

ISSUE 2 | 2021

word@work

YOU HELP CHANGE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WAITING TO HEAR GOD SPEAK

“I remain confident
of this: I will see the
goodness of the
LORD in the land
of the living.
...be strong and
take heart and wait
for the LORD.”

—Psalm 27:13–14 (NIV)



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Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.

Rupen's Reflections



■ Waiting is difficult, as is change.

A year ago, the world was interrupted in a way that perhaps none of us has experienced before. We began to live week by week and month by month in an uncomfortable holding pattern — locked down, isolated, and unclear of what lay ahead. One year later, there is still uncertainty and we are still waiting.

In the midst of anxieties, challenges, disappointments, and loneliness, we have had to discover who is the true source of our life and who sustains us when everything around us falls apart. While God may seem silent, He is present. Maybe Job understood this when he stated, “I know that my Redeemer lives...” (Job 19:25, NIV). I find it interesting that in the midst of his anguish he did not ask for God’s help but reminded himself that God his Redeemer was alive and with him.

Although so much has changed, like Job we know that our hope remains in the One who has not and will not change.

Yet there are millions of people who have yet to find the hope that comes with experiencing God and hearing Him speak. They are still waiting.

Please continue to bring God’s Word to those in need and change their lives forever. Help them encounter the God who identifies Himself as Immanuel — God with us.

Thank you for helping people hear God speak in their lives.

In His service,

Rupen Das
Executive Director

I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.” —Lamentations 3:24 (NIV)



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**Canadian Centre for
Christian Charities**
ACCREDITED MEMBER

We are a member of the Canadian Centre for 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.

In the middle of a desert, Gabriela finds God

■ Seventeen-year-old Gabriela lives in a village outside Lima, Peru, with her mother and younger brother. Built in the middle of a desert, their home lacks running water, forcing the family to wait for a tanker truck to fill their plastic barrel before they can drink, cook, or bathe.

Because Gabriela's father abandoned her family several years ago, Gabriela's mother carries the financial load. Her job as a housemaid barely fulfills the family's basic needs.

Recently, while trying to rise above her circumstances, Gabriela brought her brother to *Bread of Life*, a Bible program hosted by the Bible Society of Peru and made possible through generous supporters like you.

Every morning, volunteers serve a healthy breakfast — often comprised of quinoa, jam, milk, and bread — and reflect on a Bible story. The 15-year-old program shares Scripture with 500 Peruvian youth on a regular basis.

It was there, a volunteer handed Gabriela a Bible — the first she ever owned, a provision from caring donors. As she shared a nutritious breakfast with her brother, Gabriela opened her Bible and uncovered stories of hope, perseverance, and joy.



“It was thanks to the *Bread of Life* program that I received my first Bible. I read it every day with my family.”

“It was thanks to the *Bread of Life* program that I received my first Bible. I read it every day with my family,” Gabriela says.

To build on her experience, Gabriela brought her brother and mother to a local church. The family now attends on a weekly basis. Even while living in the middle of a desert, they have embraced Jesus' life-giving water — eternal life through the Father who will never abandon them.

“But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14, NIV).



You can reach impoverished children with the love of God

In Peru, two out of three children live in extreme poverty, with as many as 25% suffering from malnutrition. The *Bread of Life* program provides impoverished children with nutritious meals and spiritual guidance. As part of the program, each child receives a colourful Bible storybook telling them about the life of Jesus and His love for every one of them.

GOD SPEAKS TO SANTOS AND BONNY THROUGH BRAILLE

“The Word of God is life. If you give me the Bible, you give me life.”

■ Santos and his younger brother Bonny are two blind brothers. They became Christians during a tough time for their family, when rebels forced them from their home in northern Uganda. They struggled to survive on little food. But out of the hardship came an amazing opportunity. They received a braille Bible.

“The Word of God is life,” says Santos, who is now 41 years old. “If you give me the Bible, you give me life. That is very important for me, but not only me — for everyone who is blind and neglected, who no one bothers with.”

