



## Braille Literacy

### Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with the Mongolian Union Bible Society (MUBS) to bring light to the lives of people with visual disabilities, by teaching them how to read Braille.

### The Need

There are about 11,000 visually disabled people in Mongolia, with almost half having more than 50% sight loss. Although there is no official data on the literacy percentage of people with visual disabilities, the officials who are working with the group say only 10% percent are literate in Braille.

Many of those with visual disabilities live in remote areas, which further isolates them from social life. Some families hide their blind members, not allowing them out of their homes (ger/yurts).

There are very few people and organisations who advocate for the visually impaired in Mongolia; they are an unseen people.



**11,000**

visually disabled people in Mongolia, with almost half having more than 50% sight loss

**90%**

of the 11,000 are not literate in Braille

**“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.”**

John 1:9, NIV

# Goals

The goal of this project is to equip visually disabled people with literacy skills in Braille, so they may gain a higher level of education, better social engagement, and employment. This project aims to give hope to the families of people with visual disabilities, by showing them their loved ones can develop and actively engage in life, moving forward towards independence. The hope is that this project will raise awareness of the needs of people with visual disabilities in society.

In gaining literacy in Braille, people with visual disabilities will also be able to access and engage with God's word, the ultimate source of abundant life.

The goal is to have approximately 405 students and 6 teachers, with 300 graduating. Each course will last just over 2 years (27 months). There will be 10 printed literacy primers and 405 Scripture resources distributed. Sixty training events will be run in 21 provinces and 6 districts of Mongolia, with some of the training combining two or three provinces.

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# Impact

The impact of the project will be seen ultimately in participants being able to read and write in Braille. As a result, beneficiaries will be able to use their skills for daily living, to read the Bible, and if desired, connect with the local church. Another impact of the project is that communities and society at large will have a greater awareness of people with visual disabilities and their needs.

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# Testimonies

"Before I did not know what Braille is, but now I know all the alphabet and numbers. I can write my name in Braille and can write down the phone numbers of others in Braille. I am very grateful for those who organised the training." — Former participant of the Braille Literacy training

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# Prayer Needs

- Pray that people with visual disabilities see the light of the God and hope through the training and the word of God.
- Pray that their life circumstances and living conditions are improved as a result of the project.
- Pray that local churches would be involved, partnering in the project and reaching out to people with visual disabilities.