

# HELP US PUT A BIBLE IN THEIR HANDS

January 2017

Dear Family in Christ,

Imagine yourself dwelling in a remote village in Hunan, China where the only way to go to church is by stepping on slippery, moss-laced stones surfacing on the stream. Tough? Well, this is a weekly routine of the church members, most of whom are subsistence farmers. Such is the determination and desire of villagers—such as Li Yueying, Wu Xiuying, and Wu Qiangjin—for God’s Word—the living hope for all nations. Here are their testimonies.

**“Before becoming a Christian, I could only read my name. But now, I have learned to read most words in the Bible.** I try to follow the text when the preacher reads from the Bible in church, and little by little I learned to read,” shares 47-year-old Yueying who became a Christian in 1998 through her friend Qingjin.

As she turned her Bible to John 3:16 and declared her love for God by exclaiming: **“I love to read how much God loves us. I love him too!”** Yueying feels the difficult and sometimes dangerous journey to church is worth it because she is nourished in her faith through the Christian fellowship there.

“There are about 70 Christians in this area but many of them cannot afford to take time off from working in their fields and so could not attend church,” explains 73-year-old Qiangjin. Even if they can carve out the time, getting to church is no mean feat for them. It is challenging enough to cross the stream on normal days; and especially dangerous when it rains.

“Our family was so poor we couldn’t afford medical treatment for both of us, so we were very upset. **I went to church looking for comfort. When I arrived, I immediately felt a deep sense of peace and was touched by God’s love for me,**” says 58-year-old Xiuying, who with her husband, makes ends meet by planting rice and corn. She came to know the Lord two decades ago when she and her husband got very ill.

Despite experiencing dire situations, these villagers are happy in the Lord. “The brothers and sisters pray for me and I enjoy singing the hymns. I saved up my money so that I can buy a Bible for myself. When the day came, I was taken to a church in



Li Yueying, 47, carrying her two-year-old niece on her back and travelling for hours on rough terrain just to go to church.

town to buy a Bible. **To my surprise, the Bible was affordable, thank God!** My favourite passage in the Bible is Psalm 47,” exclaims Xiuying, who continues to read the Bible despite her failing eyesight.

The Bible is one of the most widely read and distributed books in the world, but it still remains out of reach to many! There is still a great need and urgency to make Bibles affordable and available. **Your generous contribution will help in the printing and distribution of Bibles to the needy in many different parts of the world.**

As we celebrate the Lunar New Year, may we be reminded of God’s grace and providence for all. Complementing our humble appeal letter is the Bible Society’s Hong Bao (red packet). It is our prayer that you may use one or more of these red packets to support the Bible mission with your donations, hence enabling us to continue to make God’s Word a living hope for all the nations. (1 Peter 1:3)

In His grace,

Rev. Ezekiel Tan  
General Secretary

Support the  
Bible mission  
by giving  
generously



# 帮助我们吧圣经放在他们手中

亲爱的主内家人：

想象一下，你居住在中国湖南一个偏远的村庄里，在去教会唯一的一条路上，你得踩在溪流里湿滑又布满苔藓的石头上。艰难吗？这就是当地会友们每周要做的，他们多数是仅能养家糊口的农民。由此可见，村民们如李月英（音译），吴秀英（音译）和吴强劲（音译），对上帝的话语——万民永活的希望，有多么坚持及渴望。这是他们的见证。

47岁的月英（音译）在1998年通过友人庆金（音译）成为基督徒。她分享道：“**成为基督徒之前，我只会读自己的名字，但现在我已经会读圣经中多数的字了。**当传道在教会读经时，我便会跟着念，慢慢地我就学会了怎么阅读。”

她把圣经翻到约翰福音三章十六节并大声地宣告她对上帝的爱：“**我喜欢读到关于上帝有多爱我们的讯息。我也爱上帝！**”月英（音译）觉得，去教会的旅程，虽然艰难，有时甚至危险，却是值得的，因为教会里的基督徒团契使她在信仰上得到滋养。

73岁的强劲（音译）解释：“这个地区有大约70名基督徒，但是为了生计，他们多数无法从田里的劳作中抽出时间去教会。”就算他们抽得出时间，到教会去对他们来说绝非易事。平时渡溪已具有一定的挑战性；雨天渡溪就更为危险了。

58岁的秀英（音译）和丈夫以种植稻米和玉米糊口。20年前在丈夫病得很重时，她认识了上帝。她说：“我们家里很穷，无法负担我俩的医药费，所以我们觉得很烦。**我到教会去寻找慰藉。当我一到教会便深深地感受到平安，也深深地被神的爱感动。**”

虽然经历了许多可怕的局面，这些村民仍然靠主喜乐。秀英说道：“兄弟姐妹为我祷告，我也爱唱诗歌。我存了钱想要为自己买一本圣经。我终于有够钱，被带到城里一所教会去买圣经。**让我惊讶的是，原来圣经的价格是我支付得起的，感谢上帝！**我最喜欢的经文是诗篇四十七章。”她尽管视力衰退，但仍然坚持读经。

圣经是世界上最被广泛阅读及分发的书籍之一，但是对很多人来说它还是遥不可及。当前我们仍然面临对圣经

的巨大需求，我们也迫切地需要将圣经的价格维持大众化。**您的慷慨捐助将有助于印刷及分发圣经到世界各地，将圣经送到需要的人手中。**

在庆祝农历新年之际，我们可以回想上帝的恩典和供给。在此我们也随函附上圣经公会的红包封。希望您能用一个或更多的红包封，通过您的捐款来支持圣经事工，使我们能继续让上帝的话语成为万民永活的希望。（彼得前书一章三节）



村民们过小溪去教会。

靠主恩典

陈业伟牧师  
总干事



40岁的修新军牧师扛着一箱由圣经公会捐赠的圣经，准备到一个当地信徒每周聚会及敬拜上帝的小农舍去。那里有许多人没有圣经。

## PRAY FOR CHINA 为中国祷告

- Pray for the literacy and WISE (Word Intake for Spiritual Edification) audio listening programme.
- Pray for the Chinese Diaspora, especially during the Lunar New Year period—that they too can experience God's love and mercy in foreign lands.
- Pray for God's continued providence for the Bible Society, and His favour and grace on all the projects, which will be undertaken by the various departments in the Society for 2017.
- 为识字班和WISE智慧聆经课程祷告。
- 为中国侨民祈祷，特别是在农历新年期间——他们也可以在异乡体验到上帝的爱和怜悯。
- 为圣经公会一切所需祷告，求上帝亲自供应。也为公会各部门在2017年所要进行的事工祷告，让他们在事工上能够恩上加恩，力上加力。

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）