

SEEKING AND SAVING THE LOST

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



REACH A VILLAGE

REACHING VILLAGES. MAKING DISCIPLES. CHANGING LIVES.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19 reminds us that the journey to seek and save the lost means going to unlikely and sometimes unpopular places. It introduces a seemingly unlikely person, who was genuinely seeking Jesus. It also shows that Jesus was actively looking for those who needed Him, even someone in a tree! Jesus was willing to go into the neighborhoods and homes of those who need Him, even when others avoided such places and people.

Zacchaeus was a “seeker” willing to climb a tree, and Jesus was a Savior willing to seek and save a notorious and neglected man!

Looking back on 2018 has given an opportunity for review, reflection and rejoicing. It helps us focus on the single purpose that Jesus has given us. We are to be His hands, His feet and His eyes to carry on the efforts to seek and save the lost. Those efforts took our ministry partners into more than 2,000 villages and neighborhoods where they also found those who were seeking Jesus. The vast majority of these people had never heard the Gospel message before!

“The son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

The first command of the Great Commission is “Go!” Reach A Village provides funds and resources, enabling local believers to follow this command and seek out the lost, even in remote, unreached villages. Our ministry partners then share about how Jesus came to save us, and they help “make disciples” and start churches utilizing the Bibles and other Scripture-based resources we supply.

The story of a man named Zacchaeus in Jericho was recorded so we could read, reflect and rejoice. In this report, you will meet other real people, like Da Reach (on page 6), whose stories of redemption have been recorded for the same purpose. Please read, reflect and rejoice at what God has done in 2018!



Serving Christ Together,

Robert Craft
Founder and President

HOW THE LORD IS USING US

The purpose of all our ministries is to help transform lives so new churches are started in unreached areas. Your gifts help spread the Gospel in three ways:

1. Starting New Churches

Local Christian leaders receive in-depth modular training and are equipped with Scripture materials to bring the Gospel into unreached communities. They build relationships, introduce people to God’s Word, conduct Bible studies, and establish a new church.

2. Children’s Bible Ministry

Children are introduced to Jesus and study God’s Word through school outreach, Vacation Bible Schools, summer camps and children’s Bible study groups.

3. Discipling New Believers

We come alongside established local churches to provide training and Scripture materials to begin Bible studies for evangelism and discipleship outreach.

Three interconnected components are key to transforming the lives of adults and children with the Gospel: Scriptures, Training and Local Leaders.



MINISTRY RESULTS

Jesus continues to enter neglected neighborhoods and save the lost in increasing numbers around the world today! It's inspiring to see the joy and transformation that result as our international ministry partners follow His leading and bring the Gospel to new villages. Now, over 2,000 more communities have an evangelical church!

As they go, these local Christians are supported by your prayers and equipped with the training, Scriptures and study materials you have provided. Thanks to your partnership, nearly 159,000 people found the Savior in 2018! People are hungering for the forgiveness, grace and salvation Jesus offers.

Rejoice with us as you read how God has been at work during the past year!

People who attended training events	109,659
People who heard the Gospel	842,020
New people in Bible studies	274,509
New believers	158,901
Scriptures provided	4,002,278
Churches started	2,037

Most churches were started in villages that previously had no local church!

FINANCIALS

Because of your prayers and financial support and the commitment of our international ministry partners, this year we saw significant growth in the number of people trained, villages reached with the Gospel, Scriptures placed into grateful hands, and most importantly the number of lost souls who found their Savior. Thank you!

We are also thankful for the continued partnership and support of the Bible League of Canada. Together, we are all striving to seek the lost in every village around the world, bring them the saving power of the Gospel, and see their lives transformed as they follow Christ and immerse themselves in His precious Word.



Funds sent directly from Canada to overseas ministry partners are not reflected in our IRS Form 990.

HOW FAR DOES YOUR DOLLAR GO?

