

THE GIFT OF LITERACY

April 2017

Dear Family in Christ,

The year 2017 is a special time for us as we celebrate 180 years of the Bible Society in Singapore. We have been blessed greatly by God over the past 180 years in carrying out the Bible Mission work in Singapore and beyond. This would not have been possible without the faithful partnership and support of many who have contributed towards the Bible Mission.

Living in wealthy Singapore, we are all the more aware that there are many who live in our surrounding region who may not have the same blessings as we enjoy. Access to education and the ability to go to school are not privileges that everyone has. To be able to read and write is a gift that we use daily, yet to many in our region, it remains a luxury.

Part of the Bible Mission work that the Bible Society of Singapore is involved in is with the establishing of literacy programmes in the region. Literacy is an essential aspect in helping people to engage with the Bible, as well as a skill set that will help them progress in life. **This is a powerful gift, as it empowers people to learn, opens doors to new opportunities, and breaks the cycle of poverty.**

One of the countries that the Bible Society is aiding is Myanmar, with a population of about 51.5 million people, but with about over 2 million people who are not able to read or write. The Bible Society of Singapore, in partnership with the Bible Society of Myanmar, is looking to establish 100 literacy classes in the Sgaw Karen, Asho Chin and Myanmar communities.

A pilot programme for literacy was successfully launched in Cambodia, and we are expecting it to have the same level of impact in Myanmar.

“As we cannot read, my husband and I feel blind to the world and we don’t want our children to be like us,” says Mrs Ptum Seng, a 36-year-old beneficiary of the Bible Literacy programme in Cambodia.

“Day by day, I can see that the children’s reading skills are improving. They set time aside each day to read the Bible to us, so

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Children in Myanmar having to share books to practice their reading skills.



One of the pilot Literacy programme classes run in Cambodia.

I get to listen to God’s Word. For me, this is such a blessing: it makes me happy and I feel peace and joy. God has been so good to my family!”

We believe we can make a lasting material and spiritual impact on these communities in Myanmar through our literacy programmes. It is our hope that you will partner us to support the Bible Mission in our region and beyond, and pray with us for the work in these areas and in making God’s Word a living hope for all the nations.

In His grace,

Rev. Ezekiel Tan
General Secretary

识字的礼物

亲爱的主内弟兄姐妹：

2017对我们来说是非常特别的一年，因为今年我们庆祝新加坡圣经公会成立180周年。在过去的180年里，蒙上帝赐福，我们能在新加坡和其他国家进行圣经宣教事工。若是没有忠心的合作伙伴和支持者，圣经宣教就无法取得这样的成就。

生活在富裕的新加坡，我们会更加意识到许多周边地区的人并没有我们所拥有的祝福。受教育、上学不是每个人都能享有的特权。读书识字对我们来说是家常便饭，但是对本区域的许多人来说却是一种奢侈。

新加坡圣经公会的圣经宣教事工包括在本区域创办识字班课程。识字是帮助人们认识圣经非常重要的一环，也是能帮助他们改善生活的技能。**这份礼物强而有力，能帮助人们学习，打开通往新生活的门并停止贫穷的恶性循环。**

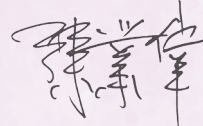
缅甸是圣经公会所支援的国家之一，人口大约5150万，但文盲却有200万。新加坡圣经公会正与缅甸圣经公会合作，预备在斯高克伦族、阿苏钦族及缅甸族这些族群里开办100个识字班。

我们在柬埔寨成功启动了识字班试点课程，我们期望它在缅甸也能有相同的影响力。36岁的Ptum Seng太太，是柬埔寨圣经识字班计划的受益者之一，她说：“**我和先生都不识字，因此觉得看不清世界，我们不想孩子和我们一样。**”

“我可以看到孩子们的阅读能力一天天地提高。他们每天都会抽出时间读圣经给我们听，所以我能听到上帝的话语。对我而言，这真是福气——这让我开心，我也感到平安喜乐。上帝对我们全家真好！”

我们相信，通过我们的识字班课程，我们可以在物质上和属灵上对缅甸这些族群产生深远影响。我们希望您能与我们合作，支持我们在本区域和更远地方的圣经宣教事工，并与我们一起为这些事工祷告，使上帝的话语成为世人永活的希望。

靠主恩典



陈业伟牧师
总干事

PRAY FOR THE BIBLE MISSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

为东南亚的圣经宣教事工祷告

- Pray for the literacy and WISE (Word Intake for Spiritual Edification) audio listening programme.
- Pray for the communities in South East Asia which do not have access to education and skill training.
- Pray for God's providence to the Bible Mission and the Bible Society, and for wisdom and grace in the projects that are being undertaken.
- 请为识字班和WISE(智慧聆经课程)的音频聆听课程祷告。
- 请为东南亚地区里无法接受教育和技能训练的社群祷告。
- 请为上帝供应圣经宣教事工和圣经公会祷告，求上帝让我们在进行的项目中都满有智慧与恩典。

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory... full of grace and truth... John 1:14 (ESV)

道成了肉身，住在我们中间，充充满满地有恩典有真理，我们也见过他的荣光 约翰福音1:14 (和合本修订版)

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