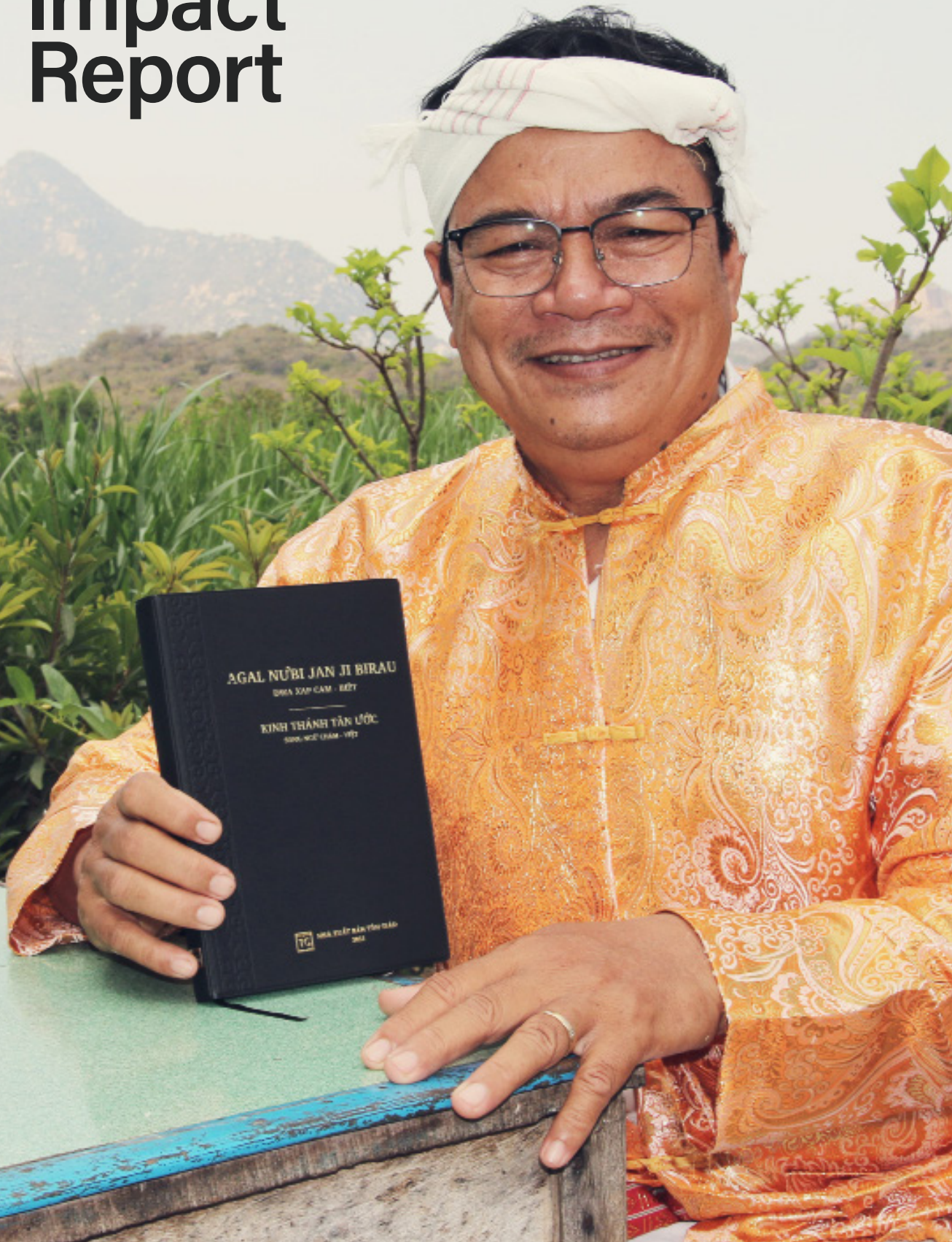


2024



Annual Impact Report



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НОВИЙ ЗАПОВІТ

Господа й Спасителя
нашого Ісуса Христа

УРЕДАВОВАНО ІЛІЯНОМ КОМАРОВОМ

Who we are

Bible Society Australia exists to impact and influence the world by **Opening The Bible to all people everywhere through all means possible.**

*We do this to see a world where **Bible access and engagement** flow like a river, transforming lives with God's grace through Jesus.*

As a team we work with the Bible at our centre, with integrity, with excellence, in unity, and with innovation.

