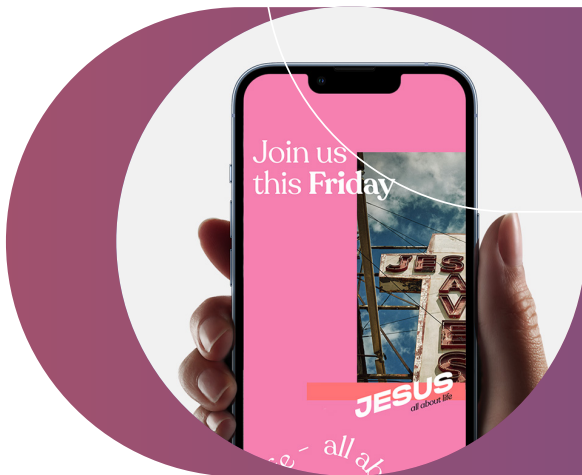


# Impact Report

20  
22





Contents

# Index

<b>A Message from the Chairman &amp; CEO</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Impact Report 2022</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Financial Infographics</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Oceania Alliance</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>International</b>	<b>12</b>
Translation	15
Engagement: Literacy & Trauma Healing	19
Advocacy & Capacity Building	25
Distribution	29
Emergency	33
<b>Australia</b>	<b>36</b>
Translation	38
Engagement	41
Advocacy	45
Distribution	48
<b>Thank You</b>	<b>54</b>

# A Message from the Chairman & CEO



- Anne Robinson  
Chairman

- Grant Thomson  
CEO

## Welcome,

It has been a big and exciting year for Bible Society. Like everyone, the first half of the financial year was trying to recalibrate as we moved in and out of lockdowns, state border closures and a new strain of the COVID virus. All our mission partners, both local and international, have also been seriously impacted by the pandemic. However, this report captures the efforts our partners made to resume their literacy classes, distribution of Bibles, translation work and other service delivery programs as soon as they could last year. This year – the second half of the financial year – most projects had found their equilibrium and you will see from both the data and the narrative, that God’s word is changing lives, both young and old.

There are several initiatives that Bible Society Australia (BSA) has birthed and rebirthed this year. These are the Oceania Alliance, the Jesus. All about Life Easter campaign, and The Bible Conference. You may recall the Jesus. All About Life campaign that Bible Society launched back in Adelaide in 2005, then rolled out into other states in the following years. We have revived the campaign and gifted it to local churches to use for Easter in Australia and Oceania.

We want to serve the local church in every way we can. Both the board and the staff were humbled and encouraged by the response with almost 1,000 churches (100 from South Pacific) using the *Jesus. All About Life* campaign. We wanted to bless churches with free content and were delighted with the way faith communities across the denominational spectrum embraced it.

While the marketing, publishing and mission teams were working together to give life to this campaign, we were also in regular communication with our South Pacific and Papua New Guinea colleagues about combining our resources to enable Christ’s love to spread more

seamlessly across the region.

You will be able to read about the Oceania Alliance in this report, which has the full blessing of United Bible Societies, and the boards of Bible Societies Australia, South Pacific and Papua New Guinea. We are so excited about the potential to reach more people with God’s word in their language through this alliance. We can save on overheads, share resources, train colleagues, as together we work to Open The Bible to all people everywhere by all means possible.

Launching The Bible Conference in September was another pioneering step of faith, and we were greatly encouraged with the results with 380 people attending. It was a physical and digital conference with Andy Crouch and Christine Caine speaking along with our own team. It’s a new area for us and we are excited to continue it next year.

We want to thank you for your financial and prayerful support as together we partner in this vital work. We want to thank our boards in PNG, South Pacific and Australia for their willingness to embrace the Oceania Alliance. And we want to thank our staff for their dedication in serving Bible Society and Koorong each and every day.

For all of us – staff, board members, volunteers, supporters – our desire is for all people to know God’s word: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind” (John 1:1-4 NIV).

In partnership, we seek to introduce people to that light. Let us continue to work and to pray for that outcome, because as we know, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5 NIV).

# Impact Report

## Language/Translation



### Pakistan

**19.9 million people**

could be impacted by the Saraiki Bible translation, due for completion in 2025.



### Papua New Guinea

**7 new translators**

joined the Tok Pisin Bible Translation team, with a focus on **20 books**.



### Australia

**45 of the 53**

Indigenous Australian languages with Scripture translated now have **audio options**.

## Engagement

### The Gambia



**2,854 students,**

**80% women and girls**, attended Bible literacy classes. Most will participate in a community Bible reading competition.

### Egypt



**3,500 students**



**250 teachers**



**52 churches**

**Involved in Bible literacy classes**

Most students have continued education into secondary school!

### Cameroon



**13,400**

illiterate Podoka and Mafa people **enrolled in Bible-based literacy classes**.



**161**

former students trained as teachers by 2021 and are now teaching others.

### Australia



**Over 1 Million**

Australians reached through *Jesus. All About Life* outdoor & digital media campaign and almost **1,000 churches and individuals** from across Australia participating in various ways.

---

## Advocacy/Capacity Building

---



### Arab Israel

**240,000 reached**

through online media and events during Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas.



### Australia

**8.078 million**

people reached through Eternity's digital platforms.

**56,000**

weekly newsletters delivered each month



### Australia

**40 episodes & 125,000**

downloads of *Life & Faith* podcast and over 1,200 attendees at the national *CPX Roadshow* events.

---

## Distribution

---



### Australia Scripture Grants and Publishing

**204,154 Bibles & 100,000 Gospels**

designed, printed and reprinted for distribution and sale across Australia and Oceania.

**29,890 Scripture resources**

were distributed to chaplaincy and parachurch ministries.

**10,000 New Beginnings Bibles**

distributed across Australia with another 20,000 prints ordered of this newly created Bible.



### Nicaragua

**48,000+ people**

in Nicaragua received **free Scripture** while receiving care in the hospital.

### Koorong

#### Australia

**380,000 Bibles**

purchased and online sales exceeded FY18-19 by **52.9%**. Down slightly on FY20-21.

---

## Emergency Relief

---



### Ukraine

**21,500 people**

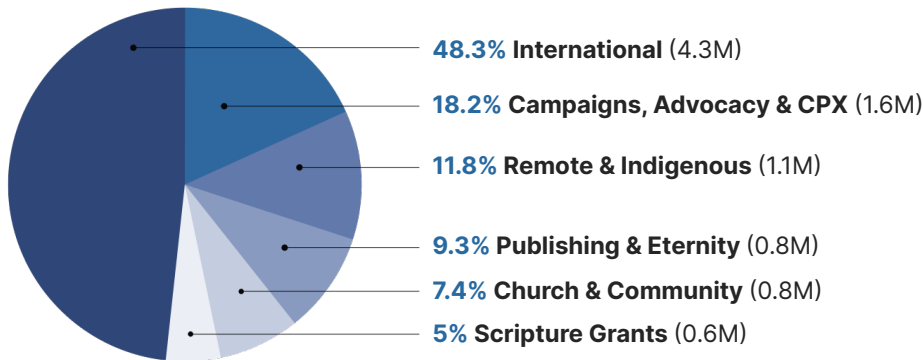
in Ukraine received practical aid.

**10,647 Scriptures**

distributed including 2,301 Bibles, 205 Youth Bibles, 2,088 New Testaments and 6,053 children's Bibles.

