

word@work

Rebuilding a broken generation

The Bible helps a child orphaned by murder.

Frightened and needing our help.

“You will be known as.... a restorer of homes.”

– ISAIAH 58.12b

IN THIS ISSUE



Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.

“My Beloved God, it can’t be true!”

The story of Pastor Ndri.

PAGE 03

Former child soldiers cry for peace and healing

Children were recruited by force to fight.

PAGE 04

Rebuilding a Generation

A traumatized nation torn apart by rape and torture.

PAGE 05



“Can Jesus address the deep levels of abuse, betrayals, and trauma that many people around the world face today?”



Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.

God’s Word Heals the Heart

One of the main ministries Jesus had while on earth was that of healing. Jesus mended the broken-hearted and the sin-sick. He comforted the grieving, gave rest to the weary, and restored the physically ill. Jesus ministered to all kinds of people, and he continues to do so today.

Can Jesus address the deep levels of abuse, betrayals, and trauma that many people around the world face today? Can Jesus help the very broken? Can he help children like Neema? Can he help me?

I grew up in an alcoholic and abusive home. I know Jesus heals deep wounds, because I have encountered it. Today, he continues to be the Way forward through the many difficult memories along the journey of forgiveness. He offers this gift to all of us. As we give our painful experiences and wounds to the Lord, he continues to heal.

Although I experienced brokenness, I grew up in North America. I did not grow up in a war zone like the DRC, where the devastation faced by Neema is beyond compare. Yet here too, Jesus offers healing through His Word! As you read about how your gifts of God’s Word make a difference to Neema and others, let us thank God for how he ministers in amazing ways to those who receive our gifts.

May God bless you today.

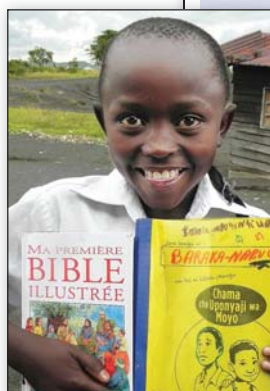
Jonathan Dent
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dent
National Director



The Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo lies at the very heart of Africa. Its lush, tropical climate boasts myriad rainforest animals – from elephants to chimpanzees – and the DRC is home to nearly 80 million people. But the country has been ravaged by the second Congo War resulting in:

- Nearly 6 million dead – almost rivaling that of World War II
- More than 2 million people displaced
- Countless torture and war trauma survivors
- A staggering number of orphans
- Rape survivors, often rejected by family members



God’s Word heals hurting people.

Join us in bringing restoration through God’s Word in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

“My Beloved God, it can’t be true!”

Pastor Ndri couldn’t have been happier. He had a wonderful wife and a thriving congregation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). But all that changed when rebels seized his town, showering bullets like rain. **Horried, he watched countless men, women and children killed right in front of him.**

Along with his wife and a group of 100 others, Pastor Ndri fled on foot to safety. The journey was fraught with danger and death. Many people succumbed to disease, including Pastor Ndri’s wife, who was buried quickly in the bush. When Pastor Ndri finally got to safety, he experienced nightmares and great anger – at God, at the rebels who caused so much destruction, at his wife for dying. As a pastor, he thought he shouldn’t show these feelings to anyone. So he quietly tried to re-establish a new life for himself. But he couldn’t. He was simply a shadow of the man he once was.

In many cases, people are taught to ignore their pain, as Pastor Ndri did. Faith is often used as a means to cover painful emotions rather than as a way to deal with them.

“Many people think that if you’re a Christian, you are never sad, angry or hurt,” says Harriet Hill, program director of the American Bible Society’s Trauma Healing program and coauthor of *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*. “And if you do feel these emotions, then you don’t have faith.” In fact, the opposite is true. When people let God’s Word speak to their hearts during difficult times, it actually strengthens their faith.

The Trauma Healing program helps people come to terms with their deep emotional and spiritual injuries within a biblical context.

God’s Word helps people to forgive perpetrators, restore broken relationships, and heal from the pain of deep trauma.

The Canadian Bible Society is supporting the Bible-based Trauma Healing program to help bring God’s Word of comfort and peace to people like Pastor Ndri. Please support us today.



Former child soldiers cry for peace and healing

During the 5 years of brutal war in the DRC, it is estimated that 30,000 children were recruited by force to fight in a conflict that claimed the lives of millions.



Many of these child soldiers were lured by the false promise of escape from poverty. They were forced to commit the most barbaric acts of murder – acts which mentally scarred them for life.

