

Colombia



Literacy for Growth

Project: 103471
Tax Deductible



20%

of the Nasa population cannot read or write

54.3%

of these non-literate adults are women, approximately 19,392 individuals

60%

illiteracy in some Nasa districts, with La Cauca having the second highest illiteracy rate in Colombia (Ministry of Education)

Overview

Bible Society Australia is supporting the Colombian Bible Society in collaborating with local churches to provide literacy training for the Nasa people, addressing a 55% illiteracy rate, primarily among women. This project will empower personal growth, community well-being, as well as facilitate engagement with newly translated Scripture for spiritual development in remote areas.

The Need

The Nasa community in Colombia faces significant challenges, with an alarming 55% illiteracy rate among adults, particularly affecting women. This lack of literacy hampers personal and community development, limiting access to education and the Scriptures. The region's educational system suffers from inadequate government investment, poor teacher salaries, and inaccessible schools, making learning a luxury for many families. Additionally, the community grapples with the repercussions of drug trafficking, which has led to violence, economic instability, and social issues, including a high prevalence of substance abuse.

In this context, many Nasa individuals express a desire to read the Scriptures for personal growth and evangelism. However, the barriers of illiteracy and socio-economic challenges hinder their ability to engage with their faith fully. With 35,681 illiterate adults in the Cauca region, the need for targeted literacy programs is urgent. By addressing these educational gaps, the Colombian Bible Society aims to empower the Nasa people, enabling them to access the word of God and improve their overall well-being, thus fostering a more informed and resilient community.

Goals

The primary goal of this project is to enhance literacy among the Nasa community, enabling individuals to improve their overall quality of life as well as read the Scriptures. In 2025, the project aims to implement 120 literacy classes, serving 600 students, including 200 adult women, 140 adult men, and 260 children. Activities will begin with curriculum development and material preparation from January to April, followed by the launch of Level 1 classes in April, with 30 classes conducted over three months. Monitoring and evaluation will be integral throughout, ensuring participant progress is assessed. From July to September, the project will introduce Level 2 classes and host Bible reading workshops to foster engagement with Scripture. The year will culminate in two graduation ceremonies to celebrate participants' achievements.

By distributing 600 copies of the Bible in Nasa Yuwe and supplementary materials, the project will not only improve literacy rates but also empower individuals to contribute positively to their communities and engage with their faith.

Impact

The Nasa community will be profoundly impacted by this project as barriers of illiteracy are removed. The project inspires all students to envision a future filled with possibilities, encouraging children to dream about professional careers and educational aspirations. With an anticipated 7,000 graduates over time, literate individuals will positively influence their families and communities, creating a ripple effect of change. The project also aims to reduce violence, improve family relationships, and increase employment opportunities, addressing the socioeconomic challenges faced by the Nasa community.

The project will empower Christians and seekers to access the Scriptures, fostering spiritual growth through enhanced reading skills. This Scripture-based approach not only equips participants with literacy but also serves as an evangelistic tool, leading many students to deepen their faith and understanding of God's word.

Overall, this initiative promises to transform lives, instill hope, and cultivate a more informed and engaged community.

Testimony

*"I firmly believe that the word of God has the power to heal and guide our community. I have found comfort and hope in the Bible that I want to share with others. The news that ... we will have the Bible in our language fills me with joy ... I am determined to be a part of [the literacy program in our community] ... I want to teach others, and I long to be able to teach the Bible in Nasa Yuwe, so that my people can access God's teachings and comfort in their native language." — Nasa Sol**

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Prayer Points

- Please pray for the impact of the literacy project in Cauca, especially for the social impact. Pray that God will use the program to bring salvation to the students and spiritual growth to the believers.
- Please pray for protection and strength for the staff and volunteers as they implement the program. Please pray that churches will be diligent in recruiting and training new volunteers as facilitators.
- Please pray that more communities and authorities will open their doors to the program.