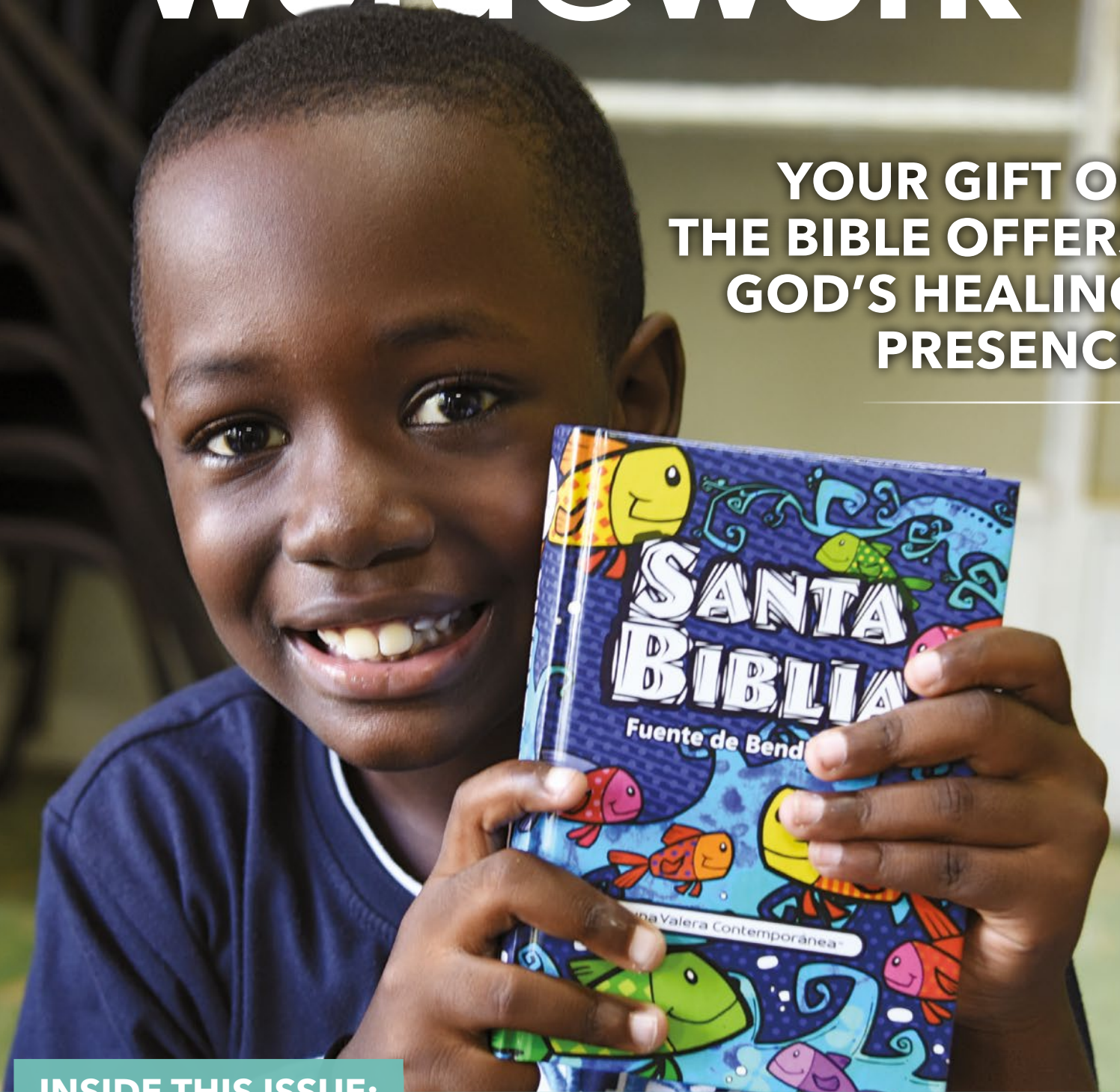


ISSUE 2 | 2023

word@work

**YOUR GIFT OF
THE BIBLE OFFERS
GOD'S HEALING
PRESENCE**



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Canadian
Bible Society

Rupen's Reflections

■ Your gift of Scripture brings God's healing presence into the lives of suffering people.

