

# word@work



## Massive Scripture distribution follows ISIS killings...

**THE BIG MISSION... AT HOME**  
*Reaching out to young people with the Bible.*

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The Word. For Life.

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***“Have you seen the hope that shines in someone’s eyes when God’s Word reaches their longing hands?”***



**Canadian Bible Society**  
The Word. For Life.

## Why we do what we do

Have you seen the hope that shines in someone’s eyes when God’s Word reaches their longing hands? When I started in pastoral ministry over 30 years ago, my wife and I had the privilege of serving on a First Nations reserve in Northern British Columbia. There was a twinkle of hope in the eyes of the old, retired, aboriginal pastor when he showed me the Gospel of Matthew that had been handed down to him – the first Bible portion translated into his own language.

More recently, in June 2011, I visited Nigeria as part of a team bringing food, medical aid and Bibles to Christians who had been displaced by religious persecution. When I offered a Bible to one man, he put down everything else and dropped to his knees, clutching his new Bible in both hands. *“Thank you, Canada. When they persecuted us, they took my family outside and made us watch as they burned my Bible. And then they burned my house.”* Hope was bright in his eyes as tears of joy streamed down his face. *“Thank you, Canada. Now I have my Bible back.”* I knelt and wept with him.

Regardless of age, life circumstance or nation, everyone can find and embrace the saving message of “faith, hope, and love” found in the pages of Scripture. Your commitment to providing Bibles in heart languages continues to transform lives.

In this issue you will learn more about the important work being done in countries like Honduras and Egypt, where being a Christian means placing your life at risk every day.

And, write me with your own stories telling how you have experienced hope through the Scriptures.

In the power of His Word,

Don Hutchinson  
National Director (Interim)

## Rev. Don Hutchinson named as interim National Director

The Board of Governors of the Canadian Bible Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Don Hutchinson as interim National Director and CEO, effective April 27, 2015.

Don Hutchinson is a nationally recognized executive leader, consultant, and public policy specialist. Most recently, he was the Vice-President, General Legal Counsel, and Director of the Centre for Faith and Public Life for The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

Don’s background also includes ordained ministry. He and his wife, Gloria, led congregations together, beginning with

service on a First Nations reserve in Northern British Columbia then to a church plant in Markham, Ontario. Hutchinson has wide experience serving on boards of organizations and as a valuable resource to not-for-profit groups across the country. A graduate of Queen’s University, he received his law degree from the University of British Columbia.

Don is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to Canada in promoting freedom of religion and development of public policy. Also an avid motorcyclist and motorcycle safety proponent, Don resides in Ottawa with his wife Gloria, and grandson John.

## God's Word Is Powerful

*We forgive the killers* – This is the remarkable response of the family members of those recently martyred by ISIS fighters. Their forgiveness and love has made a tremendous impact around the world.

**Y**ou've seen the videos. You've read the stories. And, unfortunately, they're nearly all true. As Islamic radicals viciously work to destroy any trace of the Christian church in the region, the Lord has been glorified by the remarkable faith of these Christian Egyptians as they faced the sword. The last words said as they fell were, "Lord Jesus Christ".

These men were brought up in the Coptic Orthodox Church, instilled with unwavering faith based on the truth of the Scriptures. The Church is diligently working to reinforce Bible engagement among the nation's youth through Bible Study groups. The Canadian Bible Society has partnered with the Bible Society of Egypt, (BSOE), to provide Bibles and Scriptures for youth. Many of these young people will go on to become leaders of their own small groups.

Ramez Atallah, the General Secretary of BSOE, remains steadfast in his conviction that **God will ultimately triumph over evil**. Ramez recently shared the Egyptian believers' response to those who martyred their loved ones. It's a powerful affirmation that faith in Christ is vibrant and strong in this ancient land.



