

Papua New Guinea



Rebuilding Bible Society



Overview

There is an urgent need to build the capacity of Bible Society Papua New Guinea (BSPNG) in order to reach future generations with the word of God. This process has at its centre the task of establishing sustainable, impactful Bible based mission work.

The Need

There are more than 880 languages in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with more than 300 languages yet to receive any Bible translation. Almost 89% of the approximately 8.9 million people are in the (largely remote) rural areas. Much of the population are uneducated and live in poverty. Literacy is a major challenge; many would not be able to read the Bible. There is a vast need for Bible translation, Bible distribution, literacy and church partnerships, especially in the rural areas.

The word of God already has a place in the rural communities of PNG, so the distribution of Bibles to these remote communities is of paramount spiritual importance to the people living there.

To meet these needs, it is essential that the Bible Society is present and sustainable.

89%

of people are in rural areas.

880

languages in PNG.

300

languages yet to receive any Bible translation.

63.4%

PNG's literacy rate as of 2015 and only increased slightly by 2018, when 9 of the 22 provinces were still at an unacceptable level of literacy.

Goals

Rebuilding a functioning Bible Society in PNG began in 2019, with the appointment of a new board and a new General Secretary. Sadly, along with the delays and setbacks caused by COVID-19, the new General Secretary also lost his life in 2021.

The goal of this project continues to enable the Bible Society to ensure Scriptures are available to all in PNG, so that all people may Open The Bible. Despite all the challenges in 2020-2021, Bible Society PNG,

under the leadership of new General Secretary, Joel Peter, was able to successfully complete the majority of renovations on properties they own in Paga, and Lae. Their Five-Year Strategic plan was finalized for implementation in 2022 onwards.

In 2023, the plans and proposed activities for the project will continue to be implemented. In addition, the project aims to start the year by recruiting a Finance Manager, conducting an Annual General Meeting, and re-launching

BSPNG operations under the new management. As the year progresses, they will organise a major fundraising event, construct new staff accommodation at Paga Hill, review current Scripture Distribution arrangements, and recruit a new Project Manager, some Program Co-ordinators and IT staff. Throughout the year they will develop new partnerships and review their income generation plans, building on BSPNG's capacity and expertise.

Impact

The impact of the successful renovation of BSPNG properties will be felt in the local income generated from renting the properties, which will support ministry work in PNG.

Although recruitment of some new staff and the distribution of Bibles are still on the way (due to delays with COVID-19), both will have an impact on evangelism and Christian growth: individuals and families will be transformed by Opening The Bible. There will also be freedom to plant new churches, and to continue education in the schools and colleges with God's word, thus reducing illiteracy.

Testimonies

"The foundation Vere [Verenagi Ravu], BSPNG's General Secretary created is solid. Vere planted good seed in good soil. Now someone else will water and many will continue to be impacted by the work he started." - *Andre Minnaar, United Bible Societies Global Mission Team.*

"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. This is a biblical vision and I want to have it for Bible Society Papua New Guinea, as I work to resurrect Bible Society PNG. 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 staff that will come on, and every brother and sister Bible Society who are supporting us, that this will be a driving motivational vision for us going forward from 2022." - *Joel Peter, General Secretary of BSPNG*

Prayer Needs

- Please pray for these foundational stages of development, as they are vital in ensuring residents of PNG can access and engage with the word of God for many generations to come.
- Pray that God will provide the right people to be recruited to be part of the rebuilding team.
- Pray that BSPNG ministries will be successfully reactivated.

