

“The God of the Holy Bible” brings peace amid tragedy

Calgary businessman Jason Caldwell credits his faith “in the God of the Holy Bible” with giving him the peace he needed following the tragic death of his 17-year-old twin sons in an after-hours accident at Canada Olympic Park in February 2016.

— by Peter Fleck



SPEAKING AT THE CALGARY LEADERSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST IN OCTOBER 2016, Caldwell recounted

how a number of youths at Rocky Mountain Calvary Chapel let their “zest for life and adventure” get the better of them.

After a youth group meeting, the teenagers decided to trespass the Olympic Park grounds in the middle of the night and take their toboggans down the steep, icy run built for luge and bobsled races. What they didn’t realize is that further down, the track had been barricaded and chained off.

“Those invincible, underdeveloped teenaged brains never considered or calculated the danger.”

Since he had personally found strength and direction from the Bible, Caldwell arranged for everyone in attendance to receive a copy of the 32-page *Words of Comfort* booklet from the Canadian Bible Society. This resource contains numerous Scripture passages which give hope to those going through tough times.

“Like the fine print of an insurance policy, we’re usually not interested until we have a claim,” Caldwell explained. “I can tell you this, as their dad, knowing the fine print of the Bible has become essential to our peace and our hope. And the fine print doesn’t disappoint.”

He then pointed to Romans 8.1, which states, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Driven by a police cruiser to the medical examiner’s office on the morning of the accident, Caldwell said, “I never felt more powerless in my whole life than the moment that I fell to my knees between the cold, lifeless bodies of my sons.”

At that moment, Caldwell recalled all he could say was “thank God, I don’t have to worry about where my sons are... Jordan and Evan were not perfect, but they were forgiven. Their eternity is assured.”

“We will be reunited with our sons again and that it will be in heaven... is what made it possible to get through such a tragedy.”

There was also comfort for Caldwell in discovering that God had miraculously answered prayer that fateful night.

Caldwell’s sons were in the first and third of three sleds that went down the hill that night. Six other teens, some in the second sled, were seriously injured and taken to hospital.

Yet what happened to sled two is remarkable.

“My son, Jordan, was the one who gave sled two the push-off at the top,” Caldwell said. “As he did, many of the boys present heard Jordan’s voice bellowing these words, ‘Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done...’ He was praying the Lord’s Prayer over sled number two.”

Afterwards, Caldwell explained, “The boys on sled two testified of a miraculous, unexplainable intervention that kept them from hitting the barrier and the chain that only seconds later claimed the life of the one who prayed for them. My son Jordan’s last act was praying for his friends.”

It was the boys on sled two who were able to summon the authorities and have the injured rescued.

“GOD IS ALIVE. PRAYER WORKS. LET’S KEEP PRAYING,” CALDWELL ENCOURAGED THOSE AT THE PRAYER BREAKFAST.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Please invest in one or more of these initiatives in Canada and abroad.

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\$30 will help 4 children receive their own copy of the Bible.

\$50 will help deliver “Stop the Violence” biblical portions to 65 women affected by domestic violence.

\$75 will provide 10 Bibles to help patients and their families cope with cancer in Nicaragua and Romania.

\$100 will help equip volunteers and pastors to minister to 14 people battling cancer.

