

ISSUE 1 | 2024

word@work

YOU ARE
HELPING BRING
**THE HOPE OF
GOD'S WORD TO
PEOPLE IN NEED**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

—Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

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Canadian
Bible Society

RUPEN'S REFLECTIONS

■ You are part of an amazing transformation that is happening throughout the country of Cuba.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV).

We recently celebrated a new year and the hope of new beginnings it represents. As the Scriptures tell us, Jesus offers the ultimate fresh start for everyone. Through faith in Christ, the Spirit breathes into us the very life of God that makes us a different person.

Now that is something worth celebrating! Life in Christ gives us the power to worship God, to serve others, and to partner with all that God is doing in our world.

Last spring, I travelled to Cuba and saw the power of God at work in this way in the lives of so many people. I attended one Sunday service — standing room only — where people were singing and dancing with the joy of the Lord. When we gave out Bibles, the team was mobbed by people who are hungry for God's Word.

Thank you for helping provide these Bibles!



As you read this issue of word@work, I pray that you will be encouraged to see how God is working in Cuba and all around the world through your generous partnership. Your gifts are bringing new life 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.

TO DONATE:

CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-465-2425

DONATE ONLINE: biblesociety.ca/wawjan24

MAIL TO: 10 Carnforth Road, Toronto, ON M4A 2S4



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.

YOUR GIFTS HELPED DARLEN OVERCOME ABUSE AND FIND NEW LIFE IN JESUS



■ Darlen, who lives in Cameroon, endured a dark world of pain and alienation. You see, she endured repeated abuse at the hands of her stepfather. And when Darlen turned to her mother for help, she ignored the abuse and pushed her daughter away.

Darlen felt alienated and alone... until she attended a Bible Society program for single teenage mothers. There she met Jesus through the Bible passages she read. "I soon learned to forgive, and I reconciled with my mother," Darlen says. "I found love, joy, and happiness."

Thanks to generous donors like you, Darlen received her own Bible, which has become a source of strength as conflict and violence have ravaged her village. "I have indeed experienced the protection and love of God, standing on the Word of God," she says.

"I want to thank the Bible Society and its donors for picking me from the garbage and making me a Kingdom child."

Today, Darlen operates her own sewing shop. She is using her business as a way to help others and has hired a widowed mother who is caring for three children.

"The Bible Society put laughter in my mouth," she says. "I want to do so for others. God bless you for helping me."

YOU HELPED MAI UNDERSTAND THE VERY FIRST WORDS OF SCRIPTURE IN HER LANGUAGE

■ As Christians, we know that everyone deserves to have God’s Word in a language they understand. Your gifts have helped make that possible for the Nung Chao people of Vietnam, who previously did not have a Gospel witness.

One of the people you have helped is a woman named Mai, who heard the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15 through an Audio Bible. This “Talking Bible” was the first time she had ever encountered Scripture in a language she could understand.

“I have never heard anything like this before. It is so clear and simple, yet so profound and meaningful,” she says.

“It is like listening to an old friend telling me a story from his heart. I can understand everything he says because he speaks my language, Nung Chao.”



Donors like you help people like Mai understand the power and meaning of the Scriptures for the first time in their lives.

THE DAY KAIYRGUL RECEIVED A BIBLE...



■ Everyday hearts are gripped by Jesus and people choose to follow Him. This happened to a woman named Kaiyrgul when she was given a Bible, which are rare in Kyrgyzstan. Thank you for your support that made this precious gift possible!

In the days that followed, Kaiyrgul experienced intense persecution and regularly opened her Bible to gain strength and experience God’s loving presence in her life. Over weeks and months, Kaiyrgul’s faithfulness to God planted seeds in her husband’s heart — and he asked if he could attend church with her.

That Sunday, Kaiyrgul’s husband heard God’s Word and made the decision to follow Christ himself. Today, all Kaiyrgul’s family members are Christians! She gives thanks to God for this miracle.

UPDATE: GOD IS AT WORK IN CUBA

■ The Pope's visit to Cuba in 1998 opened the door to more religious freedom in Cuba. Since then, over 10,000 new churches across denominations have been planted and there are now over 1 million known Christians in the country. This is remarkable because Christianity was banned after the revolution. God is using your generosity to provide His Word to people who are hungry to know Him.