A message from the CEO



Dear friends,

I am pleased to share Bible Society Australia (BSA)'s Annual Impact Report for 2023-2024, highlighting the global impact we've achieved together. As you read through this report, you'll also see how great the need is around the world for God's word to be opened to all people, everywhere. Together, we are accomplishing this great mission!

In the past year, BSA has collaborated within the global United Bible Societies fellowship and also in our region, Oceania. Together with our partners, we supported 53 projects across 33 countries, facilitating Bible access and engagement for thousands. We've translated, published, and distributed Bibles to those longing for God's word. Our projects have seen the Bible opened for people in ways that meet their deepest needs: through literacy education, trauma healing, or holistic support.

Our work has a spiritual impact on beneficiaries, shown by a willingness to receive Scripture, an understanding that God's word is important and valuable, and in the way people's actions are changed.

It is encouraging to see side by side the need of those living in poverty and displacement for their own copy of God's word, and the work Bible Society is doing to meet that need. For example, among the 3.7 million displaced people in Ukraine, Bible Society distributed 93,414 Scriptures in just the last financial year.

We're also addressing the needs of Australians, of whom 43.96% identify as Christians. Our support for

the evangelism efforts of more than 634 churches during the 'Jesus. All About Life' campaign reached 10,850 individuals at sponsored events this Easter. While only about 55% of Australians own a Bible, we supplied 23,706 New Beginnings Bibles to churches and printed 20,000 copies of the new 'Read This' Bible for young people. Remote and Indigenous communities received 3,269 Bibles through our ministry support grants, alongside hundreds of Scriptures in Indigenous languages.

Lastly, this report illustrates our efforts as the BSA group, working together to Open The Bible for all people, including the timely work of the Centre for Public Christianity, the Christian books published by Acorn Press, and the dedicated Koorong store teams nationwide. This financial year also included the difficult decision to close Eternity News, following a review of its media ministry. While Eternity had a significant impact among Australian Christians, as a media ministry, it no longer aligned with BSA leadership's strategy to implement our mission and vision into the future.

We are eternally grateful for your support — donors, church partners, and faithful volunteers — making it possible for all people everywhere to access the Bible and engage with God's grace in Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Grant Thomson

Chief Executive Officer, Bible Society Australia

A message from the Chairman



I commend to you, with gratitude for the grace of God, the work undertaken by Bible Society Australia throughout 2023-2024. Our mission, of 'Opening The Bible to all people, everywhere, by all means possible,' is one that is served faithfully by our staff, leadership and the Board of Bible Society Australia. As Chair, I see the incredible efforts of so many people in our organisation, our supporters, and our partner organisations, who are passionate about Scripture access and engagement.

This report highlights our efforts over the past year to address Bible poverty globally through translation and distribution projects, while also helping thousands engage with God's word through literacy and holistic support projects. I remain motivated in mission when I consider the sobering reality that 1 in 5 people are still waiting for the Bible in their language, and that 50% of the world's languages lack Scripture.

It is encouraging to see that in 2023, Bible Societies globally completed translations in 106 languages, reaching 1.25 billion people, and that in 2024, Bible Society Australia is supporting Bible translation in 9 countries and 25 languages.

As we reflect on the achievements outlined in this report, we realise there is much more to do. The Board of BSA, comprised of dedicated directors who generously give of their time and expertise, is focused on guiding our strategic direction for the future. As we prayerfully position the organisation in complex and changing environments — both economically and geo-politically — we know that God is at work and we seek to be faithful stewards, planting and pruning

for long-term growth and mission effectiveness. We are focused on expanding BSA's missional impact, continuing to serve the church in Oceania, building trust with our supporters, and creating new digital engagement opportunities, all while being faithful to our purpose and responsibilities.

This report underscores our collaborative partnerships with mission partners around the world, and we want to also sincerely thank you for your ongoing support, which is vital to our mission's success.

"... they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do" (Psalm 1:1-3, NLT).

This Scripture assures us that those who meditate on God's word will find strength, encouragement and prosperity. We remain focused on the many people who struggle to connect with Scripture in languages they don't understand, or from lack of opportunity to engage with it. Ensuring that all people have access to the Bible, and the opportunity to engage with it, is a noble task we continue, together.