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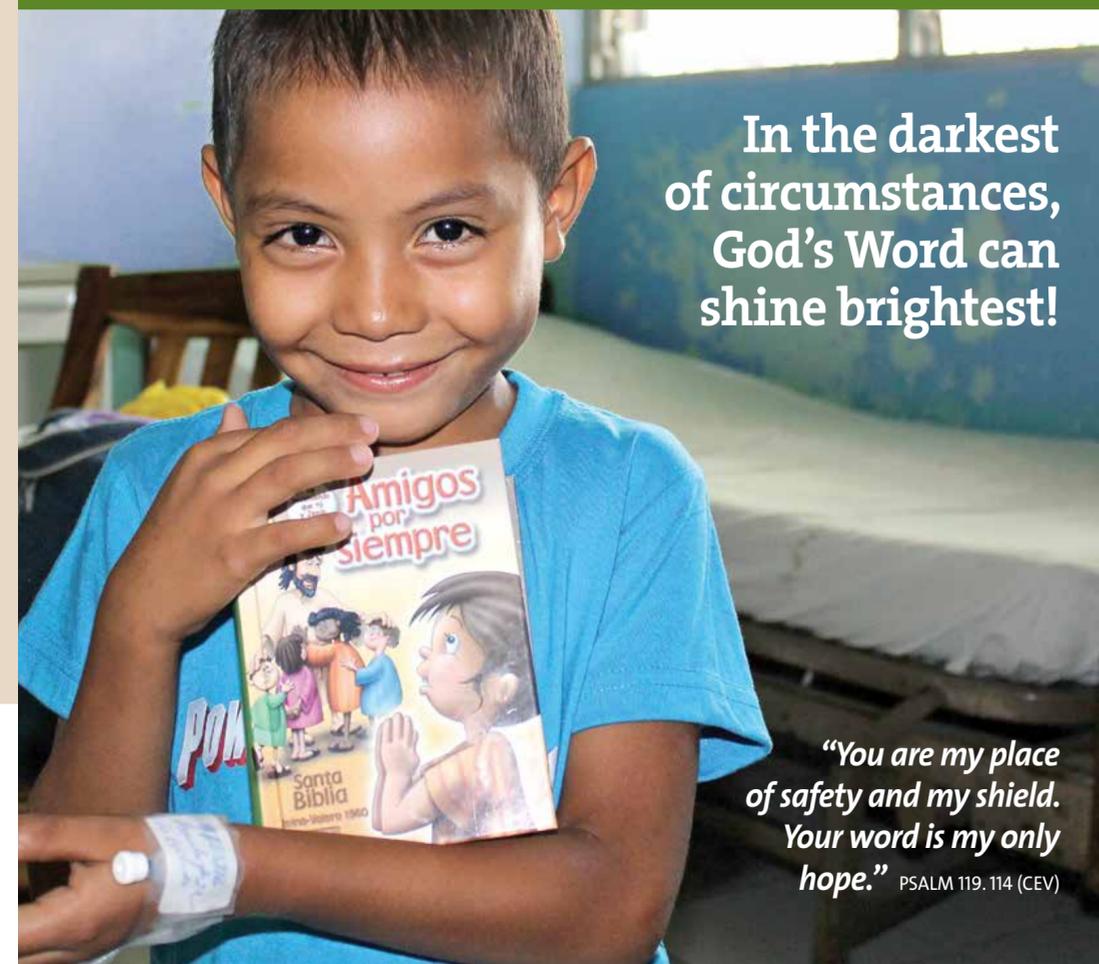
“Sometimes fear fills my mind, but every time that I read the Bible, that fear disappears from my life.”

— MARJURIE, 13

Your support of the *Hope and Smile* program will let the Good News of Jesus Christ fill the hearts of children fighting cancer in Nicaragua.

word@work

2018 – ISSUE 2



In the darkest of circumstances, God’s Word can shine brightest!

“You are my place of safety and my shield. Your word is my only hope.” PSALM 119. 114 (CEV)



“Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.”

— PROVERBS 30.5 (NLT)

When messy lives meet God, incredible change happens!

God is on the move around the world, and the Canadian Bible Society (CBS) is hard at work in many of the darkest regions of the earth, bringing hope to the hopeless and strength to the weak. Because of your faithful support, hearts once trapped in the darkness of despair are finding freedom through the truth of God’s Word.

Recently, some of our supporters visited two CBS projects in Nicaragua: *Hope and Smile for Children with Cancer* and *Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!* This trip was a powerful reminder that the most blessed life is one of obedience to God’s Word. Yet how can people obey the Word unless they read and know it? And how will they read and know it unless someone puts a Bible in their hands and helps them understand it?

In this word@work you will read about some of their astonishing encounters with people suffering humanity’s most challenging experiences.

The impact of your support and your prayers reach far more than Nicaragua. Thanks to you, CBS is active in 40 countries, supporting more than 55 projects, and God’s Word is changing lives!

God’s Power at Work!

Every seed of God’s Word sown around the world promises to bear fruit. The donors who visited Nicaragua witnessed this truth firsthand:

“Transformation occurs because the Bible Society goes into the mess of the world and brings radical results.”

