



# T H E LampLight

January 2005

The Newsletter of Canadian LifeLight Ministries

Dear Partners in Reaching the Lost for Christ,

It's a new year, and I can think of no greater joy than that of the good news of a sinner surrendering fully to Christ and following Him.

It's true that such reports at times are few and far between, yet we are not to grow weary in bringing the Good News to a lost and perishing world. The support of many has enabled LifeLight to sow abundantly in the past year and to witness and hear the many stories of lives changed for eternity. Also, your faithfulness in prayer has been an encouragement to us, and God has provided us with wisdom to carry on.

***Should demand outpace supply, we can lose the last chance some may have to hear of God's love and receive reconciliation with Him through Christ. We think of the awesome challenge God has given us to reach the lost, and we are thankful that you are empowering us to do this. – a chaplain***

People from all walks of life are hungry for the redemptive message of hope found in God's Word. As they are confronted by challenges, many of these men, women, youth, and even children, are asking the "big questions," questions about the broken world that surrounds them, about life, death and their own mortality. Many are hungry

to know more about Christ – and you can help provide them with answers.

Because of people like you, who have a heart for reaching others for Christ, we can look forward to delivering Bibles and other scripture portions this year to those who ask.

One chaplain writes, *Should demand outpace supply, we can lose the last chance some may have to hear of God's love and receive reconciliation with Him through Christ. We think of the awesome*

## Spanish Scripture Fund



In this issue you will find a number of stories about how Spanish Bibles from LifeLight Ministries are making a difference in people's lives. More and more tourists traveling to Spanish-speaking countries are discovering the joy of giving Scriptures to people they meet during their vacation. Many missionaries and people going on mission trips to these

countries need Bibles as well and often do not have the finances to give a donation. Would you like to help? Designate your donation for "Spanish Scripture Fund."

*challenge God has given us to reach the lost, and we are thankful that you are empowering us to do this.* His words highlight just how critical the need is.

In order to meet the spiritual needs and questions of men, women, young people and children, LifeLight Ministries will continue to distribute "God's Word to this generation." Please consider prayerfully what you can do to help get the message of Christ into the hands of those who are lost and looking for answers and face such difficult circumstances. Please give generously as the Lord leads so the demand will never "outpace supply."

Every \$5.00 donation makes it possible to put a specialty New Testament into the hands of a chaplain or prison inmate, a



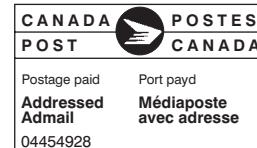
school or Bible camp, a nurse or a patient, or those who call the LifeLight office requesting a free Scripture. Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration!

May God bless you!

Greg Armstrong  
Interim Executive Director



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## Reaching Mexicans in Canada

Jake Kroeker



This past summer we again had the opportunity to befriend the Mexican farm workers who come to Manitoba to work on the vegetable farms. We focused our attention on Itzky River Farms, north of Elie, where they had more than a hundred workers. These men are willing to leave their families behind for almost six months so they can earn some money to help boost their home economy.

Our monthly evangelistic services were organized with the help of a fine young man, Oscar, who helped the Mexicans as a translator. Most of the workers had a desire to learn more about the Bible. Sunday afternoons they often entertained themselves with football, but when we offered “entertainment,” they came to listen. They were receptive to the messages, as well as the songs and music provided by Spanish worship teams from Brandon and Winnipeg,

We handed out Spanish New Testaments and other literature. Some requested Bibles, saying that they loved to read the Scriptures. There were several conversions, and we hope that these new Christians will be faithful in sharing the gospel with people back home.

As the men said their goodbyes, some of them said, “See you next year.” Let’s keep on praying that the seeds we have sown here in Canada will bear fruit in southern Mexico.

## Tarahumara Share Bibles

Ernie Kehler

Last winter we took several cases of Bibles and New Testaments from LifeLight Ministries to Mexico. We handed many of them out to locals in the Cuauhtemoc area.

Then, together with friends who speak Spanish, we went into the mountains where the Tarahumara Indians live. (They still live in caves.) They were so appreciative of us coming to visit them and so excited when we handed out the Scriptures. We didn’t have nearly enough to go around, but they said they would share them with each other. Most of them had never had or even seen a Bible, but they certainly knew what it was.



