



## Disaster Recovery Grant

### Overview

Bible Society Australia (BSA) seeks to serve and equip groups who are ministering to Australians in all areas of life by providing Scripture Grants which can be used to acquire Bibles and Scripture resources. This includes the Disaster Recovery grant. BSA supplies Bibles and gospel resources via chaplains and gospel workers.



### The Need

Emergency chaplains, front line gospel workers and local churches are often among the first responders in any emergency, helping people in difficult circumstances, sharing God's hope and the good news of Jesus.

The Commonwealth and New South Wales governments have Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Networks (DRCN) as part of their emergency management plan. The DRCN is a network of trained chaplains from different Christian denominations and religious faiths who provide spiritual and emotional support during and after major disasters.

There is a great need for the Disaster Recovery grant in providing Scripture resources, so that those ministering can help people begin a journey of healing with God's word.

# \$250m

every year (estimated) is spent on flood recovery in NSW

# 45k - 65k

bushfires require responses from fire services in Australia each year.

**"Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you not to worry about your life! Don't worry about having something to eat or wear. Life is more than food or clothing. Look at the crows! They don't plant or harvest, and they don't have storehouses or barns. But God takes care of them. You are much more important than any birds. Can worry make you live longer? If you don't have power over small things, why worry about everything else?"**

Luke 12:22-26, CEV

# Goals

The goal of this project is to Open The Bible to people experiencing disaster. By resourcing front line workers, churches, and affected individuals with the Scriptures and gospel materials, they can engage people with God's word. This grant shares the transformative hope of the gospel and equips gospel workers with both God's word and the ability to encourage and disciple those they work with.

In 2024, this project is aiming to support more ministries, giving them the resources they need to share the Gospel and disciple people who are facing various emergency situations.

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# Impact

The impact of these grants has been seen in the changed lives of recipients, and the stories and testimonies from chaplains, outreach workers and the recipients of Bibles and Scripture resources.

As we know, many victims of disasters and tragedies need help immediately but also over the longer term. During the 2022-2023 financial year, BSA was in contact with various communities around the country that suffered devastations of various kinds.

BSA developed a new resource called, *No Worries, God's Got You* to distribute to children whose families are going through difficult situations, as well as providing the Bible devotional by Nick Hawkes addressing suffering, *Soar Above the Storm*. These were offered along with BSA's usual trauma healing resources and Scriptures.

In the 2022-2023 financial year, BSA supplied a range of resources to ministries on the front line helping those recovering from devastating events, including the popular *No Worries* tracts, specialised Bibles, New Testaments, and Gospels, 'Meet Jesus' Bible studies, trauma healing booklets and trauma healing postcards.

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# Testimonies

"I accepted the trauma related resources (*Beyond Trauma* booklet, the *Beyond Trauma* post-card, and *No Worries* for children) ... I'm glad I did! The card is a very accessible way for people to get some helpful and practical insights into what they're experiencing. The booklet is also very accessible, is well informed, the 'posture' feels both pastoral and professional, the use of Biblical references and insights seems very appropriate — reassuring and powerful yet sensitive ... God is at work even, and perhaps especially at a time like this ..." — Rev Steve, Lismore, 2022

"These are the best resources to speak into their pain." — Rosemary, chaplain

"Resources offered here are fantastic! We have been doing a lot of work in the disaster area over the last decade so excited to see dedicated resources!" — Carly, chaplaincy coordinator

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# Prayer Needs

- Pray for continued opportunities to Open The Bible with Australians in crisis situations, such as floods, the COVID pandemic and other natural disasters.
- Pray for emergency workers to be raised up, and equipped with soft hearts, listening ears, and wisdom to share God's word with those facing seemingly insurmountable troubles and deep sorrow.