Everywhere we look, we see a world in conflict and turmoil. I am sure your heart breaks, like mine, as you see people who are suffering. Each one searching for comfort and hope amidst the chaos. Perhaps even in your own family and neighbourhood, you know people who are looking for help.

It is a universal longing. We all need the hope, comfort, and healing that comes from God's presence in our lives. I am so grateful that God has given us His Word — and the Holy Spirit — to guide us into the very presence of our Lord and Saviour.

Recently, I travelled to Cuba and saw the power of God at work in this way in the lives of so many people. I was touched by the hunger of Cuban Christians for the Word of God and their ability to spread joy despite their difficult economic situation. The joy of the Christians in Cuba reminded me of the 'fullness of joy' that we can only experience in Christ Jesus.



As you read through this issue of **word@work**, I pray that you will be encouraged to see how God is working in the world and through your partnership with us. Through your giving, you are bringing new life and hope to thousands of people.

In His service,

Rupen Das
President

“Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.” —Psalm 31:24 (NIV)



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

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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.

You are helping share the words of life in Cuba

■ Your gift of God's Word brings His healing presence into the lives of people like Manuel during their time of greatest need.

LIFE BEFORE GOD

Manuel was a chemistry professor and secretary of the Communist Party at his school in Cuba. He believed in the party and its leader, Fidel Castro. He knew there was no God. So he was annoyed that his teaching assistant always kept a Bible verse on her desk.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13, NIV) read the little plaque on her desk.

At the time, Manuel could not have imagined that God's Word could save his life. But that changed one night in 2015 when he awoke with a terrible pain in his chest. He was having a massive heart attack. He was rushed to the hospital where he fell into a coma.

Here is how Manuel describes what happened then:

"I saw a large cloud and a man who took my hand and said, 'Don't be afraid; I am with you.' I asked the man, 'Who are you? Why are you giving me orders?' He replied, 'I am Jesus and I saved you. Now wake up.'"

At that moment, the doctor was asking for permission to remove him from life support because there was nothing more she could do. And that is when he opened his eyes and told his wife, *"Jesus had saved me."*

LIFE WITH JESUS

Now Manuel tells everyone that he is alive today because of Jesus. Through the generosity of donors like you, he received his first Bible. He has spent many hours reading and has grown to know the Jesus who saved him. Since then, *"Jesus also helped me to set right my spiritual life,"* he says. *"He not only forgave me but taught me to forgive others."*



"I live because of God and for God." —Manuel

And the verse that annoyed him so much before has become his favourite Bible verse: *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength"*. It has given him courage to face new challenges in his life.

"I live because of God and for God," he says. He wasn't free to share the gospel at work, so he quit his job as a professor and has become a pastor and evangelist. Through sharing the Word of God, Manuel's wife has become a Christian and his cardiologist has now chosen to follow Jesus as well.

BECAUSE OF YOU

When you support our Bibles for Cuba ministry, you are helping to make God's Word available in Cuba where He is working to bring healing — and a new purpose in life — to people like Manuel.

YOUR GIFTS PROVIDED JERIOETH WITH COMFORT AND COMPANIONSHIP

■ Jerioth, who lives in Kenya, lost one of her five sons to COVID-19 in 2020. During that difficult time, Jerioth says, *“God used the Talking Bible to comfort me.”* And she finds that when she listens to her audio Bible it seems like God is speaking directly to her.

Being 81 years old, her eyes were often tired from reading the small print in a Bible. She was provided with an audio Bible recorded in her mother tongue. As she listens to the Bible, it deepens her knowledge of the Scriptures and keeps her focused on God — especially in the midst of her grief.

Jerioth loves to listen to her Bible outside in the garden and she invites neighbours to join her in listening to what God is saying. Thank you for helping encourage and inspire women like Jerioth through your gift of God’s Word.

Through your generous support, the Bible Society is able to come alongside the world’s most vulnerable people in their times of pain and distress. You help provide the comfort of God’s Word to mothers and grandmothers like Jerioth.



“God used the Talking Bible to comfort me,” says Jerioth, an 81-year-old grandmother in Kenya.



