

# Canadian Bible Society and partners give away Bibles to Pan Am athletes

TORONTO (CCNS)—As thousands of athletes from around the world left the Toronto area to return to their homes after the 2015 Pan Am Games, they packed up their memories and their mementos – and for the fortunate few, their hard-won medals.

But many athletes also tucked a special edition Sports New Testament or other Christian literature into their bags, life-changing resources created especially for them and distributed by caring volunteers during the course of the games.

The Canadian Bible Society partnered with More Than Gold 2015 (representing 10 denominations and more than 50 Christian organizations) and Scripture Union Canada to provide these special Christian Scriptures for distribution at the

Athlete's Village (built to accommodate 10,000 athletes) and other locales around the greater Toronto area.

Sarah Chaudhery is a Canadian athlete and a More Than Gold representative. "Our highlight has been providing Bibles as they are requested for the residence of the athletes," said Chaudhery. "This has been a huge answer to prayer, and we've been very excited to be able to provide for them."

As an elite athlete herself, and a veteran of women's rowing in Canada, Chaudhery experienced first-hand the power of Scripture to rescue and restore lives. (She briefly tells her own story and her ongoing hopes for the athletes who received Bibles at the games in a YouTube video.)

Earliest reports indicate more than 1,800 Bibles were given away to athletes from at least 16 countries. "Many more [were] given away one-by-one at the Multi-faith centre as well," explains Chaudhery. (Bibles were also distributed at the Parapan Am Games for disabled athletes, held August 5-7.)

"We are so pleased with the impact the Canadian Bible Society, along with our partners, has had on these games," says Don Miller, director of Canadian Ministries for the Canadian Bible Society. "But most of all, we are full of joy for the athletes who received the Bibles. Sarah's own story demonstrates the potential impact of this very scenario. Because we know God's Word changes lives, quite simply, we know that lives will be changed around the world because of this outreach. How could they not?"

The Canadian Bible Society (CBS) exists to promote and encourage, without doctrinal note or comment, the translation, publication, distribution and use of the Scriptures throughout Canada and Bermuda, and to co-operate with the United Bible Societies in its worldwide work. 



*Nearly 2,000 Bibles were distributed.*



*Chaudhery was part of the National Rowing Team for six years.*