

A Church on the Rise

Many Central American women and children are afflicted, storm-tossed, and without comfort. God's Word has the power to rebuild them on a foundation of love and dignity, and with your help, the Bible Society is reaching them with this message.

Praise God, the church is on the move and is rising up to take leadership in this critical area of Central American life. Imagine the cultural shift that is coming to this region! Your support will make an important difference in bringing the Word of God to a people crying out for help and hope.

7 countries...
400,000 people...
1 paradigm shift...

Yes, there is a solution to domestic violence!
And it starts with you.

Today you can help us bring the light of God's Word to one of the darkest, most violent regions of the world for women and children!

The good news is that the generosity of our faithful donors is already making a difference. Through our global campaign 'Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!', social change is already happening across the entire region.



We urge you to get involved with this powerful initiative today.
Call toll-free: 1-800-465-2425 Email: info@biblesociety.ca
Or visit: www.biblesociety.ca

There is an epidemic ravaging Central America....

IT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Canadian Bible Society and its global partners are launching a transformational campaign rooted in the power of God's Word for victim, perpetrator and child in:

- Mexico
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Nicaragua
- Dominican Republic
- Costa Rica
- Honduras



"NOW I EMBRACE MY KIDS AND TELL THEM HOW MUCH I LOVE THEM. I NEVER DID THIS BEFORE."

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Please prayerfully consider investing in one or more of these initiatives.

\$50 – Impacts 40 people

Brings 40 Scripture resources tailored especially for children, helping little ones understand domestic violence and affirming God's love for their lives.

\$100 – Impacts 20 families

For Bible-based youth-led training workshops; for women, focused on trauma healing to bring hope and dignity to victims; for men to overcome cultural attitudes, nurture their families and walk humbly with God.

\$250 – Impacts over 400 people

To build strong and vibrant families and communities. It equips leaders for this ministry of non-violence, provides Scripture portions and helps fund values-centred workshop.

CALL TOLL FREE: 1.800.465.2425

DONATE ONLINE: biblesociety.ca/wawmay17

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



We are a member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. This means that we adhere to high ethical and operational standards. The CCC seal is evidence that we are committed to integrity and excellence in ministry.

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

word@work

Domestic Violence in Central America has reached epidemic proportions.

"SCREAMS, BEATINGS AND HUMILIATION ARE A PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN HOMES."



IN THIS ISSUE



Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.

INSIDE: Read 7 stories from across Central America to discover how God's Word is at work comforting the storm-tossed and empowering the afflicted.

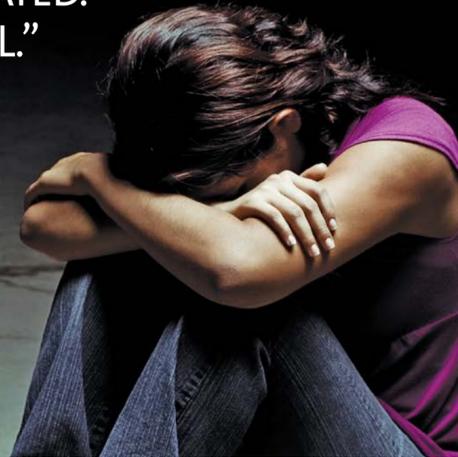
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

"I WAS BATTERED AND HUMILIATED. WHAT I EXPERIENCED WAS HELL."

Reyna, Honduran government worker and survivor of domestic violence

When it comes to conflict in Central America, we often hear of the "war on drugs" or the "war on organized crime." However, a new war has emerged in the region: the war on women.

As you read this sentence, a woman in Central America is being beaten, raped, or killed. Tens of thousands of other women and children are coping with the daily terror and fear of what is lurking in their own homes.



The most dangerous place in the world for women

Domestic abuse is the most pervasive type of violence in Central America. In the last few years, in Honduras, it has grown by 263%! Parts of Central America now have the highest murder rate of women and the highest levels of psychological violence in the world.

