



# PEACE



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# Covering the Chaos

Dear Co-labourer in Christ,

From the world's perspective, peace seems elusive, perhaps even impossible.

Things are unsettled.

The war with Ukraine and Russia rages on, political tension with China, financial hardship locally and abroad, wildfires, earthquakes—these are just a few of the challenges impacting our ministry work in 2023. And although 'wars and rumours of wars' are not unexpected (Matthew 24:6), **the peace that we have in Christ enfolds the chaos.** The turmoil brings increased urgency to our mission.

People need to know Jesus—now!

Our partners around the world—the amazing partners that are the hands and feet for the Great Commission work that you are so passionate about—are committed to sharing the Living Word of God with their communities.

This past year, after 3 long years, I was finally able to meet face to face with these partners again in six regional gatherings across the globe. What a cause for celebration! Knowing that we are stronger together, and now being together, has cemented the bond for this community of leaders. Their passion for kingdom work in each of their almost 50 countries is inspiring and humbling. And you are a vital part of it—**your passionate and sacrificial support for this kingdom work not only encourages and motivates them, but allows them to thrive and look forward.**

No matter what our part of the kingdom work is, each part needs to be blanketed by the peace of Christ in order to see the increase.

And so, I pray this blessing from Numbers 6:24–26 for you and each of our ministry partners: *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

***"Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give you.***

*I do not give to you  
as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts  
be troubled and  
do not be afraid."*

**JOHN 14:27 NIV**



In His Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul".

**Paul Richardson**

President and CEO



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### MY PEACE I GIVE YOU

Shared the Gospel Message with **2,665,529** People\*

**118,369**  
Leaders, Teachers, and  
Church Planters Trained

**945,742**  
New Followers of Jesus

**274,381**  
People Baptized

**1,837,021**  
People in Programs\*\*

**10,970**  
New Churches Started

**4,620,443**  
Scriptures Placed

\*Shared the Gospel Message includes evangelistic contacts by church planters and people in programs.  
\*\*People in Programs includes participants in: Children's Ministry, Adult Ministry, and Church Planter Training.

# Thank you for your prayers and support!

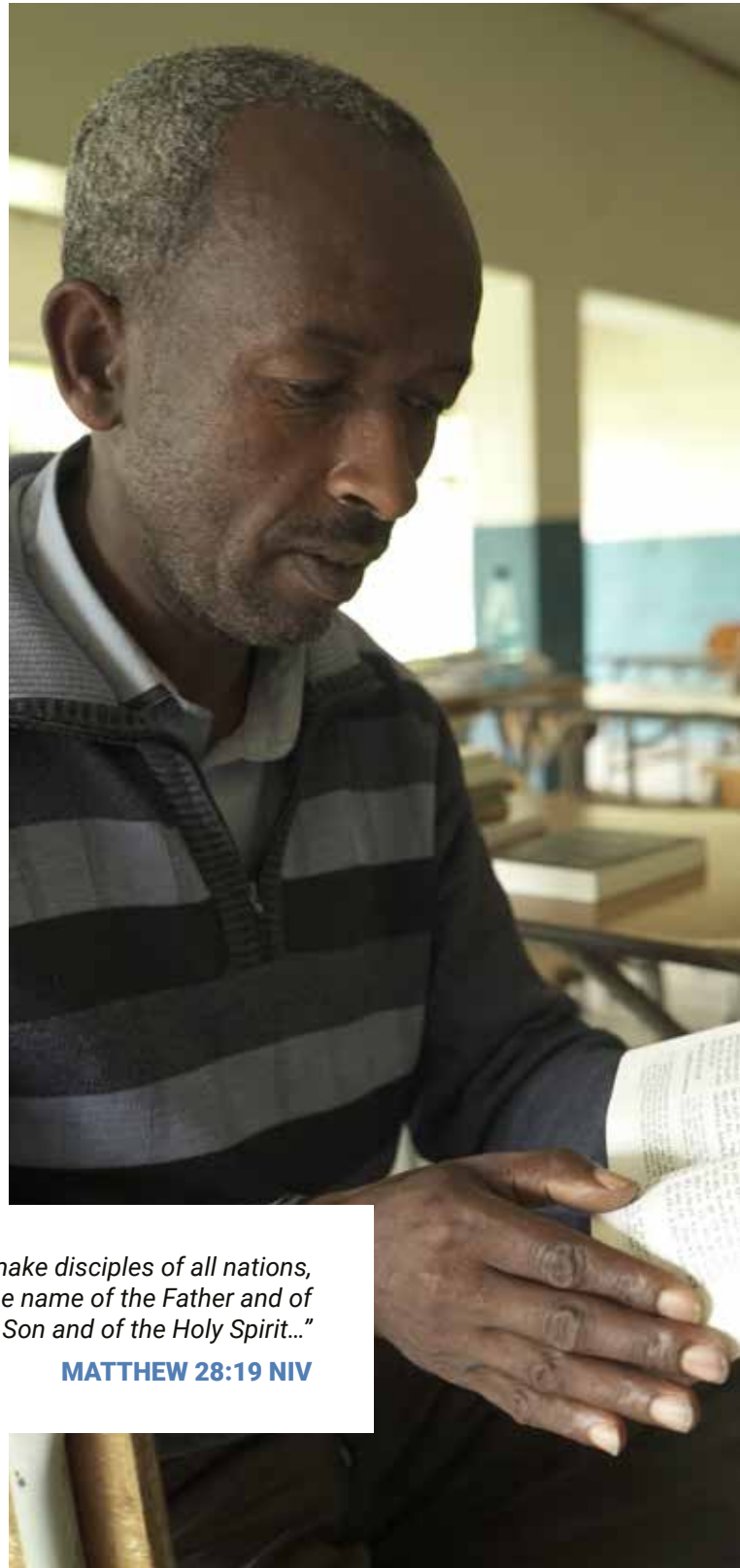
You equip and train local believers around the world to fulfill the Great Commission. It's local people who best understand and love their local communities.

