



Equipping Chaplains

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 Chaplaincy and Parachurch grant (C&P), through which BSA supplies Scriptures and gospel resources in English and also heart languages for people from other nations via chaplains and gospel workers.

The Need

The C&P grant allows chaplains and those serving with Christian ministries to reach out to people in prisons, detention centres, hospitals, aged care homes, youth hubs, red-light districts and other circumstances of vulnerability, providing resources relevant and helpful for whatever situation people find themselves in.

The needs vary. Many of the patients in hospitals that these chaplains would minister to, for example, haven't been to church for years and have no regular Christian teaching input. Hospital admissions, serious illnesses or injuries are often catalysts for them to rethink about their relationship with God. The Bibles and Scripture resources provide for them a gentle reminder of God's goodness, love and mercy, and provide comfort.

This grant also supports ministries running English as an additional language groups and classes. The grant helps fund Bibles and resources for all these groups.



8.2%

decrease in number of people affiliated with Christianity in Australia from 12.2 million (52.1%) in 2016 to 11.1 million (43.9%) in 2021. (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

46%

of millennials in Australia have reported having no religion and have the highest proportion of 'No religion' across other age groups in Australia (2021 ABS census)

11.6m

hospitalisations in Australia from 2021-2022 (AIHW)

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age."

Goals

The goal of this project is to Open The Bible to people in vulnerable situations, and to meet them where they are at. By resourcing front line workers with the Scriptures and gospel materials, they can engage people with God's word. This grant shares the transformative hope of the gospel, as gospel workers are equipped with God's word and the ability to encourage and disciple those they work with.

A goal of the project is to support Bible Society Australia's grant partners, who are reaching out to their culturally diverse neighbours with friendship, English lessons and the good news about Jesus. To support churches in this valuable ministry, Bible Society Australia partners with Anglicare's Cross Cultural Services to produce English teaching resources.

In 2024, this project will continue to serve existing partners, as well as find and support more ministries, giving them the Scriptures and resources they need to share the gospel and disciple people who have come to faith.

Impact

The impact of the C&P Scripture Grant has been seen in the changed lives of recipients, and the stories and testimonies from chaplains, outreach workers and the beneficiaries who have received Bibles and Scripture resources.

In the 2022-2023 financial year, BSA partnered with chaplains and supplied Scripture resources to:

- 40 prison ministries
- 25 hospitals chaplaincy teams
- 61 'other' ministries.

From July 2022- June 2023, BSA gave away tens of thousands of Bibles and Scripture resources to front line gospel workers, including Bibles in languages other than English and specialised Christian tracts.

Testimonies

"One patient approached me for a Bible. After he received his copy, he read it ... He hooked up with another Christian on the ward and they have started reading and studying the Bible together daily. They have gotten numerous studies off me (including one that the grant allowed me to purchase). The patient has told me he feels a peace in his life that he has never felt before and he has set his heart on being baptised and finding a church when he gets out." — Don, hospital chaplain

Prayer Needs

- Pray for continued opportunities to Open The Bible with Australians, for workers to be raised up, and for open hearts to hear God's word, particularly those suffering great loss, seemingly insurmountable troubles and deep sorrow.
- Pray that many will turn to Christ and continue to grow as Christians with God's word as their light and guide.