



THE BIBLE NETWORK

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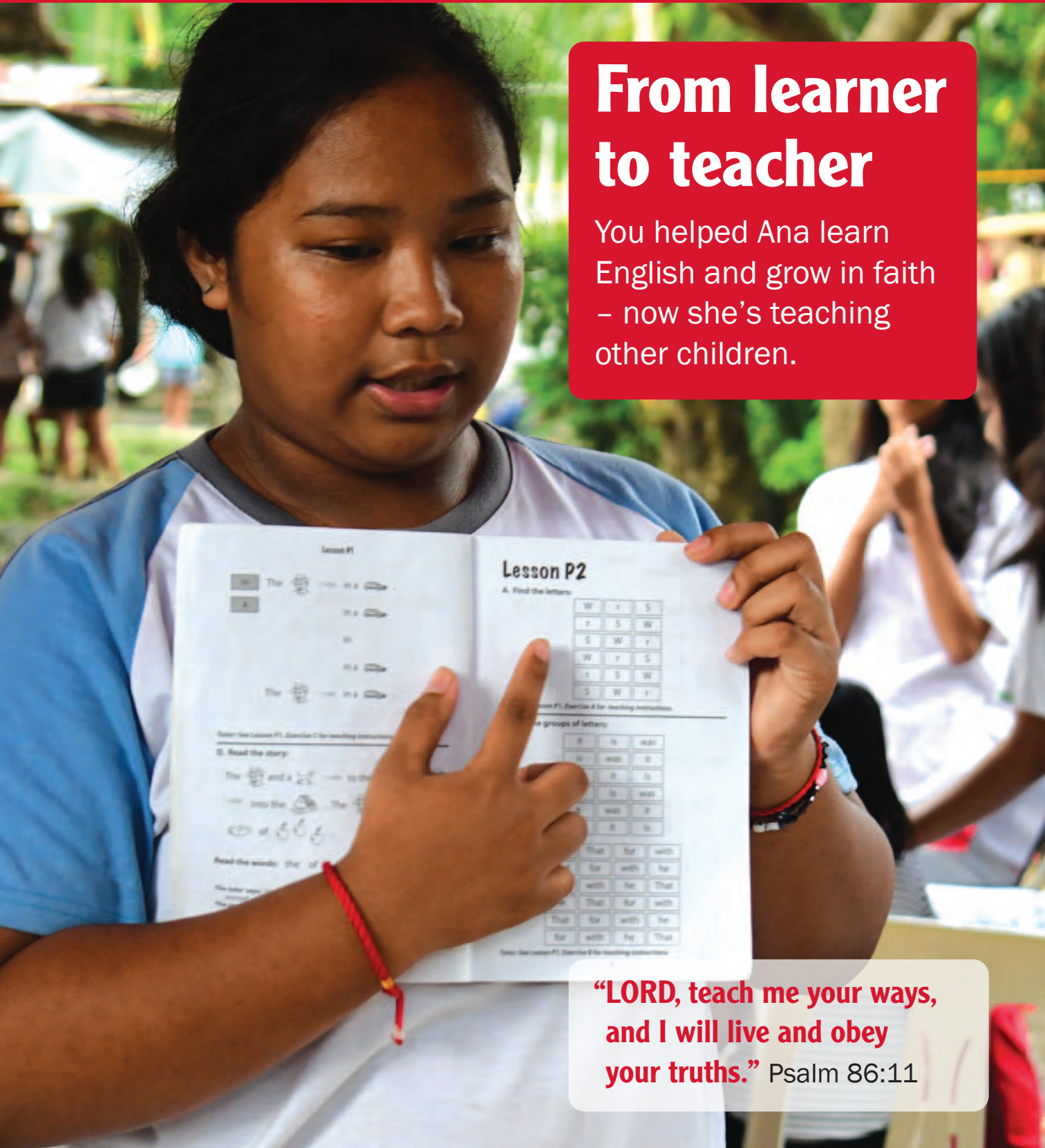
WordPower

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH GOD'S WORD

Inside: How one Bible study became three *Page 3* • From the rubbish dump to a thriving church *Pages 4-5*

From learner to teacher

You helped Ana learn English and grow in faith – now she's teaching other children.



