

THE LIVING WORD TRANSFORMING LIVES

Joyreport

Summer 2024

You are
making a
difference!



**Read stories that
you made possible!**

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 **Bible League**
CANADA



A new church in Mongolia meets in a yurt. 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 Persecuted Christians

Believers in countries where it can be dangerous to be a Christian ask for just two things: Bibles and prayers. The Living Word of God builds up these communities of oppressed believers and strengthens their resolve. In the midst of their persecution, being able to hold their own copy of God's Word brings hope and comfort. In November and December 2023, **your support for the matching gift made it possible to send 202,736 Bibles to persecuted believers!**

Bibles and Training Where Most Needed

By partnering with more than 3,500 local Christian leaders around the world who are ministering to hundreds of thousands of believers, AND partnering with you, our Canadian donor champions, we minister together to share the love and hope of Jesus. Bibles are in short supply in many countries, even in the church. But by the grace of God, through your support in January, **8,456 Bibles were placed in eager, waiting hands all over the world!**

Bibles for India

Many Christians in India face persecution. New believers are particularly vulnerable, facing hostility from their friends, and even their families. The Word of God provides them comfort and hope, and strengthens their new found faith in Jesus. During February, **your support made it possible to place 13,057 Bibles in the hands of new believers** excited for their very own copy of God's Word!

Thank you!

Searching for Peace

A new believer in Russia writes, “I am 36 years old and for 33 of those years I lived without God.

I started drinking when I was 12, and then, it wasn't long before I tried drugs. At 14, I fell in love with a man much older than me and gave birth to a daughter. Life was terrible: drugs, alcohol, fights, and finally, abandoned. I so badly wanted peace, but my life worsened daily.

Then, I met my current husband, Vlad, who also liked drinking and using drugs. But soon, his behaviour landed him in prison, and I was alone again.

That's when I was invited to a Christian meeting for the first time, where I heard about Jesus. But I didn't like it there, and wanted to find a church where I would like the atmosphere and feel comfortable. **I was searching for what I wanted, not for God.**

Life went on. From time to time, Vlad was released from prison but it was a constant cycle of alcohol, drugs, quarreling, and so on. I gave birth to a baby boy, but Vlad was imprisoned four times during the next 10 years. I was so tired of it all.

Then Vlad called me one day and said that he had met God in prison and repented! He told me a lot about Jesus Christ.

With each call home, my husband talked more about Jesus and urged me to repent. He asked his prison chaplain Alex*, trained through your support, to meet with me in our home. We met, and I started attending church.

When my daughter got really sick, she told me she wanted to receive Jesus as her Saviour.



“...you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

COLOSSIANS 3:9–10 NIV

I asked Alex to pray over her. While he prayed, I also asked God for forgiveness

Two months later, my daughter died peacefully, knowing Jesus. With Alex's guidance, **I started reading the Bible he gave me, and even though I didn't understand and had so many questions, I just kept reading.**

I faithfully attended church and home group meetings. The church really took care of me and my son. When my husband was released, we began attending church together, serving and dedicating our lives to God. After six months, we were baptized!

Our lives have changed, and we are happy in the Lord. **God gave us everything we needed—peace and a happy family life.** Glory be to Him!”

You made it possible for this new believer to hear about Jesus and receive a Bible.

*Names changed for security purposes.

STEMcation Camps

Connecting Faith and
Science for Kids in Kenya



"STEMcation Camp" you say? This is the Vacation Bible School that has the kids in one region of Kenya very excited!

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and STEMcation Camps uniquely integrate STEM activities with biblical teachings. This provides an exciting and impactful experience for children aged 4 to 13. Run by the local Literacy Centre in Kenya, **children can explore and appreciate the physical aspects of the world God has created while discovering more about Jesus.**

The first STEMcation Camp witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 100 children, with hands-on activities that ensured engaging and age-appropriate learning experiences.

The program, developed in partnership with CEF Canada, has been run successfully by local churches in Canada for almost two years. Working closely with our Canadian partners to provide the resources and Bibles needed to effectively translate this success to the program in Kenya was a project three months in the making.



The camp was an amazing place to be while the kids were busy. The Bible teachings and activities about the world they live in ignited their curiosity for science. Some kids even realized the practical applications of these skills in various fields, and the possibilities for their futures:

Joy shared, "Different activities at STEMcation Camp helped me know that I want to be a nurse or pharmacist when I grow up."