That's why for over 50 years, Bible League Canada has done missions differently. **We equip and train local Christians—champions—around the world to start new churches and reach people in their own communities through adult and children's ministries, even in countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian.**

This New Testament approach to spreading the Gospel has reached millions in almost 50 countries and started thriving churches in communities. **By God's grace, you make this possible.**

You place Bibles in the hands of those who need it most, through trained local champions.

You are fulfilling your Great Commission calling!



*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."*

**MATTHEW 28:19 NIV**

# Ministry starts with God's Word—the Bible.

Working through proven strategic **ministry programs**, the Living Word of God transforms lives.

## **ADULT MINISTRY**

Literacy and Biblical literacy are important to reading and understanding the Word of God. Discipling adults in the Word of God is vital to their spiritual growth and key to understanding and applying God's will for their lives.

Local champions open the Bible to lead men and women to the truths in God's Word through literacy classes, Bible study groups, and prison ministry.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Trained local champions introduce children to the love of Jesus Christ through Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible School, Summer Camps, and even partnerships with national governments to work in existing public education systems.

When children meet Jesus, their hearts are transformed. And best of all, they take their new Bible and the life-giving message of Jesus Christ home to their families!

## **PERSECUTED CHURCH MINISTRY**

Believers in countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian ask for Bibles and our prayers. The Living Word of God builds up communities of oppressed believers and strengthens their resolve and equips them to share the Gospel with others.

In the midst of persecution, there is tremendous victory as the Gospel is shared and many come to know the hope and comfort of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

## **STARTING NEW CHURCHES**

By equipping Christian leaders with steady access to Bibles and training, local champions work to transform their own communities from the inside out.

With genuine faith and deep love for their neighbours, these local champions can spark powerful movements within their communities. These men and women receive mentorship from experienced leaders, tools for sharing God's Word, and hands-on guidance to start local churches where there are currently none.



# A Man of Peace



...that's what they call Pastor Edwin.

It's not an easy thing to be in Uganda. Once the centre of a civil war leading to the death of over 300,000 people, and the disruption of two million more, so much healing is needed: physical, emotional, and spiritual.

*Edwin says, "Like many others, my life was personally affected by war, and the effect trickles down to the children. This breaks my heart."*

Edwin joined the Children's Ministry training program, made possible through your support, when the program was first offered in Gulu District near Kampala, Uganda. He served as a pastor at the church that hosted the training.