Ramez Atallah

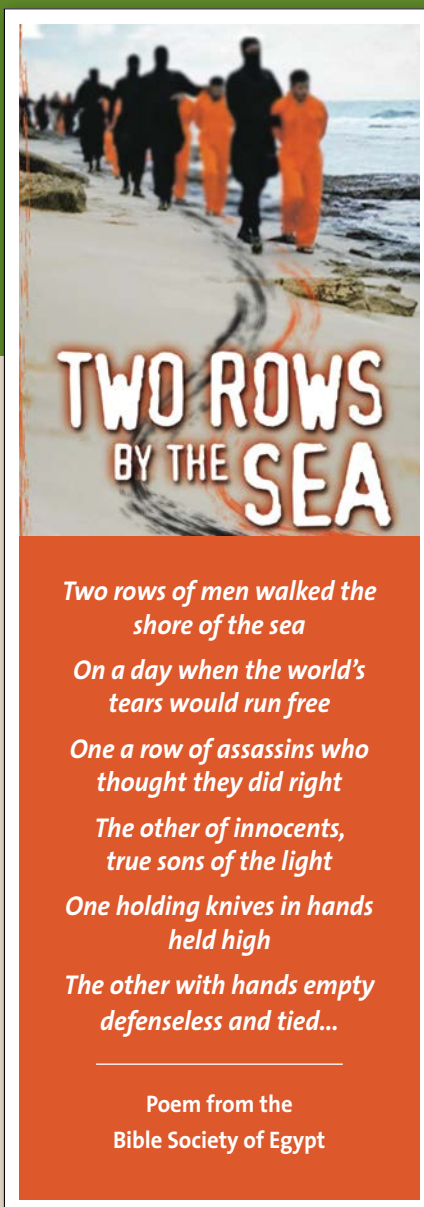
*What the enemy had intended for evil, the Lord has used for good. The determination of the Christians to respond in forgiveness and peace and love has been a testimony of untold impact. Family members have said consistently, "We forgive the killers," and express great honour in the fact that their relatives were martyred for the name of Christ.*

*We are amazed at how the Lord has used a Scripture tract and poem Two Rows by the Sea. One man, a pastor for 10 years, told us this was the first time in his life he's passed out a tract! He had been given a relevant tool with a powerful message he wanted to share and that people were grateful to receive.*

*A Christian teacher in Upper Egypt was given the tract by a Muslim colleague (with whom she had never previously spoken), who said, "Have you seen this pamphlet? You can read it, but please give it back, because I only have one, and I am sharing it with all of my friends. I have never read such beautiful verses, and I need it back because I am trying to memorize it".*

*At BSOE we believe the best way for us to impact Egypt with God's Word is to come alongside the church to support and affirm Christians in their faith, and to equip them with materials they can share with their neighbours.*

**"THE DETERMINATION OF THE CHRISTIANS TO RESPOND IN FORGIVENESS AND PEACE AND LOVE HAS BEEN A TESTIMONY OF UNTOLD IMPACT."**



**>> FOR MORE DETAILS** on how you can give to Egypt please see the back of this newsletter.

# Nicaragua: Cancer kids find hope



**T**housands of children with cancer and their families are receiving practical and spiritual help through a project run by the Bible Society of Nicaragua.



### ■ Josling, aged 10

Cancer in her leg has completely changed Josling's life. But so has the Bible. *"I love the story of how Jesus healed the woman who touched his cloak. God has helped me a lot."*



### ■ Rebeca, Bible Society of Nicaragua

Up to 150 children come every week to Nicaragua's only cancer hospital. Rebeca is immersed in the Bible Society's work to support the children with practical and spiritual care. *"When children receive a diagnosis, these are difficult moments. We give them hope that not everything is lost. When I see a smile on a child's face, I feel God's Word is changing their lives."*



### ■ Freddy, General Secretary, Bible Society of Nicaragua

Freddy started an outreach ministry at the cancer hospital after he saw parents sleeping on the pavement. The Bible Society began supporting a church-run shelter on the hospital grounds. *"We give the children a Bible. We read with them, and show them where to find words of hope."*



### ■ Dr. Luis, La Mascota Cancer Hospital

Dr. Luis describes the Bible Society's work as 'essential': the difference between life and death. *"Before the Bible Society helped with transport costs and overnight stays, 30 percent of children didn't continue with their treatment. Those children would have died. It's also important to cure cancer by linking medicine with God's Word – so the children can pray and be positive."*