Authorities agree that Central America is in peril. Without healing and transformation, the cycle of violence continues from one generation to the next. **Adults abuse children, who grow up into adults who abuse children, and all of Central America suffers.**

Domestic violence affects not only individual families, but also the socio-economic development of the entire region, perpetuating poverty and hopelessness. Victims average more surgeries, pharmacy visits, hospital stays, and mental health consultations.

"O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, I will rebuild you..." – Isaiah 54.11

What can be done to stem the rising tide of violence against women and children? Who will rebuild these broken families? There is only one solution to this epidemic: **hearts transformed by the Word of God.**

"A WOMAN IS KILLED EVERY 13 HOURS."

National Commissioner for Human Rights, Honduras

"THE VIOLENCE IN THIS COUNTRY IS A FAMILY ILLNESS."

Former Minister of Justice, Costa Rica

Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!

One solution: hearts transformed by the Word of God!



There is an epidemic ravaging Central America. The *Pan-American Health Organization* calls it “a critical public health concern.” Others label it “an ongoing threat to life.”

It is not a biological disease...
It is not hunger...
It is not civil war...
It cannot be cured with a flu shot.

IT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Read the following 7 stories from across Central America to discover how, through this Canadian Bible Society campaign, God’s Word is at work comforting the storm-tossed, and empowering the afflicted to discover that *‘Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!’*

“If we educate everyone with the Word of God, I am certain that our community will change because only the Bible can transform people’s hearts.”



3 GUATEMALA – “I saw my Yordi smile, and I cried with joy.”

Yordi is seven-years-old. Abandoned by his mother at the age of three, Yordi went on to suffer physical, sexual, and psychological abuse at the hands of those entrusted with his care. Fear and misery grew strong in his little heart, and he refused to speak aloud to anyone.

This shocking story is a common one in Guatemalan society. In fact, the most common form of domestic violence in Guatemala is sexual abuse. Each year, many thousands of girls under the age of 14 become pregnant as a result of sexual abuse, and 98% of these violations occur in the family!

The Bible Society is at work in the slums of Guatemala City, bringing the hope of God’s Word to devastated victims. Through *Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!* those most vulnerable discover God’s love and the dignity His Word bestows upon them.

Yordi was one such child. After being adopted by a Christian family, Yordi attended a Bible Society class and received his own Bible. His adoptive mother writes:

“When he came home with his Bible, I saw my Yordi smile. Now he takes his Bible every time we go to church. I see him pray and play with other children. These changes happened because God used the Bible Society to bless us.”

New life and new hope is possible! With your ongoing support, this program will reach over 70,000 individuals with the Bible’s message of God’s peace and love available to all families.



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1 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – “Today, I want to be a new man!”

Imagine conducting a Sunday School class at church. Suddenly in the middle of the lesson, a married couple starts to argue and fight each other with knives! Their child leans over to you, tells you not to worry – it’s normal.

This actually happened during a Bible Society class in a church in Capotillo! You can see why there is such a desperate need to bring God’s Word here. *We must change what is considered normal.*



Cesar is one such man who needed a ‘new normal.’ He struggled to overcome aggression, born out of years of abuse and rejection. Fortunately, Cesar encountered God through a Bible Society program in a rehabilitation centre. After discovering Jesus’ redeeming love, he began the hard work of reconciling himself to many of those he had previously hurt. His words as he left were, **“Today, I want to be a new man!”**

This is how your generosity helps change: one person at a time, who encounter the Word of God and walk away a new creation in Christ. In the Dominican Republic, *‘Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!’* plans to introduce 50,000 people to a new life, through the transforming power of the Bible.

And we can only carry out this outreach with you!

2 COSTA RICA – “The woman who doesn’t give up.”

Xinia lives in Upala. She is a survivor of multiple types of domestic violence at the hands of her former husband. Lost and broken-hearted, Xinia experienced the love of Jesus at a Bible Society workshop. As she studied the Scriptures, Xinia found her identity in Christ. Her self-esteem grew as she realized that God could use her painful past for His purposes.

Xinia worked hard to start her own business at home so she could take care of her daughter with special-needs. Today, she also supports and encourages four employees with all she has learned from the Bible Society workshops and literature.



