

Su Ling's Christmas – Reader's Theatre

Parts: Narrators 1,2,3; Missionary Lady, Su Ling, Miss Soong, Visitor, Miss Frazier, Old Chang, Kim

Narrator 1: In faraway China, in the 1930s, a little girl dressed in rags was carried into an orphanage. This home for children without parents was run by missionaries and Chinese people who had faith in God and Jesus. Soft brown eyes looked out from the rags as a missionary lady stroked the dirty hair of a four-year-old Chinese girl.

Missionary Lady: "What a pretty child. You are safe now. What is your name?"

Su Ling: "Su Ling,"

Narrator 2: ... replied a scared little voice. Soon Su Ling wasn't afraid any more. She became a healthy, happy, well-fed little girl.

Narrator 3: Su Ling loved to hear the people at the children's home talk about God and Jesus. They told about a place called Heaven, where God lives. She learned that He wanted to have people come to live with Him in His beautiful home forever and ever. It was so wonderful for Su Ling to hear that God loves everybody. Soon she believed in Jesus and received Him as her own Savior.

Narrator 1: That was only a few months after she came to the home for orphans, and from that time on she had the sweetest face of any of the girls there. The teachers and the children said, "Su Ling has the Jesus shine on her face."

Narrator 2 : For three happy years, Su Ling lived in the orphanage. For three Christmases people in China and from America had given her many things a little girl likes. Now it was the fourth Christmas and Su Ling was eight years old. Miss Soong, one of the Chinese teachers taught about Christmas.

Miss Soong: "Christmas is a time for giving gifts because God had given His best gift, His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Savior. The three kings who came found great joy in giving gifts to the baby Jesus. Now we have the beautiful tradition of giving gifts at Christmas to people we love."

Narrator 3: Su Ling had a big idea.

Su Ling: "This year I want to give gifts rather than receive them. How wonderful it will be to give a gift to every boy and girl in the orphanage, and to Old Chang, the gatekeeper, and even to every teacher and all the other workers there! Imagine a little orphan girl like me, with no way to earn money, giving everyone a gift. What a great Christmas this will be."

Narrator 1: One day a guest in the orphanage told her how to get the presents. Su Ling listened to every word as he told her how, in answer to prayer, money had been given to him for his trip.

Visitor to Orphanage: "While I was traveling by train I lost my luggage with all I had to wear. But God found a way to provide everything I needed, and even some extra things. If you have taken the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God is your Father. Just ask Him for anything you want, believing he can give it, and He will."

Narrator 2: One day as Su Ling worked together with the teacher, she said,

Su Ling: "God can do anything, can't He, Miss Soong?"

Miss Soong: "Indeed He can. He made everything and he can do anything."

Su Ling: "Could He do something for a little girl like me, if I wasn't selfish and only wanted something for other people?"

Miss Soong: "I'm sure He could."

Su Ling: "I've asked Him for some presents."

Miss Soong: "That's nice."

Su Ling: "I've asked Him for two hundred eighty-eight presents"

Miss Soong: "What? Two hundred eighty-eight presents! What would you do with so many? That's rather selfish, isn't it?"

Su Ling: "Oh, but they're not for me. You see, the first Christmas I was here I got all the rice I wanted, and some sweets, and a rag doll. Last Christmas I got a new dress, some candy, and a nice book. I don't want to be getting and getting and never giving. The visiting man got lots of things just by asking God, so I decided that this Christmas I'm going to ask God to give me two hundred eighty-eight presents for all the children in the orphanage, for the teachers, and for Old Chang, the gatekeeper."

Miss Soong: "Oh, Su Ling, that's asking God for a lot,"

Su Ling: "But God can do it, can't He?"

Miss Soong: “Yes, but – but –“

Narrator 3: Miss Soong didn't know what to say. The missionaries prayed much about Su Ling. Their faith grew weaker as Christmas drew near, but not Su Ling's faith. The closer Christmas came, the more certain she was that God was going to answer her prayer. What were two hundred eighty-eight presents to One who owned billions and billions of stars, the moon, and the mountains? Su Ling sang and laughed and was happy as could be. Wouldn't the children be surprised?

Narrator 1: As Christmas came near, the children were almost bursting with excitement. But the missionaries were sad because they had not been able to figure out a way to help God answer Su Ling's prayer. They were afraid she was going to be very sad on Christmas Day.

Narrator 2: The last boat had come in with some boxes for Su Ling. The Grace and Truth Class of a church in America had promised to send her a doll. Miss Frazier who worked at the orphanage was in charge of arranging the Christmas celebration.

Miss Frazier: “It must be a beautiful doll. The girls in that class send such lovely things. But I'm afraid a doll won't give Su Ling much pleasure when she's expecting two hundred eighty-eight gifts.”

Narrator 3: The big day finally arrived. First, they had a lovely program with the lighting of the tree and singing Christmas Carols. At the close, one of the teachers explained the real meaning of Christmas. Su Ling listened carefully. Even though she had heard the story often, she loved to hear how the Lord Jesus had left Heaven to come to earth as a baby so He could die for her sins and those of everybody in the whole world. She liked to hear the story read from the Bible. It was exciting to know that the angel had told Mary, and later her husband Joseph, about the Baby before He was born. He even told them what His name should be.

Narrator 1: Then came the time for giving the gifts.

Miss Frazier: “Friends in America have sent gifts and we have one for each of you. We'll start with Jung won. Here is your gift. You may open it now and we'll all watch to enjoy seeing what you received for Christmas.”

Miss Soong: “We also have a Christmas Candy Cane and a piece of chocolate for each one. Sit quietly, please, and I'll come around to each of you with your candy.”

Narrator 2: Dark eyes sparkled and white teeth flashed big smiles as they received their gifts and candy. There were tears in Miss Frazier's eyes as she handed Su Ling her package.

Miss Frazier: “Here's a pretty doll for you, Su Ling, from the Grace and Truth Class.”

Narrator 3: Su Ling thanked her and glanced trustingly at the few packages still under the tree. Then she opened her gift and looked inside.

Su Ling: “Oh, how pretty!! [bowing her head] “Dear Father, I thank You. I didn't know what to ask You for that the children and the big people would all like, but You knew just what to send. Thank You, Father, Amen.” [pause and looking up with a smile] “May I give out my gifts now?”

Miss Frazier: “Your gifts? What do you mean, Su Ling? Wasn't there a doll in the box I gave you?”

Su Ling: “No, Miss Frazier, I don't need a doll! I have one. But look at these pretty combs. I'm sure there are enough for everyone in the orphanage. Look how pretty they are in all these sizes and colors...red, yellow, green, blue and pink.”

Narrator 1: Su Ling started at the front row and handed everyone in the room a comb. How thrilled they were! When Old Chang got his, he combed his hair right there with some extra motions that made all the children laugh.

Old Chang: [acting with comb] “Wow, this is just what I needed and didn't have. Thank you Su Ling. Come here little child. Let me give you a Christmas hug.”

Narrator 2: It was truly Su Ling's happiest Christmas. All during the next year whenever their rice was almost gone and one might have become discouraged, someone like Kim would speak up

Kim: “Remember the combs. We can believe that God, our Father above, who answered Su Ling's request will send rice for us to eat.”

Narrator 3: It wasn't until the next year that Miss Frazier learned what had happened. The Grace and Truth Class had packed boxes to be sent to two different cities in China – one box had a doll and the other the combs. Someone had made a mistake when they put the labels on the packages. But God made no mistake. He had answered Su Ling's prayer.

Edited by J. Daniel Lupton