I pray that this report would fill you with encouragement and hope. Thank you for your support, prayers and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Pastor Ruth Limkin
Chairman of the Board, Bible Society Australia

[International]

Where are we working?

Where is Bible Society Australia working globally (in 2023-2024)?

33

Countries

Regions:

07

Middle East

09

Asia

08

Africa

08

South Pacific

01

Central America

Globally, Bible Society Australia works with:

22

Bible Society Partners

05

Other Mission Partners



Reach through the United Bible Societies network

Bible Society Australia belongs to the United Bible Societies, which is a Fellowship of around 150 Bible Societies working in more than 240 countries and territories.

Reach through Bible Societies Oceania

38 Million+ people to reach with God's word.

Bible Societies Oceania: Bible Society South Pacific
Bible Society Papua New Guinea
Bible Society Australia

Sharing an aligned mission, the same vision and the same commitment

Serving 19 countries across the region



Bible Societies Oceania

Bible Societies Oceania (BSO) is a partnership between Bible Society Australia, Bible Society South Pacific and Bible Society Papua New Guinea. BSO shares an aligned mission, the same vision, and the same commitment for Bible access and engagement for all people.

19

Countries served by BSO throughout the region.

2.3m

Population in the South Pacific

10m

Population in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

27m

Population in Aus

Needs

Papua New Guinea

800+

languages spoken

306

languages with no Scripture

368

active Bible translation projects (April 2024)

400+

languages with some translation

35%

average rate of illiteracy

South Pacific

290

languages across the 16 island nations

79

active Bible translation projects

24%

rate of illiteracy in the Solomon Islands

Many languages have no Scripture translation, and all need Bible engagement resources.

Meeting the Needs



6 active Bible translation projects working in **23** languages to reach **7.9m+** people in the South Pacific and PNG

7 translation agencies and **5** Bible Societies have been working on a regional **Bible Translation Collaboration** over the last **6** years

500+ students learning literacy skills through BSO's project in the Solomon Islands in the **first 6 months of 2024** (exceeding the yearly goal of 480 students)

145 people from **7 communities** across Vanuatu engaged with God's word to deal with trauma, at domestic abuse trauma healing sessions (Jan-Mar 2024)

The South Pacific Bible Forum



97 delegates from **14 counties** and **44 organisations** met to collaborate on Bible translation in the region at the South Pacific Bible Forum. **60% of delegates** were South Pacific Islanders

7 countries across the region have also begun **National Collaboration groups** to facilitate Bible mission work within their specific countries





Buk
Baibel

[International]

Bible Access in World Languages

Needs



1.46b

people still have no access to the full Bible in their heart languages



188m

people still have no Scriptures in their languages



1 in 5

people still waiting for the Bible in their language



50%

of the world's languages have no Scripture at all

Meeting the Needs

January-December 2023*, Bible Societies across the world completed Scripture translations in:

106
languages

1.25b
people

2024 BSA Bible Translation Projects



10
Projects



9
Countries



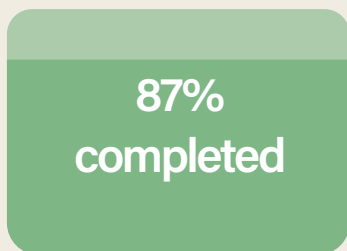
25
Languages

*United Bible Societies statistics relate to the calendar year, 2023.

| | Need | Progress |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>744 languages have a full Bible out of 7,396</p> | <p>16 languages received full Bibles in 2023 through Bible Societies work worldwide</p> <p>2 languages are having full Bibles translated in 2024 with BSA's support (in Vietnam and New Caledonia)</p> |
|  | <p>1,682 languages have New Testaments</p> | <p>17 languages received New Testaments in 2023 through the work of Bible Societies worldwide</p> <p>4 languages in Vanuatu are having New Testaments translated with BSA support in 2024</p> |
|  | <p>1,261 languages have Scripture portions</p> | <p>72 languages received Scripture portions in 2023 through Bible Societies work worldwide</p> <p>7 languages in PNG are having Scripture portions translated with BSA support in 2024</p> |

Progress with Contemporary Bible Translations

Languages evolve over time and younger generations find it difficult, even impossible, to understand older Scripture translations. **New and revised translations enable greater Bible engagement.**



Mongolian
Contemporary
Translation



Tok Pisin Bible
Contemporary
Revision



Vietnamese
Minority Language
Old Testament

[International]



Spiritual Impact of Bible Translation

"When I opened the Bible, I felt something new in my heart, like a peace and joy that I never had before."

