



Literacy Advice in Asia Pacific

Overview

This project aims to strengthen Bible Societies in the Asia Pacific for literacy work by funding United Bible Societies (UBS) Literacy Advisors. Advisors collaborate globally to establish a literacy framework, guide project prioritisation, ensure quality, and assist Bible Societies in planning and implementing literacy programs in their countries.



The Need

Without help from literacy experts, Bible Society literacy projects would lack quality in design and implementation. Literacy experts are required to ensure that projects are the very best in both of these areas.

Literacy work is central to Bible Society's mission around the world, educating the non-literate, and breaking down the barriers imposed by illiteracy. Equipping people with literacy enriches their lives in many ways, including enabling them to read God's word for themselves.

The United Bible Societies are committed to giving the 750 million non-literate adults around the world access to God's word.

750m

non-literate adults around the world

18

Bible Societies in 52 countries are supported by UBS

26

Bible Society staff from 13 Bible Societies attended the Literacy training workshop in June 2023.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Proverbs 29:18a, KJV

Goals

This project aims to fund literacy specialists for the Asia Pacific region, benefiting Bible Societies by enhancing literacy project standards and providing direct support. Literacy Advisors work on a global strategy, strengthen links between Bible translation and literacy, guide program initiation, assess literacy needs, foster partnerships with other agencies, and assist in planning, implementing, and evaluating UBS literacy projects.

In 2024, the project aims to continue the services of the literacy specialist for Asia and appoint an additional specialist for the Pacific region (a goal previously delayed by the global pandemic), aiming to elevate literacy projects by Bible Societies in both regions.

Impact

It is expected that there will ultimately be 100,000 beneficiaries of this project over the 3 ½ years of the project.

The direct beneficiaries are the Bible Society staff involved in literacy work; all the staff involved in literacy projects in the Asia Pacific will receive quality support and hands-on assistance from a literacy expert. The indirect beneficiaries will be the literacy graduates and their families and communities.

Testimonies

“Pray for the literacy projects, that we will have adequate specialists. There was a time we did not have specialists and literacy, but now there are literacy specialists. They’re able to make an impact. And so we need [them] ... to not simply do the work but do the work in the right way.” — Julian Sundersingh, UBS Global Literacy Coordinator

“Establishing a global framework for literacy is like a guide for the Bible Society staff doing literacy projects and programs around the world... So, it’s like a step-by-step guide for them how to do a project. So, [it gives] the principles behind why they do what they do. The principles behind literacy, reading and writing and of course, project management materials development training at the church.” — Mansueto (Cito) Casquite, UBS Literacy Advisor (Asia-Pacific)

Prayer Needs

- Praise God that BSA is able to commit to and support this project.
- Praise God for Cito, the Literacy Advisor for Asia Pacific, and for the quality assistance he has been providing to Bible Societies.
- Pray for increased literacy class opportunities for non-literate individuals, particularly in the Asia Pacific, through this project.
- Ask for God’s guidance for UBS and BSA in appointing the right candidate as UBS Literacy Advisor for the Pacific.