

Gideon News

Canadian Youth are Impacted with God's Word

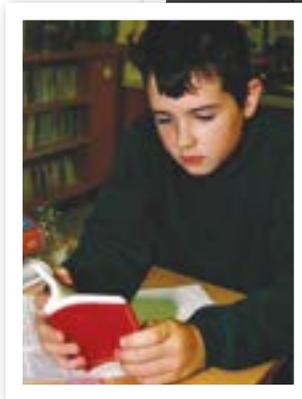
Do you remember receiving a Gideon New Testament when you were in grade five?

Black, gold, silver, red—no matter what colour the little New Testament was that you have received in school as a Canadian youth, the pages inside relayed the same message. “God loves you so much that He gave His Son to die for you.”

It became a rite of passage in Canadian schools to receive a New Testament when you hit the fifth grade. As early as 1936, Gideons were invited into classrooms to explain who they were, briefly talk about the Bible, and then offer each student their own copy.

The Gideons still receive letters and emails sharing how those Testaments impacted people's lives. Sometimes the impact was quick and the message of the Gospel took root in the child's life right away.

For others the New Testament was a mysteriously precious book they hung onto for decades. We hear stories of people who always included it in their boxes each time they moved—sometimes not really knowing why. Then, in a particularly important moment in their lives, they were reminded of that little book, dug it out, and began reading it

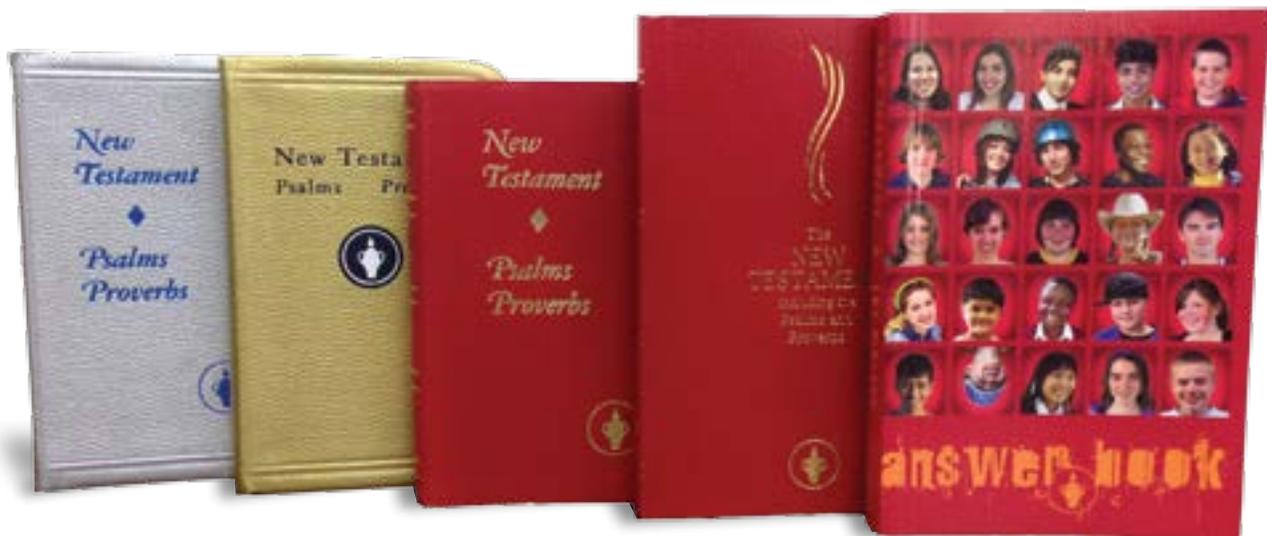


for the first time. We have many testimonies of men and women who came to the Lord because of their Grade 5 New Testaments.

Over time, the school distributions became an important part of what The Gideons were known for. When asked who The Gideons are, even today, many people will mention “hotel Bibles” and “the little Bible I got in school.” What a great legacy to have as a ministry—but it needs to be more than a tradition!

Today the Gideon ministry is building on that legacy by impacting youth in schools in a new way. Many school boards in Canada are reluctant to continue the practice of allowing a Bible in their schools, and rather than trying to hang onto tradition, we're inviting youth to share the Word of God themselves!

Turn the page to read about a new program called SendMe.





SendMe

For the first time in our nation's history, depression among young people and prescription drugs for anxiety are at an all-time high. This is because depression in all its forms is what results when something we have placed our hope in fails us.

Suffering is nothing more than the loss of something we care deeply for, and have placed hope in. Without Christ, students across Canada will continue to place their hope in temporal things that can be stripped away.

The breakdown of their parent's marriage, the death of a loved one, disease, the loss of a romantic relationship, financial stress, or a whole host of other things which are temporal...Canadian students turn to many things to fill the hole caused by suffering: drugs, alcohol, sex, cutting, suicide.

1 Peter 1:3 tells us that we have a living Hope. When our ultimate hope is in Christ, death itself cannot steal it. Without the message of the gospel, there is no lasting answer for the depression that plagues the youth of our nation.

