

PROJECT NO: N/A

TAX | NON-TAX

# Australia



## New Believer's Bibles



### Overview

Bible Society Australia's (BSA) New Believers Scripture Grant offers support to churches running evangelistic courses, such as the Alpha Course. In doing so, BSA seeks to serve and equip believers with a heart for evangelism who are ministering to Australians in all areas of life.

### The Need

People meet Jesus through evangelistic courses run by many different denominations across Australia. Participants are encouraged to discover the joy of God's word and develop a thirst for reading it. While participating in evangelistic courses, some people can't afford a Bible or find it difficult to access a Bible of their own.

# ±28m

people globally have attended an Alpha course since 1993.

# ±50k

Australians attend Alpha every year.

## Goals

The goal of this Scripture Grant is to Open The Bible with people who are exploring Christianity. The goal of the New Believers Scripture grant is to provide free Bibles to course participants in need. Because of the support given by this grant, participants can have a Bible of their own to read as they continue

engaging with God's word on their journey to faith. This grant also aims to serve and equip gospel workers running the courses with God's word and the ability to encourage and disciple those they work with.

This year, the goal of this project is to expand, to reach more ministries

who are running Alpha and other evangelistic courses for seekers in their communities.

Course organisers can choose between Bible Society's New Beginnings Bible, the NRSV or a Youth Bible when ordering using the Scripture Grant.

## Impact

In 2022, BSA launched the 'New Beginnings Bible', which was created especially for the new believer, to help them open the Bible in the new walk with the Lord. With contributions from across the Australian church, new inserts were created and designed to be simple, clear and inviting into God's word. When the Bibles were received, Geoff from a church in Queensland responded, "The (New Beginnings) Bibles arrived today, and they are absolutely awesome. I can hardly wait to give them out and I know they will be greatly appreciated. It almost seems like someone was eavesdropping on the Alpha conversations regarding what Bibles new Christians should purchase. These are them exactly. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to all those... involved in the decision to make these available."

The Scripture Grant runs across the financial year. From July 2021 – June 2022, 705 Bibles were distributed to Alpha course participants in the form of NIV Bibles, Youth Bibles and NRSV Bibles.

The impact of the Scripture Grant can be seen in the stories and testimonies of both course coordinators and course participants, as their lives have been changed by engaging with God through his word.

## Testimonies

"Thank you for the Bibles for our Alpha. We presented them at our two services on Sunday. In each of the two services on Sunday we had a short time set aside for some of the Alpha participants to take part in a brief interview about their Alpha experience. Happy to say the comments were overwhelmingly positive and, when asked if they would recommend Alpha to one of their friends, the universal answer was absolutely." - *Geoff*

"I prayerfully look for a Scripture reading for each person and write it on the first page of their Bible. I am sure the Holy Spirit guides me to the need of that person. Again, thanking you for your generosity. God's blessing on you and your organisation." - *Regina*

"We have just received a shipment of beautiful Bibles from the Bible Society. Thank you for granting our request. Please pray that the recipients will place as much value on this gift as we do." - *Kay*

"This is such a blessing. God bless you and the work that your team do!" - *Chris*

"Thank you so much Bible Society for your generous contribution of Alpha Bibles for our course participants. It will be such a blessing for our guests to receive the Bibles. Thank you again. God Bless your ministry." - *Michael*

## Prayer Needs

- Pray that many Australians would be led to Open The Bible for the first time this year, and that they would find evangelistic courses to guide them in their journey to faith.
- Pray for workers to be raised up and equipped in running evangelistic courses, and that BSA would be able to expand this grant to supply new ministries with Bibles.
- Pray that many will turn to Christ and continue to grow as Christians with God's word as their light and guide.