

THE TOOLBOX



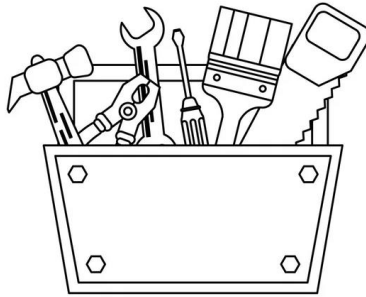
Using your God-given tools to share His Word!



Bibles International®

The Toolbox

*Using your God-given tools
to share His Word!*



Bibles International
Children's Missions Program & Project

Teacher's Guide

*Original stories by Cheryl Elmer
Edited and revised by Ruth Kimmel*



Also available from Bibles International:

A Walk in the Dark

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People, Plain & Tall: Chad, Africa

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Program Overview

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to “**The Toolbox**,” a free, Gospel-centered, missions-focused children’s program created by Bibles International that introduces children to people around the world who are using their God-given tools to share His Word.

In this series of five lessons, the children in your ministry will learn that God has given us the Bible as our greatest tool for witnessing. He has also given His children additional tools for sharing the Gospel, such as objects, abilities, and even creative ideas. Your children will be encouraged to open their own toolbox and to recognize and use their own God-given tools to serve Him and share His Word.

The Missions Project offering gives your children the opportunity to put those tools into practice by helping Bibles International print Bibles and literacy materials for the Mbum-Nzakambay tribe in Central Africa.

MINISTRY USE

“**The Toolbox**” is perfect for use in a wide variety of children’s ministries, such as VBS, children’s church, kids’ clubs, or neighborhood outreach. It can also be used by Christian schools and homeschool groups, as well as by families within the home.

The lessons and accompanying resources have been designed with flexibility in mind. They can be used in their entirety as a complete program or incorporated into an existing children’s program. You can use the lessons as they are written or only portions of the lessons, such as the missions stories.

PROGRAM MATERIALS

“**The Toolbox**” Children’s Missions Program materials include five scripted lessons and accompanying PowerPoint visuals, as well as activity sheets designed to reinforce the program theme and individual lessons. More detailed information is provided in the *Lesson Materials* section of the Teacher’s Guide.

Additional resources include several take-home cards that can serve as a program invitation, missions project reminder, missions gift recognition, and prayer encourager.

If you wish to modify or customize the PowerPoint slides or take-home cards, you may do so. We only ask that you preserve the accuracy and integrity of the information. Please contact us if you need any help.

MISSIONS STORIES

Your children will take a trip around the world as they discover how believers are using their tools every day to serve God and share His Word.

Lesson 1 introduces your children to Mrs. Reed in the United States who opens her home to the neighborhood children. In Lesson 2, they meet Pierre's grandpa, who is an evangelist in Chad, Africa. In Lesson 3, they learn about Gracie's father, Mr. Singh, who started a church in his home in India and works with Bibles International. Lesson 4 introduces Gracie's Uncle Sana, who also works with Bibles International in India. In Lesson 5, Hmuaka of India tells how God changed his life completely.

MISSIONS PROJECT

We invite the children in your ministry to participate in the 2025 Bibles International Children's Missions Project. We are raising funds for printing Bibles and literacy materials for the Mbum-Nzakambay tribe in Central Africa. All of the money given will go directly to the printing of Reading Primers, Old Testament Storybooks, New Testaments, and whole Bibles in the Nzakambay language.

The Children's Missions Project is presented at the end of each lesson and highlights a different area of the project each time. The *Missions Project* section of the Teacher's Guide provides more information on this project and the Mbum-Nzakambay people.

The Missions Project take-home card will remind and encourage children to participate in the special offering, while the Missions Gift take-home card recognizes those gifts.

If you would like to include this special offering in your children's program, we encourage you to promote and recognize it in the manner you feel is appropriate for your group. Please designate your financial gift as Project #520327 Mbum-Nzakambay and send it to Baptist Mid-Missions Foundation, PO Box 308011, Cleveland, OH 44130-8011. (Bibles International is the Bible Society of Baptist Mid-Missions.)

BIBLE VERSE

We encourage you to teach the selected Bible verse below to your children, so that they can continue to learn God's Word, apply it to their lives, and share it with others. The Bible verse is emphasized twice in each lesson and is included in the PowerPoint files.

Romans 15:4 (KJV)

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

THEME SONG

The program theme song, "God's Word Gives Light," was written and composed by Becky and Glenn Kerr of Bibles International. Sheet music has been provided, as well as a PowerPoint slide with the lyrics.

If you are not able to use the song in your program, we recommend reading the lyrics to the children as an excellent poem to guide their lives.

Lesson Materials

LESSONS

The five scripted lessons in this series have been written with elementary children in mind, but they can be adapted for an older audience of teens and adults.

If you need to condense or expand upon any of the written material, you may do so. However, please be careful to maintain the accuracy and integrity of the material and of Bibles International.