"This training is unique. It is hands-on and clearly demonstrates the steps in a child's spiritual life as they progress: from the time they begin their personal relationship with Jesus to when they become active participants in increasing the kingdom of God. **My view of children's ministry changed from being confined to a church program on Sunday to an everyday, everywhere service for children both inside and outside the church building.**"

## AFRICA MINISTRY RESULTS

**523,853** Scriptures Placed

**218,781** New Followers of Jesus

**1,112** New Churches Started

Inspired, Edwin was organizing school outreaches, placing children’s Bibles—made possible because of you—and starting a community Bible Club to disciple new believers. The ministry grew, and they saw some of the new believing children, and their families, joining church on Sunday.

“Then,” says Edwin, “I clearly heard the Lord instructing me to relocate to Kitgum, my home district, a two-hour journey, and serve the children there. I realized the call had always been there, but I did not have the courage to say yes to Him until now. My training and new experience gave me peace with accepting His call!”

“The Lord granted us favour. We soon attracted the attention of youth in the community. We met in an open space with our new friends, in the shade of a huge tree. We began community Bible clubs and engaged the children in worship activities including

music, drama, singing, and instruments. We formed a sports club. Confidence came from the Lord, and from the training He blessed me with,” Edwin reported.

“I feel called, and now equipped, to help raise up a transformed generation and have peace in our land. That is our journey now.”

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”*

**MATTHEW 5:9 NIV**



*"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."*

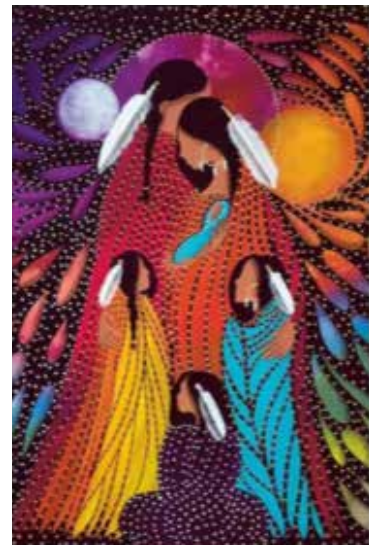
**ROMANS 10:17 NIV**

# Finding Peace

Research indicates more than 40% of Canadian inmates are from the Indigenous community and in some prisons this statistic grows to 80%. Literacy rates within the prison system are at a grade 8 level, but the Indigenous inmate population has even lower than average literacy and numeracy rates, along with difficulty in comprehension and written communication skills.

Learning about this community helps broaden our understanding of the human story and respond more intentionally to the needs of inmates. Finding a way to communicate the Gospel message in a way that honours their cultural and literacy needs is vital to bringing about life transformation and hope through the Living Word of God.

A national committee partnering with Indigenous Christian leaders and engaging



## CANADA MINISTRY RESULTS

**6,988**

Scriptures Placed

**416**

New Followers of Jesus

**22**

New Churches Started





an Indigenous author and advocate created Bible studies that respond to the literacy rates, learning styles, and cultural needs of these inmates.

Through your support, author Randi-Lynn was commissioned to write the first Bible correspondence study series designed specifically for Indigenous inmates.

A born and raised Métis who was part of a Christian Indigenous family and community in Calgary, Randi-Lynn completed a Justice Studies diploma to work in the Canadian Correctional System specifically with Indigenous people. She has a passion for her faith, family, and her people. She is excited to be working in ministry that will bring healing to those within the correctional system.



Randi-Lynn's first study on the topic of God as Creator is true to the Word of God while still honouring her Indigenous cultural background. She recognizes that in her community, most of the confusion lies in the belief that the beautiful diversity within Indigenous cultural practices cannot be honoured within the Christian faith. She is working hard to address that tension.



Vivid Indigenous illustrations help respond to the literacy and comprehension needs of inmates, but also help to connect

words to the cultural importance of art. "For my community, art is a way to tell our story. Historically, we painted our horses, our teepees, our utensils, and so much more. Art takes words on a page and draws our readers into the story of God as Creator."



Randi-Lynn has a calling to help her community find peace by learning about the transforming power of Jesus to heal generational trauma and brokenness.

