MISSION: MATTERS

WHERE THE WORD MEETS THE WORLD

FALL 2026

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BibleLeague® INTERNATIONAL

Letter from the President

"Don't worry—I am with you. Don't be afraid—I am your God." Isaiah 41:10 ERV

Dear Friend,

We live in a country where we can find a Bible in any bookstore, or even have one delivered straight to our doorsteps in an afternoon. It's easy to forget that, in most of the world, holding God's Word isn't like that at all.

Instead, Bibles are scarce and even restricted. In fact, according to the Bible Access List, 125 million Christians in our world today don't have their own copy of God's Word. If Bibles are available, believers may not have the money to buy one, and entire congregations might have one or two copies to share.

So think of the difference you're making when you send God's Word and Bible study materials around the world. Through you, believers are receiving their very own Bible for the first time!

For Christians, it's often said that our primary sense is hearing. Or, to paraphrase the great reformer Martin Luther, to be a Christian is first and foremost to be a *listener*.

Because of you, our brothers and sisters in Christ are hearing the Good News. In good times and bad, in hard times and in times of comfort.

In this edition of *Mission: Matters*, you'll meet believers whose lives you've touched with God's Word in times of persecution, loneliness, and isolation.

There's Joyce, who felt that God had left her. There's Pastor Lucien, who was trying to shepherd a lukewarm congregation. There's Sumit, who never knew his mother. And there's Tumchit, who has turned to Jesus despite the personal cost.

As you'll read in these pages, Jesus will not forsake us, no matter the situation. Every year at this time, we remember that He is Immanuel—God with us. Through your support… by sending Bibles to believers like Joyce… you're sending the truth of God's Word, so they might hear and rest in it.

I hope you'll be encouraged by the faith of these courageous believers. Thank you for stepping into the work that the Lord is doing through your support and prayers.

In Christ,

Jos Snoep
President



God Met Joyce in Her Anger

Through you, she learned who the Lord was calling her to become.

Neighbors gather beneath the tree outside Joyce Kasondela's *(pictured with her children)* home in Binga, Zimbabwe. In its shade, she opens the Bible and teaches her children. But Joyce's faith was not always her own.

Raised in a family devoted to traditional customs, she began attending church after marrying a Christian. She committed herself to Christ because her husband urged her to, and because she wanted his approval. "I was still going to church out of pretense," she says. She knew the motions of faith, but not the One at its center.

Then Joyce's husband left for South Africa to find work. At first, he returned after several months. Then the visits grew rare. The money stopped. Finally, three years passed without him coming home.

How would Joyce feed their three children? Small harvests and part-time farm work barely kept them going. Stories of husbands who left and never returned haunted her. In her mind, she was no longer a wife, but a mother abandoned to carry everything alone.

Continued on page 4



"Hope thinned. Anger took its place." And then, Joyce stopped going to church. The Savior she had followed for someone else now seemed absent when she needed Him most.

When the Word found her

During one of her jobs, a Christian family began inviting Joyce to lunch. They spoke about Jesus, but she had heard those words before. Why should this time be different?

Then they placed a booklet from Bible League in her hands. Joyce and the woman of the house studied it step by step. This time, she was not borrowing another person's convictions. She was meeting Christ in His Word!

Curiosity became hunger. Obligation became surrender. "Through Bible League's Bible studies, I learned who God is and who He was calling me to become." After finishing her first booklet, Joyce received a Bible of her own.

John 8:12 became a promise in the darkness: whoever follows Jesus will have the light of life. Through God's Word, hope returned and peace began to replace the anger and hopelessness that had taken root in her. Joyce's poverty did not vanish. Her husband was still away. But loneliness, hopelessness, and anger no longer had the final word.

