



THE LifeLight

The Newsletter of Canadian LifeLight Ministries

January 2007

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Happy New Year 2007

Expect great things
from God!

Attempt great things
for God!

Thailand—Hungry for the Scriptures

Raymond Dueck

Thailand is a country of 60 million people. (The people love their king and queen, who celebrated sixty years on the throne in 2006!). Even though it is the most Buddhist country in the world, there is a real hunger for Scriptures and full freedom of religion in spite of the darkness of Buddhism. Fifty percent of Thai Christians became Christians through reading Christian literature.

We travelled to Thailand under the auspices of Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International (MBMSI) to visit missionaries and see the mission field needs. We took a box of assorted Scriptures with us, not quite knowing what to take or how open the country would be. We soon realized that we hadn't taken nearly enough. Almost everyone knows some English, and they love easy-to-read English literature.

Our first visit was to an area in North Thailand, Chiang Rai, where we stayed at the guesthouse on the Mekong River. The next morning, while we waited for the MBMSI country manager, Ricky Sanchez, to arrive, we walked along the Mekong River to see the sights. That's where we encountered a group of schoolchildren.

Later we saw these same children in a gazebo by the Mekong River. Their teacher was going to read

to them from the book *Thumbelina* (in English). When she saw us, she asked one of us to read the book. Helen consented, and they listened with rapt attention. While Helen was reading to them, I hurried back to our guesthouse to get two LifeLight New Testaments to give to the teachers. They accepted them gladly.

Later I learned that English is taught in all public schools and many ESL classes in Thailand, and that the easy-to-read LifeLight NT would be a welcome addition to many students' resources.

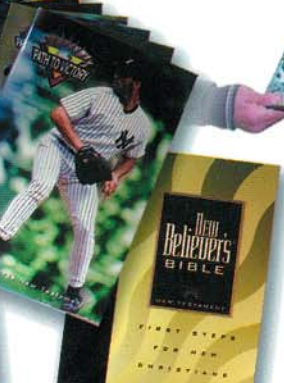
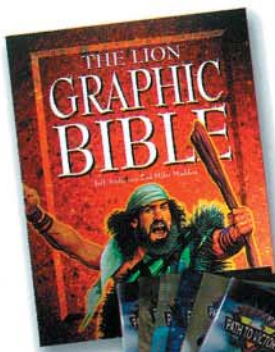
We have since shipped one pallet of 2000 New Testaments to MBMSI to deliver to the missionaries around the MBMSI world. Anyone going to a mission field will be encouraged to take as many

Scriptures as they can. Please call MBMSI in Abbotsford (888-964-7627) or our Winnipeg office (204-339-3770) if you are able to take some Scriptures overseas. They are always welcome from China to Bangkok and Phuket. God will bless you for it. Your donation helps us buy more Scriptures so others too may be blessed!



Raymond Dueck is the president of LifeLight Ministries. He and his wife, Martha, have four children. They live in Winnipeg and attend the Eastview Community Church.

More photos at www.dueckpics.blogspot.com.



God's Word for this Generation

Our Bible study group decided to do something totally different this Christmas—something none of us had ever done before. With some fear and apprehension, we made plans to spend an evening in the inner city of Winnipeg.



We took with us items of clothing such as jackets, scarves, socks and mittens, as well as gift bags containing treats and toiletries (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.). We put a *How to Find God* NT from LifeLight Ministries in some

of the bags, and we had other Scriptures to give out separately.

We had planned to distribute these gifts to homeless people on the streets, but there were very few people out that evening. We had prayed that God would direct us as to where we should go, and some of us felt strongly that we should go to another street, directly to some of the homes of needy people. A bit scary because you never know who will be on the other side of that door! We were amazed at how receptive the people were and how willing they were to receive what we offered them.

In one home we found a number of adults, and we told them we would like to present them with these gifts and some Bibles. One of the men responded that he would like the gift bag but not the Bible. We gave him a bag, and later we discovered that we had, unintentionally, given him one that actually contained a Bible!

