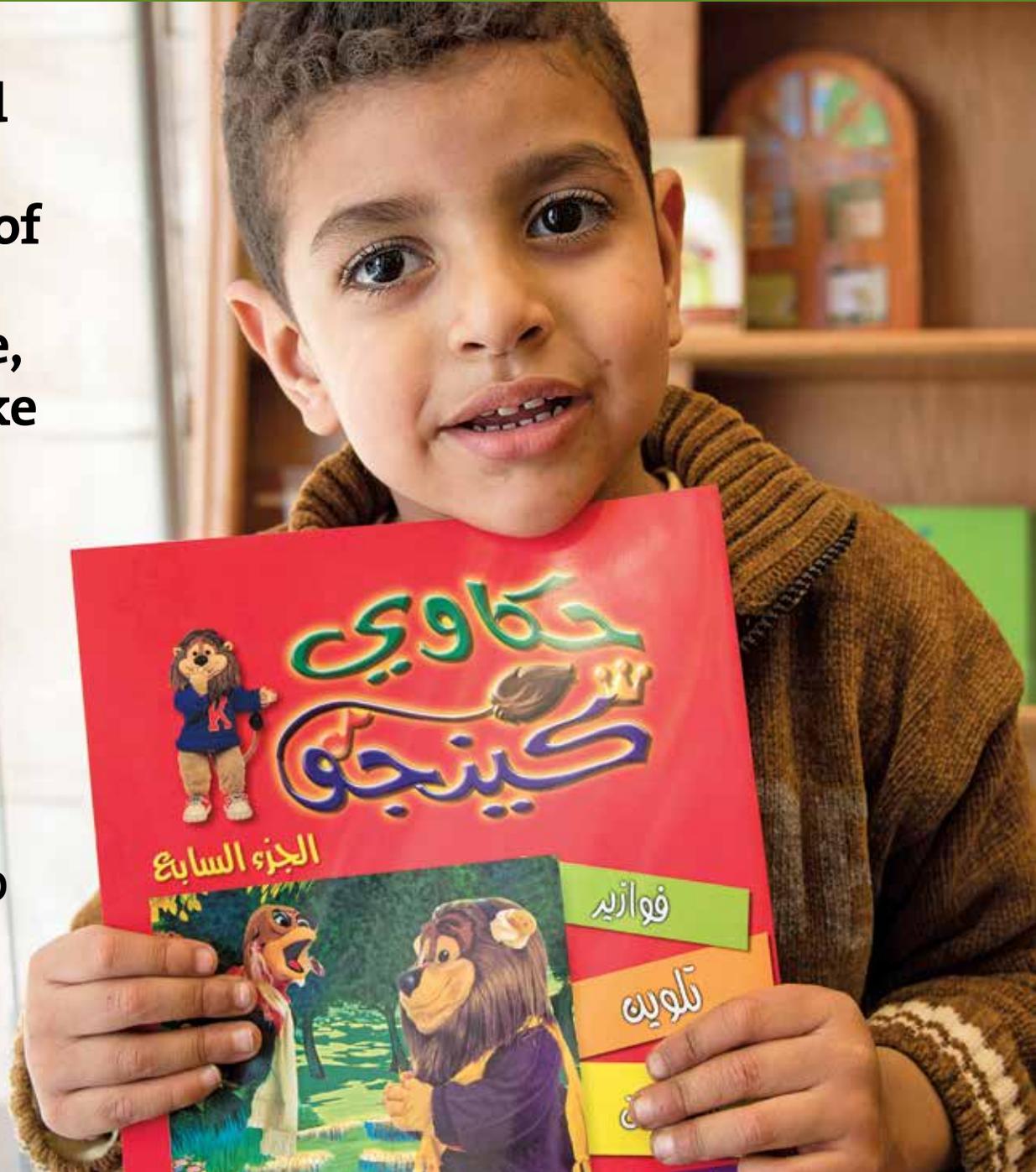


# word@work

**They tried  
to silence  
the Word of  
God in its  
birthplace,  
but it broke  
through!**

**ONLY 4%  
OF THE  
MIDDLE EAST  
HAVE HEARD  
AND RECEIVED  
THE GOSPEL.**



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The Word. For Life.