— Jayelle Bond, trip participant

Each story of transformation, each Bible given away, happens because of your ongoing and generous support.

Please help CBS put the living Word of God into the hands of those who need it most. Your gift today will help ensure that the light of God’s Word continues to shine in the darkness!



“The Word of God is literally saving lives, extending lives, and changing the quality of lives.”

Photo – Team CBS: Nicaragua

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"I AM HAPPY THAT I REDISCOVERED FAITH AND BECAME CLOSER TO GOD, EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS SUFFERING."

— Carmen, participant in Bible between Life and Death Program

"IN FRONT OF DEATH, THERE IS ONLY GOD."

— Emilia Lorgandopol, General Secretary and Program Manager

ROMANIA: Bible between life and death program

It is a reality of our broken world that cancer plagues all creation and its terrible reach affects us all. Yet, for many needy people in Romania, the lack of available care and counselling leaves many feeling alone, helpless and without hope.

However, CBS is at work in Romania, using God's Word to lift the spirits of people with cancer!

Onita was one such person who experienced great distress and anxiety when touched by cancer. She recalls that terrible time:

"I WAS IN THE ARMY FOR 18 YEARS AND THOUGHT I WAS TOUGH AND STRONG. I THOUGHT NOTHING COULD HAPPEN TO ME. THEN I WAS HIT BY CANCER."

As she suffered through treatments, the fear of her own death kept Onita awake for nights on end.

One day, Onita came across the Bible Society program *Bible between Life and Death* and heard the Bible's hope and promises for those who put their faith in Jesus.

"I REALIZED GOD EXISTS AND NOTHING CAN BE DONE WITHOUT HIM... I USED TO BE AFRAID OF DEATH, BUT MY FAITH IN GOD HELPED ME TO NO LONGER BE AFRAID."

This story of God's Word in action does not end with Onita. Her transformation was so incredible the doctors asked her to share her story and her prayers with other patients as well.

Someone placed a Bible in Onita's hands and helped her understand the promises and power God offers those who follow him. It changed her life and touched the lives of many others battling terrible suffering.

>> Your generous gift today will help us continue to provide the Scriptures to Romanian people devastated by disease and death. Please be the one who will give God's Hope and Love to the many more who seek and need His Word today!

NICARAGUA

"PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY TO OWN A BIBLE. THEIR DESIRE TO BE GIVEN A BIBLE IS OVERWHELMING!"

— Jayelle Bond, trip participant

When Adriana discovered her two-year old son had life-threatening leukemia, incredible grief and pain overwhelmed her. She recalls the despair and uncertainty her son's cancer brought to her heart:

"When the doctors told me his diagnosis, I no longer wanted to live. I wanted to be the one experiencing this instead of my son."

— ADRIANA, MOTHER OF TWO-YEAR OLD CANCER PATIENT

"I no longer wanted to live."

Unfortunately, Adriana's story is not unique. As we visited La Mascota Children's Hospital, our hearts broke for the children fighting for their lives. The anguish of the parents who must watch their children suffer was overwhelming. They have needs that only the love of Jesus and His people can fill.

With your help, we will continue to provide hope to the little ones and their family who need it most.

"I will never forget sitting beside a 10-year old girl, who had been laying in the hospital for 21 days, hoping to go home. I know [without God's intervention] she will not. She has a brain tumour."

— Carolyn Owens, trip participant

However, mixed with our tears of compassion were tears of joy as we participated in the amazing work of the Bible Society. Thanks to the generosity of donors in Canada, *Hope and Smile for Children with Cancer* brings God's Word to the lives of children and families.

HOPE AND SMILE for Children with Cancer

"IT IS TRANSFORMATIONAL TO SEE HOW THE WORD OF GOD IS PLAYING SUCH A MAJOR ROLE IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE!"

— Jason DePoy, trip participant

The Word of God in action!

This program will reach over 120,000 people in three years by training pastors and volunteers to visit children, families, and hospital staff with the Word of God, offering counsel and comfort.

"It is transformational to see how the Word of God is playing such a major role in the lives of people!" — Jason DePoy, trip participant

Hospital staff notice tremendous improvement in the quality of life of children and families that participate in this program.