"...he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it..."

ISAIAH 45:18a NIV

Jeremy is determined to use the gifts God gave him. "I was inspired by the circuit activities. In the future, I will solve difficult math problems and be a good scientist to improve prosthetics."

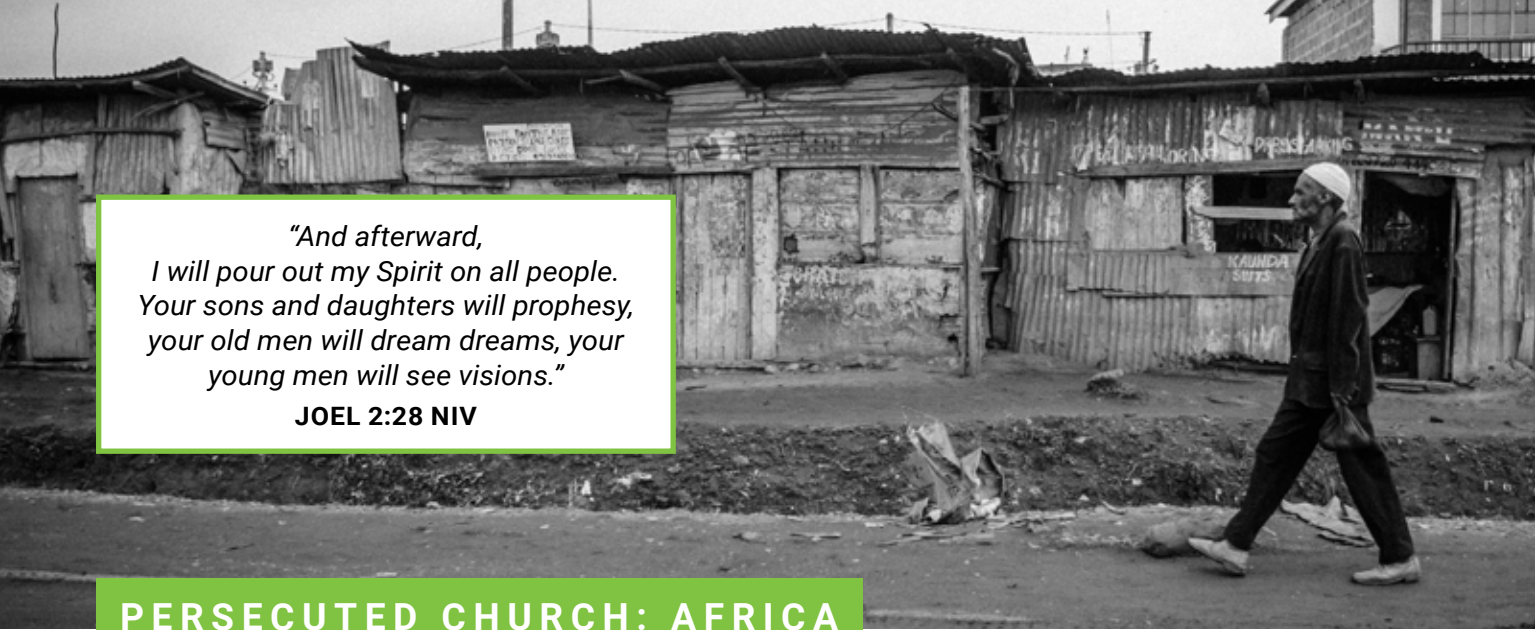
Valentine said, "Through the STEM camp, I have learned how to come up with solutions to challenges."

As a new initiative, the program not only impacts the kids, but the teachers, too. Destiny, a volunteer teacher, shared her experience, "I was excited about the impact, connecting science and faith. The testimonies and positive responses from children and parents underscore the success of the program."

The plan is to bring STEMcation to many regions in Kenya and eastern Africa. This is groundbreaking work for inspiring children to explore the wonders of science and creation while deepening their faith in their Creator!



You made it possible for kids in Kenya, and Canada, to learn about their physical world and the God who created it!