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# The Middle East

is hungry for the WORD OF GOD!

**S**mall beginnings can make a massive impact when God uses them for his purposes. **The Great Commission began with a small group of disciples, yet for 2,000 years the Word of the Lord has spread across the world!** Wherever it goes, God's Word transforms lives as people find comfort, strength, and hope in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Even though the world has greatly changed since the time of Jesus, the eternal impact of his gospel remains the same.

**Thank you for your ongoing generosity and prayers that help us take the Scriptures to the ends of the earth!** Yet there is a need for God's Word.

When Jesus was born, Bethlehem was a small town of 300 Jews. Today, 30,000 Palestinians call it home, and it sits at the epicentre of religious tension and strife. Jesus' hometown of Nazareth used to be a tiny rural village of 150 people. Today, it is a bustling Arab-Israeli metropolis of 80,000!

***Tragically, only 4% of those who live in the Middle East have received the good news of Jesus for themselves!*** Within these changing circumstances, the Canadian Bible Society (CBS) and other Bible Societies are working hard to bring the Word of God to the Middle East in relevant and accessible ways – and people are responding to it's message.

A silhouette of a camel caravan in a desert landscape. The scene is set against a bright, clear sky. In the foreground, a person is walking, leading a line of camels. The camels are carrying loads, and a person is riding on the back of the lead camel. The shadows of the camels and the person are cast long and dark on the sand dunes. The overall mood is one of a journey through a vast, open landscape.

**IN THIS EDITION OF WORD AT WORK,  
join us for a tour through the Middle East and read  
the incredible stories of the Bible changing lives.  
The Word of God is at work in the Middle East, and because of  
your generosity, people find meaning and truth for their life.**

# PALESTINE

1

## FROM MUSLIM MARTYR TO FOLLOWER OF JESUS!

**“In a few short years, we have already distributed 50,000 Bibles! 40,000 Palestinian youth have participated in Bible-based programs and heard the Gospel!”**

### Reaching out to Young Palestinians

2,000 years ago, Greek, Roman, and Jewish cultures all collided in Palestine, creating a place of frequent tension and turmoil. Today, although culture and politics have changed, Palestine remains a focal point of unrest.

*Young Palestinians seek a better life, but often look to the future with hopelessness and discouragement.*

This was made shockingly clear to Nashat from the Palestinian Bible Society when he sat down to talk with a young Palestinian boy, and asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. The boy declared, “I want to be a martyr!”

This alarming conversation birthed the vision for *Reaching out to Young Palestinians*. The program engages young Palestinians with the gospel of Jesus through events, trips, conferences, camps, and school programs.

**“In a few short years, we have already distributed 50,000 Bibles! 40,000 Palestinian youth have participated in Bible-based programs and heard the gospel!”** Young Palestinians who know only unrest, military invasions, and curfews receive God’s message of hope and encouragement.

#### “I FINALLY HAVE LOVE FOR MY PEOPLE!”

Akram is a young Christian believer attending the University of Jenin in Palestine. Growing up, Akram was very shy and isolated – his parents frequently told him, “You are always in danger.”

One day, Akram encountered a Palestinian Bible Society booth at the university. He cynically told them the Christian cause in Palestine was hopeless. **“Don’t you see there is no hope for us? We will soon be overcome.”**

He then grudgingly accepted a Bible and began reading it. The Word of God changed his life! Hope and assurance filled his heart, and a few months later, Akram was a different man.

**“I finally have love for my people! I want to be salt and light, and serve God here in Jenin.”**

This incredible transformation happened because your generosity put the Scriptures in Akram’s hand, and he found his calling to share the message of Jesus Christ on campus!

