

Joyreport

THE LIVING WORD TRANSFORMING LIVES

Spring 2024

**You Are
Making a
Difference!**

**Read stories inside that
you made possible!**

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ESL Programs** *page 3*

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to Christianity** *page 4*

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through Bible Club** *page 6*



Starting new churches among the Waorani people in Ecuador.
Story on *page 7*.



Connecting Canadian donor champions like you with global champions to see maximum impact and multiplying transformation.

Bible League Canada is committed to doing missions differently. How? Through extraordinary international partnerships in almost 50 countries. Local believers, equipped through Bible-centric discipleship programs to become champions for the Gospel, are reaching their own communities with the Living Word of God.

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MINISTRY UPDATES

Made Possible Through Your Support

Bibles for the Lisu People

There are over 1 million Lisu people, spread out through China, Myanmar, and Thailand. One third of them are believers, but most of them have no Bible. Parents, leaders and even pastors. By God's grace, you made it possible to place **56,154 Bibles in the eager, waiting hands of Lisu believers**, in the language of their heart!

Children in China

You have made a difference for children and their families in China. You know the importance of sharing the Word of God with family. Because of you, **67,654 Bibles were placed with children in China being disciplined through children's programs**. They will carry this Bible home to their families, increasing your impact!

Thank you!

"...because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

REVELATION 5:9-10 NIV



ADULT MINISTRY: CANADA

Double the Blessing

Immigration is happening across Canada, and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs are a vital resource for these new Canadians!

Estefania is a key leader of one such program in North York, Ontario. She has a passion for English as a second language as an evangelistic outreach opportunity. **Leaders, trained through your support are excited and engaged to be using this ESL Program to meet the growing need of learning English in their community.**

Many of the learners, when they arrive, know just enough English to work, but not enough English to support needs such as banking, shopping, or interacting with their children's school. In addition, many of them also lack the skill to read and write English. Estefania recognized this need and knew this program could make a difference.

By providing this service to their local community, they could meet and engage with non-believers and invite them into relationship while teaching them English.

The ESL Program is specifically designed to introduce learners to the Gospel of Jesus in each lesson, starting in lesson five. The Gospel message is introduced more and more as learners progress through each lesson.

In addition to the lessons, leaders are trained in how to create a welcoming and inviting environment for the learners, using Gospel stories as encouragement and support as they develop relationships with each learner in their group. Each student also receives a Bible when they join the program, made possible through your support.

These new Canadians learn the English language they came for and are introduced to the Living Word. Double the blessings!

A woman with glasses and white face paint is shown in profile, reading a Bible. She is wearing an orange top and a floral patterned skirt. The background is dark with bokeh lights.

STARTING NEW CHURCHES: MYANMAR

Jesus Is the Answer

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

MATTHEW 11:28-30 NIV

“My name is *Khin. I was born into a strong Buddhist family. I married at 16 years old, and we had 9 sons who all grew up to become respected monks in monasteries around the country.

Then my husband died, and I was overwhelmed. Desperate for peace, I went to the Buddhist temple and asked for prayer, but nothing changed. No one could give me peace and joy in my life. I had money, but money could not give me what I needed. I needed answers.

A man, a pastor in my village, came to me and shared a little about Jesus and gave me a New Testament, as well as an introduction booklet. After he left, I started reading the booklet and the very first page said that ‘there is only one God, full of love, full of mercy who is a fair God. He carries away people’s sorrows, sadness, sickness and He knows all our thinking. He can show the best way which we should walk every day and He can encourage us.’ I read through the introduction and felt a stirring in my heart. Could this be my answer?

I began to read the New Testament. Now I began to understand the living and eternal God who is the powerful God. It is He who gives peace and provision, and who is our helper and more. The pastor came again to share more about Jesus. He answered all my questions and that day I confessed my sins and received Christ as my personal Saviour! He invited me to his church.