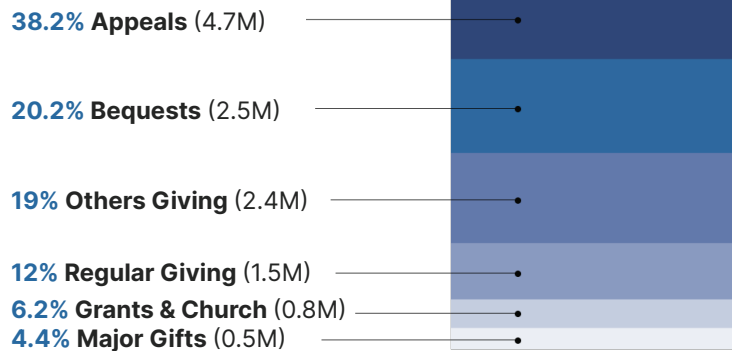
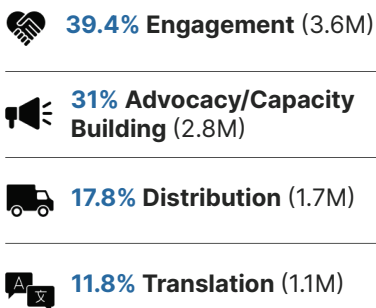
# Financial Infographics

## Mission Expenditure – 9.2M

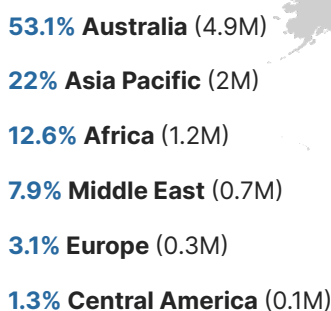


## Mission Expenditure by Area

## Mission Funding by Source



## Mission Expenditure by Region





Oceania Alliance

# Building together for the Kingdom

Bible Society Australia, Papua New Guinea and South Pacific have come together to form the Oceania Alliance in one of the most impactful decisions of this past financial year.

The three Bible Societies believe this partnership will have powerful ramifications for the communities they serve both now and into the future. It comes from an open heart and a commitment to Gospel Unity.



The new Oceania Alliance will enable greater collaboration and sharing of resources, strengthening Bible Society teams to better fulfil their visions.

Geoffrey Miller, General Secretary of Bible Society South Pacific, explains the power of 'together'. "We envision a South Pacific that works together, rather than working on our own and doing our own little things in our own backyard. Through this Alliance there are many changes we are implementing...so that it brings about a more collaborative Bible Society and it enables us to work more closely together."

Bible Society South Pacific serves 16 Island Nations across the whole ocean body of the Pacific. Two hundred and ninety languages are spoken, but many have no Scripture translation.

"We have the big need within Bible translation itself," Mr Miller explains, "There is so much to do but with little people to do it."

The challenge is even greater for Bible Society Papua New Guinea (PNG), as there are 300 languages with no Bible translation and 400+ other languages with some translation but with a desperate need for greater Scripture engagement resources.

PNG's General Secretary, Joel Peter, has a vision for the PNG nation to be filled with the knowledge of the word of God, as the waters cover the sea. "I want to set a Scriptural, a biblical vision...to see a full resurrection, and the infiltration and penetration of the word of God, the growth and development of the word of God, in the nation of Papua New Guinea. That this vision would drive me and any staff that will come on, and every brother and sister Bible Society who are supporting us. This will be a driving motivational vision for us going forward from 2022."

Grant Thomson, Chief Executive Officer of Bible Society Australia, is equally excited about this coming together, looking to Jesus' words in John 17:22, about unity.

"Jesus prays for all believers," Mr Thomson said, as he reflected on this new Alliance, "and in that prayer in the Gospel of John, Jesus makes clear that together, in unity we can achieve more for God than when we work alone.

"We seek to increase our learning from one another. By deepening our understanding of each other, the needs of our nations and how we might work more purposefully together in unity under God's gracious leading.

"Then it is our hope that God may bless us to play our part in proclaiming the Good News."

The only way the needs of PNG and the South Pacific can be met is through coordination and collaboration at both the regional and national levels, partnering with other agencies (Bible Society and non-Bible Society), especially in relation to translation and engagement.

The partnership agreements will be based upon language need analysis and the subsequent publication and engagement requirements.

Ultimately, as the three Bible Societies work to a five year Oceania Region Strategy what will be sought is sustainable impact, effectiveness, efficiency and continuity of local ministry leadership.







# International

Throughout the year 2021-2022, Bible Society Australia has partnered with Bible Societies around the world to Open The Bible to all people everywhere by all means possible. In this last financial year, Bible Society donors have supported Bible work through **60 projects in 31 countries around the world, and more in the South Pacific Region.**

**There were 20 new exciting projects in 2022,**

including Bible translation projects in Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, where Gospel parables are being recorded in Sri Lankan Sign Language for the deaf community. Emergency projects were created to support Bible Society work in war-torn Ukraine, and to aid Tonga in the South Pacific as they dealt with the volcanic eruption in January.

## **A breakdown of projects:**

- Oceania Alliance Projects: 7
- Language/Translation: 10 projects
- Engagement: 24 (including literacy, trauma healing and emergency projects)
- Advocacy/Capacity Building: 6 projects
- Distribution/Production: 10 projects



## This past year has been a year of new beginnings

for many projects run by Bible Societies in countries around the world, as the global pandemic gradually released its hold. Literacy projects have been able to resume in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, while in China, COVID has meant ongoing suspension of classes, due to lockdowns. Bible distribution has continued as soon as possible in Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa, Jordan and parts of China, despite supply chain and delivery obstacles worldwide. There has been much planning, preparation and excitement in the

South Pacific and Papua New Guinea as the formation of the Oceania Alliance has injected new resources and opened up new partnerships for Bible work in the region.

In the following section you are invited to read highlights from a selection of our international projects. All 60 projects could not achieve their outcomes without your support. Our Bible Society partners join with us in giving thanks to God for your vital contributions.

International

# Translation

Bible Society Australia is committed to seeing God's word translated into the heart language of as many people as possible, so all may have a chance to Open The Bible in the most meaningful, understandable and heartfelt way possible. In 2022, Bible Society Australia is supporting Bible translation in our country, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Myanmar.





Translation

## Pakistan

Pakistan Bible Society is undertaking the translation of a common language (meaning based) version of the Bible in Saraiki, spoken by around 26 million people. Before this translation was begun, there was no Scripture available in this language, so the need for a Bible translation is great. In 2022, the project goal is to print and distribute 1,000 copies of each Gospel and publish

them digitally via an app and the web. Furthermore, the goal is to print the complete New Testament and publish it digitally by 2023. In the first half of 2022, draft translations were done of Luke 20-24, 1 and 2 Peter, and Revelation 8-17, and various checks and reviews have been conducted on the translation of Matthew 16-28, Mark 1-16 and Luke 1-4.

### Testimony

*“Through discussion with close friends on the vocabulary of Saraiki, the courage to share the word has been grown in me [in] imperceptible way(s), which [has never happened before in the] last 25 years.”*

- Baz, one of the translators, shares.



# Myanmar



At the end of 2017, the Bible Society of Myanmar started the Khongso Bible translation, and the four Gospels were published in 2019. That work revealed that a second tribal language, Asang Khongso, had many things in common but the differences were in their basic languages: 30% of writing and speaking are different to each other. For this reason, Bible Society Myanmar accepted Khongso and Asang Khongso as separate projects.

The Asang Khongso New Testament translation has been prayed for by the Asang people, and requested by their pastors and church leaders. Despite COVID-19 and the unrest throughout Myanmar delaying translation

work (travel was not possible, and electricity, internet connection, and phone connection in the area non-existent) the project has advanced in 2022. Hopefully by the beginning of 2023 the Asang (Khongso) people will have the New Testament in their own language for the first time, and they can come to know more about God's love for them.

Similarly, the translation of the New Testament into the language of the Khongso people has been much longed and prayed for. In the first half of the year, despite the unrest in the country, the translation of the New Testament was completed along with team reviews for 12 books and consultant checks of six.