**Please help us place God’s Word in the hands of young Palestinians who desperately need to know they have a hope and a future in Jesus Christ!**



# ARAB-ISRAEL

## 2 EMPOWERING GALILEAN WOMEN

### Dignity and Purpose Through the Bible

Cawthar comes from a Bedouin Muslim background. Forced into an arranged marriage with an alcoholic and abusive older cousin, she felt the only escape from her misery was to commit suicide. In her desperation, one night she cried out to God.

*“If you exist, how can you let me live like this?”*

Cawthar’s story is not uncommon. Many Arab-Israeli women suffer from discrimination, abuse, oppression, and low self-esteem.

But thanks to CBS supporters, Cawthar and other marginalized women are finding dignity and purpose through the Word of God!

Through the project, *Empowering Galilean Women*, God’s Word equips women like Cawthar to move forward in life. They learn that they are respected, appreciated and loved by God.

*“I became brave from reading Scripture! I know that God loves everyone equally and without discrimination. He loves me for who I am!”*



**“I became brave from reading Scripture! I know that God loves everyone equally and without discrimination. He loves me for who I am!”**



Cawthar encountered the love of Jesus through God’s Word, but many more Arab-Israeli women still live in fear and hopelessness. Your gift today will help marginalized women in Israel find meaning and purpose in Jesus Christ!

### “THANK YOU FOR MY BIBLE!”

#### Angels of Galilee

In Israel today, 50% of the Arab population are under 19 and live in poverty. That is why young Arab-Israelis often despair over their future!

*Angels of Galilee* offers hope and encouragement to young Arab-Israelis by helping them experience the love of God and build their lives on His Word. Through camps and school programs, young people learn that they have a hope and a future in Jesus!

*“When I read the Bible I find love, peace, and everything I need. This book helps me live my daily life!”*

– Christina, age 16

.....

**Many like Cawthar have been transformed by your generosity! Please join us with prayers and support so more Arab-Israelis will choose to build their lives on the truth of God’s Word!**

# The people of the Middle East cry out for the help and guidance only the Scriptures can provide!

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**T**here are many efforts in the Middle East to stop people from experiencing the power of God's Word. We need your support and prayers to answer the people's cry, so that many can discover freedom and hope in God's Word. Your gift will help ensure the Word of the Lord spreads rapidly and is glorified in the Middle East!



# ISRAEL

“How can I read the Bible if I don’t understand it?”

## 3 BRINGING GOD’S WORD BACK TO ITS BIRTHPLACE



### The Annotated Bible in Hebrew

During the time of Jesus, Jerusalem was a city of approximately 80,000 people, and most engaged with the Hebrew Scriptures on a daily basis. Today, however, almost one million people call Jerusalem home, and 98% of them have not received the gospel message! *The vast majority of Hebrew speakers today – even the most religious and Orthodox Jews – do not understand much of Biblical Hebrew and therefore cannot really understand the full message their own Scriptures.*

#### WHO WILL HELP THE 98% WALKING IN DARKNESS?

Although much has changed in Israel since the time of Jesus, the original Hebrew text of the Old Testament has not. It is considered most sacred and remains the only accepted text of the Old Testament. *But if modern Hebrew speakers do not understand the Biblical Hebrew language, how will they ever experience the power of God’s Word?*

With your help, CBS is impacting thousands of Israelis by giving them access to a deeper understanding of the Bible and God’s message of love and hope! The *Annotated Bible in Hebrew* keeps the original Hebrew text, but adds annotations explaining in modern Hebrew difficult words and phrases to help Israelis engage with God’s Word like never before. Combined with the New Testament (already only available in modern Hebrew), God’s Word is reaching more Israelis than ever before, and we have you to thank for this!