*"And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams, your
young men will see visions."*

JOEL 2:28 NIV

PERSECUTED CHURCH: AFRICA

Jesus Protected Me

Abu* is a home church leader and thanks to training made possible through your support, he knew the Bible well. Seven years ago, he started talking about Christ to Abdella*, a leader in the local mosque. But Abdella pushed him away.

Abdella had a series of visions of a tall man with white clothes and white hair, always after talking with Abu. Abdella was convinced, and two years from the time he first heard about Christ, Abdella accepted Him as his Saviour.

When Abdella's brother found out, he broke into Abdella's house at the urging of his friends, and threw a spear, aiming to kill him. It only tore his trousers, but Abdella's brother was overcome by his actions—he'd tried to kill his only brother! Abdella chose to extend forgiveness.

"My brother was amazed at how Jesus had protected me from his hand, and he told everyone what happened," Abdella said. "I did not press charges, and God used this to touch the hearts of many people, including my brother."

In their community, forgiveness is not the usual response for attempted murder. But Abdella forgave his brother, and this so impacted him that four days later, he accepted Christ too!

But persecution and sacrifice followed them.

Neighbours went to court, saying that Abdella was teaching Christianity in the mosque. Three people falsely testified as "witnesses." The court ruled that he could no longer teach in the mosque.

Abdella now serves as a ministry volunteer, leading Bible studies at home groups in his village. "In our Bible study and worship, we pray in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and people are coming to Christ!" Abdella says.

In countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian, you make it possible for Bibles to be placed in the hands of new believers.

**Names changed for security purposes.*

Mongolia!

This is our first ever report from this country! We are excited to report that ministry work has begun in Mongolia.

In 2019, 8,000 booklets containing powerful and captivating testimonies of 10 Mongolian Christians were printed as part of a project that included advertising the booklet in different public spaces, on public transport, billboards, posters, and on local television. The ads invited people who were interested to call or text and receive the booklet for free.

Numerous coordination and call centres operated by volunteers personally delivered the books to those who called. If the person was willing to hear more, they would tell them about God and His Son Jesus. The goal was for people to seek out more information and go to their local church.

But the project faltered.

Then, at the beginning of 2023, ministry work was restored with the support of our partner in Eurasia! Special events were organized in local churches for people interested in learning more about God after reading the testimony booklet. Pastor Tsogo, whose testimony is in the booklet, went to each event to share his life-changing testimony in person, and the Good News about Jesus Christ. Then he would offer to pray with anyone who wanted to surrender their lives to God.

This is his story: For many years Tsogo struggled. First, his father committed suicide, and then two of his brothers were killed. The local Lama told him that there was a curse on their home and that more

men would die. Soon after, another of his brothers got sick and died.

Desperate and afraid, Tsogo turned to alcohol and crime. He went to prison three times and made two unsuccessful suicide attempts. He lost all hope, despairing that he didn't die. Then he heard the Gospel message while in prison. God touched his heart, and through many demonstrations of His care and love, God completely restored Tsogo's life. God eventually gave him a beautiful wife and three children, as well as the schooling to become a pastor. Soon after he took the training to start new churches, thanks to your support. These live events are his way of reaching out to his community and growing the church.

In just one evening, about 40 adults and 15 children prayed for repentance and received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour! The following Sunday they were all there to hear more and accept their very first Bible, also made possible through your support. This is an exciting time as ministry begins in a new country!



"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

ISAIAH 43:19 NIV

You helped make this possible! Please pray for Mongolia, that the Lord would continue to prosper this new ministry work.

Kids need Jesus!

After School Bible Club in India, Kids Camps in Armenia and Canada, Philippines Values Education Program, Vacation Bible School in Kenya. They all have two things in common: Kids and Jesus.

Committed volunteer leaders provide kids with a safe and welcoming environment filled with fun activities and learning. Many of these kids will hear about Jesus for the very first time and receive their very first Bible through these programs. Local churches exclaim at how many of them come regularly to the worship services, and bring their families!

For just \$5 you can give a Bible to a child through a Christ-centred program.

Please use the enclosed reply card, call 1-800-363-9673, or visit BibleLeague.ca/Donate



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Here is my gift to provide Bibles, and ministry programs, **where most needed.**

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I'd like to give Bibles and training every month. **Here is my first monthly gift of:**

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Every \$5
you give
provides
a Bible!

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