In this series, each lesson reinforces the program theme of God giving His children the tools needed for witnessing to others, primarily through the use of the Bible, which is our greatest tool, but also through the abilities and creative methods that He gives us. Each lesson also introduces an individual who is using their tools and sharing God's Word. The lessons conclude with information on the Bibles International project of printing Bibles and literacy materials for the Mbum-Nzakambay tribe in Africa.

Lesson 1 – In the *Introduction*, children are presented with the concept of God giving us tools for sharing His Word. The *Missions Story* focuses on a woman in the United States, Mrs. Reed, who witnesses and reads to neighborhood children who come to her home, and in particular presents the concept of not having any books in your own language and the need to have a Bible in every language. The *Missions Project* introduces the Mbum-Nzakambay printing project.

Lesson 2 – In the *Introduction*, Mrs. Reed talks with the neighborhood children about the problems of not being able to read and the resulting need for help through literacy materials. The *Missions Story* introduces Pierre's grandpa, who is an evangelist in Chad, Africa. The *Missions Project* focuses on the process of translating the Bible.

Lesson 3 – In the *Introduction*, Mrs. Reed continues to present the need for literacy tools and a teacher. The *Missions Story* introduces Gracie's father, Mr. Singh, who started a church in his home in India and works with Bibles International. The *Missions Project* focuses on the Reading Primer for the Nzakambay language.

Lesson 4 – In the *Introduction*, Mrs. Reed emphasizes the need for teachers to help children and adults learn to read. The *Missions Story* introduces Gracie's Uncle Sana, who also works with Bibles International in India. The *Missions Project* focuses on the role of the Old Testament Storybook in literacy.

Lesson 5 – In the *Introduction*, Mrs. Reed reinforces the need to have the Bible in your own language, to read it, and to share it. She also tells the children how they can be saved. The *Missions Story* introduces another man in India, Hmuaka, who tells how God changed his life completely. The *Missions Project* focuses on training nationals, as well as printing and shipping literacy materials and Bibles.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Mbum-Nzakambay	(<i>mm-BOOM nn-ZAH-kahm-bye</i>)
Nzakambay	(<i>nn-ZAH-kahm-bye</i>)
Primer	(<i>PRIMM-er</i>)*
Singh	(<i>SING</i>)
Sana	(<i>SAH-nah</i>)
Hmuaka	(<i>mm-WAH-kah</i>)
Diangelo	(<i>Dee-ANN-jeh-low</i>)
Vanlalmuaka	(<i>Vahn-lahl-mm-WAH-kah</i>)

*The term *primer* is pronounced “PRIMM-er” and not “PRIME-er,” contrary to English grammar rules. Memory Aid: “PRIMM-er” = type of book, “PRIME-er” = type of paint

VISUALS

A set of PowerPoint visuals has been created for each lesson and can be downloaded as a PDF file from the Bibles International website. If you wish to modify, customize, or integrate the PowerPoint slides into an existing presentation, you may do so. We only ask that you preserve the accuracy and integrity of the information.

ACTIVITY SHEETS

Each lesson has an optional activity sheet that reinforces the missions story learned that day. The activity sheets feature a coloring sheet, crossword puzzle, word search, word scramble, and writing and reflecting exercise. All non-coloring activity sheets have a version appropriate for younger children and for older children.

Extra activity sheets provide additional opportunities to color and practice translating a language. Solutions to all activity sheets are available for the teacher.

Although they can be completed at home, we recommend that the activities are completed during the children’s program. The teacher can then provide any needed assistance, but also reinforce the lesson through resulting discussion. The writing and reflecting sheet for Lesson 5 was specifically designed to help the teacher determine the spiritual state of the child, and thus provide further opportunities for follow-up and discussion.

Missions Project

MISSIONS OFFERING

The 2025 Bibles International Children's Missions Project is to raise funds for printing Bibles and literacy materials for the Mbum-Nzakambay (*mm-BOOM nn-ZAH-kahm-bye*) of Central Africa. The believers in this people group have asked for our help to be able to read God's Word in their own language.

We encourage the children in your ministry to participate in this year's special offering, all of which will go directly to the printing of these materials. Your children will love seeing their gift buy the right tool for someone who needs God's Word!

The cost of printing materials for the Mbum-Nzakambay varies from \$3-\$10 each.

\$5.00 – 1 large Reading Primer for a child or adult who is learning to read

\$3.00 – 1 colorful Old Testament Storybook to help early readers begin to read and understand God's Word

\$8.00 – 1 New Testament for someone who needs to hear about Jesus

\$10.00 – 1 whole Bible in their own language

Every gift given, no matter the size, will bring us one step closer to our Bibles International goal of "a reliable Bible translation in every language and a Bible in every hand."

Thank you for caring about the Mbum-Nzakambay people and for partnering with us in this important translation and printing project!