Last spring, Rev. Dr. Rupen Das visited Cuba, where he saw the Spirit drawing people to Christ and a deep hunger for God's Word:

- > "The pastors we met told us that almost every week at least one family, if not more, comes to them asking to be baptized."
- > "For people to mature in their faith, they need Bibles, and church leaders need Bibles to shepherd the church."

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO DISTRIBUTE LIFE-CHANGING SCRIPTURE IN CANADA AND AROUND THE WORLD



CANADA

- > Your gifts made it possible for the Canadian Bible Society to distribute **525,466 Bibles**, Testaments, Bible portions, and selections in Canada.
- > This number includes **10,800 Camp Bibles** developed specifically for children and youth and distributed through our Canadian camp partners.

PERU

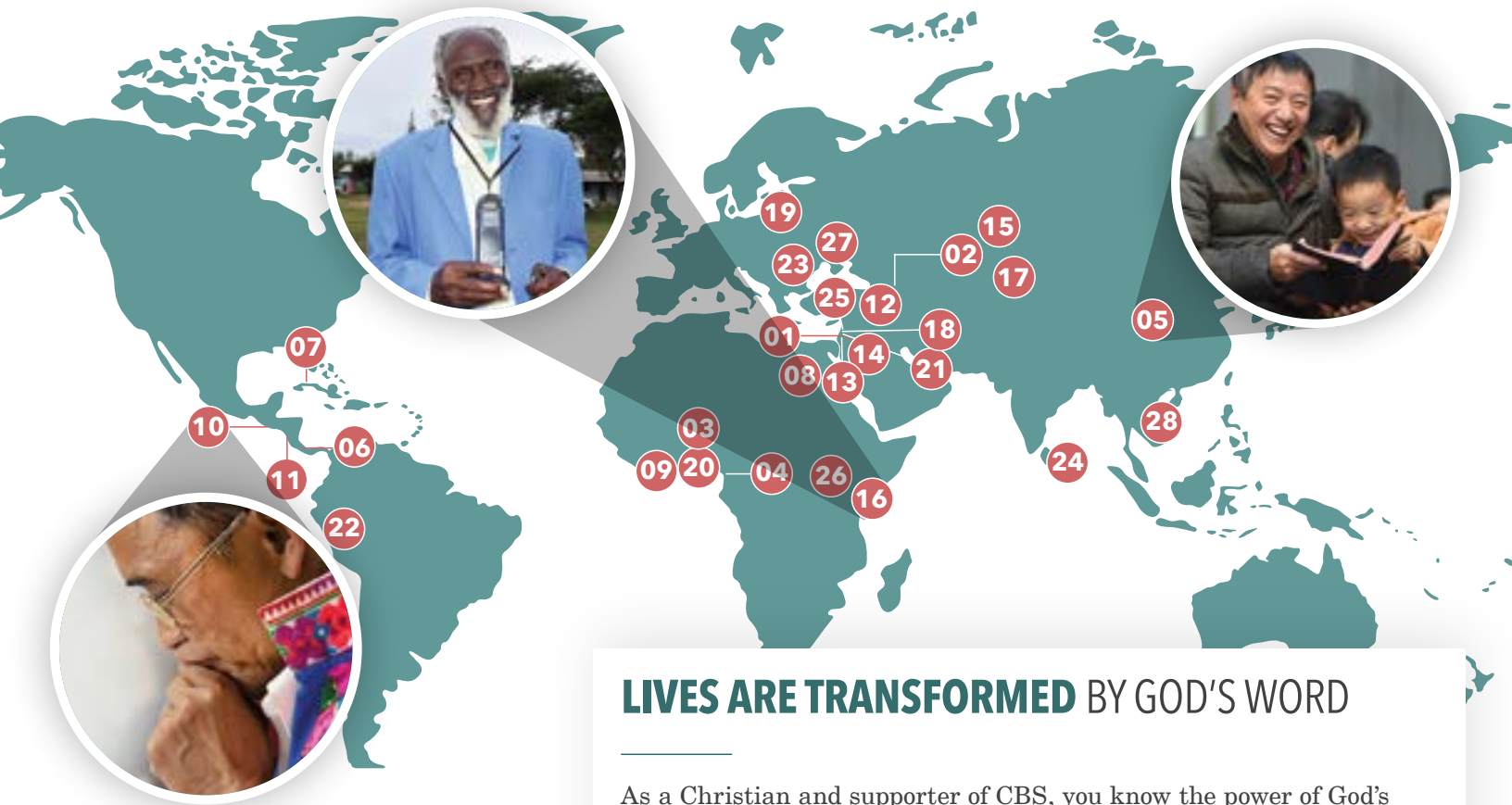
- > You've reached **1,415 children** with God's Word by helping to distribute Bible stories, child activities, and visual aids through the *Pan de Vida* (Bread of Life) program in 38 communities.



