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Give the Gift of Education

Brightening
Christmas for
Children in Need.



As Christmas approaches, I've been thinking a lot about what makes this season so special. For many of us, Christmas is filled with family traditions, the excitement of giving and receiving gifts, and the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus, God's greatest gift to the world.

But for many children in Sri Lanka this year, Christmas will, once again, look very different. Instead of the sparkle of celebration, they face the ongoing reality of poverty and hardship. Their families, struggling under the weight of an economic crisis, can barely afford daily necessities. For many, the idea of buying school supplies - a bag, books, or even shoes - is simply out of reach.

And yet, these are the very things that can help a child break free from poverty. Education is a powerful tool of hope. With the right resources, children can stay in school, learn, and look forward to a brighter future. Without them, many risk falling behind and losing opportunities that could change their lives.

That's why the Ceylon Bible Society's **Spreading Joy** project is so important this Christmas. This project's goal is simple but life-changing: to provide at least 500 children with school bags, books, and essential supplies, along with Scripture portions to remind them of God's love. Gifts that will change their lives forever, practically & spiritually.

Each gift is carefully prepared by the team and their volunteers. Inside each bag will be school items that children need, as well as the opportunity to encounter the story of Jesus for themselves. It is a gift that brings both practical support and much needed hope.



Your generosity this Christmas can brighten a child's future in Sri Lanka.

Think for a moment about what this gift means. Imagine a child walking into school in January with a brand-new bag over their shoulders, their exercise books crisp and ready for lessons. Imagine the confidence they feel when they no longer have to sit in class without the right materials, embarrassed or left behind. Imagine their joy at opening God's Word and discovering that they are seen, known, and loved by Him.

This is the joy your gift can bring.

We sometimes forget how much difference something so small can make. A bag. A book. A Bible. To us, it might seem ordinary. But to a child in Sri Lanka, it could be the very thing that encourages them to stay in school, to keep learning, and to dream of a better tomorrow.

The Ceylon Bible Society has been faithfully serving communities in Sri Lanka for many years. Their heart is to share the love of God and to meet the needs of children who might otherwise be forgotten. They are working with local churches and schools to identify the children who most need help, ensuring that every gift is placed in the hands of a child who will truly benefit.

But they cannot do this without support from people like you.

This Christmas, will you make a gift to help us reach these children? A donation of £36 will provide one child with a complete gift pack - but whatever you are able to give will be gratefully received and carefully used. Perhaps you could bless two children with a gift of £72, or maybe you're able to bless 10 children with a gift of £360. Every pound you give will go directly towards spreading joy, hope, and God's love.

I know that this is a busy season, filled with many requests for support, but I also know that Christmas is a time when we remember the extraordinary generosity of God. Out of that abundance, we have the chance to give to others.

Would you take a moment today to respond? Together, we can ensure that Christmas is not a time of disappointment for these children, but a season of joy - joy in being equipped for school, joy in receiving a gift, and joy in knowing that they are loved.

Thank you for all you do to support Bible Society's work around the world. May you and your family know the deep joy and peace of Christ this Christmas.



Aaron Sweeney

Communications & Projects Manager,
Bible Society NI



How can you help?

Pray

- For the distribution of these packs to children living in poverty, that they will bring light and joy.
- For strong relationships with local partners and volunteers helping to deliver this project.
- For provision and availability of resources to develop these packs, making them the best they can be for these children.

Give

- **£36** could provide one child living in poverty with a gift of school supplies and Scripture, helping them to know they are not forgotten.
- **£72** could provide two children, the average in a Sri Lankan family, with these gifts, helping the whole family to break the cycle of poverty.
- **£360** could provide ten children with these life-changing gifts, preparing them for school and sharing God's love with them.

Share

Tell others about the young lives being changed by this project! Perhaps you could include this project in your church prayers, or you could host a fundraiser in support of this vital work. Please contact the office if you would like to invite a speaker to come to your church or group.



Support Bible Society Northern Ireland



1. One-off Donation

Sri Lanka

General Bible Mission

Online: Visit www.biblesocietyni.co.uk

Phone: Call the office on **028 9032 6577**.

Cheque: Return cheque payable to **Bible Society in Northern Ireland** with this form in the envelope enclosed.
(No cash in the post please.)

By Card: Fill out your details below and return this form in the envelope enclosed.

I would like to make a donation of: £36 £72 £360 Other

Name on Card:

Card Number:

Expiry Date:

/

Security Number:

(3 digits on back of card)

Signature:

Tick (✓) here to receive an acknowledgment for your gift.

2. Regular Donation

If you would like to make a regular donation for ongoing work:

I would like to make a monthly donation of: £10 £25 £50 £100 Other: _____

I would like my donation to go towards: General Bible Mission Bible-a-Month Partnership

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please return this form to: Bible Society NI, 27 Howard Street, Belfast, BT1 6NB

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager
Bank/ Building Society:

Address:

Postcode:

Name(s) of account holders:

Email:

Service user number:

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Bank/Building Society Reference (for BSNI office use only):

Bank/Building Society account number:

Branch sort code:

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay the Bible Society in Northern Ireland Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with the Bible Society in Northern Ireland and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signatures:

Date:

Tel:

3. Gift Aid

Please tick (✓) to add an extra 25p to every £1 you give at no cost to you.

Yes, I want Bible Society NI to claim Gift Aid on my donations.

I am a UK taxpayer and want Bible Society NI to claim back the tax on all donations I have made in the last four years and on all future gifts. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Signature:

Date:

Once you have filled out this form please return it in the envelope provided. Please don't forget a stamp!

Registered with



FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

All project donations are used in full for ministry – we do not take an administration fee. In the event that a project is overfunded, funds will be used for a similar project. We do not sell your details to any other party. If you would like to amend your details or stop receiving fundraising material from us, please contact the office.

Thank you!