## Testimony

*“The Khongso translator who also is a leader in their Church has been trying to work on the final part of translation work and look after 21 children who are coming down from the civil war area. He has been finalising his translation work and taking care of these children with physical and spiritual needs.”*

– Bible Society Myanmar team member, 2022



## Translation

# PNG

The Tok Pisin Bible is the best-selling Bible in Papua New Guinea. But after 33 years of change in the Tok Pisin language since publication, the Bible Society of Papua New Guinea (BSPNG) are answering the call of local churches for a revised edition of the Bible. After several years hindered by COVID-19, funding and, tragically, the death of team members, revision work is back on track in 2022. As well as recruiting a Translations Manager, BSPNG has brought on board seven new translators and a PNG based Consultant to help with the revision. The translators were appointed by local communities to represent their churches and are from different regions. The churches and Bible Society will support them in their endeavour. More than 20 books have been

assigned to new committee members to revise. SIL-PNG has offered a workspace for the highlands regional team. Pioneer Bible Translators (PBT) assisted BSPNG to open a custodian account for the Momase regional team, which will serve the needs of the Tok Pisin project in the region.

Revisions of Revelation, Romans and most of Hebrews have been completed by revision committees. Books undergoing draft review are Exodus, Judges, Numbers, Nahum, Psalms and Deuteronomy. Two new computers (laptops) were purchased, setup and given to revision committee members.

## Testimony

*“My vision for Bible Society Papua New Guinea is to see that the nation is filled with the knowledge of the word of God, as the waters cover the sea. We’ve lost our team members, so we see the decline of our team. So, we are building, building the team again now to make sure we have full capacity, a full team in place to be able to move translation work forward.”*

– Joel Peter, Bible Society PNG General Secretary

International

# Engagement: Literacy & Trauma Healing

Bible Society Australia is committed to helping all people engage with the words of Scripture. The goal is that people can interact with God's life-giving words, so they can connect God's love to their lives. It is so important that people can truly Open The Bible, with their hands, their minds and their hearts.





Engagement

## The Gambia

### Testimony

*“They laughed at me when I started the class but today, I can read and even teach those who were laughing at me.”*

– Fabiana, who was among the first group of people trained.

She has become a strong literacy promoter after reading the Ten Commandments in Mandinka during a service. Fabiana’s life has been transformed and she now impacts others as a teacher.

### Impact

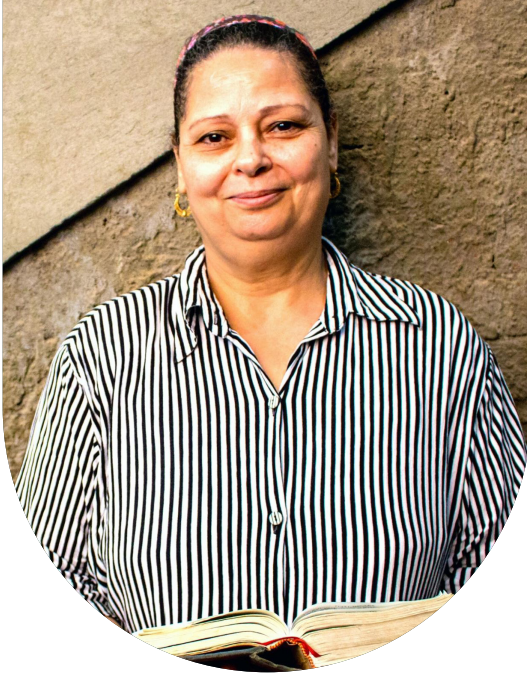
- **Six** training workshops held for literacy teachers and facilitators.
- **2,854** (including 2,262 women and girls) students enrolled by the end of June.
- **279** facilitators.
- **2,948** Bibles in Jola distributed to students (which are being used to prepare for a Bible reading competition between clusters of classes).
- **83** students graduated from the literacy program in June.

Bible Society in The Gambia is partnering with local churches to offer literacy classes for all girls, where they are encouraged and empowered to be all God created them to be. Research shows that poor reading ability impacts spiritual growth and understanding of God’s message so these girls will be equipped to not only read but understand the Bible and the message of the Gospel. As awareness of the classes grow, it is hoped that more people will recognise the value of literacy for their girls and more girls and women will commit to the program.

The word of God is spreading fast as more churches are signing up to the literacy project. The team achieved growing awareness of the literacy program through tours and events; the first sensitisation tour was in 2021, which led to persistent requests from church heads for the literacy program to be introduced to their community. The churches and communities realised the relevance and benefits of the literacy course, shown by their selecting and training of regional coordinators and facilitators who partake in training. In July–September 2021, classes began in some rural areas for the first time. By December, there was an increased Bible reading competition amongst communities and churches, and more people owned their own Bible. The willingness of people to attend classes despite the rain is incredible; in the past, people abandoned classes because of the farming season but a shift is happening in the lives of these people.

## Engagement

## Egypt

Children and Adult Post  
Literacy project

## Impact

- **3,000+ students** and **250+ teachers** in a total of **52 churches** involved.
- **500 students** involved in a new Bible School literacy program.
- **16,740 student** Scripture books distributed.
- **2,403** Large-print New Testaments given to graduates.
- **102** MP3 players distributed for classes.
- **499** Facilitators books (and **114** gifts for facilitators).
- **17** preparation meetings were held in new areas to introduce the program.
- **455** students graduated in June 2022.

Through their post literacy classes for children and adults, Bible Society Egypt is offering the foundations of reading and writing through an “education by participation” system of classes which sees students read selected portions of the Gospels. Despite a high national drop-out rate for children at the end of sixth grade, the majority of students in this program have continued their education in secondary school.

This story is repeated at churches: while only about 20% of children involved in elementary Sunday school programs maintain their involvement post-primary school, many more students are continuing to play a role in the church community thanks to the literary and self-confidence skills of the program. In 2022, Bible Society Egypt began implementing a new way to measure literacy attainment in students, to ensure internalisation of the teaching (rather than temporary memorisation).

## Testimony

*One participant in the literacy course was a 10-year-old girl who had language difficulties due to peer bullying. She found safety in the small group activities, especially the emphasis on listening and pronunciation. With the focused help of the teacher, she slowly started to talk. By the time she was in the 2nd level of the program, she started to speak during the class and became more involved with both school and church. The family thanked the facilitators for this miracle.*



Engagement

## Vanuatu

### Trauma Healing

### Impact

- **Two villages** held workshops addressing the issue of domestic violence: Farun Village (14 male and 7 female participants) and Renaur Village (6 male and 10 female participants).
- **2,000** Domestic Violence booklets printed.
- **2,000** copies of the Bislama edition of the Scripture Companion booklet.

Bible Society of the South Pacific, in partnership with World Day of Prayer, are implementing a project to advocate and empower women who are victims of domestic violence in Vanuatu. Domestic violence is embedded in gender and power relations; what happens within the family is seen to be a family matter and community members will not intervene.

Launched in March 2021, the project has begun to bring light to churches on the issue of Domestic Violence and the suffering of the women of Vanuatu, despite project plans being postponed in late 2021 by COVID. Training for those planning the workshops has been completed, with five participants completing their sessions on Zoom.

### Testimony

*"The workshop has helped me. I am ready to help our women in the community who are facing domestic abuse. I am thankful to the Bible Society for this workshop,"*

–one of the men who attended the workshop on domestic violence.

# Cameroon



Bible Society is offering illiterate Podoka and Mafa people in far north Cameroon the chance to read, write and engage in Scriptures through Bible-based literacy classes. Many challenges stand in the way of their education, including the constant threat of terrorist attacks by the Boko Haram group and the COVID-19 pandemic. The church in Cameroon wants to encourage these people to stand firm with God despite the challenges, and to be able to Open The Bible for themselves.

