

China:

Scripture Literacy for Illiterates

Overview

The majority of Christians in China live in rural areas and a high percentage of them are illiterate or semi-literate. The Scripture Literacy for Illiterates project provides literacy classes for rural Christians, allowing greater accessibility to the Bible. The goal of this project is to

help Christians become grounded in the Bible and able to resist false teaching.

The Need

According to the China Statistical Yearbook, as of 2020, there are over 37 million illiterate people above 15-years-old in China. Of this number, about 75% are women, due to cultural and traditional practices that deprioritise female education.

Many Chinese Christians are among this number and are unable to receive education beyond the primary school level. The need for literacy classes is significant.

Improved literacy would also help to address the church's concern over the widespread infiltration of cults found mainly in rural areas. Biblical literacy will help Christians discern between true and false teachings and prevent believers from being swayed by heresies.



Project Goals

In 2022, the hope is to reach 14,000 illiterate people. This will mainly include elderly people and women. Of this number, the project will reach 13,000 illiterate or semi-illiterate Han Chinese

speakers in several provinces, including 1,000 minority ethnic people who have only recently had a Bible translation completed in their language.

Impact

With improved literacy, spiritual growth can be expected for all believers as they are better able to understand sermons and Bible teaching.

Improved literacy also enhances the quality of life experienced in other areas. For example, people can be better informed of developments and changes in policies that affect them and be able to make more informed decisions for themselves.

As a result of the Scripture literacy program, these Christians will be equipped with basic literacy skills, enabling them to understand the Bible. Ultimately, they will come to a deeper understanding of God's love and have a better grasp of the Bible. They will also receive a Bible each upon graduating from the classes.

Testimonies

"Scripture literacy classes not only teach us how to read and write, but more importantly, they also teach us about God's truth. And God's truth protects us from the lies of the evil one."

- Yingli, Scripture literacy student

"My grandma is 64 years old. When she was young, her family was very poor and she didn't have a chance to read or write, so when she knew that the church is starting a Scripture literacy class, she signed up immediately! I have been attending the Scripture literacy lessons with my grandmother since the first lesson and I have never missed a single lesson. The instructor would teach the class how to read and write new words and sentences from the Bible."

- Zhao, granddaughter of a Scripture literacy student

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the Provincial Christian Council as they work with the local churches to run the Scripture literacy classes.
- Pray that the teachers will be motivated, wise and resilient.
- Pray that participants would learn quickly and be transformed by understanding God's word.
- Pray for the research efforts for running new classes.
- Pray for wisdom of developing and upgrading the literacy materials.