— Hung*, a 45-year-old Eastern Cham man

Hung is one of the few but growing number of Christians among the Eastern Cham people — one of Vietnam's 54 ethnic groups, with a small population of about 132,000. Many Cham people find the Bible in Vietnamese difficult to understand, as they mainly communicate in the Cham language when speaking and listening.

Despite significant opposition from neighbours and relatives, who accused Hung of betraying his ancestors and people, Hung found solace in reading his Bible. While he treasured his Vietnamese Bible, Hung longed for a Bible in his native Eastern Cham language, as he found hearing God's word in his heart language more impactful.

Pastor Daniel* has ministered among the Eastern Cham for many years. He remembers translating some passages of the Bible into Cham to use in church services. He says, "I witnessed the fruitfulness of sharing the Bible in our heart language."

On the 4 March 2024, after close to nine years of dedicated work, a decision to publish the Eastern Cham New Testament was granted.

"The Bible is my source of strength and comfort. It teaches me how to live as a Christian in a hostile environment. It reminds me of God's promises and presence with me. It gives me hope for the future. I pray that many Eastern Cham people will have access to God's word in their mother tongue. I pray that they will read it, understand it, believe it, and obey it. I pray that they will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour," says Hung.

*Names changed to protect privacy.

Bible Access and Literacy

Needs



13.4%

of the world's population cannot read and write.

Illiteracy Among Women

67%

of non-literate adults are **women**

Childhood Illiteracy

70%

of **children** in developing countries are estimated to be **unable to read a simple text by age 10**

Geographic Illiteracy

75%+

of **non-literate adults** in the world are located in **South Asia, the Middle East, and sub-Saharan Africa**