*A typical Tarahumara couple.*

When we went into town, we saw three fellows sitting on the sidewalk. My translator was not right there, so all I did was give them two Bibles, which was all I had. They were very excited, but I could tell that the one who didn’t get one was somewhat sad. I ran back to our vehicle to see if we had anything left. I found one more copy and gave it to him, which made his day. Since I could only communicate with them in sign language, we didn’t get very far, but when I opened the Bible to John 3:16, they read and acknowledged that they knew what it meant. I pray that God will work in their lives and that they will come to know the Lord.

This was an inexpensive little project, and I would encourage anyone to do the same thing. I guarantee that the people you give Bibles to will greatly appreciate them. What a difference it can make for eternity!

*The Tarahumara constitute the largest indigenous group (50,000 to 75,000) in the state of Chihuahua.*

## Guards Receive Bibles

Dwayne Block

I live in Venezuela, together with my family, and work as a missionary pilot with New Tribes Mission. We live in a small community in the middle of the jungle from which we fly supplies to our other tribal bases. We work with thirteen different tribal groups, each with their own language.

In our community, there are three tribal groups, as well as a few Venezuelan National Guards who are in charge of national security and peacekeeping. These guards range in age from 18-35 and are very itinerant. They may be here for a couple of months or a couple of years, depending on what their senior officers want.



I started a Bible study with a group of them who lived here and gave each of them their own Bible. They were very appreciative; they have a lot of free time to read since our community is very peaceful. I give each one a Bible so that they can take it with them when they are transferred to another place. In this way God’s Word can continue to bear fruit in their lives.



*The World’s Greatest Comeback*, an outreach booklet for Easter, sets the stage for the Easter story and then presents it through the NIV Scripture account. Ideal for first-time or occasional church attendees. Get your orders in early. Available in Spanish and English. Suggested donation: \$1.00

## Goodbye Gifts

Amanda Barkman

Do you still have a variety of Spanish booklets and Bibles? I could make use of adult Bibles, children’s Bibles and any study materials for children and young people.

I have friends here who would like to own a Bible or give a Bible to their children, but they simply have no money to buy little extras like that. What a pleasure when people actually ask for Scriptures and want to teach their children about the Lord!

One of the mothers was saved last week! What thrilling news! I went down there yesterday, and she told me she had wanted to call me but had lost my telephone number. She lives in a tin shack and doesn’t have a phone, but she is rejoicing in the Lord and wants her husband to get saved too. I think he is close, but hesitant. Please pray for this couple.

This will likely be my last year here in Venezuela. All the more reason why I want these Spanish materials to give as a goodbye gift for friends and contacts here! What better gift to give to anyone than the Word of God!

*Amanda Barkman teaches missionary children in Venezuela.*

## From the Mailbox



- I'm sorry for writing so late again. I was going to write earlier, but things have been incredibly busy. Do you have any Spanish materials on hand? We're leaving for Juárez, Mexico, again on December 18. – Lisa
- Thank you for sending the Spanish/English Bible. I would like to send a bigger donation, but our ministry is relatively new and funds are limited. We pray for your ministry and will seek to provide others with opportunities to receive God's Word. I don't know where this potential Spanish ministry may lead, but it is encouraging to see that you have a number of Spanish booklets available. Blessings on you! – Tom
- I praise the Lord for the ministry of LifeLight, and I pray that He will give you His love, power, vision and wisdom in your daily ministries. May you have a blessed Christmas with family and friends and a wonderful New Year! His power is limitless...His character changeless...His love endless. – Rose
- Enclosed is a gift for your ministry to truckers. We wish you a blessed Christmas and God's best for 2005. – Hennie
- This New Testament is easy to read and to understand. I would like to be enrolled in your free Bible Correspondence Course. My friend would like to take the course too. – Linda
- Thank you for the Bible I picked up at your booth at Mission Fest in Toronto. It's very easy to read and understand. It is a great help for people who are seeking the Lord and want to receive the Good News of salvation. Glory to God in Jesus' mighty name! God bless you and all the ministries of LifeLight! – Sally

## Jesse's Most Precious Possession

Larry Buhler

My wife, Roxanne, and I live in San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico, where God has given us a ministry with the "Illegals and Deportees" along the US/Mexico border. My Spanish is extremely limited, and I have been continually blessed through the Spanish/English New Testament from CLLM. Often when I would like to give someone a word of encouragement, but do not have the Spanish words, I find the English passage and let the person read it in Spanish. The NT also helps me in preparing sermons.