Now, my life was full of joy, peace, and abundant blessings. I committed my high blood pressure, blood sugar, and all other sickness to the Lord and He healed my body and soul. I read the New Testament every day and wrote the Scripture texts on paper and sent them to my sons. I called one by phone every day and shared about Jesus. After three years of sending Bible verses, sharing about Jesus and what He has done for me, and praying for them, five of my sons accepted Christ and left their monasteries and became Christians! These five sons now study in Christian Bible colleges. Then my other four sons also accepted Christ! Now all nine of my sons live for Jesus!

I had worn out my New Testament. I read it more than a hundred times, and the pages were damaged. So, I prayed for a Bible. The very next Sunday when I went to my new church, they had received a shipment of full Bibles. Boldly, I asked for, and received, ten copies—one for me and one for each of my sons. God is good beyond my prayers. Now, I am the happiest woman in the world, receiving God’s mercy new every morning.”

Because of you, the pastor that visited Khin was trained and equipped with Bibles. By God’s grace, these ten lives were transformed by the Living Word!

**Name changed for security purposes.*

In Search of Peace

Soukhya, age 14, and her family worshipped their deities and followed their traditions to please their gods for their well-being and prosperity.

Her parents both worked as day labourers but were still unable to meet their needs. Soukhya's father often spent his earnings on alcohol, which led to arguments between her parents. Joy and peace were hard to find in their family. And they never had enough food. Soukhya did not understand why their gods did not favour them despite their prayers. Angrily, she concluded that no idols could provide for their needs. She lost hope.



*"All your children will be taught by the LORD,
and great will be their peace."*

ISAIAH 54:13 NIV

When a Children's Bible Club started in their village she was invited by the leader, Prashanta. Until then, she had never seen a Bible or heard of Christians.

She was delighted with the activities in the Bible Club. Soukhya learned new action songs and loved them. She heard stories from the Bible and then **she learned about Jesus. Could He bring peace and joy to her life?**

When Prashanta gave her a Children's Bible, made possible through your support, Soukhya was excited to read it. Soon, she was reading it whenever she found time, even while she was walking to Bible Club and back home!

Soukhya now understood more about Jesus and she was drawn closer to Him. She learned that Jesus came to the world as a man and died for our sins and rose again. She believed Jesus had died for her! She received Him as her Saviour, and she has found peace in Him. She also believes Jesus will bring this peace to her family. Her prayer is for her parents to be loving and kind to each other and for peace to be present in their home. AMEN!

Your support brings the Living Word of God and peace to the lives of these children.

STARTING NEW CHURCHES: ECUADOR

Opening Doors

Within the Amazon rainforest live the Waorani people. The Waorani Ethnic Reserve, the largest indigenous reserve in Ecuador, is very remote. However, the Gospel has taken hold among the Waorani people and Pastor Jorge, trained to start new churches through your support, felt the call to start a church in this community.

This is a daughter church of the one he started in nearby Tena. The church has people who speak three different dialects of the Wao language – the heart language of the Waorani people. Pastor Jorge is excited to be part of a multiplying church. The goal is to plant a church in every community, a challenging goal when most can be accessed only by boat or on foot.

Beyond the reserve is Yasuni National Park, and on its border the Taromenane people live in voluntary isolation. The Waorani believers have a desire to reach the Taromenane, but they are not allowed to enter their land. However, one family in one of those border churches has contact with some of the Taromenane and they are hoping this will open up a door into this closed region.

For now, new churches are being started in villages right along the border where the



Taromenane people live, praying that when the opportunity comes, they will be able to start churches in the nearby, but currently isolated, Taromenane villages.

Pray that God will open those doors!

"...so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and that there is no other."

1 KINGS 8:60 NIV

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A Church with No Bibles

You would never expect to attend church or your small group without your Bible. Or look around the room and see no one else has a Bible either.

But that is what is happening to church leaders in countries around the world.

Leaders, discipling new believers, without Bibles.

One pastor says, "I can see the light of Christ in my congregation. But I need Bibles! We only have five Bibles that they must share."



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