

JUNE/JULY 2025

ACTION REPORT

NEWS FROM BIBLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL

**“Because of
YOUR SUPPORT,
God is blessing us.”**

*Your generosity is
healing Sasikala’s
community.*

Following Jesus' calling

You're helping to equip and reach the world's most vulnerable

In this issue, you'll read all about Sasikala in Sri Lanka. A woman who endured a 26-year civil war. A woman who was demon possessed. A woman who had so much stacked against her. Yet, the Lord saved her. Now, He is using her to draw more and more people into His presence.

She reminds me of another woman close to Jesus—Mary Magdalene. The gospels mention her name 12 times. That's more times than many of the apostles. Her story is never recounted in-depth. But each tidbit reveals her deep connection to the Rabbi and His ministry.

Like Sasikala, Mary had her fair share of suffering. Seven demons possessed her. Jesus freed her. She traveled with Jesus and the disciples. It's clear she stayed close to Him throughout His earthly ministry. Mary was a woman who, like you, helped financially support Jesus' ministry. She was there the day they crucified her Lord. And she was the first to discover his empty tomb three days later.

The accounts in the gospels vary, but Mary Magdalene makes an appearance at the tomb in each one. In John, there is a unique moment. Jesus calls her name, and she immediately recognizes His voice. Not only did He call her name, but the Messiah then called her specifically to spread the news that He had risen.

It would be easy to discount Mary Magdalene. After all, she is barely mentioned. But each day, God is calling people just like He did Mary Magdalene. And just like He has called Sasikala. People in the shadows. People who seem unqualified. People who are suffering more than we can imagine. But when the Lord calls them, He equips them with the tools to rise to the occasion.

Thank you for helping leaders like Sasikala to follow their calling. Now, they have hope and are sharing it with their hurting communities.

In Christ,



Jos Snoep
President and CEO



“Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”)...Jesus said, “...go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

Transforming faith

Your support is helping Sasikala bring healing and hope through God's Word.

"I was drowning..."

Sasikala says, her gentle voice carrying the weight of a life marked by suffering. She vividly remembers the horrors of Sri Lanka's brutal civil war—years filled with fear, separation, and despair. In 2008, during the height of the civil conflict, Sasikala faced the unimaginable. To protect her children from being taken by militant forces, she made a harrowing escape attempt, carrying her baby in her arms as bombs fell and floodwater surged around her.

"I was drowning," she recalls, "but I cried out, 'Jesus, help me!'" At that moment, she felt a hand lift her from the water—but when she looked around, no one was there. That miraculous rescue planted a seed of faith in her heart.

Finding hope

Her pain didn't end there. After being separated from her children and betrayed by her husband, she returned home to rebuild her life, only to be tormented by depression and spiritual oppression. Overtaken by what she now believes was demonic possession, Sasikala was on the brink of suicide. Her children, just eight, six, four, and two, bore the brunt of her suffering. "I didn't want to live," she admits, "but God had a different plan."

Sasikala desperately sought healing. That search led her to Pastor Ginesh, a Bible League-trained church planter. After he prayed over her, Sasikala experienced deliverance—not just physically, but spiritually. She came to know Jesus as her Redeemer, offering salvation and a new beginning. This transformation ignited her passion to serve the Lord.

How does a woman so broken by war and loss become an inspiration of hope? How does she go from despair to leading a church that transforms lives?

**Sasikala will tell you:
THE ANSWER IS JESUS.**

But her journey wasn't easy. It was filled with trials that tested her faith and shaped her into the servant leader she is today.

A land scarred by conflict

Now in her late 40s, Sasikala lives in Panamkandi, a small village in Kilinochchi, a region still bearing the

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scars of Sri Lanka's decades-long civil war. This island nation, smaller than South Carolina, lies off the southeastern coast of India.

Once a stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an armed, violent rebel group, the area is slowly rebuilding after years of conflict and displacement. Like many others,

Sasikala returned, determined to restore her life amid the ruins.

Kilinochchi is a place of contrasts: humble homes and shops nestled amid tropical greenery, coconut trees gently swaying in the breeze, and the distant sounds of roosters near her small house. Amid this, Sasikala leads a vibrant church—a testament to God's grace.

Life here is not easy. Poverty, limited opportunities, and deep emotional wounds remain. "It's hard," Sasikala admitted. "But God gives us strength to carry on."

Equipped to serve

Though eager to serve, Sasikala lacked the tools and training to lead effectively. Recognizing her passion, Pastor Ginesh (*pictured left*) invited her to participate in Bible League's Church Planter Training program.

"The training helped me so much," Sasikala recalls. "It gave me confidence to share the Gospel with others."

The program equipped her to teach and minister with compassion and confidence. "As I studied, I felt a passion growing in my heart," she explained. "I knew I had to tell others about Jesus. What I learned, I put into practice."