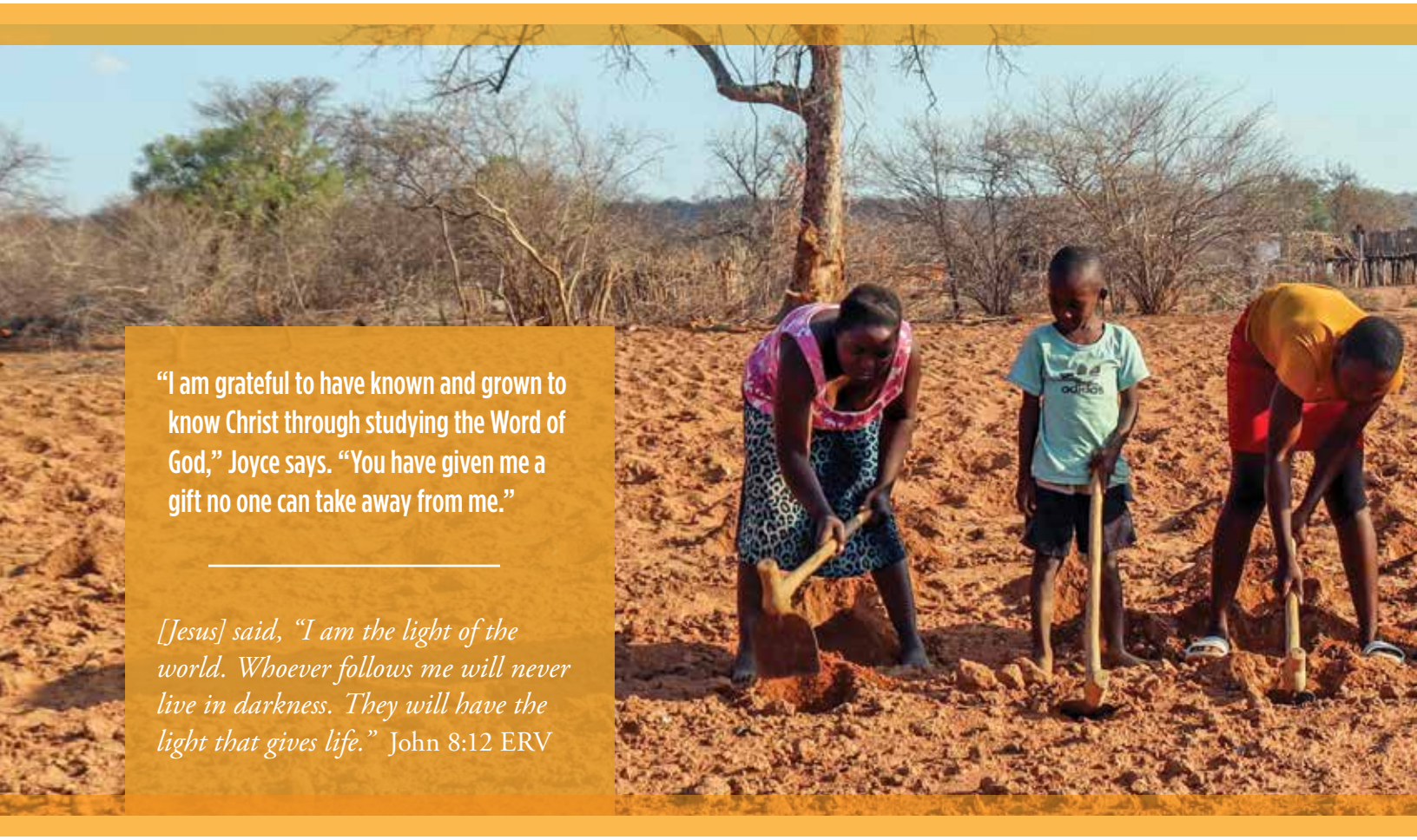
A faith that gives shade

Joyce's husband eventually returned, and they chose to rebuild their marriage. He still works in South Africa, but now visits and provides regularly. Meanwhile, Joyce's faith has taken root.

She teaches her children Scripture as they work their farm. She shares it with neighbors and coworkers. Church members gather beneath the tree at her home to study God's Word, in a place of shade where Bibles remain scarce.

"I am grateful to have known and grown to know Christ through studying the Word of God," Joyce says. "You have given me a gift no one can take away from me."

Joyce's words of thanks belong to *you*. Thank you for helping her faith take root.