Partnering with and equipping local leaders allows a high degree of efficiency and cost-effectiveness, so every dollar reaches far to grow God's Kingdom. In 2018, the average ministry costs were:

\$2.53

REACHES ONE PERSON WITH THE GOSPEL

\$7.77

HELPS ONE PERSON PARTICIPATE IN A BIBLE STUDY

\$13.43

HELPS ONE PERSON MAKE A COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST

To God be the glory!

Please note that these are the 2018 averages, and some ministry areas vary in terms of their response to the Gospel and ministry cost.



SEEKING TO SAVE THE LOST AND START CHURCHES



Da Reach, a 17-year-old from Cambodia, liked hanging around the village with his gangster friends, gambling, committing adultery and many other sins. He got expelled from school and threw away his chance for a better future. One day, Da Reach heard that an evangelistic group had come to his village to share the Good News. Since his life was filled with despair, he was eager to hear this Good News.

A Reach A Village ministry partner was telling the crowd that people try to avoid death and hell through divination, or fasting, or good works, but none of these things can free us from sin. Only Jesus Christ can save us from sin and give us eternal life. These words penetrated Da Reach's heart, and he asked Jesus to be his Savior.

He readily accepted the study booklets to help him learn more about God, and when he completed them, he was given his own Bible! Day after day, the pastor came to the village to nurture those who accepted the Lord, teaching them the Word and guiding them in studying it to grow stronger in their faith. Eventually, a church was started in the area!

Each day, the Word of God is growing deeply into Da Reach's heart and making him into a new person. Now he is a good example to his family and other youths in the village, and he shares the Good News he has found with them.

Filled with despair, Da Reach was eager to hear the Good News.



Pastor Darian has a vibrant ministry in his region in Bulgaria. In addition to the church he originally began, he is supporting house church groups in five other villages, and has opportunities to double that number! Now, he is mentoring a family to help them start a church in their town, which has no evangelical church presence.

2,037
NEW CHURCHES

Pastor Mateja is working to start a church in a part of southern Serbia where it is difficult to minister due to the predominance of the traditional religion, as well as widespread superstitions and witchcraft. His efforts are bearing fruit, and 16 people from four different villages recently declared their faith in Jesus publicly during a baptism service!



REACHING CHILDREN WITH THE GOSPEL

“I love being in God’s presence, enjoying His love.” vartan, Armenia



At just 9 years old, Vartan in Armenia has already lived a troubled life. His sister was 6, he was 4 and his brother was 1 when his mother took them and ran away from his father. After a few months, she surrendered the children to a child services center, where he stayed for 3 years. Now, he lives with his grandmother, and his mother took his little brother back, but his sister remains in child services.

Vartan is very sad and misses his family. His grandmother wishes she could take his siblings too, but she is 71, has bronchial asthma and struggles just to care for him. “We do not have a refrigerator, a washing machine. My grandma can hardly ever find food for us,” Vartan tells.

But despite all this, Vartan says, “Praise the Lord! He has not left us. One of our neighbors, sister Astrik, is like a

mother for me. What my mother does not give me, I get from her, such as love, safety and care. One day, sister Astrik invited us to church. I love being in God’s presence, enjoying His love.” Then, Astrik invited Vartan to attend the five-day Vacation Bible School camp with her sons.

“I had a lot of fun,” Vartan shares excitedly. “I enjoy love, tenderness, caring people and their attention to me. We played interesting games, ate tasty food, and the most important thing was the spiritual food: ‘The Ten Commandments.’ The last day of the camp, I got a ‘Bible in Pictures’ and my grandmother got the Bible.

“A lot changed inside me. Before, I was offended from my mother, but I understood that I should forgive her, as God does not like that. I have a dream. I wish one day to be together with all my family members in a harmony and God’s love. I pray to God to bring my family together.”

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY STATISTICS



12,558
Leaders trained



302,481
Children who heard the Gospel



62,590
New children in Bible studies



14,885
New believers



465,364
Scriptures provided



343
Churches started

All of these results are included in the overall ministry statistics.