No child should ever lead such a life. Forcing innocent children to commit the unthinkable is one of the most atrocious crimes of war. They had to be rescued from violence and a life of killing and then reunited with their families and given back their childhood.

But these former child soldiers are not welcome at home. Despite having been reunited with their families, they are unable to reclaim their childhoods and suffer from behavioural problems. These boys are in deep need of trauma healing.

THESE BOYS ARE IN DEEP NEED OF TRAUMA HEALING.

HERE IS A SONG SUNG BY FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS:

*Oh Jesus, remember Africa
Jesus, forgive thee Africa*

*Remember Congo
Remember Rwanda
Remember Uganda
Remember Somalia*

*We need to have peace, oh Jesus
We need to have love, oh Jesus*

God created me special

“I was angry with God. I felt worthless. I had no confidence to try anything because I considered myself unimportant.” Those were the heartbreaking words of 12-year-old Safari Olivier, a little boy reeling from the effects of war on his family. His own father was involved in killings. Safari, who lives in Sake with his mother, was angry with his dead father.

An illustrated Bible that he received at a trauma healing seminar changed everything for Safari. “I was delighted to know how God created me special and how he loved me. Genesis 1.31 comforted me with the fact that I was a joy to God who created me. As I read about Jesus, I asked him to be my friend. I also learned that Jesus did not want me to be bitter or angry,” says Safari. “I was angry with my father. I could not forgive him. The story of Joseph forgiving his brothers stirred my heart deeply and removed my bitterness. Now I forgive my late father,” he says. “I love my illustrated Bible, the images help me to understand God’s love for me. I now share God’s Word with my mother and little brothers.”

“Thank you for my Bible!”





Rebuilding a Generation

“A traumatized nation torn apart by rape and torture!”

Stories of horrific atrocity are a familiar refrain in the DRC. Named “the world’s worst war,” the Second Congo War and its aftermath is the deadliest conflict in modern African history. Nearly six million are dead, more than 2 million are displaced, and hundreds of thousands of women have been systematically tortured and raped with shocking barbarism. Many people were forced to watch as their relatives, spouses, parents, and children were tortured, raped, slaughtered, or abducted by rebel forces.

“I WONDERED IF GOD REALLY EXISTS AND IF HE KNOWS ME. WHY, THEN, DO I GO THROUGH ALL THESE DIFFICULTIES?”

How the Bible helped Neema

Twelve year-old Neema Esperance lived with her family in a small village in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The preteen’s life was turned upside down when her father was murdered during the war. “My mother continued to look after us,” she says, “but my family had to flee our home because of the violence.” Somehow, Neema became separated from her mom and siblings and now lives in an orphanage.



“I don’t know who I can trust,” she says. “I think a lot about my father and was often angry against those who killed him. I wondered if God really exists and if He knows me. Why, then, do I go through all these difficulties?”

The war has shattered an entire generation of children. Up to five million are orphaned. Thousands more ended up imprisoned in brothels or serving as child soldiers. Sadly, it is likely that a child soldier was the one who murdered Neema’s father.

Some of these children are now young adults, but the devastating pain of these victims continues long after escaping the violence. Young rape survivors, many of whom became pregnant with unwanted children, live with unimaginable stigma. Some are now HIV-positive. Former soldiers face rejection by family and society. Currently, the DRC rates as one of the worst places in the world to be a child or a mother.

These young survivors of traumatic brutality have questions. **The scars on their bodies and in their hearts cry out for answers.**



■ *DRC has a staggering number of orphans*

Healing Heart-Wounds in Little Ones

Seven-year-old Kasi awoke one night to shouts from his older brother to flee the house as shots rang in the night. Kasi and his family ran, eventually arriving safely in a new town where they tried to resume their lives, but Kasi was quiet. He was scared to leave the house, jumped when someone entered and woke up at night screaming. He didn't talk about his feelings, and no one was sure what to do.

These children live with suffering caused by unspeakable evil. They have reached a precarious crossroad of faith and are asking hard questions about God. The way the Church responds to their pain will impact the future of the entire generation. The necessity of Bible-based trauma healing resources is critical, because only in God's Word will victims like Neema and Kasi find the peace and answers to begin healing.

With so many hurting and wounded young people, the need for Bibles and training remains critically urgent.

Who Shall Rebuild a Broken Generation?

Facing the increasing number of traumatized children and youth, Congolese church leaders are desperate to help, but remain ill-equipped. Like Pastor Ndri, they need healing themselves, and also require the training and resources to reach other survivors with God's message of hope.

