

# February 2020

**Ephesians 2:10**  
For we are God's  
handiwork, created in  
Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God  
prepared in advance  
for us to do.

VISION *BEYOND* BORDERS

**THE VIEW FROM THE CROSS IS A VISION BEYOND BORDERS**

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# BIBLES

Mickala Schmidt



2019 has been an incredible year for the Bible projects of Vision Beyond Borders! In the face of increasing persecution, together we put over 180,000 Bibles into the hands of believers in oppressed and closed countries around the globe. Thank you! The hunger and need for God's Word is only increasing. In a world where women are sold into slavery, children are made orphans by war and violent conflict, pastors are beaten, imprisoned, and killed for their faith, and refugees continue to suffer in devastating numbers, the Hope of the Gospel shines through. Persecution is increasing, but so are the cries of the growing church around the globe, falling to their knees in repentance as they turn to follow Jesus Christ. For every report we hear of closing borders, nations banning Bibles, congregations being dragged out of churches by police, and spies turning in pastors, we only receive more requests for copies of God's Word in these nations! 2020 has been dubbed the "Year of the Bible" with over 20,000 churches and ministry organizations in more than 100 nations in support, including individuals such as Ravi Zacharias, Nick Hall, and Francis Chan. The goal of the "Year of the Bible" is to encourage people to re-engage with the Word, for unity, and to share the Word graciously as we strive to see Bibles made available globally in this generation. We know the persecutions the Body of Christ faces will only continue. 2 Timothy 3:12 assures us, "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." But we will continue to obey Christ and take His Word to all nations, all tribes, and all tongues, in every way we can. We at Vision Beyond Borders are grateful to be a piece of God's plan as we work together to bring even more Bibles into hostile countries. As we face crackdowns and opposition, we are committed to delivering more Bibles to our brothers and sisters in 2020. How you can partner with our "Year of the Bible" goals in 2020:



SE Asia Trip Report  
Soldiers and police are still not allowed to attend church, so we must pray for this. If they were to be discovered attending a church they would lose everything. Interestingly enough, God is working among the soldiers here, and the Bibles we delivered were for the soldiers. Though they can't attend church, God is drawing them to Him and many of the soldiers are accepting Bibles. There are currently 200,000 church members in this closed country and 250 believers are being baptized every day. Pray that God continues to grow His church here.

*Individually:* Let's celebrate together that we are still blessed to have our own copies of God's precious Word! Re-engage with the Word this year and pray for the persecuted church as you do. You can also request a copy of our prayer calendar and join us in praying for the ministries of VBB.

*Locally:* While the Church in persecuted nations continues to grow in the face of opposition, the Church in America needs to stand united now more than ever. We have all been called to share the Gospel, and can do so with our friends, families, and those we meet on a daily basis. Please, prayerfully ask God what role He has for you in sharing the Gospel with those around you this year.

*Internationally:* There are many Bible projects at VBB that need funding in 2020. In Venezuela you can bring a Bible to a believer for \$3.36. You can bring a Hmong or Oromo Bible to a believer in Laos, Vietnam or Ethiopia for \$5.00, and in Pakistan an Urdu Bible can be provided for \$6.00. These are just a few of the areas VBB is currently working in to bring Bibles. Please consider partnering with us on a monthly basis to bring 1, 5, 10, or more Bibles to believers in persecuted nations. Be sure to memo your donation with the project you wish to support, or ask us for more information on ongoing Bible projects that need support.

Thank you for your prayers and support! We are truly very grateful and cannot wait to see what the Lord does in 2020!