Illiteracy & Poverty

On average, non-literate adults earn

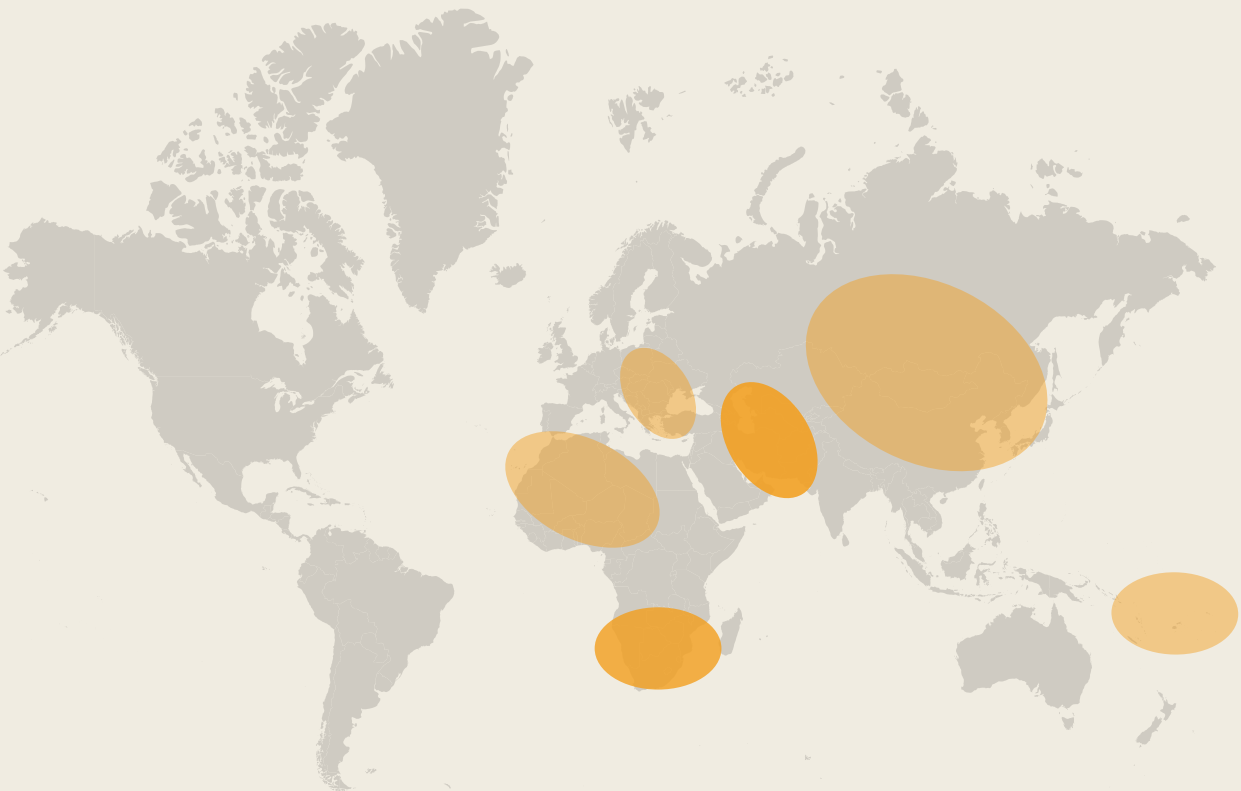
30-42% less

than their literate counterparts.

Meeting the Needs

January-December 2023, the United Bible Societies fellowship conducted **42 literacy projects in 106 languages**. Through the UBS fellowship in 2023, BSA reached thousands of students:

| | Enrolled | Graduated |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| Children | 15,989 | 12,067 |
| Men | 4,789 | 2,961 |
| Women | 15,049 | 11,362 |



Overall, BSA supported **literacy projects** in **16 countries** over the 2023-24 financial year.

Literacy for Adults

In 2024, BSA is reaching adults with literacy in **12 countries**:

Cambodia

1,908 students enrolled in the first 6 months of 2024

Mozambique

587 students in the Literacy for Life project who gained basic reading and writing skills

Solomon Islands

507 students in the Opening Eyes Through Literacy course

Literacy for Women

BSA is reaching women with literacy, and is either meeting or exceeding yearly student goals in 2024:



Literacy for Children

BSA is reaching children with literacy, with these number of students in this financial year:

300

Bangladesh

Less than 1/3 of children aged 3-5 are on track to meet literacy and numeracy goals.

3,762

Lebanon

187,000 Syrian and Iraqi registered refugee children in Lebanon are unable to attend school.

800+

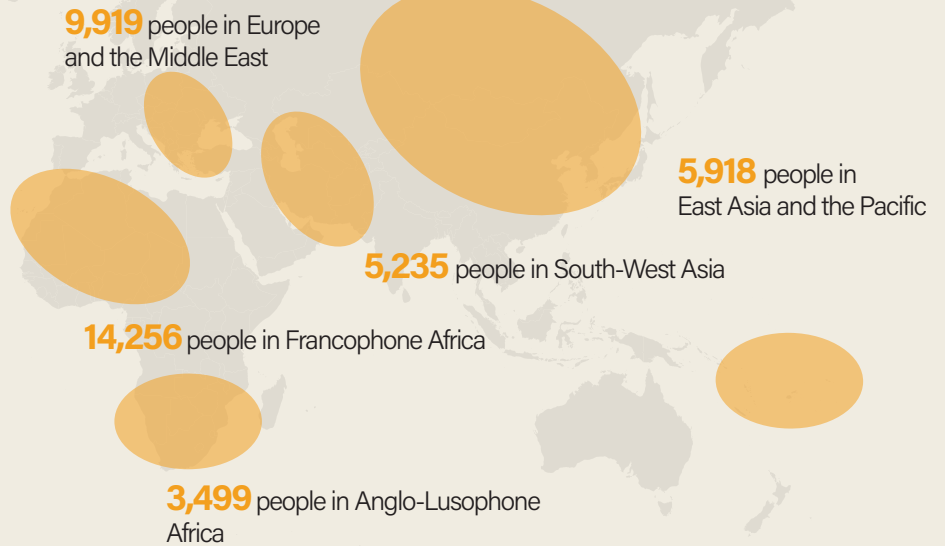
Sri Lanka

85% of third grade children in Sri Lanka do not reach the minimum literacy and numeracy skills.

Geographic Illiteracy

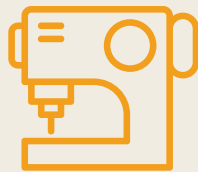
BSA is supporting literacy projects in regions with the lowest literacy.