The Bible Society trauma healing program in Goma provides Bibles to victims and orphans, and brings these vulnerable children the Good News that Jesus loves them. The program also offers Bible-based trauma counselling to children and youth in order to give spiritually, emotionally, and physically wounded young people the opportunity to resume a life not characterized by traumatic reaction.

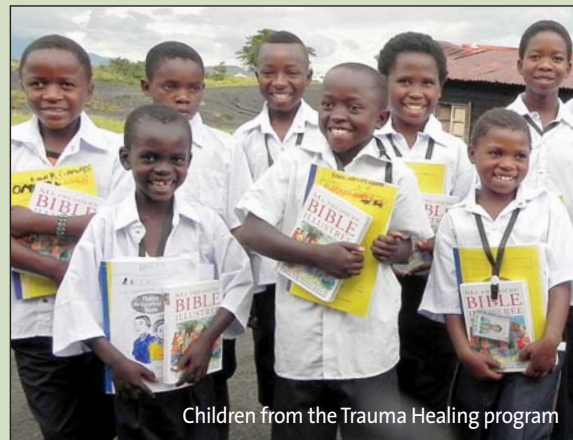
The rebuilding of this generation continues as the program then trains these young people to counsel others who need the same healing and restoration in their respective communities.

You will be known as a... restorer of homes (Isaiah 58.12)

Because of the support of friends like you, Neema and Kasi participated in these trauma-healing seminars. "We learned Jesus can help me find joy and strength to forgive those who killed my father. I then learned to tell Jesus how I feel," Neema says. She also received her very own Bible! "The Bible that I received, I read it every day."

Neema is a testimony to the way Scripture helps hurting individuals of all ages heal from the pain of deep trauma. God's Word speaks to the hearts of people and strengthens their faith during difficult times. It helps people to forgive the perpetrators and it restores broken relationships.

"WE LEARNED JESUS CAN HELP ME FIND JOY AND STRENGTH TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO KILLED MY FATHER. I THEN LEARNED TO TELL JESUS HOW I FEEL..."



Children from the Trauma Healing program

*“God, who lives in his sacred Temple, **cares for orphans and protects widows.**
He gives the lonely a home to live in...”* PSALM 68.5-6a



A 10-year-old child writes:

My beloved God, it can't be true!
For what reasons are the Congolese displaced every day?
For what reason is there war every day?
For what reasons are there murders every day?
For what reason, Congo will not change?
Why do we eat with difficulty?
For what reason does our president not think about caring for us?
For what reason does this evil spirit not leave Goma?
We must change our land and make it clean of evil things.

“Imagine the smiles on these young faces as boys and girls hold out their uplifted hands to receive the treasure of God’s Word, ready to hear that they have a Father who knows each one of them by name. Imagine children’s tiny fingers wrapping around their very own Bibles, clutching them to their chests, ready to learn that God loves them and has a plan for every single one of their lives.” – A DRC Bible Society staff member

“Even though wars have ended ... the pain and scars live on in the hearts of the children. Many have witnessed their parents brutally killed. Many have been tortured and raped.

Many have seen their brothers, sisters, and neighbours horribly maimed and massacred. Often, they’ve had to run for their lives.

These precious children have experienced things we can’t share ... what their eyes have seen are horrific beyond words. They need Jesus’ love. They need God’s Word... their first Bible.

They need their hearts healed.”

*Sister Alvera Nyaramasuhuko,
Flame of Love Center, Goma*

**“THEY NEED
GOD’S WORD...
THEIR FIRST
BIBLE.**

**THEY NEED
THEIR HEARTS
HEALED.”**

>> FOR MORE DETAILS on how you can support the CBS ministry in the DRC please see the back of this newsletter.

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

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

DONATE TODAY

\$30 will help share God's Word with 4 hurting children.

\$75 will bring God's healing Word to 10 victims of trauma.

\$120 will bless 16 young adults with God's Word.

- **CALL TOLL FREE:** 1.800.465.2425
- **DONATE ONLINE:** biblesociety.ca/wawjune16
- **MAIL TO:** 10 Carnforth Road, Toronto, ON M4A 2S4



Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.

10 Carnforth Road, Toronto, ON M4A 2S4
Tel: 416.757.4171 Toll Free: 1.800.465.2425
Fax: 416.757.3376 info@biblesociety.ca

FOLLOW US ON:



Facebook: [canadianbiblesociety](https://www.facebook.com/canadianbiblesociety)



Twitter: @canadianbible



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

NOTE: We thank the American Bible Society for certain photos and content. Some names have been changed for privacy reasons.

Our vision is to reach every person with the life-giving Word of God and to 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



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
www.advisorswithpurpose.ca