



Distributing God's Word

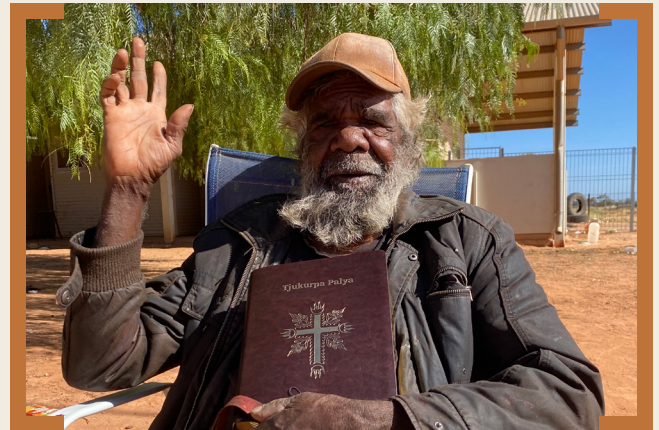
Overview

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

"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, NIV

Goals

Bible Society's goal is to develop and maintain effective distribution channels to ensure remote and Indigenous communities have access to translated Scriptures and Bible engagement resources. These include the Indigenous Scripture Grants Program, distribution through Koorong stores countrywide, digital technology (apps) and various partnerships with ministries and churches.

For the 2023 – 2024 financial year, through the Indigenous Scripture Grants Program, Bible Society's goal is to provide \$85,000 worth of Bibles and Scripture engagement resources free of charge for ministry to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia. This Scripture Grant helps ensure that translated Bibles reach remote communities where they are needed. For those unable to read the written text, translated audio Scriptures are loaded and sent on audio players.

Impact

This Bible distribution significantly impacts ministries, churches and communities who receive Bibles in their heart languages, empowering thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to face life's challenges with Scripture in their hands and hearts.

In 2023, BSA conducted a 4,000km Distribution Tour to the APY Lands in central Australia. The team travelled by car from Adelaide to the APY Lands in northern South Australia, then onto Western Australian communities and north into the Northern Territory.

The Distribution Tour visited ten communities, from Mimili, Fregon, Ernabella in SA, Wingellina in WA and Docker River in NT, distributing Pitjantjatjara resources, including Bibles, Hymnbooks, posters in language, and the newly translated and published *Jesus Calms the Storm* children's storybook, all well-received by the communities.

Testimonies

"[The] Indulkana mob swarmed our table like bees to a honey pot, very desperate to purchase resources. Lots of enthusiasm ... I am sure there will be lots of demand for Bibles, as some of these communities haven't been visited in about four years. It feels good to get God's word into peoples' actual hands after spending so long translating it.

"At Mutitjulu yesterday I met Clem, a man in his 80s and one of the original members of the Ernabella Choir. He was so happy to receive a Gospel of Mark, and I gave him a Pitjantjatjara Hymnbook as well. We sang, 'Jesu, Nyuntukunitjun' (Jesus, Master, Whose I Am); this was a real highlight from the trip so far." — Dave Barnett, Pitjantjatjara Translation Project Advisor

Prayer Needs

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