KENYA

- > You helped distribute **349 Audio Scriptures** and support the formation of 104 local groups that listen to these Bibles together.
- > "The Talking Bible has become the favourite of all people in our church. Since we are in the countryside and not everyone can read and write, it has become important to listen to the word and then gain faith." –Joseph, Samburu County.





LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED BY GOD'S WORD

As a Christian and supporter of CBS, you know the power of God's Word. Your gift today will ensure that many more can experience the transformation that comes from hearing God speak through His Word!

SELECT GLOBAL PROJECTS

- 01 **Arab-Israel** - God's Word to children and youth in Galilee
- 02 **Armenia** - Scriptures to needy children
- 03 **Burkina Faso** - Transcription of Moore Bible into Braille
- 04 **Cameroon** - Bringing God's Word to teenage mothers and girls who are victims of sexual exploitation
- 05 **China** - Braille and audio Bible for the visually impaired
Affordable Bibles for the millions in China
Bible Translation for Ethnic Minority People
- 06 **Costa Rica** - Scriptures in Spanish Braille for Adult Children
- 07 **Cuba** - Cuban Sign Language Bible Translation
A Bible for every Cuban
- 08 **Egypt** - Scriptures for poor children and their families
- 09 **Ghana** - Rescuing vulnerable teenage girls from the sex trade with God's Word
- 10 **Guatemala** - God's Word to young victims of sex trafficking
- 11 **Honduras** - God's Word to the world's most violent country
- 12 **Iraq** - Scriptures for the persecuted Church
- 13 **Israel** - Bible engagement and trauma healing to Israel
- 14 **Jordan** - God's Word to Refugees
- 15 **Kazakhstan** - Large font Bible parts in Russian for people with visual disabilities
- 16 **Kenya** - Bibles to visually impaired school-going children
Faith comes by hearing (Audio Bibles)
- 17 **Kyrgyzstan** - Bible texts for women in Islamic culture
- 18 **Lebanon** - Trauma Healing Program for traumatized Iraqi and Syrian refugees
- 19 **Lithuania** - New Testament translation into Lithuanian Sign language
- 20 **Nigeria** - Meeting the Scriptural needs of those who are displaced
- 21 **Palestine** - Trauma Healing through God's Word to Palestine
- 22 **Peru** - Sharing Scriptures and breakfast with needy children
- 23 **Romania** - Sharing God's love with children with Down syndrome
Healing the wounds of trauma
- 24 **Sri Lanka** - Braille and Audio Bible for the visually impaired
- 25 **Syria** - Trauma Healing through Scriptures
- 26 **Uganda** - Scriptures for people with visual disabilities
- 27 **Ukraine** - Bibles and resources for distressed Ukraine
- 28 **Vietnam** - First Bible in Nung Chao dialect

TO LEARN MORE VISIT: www.biblesociety.ca

NOTES OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



Thank you from Ukraine Bible Society...

We're so grateful for your gifts that are putting Bibles into the hands of people in need — on the frontlines and across the country. Please keep on praying, please keep on supporting the Bible mission in Ukraine!

Tao, a grateful woman in China...

I was so grateful to be given a Bible in my village church today. Now I have the Word of God and feel much stronger in my life as I've learned to lay down my weariness and commit everything to the Lord.



Maria thanks you...

When I came to Canada and learned English, I got my first Bible in English and read it and read it. One day I discovered that JESUS LOVED ME and I gave my heart to Him. Finding Jesus was the happiest day of my life, and even at old age He has never left me. I praise Him every day and I am so thankful for the Bible.





**YOU CAN OFFER
HOPE AND HEALING
THROUGH YOUR GIFT
OF GOD'S WORD.**

As Christians and churches, we have a crucial role in helping those 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 OF SCRIPTURE PROVIDES THE HOPE OF
GOD'S LOVING PRESENCE TO PEOPLE LIVING
IN DARKNESS AND DESPAIR.**

Donate Today
biblesociety.ca/wawjan24