# Passing the Peace

Marek grew up in Kalisz, Poland in the 1970's. His parents had a troubled relationship, marked by violence. As he got older, Marek rebelled, indulging in smoking, drugs, and crime with friends. He went to prison multiple times, becoming increasingly callous. Even after marriage and fatherhood, his life didn't change.

He hit rock bottom when his actions drove his wife and children away, and this led to

a suicide attempt in prison. Divorced and struggling, Marek attended prison church meetings out of desperation and curiosity, eventually connecting with a sincere former gangster, Piotr, who had turned to Christ. Piotr's influence led Marek to pray for his own salvation.

Marek's life changed as he began studying the Bible and applying its teachings to his life. He shifted from self-centeredness to caring for others. He passed on the peace of Christ that he had found to fellow prisoners, helping them to discover faith in Jesus and connect them with the correspondence Bible studies made possible through your support.





Marek's faith grew, leading to baptism. Though he remains in prison for past crimes, Marek continues to share his testimony, help others, and study the Bible. He learned to find gratitude even in difficult circumstances, understanding that God can turn challenges into opportunities for growth.

God has the power to free people from sin and addictions—Marek knows this. He urges everyone he meets to open their hearts to Jesus, who forgives and offers grace. Through faith, even the darkest situations can lead to positive change.

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*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

**ROMANS 8:28 NIV**

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## **EASTERN EUROPE MINISTRY RESULTS**

**649,627** Scriptures Placed

**36,388** New Followers of Jesus

**334** New Churches Started

Dear Fellow Worker in Christ,

Myanmar, Mexico, Ukraine, South Sudan, Ethiopia. These countries all have at least two things in common. Sadly, they are all nations dealing with conflict, either internally or from outside aggressors. They are also all countries in which Bible League Canada partners with national champions to bring the peace of Jesus to their own people.

Perhaps never before in the history of Bible League Canada has our work been more necessary, and at the same time, by the grace of God, had more of an impact in **bringing the peace of Christ to nations and individual lives.**

A medical doctor in a closed country in Africa that has been at war for many years, who for the first 65 years of his life was a devoted Muslim, became a follower of Christ in 2023 through our partner ministry in his country. After experiencing peace and the assurance of eternal life for the first time, he said, "I will play my role to bring peace among my Muslim brothers and tell them about Jesus."

There is only one answer to the cry of billions of people around the world for peace, both within their nations and within their hearts, and that is the person of Jesus Christ.

In Psalm 75:3 we read this promise from our Creator, "**When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm.**" Through your generosity, we were able to come alongside thousands of peacemakers who brought the peace that only Jesus offers to nations and individual hearts. Hundreds of thousands of individuals experienced what Jesus promised in John 14:27, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*"

Thank you for being a peacemaker through your faithful support.



In His Name,



**Rev. Bob Beasley**

Senior Vice-President



# Ministry Results

EVERY NUMBER HAS A NAME

<b>MINISTRY RESULTS SUMMARY</b>	FY2022-23	FY2019-20- FY2022-23
Leaders/Teachers/Church Planters Trained	118,369	423,442
People in Programs*	1,837,021	5,098,647
Evangelistic Contacts by Church Planters	828,508	2,448,579
New Followers of Jesus	945,742	2,781,125
Number of People Baptized	274,381	713,908
New Churches Started	10,970	31,837

## SCRIPTURE RESULTS

Bibles	353,688	1,905,619
Study Bibles	60,003	111,035
New Testaments	375,987	1,065,376
Children's Portions/Booklets	1,788,363	4,751,762
Children's Story Bibles	112,753	258,640
Bible Portions/Selections/Booklets	1,929,649	7,006,115

### TOTAL SCRIPTURES PLACED

4,620,443

15,098,547

Digital Scriptures Placed\*\*

2,928,951

\*Includes participants in Children's Ministry, Adult Ministry, and Church Planter Training

\*\*Includes digital Scriptures, photos, maps, and video and audio Bibles

INDIA

# Peace Restored

Young Sarla loved to play tricks and mean pranks on others and would secretly steal fruits and flowers from the neighbours. When disciplined, Sarla would react with rudeness.