Course facilitators estimate that 95% of students are able to read a sentence out loud with the correct tone for each word. The number of students who can prepare and teach messages from the Bible has increased, as they now find it easy to interact with the word of God. The number of students who are involved in church has

also increased: they can give announcements and serve as deacons, and elders. In addition to this, students have acquired income-generating skills, such as making and selling natural oil and donuts, sewing clothes, along with other small businesses, indicating the impact of the literacy course to improve their lives.

The impact of the project can be seen in how students who have completed the course become apprentice teachers, then full teachers. In 2018 there were 46 teachers. By 2021, 161 former students were trained as teachers, and are now able to teach others.

In 2022, in addition to learning the word of God, students in one class composed songs, indicating that they have acquired new biblical knowledge and are increasing their interaction with the Bible.

## Testimony

*"I have never been to school. When I started literacy classes in my language, I didn't expect to get to this level in a short time. Before, I did not know how to write my name, I did not touch anything that is paper, pen, pencil, chalk. Now it is not the same. I can read my Bible and my textbook. Besides, when I pray, it's not like it used to be, the words that come out of my mouth are not the same. My way of speaking with God has totally changed. I am very happy."*

– Asta, 27, wife and mother of two.

Asta is using her literacy skills in church. Asta's life has been transformed through Bible-based literacy.



Engagement

## Lebanon

### Impact

- **874 students** from refugee and underprivileged communities took part in the course.
- **119 students** enrolled in April-June and successfully completed the second level Arabic classes (the number was lower than usual, due to delays in re-printing the Bible used for the Literacy course).
- **Eight Bible** stories are covered in the lessons, which some children are reading for the first time.

The Bible Society in Lebanon is offering children in refugee communities a Bible-based literacy course, designed to help them back into the formal education system. More than 50 per cent of the two million plus refugees in Lebanon are aged 17 years or younger. Integrating these children into Lebanon's school system is a challenge, and many don't go back to formal education.

Several churches who partner with Bible Society running the literacy project have requested that the program be increased in their local community. Among the students, the major Bible stories have become common knowledge; disadvantaged children are learning more about God's message. Their literacy levels are improving, shown by their desire to read more.

### Testimony

*"The Biblical Arabic literacy class is one of the most important and enjoyable programs...! Watching videos about 'how did God create the world?', Noah, Abraham...motivate me to focus more on the lesson. After the class, a LOT of information is learned! I feel that I cannot keep them to myself so I share them with my family."*

– Siham\*, 11 years old.

Without even knowing it, Siham has become an evangelist for God.

\*name has been changed for security



International

# Advocacy & Capacity Building

Bible Society Australia is committed to advocating for Bible Societies in countries around the world who need support to maintain a core presence. BSA also uses the resources we have been blessed with to build the capacity of other Bible Societies who are seeking to grow in order to serve their countries.





Advocacy

## Arab Israel

### Testimony

*"AIBS' Trauma healing program helped me to deal with my pain and be attentive to the pain of others. I am praying more for others' pain and mine than before. Also, realizing the power of prayer in times of need; physical, emotional, and spiritual."*

– Nelly, mother and grandmother, survivor of cancer, from Kufer Yassif village in Galilee. Nelly's faith is one of action, she is praying for others. She knows the impact of God in her life.

### Impact

- **Three summer camps** were held where **390 Bibles** were distributed to children.
- **Two Mother's Day events**, an **Easter event** and **Two Christmas events**, reaching **420 people** altogether. The Bible Competition was restarted in November with **seven events** were held and **280 participants** between the ages of 10-35, from 28 cities in Israel.
- By the end of 2021, about **240,000 people** were reached, including 234,300 **through online media**.
- **8,000 Bibles** and Bible resources were **distributed** at workshops and conferences in 2021.
- **96 workshops and seven conferences** were run in more than eight churches over 2021-2022 FY.
- **Three conferences** about Pain and Suffering for families, with different churches.
- **290 participants** from 32 villages took part in the 2022 Bible Quiz

This project is ensuring an ongoing presence and viable operation for the Arab Israeli Bible Society (AIBS) in Galilee, serving the Arab Israeli community with Scripture resources and interactive community events focused primarily on women and family issues.

AIBS' workshops, conferences, and events for families, churches and schools have doubled in attendance, and are impacting thousands of people per year. AIBS have also grown their partnerships with the various local church denominations. The impact of these relationships is seen in increased participation by local Christians at events as well as their take-up of AIBS developed resources, and the quantity of Bibles and materials distributed.



## Impact

- The **Paga, Lae and Koki properties** were upgraded, refurbished and equipped so they are viable for income generation.
- An August Prayer gathering drew **more than 40 Christians** together to pray for Bible Society in PNG.

Bible Society PNG is focusing on creating the foundations for sustainable ministry across the island where more than 300 languages are yet to receive any Bible translation. The Bible Society of Papua New Guinea (BSPNG) has endured a difficult two years, yet in 2022, they relaunched under a new General Secretary, Joel Peter.

During the financial year 2021-2022 this capacity building project centred on the building renovation process of Bible Society's Paga property and improving the financial situation of the society, which is set to lay a solid foundation for the Bible Society's mission and income-generating activities. BSPNG also worked on building their team and establishing new connections, developing relationships with other Bible translation agencies and establishing the Oceania Alliance. To position themselves well for the future, BSPNG redesigned their logo and amended their mission and vision.

## Testimony

*"Bible Society PNG has gone into redeveloping its infrastructures and we would like to see these infrastructures lay a strong financial foundation for us... to generate an income locally, be able to support the work of Bible Society PNG beside the support BSPNG receives from other Bible Societies and funding agencies from overseas."*

– Joel Peter, Bible Society PNG General Secretary.



Capacity Building

## South Pacific

### Impact

- Building plans begun on a two-flat residence and office headquarters.
- Plans to recruit and train **two new Project Managers**, four new Project Coordinators.
- **16 Island Nations** will be served.

The Bible Society of South Pacific are building new headquarters for Bible translation in Vanuatu, a focus area for translation work, as well as building capacity for project management. Relocating the translation headquarters from Fiji to Vanuatu will enhance sustainability, regional collaboration and continuity of projects. The impact will be accelerated Bible translation and better coordination of translation work in the main office and with those in the field.

This project began in May 2022, with the first stage goal in 2022 the preparation and building of office space and staff residence in Vanuatu. So far, work has progressed on groundwork for building, including approval from several building departments of Vanuatu, completing architectural and engineering drawings and clearing the old building foundations before construction begins.

### Testimony

*"A major challenge is (that) most of the communication and infrastructure that helps us do the work has aged over the years and we are currently implementing some changes, but it takes time when we are dealing with the vast body that we serve here in the South Pacific...we have the big need within Bible translation itself. There is so much to do but with little people to do it."*

– Geoffrey Miller, Bible Society South Pacific General Secretary.

International

# Distribution

Distributing the Bible to those who were without one was the primary motivating factor in forming Bible Society in Australia in 1817, and has been the central concern in the centuries which have followed. Around the world today, God's word is being distributed in ways which people can access for themselves.





Distribution

# Nicaragua

## Impact

- **86%** of children who are hospitalised participate in Bible Society's programs in the wards.
- **Three Qualified Nurses** employed by Bible Society to care for children in the hospital.
- **230 pastors and volunteers** received training in supporting children with cancer.
- **250 Doctors and nurses** received free Bibles.
- **3,325 children** with cancer received a free Bible.
- **48,000 +** people received free Scripture and engaged in other activities.

Children battling cancer in Nicaragua are in great need of care: physically, emotionally and spiritually. "La Mascota" is the only hospital in Nicaragua that offers specialised care for children with cancer. Bible Society Nicaragua's 'Hope and Smiles' project works to fill some care gaps, especially for poorer families, and provides spiritual support for children and their parents at this stressful time. The project provided funds to ensure the children receive healthy food and the medicine they need. Families are also supported in transportation costs to and from treatments and funeral costs when needed.