The brothers’ fingers skim gently over a braille Scripture portion as they preach in their hometown of Lira. “I preach using my braille Scripture portions,” says Santos. “I like the Gospel of John because it always talks about love.”

“Some people don’t see blind people as important,” adds 36-year-old Bonny. “But we have God’s favour on our



Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

—John 14:6 (NIV)

lives. My brother and I share the braille Bible, and we make sure to read our Bible every day.”

Thank you for your partnership that brings the Word of God to people in a form that they clearly understand and speaks to them deeply.

DISCOVERING TRUE LOVE ONLY COMES FROM GOD

Carmen found healing through the Bible

■ Carmen did not have an easy life. The third of eight siblings, this 17-year-old teenager from Petén, Guatemala, was abandoned by her mother at the age of five. At 12, she was raped and became pregnant.

Eventually, she entered the protection system but was separated from her siblings. To deal with the trauma, Carmen began to receive psychological therapy as well as medical and spiritual attention. One Sunday at church she took the decision to receive Christ in her heart. Two months after that, she enrolled in the *Free to Live* program with the local Bible Society.

Today, Carmen has a year-old child and her life has changed dramatically — thanks to your gifts that provide support and healing to those who are suffering.

“Now, I learn to love myself and take care of my baby,” says Carmen. “He is a treasure that God gave

me and I want him to know that true love only comes from God.”

Thanks to God’s Word, she has also learned to forgive those who once harmed her. “I also came to understand that to forgive is not to renounce the desire for justice and that it takes a lot of courage to forgive,” says Carmen. “But I leave this in the hands of God knowing my life and my son’s life are in His hands.”



In Guatemala, Scripture provides hope and healing for young girls and women.

“As we hear God’s Word, we are filled with light.”

■ Over 10 years ago, a neighbour invited Peng to church. There, she discovered Jesus Christ, “the light of my world,” she says. Because Bibles are not easily available in rural China, Peng received only portions of the Bible, but she made the best of it.

“I tried to read what I had,” she explains. “The problem was that I worked in the fields all day and the only time I could read was at night. But we had no electricity. Night by night, I studied by the light of the kerosene lamp until my eyes were so damaged that I became blind.”

Peng does not regret a minute of it! “Out of my darkness, I have found light,” she says.

Friends like you helped provide Peng a complete Bible of her own and the grateful woman says she has more light in her life than ever before.

“My husband has become a believer in Jesus also,” Peng says. “Each night he reads to me the words of life and hope. Every Sunday he leads me to church.”

Although Peng cannot see with her physical eyes, she says, “In Ezekiel 12:2, some people ‘have eyes to see but do not see.’ That is not us. As we hear God’s Word, we are filled with light.”



HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE IMPACTING LIVES DURING THE PANDEMIC

COVID-19: Canadian Bible Society is responding where comfort and hope are most needed

■ During these challenging times, new waves of people are seeking comfort in Scripture. Thanks to generous supporters like you, we were able to:

- Create a digital version of Words of Comfort, featuring 52 Scripture selections that provide essential wisdom and guidance from our Creator, for free download.
- Produce videos of Scripture passages for individuals longing to hear God’s Word.
- Provide audio Scriptures to residents of long-term care homes.
- Expedite Bibles, Scripture portions, and Words of Comfort printed booklets to first responders, healthcare workers, and staff of long-term care homes, guests at homeless shelters, prisons, food banks, and others.
- Encourage 1,200 pastors and church leaders with a special literature package.
- Facilitate Scripture-based *Trauma Healing* training for front-line workers and those impacted by COVID-19.



Resident engaging with the audio Scripture

Thank you for making a difference in these most difficult times.

HEARING GOD DIRECTLY FOR THE FIRST TIME

Samuel's life was changed by a Bible in his heart language

■ Almost seven million people in Ghana live off of less than \$1 a day. Samuel, like many people living in the rural northern part of the country, worked as a subsistence farmer and had little hope for his future.