**“LORD, teach me your ways,
and I will live and obey
your truths.”** Psalm 86:11

You're helping share the hope of Jesus – wherever it's needed

As we look at the world around us, it's hard not to see the utter brokenness. Poverty. War. Famine. Yet through Scripture, we're constantly reminded that we serve a compassionate, loving Saviour who meets us wherever we are in life. In far-off places and close to home, He sees us. We matter to Him.

The Bible is full of examples of God reaching people wherever they are. Whether it's the parable of the lost sheep or Hagar wandering in the desert, He calls us to Himself. He knows what we need – His hope, love and salvation.

And you'll find that same truth in this edition of **WordPower**.

In the following pages, you'll read about Ruth, Maria, Ana and Lucienne. God called Ruth in Zambia and Maria in Nicaragua to share His Word in communities where the need is great. In the Philippines, Ana grew in her understanding of God's Word through a literacy class – and is now helping other children do the same. And in Madagascar, Lucienne and her husband are helping bring new life to a struggling church.

Jesus is calling. For everyone, everywhere, no matter where they are in the world or in life. Maria answered that call by going to La Chureca – Managua's rubbish dump. She stood before vulnerable people in a desperate place and said, ***"He came with me to tell you that He wants to give you life again."***

Because of your support, Maria and others like her around the world have the Bibles and biblical resources they need to keep answering that call. They're bringing hope to people who need to know that Jesus is calling them too, and that He will meet them right where they are.

Thank you for helping make this possible through your support and prayers.



Your partner in sharing God's Word,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John".

John Savage
Director, The Bible Network

Thank you for helping provide Bibles in China

Thank you to everyone who responded to our June China Appeal. Together, you've already given more than £52,000 to help provide Bibles for believers across rural China – and gifts are still arriving.

The need remains urgent. Our partners are ready to distribute many more Bibles to believers still waiting for God's Word. If you would like to give again today, your gift would be greatly appreciated.



Cover image: Ana teaches children in the Philippines using The Bible Network's Bible-based Literacy materials.



Turning to Jesus in hope and joy

You helped Ruth bring the Gospel to her town

Kapiri is a small, rural town in central Zambia, affected by prostitution, theft and idol worship. Seasonal rains turn the sunbaked roads into near-impassable rivers of mud. This community is largely forgotten... but not by Ruth.

Ruth (pictured, top right) knew that as much as the people of Kapiri were lost, they still hungered for truth. As she walked among them, Ruth longed to share the Gospel with those who had little opportunity to hear it. Kapiri didn't have a church or shepherd guiding them to Jesus. So, more than anything, she desired to bring them that light.

God provides for His people

But how? She had no access to Bible training or teachers, and lacked the know-how. The cost of a Bible is beyond the reach of many in Kapiri, where people often live on less than 80p a day. Not in the least discouraged, Ruth prayed earnestly, certain that God would hear her.

His answer came through her bishop, who witnessed her heart and desire to serve the Lord and encouraged her to attend The Bible Network's year-long Church Planter Training programme. Thanks to supporters like you, Ruth

received Bibles and Bible study materials, including booklets translated into Bemba, a widely spoken local language.

God is at work in Kapiri

Putting into practice what she learnt, Ruth walked long distances along muddy roads to invite people to study The Gospel of John. The first group met under a shady tree. As more people joined, one Bible study became two, then three. Many who once practised idol worship and traditional rituals are now turning to Jesus in hope and joy.

Ruth says, ***"To the donors, we want to say, 'Thank you very much for the work you are doing for the body of Christ. Please continue, because you are helping us. The Bible study booklets are really changing lives in our communities!'"***

With your help in Zambia 2023–2025

- 135,000 people have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- 139 churches have been planted

Combined ministry totals in Zambia, 2023–2025



“We may have a lot of limitations, but if we have the Word of God, it is a great resource for us.” – Maria

Bringing hope to La Chureca

How you’re helping transform a community in Nicaragua

Children eating rotten bread. Mothers holding malnourished children. As Maria watched the images on television, she could hardly believe what she was seeing. But it wasn’t happening far away. It was at La Chureca – Managua’s city dump, in her own city.