Children at the hospital are happy to participate in devotional classes, receiving Bibles of their own to keep and take home – helping them put their trust in God as they battle cancer. Over 38,000 children and parents began visiting a church in their community once they returned home.

## Testimony

*"I thank God because he has helped me in all this time that I have been here in this hospital. I thank God because he has been my only protection, he has never left me alone," said Gloria, who supports her daughter, Darling. "I thank God because here I have a Bible in my hand to carry on and have that faith in God, that he is going to take me forward with my girl and I am going to take her home."*

The impact of this ministry is extraordinary. 38,000 children and parents attending church. Praise God.

# China



## Impact

- **100,000** Catholic Bibles were approved for printing in 2021. Of these, **80,000** were printed with Bible paper support from Bible Society, making them affordable.
- Approximately **2.4 million** Bibles were approved for printing in 2021.
- **148,298** free Bibles (both Protestant and Catholic Bibles) were supported and distributed in 2021.
- **100,000** affordable Bibles supported in 2022 for the Chinese Catholic Church.
- **17,100** free Bibles (both Catholic and Protestant) have been supplied to Henan, Jilin and Shaanxi Provinces in Jan-Jun 2022 and distribution is ongoing.
- Of these, Bible Society is supporting **10,100 free Bibles** for the Catholic church.

Bible Society is working with partners on the ground to make Bibles affordable for the millions of Chinese Christians desperate to read God's word for themselves. Every year, Bible paper is provided to support the printing of affordable Bibles for the growing number of Christians in China, as well as to support free Bible distribution to those who cannot afford their own.

Each year, the authorities grant a permit for printing Bibles, both Catholic and Protestant. In 2021 and 2022, many free Bibles were supported and distributed to people living in mountainous areas, where connectivity and transport are very limited.

## Testimony

*Ms Zhang, 62, is delighted with her new large-print Bible which was given by her church with the support of the United Bible Societies (UBS). Before she received the large-print Bible, Ms Zhang says, even with glasses the words were blurry, and she was ashamed to misread God's word on more than one occasion. With the bigger print she says, "I am reading several chapters of the Bible daily, and I feel more confident in reading the Scriptures aloud from the pulpit."*



Distribution

## Zimbabwe

Mothers and carers of children with disabilities in Zimbabwe are often marginalised and excluded from society. Bible Society is supplying mothers and children with Bible resources, as well as educating them with the goal of reducing the risk of birth-related disabilities. Differently abled children are gaining independence through the assistive devices provided by Bible Society, which also give their carers the chance to go to church. The literacy component of the project is helping disabled children learn to read and write through the *My Do and Learn Bible Series*.

From July 2021, as COVID restrictions eased, project staff were able to support mothers of disabled children once again, having put many activities on hold at the

outset of the year. From January 2022, Bible Society began running training workshops again, with Bible Studies, support groups and disability information and income-generating training. Mothers now use Bible verses to encourage each other and report that even severely disabled children respond to the Children's Bible, calming down when stories are read to them.

In this last financial year, 121 children were assessed for assistive devices and 191 caregivers were equipped and trained for caring for their children. 70 mothers are now attending church regularly and 80 mothers have found paid work.

### Testimony

*"There are children in need of assistive devices not identified yet – some mothers are in denial and hide their children...God has sent Bible Society of Zimbabwe to preach the real gospel with a holistic approach." Mother of Ruth, a 19-year-old with Cerebral Palsy, who now has a customised wheelchair. "I thank Bible Society of Zimbabwe for giving me a Bible which I will use to live a Christ-like life."*



International

# Emergency

Each year, Bible Society Australia stands ready to respond to emergency situations as they arise around the world, and through the generosity of our donors, respond with provision of God's word and whatever practical aid is possible to provide.



# Ukraine

## Project Update

This project is helping Ukrainians cope with the full-scale and brutal war affecting the whole country and millions of people. Bible Society teams are carrying out field trips in different parts of the country and supplying Scriptures to various partners (churches, volunteer organizations, international missions etc.). In most cases, this is combined with partners' efforts to provide food, humanitarian aid as well as shelter to displaced people.

From the end of February, Bible Society started giving away all the Scripture they had available immediately – both Scriptures provided for this project, and those intended for sale.

Up to the end of March, 10,647 Scriptures were distributed: 2,301 regular Bibles, 205 Youth Bibles, 2,088 New Testaments and 6,053 children's Bibles in both Ukrainian and Russian.

The Bible, containing words of encouragement and hope, has become a crucial part of wider efforts of all Christian churches and organisations to support the Ukrainian nation at the time of war.

## Testimony

*"Many times, we've heard people sharing that they survived only because of God's protection, of them praying all the time. Most of these people weren't active Christians but all say it was God who spared them, and they are willing to get to know him better. Everyone accepts the Bible with gratitude."*

– Rostyslav, Ukrainian Bible Society Ministry Resource Facilitator







## Australia

Throughout the year 2021-2022, Bible Society Australia has worked to Open The Bible to all people around our great country. In this last financial year, Bible Society donors have supported Bible work in the areas of Bible translation into Indigenous Languages, Bible engagement programs and resources, advocating for the Bible, and the distribution of Bibles and Scripture resources to those who need them most.

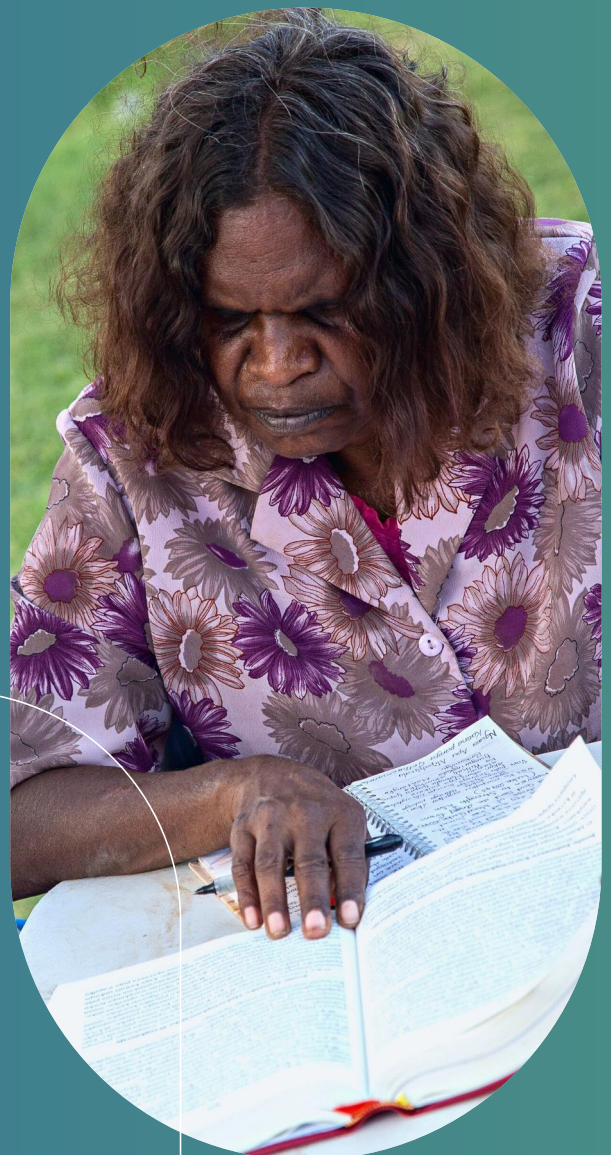
# Translation

## Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Translation Project

The Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Translation Project is progressing well.

In the first half of 2022, a final draft of the book of Judges was completed in Pitjantjatjara as well as 50% of second drafts of 2 Samuel.

