



BAM

Bible A Month

A Bible Society
supporter's
newsletter

JULY 2018

PHILIPPINES

Finding comfort in God's word

The Philippines Bible Society (PBS) launched the *Trauma Healing for Hurting Women Programme* in 2017. The project reaches out to Filipino women who have suffered domestic violence, by leading them in healing sessions and introducing them to the Scriptures as the ultimate source of comfort, hope and peace.

Thanks to your continued support, PBS is working towards its goal of training 2,000 facilitators and reaching over 26,000 women by the end of 2018. It's exciting watching the impact of the project spread as each new facilitator is trained.

Miriam del Rosario runs the Kaagapay Women's Group – an organisation for mothers living in poverty at the San Pedro dumpsite. After her training, Miriam organised to meet with 10 women each Sunday for five weeks, leading them in Bible study and guiding them as they shared their traumatic experiences with each other. At the end of the sessions, each one was given a Bible.

Now these women in turn plan to reach out to others by inviting them to further healing sessions and ongoing Bible study.

"Attending the sessions made me realise that I am not alone," says Lorie Pillerva. "I also want to encourage others and I can comfort and advise them as God comforted me. I thank the Lord for the Bible that I received. Now I can study with other women."



LEBANON

A new future for young refugees

While the war in Syria grinds on, life is on hold for children in Lebanon's overcrowded refugee camps. These young people face a bleak future. They are unable to go to school, and struggle with isolation and anxiety.

Bible Society is offering hope to this lost generation, working to create a more positive atmosphere among refugee children. Your donations are helping Syrian children engage with God's word through creative presentations of Bible stories, and providing Scripture portions that focus on reconciliation and forgiveness.

Wissam Rajha of Bible Society Lebanon has been using drama, clowning and magic tricks to reach out to children at a refugee camp. It's a temporary home to over 1,100 people. 500 of these are children, including 86 who have lost one or both parents.

"I know how much they need this kind of show," says Wissam (known to the children as 'Billie Cookie the Clown').

"They need to laugh and express emotion. We can also impact the kids in their hearts and minds. I can talk about love and peace and about how God protects us. I can talk about the joy of God who has created us and will take care of us."

Please pray that Bible Society's efforts in Lebanon will provide healing, helping refugee children overcome their trauma. Pray also for peace in Syria and in the region.



WORLDWIDE

Bible brings unrivalled joy

It's all too easy for Australians to take for granted our ready access to God's word.

As much as we treasure our time spent reading the Bible – whether alone with God, together with our children, in a small group or with our church family – it's hard to appreciate just how precious a gift it is to hold a Bible in our hands.

Most of us have multiple Bibles in many versions sitting on our shelves. So how can we even imagine how desperately many people around the world long to own just one portion of Scripture?

"I waited and waited!" says Maria, a believer from Southern Sudan. "I thought I would die before seeing or touching the Bible."

When the people in her community finally received a delivery of Bibles in their own language, the pilot knelt on the airstrip, praying and weeping with joy after unloading the boxes. 10,000 people gathered to celebrate – dancing, singing and cheering!

Your gifts will enable Bible Society to bless many more like Maria with the unrivalled pleasure of holding a Bible of their own for the very first time.

209 million people across the world still do not have any part of Scripture in their language. Millions more can't afford to buy a copy of God's word or are unable to access one safely.



ARAB-ISRAELI

Arabic children's Bible gets kids excited

Children within the Arab-Israeli Greek Orthodox community are excited about a Bible they can call their own.

Father Bishara has been serving more than 17,000 members of his church in Nazareth for 33 years, but he has struggled to engage children with God's word. Now, thanks to your generosity, local kids are delving into a specialised Arabic Children's Bible for the first time, and he is rejoicing as it transforms his community.

Father Bishara smiles broadly as he holds the Children's Bible next to his heart. He describes the children's wide eyes when they saw the beautiful drawings for the first time, and the joy on their parents' faces when they read portions of the text they'd never heard before.

He believes placing this Bible in children's hands is a turning point in his ministry, and your gift will bring forth a plentiful harvest.

"Now, they are seeing, hearing and laughing with God," he says. "It's very important for children to know their Bibles and doctrine, especially in our context where many people have lost hope and love. They need to know the word of God and how it can help them every day."



NICARAGUA

God's word brings healing to broken lives

Bible Society's *Hope and Smile for Children with Cancer* project in Nicaragua is having a positive impact on many lives. In the first quarter of this year, 1,290 people received free Bibles or Bible portions during their hospital visits, and 163 church workers provided practical and spiritual care for sick children and their parents.

But those numbers become more personal when you meet little Ever Martinez and his dad Jose Maria.

When the 4-year-old arrived at La Mascota Children's Hospital, he was diagnosed with leukaemia and malnutrition. He then endured over 10 months of treatments including chemotherapy.

Your gifts make it possible to provide children like Ever and their families the vital spiritual support they need to be able to wait on God and keep going.

"I had to leave everything at home to stay with my child in the hospital. I did not know what he was going to suffer," says Jose Maria.

"I believe in God because we felt him in the hospital. The Bible we received speaks to us and encourages us to continue trusting in God, even though we are physically broken."

"But with the support of the Bible Society I understood that we had our heavenly Father taking care of us, watching over us and helping us."



CHINA

Training China's next generation of Christian leaders

Generous Bible Society supporters like you are helping address the desperate shortage of pastors in China by funding Bible seminars and scholarships for Chinese seminary students.

Christianity is growing so rapidly in China that the number of church workers simply hasn't kept pace. Current estimates indicate there is just one ordained pastor for every 6,700 believers.

The Nanjing Union Theological Seminary says increasing the number of students is important, but it's also crucial to improve the quality of faculty members and theological education in China.

Our goal is to reach over 450 Pastors and students this year, but the real impact of this project is the effect on Christian ministry across China. Each leader trained will be equipped to train and nurture others in turn, producing the quality leaders needed in Bible schools and churches.

Your gift is also a great encouragement to your brothers and sisters who are striving to serve the church in China. It would be easy for Rev Lao Peisheng to feel overwhelmed. He cares for around 20,000 people at his church in She Yeng County. Giving pastors like Rev Lao the opportunity and the time to delve deeper into God's word will spur them on and help them not to lose heart.



BIBLE SOCIETY



Thank you for supporting our projects.

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