#### “WOW! I CAN UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE NOW!”

When Batya was fourteen years old, she had a deep desire to read the Bible for herself. However, the frustration and embarrassment of not understanding her own Bible led her to give up after a few days. *She told her father, “How can I read the Bible if I do not understand it?”* When Batya turned eighteen and began her military service, the young woman once again felt the desire to read the Scriptures and grow spiritually. This time, she picked up an *Annotated Bible*, and her face lit up with a huge smile! *“Wow! I can understand the Bible now!”* God’s Word made it into her hands because of your ongoing generosity. Thank you for changing the lives of so many Israelis like Batya who are hungry to explore the Bible! As Hebrew-speaking Israelis encounter the power of God’s Word, they want to share the experience with their friends and family.

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**We need your help to ensure that God’s Word in Hebrew continues to be available and understandable to all who desire to read it. Your generous support today will allow many more Hebrew-speaking Israelis receive the message of Jesus for themselves!**

# EGYPT

## 4 REACHING CHILDREN IN DANGER

### Kingo, the Bible-loving lion

Shortly after his birth, Jesus and his family faced great danger, and an angel told them to flee for safety to Egypt (Matthew 2.13). ***Egypt was a place of protection for Jesus and his family, but today Egypt can be dangerous for his followers!***

Some regions of Egypt have become hotbeds for fundamentalists, and Christians living there face peril and threats every day.

However, CBS and the Bible Society of Egypt (BSE) are making an effort to reach young Egyptians with the Word of God before they encounter worldly and radical ideologies in society, and we are having a nationwide influence!

Using a video series and festivals based on a Bible-loving lion named “Kingo” children and their families learn Biblical values and the relevance of God’s Word to their everyday life.

***Since their inception, Kingo Festivals have provided more than 850,000 children with valuable training in replacing worldly values with Biblical ones!***

#### “JESUS, CALM THE STORM!”

Seth was one child who attended a Kingo Festival and discovered help from the Bible he received.

***“In my village, the fundamentalists started to attack our houses. I was very, very scared.”***

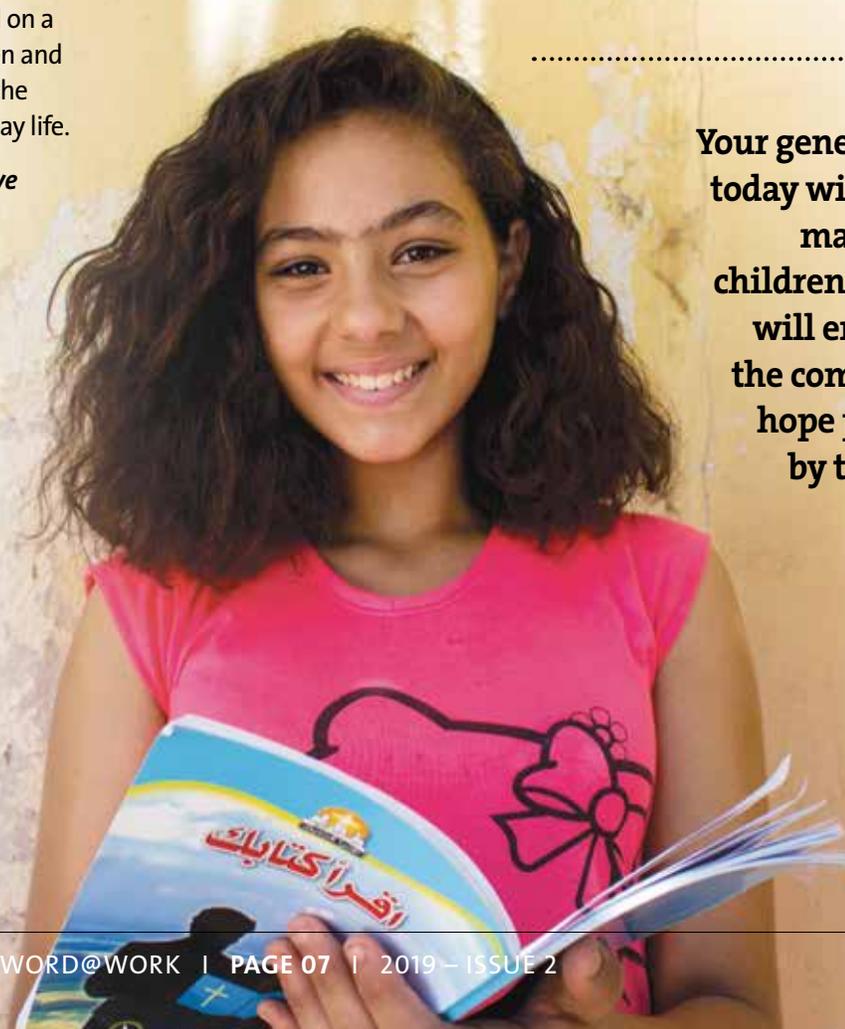
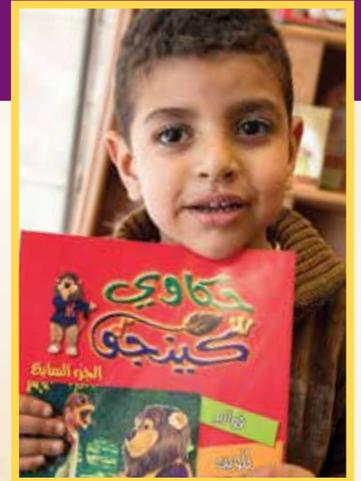
Amidst the shouting and screaming from his neighbours, Seth hid with his younger brother and sister, and read to them the story of Jesus calming the storm. They prayed for the attack to stop, and it did!