From Jan-Dec 2023, through the UBS fellowship, BSA supported the literacy education of:



Illiteracy & Poverty

Many literacy projects supported by BSA also aim to equip students with skills to enrich their lives and help them earn a living.



Bangladesh

Students are given training, **50 sewing machines** and cattle and small aids for farming are provided for the third-year students to share.



Pakistan

In 2024, **1,550 women** had their vision checked as a part of the literacy project, with many receiving glasses and eye drops for treatment.



Mozambique

80% of graduates are more actively involved in church, 95% read their Bible more than once a week, and 92% have improved life skills and confidence.



South Sudan

Graduates are becoming leaders in the community and in church, as well as literacy teachers.



China

Students' church attendance is increasing, with some even serving, and all better able to follow sermons.

[International]



Spiritual Impact of Bible Based Literacy Education

"I have faith in God that my dream will come true because our God is the God of the impossible."

— **Nia***, 33 year old mother of four children, Mozambique

"After the church held this literacy class ... the participants ... could [just] read the Bible, and when the preacher preached and read the Bible, they could [manage to] turn to the passage they were reading, and followed the preacher, [reading] it slowly. In terms of spiritual life, they love the Lord's word more, and they are more interested in the meetings held by the church for Bible reading, prayer, and worship. It can be said that through the study, they have pursued their spiritual life more, and their life with the Lord has become closer than before."

— **UBS China Partnership report**

"The first day I learned to read a letter of the alphabet, I was filled with great joy ... Later, I learned to write my own name. This was a great achievement for me. Afterwards, the facilitator taught us to read simple and short verses. It was [a pinnacle moment] for me who was eager to read the Bible ... When I couldn't read or write, I was ashamed of myself ... Now I am happy and proud of myself ... Everything I learn will help me improve my married life, my daughter's education and my spiritual life. I plan to share this knowledge with those around me for our living environment. When I see the facilitator teaching, I want to become like her in order to share my knowledge with others."

— **Mira Gou***, married and mother of a daughter, Burkina Faso

"When I heard about Mission Educate's Literacy for Life Project, I immediately enrolled. My aim was to complete the literacy course and receive my Primary Equivalency Certificate ... I could finally see an opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a primary school teacher.

"Today, as a result of my studies ... I can completely master the letters of the alphabet, write my name and write a letter ... I am immensely grateful to the Bible Society of Australia for providing us with all the necessary materials we need to transform our lives. Their investment into the Mozambican community is changing lives. I have faith in God that my dream will come true because our God is the God of the impossible."

— **Nia***, Mozambique

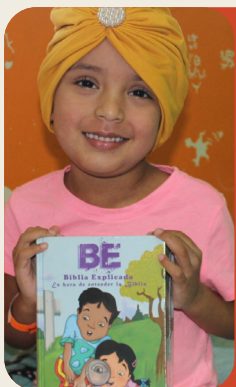
*Names changed to protect privacy.

[International]

Bible Access Through Distribution

Meeting the Needs

Access to the Bible is hindered by poverty and displacement. Millions of Christians and seekers long for a copy of God's word. For the 2023-34 financial year, Scriptures were distributed in:



Nicaragua

has 300 new cases of childhood cancer per year, and 30% living under the poverty line.

86,377
Scriptures



Kenya

has only 2% of schools with Bibles for students studying Christianity.

21,783
Scriptures



Ukraine

has 3.7 million people displaced within the country.

93,414
Scriptures



Israel

has close to 90,000 people internally displaced.

5,743
Scriptures



Jordan

has 760,000 refugees.

10,245
Scriptures



China

has 46 million (unofficially, 100 million) Christians, most whom live in poverty.

34,768
Bibles



South Africa

has 164,000+ prisoners, most whom have never owned a Bible.