Angrily, the neighbours cursed her with bad luck. Because of their superstitious nature, this frightened her parents.

Then Sarla was diagnosed with a heart condition. Despite medication and sacrifices offered to ward off evil spirits, her chest pains worsened.

To cheer her up, Sarla's parents enrolled her in a Children's Bible Club, led by Chatura, and made possible through your support. Hearing of Sarla's condition, Chatura comforted them by saying,

***"Jesus has power over life and death. Raising the dead is possible for Him, so He can surely heal a weak heart and ease her pain."***

***"Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble."***

**PSALM 119:165 NIV**

Sarla's parents began to seek Jesus alongside Chatura. They prayed for Jesus' healing of their daughter, and within a few days, Sarla's pain was improving. She began to feel stronger. Her parents were overwhelmed and thanked the Lord!

Sarla enjoys the Bible Club. The Bible-based curriculum helps Sarla understand God's perspective about life and the importance of obeying her parents. She has repented of her past actions and instead acts cheerfully and respectfully toward neighbours and peers.

Sarla now seeks Jesus in prayer and has memorized several pieces of Scripture from her Bible. She has learned many songs about Jesus and she is often humming as she plays or does schoolwork. Chatura helps Sarla to understand topics that challenge her, with the hope that someday, she, too, can be an influential teacher.

Her parents are overjoyed that Jesus has restored the hope and peace in their lives. As they continue to discover more about Jesus, please pray that they will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

## INDIA MINISTRY RESULTS

**2,257,710** Scriptures Placed

**592,591** New Followers of Jesus

**6,140** New Churches Started



# Come in Peace

Cúcuta, a small municipality in Colombia, is not a peaceful place. Thanks to its copious trees, which far outnumber its inhabitants, Cúcuta is beautiful, but not peaceful.

Cúcuta is a vulnerable community with families lacking economic resources. Many experience domestic violence, and there are children living on the streets. Some estimates indicate 80% of the population is somehow involved in the drug trade.

Francisco calls Cúcuta home.

Francisco loves Jesus and wants to see his community transformed to know the joy and the peace that only Jesus can bring. He completed the training to start new churches, made possible through your support, and he is excited about the work that he has set out to do in the community.



## LATIN AMERICA MINISTRY RESULTS

**29,780**

Scriptures Placed

**15,087**

New Followers of Jesus

**1,219**

New Churches Started



*"The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest."*

**ISAIAH 32:17-18 NIV**



Francisco says that one of the most important parts of his training is the focus on mentoring the leaders in their new churches. Through this mentoring, they will see these new churches grow and multiply.

To have members of the church serving the community is an important component of spiritual growth. Francisco loves that the neighbourhood sees the church not only preaching the Gospel but also living out their faith in the community. Seven days a week, not just one.