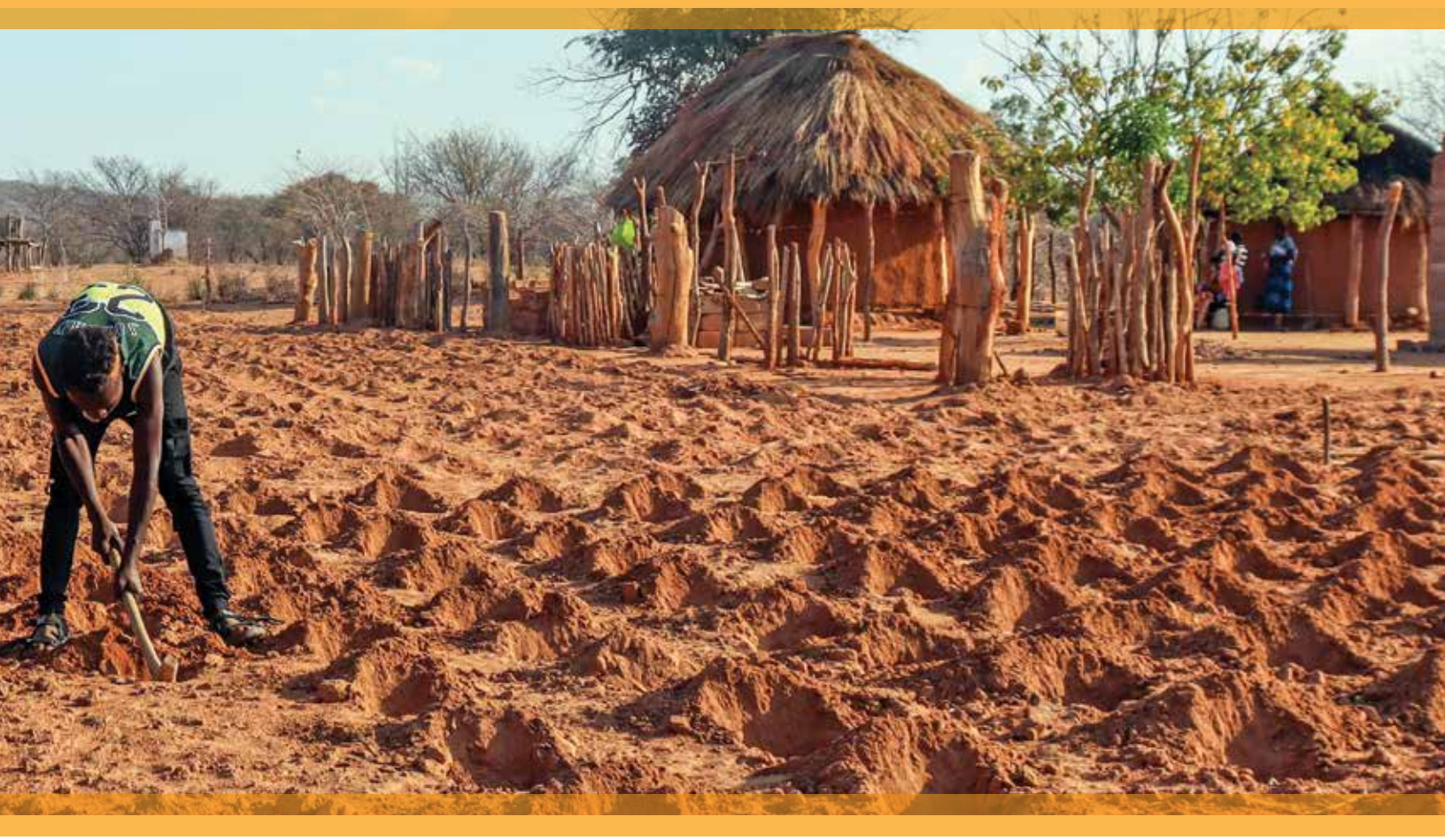
"I am grateful to have known and grown to know Christ through studying the Word of God," Joyce says. "You have given me a gift no one can take away from me."