Going to the dump

The news report changed everything. Feeling called by God, the newly divorced mum of two began going to La Chureca after a full day’s work. There, she told people that Jesus wanted to give them life and hope.

Nearly 30 years later, Maria’s faith and determination have helped transform the community she now calls home.

What began as a small gathering in the dump is now a building filled with a congregation of 80. Across the street, the school she runs, which charges no fees, welcomes more than 200 children each year. In both places, God’s Word is at the heart of everything, bringing hope to people who have known great hardship.

It might seem as though Maria (pictured) has already done it all. But she lacked something important: enough Bibles and discipleship materials.



Three years ago, after attending The Bible Network's Church Planter Training programme, that began to change. At the time, only around 30% of people in her church had a Bible. Families would sometimes share a single copy, with a child taking it to school during the day and their parents using it at night.

Bibles for every believer

Thanks to supporters like you, today every member of Maria's church has a Bible. She also helps lead 12 Bible study groups, helping more than 100 people grow in their faith.

"The way we do discipleship now is very valuable," Maria says.

Many children at her school still face severe poverty, and some have only one meal a day. Yet Maria knows that having access to God's Word can make a lasting difference.

She says, ***"To have materials is to have abundance in life. Even though there are economic and political challenges, please never stop doing what you are doing. We need you."***

Today, people still work at La Chureca, recycling waste amid extremely difficult conditions.

But Maria remains committed to sharing the hope of Jesus and helping people discover a different future.



"I have learned that God made me with love and purpose. That's why I like Him, and He loves me. That's why I feel secure. I am very special because He made me that way."

– Sofia, a young pupil at Maria's school in La Chureca.



La Chureca: A brief history

For decades, La Chureca was one of the most desperate places in Nicaragua. Its name means "The Dump" – Managua's open-air landfill on the shores of Lake Managua.

Spanning more than 100 acres, it was once the largest open-air rubbish dump in Central America. More than 1,500 people lived there, including children who earned money collecting rubbish and recyclable materials.

Following the devastating 1972 earthquake, La Chureca received Managua's waste for nearly 40 years with little regulation. Fires, toxic waste and rubbish spilling into Lake Managua caused widespread pollution.

Around 13 years ago, redevelopment moved residents into hundreds of government-built homes. Living in the dump is now prohibited, although many families still live nearby and rely on it for income. Much has changed, but the community remains extremely vulnerable, facing drug addiction, low levels of education and food insecurity.



English is an official language in the Philippines and can open doors to better-paid work. But not everyone has access to education. With your support, The Bible Network's Bible-based Literacy programme is helping change that.

The student becomes the teacher

How Ana discovered God's purpose for her life

Seventeen-year-old Ana (pictured above) bends down to eye level with a group of young children. Holding a literacy booklet, she points to the page: ***"Find the letters. W, R and S."***

Two years ago, this moment seemed impossible. ***"I struggled with spelling, vocabulary and pronunciation,"*** she recalls.

That changed when Ana saw some children walking through her neighbourhood in San Benito, Philippines, and followed them to a church.

There she met Pastor Bitek, who was teaching a Bible-based Literacy class from The Bible Network – made possible by supporters like you.

Learning English

Ana never missed a class. As well as helping her learn English, Pastor Bitek taught from God's Word and invited her to a weekly Bible study.

"This literacy class has significantly improved my skills," she says. ***"I was amazed by how much progress I made."***

But Ana gained more than a new language. She began reading the Bible with greater understanding and came to faith in Jesus.

As her confidence grew, she wanted other children in her community to have the same opportunity.

Finding her purpose

With Pastor Bitek's help, Ana trained to become a Bible-based Literacy teacher. Now she teaches children in remote communities.

"I love teaching literacy because I see that the children will someday become like me, learning the English language while also gaining knowledge about God's Word."