**“Kingo Festivals have provided more than 850,000 children with valuable training in replacing worldly values with Biblical ones!”**

***“They did not attack our house. Jesus calmed the storm!”***

Children like Seth have difficult lives, but the Bible you put in their hands helped them find strength in times of need.

Called “the perfect tool to impact children nationwide,” Kingo has been so successful in reaching Egyptians with the Word of God, that BSE has adopted it as a major component in many other projects, and it continues to grow and flourish!



**Your generous gift today will ensure many other children in Egypt will encounter the comfort and hope provided by the Bible!**

# IRAN

## 5 BRINGING HOPE TO IRAN



### Sharing God’s Word with Persians

Iran is referred to as “Persia” in the Bible. Several Biblical figures like Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel and Esther are connected with Persia. Ever since the revolution in Iran in 1979, Iranian Christians have faced a major wave of persecution. The Iranian Bible Society was forced to close its doors and the government banned official Bible distribution. Christians comprise less than 1% of Iran’s population, and most of them live with the daily threat of persecution and arrest. Yet the church continues to grow.

*There are more than 1,000 house churches in Iran, and that number rises every year!*

Persian believers are hungry for God’s Word, and the demand for Bibles in Persian (or Farsi) is great! The Bible Society now operates “in diaspora” to provide the Word of God to Iranians living within and outside the country.

Ali was an atheist who received a Farsi Bible after fleeing from Iran. Three years later, he writes of the transformation the Word of God brought to his life. *“There’s no hope [in Iran], but Jesus can bring hope. I’m trying to share this message of hope with other young people.”*

There is a critical need to strengthen the persecuted church in Iran by providing them with Bibles. Your support today will offer hope and strength through the Word of God to those in great need.



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The Word. For Life.

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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 CCCC seal is evidence that we are committed to integrity and excellence in ministry.

# Bible a Month

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Please invest in one or more of these initiatives in Canada and abroad. Join our Bible-a-Month program today or consider increasing your monthly gift.

**\$25** will provide 3 Egyptians with their own copy of the Bible.

**\$50** will bring the comfort of the Bible to 5 persecuted believers.

**\$75** will provide illustrated Bibles to 5 children.

**\$150** will provide 7 Annotated Bibles in Israel.

### TO DONATE:

CALL TOLL FREE: 1.800.465.2425

DONATE ONLINE:  
biblesociety.ca/wawmay19

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

*“...pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you.”*

– 2 THESSALONIANS 3.1