We all felt that God had gone before us and prepared the way. We had an amazing evening, and this experience made us more thankful for what we have. We were certainly blessed and touched and hope to do this again.

A Feast for the King

Daniel Borden

On December 25, more than 1200 precious children and adults assembled at the Glory and Peace Church in Winnipeg, a beautifully decorated venue, to enjoy and savour the compelling sights, smells and sounds.

The evening featured a full-course turkey dinner and 3½ hours of gospel music, relating the transforming, melodious message of the Gospel to eager ears and hearts. This was followed by an awesome invitation by the senior pastors, Mike and Maria Efezino, to receive the Greatest Gift of all—the living, loving Lord Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem that we might be born again. Many people responded positively.

We had the opportunity to distribute 1223 beautiful Bibles, together with a vast array of other gifts, to everyone in attendance. I express my deepest gratitude to LifeLight Ministries for providing us with more than 400 Bibles and for endeavouring to safeguard and ensure that the light of Christ continues to shine (John 1:4,5; 8:12). Thank you to other ministries that provided us with Scriptures as well.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge all those who sacrificially helped, including many members of our congregation, in many different ways, to make this Feast for the King possible.

His First Present?

Allen Smith

In November the Albright Church in Winnipeg decided to deliver Christmas hampers to needy people who were somehow connected with the church. People supported the effort in various ways—donations of food and toys, shopping, packing and delivering the hampers.

Many of the families who would be receiving hampers included several children and teens. Many had arrived in Winnipeg quite recently from a number of African countries and are now living in the core area. They had brought very few belongings with them.

We contacted Marge at LifeLight Ministries about easy-to-read New Testaments to include in the hampers. More than forty NTs were wrapped and packed with the twenty-two hampers. The children (ages 8 to 16) each received their own New Testament.

The hampers were received with great excitement at each home. One boy asked, "Is there a present for me too?" It may have been his first Christmas present. In most cases the delivery included an invitation to stay and visit. Several of the families also welcomed a time of prayer.

We pray that the generosity that God continually shows to us will encourage us to share with others, especially the truth of His love.

Celebrating His Coming

Pat Gerbrandt



At an outdoor Christmas celebration, visitors participate in singing *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Silent Night* as the story of Christ's birth unfolds. For the third consecutive year, Grunthal Bible Fellowship presented a live nativity to portray the coming of Jesus. The tame animals—a

donkey, several sheep, a llama and a goat—help to emphasize the humble surroundings in which the Saviour was born. Children and adults alike enjoy the chance to pet the animals that are cared for by the owners who stay nearby.

The event, while celebrating the Baby's coming, also highlights the message of salvation. The illuminated cross hanging at the edge of the wooden stable points towards Christ's death and resurrection, the reason for His coming as an infant. The meditation that follows the pageant challenges all to consider their personal response to the message of Christmas.

The jingle of bells on the horses' harnesses reminds people of all ages to enjoy wagon or sleigh rides (depending on the snow cover).

Inside the Lions' Hall, a wonderful array of Christmas baking and hot beverages encourages participants and guests to celebrate together. *Four Spiritual Laws* booklets, provided by LifeLight Ministries, are available for anyone who wants to take home a reminder of the central message in the Christmas story.

Each year invitations go out in Grunthal and surrounding community mailboxes, and local media help spread word of the event, which is growing in popularity. Christ's birth is something to be celebrated because, as He Himself said, *My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life* (John 10:10, NLT).

The women from the First Baptist Church in Prince Albert, Sask., decided to minister to the women in the jail here in Prince Albert.



We decided that because the message of Christmas is Jesus, we needed to give them that message. We contacted Martha at LifeLight Ministries and were delighted to find that they had just the resource we needed. We ordered *In Search of the Perfect Christmas*, a booklet that not only tells the message of Christmas but also explains that Jesus can be a part of our lives. This fit so well with the Christmas presentation we had planned. Since LifeLight Ministries did not have enough of this particular booklet, Martha sent us another one as well.