One morning, as I sat at the sidewalk, waiting for a friend, a Spanish-speaking man abruptly turned around from his walking and asked what I had in my hand. At that time I spoke absolutely no Spanish and, since he could not speak English, I took my Spanish Scripture notes and let him read them and then gave him a passage from John to read. I could literally see

the repentance come over the face of this young man. As I prayed in English (with a few Spanish words mixed in), the Holy Spirit broke down the man's bondage, and he began to cry and hug me, saying, *Gracias, gracias!* I had a new understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit and the miracle of God's Word.

Jesse has spent four years in a US jail and now lives in the San Luis Park. His wife and two children live in California, but he has to wait six years before he can apply to re-enter the US. While in jail, he accepted Christ and, through a correspondence program, eventually got a large-print Spanish Bible. His Bible was his most valuable possession, and he always made sure he wrapped it in plastic before putting it away in his backpack. Unfortunately, one night, as he was asleep on a park bench, someone stole his pack, with the precious Bible inside. He is now praying for another large-print Spanish Bible.

## Christmas in Juárez

Lisa Morris

José, director of Juventud con Visión, a Christian children's home and mission in Juárez, Mexico, lost his market place in a fire a few months ago, putting him and the mission in a very tough financial situation. As a family we traveled to Juárez this Christmas and presented the Home with a box of Bibles we received from LifeLight Ministries, some computers, computer parts and a monetary donation from people in Montana.

As we visited our friends we saw that the needs were greater than we had thought. Mission staff had little or nothing to give their own children for Christmas. There were also children in the Home who had no relatives to go home to, and the Home had little they could offer them for a Christmas celebration.

Scott, an 11-year-old, has a father, but he was afraid to go home because of the drunkenness and beatings. He asked José if he could please stay at the Home for Christmas.

We did what we could to help with their Christmas celebration. We gathered the staff, families and students together, brought out our guitars, and enjoyed our time together, with festive food, good music, and small gifts.

I was asked to speak to the children the day after Christmas. I told them my husband's story and about God's presence on Roland's last day here on earth. I reminded them that we are all going to die and that what really matters is whether we are serving Jesus, not whether we are rich or poor. After my talk, José asked the kids how many wanted to recommit their lives to Christ, and many hands shot up.

Juárez is located just across the border from El Paso, Texas. Together the two cities form the largest international border community on earth.



Lisa Morris and her eight children (ages 10-22) live in Caroline, Alberta, where Lisa is studying at Living Faith Bible College. Her husband, Roland, went to be with the Lord on June 9, 2004. Her older children plan to return to Juárez in spring to fill a need they noticed on this trip – teaching a mechanics class. Let's pray for the Morris family.

### Visit the LifeLight Ministries booth at Missionfest

Vancouver, January 28-30  
Winnipeg, February 6-8  
Edmonton, February 25-27



## Motorcycles for Guatemala

Ron, Bev & Sarah Wolfe



It was a welcome surprise when Greg Armstrong told us that we had been gifted (by a donor) with as many Bibles as we were able to take with us on our

mission trip to Guatemala. We are members of the Christian Motorcycle Association, and as part of this ministry, we went to Guatemala to give away motorcycles to some pastors to aid in their ministry.

We were very pleased with the variety of

Bibles available to us—Spanish/English NTs, children's NTs, and complete Spanish Bibles. We were thrilled with this selection because Guatemala is a Spanish-speaking country, and Spanish Bibles are not readily available here in Winnipeg.

We took some of these to Pastor Diego, who works with the Prince of Peace Church and visits many remote villages. He was very pleased to get the Scriptures to hand out to the people of his church.

On any given day, Pastor Diego walks for

hours, carrying a projector, amplifier and a generator, to minister to the people in the jungles of Guatemala. By the age of 20 to 25, most men in Guatemala suffer from joint pain because of the loads they have to carry on their backs. The motorcycle we gave to Pastor Diego will shorten his travel time and lighten the load on his back so he will be able to carry more Bibles to the people.

In addition to Bibles for Pastor Diego, we also took some to a Christian school in the area. Now more people in Guatemala will have access to the Word.