MBUM-NZAKAMBAY TRIBE

There are many distinct groups of people that live throughout Africa. Each group has its own traditional clothing, its own customs, and even its own language. All of these are passed down from one generation to another.

One of these groups, the Mbum-Nzakambay, is spread out across three countries—Chad, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic. There are more than 31,000 people in this group. The largest number (over 18,000) live in Chad.

The Mbum-Nzakambay have their own language, called Nzakambay. Some of them also speak French, which is taught at primary school. However, French is not the language they speak at home and in their community. It is not the language of their heart.

There are thousands of adults and children who attend church and want to have a Bible in the Nzakambay language. These believers prefer to preach, sing, and worship God in their own language, their "mother tongue."

With the support of their churches, four members of the Mbum-Nzakambay group asked Bibles International to help them have a reliable Bible translation in their language. Bibles International has agreed and will begin this lengthy work in 2025.

TRANSLATION PROCESS

Several national believers will be chosen as national translators to write in the Nzakambay language. Bibles International translation consultants will then guide them throughout the translation process. All of them will work both together and separately, meeting periodically at translation workshops to make sure that God's Word is carefully and accurately translated into the Nzakambay language.

The Mbum-Nzakambay believers are very eager to begin translating the Bible and will begin with the New Testament. After that is completed, they will work on the Old Testament, until they finally have the whole Bible in their own language!

LITERACY MATERIALS

Before the Mbum-Nzakambay can receive a Bible in their language, however, they must be able to read it. Although they all speak their own language, only a small number (10-20%) can read their language. Many of them are children who learned to read at primary school. Primary school, or elementary school, typically comprises only the first few years of instruction and is designed for children ages 5-11.

In the past few years, Bibles International has developed a literacy program for Mbum-Nzakambay children and adults who are unable to read or who struggle to read well. In 2024, Bibles International created a literacy primer in the Nzakambay language and began training national teachers to use it. These teachers will then work with their own people to teach both children and adults to read with fluency and comprehension.

The Reading Primer is an introductory literacy book used for teaching a person to read. Used with both children and adults, it teaches each letter of the alphabet and its sound, as well as combined letters and their sounds. The primer also teaches common words, often with pictures, and provides practice for writing both letters and words.

In 2025, Bibles International will work with nationals to write selected Old Testament stories in their language. Many of these stories are from Genesis and will be written in a simple way that is easy to understand. The Old Testament Storybook will help new readers build confidence in their reading, but also introduce them to God's Word in a way that they can easily understand.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for God to bless the accurate translation of His Word and for the Mbum-Nzakambay to have receptive hearts. Pray for the national translators as they face many challenges, including civil unrest, financial hardship and difficult terrain. Pray that the literacy materials help children and adults learn to read and share the Gospel. Pray for the provision of finances to print and ship the Bibles and literacy materials. Above all, pray that God is glorified and works mightily among the Mbum-Nzakambay through the power of His Word!

Theme Song

God's Word Gives Light

Becky and Glenn Kerr

The en-trance of God's Word gives light To those who walk in

This system contains the first two staves of music. The treble clef staff has a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a quarter note G2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3.

dark-est night. It guides their feet and gives them sight; Oh, the

This system contains the next two staves of music. The treble clef staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with a quarter note G2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3.

Fine
en-trance of—God's Word gives light. I want my life to

This system contains the next two staves of music. The treble clef staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with a quarter note G2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3.

show God's Word. I'll read His Book each day.— I'll live my life to

This system contains the next two staves of music. The treble clef staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with a quarter note G2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3.

D.C. al Fine
show the truth that Je - sus is the Way. —

This system contains the final two staves of music. The treble clef staff continues the melody with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with a quarter note G2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3.

Conclusion

Thank you for your interest in “**The Toolbox**” Children’s Missions Program and Project. We pray that this material is a blessing to both your children’s ministry leaders and to the children in your church and community.

At Bibles International, we are committed to spreading the Gospel around the world and strengthening churches through accurate Bible translation and literacy projects. Our vision of “a reliable Bible translation in every language and a Bible in every hand” is the driving force behind our ministry to adults and children worldwide.

Thank you for helping us spread the Gospel and for encouraging the children in your ministry to give towards our current Bible translation and literacy project. Every gift given, no matter the size, enables us to continue sharing God’s Word around the world.

We encourage you to provide feedback on “**The Toolbox**” both before and after using it. Your comments will help us continue to develop quality material and assist you more effectively in your own children’s ministry. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional assistance with this program material.

You can download additional, free materials from the Resources–Children’s Materials page of our website at www.biblesint.org. Please check this site in the future as we will continue to add Gospel-centered, missions-focused materials for children. You can also contact us to discuss how we can introduce your children to the fascinating process of Bible translation and the people around the world who are facilitating it.

God bless you as you seek to bring children to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to guide them to spiritual maturity and Christian service. Your work truly is important!

*“One generation shall praise Thy works to another,
and shall declare Thy mighty acts.”
(Psalm 145:4)*



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