"The role the Bible Society plays is as important as the role I do. Their work with the children with cancer is vital and makes a big difference in children's lives."

— Dr. Patricia Calderon, Head of Oncology Department

"The survivor success rate is phenomenal and the ONLY explanation is that the hospital staff have embraced the Word of God as an integral part of the total process."

— Herbert Klassen, trip participant

So transformational is the role of God's Word in the healing process, that the Bible Society of Nicaragua has special permission from the Ministry of Health to provide spiritual support to children in La Mascota Hospital!

Hospital staff thanked us for you!

Mathias' mother Adriana expressed her thanks for the volunteers from Hope and Smile for Children with Cancer:

"During the most devastating times, their words of support and prayer were there. With the Bible I received, I learned that God has a great purpose for our lives and that his plans are perfect."

Many people we visited articulated their thanks for you, the faithful supporters of CBS:

"I thank the donors for allowing the Word of God to reach the families at the hospital. Thank you for allowing us to learn about God's kindness. I feel God's company in my Bible every moment."

— Adriana, mother of cancer patient

"The people always acknowledged their gratefulness for all the support in prayer and funds that the donors in Canada have provided."

— Herbert Klassen

Many people come to the Lord because of this wonderful project! Join me in continuing to support the needy children of Nicaragua who urgently need the hope and comfort provided by the Bible!



"People are eager and asking for Bibles!"

Incredible testimonies like this would not be possible without the kindness of supporters like you! Despite the many thanks we received from staff, parents, and children, there is still a critical need for the Scriptures in La Mascota Hospital.

"People are hungry to own a Bible. Their desire to be given a Bible is overwhelming!"

— Jayelle Bond, trip participant

These parents and children experience many moments of great pain and helplessness, and there is no other agency providing spiritual support and assistance for the thousands of children that enter La Mascota Hospital every year!

"This program must continue to be funded on a long-term basis. These Bibles are precious to them." — Jason DePoy, trip participant



Can God's Word change a nation? Yes, it can!

Another project we visited in Nicaragua was *Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!* This amazing program is bringing about massive social change to Central American culture.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our faithful donors, the Nicaraguan Bible Society launched this project to help eradicate violence in Nicaraguan homes through understanding God's plans and purposes for the family.

"YES, THERE IS A SOLUTION TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE! TAKES BROKEN PEOPLE AND BROKEN HOMES AND BRINGS TREMENDOUS TURNAROUND AND HEALING." — Jason DePoy

A shield of protection for those who trust in God!

Rafael was one such man who desperately needed transformation. For over ten years he was an alcoholic and a violent man. Rafael spent all the money earned by his family on liquor, which left his wife and daughter, who suffered from epilepsy, in destitute circumstances.

"My wife suffered greatly from my rage." — Rafael

When we met Rafael, he shared how he began to attend a local church where the pastor was developing *Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!* in his congregation.

Because of the generosity of CBS supporters like yourself, Rafael came to faith, was delivered from alcoholism, and is now preparing to enter the ministry!

That is the power of the Word of God! Its every word proves true, and the truth gives freedom to those trapped by sin and addiction! Now, neither Rafael nor his family need to suffer from his addiction! In addition to this incredible news, the local pastor reported to us that God healed Rafael's daughter from epilepsy!

When God works through his Word, he changes lives for eternity! But how will people know the good news of Scripture unless someone puts a Bible in their hands?



"It was only through the Word of God provided by the Bible Society that I was delivered from addiction, anger, and violence."

— testimony of a program participant

All of us who participated in this trip witnessed the revolutionary power of God's Word in broken homes!

"IT IS ONE THING TO READ ABOUT THE PROJECT. TO EXPERIENCE IT WAS LIFE-CHANGING." — Reg Graves, Nicaragua trip leader

Please continue to shine the light of the Scriptures into the darkness of domestic violence. Your gift today will support the *Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!* project in six Central American countries! In total, this incredible project will impact over 400,000 people in the region!

God's Word always holds true, and many people in Central America – both victims and perpetrators – are finding hope and transformation through his Word. Your gift today will make sure thousands more hear the good news of God's love and protection!

