different ministries, so we can help each other.

Lightbody:

I've seen drawings of the plans, and it looks fascinating with the cross-shaped airstrip.

Bryan:

We hope to break ground in 2010. But it is God's—we have to look and see what God is doing. It is up to Him about how that is going to come about. But wouldn't that be neat though? They [check] Google Earth and see this giant cross in the southeast corner of Wyoming.

Lightbody:

When that is ready, I will do that. Thank you for sharing, Jill. Do you have one of your friends here that wants to say good bye?

Jillybean Voice:

Well, it's just fun to be Jillybean for the kids. ...

Lightbody:

This is Arthur Lightbody again. Please listen to a portion of the video "Contagious."

Man:

"We've been given 24 hours to find this contagion. What have you got?"

Woman:

"I've never seen anything like it. The symptoms are popping up globally

and without a discernable connection to any contaminant. We don't even know if it is from this planet—or an alien source.”

Man:

“Well, we do know it is highly contagious, spreading rapidly. It must be spread by several different vehicles, orally being the most obvious.”

Woman:

“And we know the symptoms appear pretty much uniform across all the infected areas. Change in facial expression. Decreased anxiety and psychomotor changes that don't make sense ...”

Lightbody:

“Contagious” is a great eight-minute video for home viewing or for your church or missions group. Learn how JAARS Vernacular Media Services department is reaching oral communicators with God's Word in their languages. Call me directly to ask for your free copy: 1-704-843-6048. Visit us at www.jaars.org. Better yet, come visit us in Waxhaw.