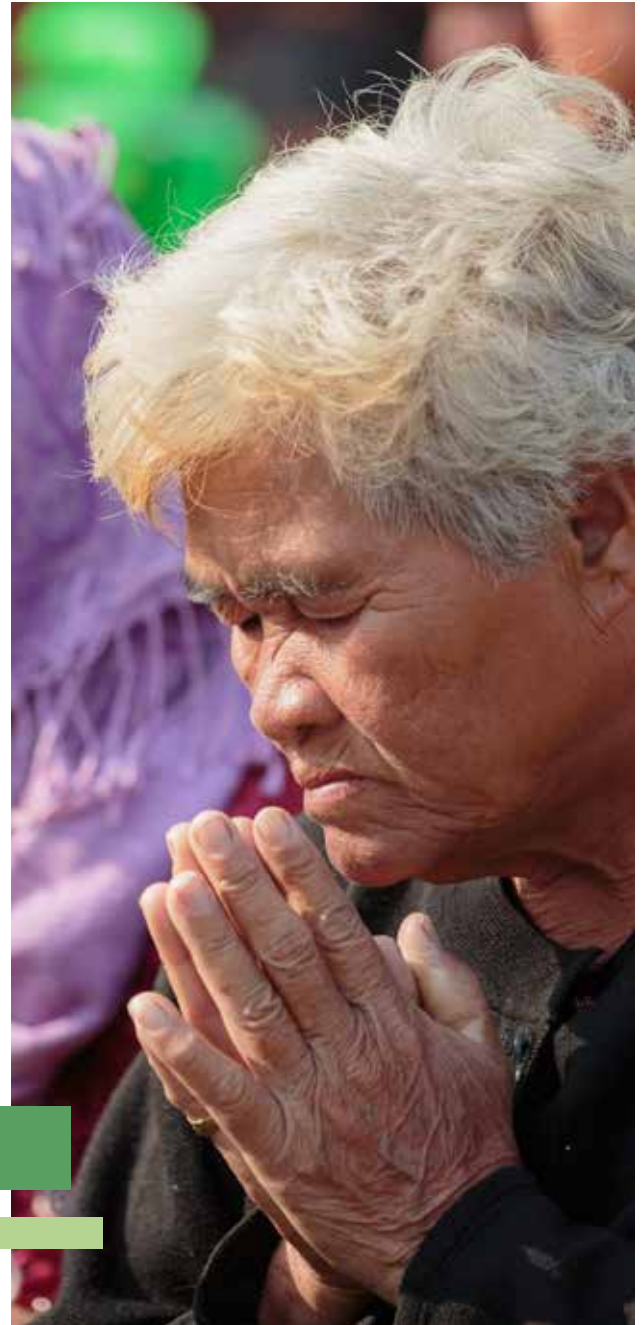
His church focuses on caring for the at-risk children on the streets in four areas: their spiritual life, their nutrition, their emotional health, and helping them learn a trade. This has impacted the children in such a positive way that the parents take an interest, and the community as a whole has more respect for the church. The programs grow, giving more opportunity to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to their neighbours!

# Peacemaker

Koem Lin had received training to start new churches, thanks to your support. She loves reaching out to new people. Travelling on her motorbike, she journeyed to Kep, the smallest province in Cambodia and started to pray for people and share the Good News of Jesus. As she gained their trust, the people in one village started to tell her of the family just outside town, with dangerous children.

The father lived with three adult children that were demon possessed. The two girls would run into the mountains and eat pebbles, terrorizing anyone that came in their path. The whole village knew them and their brother to be violent and aggressive. Their father was filled with shame and could no longer speak.

When Koem approached the house, she saw the young man was bound up by thick chains. His father had scars all over his body from caring for his son. Koem was determined to be a peacemaker for this hurting family, and committed to praying Scripture with their father for 30 days.



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*"Peacemakers who sow in peace  
reap a harvest of righteousness."*

**JAMES 3:18 NIV**

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After the first week, his voice was restored. The next week, first one daughter, then the other, woke as if from sleep, and were peaceful. **The Word of God had delivered them! The Holy Spirit had entered their home and their lives—bringing peace and hope!**

But the son was still violent and dangerous. Koem stayed two more weeks, praying daily and reading Scripture to him, until finally he was calm. They unchained his hands and he calmly ate a meal. They removed the leg chains and his father, with tears of joy running down his face, bathed and dressed him.

The village was amazed at what had happened. People from all over the province came to see if it was true. Many came looking for healing and peace in their own lives. Koem was able to share the message of the power of Jesus' name over and over again. Soon every village in the province of Kep had heard the Gospel. House churches were started in each village. This small village in the smallest province in Cambodia had a great impact.

With all praise and thanks to the Lord, all three children are now being disciplined. And their father, eager to pass this peace of Christ to others, is being mentored to be one of the leaders for the new house church in the village.



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## **SOUTH EAST ASIA MINISTRY RESULTS**

**1,152,485** Scriptures Placed

**82,479** New Followers of Jesus

**2,143** New Churches Started



Dear Co-labourer in Christ,

2023 has been a year filled with new beginnings.

In many tangible ways, the pandemic has come to an end, and **we are seeing the affirmation that ministry has been made stronger all over the globe**, with established partnerships being refreshed, and new partnerships being developed.

This year was also a new beginning for me, as Director of the Finance and Administration team at Bible League Canada. It has been amazing to see how God is weaving paths together and encouraging new leaders. I am so excited and humbled to be able to share the evidence of the stewardship of His resources supporting the Great Commission work we have all been called to.