The nine volunteers met at the church on Monday, December 18, for prayer before heading off to the jail. About twenty-five women were ushered in to listen to the program, which included prayer, a number of Christmas stories and poems, as well as a

time of carol singing where we invited the inmates to join us.

One of the volunteers shared a powerful testimony about the abuse she had experienced in her life. She concluded by praying a prayer of commitment to Jesus with the women. Another one of the church ladies spoke about how Christmas would be different from now on if they made that commitment to Christ.

We concluded the evening with prayer and handed out the Christmas booklets. Each gift was presented with a personal message from the volunteers. Some of the inmates came up to us and thanked us for coming and presenting this message. (We also did a second service for another group of about twenty-five women).

The women who volunteered commented that they would like to go the jail again to show God's love to the women there. We believe that God intertwines people, places, events and even resources to proclaim His glory. *Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering* (Hebrews 13:3).

Shoebboxes Speak Love



Helping Hands is a group of mostly senior women from the Ness Ave. Baptist Church in Winnipeg.

In December we made up thirty shoebboxes for needy children in Winnipeg's North End. They included items such as toys, toothpaste and toothbrushes, washcloths, soap, shampoo, storybooks, pencils, mittens and scarves, as well as leaflets from LifeLight Ministries. These boxes went to Union Gospel Mission for their Family Life Centre.

There are so many needy children right here in Winnipeg, and we feel that we should do what we can to help. We meet twice a month to make blankets and baby items, most of which go to a Crisis Pregnancy Centre. The larger blankets go to Union Gospel Mission for needy families.

God has blessed us with many donations of yarn and fabric to use in making gifts for these organizations.

Sally Epp

The Kids Club Christmas Party at the Family Life Centre in Winnipeg is a hustle and bustle of excitement. It's a time when kids bring their friends and those friends bring their cousins, and so on. Yet, it's also an opportunity to share the Christmas message of hope and love. As the children each receive a gift they feel significant and loved.

"For me?" some kids asked, as if they couldn't believe it! Other children were so overwhelmed they couldn't even speak, and started hugging each other. Looking around a room full of smiles, I heard many grateful children exclaim, "Thank you!" and "COOL!" as they opened their boxes. The gifts do not take away the hardships many of these children face, but they provide an opportunity to bless each child.

Thank you from the children and me to Helping Hands for all the time and energy they pour into making each shoebox.

Praise God for the way He uses these gifts to speak His love into the lives of children!
Kiersten Tolton

A poll by Mission Network News asked respondents what they were going to do to share Christ during the Christmas season.

Thirty-nine percent said they planned to send Christmas cards with a Christian message. Nineteen percent were planning to invite friends and relatives to a Christmas program at their church. Eleven percent said they would pass out seasonal tracts, and six percent would be carolling at homes of the unsaved. Others indicated that they hadn't thought about it.

Did you share Christ with someone at Christmas?

A Filipino Tradition

Cynthia Venus

On Friday, December 8, the members of the Filipino Bible Study Group went out to sing carols at selected homes in the Filipino community in Steinbach. Reaching out to them was a way of bringing the essence of Christmas to their hearts and making known to them the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

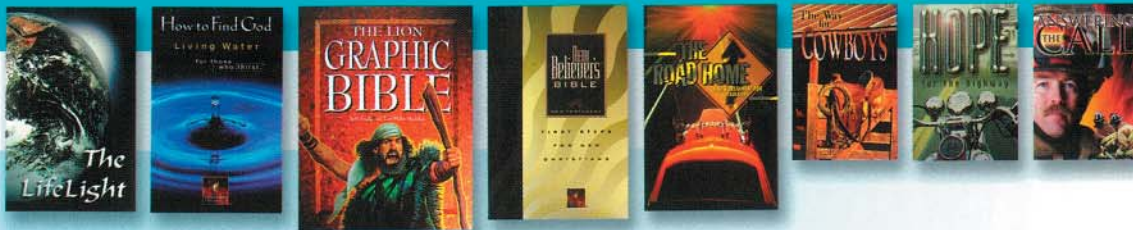
Caroling is a Filipino festive tradition during the Christmas season and starts at the beginning of December. Carolers, mostly children, go out on the streets at night and go house to house singing popular Tagalog carols. In return, the residents of the house give them a bag of candies or money, commonly called *pamasko* or *aguinaldo*.