*Hola:*

*Reciban bendiciones del Señor. Ojalá entendieran estas letras. Soy un Mexicano recién convertido a Cristo....*

In case you didn't understand what you were reading, here is the English translation:

*Hello:*

*God's blessings to you! I hope you understand this letter. I am a Mexican and became a Christian recently. I am very happy now and have a new life, physically and eternally. I am fellowshiping in an English Baptist church and understand about half of what is being said, but the Lord is helping me to understand His Word.*

*Someone from the church gave me a Spanish Bible, and inside I found an envelope with your address on it. I appreciate your generosity and trust that God will always bless you.*

José

## A Season of Love

Larry & Colleen Loewen

Christmas is the season of love. It is a time when families get together and give and receive gifts, in this way showing their love to one another. Our Christmas was very different this year – it was the first Christmas that we spent away from other family members. However, we didn't feel alone and lonely as many others did here in Tarija.

On Christmas Eve we visited a poor family in our village. Gifts had been prepared for each of the children, food had been carefully selected, and clothes had been purchased so each one would have something new to wear on Christmas Day. We set out with these gifts, as well as a devotional book and a Bible, and eventually we came to a place with lots of trees close together. This was their home – no roof over their heads, the way we think of a roof; no walls to protect them from the wind. Just the trees and a tarp to keep off the rain!

We asked the father if he could get the family together so we could share Christmas with them. We told them about the great love of God and how He sent His Son, who died, showing the world the ultimate price paid for our salvation. We told them that because of this love we wanted to show them love as well by offering them a part of ourselves and also giving them God's Word. They were excited and thrilled to receive the gifts.

*Larry and Colleen Loewen are missionaries in Tarija, Bolivia. They have two children, Joelle and Jordan. We were happy to provide them with Spanish Scriptures before they returned to Bolivia last summer.*



## Always Enough

Martin Harder

In February of 2004 I had the privilege of going to El Salvador on a mission trip. Since I was not fluent in the Spanish language, I wondered how effective I could be in spreading the Gospel. I found out about Spanish/English Bibles from LifeLight Ministries and decided to take some along so I could read the verses in English and a Spanish-speaking person could follow along in Spanish.

We had the privilege of showing the *Jesus* film to about 200 school kids. Six teachers stood around the perimeter where the film was shown, and I had the opportunity to give each of them a Spanish/English Bible. They received them with joy and promised to read them.

An old man stood at a distance. He came to me and begged for a Bible as well. His daughter had married an American and was living

in the USA, and he wanted to learn English better. I had one Bible left, which I gave to him. God knew how many Scriptures I needed, and when they were gone, the opportunities also seemed to be gone.

A similar event occurred when I distributed Gideon Scriptures at an executive outreach. I had 37 Spanish Scriptures left to be given to business people in attendance. You guessed it-- there were 37 El Salvadorian business and government people who received the Word. Not one left, not one short! God keeps track of who needs the Scriptures and how many He has provided.

What a privilege to share these Bibles in another country! God bless your ministry!

The LifeLight of God's Word for this Generation

# BIBLES FOR ASIA

January 2005

Dear Friends:

If you're anything like me, it always gives you great joy to hear stories of people picked from the ruins and rubbish of an intentional and violent attack such as 9/11, or one found clinging to a plank floating miles out at sea—alive after days without water or food. Or a family reunited after being separated in a surreal disaster the size of the recent coastal tsunami.

I am also warmed by stories of missionaries in the front lines, willing to go and share their lives with the people around them amongst the ruins, in the midst of the devastation and loss of countless lives and property.

You have faithfully supported LifeLight Scripture distribution and stood beside us in prayer to help this ministry make a difference in presenting God's Word to this generation, and we are asking you to help in this hour of need. After the world press, CNN, and armies all pull out of this region, there will be a current of despair. A post-traumatic syndrome will hit millions of people, young and old, as the on-going effort to rebuild carries on.

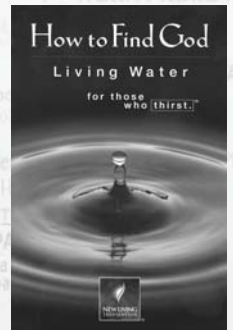
The board of LifeLight Ministries has set up a *Scriptures for Asia Tsunami Missionary Workers Fund*. This fund will be stewarded discreetly to make Scriptures available for Christian workers in orphanages and homeless shelters, street counsellors and churches who are reaching out in the front lines with humanity, actively restoring hope found only in living out and delivering God's Word.

