

PROJECT NO: 79991

TAX | NON-TAX

Kenya



Bibles for the Young



Overview

The Bible Society of Kenya is committed to placing a Bible in the hands of marginalised young people, one student at a time, so that even when they are old, they will turn to God's word and not away. These Bibles will be distributed as a part of the Christian Religious Education in schools.

The Need

According to UNESCO, there are 8.3 million primary and 7.5 million secondary Kenyan students, all of whom can participate in Christian religious education at school. Kenya is a Christian country and as a result both Christian Religious Education (in primary and secondary school) and the Program for Pastoral Instruction (PPI in primary school) are approved by the Kenya School system.

However, according to research by a child outreach network, 98% of public primary schools do not have Bibles available in the classroom to assist in these lessons. Kenya is described as a lower-middle income economy. However, due to poverty, many families do not own a Bible.

8.3m

Kenyan primary students.

7.5m

Kenyan secondary students.

98%

of public primary schools do not have Bibles.

30%

of the 47 million population in Kenya live in poverty.

Goals

Each year, this project seeks to place a Bible in the hands of 5,500 children in urban poor and rural Kenya, through children's homes, slum schools, and other schools, with the aim of transforming lives through engagement with God's word.

In 2023, from January to February, schools and children's homes in the prioritised areas will be contacted and dates set for distribution. From March to November, Scriptures will be distributed, and teachers trained in systematic Bible engagement techniques through the programme

for pastoral instruction (PPI). Every three months the project will monitor, evaluate and report on progress.

Impact

While the ultimate goal of this project is audacious and eternal — that when they are grown, students will continue to turn to God's word and not away from it — the initial impact will be seen in improved performance in the CRE subject. It is hoped that with the availability of Bibles, the PPI classes will be brought to life for primary students.

Since 2016, the Bible Society has distributed over 31,497 copies of appropriate Scriptures to children in 24 children's homes, 190 schools in over 38 counties in Kenya. Impact reports received indicate that Bible knowledge among young people has increased, leading to noticeable behavioural change, especially in children's homes and slum schools.

Continued distribution of Bibles among children from low-income backgrounds increases regular Bible reading across the whole family. Through this project, families with no Scriptures are now exposed to God's word, and Bible engagement is increasing among the children who receive Bibles for themselves.

Testimonies

"The English version of GNB is...very easy to search Bible verses since there are reference section which can easily look into. I also enjoy carrying my Bible and notebook to church when I go to church, a new behaviour which I had not embraced before I got this Bible. My favourite scripture is Psalm 91: 11 and it reminds me always that God is my protector."

Victor, who received his Good News Bible when he was in grade 6. He is currently about to sit for his Kenya Certificates for Primary Education (K.C.P.E) for grade 8 learners.

"Before 2020, I had dropped out of school for 5 years... I was a young man with anger issues. I would cause havoc in my village. Everybody feared me. Come 2020, Bible Society of Kenya visited my school. I had just resumed and joined Form 2. I received a copy of Revised Standard Version and that marked the turnaround of my life. That Bible was like honey in my mouth. Interesting, right? God caused me to seriously read the Bible, and, in the process, I got born again. Moreover, God enabled me to be a calm man...I am a changed man, and my grades are better than before. I look forward to attaining a C+ in my forthcoming K.C.S.E examination...Currently am helping the school administration rehabilitate other boys who are into drugs in school. I take it as my duty to speak to them about the dangers using my story. I would say I have become a fisher of men."

Mark, 24 years old, Kagumo Secondary School, 2022

Prayer Needs

- Pray that Bibles will be available so the children and youth will be reached with Scriptures.
- Pray for positive transformation for students and their families as God's word touches their hearts and minds.