

# BIBLE FOR LIFE

NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE #02  
JANUARY 2020



## DEEPLY THANKFUL FOR READING IN MOTHER TONGUE

*No one is like you, LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power.*

JEREMIAH 10:6 (NIV)



### MYANMAR

**There is joy and pride on the faces of these students, as they hold up their Bibles. Thanks to you, they've learnt to read God's word in their heart language for the very first time!**

Among ethnic minority groups in Myanmar, literacy rates are very low and many are not able to read or write in their first language. The Bible-based literacy classes that you

support help these communities learn for the first time.

Saw Zion Bo, from the Karen people group, teaches one of the classes. He says that soon the language will disappear if it is not passed on to new generations. The future for the Karen people looks hopeful though, because they are very eager to learn.

Law Eh Paw Wah is just one of over 5000 students this year. "I am deeply thankful to God for giving me this opportunity," she says. "Whatever I learn from this class I will share with our next generation."

Thank you! In 2019, you helped us support 5200 students, in three different minority groups.

## MORE THAN A LITERACY CLASS: SHARING HOPE WITH THE "FORGOTTEN ONES"

### CHINA

Niu runs a Bible-based literacy class with a difference. The first thing you notice is how big it is – there are about 50 students! The next thing you see is that the students are all between 50 and 70 years old. It's also run more like a church service than a school.

Niu's class looks like this because her heart is for the "left-behind elderly." This term has come to be used for elderly people in rural China, who are left by themselves when their adult children are forced to seek work in the cities. This

means they are isolated for months at a time, there is no one to look after their health needs and they're often lonely. Niu's literacy class is a way for them to experience 'family' again. It's little wonder that the class is so popular. "They come rain or shine," says Niu.

Niu tries to create a supportive environment to provide the kind of care they might be missing. Simply put, Niu's mission is one of love to the elderly in rural China. And she does this as they sit together around the word of God.



In 2019, you helped the Chinese churches teach 3000 students of all ages, including several minority groups, across four Chinese provinces.

# LITERACY CLASS BECOMES POWERFUL PRAYER GROUP

## BANGLADESH

Not long ago, Liza was illiterate. She describes not being able to read or write like being “almost in the dark.” She longed to learn so she could better support her family financially and also help her own children in their studies. As a Christian, she had never been able to read the Bible herself and sadly, it limited her involvement in her local church.

Liza joined a Bible-based literacy class earlier this year. Now, because of her new

skills, she can help her family earn a more consistent income. She can read the Bible for herself and in church from the pulpit.

But the most exciting part of Liza’s story is that her literacy class has become a powerful prayer group! Liza witnessed God’s power first-hand when the group prayed about her difficulty in having children. Within months, their prayer had been answered. Liza became pregnant and now has a baby girl. Praise God!



“Now I believe God can do anything for anybody,” Liza says. She is so grateful to supporters like you for giving her the “opportunities which turned my life toward light from darkness.”

Thank you! In 2019, you helped us support 1000 Bangladeshi students, through classes in 50 rural churches.

# BIBLE IN HEART LANGUAGE “OPENS EYES”

## SOUTH SUDAN

Mejdelia is part of the Shilluk people who have fled civil war in South Sudan. Many live in refugee camps, where life is still very difficult. Mejdelia says she would read her Arabic Bible to find comfort but often couldn’t understand it.

One day she stumbled across a local literacy class, teaching in her native Collo language using Bible based materials. Mejdelia was hooked but she says attending class was not easy. “I always pray to God to give me courage to overcome the challenges or social pressure that can cause me to miss class.”

Mejdelia says now she always understands the meaning of words when she reads her Bible. “It has opened my eyes to see the importance of our language,” she says. “Now I can read the Bible in my mother tongue.”

Thank you! Last year you helped us support 550 Sudanese men and women to read in Collo, their first language.

# IN THE MIDST OF PERSECUTION AND WAR, GOD’S CALL TO STAY

## SYRIA



Hanna is one of the counsellors you support in a Bible based Trauma Healing program in Damascus. Her own story is a traumatic one, as her village was attacked in 2014 by a military group. Hanna, her family, and 240 others were sold as prisoners and they remained in captivity

for almost two years. They were beaten, there was no proper food or medicine and they were kept below ground for the first six months, without any daylight.

Hanna hid her Bible but eventually it was discovered and taken from her. “I was so upset,” says Hanna. It was the advent of a new war that caused their captors to flee. Hanna’s first thought was to leave Syria as fast as possible. But she heard a voice in her head saying, “God is with me.”

“I felt responsible for my community because of what I had gone through and how God had helped me.” Hanna believes because of her own experiences, she can help others who have also been through great trauma. She knows God will not leave them alone either.

Thank you for helping to train up to 500 volunteer counsellors this year. Each newly trained person ministers to broken families: listening to them, sharing God’s word with them, and helping them talk about their experiences.



# TRANSFORMING NEPALESE FAMILIES

## NEPAL

Sangita Waiba is diligent and hard-working but she is also very poor. She comes from a rural village in Nepal which is among the poorest in the country. Sangita and her husband have had to rely on seasonal farming labour as their only source of income but it’s not actually enough for them to get by.

But Sangita now says “big changes are happening” in her life. This is because she’s joined one of the literacy classes

that you supported last year. Now, for the first time in her life, she can hold a pencil, write her name and dial a phone number. “This literacy class is wonderful,” she says. She now has the skills to join a tailoring class, after which she hopes to open a small sewing business to provide regular income for the family.

Thank you! In 2019 you supported 113 underprivileged and illiterate adults, in four of Nepal’s poorest and remote communities.