Ana is also studying to become a civil engineer – a goal that once seemed impossible.

"God has a purpose in everything," she says. ***"It was God who called me here, and I am inviting my neighbours and family members to attend our Bible study."***

Reviving Ankadinondry's church

Your support strengthens churches in rural Madagascar

Ankadinondry is a rural community in central Madagascar. Ox carts and bicycles are common on its dusty streets, giving the impression that little has changed here for decades. Lucienne and her husband, Pastor Tanjona, lead a church in this remote community.

"It's not easy to be a pastor's wife here," Lucienne admits with a laugh. ***"I come from Antananarivo, the capital, where people are more open-minded. Here, they criticise you about every small detail."***

The locals' attitude wasn't the couple's only challenge when they came to Ankadinondry. ***"The church was as good as dead when we arrived,"*** she explains. But they knew God wanted them there. A leader at their church in the capital had said, ***"There's no one to take care of the sheep, so go!"***

Fruitful harvest

Soon, they saw God making a way for them. Lucienne explains, ***"Just when we were considering how to share God's Word here, God opened the way for us. We heard that The Bible Network was coming to Ankadinondry!"***

They began gathering people in Bible study groups.

"Those who finished the programme and received their Bibles kept coming to church," Lucienne says. ***"The Bible study has been so fruitful; the harvest has been amazing!"***

Reaching further

Lucienne and her husband expanded the programme to another rural community.

"It's a two-hour walk, and you have to

cross a river by canoe," Lucienne explains. ***"We go there two Sundays a month, and they come here the other Sundays. They walk all the way with their children!"***

By God's grace, and with the Bibles and study materials you help provide, Lucienne and Tanjona have helped revive the church in Ankadinondry. Once nearly empty, it has grown to about 40 people, with a new group of believers now meeting in the surrounding countryside.

Lucienne adds, ***"Thank you for giving your time and money to serve God and His work.***

May God bless you all and expand your work as well."

Obscured to protect their privacy.

Thank you!

Your support is helping churches like Lucienne and Tanjona's grow, giving more people in rural Madagascar the opportunity to encounter God's Word.





Thank you!

Maria, pictured left, can't help but get emotional when she thinks of how you're helping her to share the Gospel. ***"To have materials is to have abundance in life."***

The Bibles, Bible studies and training you're helping provide for her and others around the world are life-changing. She often had no Bible to give when someone asked. Now, she does.

Read about Maria's ministry on pages 4-5.

Notes of prayer, praise and thanksgiving



Please pray for a pastor in India.

As soon as he began using The Bible Network's Bible studies to share God's Word in his community, hostile residents began harassing him and issuing threats. Pray that God will protect him, grant him wisdom and open the hearts of others so that they may know the love of Jesus.



Give thanks that 50 church leaders in Vietnam were recently trained to

use The Bible Network's Bible studies to disciple and grow their 700-member church. Praise God that Bibles and Bible studies arrived in time for immediate use.



Praise God that 48 new believers from Hindu backgrounds have received Bibles in Bangladesh.

These believers were recently baptised and have become part of the local church. Pray that their new Bibles will help them grow in faith.

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on me. The LORD has chosen me to tell good news to the poor and to comfort those who are sad." Isaiah 61:1



Every £3.80 you give can provide a Bible to someone who needs one

I'm sending: £ _____ so that more people around the world can have access to God's life-transforming Word.

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please send this form with your donation in the envelope provided to: **The Bible Network, Unit 9, Burnt Oak Farm, Waldron, Heathfield TN21 0NL**

Gifts will be used to further the work of the charity at the trustees' discretion. In the event of insufficient funds to carry out a project, or in the event of a surplus arising on a project, any unspent funds will be used wherever the need is greatest.



THE BIBLE NETWORK
The World Needs God's Word

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to 'The Bible Network'

☐ Please debit the amount of £ _____ from my:

Card no.:

Expiry Date: /

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

For information about becoming one of our Volunteer Ambassadors, please tick ☐ Post ☐ Phone _____

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