



BAM

Bible A Month

A Bible Society
supporter's
newsletter

JANUARY 2019

EGYPT

Christmas celebrations bring joy to kids

Bible Society has been using your gifts to reach out to children from Christian families in Egypt who are growing up in an increasingly hostile environment. Many are socially disadvantaged, from poor families who struggle to meet even daily needs.

This is the case for 10-year-old Myrna and her family who live in an area of Cairo dominated by metal factories. Polluting fumes spill out over the streets where she plays.

Myrna described the joy and hope she and her whole family felt when she received her special present from Bible Society. She now spends lots of time searching through each Scripture book with her friends, and her family also have the opportunity to hear about the good news of Jesus.

12,000 children received the same precious package Myrna did for Christmas. Scripture books, games, puzzles, a new towel, hygiene products and a sweet treat were all included in a colourful backpack. For many, it was one of the only Christmas presents they'd received.

Despite persecution, Egypt's church is growing, and your support enables believers to actively reach out to their communities with the good news. The Bible resources you provide will help them meet the desperate need for Scriptures in their congregations.



NICARAGUA

Making dreams come true in Nicaragua

When Sonia Estrada's daughter Johana was diagnosed with leukaemia, she began treatment at La Mascota Hospital – the only hospital in Nicaragua to offer specialised care for children with cancer.

Johana dreamed of having a Bible of her own, however, with her family facing so many expenses during her hospital treatment, they were not in a position to acquire one for her. But your donations have helped make Johana's dream a reality.

"Bible Society came and I thank God my daughter's dream was fulfilled," Sonia shares. *"They gave her a Bible and we are very happy. She is happy because God granted her wish."*

Around 40,000 people benefit from your generosity towards the *Hope and Smile for Children with Cancer* project every year – including hospital patients and their families, along with medical staff.

Thanks to you, young cancer patients like Johana can learn of God's love through his word and find comfort and hope. Their parents also receive spiritual encouragement and practical help during their time of need.

"I thank the Bible Society for this donation that they have brought to us. It is of great help to many children and also for us as parents."



VIETNAM

Cham New Testament coming soon!

Rut lives in a Cham village on the south-central coast of Vietnam. Like most Cham people, he is fluent in Vietnamese – the common language spoken at work and with officials – but Cham is his heart language, used in daily life.

At Rut's church, the pastor preaches in Cham, but must read the Bible in Vietnamese because there is no Cham Bible. But he is excited because your gifts are allowing a translation team to change this situation.

"I can't wait to have the Bible in our own language," Rut says. *"My heart is already so touched to hear about it and I am so happy to*

have the New Testament soon."

Others have noticed the changes in Rut's life since he became a Christian 15 years ago.

"Now people ... are coming to me for advice. I have a very strong desire to own a Cham Bible because I know that when I share God's living word with others, they can experience God like I have been experiencing him."

With your continued support, the Bible Society aims to complete the Cham language Bible translation this year. Please pray that the Cham Bible will help more like Rut to experience God's transforming power.



SOUTH PACIFIC

God's word is for all

Thanks to Bible Society donors like you, more people across the South Pacific are experiencing the joy of reading God's word in their heart language for the first time. Together we want to impact 500,000 lives in eight island nations by providing new Scripture translations, Bible revisions and other engaging Scripture products.

In Fiji, the Maumi New Testament project is almost complete after 8 years of work. Maika Raisilisi has been one of the translators.

"This Maumi translation is helpful," he says. "It's made me read the Scriptures again and again. I thank God that the Scripture can be translated into my language. It shows me that God is not limited just to some but is for all people."

New Bible versions also play a vital role in preserving languages for the next generation.

Maika explains that many of the younger generation struggle to speak Maumi well and this Bible translation ensures the language is preserved and used correctly.

"This Bible keeps our language alive for our people ... Now that we have our language in written form through the Scriptures, our people will be encouraged."



IRAQ

Warmth and love for needy Iraqi Christians

It's summer here in Australia, with the warm weather more than likely stretching right through to March. But in Iraq, temperatures plummet at this time of year. Winter can be harsh. January is the coldest month, with temperatures sometimes dipping to below freezing.

Bible Society will be relying on your financial support to provide extra blankets in the care packages they distribute to needy Christians during winter. With your help, we are working to support Christians under pressure in Iraq, offering them practical relief and strengthening their faith.

Your gifts are used to provide food, medicines, hygiene supplies and blankets to meet their physical needs, along with Bibles, children's Bibles and specialised Scripture portions to bolster them spiritually.

We urge you to pray for courage for Iraqi Christians. Please ask God to help them persevere during these difficult times. Pray also that Iraq's many refugee and displaced families will be given the chance to return to their homes in the future.



SOUTH AFRICA

"God sculpts us from nothing into something"



In Mangauang Correctional Centre, Lehlohonolo Motsoeni knows first-hand the Bible's power to transform hearts.

"I now have peace and joy and I see changes in my life. I love reading the word of God because he healed me and showed me that my life is not an accident. I am no longer that man who was so corrupt."

The Bible Society is active in over 200 of South Africa's prisons, distributing the Bibles you supply to thousands like Lehlohonolo who participate in life-changing discipleship programmes.

Inmates engage with the Scriptures through simple teaching on practical issues of the Christian life, and are also provided avenues to practically tackle the issue of HIV. In 2018, over 10,000 graduated the course and received a Bible.

This project is restoring hope in men like Lehlohonolo and opening the way for a more positive future.

"Thank you for helping me to see the right path," he says. "I was in the dark, but now I see and walk in the light of God."

"God has given me a brighter future that I need not fear. I thank God that I am a new person in Jesus Christ. God sculpts us from nothing into something".



**BIBLE
SOCIETY**



Thank you for supporting our projects.

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