[Jesus] said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never live in darkness. They will have the light that gives life." John 8:12 ERV

Fast Facts: Zimbabwe



- 82% of Zimbabwe's population are Christians.
- Only 50% of Christians in Zimbabwe own a Bible.
- Poverty, poor internet access, poor infrastructure, and low access to electricity contribute to low Bible access.
- Over 260,000 Bibles and Bible studies have been shared with Zimbabwe in the past 3 years, thanks to friends like you.
- Although church growth in Zimbabwe is generally declining, 850 churches have been planted in the past 3 years through Bible League's Church Planter Training program.



Tasting the Word of God

Through you, Rwandans' hunger for God's Word is being met!

Pastor Lucien, a short, broad-shouldered man with a gentle, relaxed voice, leads a church in Rukizi, Rwanda. Situated near the border with Uganda, along the Mulindi River, the small community is surrounded by lush green hills and fertile valleys. The spiritual climate, however, used to be dry—very dry.

Not interested in faith

"Most of my congregants live far from the church, deep in the hills," Pastor Lucien notes. "I only saw them on Sundays, or not at all. It seemed that people were not interested in faith, caught up as they were in their daily chores. Reading the Word of God was rare!"

Pastor Lucien tried what he could to ignite his lukewarm, scattered congregation. "Unfortunately, I missed two things," he explains. "One, I lacked teaching materials and Bibles. Two: I didn't have trained people to help me."

Out into the hills

Three years ago, Pastor Lucien's denomination, a partner of Bible League International, encouraged him to implement the Bible study program in Rukizi. Eager for tools to help him overcome his challenges, Pastor Lucien agreed. The impact seemed discouraging, though.

"At first, it was not easy to bring people together in small groups," the pastor recalls, shrugging his shoulders as if he still doesn't understand his congregants'





reluctance. It took a long time before he could train a group of members to become Bible study leaders.

"As I took them through the Bible study booklets, they started to taste the Word of God," Pastor Lucien says, flashing his teeth in a thankful smile. "Subsequently, they went out into the hills and invited people to join a Bible study group."

The oxygen they needed

Without oxygen, a fire dies. With the arrival of God's Word in Rukizi, the Holy Spirit blew life into Pastor Lucien's smoldering church. Each trained member became a red-hot ember that lit another, until the gospel spread like a wildfire.

"The number of Bible study participants increased as the groups continued meeting, reading the Gospel, and inviting others," Pastor Lucien beams. "They have become the pillars of my church."

Taste and see that the Lord is good

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!" says Psalm 34:8. That verse has become reality in his church, Pastor Lucien gratefully notes. "People love their small Bible study groups," he rejoices, "and they remain hungry for the Word of God!"

Through your gift of God's Word, Pastor Lucien's church has become as fertile as the valley it overlooks. "I see how the Gospel bears fruit in the people's lives," he concludes. "I thank God for using you to support the Bible study ministry. Pray that the Good News will continue to reach Rwanda for Christ!"

"I thank God for using you to support the Bible study ministry. Pray that the Good News will continue to reach Rwanda for Christ!"

Found by the Father

How you helped Sumit and his father discover Jesus.

Thirteen-year-old Sumit never knew his mother.

"My mother passed away when I was born," he says today. "I never saw her. Only my father is at home; he's the one who took care of me."

Sumit's father worked for the railways and raised Sumit alone, teaching him at home before he ever entered a classroom. Then a pastor encouraged his father to send him to a residential Christian school.

Away from home

For a boy who had never spent a night apart from his father, the first days felt strange. Sumit watched children laugh and run together in the schoolyard. He wanted to join them, but felt very lonely.

"It was so difficult at first," he says. "Difficult to sleep. Difficult to talk with others. Difficult to study. Most of all, difficult to stay far from my daddy." Then he corrects himself. "I mean, difficult to stay far from my father, because I never had a mother."

Friendship opened a door. Another boy walked up and asked his name. "Now he is my best friend," Sumit says. Slowly, Sumit learned to make friends and do things on his own. "God is with me," he says.



"I love the Bible stories in the workbook. I always look forward to the last period to learn the stories."