“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

—John 14:27 (NIV)

God is changing lives in Cuba

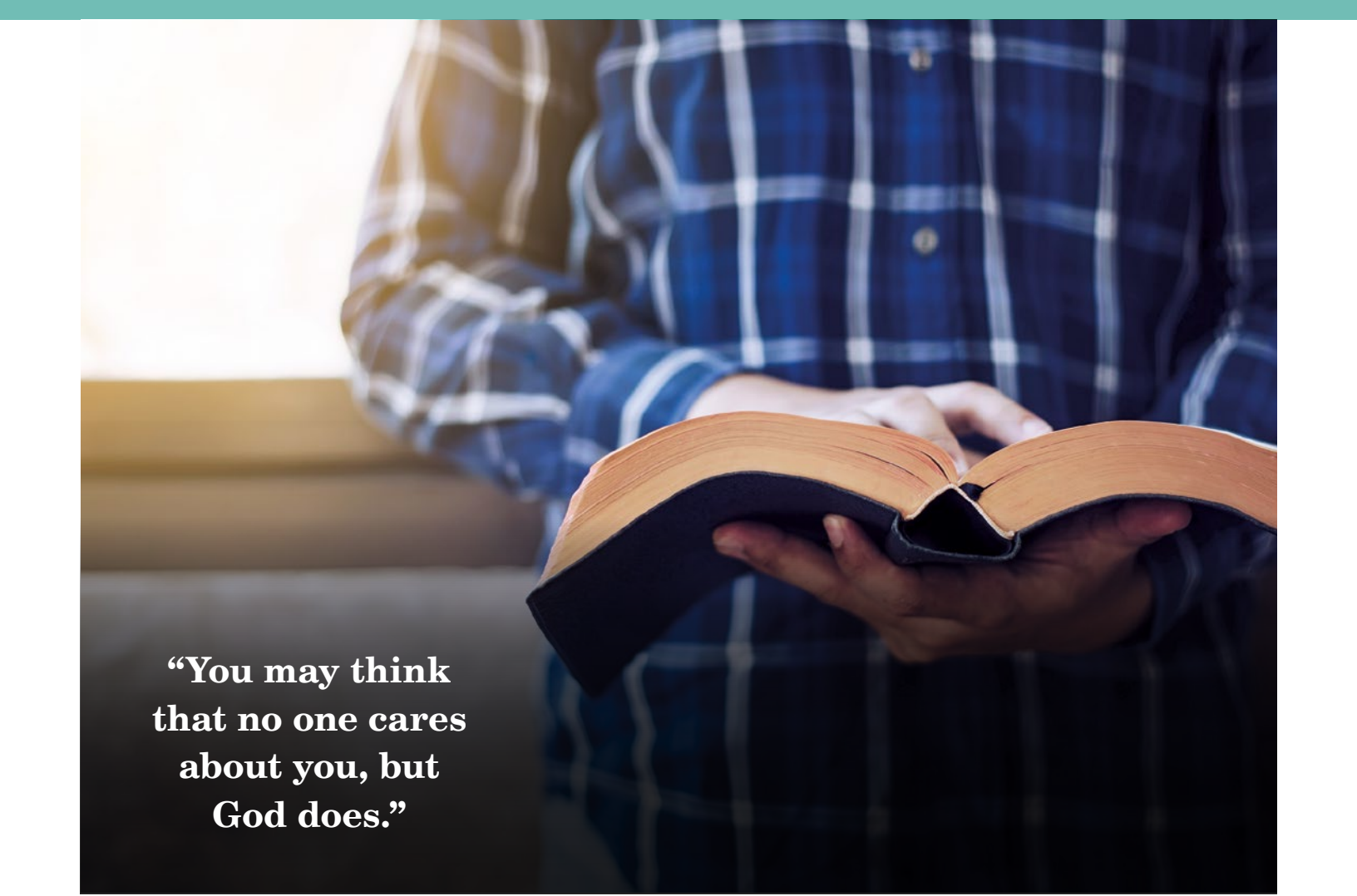
■ The Holy Spirit is moving across Cuba. A major revival is happening and people’s lives are being changed every day.

One of those people is Serraino, a 40-year-old woman in Havana, whose daughter was seriously ill. She had tried everything to help but didn’t know what else to do.