Her ministry began with children. "Reaching out to the children was my starting point," she says. "Many have never heard of Jesus. Their openness



Pastor Ginesh saw Sasikala's passion for the Gospel. With your help, he fueled it, empowering her to step out of the shadows and reach her community.

Bandaging wounds with the Gospel



Mr K.Sathees from Vanni. ©CC BY 2.0, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tractors_Jan_2009_displacement_in_the_Vanni.jpg

For over 25 years, the people of Sri Lanka endured a brutal civil war. The fight between the Sri Lanka Army in the south and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the north left nearly 70,000 civilians dead. That's about how many can fit in the Philadelphia Eagles football stadium. The bloody war also left an estimated 1 million people displaced.

Though it ended in 2009, deep scars remain. Tens of thousands of displaced people still live in camps. Extensive minefields laid during the war wreak havoc. It's a place where many need hope. And with your help, Sasikala is helping them find it.

He heals their broken hearts and bandages their wounds.

Psalm 147:3 ERV

and joy inspired me to do more.” Through storytelling, action songs, and interactive lessons, Sasikala sowed seeds of faith in young hearts.

And those seeds bore fruit. As the children’s lives changed, their parents began attending church, moved by the transformation in their families. One couple was so moved, they donated land to build a dedicated place of worship.

A church that changes lives

Today, more than 15 years after her miraculous escape and spiritual transformation, Sasikala leads the only church in her village—a light in a place once shrouded in darkness and conflict. Since starting her ministry, she has witnessed God steadily building a community of faith in a region still healing from the wounds of war.

Around 35 people—mostly women and children—gather to worship each Sunday in the new church building, while Bible study groups meet in homes throughout the week, nurturing faith and fellowship.

She is deeply grateful to those like you who have supported her journey.

“After studying God’s Word, I gained the strength to teach others. I am so thankful. You made this possible. Because of your support, God is blessing us. Our ministry is growing.”

That growth is evident. Recently, two men—Sibi and John—were baptized after coming to know

Jesus through Sasikala’s ministry. “They came to know Jesus through me,” she shares joyfully. Their lives are proof of the transforming power of the Gospel.

Her dream is to reach even more people with the Gospel. “Out of 70 families here, I have a vision to reach 50. I want to see this church grow,” she says. But resources are limited. “We need more

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“
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”



Bibles for youth and adults,” she explains. “Many cannot read, so we also need Audio Bibles. People are eager to learn from God’s Word.”

Strength in surrender

Sasikala’s story is a powerful reminder that true strength is found in surrendering to God.

“I was bound by sin, but now I am free,” she said. “That is why I share

my testimony—so that others can experience the same freedom in Christ.”

Today, many in her village turn to Sasikala for prayer and support. They see her as a role model, a powerful witness for Jesus.

Even in the midst of suffering, there is hope. Through faith, perseverance, and your generosity, lives like Sasikala’s are being transformed each day.

Sasikala beams, “I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you. Because of your generous support, we are able to do so much for God’s kingdom.”

Thank you for being part of Sasikala’s journey. Your support is equipping more people like her to serve, uplift, and bring the light of Christ to those in need.



We must not get tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time. We must not give up.



Sibi's bargain with God

The best day of Sibi's life started as his worst. For years, he'd faced struggle after struggle. Now, he was in jail. With nowhere else to turn, he desperately tried to make a deal with God. "I prayed to God. I said if you deliver me from this jail, I will accept you as the true God..."

Find out how Sasikala helped Sibi turn his life around at:

bibleleague.org/Sibi



John found hope in a hopeless place

John didn't know if he wanted to keep living. Until his wife met Sasikala. Her prayers and words of prophecy pulled John from the depths of despair. He recalls, "All my life, I had only heard people complain about me or curse me for my fate but the words of prophecy gave me hope."

Read more of John's journey to hope at:

bibleleague.org/SriLankaJohn



ACTION EXTRA

See how God is using Sasikala to transform her community.

Watch her story at:

bibleleague.org/Sasikala



Listen to *The Word in Action*—a podcast about how God's Word is transforming lives around the globe. You'll hear from people who are spreading the hope of Jesus each day. Explore new stories monthly of how God is moving in the lives of kids, persecuted believers, church planters, and so many others.

Subscribe, listen to, and comment on your favorite podcast app, or tune in at: bibleleague.org/action-podcast

A big dream

Thank you for helping Sasikala to reach her community

Sasikala has big dreams for her community. You can read more about her inside.

"Out of 70 families here, I have a vision to reach 50. I want to see this church grow," she says. But she and others around the globe need your help.

"We need more Bibles for youth and adults," she explains. "People are eager to learn from God's Word."



139,424 PEOPLE REACHED WITH GOD'S WORD...

That's how many lives you have helped change

around the globe in the last month.

Imagine how many more you can help this month.

Your gift today will answer the prayers of people like Sasikala. You'll equip churches in need with the Bibles and training they have lacked for too long.

Please send your gift to help more people know Jesus!