## When the Bible speaks powerfully

When Angel Lopez, the 35-year-old staff of the Bible Society of Honduras (BSH) was shot and killed minutes after dropping his young daughter off at school in 2012, BSH decided it was time to replace guns with Bibles. in Honduras. CBS is partnering with BSH to distribute Bibles in this land of violence. **Jorge Gomez, General Secretary of BSH is grateful for the support of our donors:**

**I**want to thank you on behalf of our Bible Society for your continued support in 2015. Honduras is a very troubled country and yet so open to the Word of God. People have no option but to look up when they've hit bottom with poverty, corruption and violence. Your support makes it possible to continue to open doors with the Word of God. *I've found it odd that while the use of the Bible is being questioned and pushed out of everyday life in many countries around the world, here we have the liberty of walking into Congress, the Presidential palace, courts of justice, Armed Forces, prisons and schools to share God's Word. Please convey to your donors that they are planting seeds of peace with us in the midst of a land that is torn by violence and death. By doing this you've joined us in our efforts to bring hope to those that feel hopeless.*

**>> FOR MORE DETAILS** on how you can support these two projects please see the back of this newsletter.

# The Big Mission... At Home



It's not typically poverty or illiteracy that keeps the Bible shut for many Canadians. It's the simple fact that people don't read it.

**BUT WE'RE WORKING TO CHANGE THAT.**  
And we are starting with the next generation.



### What Bible engagement in Canada looks like:

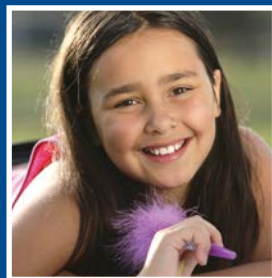
- Since 1996, weekly Bible reading has declined by 60 per cent.
- Only 14 per cent actually read the Bible at least once a month.
- Many no longer believe that the Bible is the Word of God.
- Some Christians question the Bible's reliability.
- Since 1996, church attendance (which has a strong link to Bible reading and engagement) has plummeted.

### Our partnerships across Canada are helping us reach young people with the Bible – some of whom have never encountered God's Word. We are partnering with:

**HashtagHope** to provide young people with Scriptures that will be distributed in over 25 different venues in Canada and the United States – including bars, clubs and concert halls.

**Christian camps** to provide special "Adventure for Life" Bibles and Scriptures for First Nations youth.

**Catholic Christian Outreach** to engage Catholic youth with God's Word.



*"He left the camp that week treasuring his Bible – knowing it contained the words of life."*

■ **ADAM** arrived at camp with a clear chip on his shoulder. In the first Bible teaching time he loudly proclaimed that he was an atheist, that he had no reason or desire to believe in any god. Over the week we explored why Christians believe what they believe and during the closing teaching time Adam approached our speaker and asked if he could have a Bible. He genuinely desired to know more about Jesus. Adam left without a big dramatic conversion story, but with a small spark that invites a long-lasting, whole life change. He left the camp that week treasuring his Bible – knowing it contained the words of life. – GREEN HILL LAKE CAMP

■ **RAIN**, a little boy with a learning disability wanted desperately to learn about God. In his first Bible class he asked many questions. When other campers were looking up verses, Rain asked if he could have a Bible and he received his first CBS Bible. He carried his Bible everywhere he went. After much thought and contemplation Rain made a decision that he wanted a personal relationship with Christ. – MILLSTREAM BIBLE CAMP

**>> FOR MORE DETAILS** on how you can support Canada please see the back of this newsletter.

**In our backyard** In 2013, the United Bible Societies distributed over 400 million Scriptures in various translations and formats around the world. While the Canadian Bible Society continues to support global Bible distribution, we are also passionate about reaching people with God's Word in our own backyard. Below are our Canadian distribution numbers. It is exciting to think that these figures represent people who were reached by God's Word.

We are grateful for your faithful support in this essential work. This fiscal year we have distributed nearly 900,000 Scriptures within Canada in print and digital format. Please pray for open doors, new energies and increased support.



