



Bibles for the Young

Overview

The Bible Society of Kenya is committed to placing a Bible in the hands of marginalised young people, one student at a time, as a part of the Christian Religious Education in schools. The motivating hope of this project is that even when they are old, they will then turn to God's word and not away.

The Need

According to a 2022 UNESCO data, there are 8 million primary and 7.8 million secondary Kenyan students, all of whom can participate in Christian Religious Education at school. Kenya is a Christian country and as a result, both Christian Religious Education (in primary and secondary school) and the Program for Pastoral Instruction (PPI in primary school) are approved by the Kenya School system.

However, according to earlier research by a child outreach network, 98% of public primary schools do not have Bibles available in the classroom to assist in these lessons. Kenya is described as a lower-middle income economy. Due to poverty, many families do not own a Bible.



8m

Kenyan primary students

7.8m

Kenyan secondary students

98%

of public primary schools do not have Bibles

49,431

copies of Scriptures have been distributed to students by Bible Society since 2017.

"Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life."

Proverbs 22:6, GNB

Goals

Each year, this project seeks to place a Bible in the hands of 5,500 children in urban poor and rural Kenya, through children's homes, slum schools, and other schools, with the aim of transforming lives through engagement with God's word.

In 2024, the Bible Society of Kenya aims to distribute 7,745 copies of Bibles to Kenyan school students in urban poor and rural areas.

This project's activities for 2024 include mapping out the distribution areas, contacting schools and developing a distribution calendar from January to March. This is followed by the distribution process scheduled for March to July.

The Bible Society of Kenya also aims to create awareness of Scripture engagement strategies like the Program for Pastoral Instruction (PPI) and Open the Book. Each quarter, this project will monitor, evaluate and report on the progress.

Impact

While the ultimate goal of this project is audacious and eternal — that when they are grown, students will continue to turn to God's word and not away from it — the initial impact will be seen in improved performance in the Christian Religious Education subject. It is hoped that with the availability of Bibles, the PPI classes will be brought to life for primary students.

Since 2017, the Bible Society has distributed over 49,431 copies of appropriate Scriptures to children in 24 children's homes, 317 schools in over 40 counties in Kenya. Impact reports received indicate that Bible knowledge among young people has increased, leading to noticeable behavioural change, especially in children's homes and slum schools.

Continued distribution of Bibles among children from low-income backgrounds increases regular Bible reading across the whole family. Through this project, families with no Scriptures are now exposed to God's word, and Bible engagement is increasing among the children who receive Bibles for themselves.

Testimonies

"The English version of GNB is ... very easy to search Bible verses since there are reference section which can easily look into. I also enjoy carrying my Bible and notebook to church when I go to church, a new behaviour which I had not embraced before I got this Bible. My favourite scripture is Psalm 91: 11 and it reminds me always that God is my protector." — Victor, who received his Good News Bible in grade 6.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that more Bibles will be available so the children and youth across Kenya will be reached with the Scriptures.
- Pray for positive transformation for students and their families, that God's word will touch their hearts and minds and leave an eternal mark in their lives.
- Pray that the children will become great ambassadors of God's love.