Then one day everything changed. *“I found the answers I was seeking all my life,”* says Serraino.

Coming to your mailbox soon!

Learn how you are bringing the life-changing Word to Cuban families like Serraino’s.



**“You may think
that no one cares
about you, but
God does.”**

YOU ARE HELPING PROVIDE SCRIPTURE WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED

You helped answer Yuri’s question: “Where is God if He loves me?”

■ Yuri’s deep and troubling questions about life started on the day he was born in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan. Sadly, his parents abandoned him at the hospital and he spent the first two years of his life in foster care. Then a family adopted him — but only so they could receive a rent-free apartment from the government. Instead of loving Yuri, they beat him.

During that time, the only kindness he received was from the woman next door. She told him, “*You may think that no one cares about you, but God does. He loves you!*” Shortly after, his adoptive parents told him he was going to summer camp — but it turned out to be an orphanage.

In the midst of his confusion, pain, and heartache, Yuri asked himself, “*So where is God if he loves me?*” The answer to his question — and his cry for help — came through God’s Word.

It started one day when he was visiting his friend at a hospital. He encountered a group of Christians who gave him his first Bible. Yuri couldn’t stop reading it. A year later, he attended a youth conference hosted by a local church. The preacher read from Isaiah 53:5 (NIV): “*he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities.*”

That day the Spirit used the Word of God to touch Yuri’s broken heart. He wept because his question was finally answered. God loved him so much He sent His Son to suffer and die for him. And when the preacher asked people to come forward, Yuri eagerly knelt down and accepted Christ as his Saviour.

Thank you for helping to put Bibles into the hands of people like Yuri. Through your generosity, you are helping answer life’s deepest questions by ensuring people have access to God’s Word in a language they understand.

Notes of gratitude for your generosity



Milena was 13 when she had to start living in the streets in Armenia. Her parents divorced and there was no one to care for her. Some good people helped her to come to the Yerevan Children's Support Center where she was offered a Children's Bible after Bible class. She was touched. She said: *"This is the only gift I have ever received. I am so happy to have this Bible as it brings so much joy to me."*

Lilliana is a blind woman and a survivor of domestic violence. She suffered a long history of pain and abandonment at the hands of those who should have loved her. Lilliana was the recipient of a Braille Bible. *"I had always wanted a Bible but never had the money to afford one,"* she says. *"When the Bible Society of Costa Rica brought the Bible to my doorstep, I felt as if it was my birthday. I am so grateful for such a precious gift."*



In Camimito, Peru, Wendy attends the *Pan de Vida* (Bread of Life) program run by the Peruvian Bible Society. She says, with a big smile: *"I feel happy at Bread of Life because I learn from God, and we also really like the breakfast."*

We champion the Bible as the voice of God, revealing Jesus Christ, the Living Word, all because of your support. Thank you for the opportunity to transform lives!

You offer hope for hurting children in Canada



■ On the first day of camp, it was clear that Evan was going to be a handful for the staff. He bullied the other children and was soon down to his last strike before being sent home.

But inside, Evan himself was hurting. And like so many other children in our country, he needed the comfort and healing that God can provide through His Word. Yet he had never had that opportunity.

That changed one day when Evan, who had been aggressive and combative, suddenly became sad and distant. When his cabin leader asked him what was going on, Evan told him it was the anniversary of the day he went into foster care. It was a day when

all the painful memories of family turmoil came flooding back.

Thanks to your generosity, Evan's cabin leader gave him an *Adventure for Life Bible* which had been provided to the camp by the Canadian Bible Society. That evening, the cabin leader noticed that Evan was absent. He went looking for him and found him reading his new Bible.

Thank you for ministering to struggling young people. You are helping bring the healing of God's presence through Scripture.





**Everywhere
in our world,
suffering people
long for hope
and healing.**

They include families crushed by poverty, refugees fleeing violence, abandoned children, and victims of domestic violence. In their deep pain, they often feel separated from God.

**YOUR GIFT HELPS PROVIDE HEALING TO THE
SUFFERING AND BROKEN-HEARTED WHO URGENTLY
NEED GOD'S WORD.**

Donate Today
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