

PROJECT NO: 102868

TAX | NON-TAX

South Pacific



Enabling Growth



Overview

This capacity-building project is intended to boost the effectiveness and sustainability of Bible Society South Pacific (BSSP), addressing economic obstacles caused by COVID-19 and communication challenges due to poor access to technology. Bible Society Australia will provide technical and consultative help with the project.

The Need

BSSP serves 16 independent island nations, with a total population of 2.8 million. More than half (1.7M) live between minimum wage and the poverty threshold. The impact of COVID-19 has been especially severe for these economies, as they are small islands with limited natural resources, distant from major markets and often reliant on tourism. Demand for Bibles is growing within the South Pacific. However, Bible Society is struggling to bring in new stock. COVID-19 has also impacted the Bible Society's sustainability, due to the evaporation of tourism, disruptions to international trade and supply chains, and reduced donations. Addressing their financial situation is urgent. The team is using inadequate equipment, and technological limitations make it difficult to communicate with mission and translation coordinators based in the islands.

16

independent islands which the Bible Society serves, covering 15% of the world's surface.

60%

of the population live between minimum wage and poverty threshold.

Goals

In 2023, this project aims to revitalise the ministry of Bible Society South Pacific, helping them address broader societal challenges, and ensure continuity and sustainability. Bible Society hopes to purchase new stock, especially of Bibles. The project will also provide necessary upgraded IT equipment and internet,

improving staff productivity internally and remotely. They also hope to enable stock orders ahead of time, replenishing supplies and ensuring the program can continue.

Better technology will enable greater access to mission and outreach content as they are transferred to online platforms. It will also maximise

the impact of partnerships like the Oceania Alliance, especially improving communication. Through this project, Bible Society will continue to bring God's word to the islands of the South Pacific.

Impact

This project will impact the 2.8 million people living on the 16 independent islands which Bible Society South Pacific serves. Building the capacity of Bible Society South Pacific's team will enable more effective and sustainable outreach to these islands, as well as better collaboration with partners like Bible Society Australia.

The project will counteract the effects of COVID-19, ensuring continuity for Bible Society. Better access to resources, including technology and replenished stock, will enable the team to meet growing demands for Bibles and Bible resources, addressing many community requests. Biblical materials will spread further as they are uploaded to social media, webpages and digital applications.

Testimonies

"[A] major challenge is how we have been set up and the infrastructures we have. 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."

Geoffry Miller, BSSP General Secretary.

"Bible Society South Pacific definitely needs an upgraded version of its IT equipment that will allow for better work execution, remote access and better connectivity."

Ernest and Young, auditors.

"The Bible Society of the South Pacific is the Hub for Bible Trade and has the greatest opportunity to develop into a major wholesaler for the Pacific Region because it is trading one of the world's best sellers (the Bible)."

Mr. Noel Tofinga

Prayer Needs

- Please pray that Bible Society South Pacific and local churches will find new strategies amidst challenging and rapidly changing circumstances, spreading God's word through the South Pacific.
- Pray for the safety and well-being of Bible Society staff, translators, volunteers and mission partners.
- Thank God for the Oceania Alliance and pray for effective collaboration.