**98%** of the front translation (the preliminary step in preparation for target language translation) of the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Project was completed by June.



# Audio Scripture Projects



Oral Bible Translation – a new approach to Bible translation – is specifically designed for ‘oral languages’ with very few written words.

Two Oral Bible Translation workshops were held in the Kimberley region, in Western Australia.

Four audio recording workshops were held in the second half of 2021: two Kriol Old Testament workshops in Darwin, a recording of the Gospel of Mark in Western Arrarnta in Alice Springs and a workshop at Wadeye (Port Keats) in the Northern Territory.

Around 40% of the Old Testament has now been recorded in Roper River Kriol.

Of the 53 Indigenous Australian languages with Scripture translated, 45 now have audio recordings available. Initial drafts of Bible stories have been recorded in Rembarrnga and Gurindji – Oral Bible Translations for these two languages have just commenced in 2022.

In Kriol, Genesis to Deuteronomy; parts of Joshua, Judges and Psalms; Ruth, Daniel, Joel, Jonah, Micah and Habakkuk were recorded, edited and distributed.

# Training and Workshops

Bible Society supports the training of local Bible translators through degrees at Nungalinga Theological College in Darwin and 'In Community' Bible translation workshops, including the provision of a class set of iPads.

- **17 students** from nine language groups **graduated** as part of the first cohort of the three-year Diploma of Translating in 2021.
- **40,054** language speakers could be impacted through the future translation work of these students.
- **20 students** from 10 language groups were engaged with 'In Community' **Bible translation workshops** in the second half of 2021.
- **Six new languages translated** the Christmas Story for the first time at a Darwin workshop.
- In 2022, **two new language groups** are represented by students enrolled in Nungalinga's Indigenous Language Literacy Course – a team of Murrinhpatha translators and a team of Yolngu Matha translators.
- **2,500 people**, including the younger generation, speak Murrinhpatha in the Top End.
- **8,000** Yolngu Matha speakers will benefit from future Scripture translation work.

## Testimony

*"The three years that I've been studying is a type of road, but I found the way. I asked the Lord, I prayed and he gave me understanding ... I learned so much on this journey."*

– Rosemary Jinmauliya Brown





Australia

# Engagement

Bible Society Australia (BSA) is developing Bible resources in Indigenous languages to meet people where they are at and help them engage with the Scriptures in a meaningful way.

By mid-2022, about 320 of the 365 prayers in the new Pitjantjatjara Daily Devotional Prayer Book had been first drafted, and approximately 120 had been finalised.



## Jesus. All About Life



For Easter 2022, Bible Society Australia partnered with churches around the country to reach out into their communities with good news; whether or not you identify as traditionally 'Christian' or believe yourself to have 'no religion' or nominal religion. The good news is that Jesus is still relevant. Jesus loves you, and longs to give you an abundant life.

BSA's revitalised *Jesus. All About Life* campaign equipped churches with resources to run outreach events in their communities over Easter, connecting with people, and asking them to consider the fullness of life that Jesus offers.

From 1 April and across the Easter weekend almost **1,000 churches and individuals** from across Australia participated in varying ways in the *Jesus. All About Life* campaign. **Over 1 million Australians were reached through the outdoor and digital media campaign, with thousands visiting [Jesus.com.au](https://www.jesus.com.au)** to discover more about Jesus.

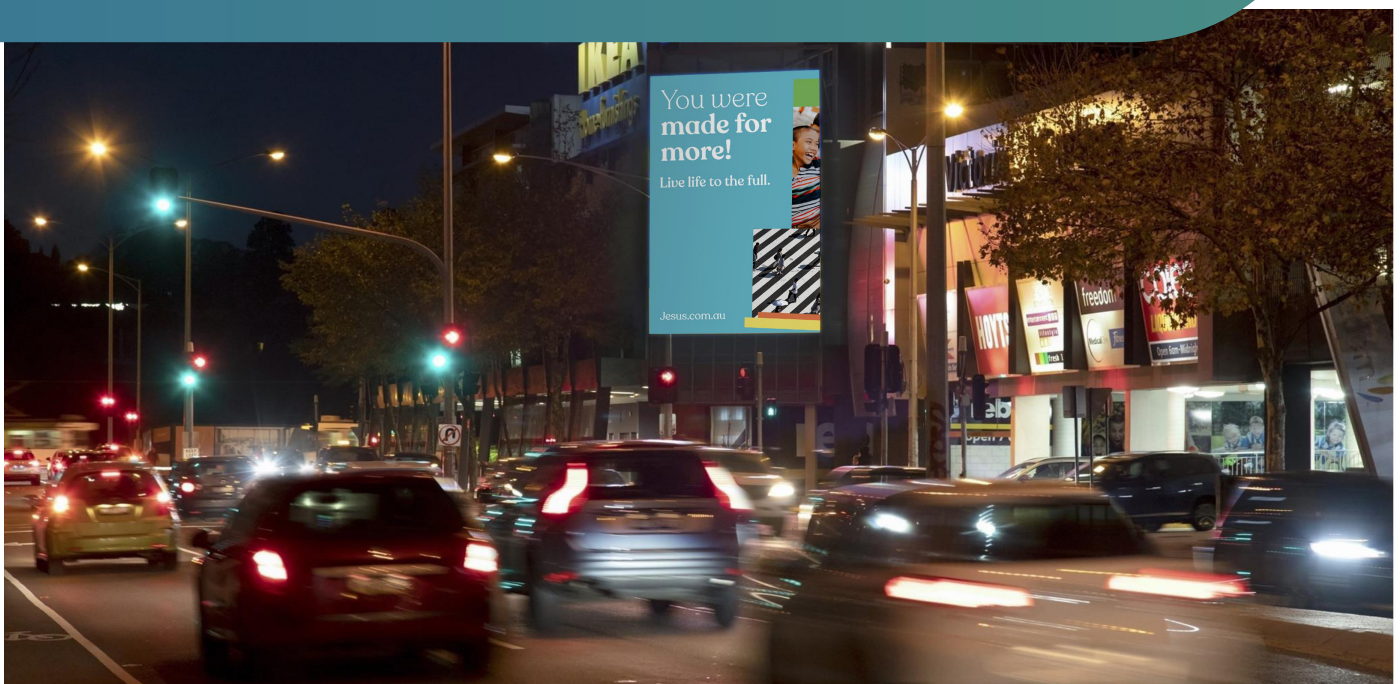
## Engagement

- Almost **1,000 churches**, organisations and individuals registered to participate
- Over **7,000** visits to [jesus.com.au](http://jesus.com.au)
- **900** New Beginnings Bibles purchased
- **37,600** print Scripture materials ordered (total number of *Dave the Donkey*, Bookmarks & *The Who What When and How of Easter* were distributed)
- Over **4,000** downloads of *Jesus. All About Life* resources

### Testimony

*"We gave out the 'Dave the Donkey' stories to close to 40 non-Christian families. Praying that the Gospel will speak through these stories."*

– Participating JAAL church



## Bibles For Bubs

*Bibles For Bubs* continued in this past year to reach out to families with new babies, providing them with a Bible to begin to build a lifetime of faith and reliance on God's word for their child, as they engage with stories from the Bible together.

As well as providing Bibles for babies born in the previous year, the project reached out to children already part of the program, sending hand-written birthday cards with an insert for parents with ideas to encourage faith and family Bible reading. On their fifth birthday the children receive the gift of a CEV Big Rescue Bible.

- **Another 2,000 babies** (born in 2021) **joined the program** and received a children's Bible
- Over **10,000 children** are now part of Bibles For Bubs and received a birthday card with parent faith guides.
- In 2022, our first group of babies turn five and graduate the program. In the first half of 2022, we sent **894 Big Rescue Bibles** to these newly turned five-year-olds.