Nearly 900,000 Scriptures were distributed in Canada last year.



2,261 of those Scriptures were downloaded digital resources.



CBS helped in the development of the Digital Bible library. It holds over 1,000 translations.



Over 1,500 volunteers served the Canadian Bible Society in 2014.

### GLOBAL STATS:

- The full Bible is now available in 542 languages spoken by 4.9 billion people.
- The New Testament is available in 1,324 languages spoken by 673 million people.
- 1,020 languages have shorter portions of Scripture.
- 4,015 languages spoken by 460 million people do not have Scriptures.

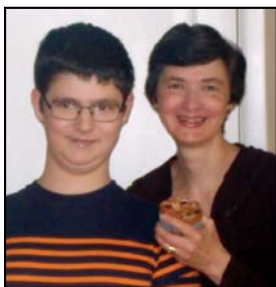


PHOTO: CBS Board of Governors



We have launched a youth engagement initiative called **"it's about life"**. This multi-faceted program will feature social media, online resources and a specially designed youth Bible.

To learn more about this initiative visit us at [www.itsaboutlife.ca](http://www.itsaboutlife.ca)



Tavish and his mother

## Pennies for Bibles

Ten-year-old Tavish decided to have some fun and raise money for a good cause. His mother Andrea was the CBS representative at Siloam United Church in London so he decided to raise pennies for Bibles. This was posted in the weekly church bulletin and a decorated jar was placed in a prominent position. Tavish and Andrea set aside time each week to count the pennies and they raised over \$146 to support CBS. Andrea and Tavish hope that this inspires others to think of other creative ways to raise funds for the Bible cause.



**THANK YOU!** Your faithful support of the Canadian Bible Society programs keeps God's Word alive!

Please prayerfully consider investing in one or more of these initiatives.



**\$25** Provides 4 Bibles to students in Christian camps in Canada.

**\$50** Provides 5 Egyptians with their own Bible.

**\$75** Provides 10 Bibles and Scripture leaflets to help patients and their family cope with cancer in Nicaragua.

**\$100** Provides 20 Honduras police officers with their own copy of the *Poverty and Justice Bible*.

- **CALL TOLL FREE:** 1.800.465.2425
- **DONATE ONLINE:** [biblesociety.ca/wawjune15](http://biblesociety.ca/wawjune15)
- **MAIL TO:** 10 Carnforth Road, Toronto, ON M4A 2S4



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We are a member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. This means that we adhere to high ethical and operational standards. The CCCC seal is evidence that we are committed to integrity and excellence in ministry.

[www.biblesociety.ca](http://www.biblesociety.ca)

**NOTE:** Some photos and names in this newsletter have been changed for personal privacy and security reasons.

***Our vision is to reach every person with the life-giving Word of God and encourage its use.***

## Help pass on God's Word to future generations with a gift in your will to CBS

It is thanks to Christian legacies of the past that we have the Bible. Through a legacy to CBS in your will you can continue this work, building God's Kingdom on earth even when your earthly life is over.

- More than 4,000 languages wait for even one book of the Bible.
- Although a billion people can't read, only 3 per cent of languages have an audio Bible.
- In our own society, the wisdom, inspiration and revelation of the Bible is in danger of being lost to future generations.

Your legacy gift would ensure the translation of the Scriptures into new languages, enable distribution of Bibles to poverty-stricken communities, and provide audio Scriptures to those who cannot read.

The Canadian Bible Society is partnering with estate specialists at ADVISORS with Purpose who will answer questions about your estate and help you to align your wishes with God's purposes free of cost.



89 Auriga Drive, Ottawa, ON K2E 7Z2  
Tel: 1-866-336-3315  
Web: [advisorswithpurpose.ca](http://advisorswithpurpose.ca)



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call **1.866.336.3315** today to speak with an estate planning specialist – this service is provided at no cost or obligation to our supporters.

Email: [plan@advisorswithpurpose.ca](mailto:plan@advisorswithpurpose.ca)  
[www.advisorswithpurpose.ca](http://www.advisorswithpurpose.ca)