



Seeds for the Heart

As adults, our heart is the soil that receives God's Word and as it takes root, we sow the seeds of God's Word into the hearts of children.

With this in mind, I'm persuaded that God wants each child to hear Him personally speak to their heart as they read His Word.

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Consequently, our goal needs to be using a Bible translation that sows seeds that are easily read and understood by a child.
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God also instructs parents to wholeheartedly reinforce what children are learning in His Word by speaking His Word to their children everyday; *"while sitting in their house, walking on the road, when going to bed and when getting up"* (Deut. 6:7-8).

In turn, we know that a child's heart feels, listens, and experiences God's Word differently than adults.

So, Jesus advises us to learn from children, whose hearts trust in God, whose hearts are humble and in whose hearts the seeds of forgiveness grow (Mt. 18:3).

Javier Martin, Spain



Praying

Reading God's Word opens the door for children to discover who Jesus is, and what life as a Christ follower looks like. But children can find the Bible hard to understand and need us to come alongside them with creative ways to discover the Truths in God's Word. As well as faithfully pray that God will touch them as they read His Word.

Please pray that...

- Every child will be able to read the Word of God in his or her own language.
- Each one will know they are precious as they hear God speak to their heart.
- It will be a great joy for them to discover how to live God's way.



The Family Corner

Place several different colors of Playdough on a table. Two people take turns reading a Bible passage aloud (e.g. Psalm 92:1-5). As the others listen, they use the playdough to express what was special to them and give thanks to God in prayer.

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"Bringing hope to children"

NEWS Summer 2021

Reading the Bible

Dear friends,

When I was young, children used to sing, *"Read your Bible, pray every day, if you want to grow"*. I took this song to heart by diligently reading my Bible every day.

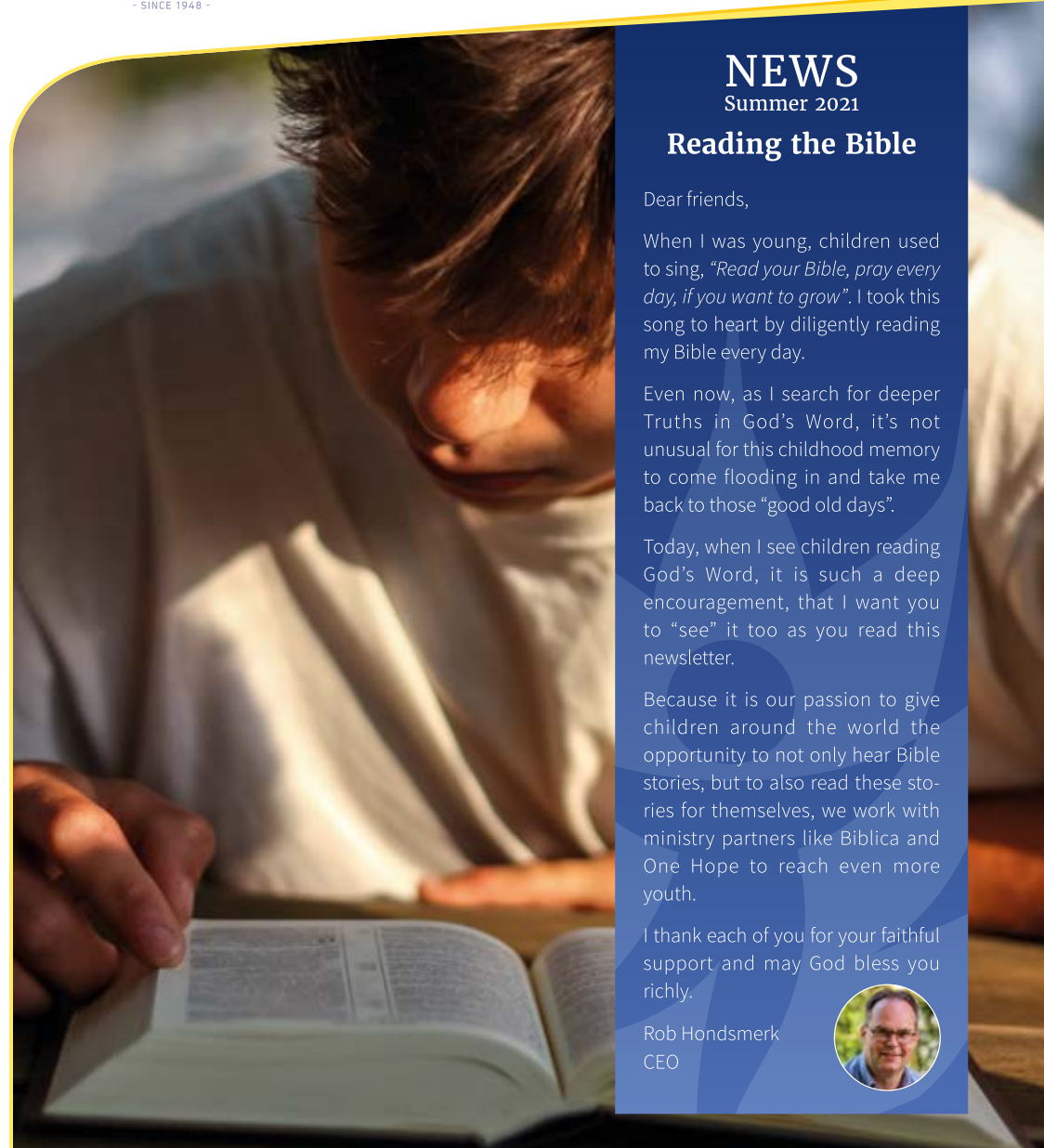
Even now, as I search for deeper Truths in God's Word, it's not unusual for this childhood memory to come flooding in and take me back to those "good old days".