So, faith comes from hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ. Romans 10:17 ERV

God's Word in his hands

Through Bible League's literacy materials, part of the school's *Firm Foundations* curriculum, Sumit began learning English through Bible stories. "I have completed 32 lessons so far," he says. "It helped me learn how to read English properly. The workbook helped me with grammar."

But the Bible stories woven through those lessons reached him most deeply. "I love the Bible stories in the workbook," he says. "I always look forward to the last period to learn the stories."

When he joined the literacy program, Sumit also received a Bible through Bible League. Now, he reads it every day.

His favorite story is the Prodigal Son. "I love how when the son came back, he understood his mistake," Sumit explains. "His father hugged him and gave a feast, saying, 'My son was lost and now he is found.'"

For Sumit, that picture of a father welcoming his son home feels deeply personal.

Father and son discovering Jesus

Sumit and his father came from a Hindu background. When his father met the pastor, the pastor began sharing the gospel with both of them. Sumit says, "The pastor taught us from the Bible that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He died for us and He rose from the dead."

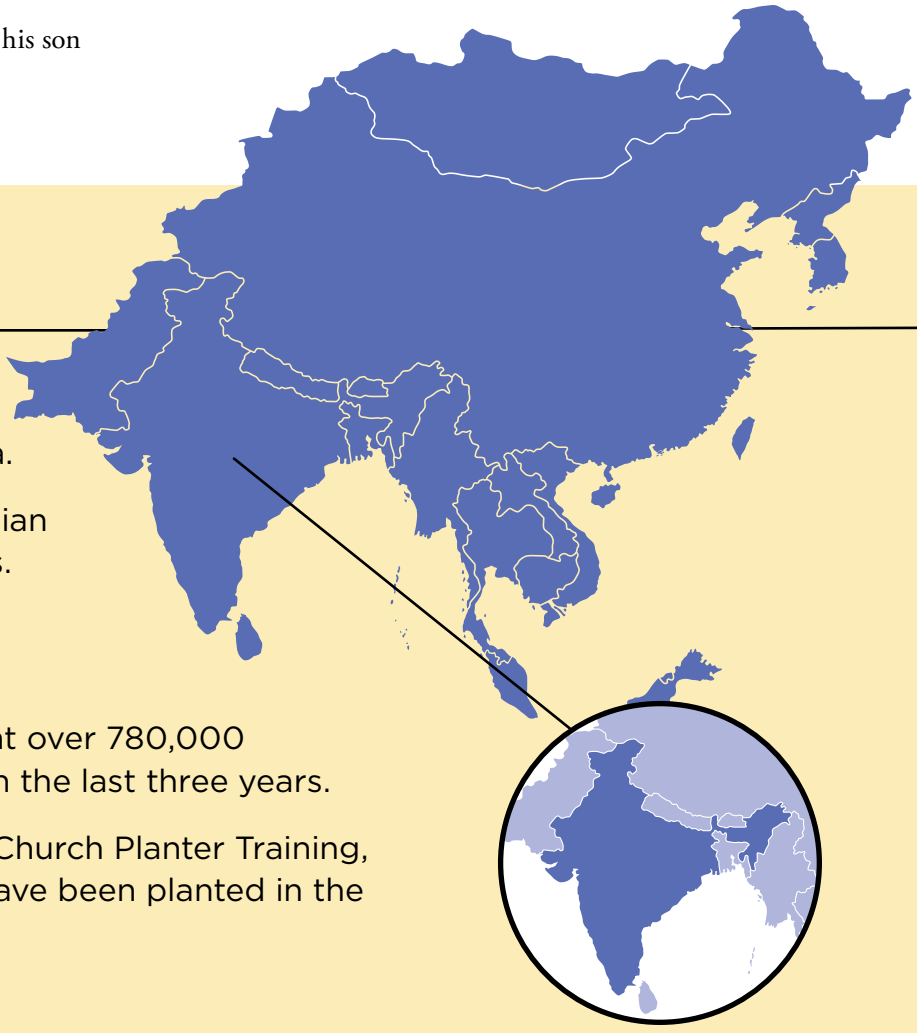
Today, Sumit says, "I believe in Jesus now." His father is learning too. "My father came to know Jesus three years ago, but he is not yet baptized. He is learning."