Who better to share this message of living Hope than students who have found it themselves?

For over 60 years, the primary method of reaching out to students with God's Word was through school distributions. However, giving out Bibles in schools was the vehicle to accomplish the vision, not the vision itself. The vision was—and still is—to share the gospel and place God's Word in the hands of youth.

School distributions are no longer available to us in many places. Since school distributions were merely a channel God

was using, we have made the decision to resource, train and support young people across Canada to share the gospel and give out God's Word through a lifestyle of personal witness.

When the gospel has gripped our hearts, we are compelled to share it. When young people are continually reminded about the goodness of the gospel in their own life, it will propel a lifestyle of personal witness with their friends.

In the few short months since launching SendMe, the gospel has been shared and over 11,000 Gospels of John have gone out into schools across Canada—by the SendMe students.

Methods change, the life giving power of the gospel, does not. The students who make online accounts with SendMe have access to Scriptures to share with their friends, training resources on how to share the gospel that they can download to their phone through the NewLife App, and weekly encouragements through the SendMe blog dedicated to both nourishing the students walk with God and encouraging them to share their faith with others.

SendMe is committed to reminding students that the gospel is not simply an entrance message for unbelievers, but the endurance message for believers. Our primary focus is to encourage students in the gospel knowing that as God continues the good work that He began in them, they will share the gospel with students across this nation.



The NewLife App

A key piece of the SendMe initiative is the smart phone app designed by The Gideons to engage people in their faith journey. Mobile devices are a core part of young people's lives, so tuning them into an app like NewLife is important. It includes the complete Bible in the accurate, easy-to-read New Living Translation (NLT), but also features extensive reading on topics like God, faith, the Bible, Jesus, sin, salvation, and more. www.newlifeapp.ca

"...arguably the best Christian app since YouVersion."
—New Brunswick Pastor

Looking for answers to the big questions?



NewLife App
Free download for iPhones and Androids

explore faith love God

Gospels of JOHN

What do you equip a high school student with so he or she can share the gospel message with their friends?

That's the question we asked ourselves when we were developing SendMe. We decided the best tool we could provide was a handy-sized Gospel of John that could easily be tucked into a pocket, backpack, or locker.

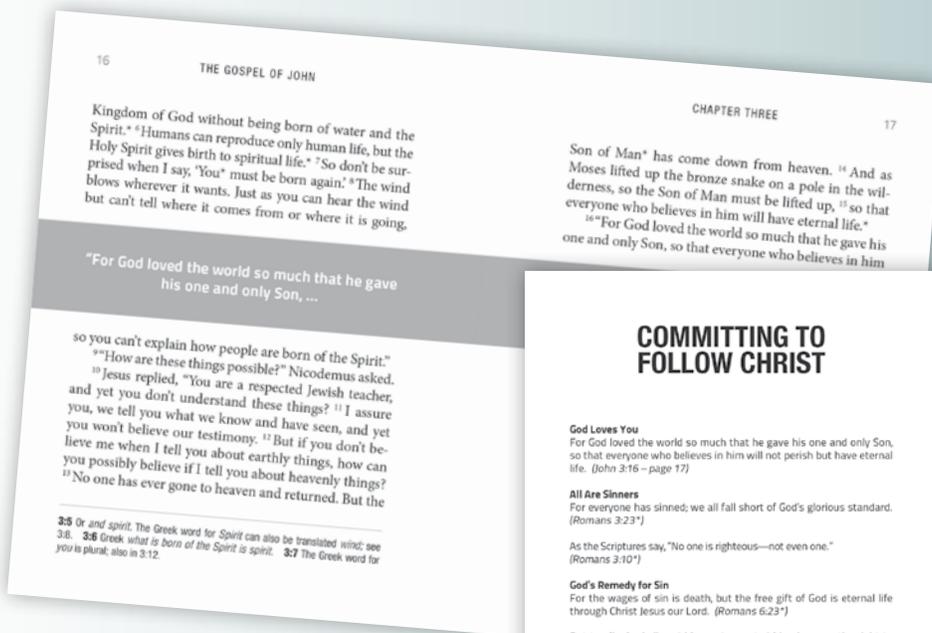
Three cover options give students the option to share a book that *looks* relevant to their peers. "The Hero" cover communicates best with males, emphasizing Christ's role in rescuing us from the desperate situation we find ourselves in. "The Love Letter" cover connects most closely with females and emphasizes the love story that is the gospel message. The "mosaic" cover is neutral and includes the words "The way, the truth, the life."

The interior of the booklets have a clean, inviting look and highlight certain key verses. An introduction and epilogue bookend the Scripture, with an invitation in the final pages to commit their lives to Christ.



"The cause and focus of SendMe opens the eyes of my generation to the amazing thing Christ has done for us—and through that realization, I realize...how can I not act and share that good news with those around me! Then SendMe takes the next step and equips me to do just that."

—ANDREW



COMMITTING TO FOLLOW CHRIST

God Loves You

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 – page 17)

All Are Sinners

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23*)

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one." (Romans 3:10*)

God's Remedy for Sin

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23*)

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12 – page 6)

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4*)

Your Response

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. (1 John 1:9*)

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13*)

My Commitment

"I confess to God that I am a sinner. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins on the cross and was raised back to life so that I could be made right with God. I now repent of my sins and receive and confess Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord."

