

RONNIE'S BIBLE

Recommended for
**People Living With
HIV and AIDS**

Published by :



THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF INDIA

LOGOS' 206, Mahatma Gandhi Road
Bangalore - 560 001, INDIA

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ENGLISH

Recommended for People Living with HIV and AIDS
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FOREWORD

The HIV and AIDS epidemic has reached startling proportions among the one billion people of India. It is estimated that India today has the world's second largest population of People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA). This is astounding!

The people living with HIV and AIDS are socially ostracized and abandoned by their families in most situations. Furthermore, they lose their jobs, they have no property, they have no money for survival and they are not treated as people who have value, worth and dignity. When these truths dawn on the HIV and AIDS infected and affected persons whom do they turn to? There can only be one door that they can knock at—that is to seek God's face and help!

There are many Organisations both Government and Non-Government working tirelessly among these people trying to help them to live with hope. But the combined efforts of all these organizations as well as individuals cannot give the hope that the Bible, the Word of God offers.

Bible is the only companion PLHA hold on to for hope, help, comfort and joy. Many critical questions spring in their minds for which they need answers, especially when there is little or no pastoral care accessible to them. Ronnie's Bible has been formatted with special focus on PLHA.

Ronnie was a young, brilliant, handsome politician belonging to a Christian family. He was infected but he did not want anyone to know about it. Perhaps he wanted to uphold *abhiman* (projection of overprotected 'self respect' of individuals, families and groups). He thought that the disease will go away. When his health started to fail, it was then that he came in contact with a counselor and at that point his journey with the Bible began.

God's servants like Rev. Daniel Premkumar who have perceived their spiritual needs and experiences while journeying

with the infected and affected people as well as the shared knowledge of others who have had similar experience has resulted in this attempt to give them the access to the comfort, counsel and hope that the Word of God provides.

Ronnie's Bible is an endeavour to convey the message of God's comfort, refuge, strength, peace and hope to the PLHAs in the midst of uncertainties and despair.

Pastors, counselors, educators, social workers, evangelists and missionaries are also in need of Biblical material to help them render counsel to the PLHAs.

The selection of Biblical passages reflects guiding factors in the lives of PLHAs. Wherever the very existence of human life comes under threat; human worth, value and dignity decimated; bonds of human relations mutilated; situations in life where there is no glimmer of hope nor healing; where feeling of wretchedness clouds human spirit – these become the guiding factors in the lives of PLHA. The passages in the Bible that come very close to these challenges constitute Ronnie's Bible.

We wish to record our sincere thanks to Rev. R. Daniel Premkumar, Dr. Daisy Dharmanaj – Director AIDS Desk and Dr. K.M. Shyamprasad-Executive Director of National Lutheran Health & Medical Board of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of India (UELCI), without whose incisive observations called through long years of committed service to the very sick among PLHA, this Bible would not have reached its present level of professional competence.

Ronnie's Bible will make it more simple and relevant to those who approach the Word for succor and comfort.

We hope that this publication would reach many corners of the earth where PLHA live and empower them to be all that God wants them be!

General Secretary,
Bible Society of India

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