## Testimony

*"Thank you so, so much for my child's first Bible. This Bible is perfect, stories are true and short. I couldn't find a Bible for my child, but was gifted a perfect one. Thank God and thank you Bible society team."*

– Melissa\*, parent

\*name has been changed for security

Australia

# Advocacy

Bible Society's work in advocacy is different locally than with our international partners. In Australia we advocate for the truth of the gospel through our two media brands: CPX (Centre for Public Christianity) and Eternity. CPX engages with secular Australians and seeks to equip Christians of all ages to be able to represent Christ to their friends and colleagues. CPX is challenging all of us to see ourselves as public Christians. Eternity seeks to equip, encourage and inspire believers by sharing what God is doing in the church, in Christian organisations and in the lives of individuals. Eternity is also a platform for Australian Christian leaders to speak into the lives of fellow Christians, providing fuel for their faith.





Advocacy

**CPX**

## Media Engagement

This financial year CPX writers appeared in secular media outlets 80 times and were cited by journalists 13 times. Each of these touchpoints provided an opportunity to offer a Christian perspective on contemporary life in the public square.

Highlights include:

- Justine Toh spoke about her book *Achievement Addiction* in several interviews, including 702 Drive in Sydney and 774 Mornings in Melbourne.
- Tim Costello was published in *The Saturday Paper*, a new outlet for CPX.
- Natasha Moore was interviewed on ABC's *Triple J* about youth spirituality.

## School Engagement

CPX resources are used in schools across the country and the team has been active in increasing our reach in this area.

## Speaking in the public sector

CPX staff gave **47 talks at 45 events to a combined audience of nearly 10,000 people.**

Highlights include:

- After Justine Toh spoke at Trinity Grammar, the school purchased 400 copies of *Achievement Addiction* to give to their senior students.
- Natasha Moore gave the keynote address at the Christian Schools Australia National Conference.

## Podcasting

CPX produces a podcast that explores the beauty and complexity of faith in the 21st century. This year saw 40 episodes released (which included the release of our 400th episode in August 2021) and 125,000 downloads.

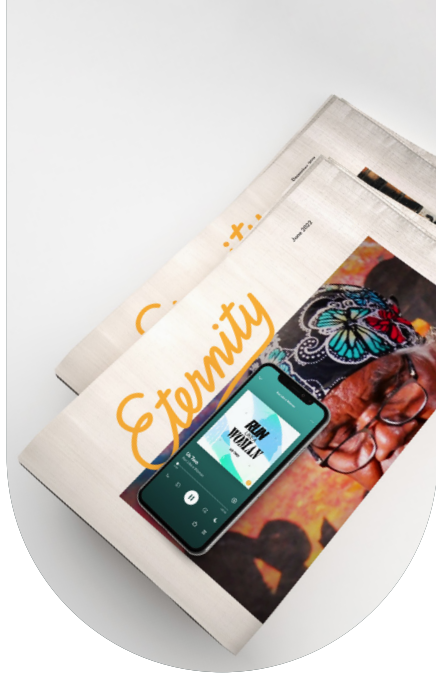
Highlights include:

- An interview with Leila and Danny Abdallah about how they found a way to forgive the driver who killed three of their children.

## Testimony

*"I'm sure I speak on behalf of principals in Christian schools who really value the media resources generated by CPX. They speak to the cultural issues of our time to adolescents so winsomely, represent the Christian perspective so well, and make the implications of the gospel so accessible."*

- Mark Ash, Principal, Charlton Christian College, Newcastle.



## Digital

In the past year: the Eternity website has had over five million page views; we have **published 1,195 stories; and 56,000 weekly newsletters delivered each month.**

**The total digital reach for Eternity for the same period was 8,078,880.** That figure relates to all platforms utilised by Eternity – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, email and website. This was only 1 percent down on the previous year, despite significant staff changes.

The top story on Eternity Facebook was by Bill Hunter, Salvation Army minister and Chaplain to Australian athletes competing in last year's Paralympic Games. Our interest in sport and faith was also reflected in the third most popular story, about Nicola McDermott, a passionate evangelist and Aussie high jumper, who won silver at last year's Tokyo Olympics.

## Newspaper

Eternity – predominantly a digital media site, committed to telling good news stories of faith – publishes two paper-based versions a year. **Almost 100,000 copies of each issue are distributed to churches and individuals across the country, with an estimated readership of 300,000.**

## New directions

Eternity is moving into a new era as we seek to become the leading media platform serving the church across Australia and Oceania.

Our content speaks with hope, faith and love about the issues that affect Christians in their everyday lives. Our aim is to equip, encourage and inspire believers by sharing what God is doing in the church, in Christian organisations and in the lives of individuals. Our vision is to see Australian Christian leaders speaking through the Eternity platform to impact the lives of fellow Christians and provide fuel for their faith.

By God's grace, Eternity will play an even more pivotal role in the future in spurring on the church "toward love and good deeds". (Hebrews 10:24)

## Podcasting

*Run Like a Woman* was created to fill a notable gap in the podcast landscape – that is, a podcast by Australian Christian women that is cross-denominational, well produced and conversational in style.

The aim of the podcast is to shine a light on the experiences of ordinary Australian Christian women, and offer encouragement, connection and inspiration to listeners.

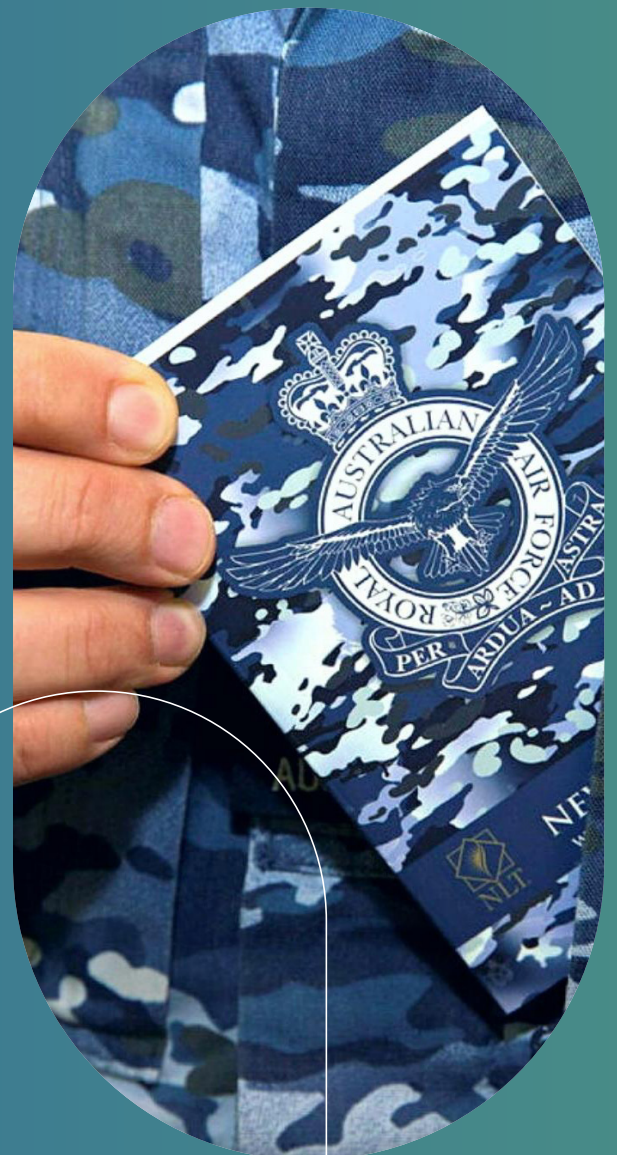
# Distribution

A key component of Bible Society's work locally, is the publishing and distribution of Bibles and Scripture portions. This exciting work is a partnership between the Publishing and Scripture Grants teams.