2023 has been marked by financial blessing, from donor faithfulness and new partnership engagement, to BFM Foundation Canada and Mission Thrift Store consistency. All of these blessings have combined, in God's perfect plan and will, to produce one of the strongest fiscal year ends, from a momentum perspective, as well as the second highest ever total revenue result! We rejoice in this result and are deeply grateful for your support during this year.

Keeping a heart of thankfulness, we acknowledge the faith and commitment that will be needed to continue to grow this mission.

With the ending of this current year, yet another new beginning emerges, with fresh challenges and tests. With your prayer support, those challenges will be met with peace rather than fear. Peace in knowing we can rely on God to provide for all our needs, peace in knowing He will guide us as we serve in a fiscally responsible manner, and, most importantly, peace in knowing that His will ultimately will be done.



In His Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR' followed by a stylized flourish.

**Aaron Riede**

Director, Finance and Administration



# Financial Results

**83%**

of total expenditures went towards international ministry.

## BIBLE LEAGUE CANADA STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Year Ended August 31

REVENUE	2023	2022
Contributions Received	\$7,506,706	\$7,869,428
BFM Thrift Stores	\$9,364,701	\$9,087,004
Interest and Other Revenue	\$171,771	\$17,740
Publication Sales	\$10,864	\$120,718
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,054,042</b>	<b>\$17,094,890</b>

## EXPENDITURES

International Ministry	\$13,311,420	\$13,295,290
Administration	\$1,470,088	\$1,376,641
Fundraising	\$1,288,280	\$1,236,040
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,069,788</b>	<b>\$15,907,971</b>

83% of total expenditures in FY2022-23 went towards international ministry, 9% was spent on Administration, and 8% on Fundraising

**With thanks to God!** By the grace of God, your donations and contributions totaling \$16.8 million in 2023 fulfilled ministry commitments to the field: \$13.3 million was directed to ministry in almost 50 countries. Praise the Lord!

We are reliant on God's provision to make this happen, and Bible League Canada's ministry model means these funds go further, and with a multiplying effect. But despite all of this cause for celebration - we still have waiting lists.

**The need still outweighs the ability to fund it. God's kingdom work continues!**

We are providing a snapshot of Bible League Canada's Financial Statements for fiscal year ending August 31, 2023—a small piece of the larger journey that turns your Holy Spirit-led giving into transformed lives. These numbers are grounded in faith and with thanks to God for His provision.

If you are interested in seeing our full audited financial statements, please go online to [BibleLeague.ca/Accountability](https://BibleLeague.ca/Accountability), email [Ministry@BibleLeague.ca](mailto:Ministry@BibleLeague.ca), or call 1.800.363.9673.

## Stronger Together

What started with a few donors who chose to use what was in their hands for God's Kingdom work, has turned into 35 years of faithful and fruitful partnership with BFM Foundation Canada and Mission Thrift Stores.

Recognizing that there is strength in working together for kingdom work, in 1988, Bible League Canada entered into a unique joint ministry relationship with BFM Foundation Canada and the Mission Thrift Stores.



When a Mission Thrift Store converts donated used goods into cash, 100% of their net revenue supports the joint ministry of BFM Foundation Canada and Bible League Canada. We are very grateful for this continued partnership that has furthered the reach of the Gospel in almost 50 countries worldwide.

2023 was a year filled with blessings and restoration of capacity, and faithful volunteers and staff took up the challenge to make ministry happen. Stronger together!



**50** Mission Thrift Stores  
**4,433** Volunteers and Staff



# One Body, Many Parts

Bible League Canada is blessed and honoured to work alongside incredible ministry partners and foundations, all faithful to the vision of seeing lives transformed by the Living Word of God.

Together, this league of champions—global champions, donor champions like you, and local champions “...spur one another on toward love and good deeds...” Hebrews 10:24.

The kingdom efforts of any one of these partners and foundations are good, but many, committed to working together for one purpose are greater, stronger!



## Ministry Partners

Acts 29

Alkebu Leadership Development Centre

AWANA Canada

Bible League International

C2C Collective

Child Evangelism Fellowship Ontario

The Digital Bible Society

International Bible Givers

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

LIFT Church

The Message Canada

Mission Eurasia

Mission India

Multiplication Network

New Life Prison Ministry

One Hope Canada

Reach A Village

Scripture Union

Tyndale Intercultural Ministries

## Partners Supporting Our 2023 Vision

BFM Foundation Canada

BFM Thrift Store - Abbotsford

Brandt Foundation Inc.

