



BIBLE FOR LIFE

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Cambodia God's heart for her people

"31st May 2019 was the day that the school principal, teachers, students, authorities, village leaders, and I were all waiting for. Even though it was a rainy day, they stood outside patiently waiting for their gifts."

Mrs Khon Sokheng is a farmer, a church leader and passionate pray-er for her community. She is describing the day that Bible Society delivered Bible-based school materials to a rural school near her home.

Many Cambodian children don't have a proper education due to the country's horrific history. Teachers and resources are scarce, especially for the rural poor, and this keeps people in poverty. Your support provides resources to improve children's education and release them from poverty.

Mrs Sokheng, along with people like you, shares God's vision of hope for her local village. "I wanted to see all the people in this village come to know God and receive salvation. I prayed for about five months and now God has answered my prayers." She hopes that the resources will be a blessing for their families too, opening their hearts to Jesus and giving them a future of possibilities.

We hope to distribute these Bible-based resources to 6000 students this year. •

Mozambique Literacy is no joke!

When Mariano first heard about the literacy program that would be starting nearby, he thought it was a joke. Most men in his community didn't take it seriously. But despite his initial reluctance, Mariano was intrigued and decided to join.

Mariano comes from Mozambique, which is one of the world's poorest countries. Half of the population are living below the poverty line, almost half are illiterate and are under the age of 15. Many Mozambicans are Christians, but most can't read or

understand the Bible easily, not even pastors. Learning to read and write will not only empower people like Mariano, but churches and whole communities.

Mariano was amazed at the program's depth and the dedication of the teachers. He was incredibly happy to be learning to read and write for the first time and sends his thanks to supporters like you who made it possible. He would love to see all Mozambicans involved and prays for an expansion of the program.

This year, 600 Mozambicans will learn to read and write for the first time. •





Pakistan New hope and life: no longer a burden

Meet Marriam: a Pakistani Christian, paralysed in childhood due to polio, and one of the students you supported to attend one of our Bible-based literacy classes. Marriam's disability meant that she couldn't

go to school and so, until recently, she was illiterate. She describes her heartache with tears: "I cannot work and support my family and I also cannot help with tasks around the home. I think of myself as a burden upon my family."

Everything changed for Marriam when her pastor announced the classes. She was the first to enrol! Her English teacher gave Marriam the motivation she needed to get herself to class in her wheelchair so she didn't have to rely on others. Now, not only can she read and write but she has a new-found independence.

"I am very thankful for the Bible Society for giving me new hope and life through the literacy project!"

This year, 7000 Pakistani women will learn to read and write. •



Laos Three-quarters of the population illiterate

Noy* is 13 years old but he's only just finished fourth grade because his family constantly moved around when he was younger.

In Laos, access to high school education is a particular problem, especially among the ethnic minorities who tend to live in remote mountain areas. In fact, only 26 percent of the Lao population is literate.

We partner with local churches who run literacy classes to help their members learn to read and write. Noy* recently joined one of these classes.

"I wanted to study Lao and also learn more about God." He says the Bible helps him to love his family. His favourite story from the Bible is about Ruth and Naomi because of Ruth's love for her mother-in-law. Noy sends his heartfelt thanks for your support.

2500 Lao students will participate in literacy courses this year. •

* Name changed to protect his identity

Egypt Free from pretending

"Most people thought that I knew how to read and write. I pretended that I was literate. But inside, I was angry with myself."

Many Egyptian children don't regularly practise basic literacy skills so they "lapse" back into illiteracy. Through your support, eleven-year-old Bishoy has been able to take part in our Egyptian program. The curriculum is based on well-known Bible stories. Bishoy is proud to share that he can now fluently read the Bible – and his favourite verse is "For the Son of Man



came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)

"Thank you for helping me. I am not pretending anymore."

Up to 10,000 Egyptians will be involved in the program over two years. •

Ghana New literacy program with ambitious plans

This year, your support will enable an exciting literacy program to be launched in Ghana. Our aim for this year is to train 300 literacy teachers and develop the program material in all of the 10 focus languages. Local churches will help guide the selection of teachers and establish the class

locations. Classes will then be offered to 6000 students.

Not only will this program improve daily life and work prospects, it will allow students to read the Bible for themselves and contribute more actively in church services. Also, passing on literacy skills will help preserve those language groups that are at risk of extinction.

The long-term plan is for one million Ghanaians to become literate through this program. •