"Life without God ... is like living with out air!" Anichka, Ukraine

ROOTING NEW BELIEVERS IN GOD'S WORD



Anichka grew up in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine. She felt she was living a normal life, but there was an emptiness inside her, like something was missing. When she tried to fill this vacuum with pleasures, Anichka only felt worse. She thought that when she got married, she would finally feel complete, but she didn't.

Then the war began. Anichka and her family had to flee from their home because the area was under attack. Later, they heard that their house was bombed. They relocated to a different town.

When they arrived, their new neighbor, Yuri, offered to help. He was conducting a Bible study in his home and invited them. He asked Anichka what she thought about God. Her soul responded with joy, as if she was waiting her whole life for this simple question!

Anichka started to read the Bible for the first time in her life. She prayed wholeheartedly, and the Savior entered her heart. She realizes now that God has always been there and that He protected her family because they were not there when the house was bombed. God has faithfully answered Anichka's prayers, and now He is opening doors to rebuild their destroyed home that has been empty for two years.

"Today, I cannot imagine life without God. It is like living without air!" Anichka exclaims. "I have accepted Christ as my Savior and am at the beginning of my wonderful, interesting journey! I want to find my place in ministry. I know He will show me the way, what to do, and how to be helpful in helping others who are not saved yet to find salvation!"

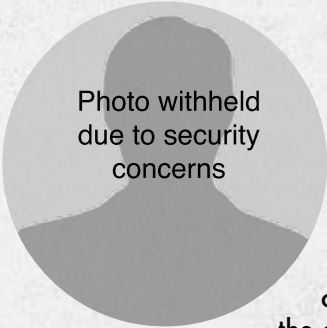


Photo withheld due to security concerns

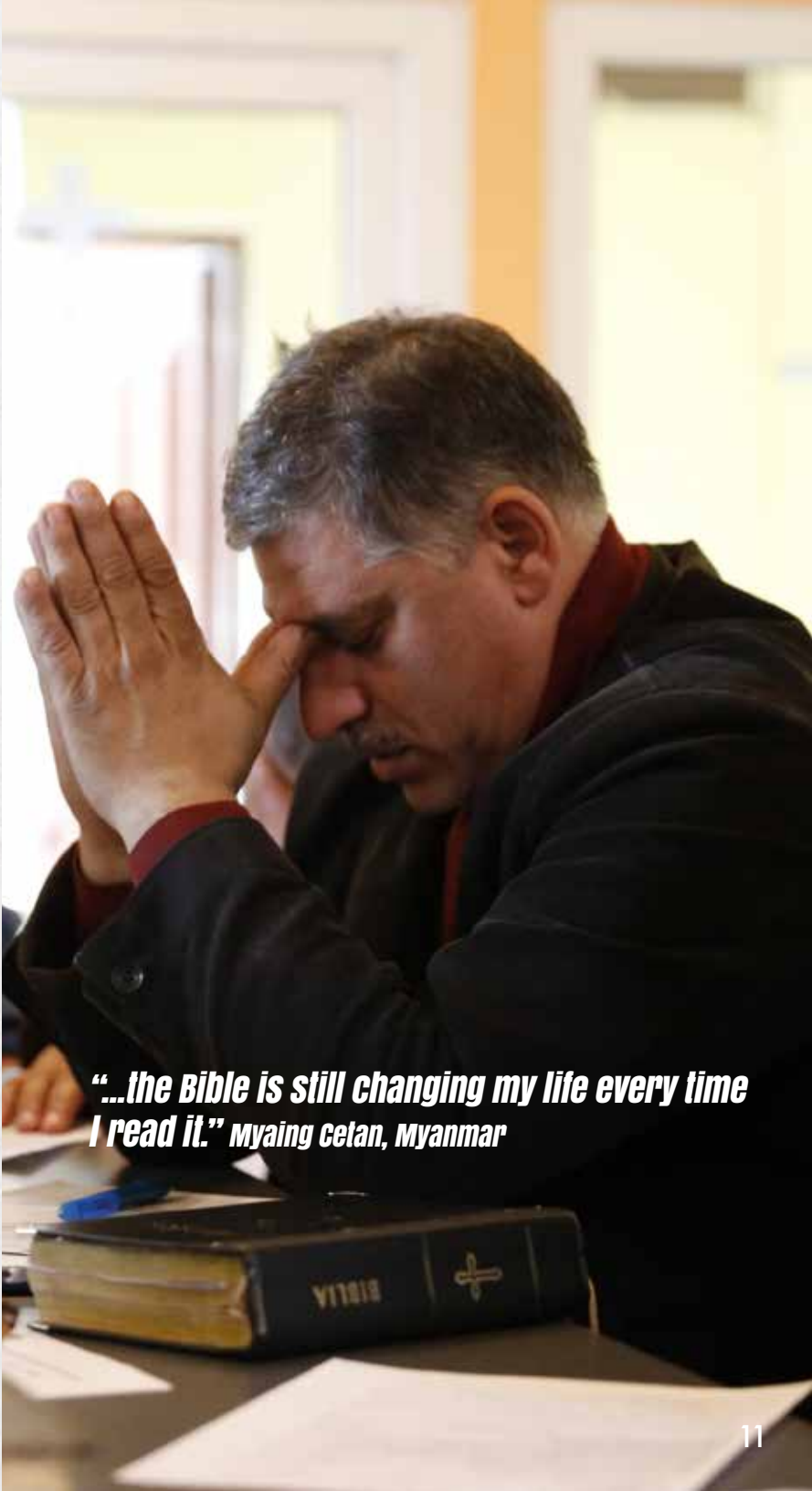
Josif and Vangelija in Macedonia moved from their home to start a church in a village on the opposite side of the country. The Lord has given them the joy of discipling a new believer who comes from a Muslim background. Please pray for this man as he has been rejected by his Muslim community, but he is determined to follow Jesus at any cost.