As inspiring as Xinia’s story is, there are many more women in Costa Rica who have yet to hear the good news of God’s Word!

Your financial support of *‘Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!’* continues to help break the cycle of violence in Costa Rica!

“Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!” is reaching 20,000 adults and children with comfort and teaching from God’s Word. Since pastors, community leaders, police, and parents are a key group of leaders, this program influences the influencers and shifts cultural norms about domestic violence.

4 NICARAGUA – “This is why I’m thankful to the Bible Society!”

According to the National Police, the physical and emotional violence in Nicaraguan homes is the worst in the entire Pacific region. But thanks to the ongoing support of donors like you, people are already discovering the power to change!

The Bible Society has plans to reach all leaders – municipal, church, and home – and train them to eradicate violence through understanding God’s plans and purposes for families. More importantly, these leaders will learn to equip other leaders, and continue to spread Christian values to thousands of homes.

Sonia was a mother who realized she had been mistreating her children. After attending a *‘Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!’* workshop, she committed to change the way that she parented her children. Sonia writes: **“Now I embrace my kids and tell them how much I love them. I never did this before.”**

Sonia is not alone. The need for restoration is great, but thanks to our donors, the gospel of peace is transforming hard hearts and violent homes. Kathy, a volunteer leader in the program, sums up the impact of your generosity: **“If we educate everyone with the Word of God, I am certain that our community will change, because only the Bible can transform people’s hearts. That’s why I am so thankful to the Bible Society; they give us this wonderful material!”**



5 HONDURAS – “It was a bitter and meaningless life.”

In a country, where 95% of domestic and sexual abuse cases go unpunished, there is little or no motivation to change. This is not news to Maria Piñeda, who grew up with an abusive, alcoholic father, and continued the cycle of violence in her early relationships with abusive men. Maria recalls: **“It was a bitter and meaningless life. I believed I could no longer be happy.”**

Then Maria encountered the Word of God through *‘Yes There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!’* She shares how God broke through to help her rebuild: **“...but God and His Word have given me strength and hope and helped me to move forward. I realize the value I have as a woman in God’s plan.”**

The wonderful success of Maria compels us to continue reaching others! Thousands of women like Maria have yet to find the hope and dignity given to them by God’s Word.

Within the next three years, the Bible Society aims to reach 30,000 Honduran families with God’s love and plans for families found in the Scriptures. A further 1,500 church leaders will be trained on the topic of domestic violence to offer ongoing support to these families.

Thanks to your support, Honduran families will have a reason to hope for a better life!

6 MEXICO – “We must rebuild disintegrating families!”

Domestic violence is on the rise in Mexico. A staggering 63% of women over the age of 15 have experienced at least one incident of violence in their lives! Shockingly, the 18 million women who reported domestic violence in the past year represent only a fraction of the millions of abuses! **The sad reality is that for many women and children in Mexico, the abuse never lets up.**

‘Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!’ brings the promises and principles of the Bible to Mexico’s three most violent states – Chihuahua, Guerrero, and Mexico State. Through an information campaign and Bible-based workshops, God’s Word is rebuilding disintegrating families. Many more are waiting for the hope and transformation found only in a relationship with Jesus! Your donation will help these broken people find healing through God’s Word.

7 EL SALVADOR – “Families are at war. Homes are combat zones.”

With over half the women and almost three quarters of the children subjected to violence within the home, the darkness of despair threatens to overwhelm the most vulnerable of Salvadoran society. All forms of domestic violence are on the rise. The grievous truth is that if a woman or child ends up in a Salvadoran hospital for treatment of injuries, they were most likely sent there by someone from within their own home. Families are under attack.

With your continued support, the Bible Society is working for positive change. By bringing Bibles and Scripture-based workshops to over 70,000 individuals, *‘Yes, There Is a Solution to Domestic Violence!’* is breaking the cycle of family violence. Couples learn the foundational principles of a biblical marriage and healthy conflict resolution.

But for every family we reach, many others still suffer violent abuse and crushing hopelessness. The Bible Society needs your help to shine the light of God’s Word into Salvadoran families. Your ongoing generosity will ensure they find freedom from domestic violence.

