

UZIMA

THE GIFT OF LITERACY



**IMAGINE
NOT BEING
ABLE TO
READ:**

**STREET SIGNS
TEXT MESSAGES
MAPS
LABELS
PRESCRIPTIONS
JOB APPLICATIONS
CONTRACTS
LETTERS
THE BIBLE!**

I HAVE A SECRET.

Shall I tell it to you? Ok, here it is:

酔浅今有常我散色
ひき日為ながりは
も夢越のら世ぬ匂
せ見え奥む誰るへ
ずじて山ぞをど

What? Can you not read that? Too bad for you, I guess you'll never know...

Wow, that doesn't feel good does it?

Imagine what it would be like if *everything* you tried to read looked like that, if you couldn't read streets signs or the prices in the market or a note from your friend?

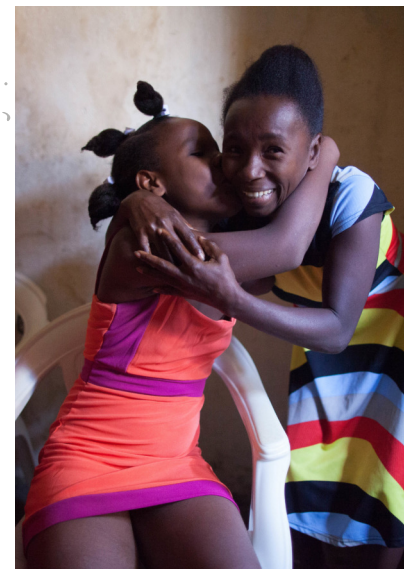
Some adults have a secret and it's this: they cannot read. Maybe there was no school in their village. Maybe they got sick and missed a lot of school and got so far behind in school that they

never caught up. Maybe they had to leave school so they could work and help their family earn money. *Some adults never learn to read.*

But **NO ONE plans on not being able to read. In Haiti, World Renew wants to help adults who can't read make new plans -- plans for a better future!** Our literacy projects there have already helped 2,000 adults learn how to read and write, making them better able to build their skills, find better work, be better parents.

Mirlaine and Josette are classmates who, tired of struggling and pretending, bravely signed up for classes. They are both so excited to be able to help their children with their homework, to find better jobs, to read the Bible out loud in church.

World Renew wants to help people like Mirlaine and Josette stop living in secret, and instead live the lives of freedom and abundance that God wants for them.



**ONCE YOU
LEARN TO
READ YOU
WILL BE
FOREVER
FREE.**

worldrenew.net/gifts

 **WorldRenew**
LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST



A BRIDGE FROM MISERY TO HOPE

As head of the United Nations for nine years, Kofi Annan had a bird's eye view of the world's troubles: poverty, disease, malnutrition, economic insecurity, violence. And he named **literacy** as "the bridge from misery to hope."

The ability to read and write isn't a luxury; it isn't for professionals or "white collar" workers. Reading is, as they say, fundamental. The UN actually named it **a fundamental human right**. Freed slave and famous American orator Frederick Douglass declared "Once you learn to read you will be forever free."

The Bible talks a lot about **freedom**. The Israelites were slaves for hundreds of years; the book of Exodus chronicles their misery and long journey to freedom. But their deliverance holds a paradox, because they were **set free in order to serve the Lord**. In other words, their freedom brought them into proper submission; their deliverance established their dependence.

Jesus famously announced in the temple that the words of Isaiah — "*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners,to set the oppressed free*" — were **fulfilled in him** and the apostle Paul explores this freedom in Romans and Galatians. "*For freedom Christ has set us free,*" he writes, "*stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.*" And then he too lays out the paradox of God's freedom; he calls us "slaves of God" and "slaves of righteousness," made free so that we might "*through love serve one another.*"

This slavery in which the Christian finds herself is not misery. Jesus promises us that "my yoke is easy, my burden light." Those of us who read and believe these words have been built a bridge from misery to hope. We have been set free. **We are called to offer this same freedom to our brothers and sisters, to build their bridge in the name of the great bridge builder, Christ our Lord.**



READ TO ME

Give your charges a chance to consider the gift of being able to read -- and to share it too!

Very young ones will enjoy a good read-aloud. Try ***Rocket Learns To Read*** or ***The Summer Nick Taught His Cats To Read*** for topical storytime treats!

For elementary ages, the book ***The Wednesday Surprise*** by Eve Bunting delivers a subtle and touching message about adult literacy.

THE GIFT OF READING: PRICELESS

Would you pay \$48 to be able to read?

At \$48, a literacy class for an adult is an achievable goal for a small group of kids and, with a larger group, can easily be scaled up -- set your goal at \$96 or \$144 or \$480!

A fun way to raise money for a literacy class is to hold a **read-a-thon**. Who wouldn't want to sponsor a kid who promises to READ? Since literacy is about reading *and* writing, offer a writing option for reluctant readers. How about a **Story Sale**? Kids can write a story and send it to sponsors who pledge to the fundraiser!

For older kids, consider a **used book sale**. Ask parents or congregants to clean out their bookshelves and have your kids work the sale table.

If you're in a school setting, **consider including the school librarian in your plans**. Maybe kids will be more motivated to participate if the librarian promises to wear a clown wig (shave his head, yodel in the lunchroom, bring everyone popsicles) once you've met your goal!

For more ideas, visit www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas



If your middle schoolers like a read-aloud too, consider ***Tomás and The Library Lady*** by Pat Mora. While not about adult literacy, your kids will no doubt draw the connection between this gift and the book's message about the power of reading.

You can't go wrong with **asking older kids to pick their favorite childhood book to read to a little one**. A great activity for school and church alike!

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