

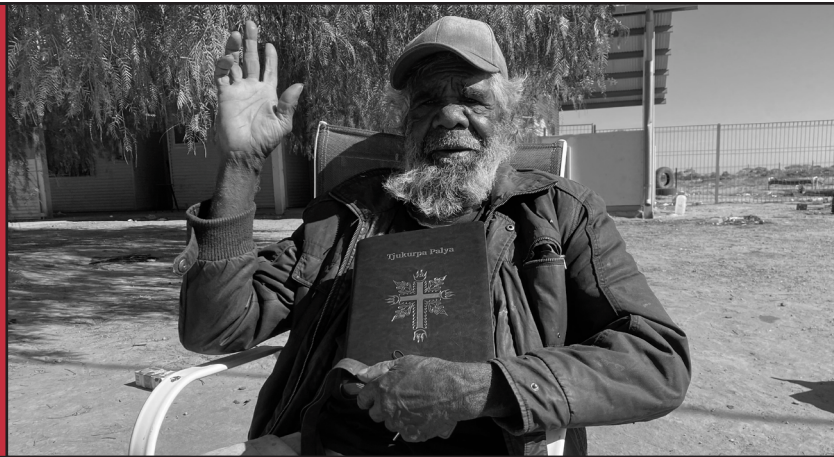
PROJECT NO: N/A

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# Australia



## Distributing God's Word



### Overview

Each year Bible Society Australia distributes Indigenous Bibles and Scripture Resources to organisations and churches who minister to Indigenous communities around Australia, free of charge, through our Scripture Grants program. This ensures that Indigenous Scriptures are not only published but are made available to the local church communities, engaged with, and lead to transformation.

### The Need

There are many challenges and difficulties in ensuring the distribution of Indigenous Scriptures around the country. Most of the languages translated belong to remote communities in the Top End of the Northern Territory, central desert communities and remote communities in the Kimberley and Far North Queensland.

There is a great need for this work of distribution, as without it, decades of work on Bible translations would not be realised. A reliable method of distribution is needed, so that communities can receive and celebrate the availability of God's word in their heart languages.

# 21.4%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in remote or very remote areas.

# 43.8%

live in regional areas.

## Goals

Bible Society is committed to implementing the most efficient and effective distribution methods. These include a combination of traditional postage methods; travelling partnerships; vehicles; technology (online resources) and the Indigenous Scripture Grant Program.

For the 2022 – 2023 financial year, Bible Society will provide Indigenous Ministers, Sunday school workers, teachers, prison and hospital chaplains with free Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scripture resources to the value of \$80,000. These Scripture resources will be supplied through the Indigenous

Scripture Grants program. This is an increase in funds from previous years, and is likely to be repeated in July 2023 for the following financial year, as the demand for Scripture resources remains high across the country.

## Impact

The impact of this Bible distribution is seen in both the ministries and churches who receive Scriptures to help them as they minister, and in the communities who receive Bibles in their heart languages. Through the distribution of Indigenous Scripture resources, many thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be able to face life's challenges with Scripture in their hands and hearts.

In the first six months of 2022 approximately 22,708 Bibles and Scripture resources were distributed for free to remote communities for ministry needs as part of the Bible Society's Remote and Indigenous Scripture Grants Program. Indigenous children and youth received almost half of these resources.

In October, new resources — a series of three books in Pitjantjatjara, 1 Samuel, the Gospel of Mark and Paul's Letters — were distributed among the communities in the APY lands. These resources were designed for outreach in remote communities, prisons and hospitals and it is hoped will have a particular impact on the younger generations of Pitjantjatjara speakers.

## Testimonies

"A big thank you for the Bibles in language that you have supplied to Pupanya, Central Australia! We run Bible studies every Thursday night, missional focused Sunday services and children's ministry every week and study the Bible with friends and in small groups spontaneously through the week too... Our team did a mission trip this last weekend and distributed Bibles you have sent to us... We prayed they would get to the right ones through us. Deannie (who received a Bible) gave her life to Jesus three weeks ago... We thank you so much for sowing the word of God into the people toward an eternal harvest! It's been so encouraging hearing the word of God taught back to us through the people!"

*Katy Spakman, Iris Global Australia Ministry, Alice Springs.*

## Prayer Needs

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it". Isaiah 55:10-11

- Please pray that as these resources are sent out around the country, they will yield spiritual fruit and achieve God's purposes.