The Damascus Road Foundation

The John Brouwer Foundation

The Reimer Express Foundation

Selwyn Outreach Centre



# Thank You!

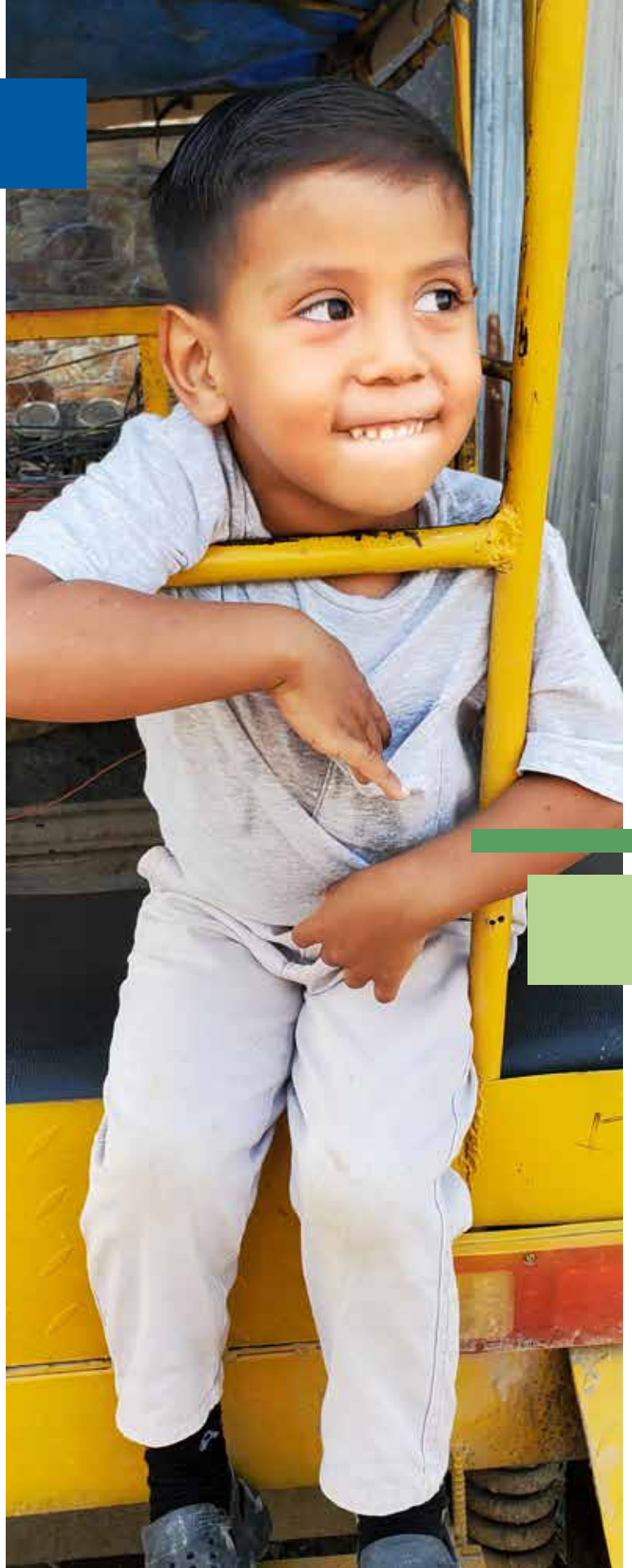
*"Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give you..."*

**JOHN 14:27 NIV**

This is our prayer for you. May these powerful, comforting words from John 14 spur you on in your kingdom calling!

As a donor champion partnering with local champions around the world, your support and prayers have helped to reach millions of people with the Living Word of God.

2024 will be filled with challenges and tests, but they are all covered by this prayer.



**BibleLeague.ca**  
**1.800.363.9673**  
**Ministry@BibleLeague.ca**

Bible League Canada is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a charitable organization.  
Registration number: 10822-2084-RR0001