Instead of asking the host for *pamasko*, our carolling group gave them a New Testament, provided by LifeLight Ministries, as a gift.



"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It is not rude." -- 1 Corinthians 13

Happy Valentine's Day!



Heading South this Winter?



Pack a few Bibles in your suitcase! Many vacationers are adding an extra dimension to their holidays by distributing Scriptures to people with whom they have contact.

Spanish Scriptures:

- Paperback New Testament
- How to Find God
- God's Light Bible
- Spanish/English NT
- Four Spiritual Laws
- The Plan of Life
- Bilingual Bible
- Gospel of John
- Free on the Inside
- My City, My God
- Large-Print Bible
- The Story of Jesus
- Would You Like to Know Jesus?

- Smile! God Loves You!

Call us for more information.

God Made a Way

Maria Vlaming

...Where there is no way, God has a way.

In November, my husband, Pieter, and I went to a new truck stop, requested to speak to the manager, and asked him if we could bring Christmas parcels on Christmas Day, for truckers who could not be home for Christmas. He asked if there would be Christian literature in them. We told him that they would have New Testaments, especially for truckers, in them. He responded, "I'm sorry. We cannot give you permission to come on our property," and left.

We went home, prayed a lot, and talked to a Transport for Christ chaplain. We told him about our experience, and he advised us to try another truck stop (Deacon's Corner). God answered our prayers, and we were given permission to distribute the parcels there.

On Christmas Eve, we went to the Husky truck stop; it was dark, and the restaurant was closed. We waited a while, and eventually a truck stopped. We told the driver, "We have something for you." I gave him the parcel and, with tears in his eyes, he thanked us. We felt that God had sent us there just for him!

We continued on to Deacon's Corner, and in two hours we had given away the twenty-five packages we had with us. Early the next morning (Christmas Day) we went back to Deacon's Corner. Most of the truckers were still sleeping, but slowly they starting getting up. One of the drivers told us that several years ago he had received a parcel from us, and he always remembered that. He said that his wife had divorced him and that he missed his children so much. He thanked me for the gift and gave me a big hug.

A man and his wife were on their way to New Brunswick. We gave both of them a parcel; they thanked us and told us, as did many others, that something like

this had never happened to them before.

On the way home we praised the Lord for the blessing of serving Him and asked Him to bless the Bibles that were given out. Thank you to those who helped us with donations and with their prayers. We give God the glory!

This letter appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press in December 2006:

For some time I have been meaning to say thanks to some very special people in Winnipeg. Two years ago, on Christmas Eve, my son was parked at a truck stop in his semi, with a destination that would take him even farther from his home. He was feeling a bit low about being away from home, but his evening got even worse.

As his parents, we had to notify him that his sister had rolled her vehicle and, while she would recover, she would spend at least a week in hospital. It was a tough call to make, and I doubt that he slept very much that night.

On Christmas morning, some people from one of Winnipeg's churches knocked on his semi door and gave him a Christmas present, which consisted of some home baking, soap, toothpaste, and other such sundries. My son has often said that it was truly the best Christmas present he ever received. For him, his stopover in Winnipeg will always represent the true meaning of Christmas. I want these people to know that, for this young man, this act of kindness was so very deeply appreciated.

Visit the LifeLight Ministries Booth
Missionfest 2007



- Winnipeg: February 2-4
- Edmonton: February 23-25
- Toronto: March 1-3



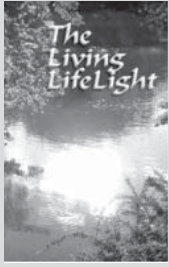
Box 4904, Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 1R5



Thank You, Kids!

