

BIBLE FOR LIFE

NEWSLETTER
ISSUE#02
JANUARY 2020



LITTLE ONES WITH BIG FAITH

NICARAGUA

Here are a few numbers about Alejandro (above). He is seven years old. He has three little brothers and he has spent two months in hospital undergoing treatment for leukemia. He has one favourite Bible verse, Mark 10:14, which says “When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these’”.

“My mum says that in this Scripture, Jesus tells me he loves me. I like that.” Even in severe illness, Alejandro is a beautiful example of the childlike faith that Jesus talks about. In the *Hope and Smile* cancer program at La Mascota hospital, Alejandro is focused and attentive during the devotionals. He even shares verses with other parents and children, as an encouragement. “I sleep well because Jesus takes care of me,” he tells us.

The joy of the Lord is your strength.

NEHEMIAH 8:10 (NIV)



The *Hope and Smile* program that you support helps children, their parents and hospital staff both practically and spiritually during hospital stays and also at home. You help provide immense comfort, through God’s word, in the most difficult times.

THANK YOU! In 2019, over 25,000 children with cancer and their family members were supported through pastoral care and organised activities in the hospital.

IMPROVING THE FUTURE FOR CHILDREN ACROSS CAMBODIA

CAMBODIA

We’re excited to share with you about a project you supported last year. Living with the backdrop of war, many younger people in Cambodia have not had a proper education. The need is very great in rural areas, where teachers are paid especially low salaries and can only afford to teach for several hours a day. Many children are denied vital educational resources and the opportunity to learn, and this has a direct impact on their future livelihood.

This project works through local churches, to give Scripture and Bible-based education resources to both private and government schools. This not only improves children’s education, giving them a better chance at life, but it also introduces them to God’s love. Please will you pray that many more schools will accept the materials and that the hearts of the children will be transformed through God’s powerful word?



Thank you! 15,000 Bibles and Scripture portions were distributed through private and government schools in Cambodia in 2018/2019.

FROM PURSUING WEALTH TO PURSUING JESUS

CHINA

Before Li Yanjing, 66, read about Jesus, his main aim in life was the pursuit of wealth. He also had a hot temper and made enemies easily. He tells us it was an empty life. This all changed when his father-in-law handed him his first Bible. He was convicted by the life-giving word of God and he was transformed. Now he thirsts for the word of God because it gives meaning to his life. "The Bible has

become my most precious companion and I treasure it dearly," he says.

Li Yanjing believes that God's word convicts and transforms everyone, just as it convicted him years ago. During his days working as a taxi driver, he would give free copies of the Bible to his passengers if they were interested in reading it, because he knew God's word would change hearts.



He shares Psalm 37:5, one of his favourite verses. "Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him and he will act."

Thank you! In 2019, you helped distribute tens of thousands of Chinese Bible at an affordable cost, or for free.



GREAT HUNGER FOR THE WORD IN SCATTERED CHURCH

IRAN

Shaghayegh is 25 years old. She's never had a Bible of her own before because it's too difficult to get one. "I have been a Christian for seven years and I am very thankful that now I can touch a real Bible and hold my own copy."

Shaghayegh is part of the church in Iran. Last year saw a new level of persecution for Iranian Christians. Churches are under attack and church property has been ransacked, taken or destroyed. Bible Society's work continues, even though their building was confiscated. Despite all these hardships, there is a great hunger for God's word and such great joy – like Shaghayegh's – in receiving it.

Many Iranian Christians have left Iran because of the danger, so Bible Society serves Iranians in many countries. This diaspora has been compared to the early church in Acts – scattered but growing. The need for the Bible is so great, that even people who are not yet believers receive it with tears, full of thankfulness. Please join us in praying for the endurance and protection of persecuted believers, including house church members and Bible distributors.

Thank you! In 2019 you helped distribute Persian Bibles or Bible portions to 30,000 people.

GOD'S WORD PROVIDES HEALING IN TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES

CAMEROON



Claris attended the Bible-based trauma healing program you support for teenage mums and victims of sexual abuse. She says she hated men with a passion when she began the course. Claris describes the transformation she experienced over time. "I learned that I am loved by

God and others. I learned how to forgive others, especially those who have hurt me."

The trauma healing program helps women like Claris with the emotional and practical challenges of being a young, single mum, who has also experienced abuse. Trauma like this can last a lifetime, so the program restores self-esteem, builds confidence and assists with income generation.

Claris feels she can now move on with her life, thanks to the transforming power of God's word. "I was taught that forgiveness is a process. I was really impacted during the program. I give God the glory."

Thank you! In 2019 you supported 1600 girls and young women through trauma healing or awareness campaigns.

THE STORY THAT NEVER GETS OLD

JORDAN

The little girl in the photo on the right has just received a gift. It's called, *The Fascinating Story of Jesus* and it's a retelling of the first Easter. It's been given to children across Jordan.

"Joy and pride are an understatement when we see children all around Jordan eagerly open up their small Easter booklet," says one of the program coordinators. These children are from Christian families, but most have no Sunday School or Christian education class at school. Many don't know the stories in the Bible. These booklets share the Bible with children in creative ways and are just a small part of a much bigger children's ministry program that has established four Sunday Schools in four areas of Jordan.



The program leaders praise God for the eagerness with which the children learn about God's love. "We are filled with gratitude as we continue to see how He works in wondrous ways and that regardless of age, this particular story never gets old!"

Thank you! In 2019, you supported 2000 children in the children's ministry program.