In the last financial year **204,154 Bibles** and **100,000 Gospels** have been designed, printed and reprinted for distribution and sale across Australia and Oceania.

Bible Society has created Bibles for the Australian Defence Forces, for the Country Fire Authority, for Christian schools and across the Church. In partnership with a global comics ministry we publish Bible comics for prison ministry partners and we have created new editions of the Gospels for evangelism and outreach.

The new book, *My Story, My God: Reflections from Christians in the Australian Defence Community and their families* was launched in Canberra in August 2021, with 3,480 copies purchased.





# Scripture Grants

## Working across the church and ministries to provide custom Bibles including –

- **2,000 especially created Bibles** for Ambulance NSW
- **5,000 New Testaments**, Psalms and Proverbs for Papua New Guinea Defence Force
- **1,640 ADF CEV Bibles**

Creating new, affordable editions of the NIV Gospels (\$1.99 each) to equip our outreach partners and ensure God's word can be accessible to as many people as possible. The initial print run of 100,000 sold out in the first year and another 80,000 are being reprinted.

## Extending our reach and impact across Oceania, supporting Bible Society South Pacific

- **3,000 New Beginnings Bibles** to Fiji
- **5,000 New Testaments, Psalms and Proverbs** for Papua New Guinea Defence Force

## Creating new Bible editions – the New Beginnings Bible

- The New Beginnings Bible was created especially for the new believer, to help them Open The Bible in their new walk with the Lord. With contributions from across the Australian church, new inserts were created and designed to be a simple and clear introduction to God's word.
- BSA also co-funded the purchase of the Bibles, making these beautiful white, faux leather editions with a retail price of \$24.99 available to churches at a price point of only \$5.00.
- Nearly **10,000** New Beginnings Bible have gone out to churches, Alpha groups and to Fiji.





Distribution

# Scripture Grants

## Chaplaincy & Parachurch ministries

This grants program continues to grow, with new ministries signing up for grants. 29,890 Scripture and gospel resources were distributed across the 21/22 financial year to chaplaincy and parachurch ministries.

Hospital chaplaincy: BSA supported 8 new hospitals and 21 returning hospitals.

Correctional facilities: 7 new facilities and 36 returning.

Gospel ministries: 41 new and 36 returning.

### Testimony

*"We regularly look at the topics of forgiveness and transformation. We recently looked at King David and the highs and lows of his life and one participant was amazed. Her comment was 'That's in the Bible? Wow!' "*

– Laura, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation residential program participant

## Bibles in Schools

The Bibles in Schools grant continues to be well utilised by Scripture teachers and chaplains. The grant provided 2,854 CEV Big Rescue Bibles; 4,408 Jesus Storybook Borrow Bibles; and 727 CEV Youth Bibles.

### Testimony

*"By using the Bibles each week we were able to explain to students how to read his Word, how to find the book required using the contents page, how to find a chapter and verses... This grant program is so helpful to give practical experience of using a Bible in class time. It's great!"*

– Carly, High school SRE teacher

# Disaster Relief and Other Grants

Sadly, there have been a few different areas devastated by repeated flooding in NSW during this time and churches and other ministries have availed themselves of our Disaster Recovery grant materials. Requests were made for:

- **715** Kids "No worries" tract
- **2,224** Beyond trauma booklets,
- **2,834** Beyond trauma postcard,
- **105** Full Bibles,
- **680** New Testaments and
- **1,050** Gospels.



## Testimony

*"We were one of those who were flooded in the massive floods that hit Lismore and surrounds earlier this year. Very graciously, Bible Society donated to us a good number of New Testaments, Gospel of Mark, and other helpful booklets / tracts that we have since fully donated to members of Lismore."*

– Darryl

# Koorong

## Digital Transformation Project

The team at Koorong is undertaking a landmark digital transformation project that will benefit every employee and customer of Koorong. It is all hands on deck as we scope, test, and integrate new systems that will enable Koorong to be pioneers in the retail and eCommerce space.

With everything we do, Koorong seeks to provide Christian books, Bibles and products relevant to Christians in Australia. We are implementing new systems that will:

- Help us engage with our customers in more meaningful and relevant ways,
- Bring Koorong.com into the modern age of online retailing,
- Help us manage products, logistics, and sales in physical stores and online, and
- Save teams time in reporting and administrative functions.

## Koorong and Pages Café Updates

After months of lockdowns, the Christmas period, and other unforeseeable circumstances, Koorong Warners Bay officially held its grand opening event on 19 March 2022. This followed the successful launch of the new Toowoomba store in July 2021.

Koorong stores and Pages Cafés are undergoing a refresh to reflect the latest logos and visual identity. Koorong Mooloolaba and Erskine Park warehouse updates are complete. These updates will help Koorong to align in-store experiences across Australia and build upon comfort and familiarity for our customers.



## Sales Performance

Lockdowns in most of our stores in the first half of the year saw our sale revenue impacted, with retail sales ending down before an improved trend in the second half of the year. However, considering the impact of restrictions on our physical stores, online sale revenue was again up on record sales in the previous year. For perspective, online sales exceeded FY18-19 by 52.9%. Despite the challenging circumstances, we ended the year down overall by 5% on FY20-21's record year. Bible sales remain strong in quantity and revenue, achieving 380,000 units sold, which is on par with FY20-21. In line with online sales growth, the expansion of our demographic reach with younger audiences provided a lift during lockdown periods.

## Global and Local Logistics

Disruptions to global and local supply chains heavily impacted the procurement of Bibles, Christian books, and other resources. Beyond the pandemic, our global supply chain was also affected by a shortage of containers and ships, delays of up to 6 weeks for stock to onboard ships, rises in freight prices due to high demand, and, more recently, inflationary increases in printing and distribution caused by rising fuel and paper costs.

## Staffing

We commend our staff to you for their dedicated service to all our customers and Bible Society Australia. Once restrictions were relaxed following phases of lockdown, our team contended with additional lockdowns that impacted retail stores, battled against staff shortages caused by outbreaks, implemented routines to ensure cleanliness, and handled challenging customer situations with grace. Yet, despite the difficult circumstances, the team continued to serve with a smile that may not have been seen under their masks!



# Thank you to you, our supporters

Bible Society is blessed with faithful, generous supporters and across FY 21-22 we received amazing support through bequests, churches and individual supporters. We are grateful for your ongoing support and hope you have been encouraged by the stories in this report, stories of lives transformed because of your support. Thank you!

Across the course of FY 21-22 the fundraising team made more than **11,000 connections with individual supporters and churches as well as connecting with supporters across Australia** through “Thankyou” events. The ongoing feedback we receive from supporters encourages us in our mission To Impact and Influence the World by Opening the Bible to All People Everywhere by All Means Possible.

Here are some encouraging comments we received from you:

“Thank you for such a wonderful email, not just for the good news it entailed but your joy in sending it, joy which resounded throughout the email, Praise God for that.”

“Thank you for the update, it’s really great to hear what projects are happening and where...Keep up the great work and God bless you and Bible Society as you work to bring the gospel to all people!”

“Thank you, another fascinating and helpful insight into the complexity, implications and ultimately the value of translation into indigenous and 'heart' languages.”

“Thank you, seeing what is happening in Pakistan is heartbreaking, I’m so grateful to live in a country like Australia when you see these conditions, but it’s wonderful to see Bible Society having an impact there.”

“Thanks for your email, and for the insight into the process of translation. It is very complex, especially with a book like the Bible which often uses complex language – some English speakers have difficulty with the language, especially in the Old Testament. I am thankful for the work of the Bible Society and glad to participate in a small way.”

Your support makes a difference. From everyone at Bible Society we thank you for your generosity, faithfulness and prayers.



# Impact Report

2022