Although Samuel occasionally attended church and had received a Bible in English, he could not fully comprehend God's love because English is not his native language.

"I did not appreciate the Word of God," Samuel says. "I felt like He was far away from me."

But thanks to believers like you, Samuel received his very first Bible in his heart language of Dagaare!

"Receiving this Bible was a blessing," Samuel says. "It is as if God is speaking directly to me since I can read the Bible in my own language."

Samuel's Bible has truly made a difference. "My Bible is one of the most precious gifts I have ever received," he says. "It will help shape my life according to the true Word of God."



Your Canadian Bible Society Legacy Gift

You can leave a legacy that brings God's Word to those who need it most with a planned gift to the Canadian Bible Society.

By including the Canadian Bible Society in your will, you will have the opportunity to continue your legacy of furthering God's Kingdom, while still providing for your family.

For more information contact Advisors with Purpose at: **1-866-336-3315**

Meet Long Qinmei from China

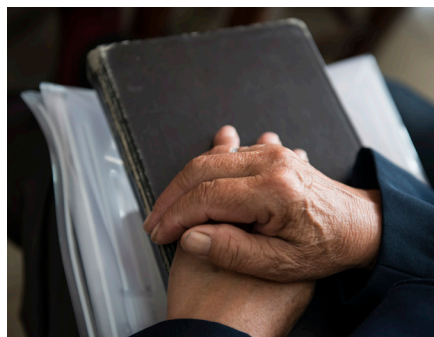
■ What if your Bible smelled of pig's manure? Would you still read it? Long Qinmei did. Because it was her one and only Bible.

During the Cultural Revolution, Long Qinmei kept her Miao language (language of the Miao people group, an ethnic minority group in Southwest China) New Testament Bible inside a box and hid it in a pigsty when authorities raided her house. And when she kept mum about the names of her church leaders, she was initially given seven years' imprisonment.

"By God's grace, the sentence was reduced to nine months. I was 34 then," recalls Long, who is 86 today, with eyesight and hearing still sharp and stamina still strong. "I was so happy to recover my Bible from the pigsty after I was released!"

Born into a Christian family of whom her grandfather was a church elder and her father a preacher,

Granny Long has developed a deep longing for God. "My father left a huge impact on my life," shares Long. "Despite suffering from arthritis, he would use a crutch for support to climb up a hill at five in the morning to pray before Sunday service."



Single all her life, Granny Long lives alone but enjoys the solitude with God. At six every morning, Granny Long meets with God as she takes time to pray, read, and meditate on His Word. Despite



only having a grade four education, Granny Long reads both the Chinese and Miao language.

It is not surprising that elderly as she is, Granny Long gets invited to many churches to preach, share the Gospel, and do home visits. In fact, she is well-known amongst the Miao Church for her love and knowledge of the Scriptures. The living waters within her flow out to refresh many lives.

Thank you for your gifts that continue to bring Bibles to China.

Thank you for gifting Cubans with Bibles

There are nearly two million Christian believers in Cuba actively practising their faith. Yet few have a Bible to directly experience the hope and comfort that God's Word brings.

With support from donors like you, we are changing that. **In fact, your generosity helped provide thousands of Bibles to people in Cuba longing to meet Jesus.**

Thank you for helping introduce Cubans to Jesus and extending His Kingdom!





**There are
people still
waiting to
hear God
speak**

**Throughout the world, people still
hunger for the Good News.**

In China, for example, Christianity is growing faster than in almost any other country. In fact, one million new followers of Jesus are joining the church every year and the Bible has become a best-seller. Yet there are not nearly enough copies

of the Bible to meet the demand and to help spread the Gospel. So many more people in China still long for the comfort, hope, and healing that only Scripture can provide.

You can make a difference by helping people in China and around the globe hear God speak through His Word!

**YOU CAN PROVIDE BIBLES TO PEOPLE IN PLACES LIKE
CHINA, PERU AND GUATEMALA**