Today, when I see children reading God's Word, it is such a deep encouragement, that I want you to "see" it too as you read this newsletter.

Because it is our passion to give children around the world the opportunity to not only hear Bible stories, but to also read these stories for themselves, we work with ministry partners like Biblica and One Hope to reach even more youth.

I thank each of you for your faithful support and may God bless you richly.

Rob Hondsmark
CEO





CENTRAL ASIA

The Excitement of Reading God's Word

Students worldwide have been learning online for more than a year, which as we all know has kept them at home and isolated from having fun with each other.

We prayed about how to reach these lonely kids, and God answered by opening our eyes to see how this disconnect with others could make them even more open to embracing a fun new experience they might not have been interested in otherwise.

This fun new experience was a 4-week online Bible-Reading-Marathon. Our goal was for kids to commit to reading the Bible every day and personally discover its life-changing Truth, as well as learn how to apply it to their lives. Before we knew it, 124 non-Christian and 282 Christian kids had signed up.

We began by dividing them into teams, each with a teacher to guide them. Through a video conference, the children read Scrip-

ture, answered questions, and loved discussing what they had learned about God.

Their hearts were so filled with excitement, they began to share this good news with their friends and family. The boys held live broadcasts and read the Bible with their friends. Many who had been afraid to tell their friends about Jesus, now openly post on social media what they are learning about God. We also reach 1,500 unbelieving kids through posting on social media.

Because of the overwhelming impact this has had and the growing interest of even more kids, we will organize Bible reading groups, clubs and hold online Bible-Reading-Marathons.

Rejoice with us as you read these precious testimonies that reflect the heart of so many youth who participated in this Bible-Reading-Marathon.

Sofia*, 15:

"How did the 'Word of Life' marathon change me? As I was reading Scripture, God opened my eyes to many things. As I thought about how I could live by His Word every day, I noticed that little by little, as I read each chapter and took it to heart, my life was changing. Now, even what I post on Instagram has also become more Christian.

I hesitated at first, but then I read in Luke 9:26 'For who will be ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will also be ashamed!' I thought to myself, 'What do I care what people think? Do I live for God or for people? Do I love Him sincerely or only when no one sees?'"

Azamat*, 11:

"I thank God for this wonderful time, when my mother and I read the Bible together, talked openly, exchanged thoughts, and prayed together. For example, one of our study questions asked about the 'kind of God' Luke presents in his gospel. This made me ponder about what God is like and what He did. I had never thought about how I picture God.



I also really liked the question about what the Word of God means, to look for answers and then write my comments. This marathon has united and strengthened my family. My father has joined us, so has my eldest sister and her husband, along with my younger brother and sister. I thank God for my family! I thank God for this marathon, and I thank God for His Word, that has deeply touched me!

** Names changed for privacy reasons*

