



COMMUNITY  
BIBLE STUDY

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where transformation happens

## CBSI: Impacting Eternal Destinations



Photo Credit: Nation.com.pk

Child Soldiers from Myanmar



Lal Rin Sanga

Above, you see pictures of three boys in Myanmar (aka *Burma*). While their country is the same, they live totally different lives and, apart from God's miraculous grace, they face totally different destinies. The child soldiers have been forcibly trained in terror tactics and death. The boy holding a Bible is being trained as a disciple of Jesus.

In an official 2013 report about the practice of training child soldiers in Myanmar, the U.S. Campaign for Burma wrote that

*rural children are often recruited on their way to school or when looking for work. In the city, children are recruited at railway stations, bus terminals, and markets. Poor and uneducated children are the most likely to be recruited, and recruiters have been known to use threats and force against them. Children who refuse can be shackled and fettered; many will never see their families again. Children who do manage to escape ... are detained and treated as adult deserters.*

**There are an estimated 300,000 child soldiers in the world**—a large percentage of them are in Asia. In fact, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, and Nepal are among those countries in Asia that have a significant problem with this practice. Can you even imagine your children or grandchildren being abducted and, under threat of death, being trained to torture and kill? May God forbid!

Still, the future is not without hope for everyone in this part of the world, because the countries mentioned are also countries where CBSI has a presence.

Lal Rin Sanga is the boy pictured in the photo above (top right). He is from Bochung village, Northern Chin State, Myanmar. **Instead of being trained in death, Lal Rin is being disciplined in life: life in Christ.** He shares with us, through CBS-Myanmar National Director Sai Ruma, "I am very happy

to have my own Bible for the first time in life. I prayed to have my own Bible for three years, and now God has answered my prayers.”

However, Lal Rin is not immune from major life challenges and potential pitfalls. Besides the forced recruitment of child soldiers, Myanmar has also suffered because of chronic civil wars, economic hardships, and natural disasters—still he has hope. Lal Rin knows love, freedom, and life. He has adult CBSI leaders who teach and nurture him. He also has peers like Ching Hawih, who says, “I love Jesus. I love the Bible. Now I will know more about Jesus by reading it. Thank you!” Sang Zuala also shares, “Today, I am very happy because I never thought of having my own Bible. I will share it with others who want to read it.”

Jesus warned that Satan seeks to steal, kill, and destroy (see John 10:10). As you’ve just read, in Myanmar, the enemy makes literal captives of children. In other countries, where this practice is forbidden, Satan has found other ways of taking children captive. **Whether it is through materialism; the practice of false religions; or alternatively, of atheism; the Enemy imprisons not only children, but people of all ages.** Therefore, God calls us to pray that all people “may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will” (2 Timothy 2:26).



Ching Hawih



Sang Zuala

May the photo of the child soldier serve as a reminder to us that the CBS culture can supersede—*must* supersede—and supplant the dark cultures that have been shaped by the enemies of the cross of Jesus Christ. May the children holding guns come into contact with CBSI servants who will replace those weapons with God’s Word. May all people being held captive by Satan come to their senses by coming to Jesus.

The work CBSI leaders are doing is crucial. **Lives literally hang in the balance, and destinies—eternal destinations—are being determined.**

Let’s serve alongside our fellow brothers and sisters in CBSI. You can encourage them with your prayers and financial support as they work to free captives.



Grateful for you,

Keith Spartzak  
International Director