I invite you to consider a gift for the crucial need for the *Water of Life* to help encourage, equip and sustain God's people in this region as messengers of hope, which is found only in living out and delivering God's Word.

*I tell you the truth, anyone who gives a cup of **water** in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward* (Mark 9:41, emphasis added).

*Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this **water** will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of **water** welling up to eternal life* (John 4:13-15).

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the **water** of life* (Revelation 22:17).



Thank you for considering this request. Please make your gift out to LifeLight Ministries, c/o "Scriptures for Asia" in the memo.

In the Spirit of Christ,

Greg Armstrong



## Opportunities to Bless

We are deeply grateful to all of you who have contributed to our Scripture Fund. Following are just a few examples of people who have given and those who have been blessed because they gave.

### ....Bible Camps

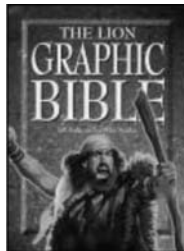
*Every year our church has a Harvest Festival on the last Sunday of October. It is in essence our Thanksgiving feast, a little late for the Canadians and a little early for the Americans who together make up our fellowship here in Piney, Manitoba. It has been our tradition to use the offering collected at this service for something other than our own church needs. God has richly blessed this offering every year, and our desire is to use it for His glory.*

*As the Board looked for possible recipients of this year's offering, your ministry was brought to our attention through the newsletter you have begun sending to our church. It was decided that we would forward a portion of the offering to you. (We ordinarily contribute to more than one cause or ministry.) We were especially hoping to target this offering to your "Bibles to Camps" program because we see this as a wonderful avenue for getting the Word out to kids and their families. Please accept this cheque towards that end. – Dan Loeppky, Board Chair of the International Christian Fellowship*

### ....Youth Centres

This request came to us recently from Val: *I'm one of the chaplains/spiritual caregivers at the Manitoba Youth Centre in Winnipeg. The Centre is a correctional facility for male and female youth aged 12-17. I understand your organization makes Bibles available to the residents of our kind of facility. We are in need of many contemporary English translations and a few Cree/Ojibway/Oji-Cree of the Bible. Any assistance or direction you could provide would be most appreciated.*

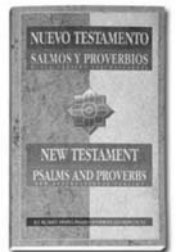
An urgent e-mail request for funds was sent out and, in a short time, two donors provided \$740 in total for this need. What a joy it was for LifeLight to inform Val that we were able to provide her with 48 copies of The LifeLight NT and 20 Graphic Bibles! This was Val's response: *Wow! Awesome! Thank you so much for getting the ball rolling. The response is marvelous.*



We encourage you to become involved in making Scriptures available to those who do not have the funds for a donation. Your donation to the Scripture Fund makes it possible for us to provide the Manitoba Youth Centre and other ministries like this with the Bibles they need.

### ...Missionaries

Larry and Roxanne Buhler (Mexico) sent this e-mail (read their report on page 4): *We have handed out all the Spanish materials we have and are in need of more. Any Spanish Scriptures you have available would be appreciated. The Spanish "How to Find God" are by far the best. "The Story of Jesus" for children is also very popular. We have also made good use of the Spanish/ English New Testaments. It is a great tool for us as our language skills are still growing. It would be helpful to have half a dozen or so for youth groups that come to help. (We are expecting two groups this spring.)*



*We do not have funds available at this time to give the suggested donations for these Scriptures. Our own ministry costs are being covered by donations and support from our local church. We will also send a note to our supporters regarding this need.*

A few days after we got this e-mail, we got an exciting phone call: Someone who had never heard about LifeLight before, received this request and said they would like to give \$1000 to provide Larry and Roxanne with Spanish Scriptures! What a joy to inform the Buhlers about this gift!

Enclosed is my donation:

**Scripture Fund:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scriptures for Asia Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Staff Support:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Greg Armstrong \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Martha Kroeker \$ \_\_\_\_\_ John & Marilyn Van Essen

Please send the following Scriptures: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed     Visa     Mastercard    Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card donations may also be made at [www.donatebibles.net](http://www.donatebibles.net)

### LifeLight Ministries

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