

The Word of *Hope & Comfort*



Let's read the Bible

Titus	1:1-9
2 Timothy	3:13-17
	4:1-8
James	1:1-8

We consider together

Dear Father, we are very sorry to hear that there are many people suffering from the bad memories of war and disease related death of their family members. Please help them overcome their trauma with Your word.



Wycliffe Canada wants to see the revival of the Canadian Church through Bible engagement, not only by their reading but also praying and living it out in their life, while they bless those people groups who do not have the Bible by prayers and offerings, a cent per verse or 10 cents per chapter. Please contact us if you want to join.

rbbb@wycliffe.ca 416-888-2262

Copyright © 2012 by Wycliffe Canada. All rights reserved. This cannot be printed for distribution or exhibited on-line without permission.

In the Bible verses you have read this week, there is one message that continues to show up. 'when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.' (James 1:2, 1 Peter 4:13, for the next week, Hebrews 10:34). This message is told from the very beginning of the Bible. The reason why is because no one can avoid difficulties and hardships. Even Jesus and the church.

There are still so many people in many regions of the world who suddenly die from illnesses and war. A farmer in Ghana named Robert was comforted by the Word of God after he lost his wife and son. Everything seemed to be going okay after their deaths, but times got hard when it became seed-planting season. This was because his wife had always been the one to plant the seeds. Robert cried and experienced hardships as he thought of his wife. His eldest son came to him and told him the story of the Bible.

'Father, a while ago we read together in James 1:2-4 that when we go through difficult and hard times we should be courageous. We also read 1 Corinthians 15:35-44 together; it was the story of resurrection, and about eternal life in a new body. Have courage, father!'

"I (Robert) gained a lot of strength from the Word that my son shared with me. But, if my son had told me about these Bible verses in English, it will have been hard for me to understand them." (compiled and edited by Luci Tumas and Patrick Wilson, *The Power of the Word*, referenced from page 44)

Those who lose their loved one from war, accidents, and many other reasons leaves them with

broken hearts. The hurt they experience sometimes becomes trauma (a state where it become hard for someone to continue living their lives normally when they remember the shocking event because of the pain they experienced). Those who are traumatized need not only kind and comforting words and actions from others, but also need the strength and hope to stand back up on their own feet.

Margaret Hill and John Ommani were Scripture Use Consultants, and they researched and taught others how to use Bible translations that were translated into one's heart language. They said the following. People experiencing trauma and similar difficulties are better comforted by a Bible that is translated into their own heart language than a Bible that is not in their mother tongue. They taught others to especially focus on and read Psalms. (<http://www.wycliffe.net/stories/tabid/67/Default.aspx?id=2536&pg=1&topic-id=28&library=T>)

In Psalms, not only are there stories of sadness, difficulties, and disappointments that makes one want to give up, but there are also stories about people telling God truthfully about their hearts and praying to Him. Even in hard and difficult situations, when we remember that God is our master and King and give Him our praise, the end results in hope.

Like this, we can know how God's people were able to overcome hard and difficult times. This is why we must help Bibleless people groups have a Bible in their own heart language. Let us pray that many people with trauma would be able to gain strength through a Bible in their own heart language.