Sumit hopes to serve his country as a police officer. When asked why, he says, "I want to maintain law and order and peace." But his prayer stays close to home: "Pray for my father because he is single and works very hard to manage everything. Pray for his health and protection, that he will come to know Jesus more."

Through your support, God is using you to help children like Sumit meet Jesus in his Word and carry that hope home. Thank you!



Fast Facts: India



There are over 1.4 ***billion*** people in India.

5%

Only 5% of the entire Indian population are Christians.

India needs more than 10 million Bibles.

Friends like you have sent over 780,000 Bibles to Indian people in the last three years.

Through Bible League's Church Planter Training, almost 1,200 churches have been planted in the past three years.

Alone… But Not Afraid

Through God's Word, you helped send the Good News to Tumchit.

You wouldn't think a morning of fishing could change a life forever. But for Tumchit, it did.

She had gone to a mountain lake near home. That day, an evangelist named Kinepre met her by the water and told her about the Lord Jesus. Like her people for generations, Tumchit followed Buddhism and traditional worship practices. But she was curious, so Tumchit invited him to her home. There, he told her more about Jesus and started reading the Bible with her.

A new name

Over time, Kinepre guided Tumchit through Bible League Bible studies. There, she discovered the Savior she had never known.

"Jesus Christ is my Savior; He saved me from my sins," she says. "When I die, my body will return to the earth, but my spirit will be with God in heaven."

When Tumchit accepted Jesus, she not only received a new name ("Mary") but she took on a new identity, and learned a whole new way to live. "When I accepted Jesus in my life, I gave up all those things," she says.

The cost of faith

Following Jesus came with a cost. When Tumchit and her children chose baptism, her husband refused to join them. He said he could not leave the Buddhist community.

After they returned home baptized, he turned against them. He cursed and beat them, then tried to force them



back into old worship practices. When his threats grew worse, neighbors stepped in.

"A lot of persecution has come into my life after accepting Jesus Christ," Tumchit says, "but I am very happy in my heart that I am accepting Jesus and following Him."

Still, Tumchit says: "He scares me, but I am not afraid. Because I believe in Almighty God."

Life from the Word

One Bible story holds Tumchit's heart: Jesus raising a little girl from the dead. In that miracle, she saw who Jesus truly is.

"No one can give life to the dead except God," she says. "So from this story, I understood that Jesus Christ is God."

This conviction keeps Tumchit standing and sends her back into her community.

Hope for her village

As far as Tumchit knows, she is the only Christian in her village. Still, she tells her neighbors that Jesus is the Savior of all. Some are curious. Some are afraid of baptism, believing that it is shameful. Tumchit gently explains that baptism is not a sin; it is a commandment of Jesus.

Now some villagers are asking for someone to come and teach them more about the Lord Jesus.

Tumchit thanks Bible League for bringing God's Word to her. "I thank them for giving me the Good News of God through the Book of John," she says. "Without them, I would never have become a child of God."

Her prayer is simple: that her husband will believe and her family will live together in God's deep love.

Your gift placed God's Word in Tumchit's hands. Now, despite the cost, she is carrying the hope of Jesus to her family and her village.



Thank you for placing God's Word in Tumchit's hands. It gave her courage to follow Jesus and share His gospel.

Jesus said to the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid; just believe."
Mark 5:36 ERV



You can send Bibles to believers like Joyce

"So faith comes from hearing the Good News," Paul writes in Romans 10:17 ERV. "And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ."

Every story that you've read in this edition of *Mission: Matters* happened where it's hard to access the Bible. Joyce, for instance, is from Zimbabwe. Just 50% of believers there have their own Bible, according to the Bible Access List.

To help more people like Joyce get their own copy of God's Word, visit ***bibleleague.org/mm*** or scan the QR code to the right.

Provide Bibles Every Month.

125 million believers around the world are waiting for a Bible of their own. Become a monthly giver today (what we call a Sower), and you'll send Bibles each month to local churches and leaders who will share God's Word. Right now, your first monthly gift will be DOUBLED up to $5,000—and provide Bibles for twice as many people.

Visit ***bibleleague.org/Sowers*** today!

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