Name _____

Date _____

Finding a Church

After making your decision to receive Christ, we encourage you to prayerfully find a local church, congregation or assembly that will assist you in growing as a new Christian by the clear teaching of the Bible.

Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18*)

Assurance as a Believer

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9*)

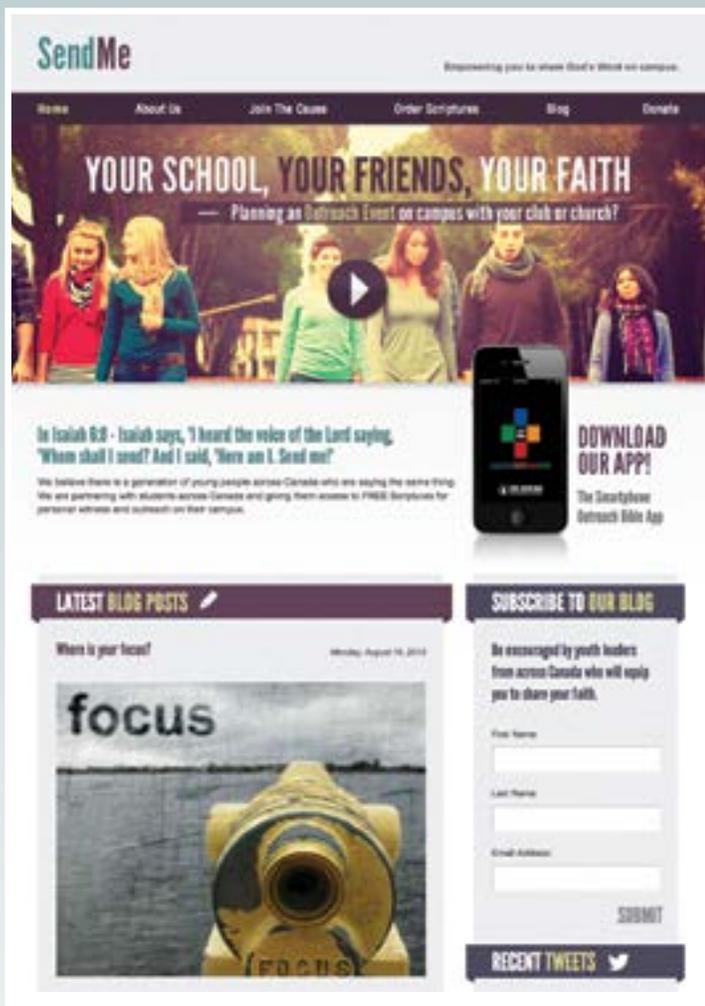
I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. (John 5:24 – page 30)

But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. (John 20:31 – page 118)

*Reference is taken from the New Testament. If you would like a free copy of the New Testament, please download the NewLife app for your phone or email your request with your name and address to info@gideon.ca.

These Gospels of John are available for youth to order at www.sendme.ca.

Turn the page for more on the website.



sendme.ca

Connecting with young people today requires a presence on the internet and social media.

WEBSITE

To get involved with SendMe, young people and youth pastors go online to sendme.ca where they can find out more about the program, and then register for an account.

Once they've registered, they can order free Gospels of John and NewLife app promotion cards. These are the tools for sharing the gospel in their schools or outreaches.

BLOG POSTS

Once a week, a blog is posted to encourage Christian young people in sharing their faith and understanding more fully what the gospel is all about. At the bottom of each entry is a way for readers to share the blog through social media or email.

SOCIAL MEDIA

SendMe is also active in social media such as Facebook and Twitter. This is another way to encourage students to share their faith. Visit facebook.com/sendmecanada and "like" the page so the postings show up on your newsfeed. Or visit twitter.com/SendMeCanada.



Watch the SendMe video at sendme.ca or at youtube.com/gideonscanadamedia

"I just received my Gospels of John in the mail!! I am so excited to share them with my friends!!" —FEMALE STUDENT

"How can I help?"

The generations of young Canadians coming through the school system today need to hear the gospel message—just like you did when you were in school.

You can help ensure every Canadian student has an opportunity to read the love story of Jesus and understand how He was their hero. Your support of The Gideons in sharing God's Word through SendMe is crucial to continuing to have a presence in the school system.

Use the enclosed reply form to indicate your partnership with us as we seek to impact young people for Christ. **For as little as \$30, dozens of Canadian young people will receive God's Word.** If you become a Bible Partner, your monthly gift will multiply over the course of the year in amazing ways!

Thank you for helping young people discover Jesus Christ.



PLEASE DONATE TODAY
using the enclosed form, or online:
donations.gideons.ca



The Gideons
INTERNATIONAL IN CANADA

P.O. Box 3619, Guelph, ON N1H 7A2
Tel: (519) 823-1140 Fax: (519) 767-1913
E-mail: info@gideons.ca www.gideons.ca