What's New

The Living LifeLight



The Living LifeLight is the same on the inside as the very popular *How To Find God* New Testament; just the title and the cover have changed. Ideal for evangelism, as well as for new Christians looking for an instructional and devotional Bible. It's also ideal for mature Christians who want to better understand the basics of their faith.

Suggested donation: \$4.00 (plus 30%)

How to Find God is still available, for a suggested donation of \$4.00, plus 30% to help cover ministry costs.

NIV Daily Bible



This is a Bible that invites you to share in all the benefits of a regular steady diet of God's Word. The arrangement of this full Text NIV Bible into 365 daily readings makes it easy for you to delve into these sacred words consistently. So if you are hungry for God, come, be fed!

Suggested donation: \$14.00 (plus 30%)

Spanish Tracts

Where Will You Spend Eternity?

The Door of Heaven

Steps to Peace with God

Smile! God Loves You! (for kids)

*Suggested donation: \$5.00 (plus 30%)
for a pack of 20*



Questions: Call us at 204-320-9676 or 204-339-3770

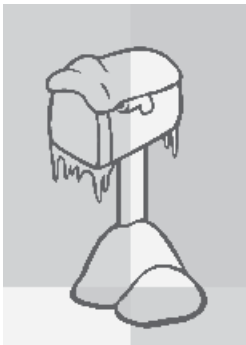
A big thank you to Gwen Neufeld and a group of students from Calvin Christian High School in Winnipeg for your help in putting inserts in all those Scriptures! The school gives credits for Christian Service projects, so this was an opportunity to serve and get school credits at the same time.

A youth group from the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Steinbach had planned to do an outdoor work project one evening, but the weather turned out to be awful—windy, cold, rainy. What could they do instead? Chris, the youth pastor, called the LifeLight office and asked whether we had any work for the kids. We did! A group of about fifteen worked diligently, inserting Reply Forms in hundreds of Bibles.

*Thank you, kids and leaders! Your help was greatly appreciated.
God bless you!*



From the Mailbox



I was wondering how I would go about receiving a copy of the "Graphic Bible." Someone mentioned that it would be an encouragement to me. —Charles

We appreciate the LifeLight New Testaments which you make available for us to distribute. We use them in different areas of our ministry, and they are well received. We know that the Lord will continue to use His Word as it is planted in people's hearts, to speak to them.—Continental Mission

Would it be possible to get two children's New Testaments from you? These are for a 7- and a 10-year-old who received the Lord at the Franklin Graham Festival.—Laurinda

My New Testament has revealed to me many new things and has helped me to review many important facts. I feel more

confident in answering questions about the Bible.—Dustin

I have read your NT, and it is very informative. I would like all the information you have on your ministry and to be enrolled in the Bible correspondence course.—James

I am a first-time reader and believer. I have yet to read and find out more of what the Bible is about and what it can do for a person. I am just starting a four-year prison sentence, so the correspondence course will help me pass the time, and hopefully I'll learn lots from it.—Tyson

• I gave the Graphic Bible to my 12-year-old granddaughter, and she really enjoyed reading it. It was more appealing than trying to understand the big words in a regular Bible, and the cartoon pictures helped to dramatize the events and stories. God bless you all at LifeLight as you continue to provide useful and much-needed Scriptures to people.—Ruth

My name is Greg Twoyoungmen, Wesley First Nation Post-Secondary Education Coordinator/Liaison Person, and I am writing this letter of gratitude on behalf of our Education Department for your generosity in giving our people your New Testaments.

I am sure that our people will put these Bibles to good use over the years. In our society, although we sometimes do not practice or join the numerous religious denominations, we revere and are always aware of who the Supreme Being (Creator) is, who put us here and watches over us.

Again, thank you for your generosity. Isniyes ('thank you' in Nakoda Sioux).

Huchimagachach*,
Greg Twoyoungmen

*"See you later" in Nakoda Sioux. We have no word for "Goodbye" in our language.