For many years, Myaing Cetan in Myanmar had been involved in gambling, smoking, heavy drinking and drug abuse, but upon hearing the Gospel at a rehabilitation center, he wanted nothing more than a close relationship with Jesus Christ. "The Word of God gives me the strength to conquer every weakness," he says. "I deeply thank God for His precious Word when I realize that the Bible is still changing my life every time I read it."

274,509

NEW PEOPLE IN BIBLE STUDIES



"...the Bible is still changing my life every time I read it." Myaing Cetan, Myanmar

THOUSANDS REACHED IN THAILAND!

During the past year, 7,320 lost people in Thailand found salvation in Jesus, and 191 new house churches were started! Thai Christians from the Free in Jesus Christ Church Association (FJCCA) are seeking out villages that have never heard and bringing the Gospel to them. CrossTies Asia, a ministry of Reach A Village, is coming alongside them in these efforts.

A majority of the results are coming from Phetchabun province in Central Thailand, where an amazing work of God is happening. Since the Gospel arrived in Thailand 190 years ago, the Church in Phetchabun had been growing very slowly. But that changed in 2016.

In October 2016, King Bhumibol died after reigning for close to 70 years. Due to a government-mandated period of national mourning, no large celebrations could be held. Because the FJCCA was unable to have its annual large Christmas evangelism celebration, they decided to travel to 17 smaller villages and hold multiple small Christmas evangelism celebrations instead.

They were astonished by the response! This prompted them to change their ministry method and focus on taking the Gospel to over 75,000 villages in Thailand that have never heard about Jesus. Now, the Church in

Phetchabun is growing so rapidly that they have a hard time keeping up with the demands of training house church leaders and providing Scriptures and discipleship materials to new believers! Reach A Village is doing what we can to help them.



They are anticipating even higher numbers in 2019. Every month, on average, the FJCCA is leading 550 people to Christ and starting 20-30 new house churches! We are glad to play a small part in what God is doing in Thailand.

Thank you for partnering with us in 2018 to help spread the message of salvation in Jesus Christ to the unreached communities of the world!



PO Box 577 • Park Forest, IL 60466 • 708-679-0237 • www.reachavillage.org
Reach A Village is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.