



BIBLE FOR LIFE

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Lebanon: Repairing and Rebuilding with God's Word

People living in Beirut, Lebanon, could not imagine that life could get worse than ongoing political and economic turmoil and COVID-19, but on August 4, 2020, that is exactly what happened. A devastating explosion killed more than 200 people, injuring another 5000 and destroying homes and property.

With your support, Bible Society is reaching out to the many people left homeless and anxious, to help them recover and rebuild. Bible Society is repairing their buildings so they can serve their community again. Bibles are being given to 10,000 families who are rebuilding their homes.

People have been encouraged and blessed by the Bibles. "A beautiful surprise," one lady responded, "I will read it regularly." Another woman thanked staff, saying, "The Bible will always have a special place, not only in my house, but in my heart." "This Bible is a blessing," one man said. "I will keep it in my main sitting room."

Zimbabwe: Unfailing Strength and Assurance for Life

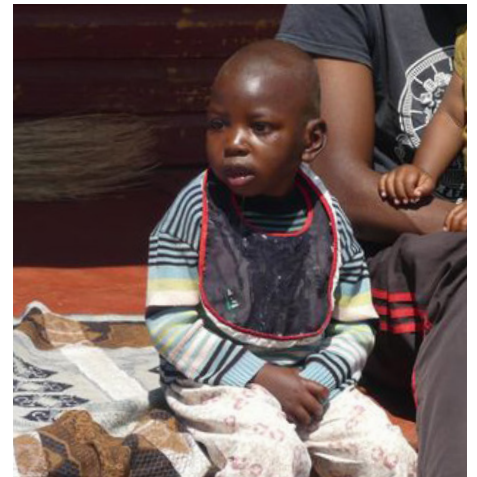
Alwin and Nomatter live in Zimbabwe, in a one-room cabin with their two sons. Five-year-old Anenyasha has cerebral palsy. Life is not easy for them. The couple works hard to provide for their family, especially for Anenyasha's special needs. They cling to God's word. In need of comfort, they remember, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ... he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul." (Psalm 23:1-3)

In Zimbabwe, children with disabilities are often kept hidden away – from daily life, from church, and in many instances their fathers leave. Yet Alwin stayed. He believes God's promise that, "Even though

I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me ..." (Psalm 23:4)

With your support, Bible Society is working with families like this one, empowering and advocating for them in the community, helping carers learn new skills to support their children, gifting Bibles and equipping parents to meet their children's special needs.

Alwin and Nomatter hope for a better future, clinging to God's word: 'Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life...' (Psalm 23:6)



Kenya: Let the Little Children Come

In Kenya, there is a wonderful opportunity for children to be reached with the life-changing word of God. The school system allows the Bible to be used as a text for religious education and pastoral instruction. Yet 98% of public schools do not have Bibles to use.

This year, with your help, Bible Society will distribute Bibles to Kenyan children from disadvantaged homes. So far, the project has distributed Bibles to 5548 children.

With access to Bibles, the school children can engage with God's word at school as well as having their spiritual worldview and values shaped by the Bible, as they develop a practice of Bible reading.

"I am forever grateful for this gift," says Maria, from Class 7. "Nobody has ever given me a Bible." Isaac, also in Class 7, is grateful too, saying, "This Word of God will provide and direct (me in) all the morals I need to practise in this life."

"We aim to raise these children to understand the love that God has for them and these Bibles will be of great value in doing so," says Belinda, a children's worker.

China: God's Word on the Mountains

The mountains and hills of Leshan, China, are a beautiful but challenging landscape for those distributing Bibles to the 70,000 resident Catholics.

Despite the 33 years of printing and more than 90 million Bibles from the Amity Printing Company for Chinese churches, Bibles are still hard to obtain for many Chinese Christians. As well as inaccessibility, financial constraints and steady church growth are some of the reasons it is hard. Knowing the needs of the parishioners in Leshan, Father Zhang requested 2000 free Bibles from the United Bible Societies (UBS), and UBS China Partnership readily responded.

Zhu Qiong, raised in a Tibetan Catholic family in Luding county, gratefully received a new Bible with larger print. She shared, "I love reading the Bible. It is the whole of my life."

Director Shi, who oversees Hanyuan Parish's learning centre, was so thankful for the Bibles from the UBS. "This will help more Catholics who live on the big mountains to read the Bible more!"

Your support is reaching Chinese Christians with a Bible of their own, so they can experience the deep peace and joy of the Lord.



South Africa: Finding the Narrow Road

South Africa's jails are overcrowded with prisoners who find themselves without hope. With so many incarcerated – approximately 164,000 prisoners in 235 prisons – it is easy to forget that each of these prisoners has a story.

23-year-old Asemahle Mofu is the grandson of a Christian minister and grew up going to church with his family. Yet the bad choices he made as he grew into adulthood resulted in his imprisonment. He became cruel and aggressive, and even in jail he joined a gang.

Yet in the midst of his destructive behaviour, God spoke and drew him to himself. In a dream, Asemahle heard God

speak to him. "The voice questioned why I was following the wrong road that leads to destruction and not the road that offers eternal life. I woke up and started praying and reading the Bible."

With your help, prisoners like Asemahle are being reached with the Bible and guided by Scripture resources. Bible Society works with the conviction that the Bible's message will bring transformation to the inmates.

"Now I am a changed person," says Asemahle. "I want to learn more about Christ in order to teach those who are still walking in darkness."

Vietnam: Meeting a Thirst to Go Deeper

For the more than one million Vietnamese evangelical Christians, there is a thirst to delve deeper into God's word. As church planting has increased in the country, lay preachers, evangelists, Sunday school teachers and attendees are all enthusiastically seeking to read the Bible more deeply.

Thanks to your support in 2020, Bible Society has been producing a Study Bible for Vietnamese Christians, so they may go deeper in their reading and understanding of God's word.

"There are few Bible-study materials available in Vietnamese," says one translation advisor. "Our purpose is to offer Vietnamese Christians a wide-range

reference as they seek to understand the word of God in the context of Vietnam."

A translator and editor for the project adds, "The strength of this Vietnamese Study Bible is that it helps learners explore deeper into the Word of God based on the historical and cultural evidence."

In the first quarter of 2020, Bible Society Vietnam printed the first 5000 copies of Luke's Gospel using the Study Bible format. High school chemistry teacher, Tung, said that the Study Bible will take the Bible to a whole new level for Vietnamese youth. "The Bible will never be the same for them, it has come alive!"

