



# Blessed

## ARE THE MERCIFUL

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus introduces us to the Beatitudes which describe the blessed life of a Christian. The fifth Beatitude "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy," Matthew 5:7 is at the center of our work and ministry at Mercy, inc. To be merciful is to treat people with kindness, forgiveness, and compassion in the same way that our Heavenly Father has treated us, "be merciful, just as our (heavenly) Father also is." Luke 6:36. Mercy is an active choice and a way of life that we express through our works of service.

At Mercy, Inc. our Hope for Generations program utilizes a holistic strategy that focuses on empowering families through the formation of Godly relationships, ministry to children, providing food and clean water, healthcare, and equipping people with life skills that include teaching reading. We work among the world's poor.



**"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy,"**

MATTHEW 5:7

# Literacy Training

## a gateway to the Gospel

Being able to read and write is a crucial skill for adults striving to care for their families and can help break the generational cycle of poverty in communities facing severe scarcity. Our Mercy literacy program in Africa is transforming lives by teaching adults and youth how to read and write in their native languages. Our mission is to empower passionate literacy tutors to deliver effective instruction to vulnerable and impoverished communities in Africa.

Mercy's literacy program, now active in 14 African countries, is built on the dedication of our exceptional trainers and tutors. With 165 tutors currently serving, we reach approximately 2,300 students each year, empowering individuals aged 15 and above to learn to read and write in their own languages. Your support is crucial in ensuring the sustainability and expansion of our literacy program. By funding the training of these committed tutors, you are directly impacting these communities. Our tutors are the heart of our literacy mission, generously investing their time and ability to create lasting change.



A literacy class in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The ability to read God's Word provides access to scriptural truths which often lead to transformations of new readers. For example, Catherine Lihou is a literacy student in the Central African Republic.

"I felt sad that I could not read and write before coming to this training center. The fact that my mother was not able to get me to school created in me a feeling of resentment towards her. When I saw a sister in Church reading or writing it hurt me. Since I started to learn to read and write little by little I do like them. So I appeal to those who are still hesitating or who are ashamed to register soon in this center, God will give them wisdom in this area."

Catherine's testimony is similar to the story of many who learn to read as adults.

## NOTEWORTHY NUMBERS

**97% of the world's population** has access to some form of scripture in a language they understand. However, 14% of the world's adult population still cannot read or write. (Wycliffe Bible Translators, 2023)

**32% of individuals aged 15 and above** in Sub-Saharan Africa are unable to read or write in any language with **two-thirds of them being women**. (World Bank, 2022)

Over the past decade, Mercy Inc.'s literacy program has proudly **graduated nearly 15,000 students**, transforming lives and empowering futures.

Our goal is to recruit and train additional literacy tutors who will teach classes within the **14 countries** with our Ministry Partner in Africa.







## More than literacy

Mercy's literacy ministry is working with churches in fourteen African countries to train volunteer literacy tutors who teach reading and writing to adult non-readers in their local languages within their villages. Our program supports our ministry partner's project in Africa using a Bible-based curriculum.

Literacy training of adults in Africa is having a significant impact and is in high demand. Recent surveys (2022) indicate that over 32% of Africans aged 15 years were unable to read and write a simple statement and understand it in their local language. In Africa, adult non-readers are found in cities, in local villages and in churches. The opportunity to learn basic literacy skills provides hope for many. Teaching mothers to read enables them to take better care of their children. Literate farmers produce better yields than their illiterate counterparts. Having the ability to read the Bible in their local language is an important discipleship tool.

To provide the programs, we develop literacy training materials in local languages that guide tutors on how to teach reading, writing, and simple arithmetic. Our program helps adults and youth with a low level of literacy to function better as disciples of Jesus, church members, family members, and members of their communities.

As we work with existing churches, we train tutors and develop trainers, who work to embed literacy ministries within their churches and surrounding communities. Currently, we have more than 2,000 students being tutored by 140 volunteer tutors in 82 church centers in 14 countries across the continent, many other students have learned to read and moved out of our classes. Our key goal is to enable adults and youth with basic literacy skills so they can read the Bible and other literature in their local languages which can empower them to move out of physical and spiritual poverty.

Because of the faithful work of tutors and trainers, many are learning to read God's Word for themselves and walking across the reading bridge to their literacy. Thank you for being a part of our program and being a blessing to others as we partner in this work of mercy. Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy!



**James Kigamwa**

# Literacy supplies that grow the kingdom

Provide the support materials and tools for literacy trainers and tutors to lead literacy classes with more than 2000 students participating in 14 countries across Africa:

- A **monthly gift of \$25** provides the resources for 24 students to participate in classes for one year.
- A **one-time gift of \$200** provides the resources for 16 students to participate in classes for one year.
- A **gift of \$50** provides 1 chalkboard to a training center.
- A **gift of \$500** provides 10 chalkboards to multiple training centers.



## Support the Literacy Supplies Project

<https://www.mercyinc.org/donations/literacy-supplies/>

## GET INVOLVED

01.

### P R A Y

There is tremendous power in prayer. We update our prayer calendar monthly for various initiatives.

02.

### J O I N U S

Mercy is hosting in-home share nights! Come hear about the work we do in an intimate setting with your friends and family.

03.

### D O N A T E

We would not be able to do this work if it weren't for the generosity of monthly givers. You can make a tangible difference by partnering with us financially.