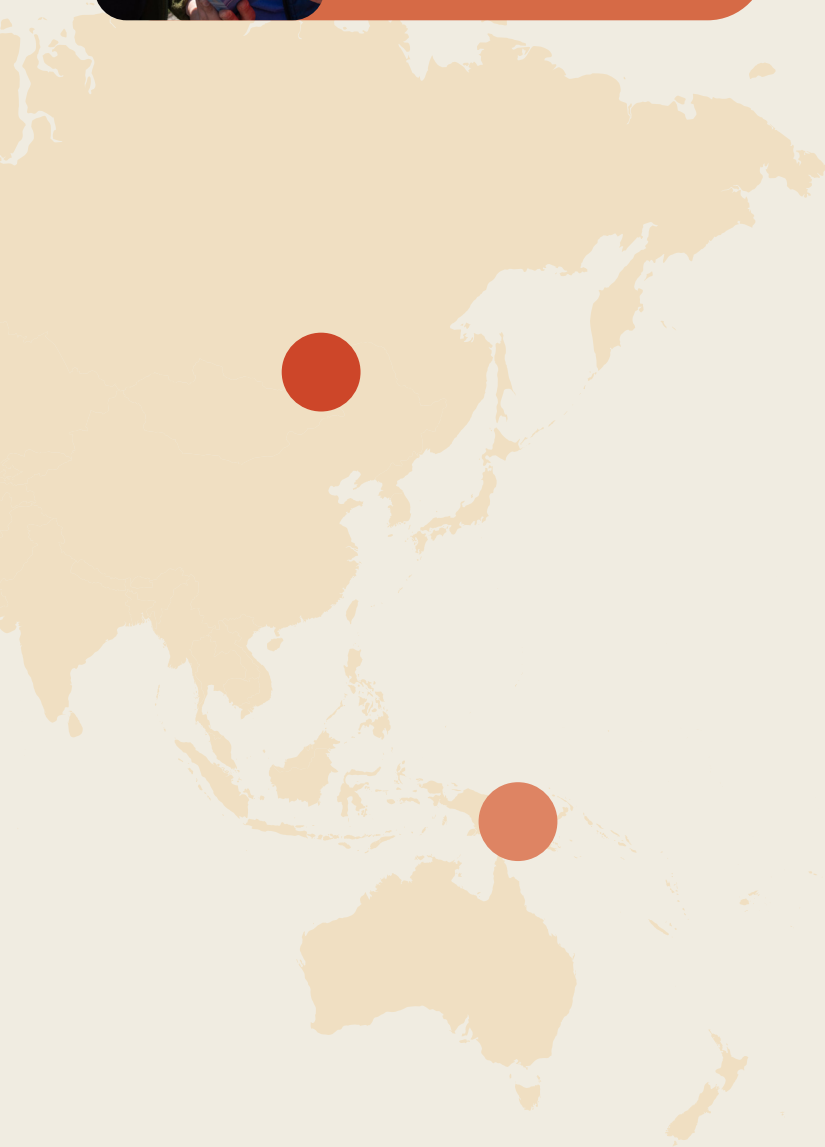
4,900
Bibles for Prisoners



Papua New Guinea

has 750 million living in the isolated Keram area, with strong churches but few Bibles.

500
MegaVoice audio Bibles



[International]



Spiritual Impact of Bible Distribution

“Now that I’ve studied the Bible, I’m not afraid of others’ judgment. I just want to follow Jesus.”

- Xian Zhao*, China

“I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to you for allowing us to deeply feel God’s great love. The moment we held the Bible in our hands, our hearts were overwhelmed with excitement ... For us, this gift is too precious. Our place is in a rural area that is not rich, and even though a Bible costs less than 30 yuan, for those of us in the countryside who don’t have much income, we don’t have the luxury of buying one. The Bibles that many people hold in their hands during meetings are wrapped in book covers, and even when they are worn out and the pages have fallen out, they don’t want to replace them with a new one. Thank you for caring about us, loving us so much, and carefully preparing such good Bibles for us. All of our family members were deeply touched by your love.”

— Haoyu*, Chinese Christian

“I used to feel like the most shameful person — being poor and looked down upon by others. Now that I’ve studied the Bible, I’m not afraid of others’ judgment. I just want to follow Jesus. Jesus is my only Savior. Without Him, I would be bound by sin.”

— Xian Zhao*, China.

“This Bible will help me ... in my Christian Religious Education subject, and I hope through reading at home, my dad who is an alcoholic will get born again ... He has been telling me to hate my mother, but I believe that is not what God required of me. Change will come to our family because of this Bible!”

— Amani*, 14 years old, Kenya

*Names changed to protect privacy.

[International]

Holistic Relief and Bible Engagement

Needs

75.9m

Internally Displaced People in 2023



120m⁺
refugees (May 2024)



50%
increase in the number
of internally displaced
people (IDPs) in the
last 5 years.



1.7m
refugees in Lebanon

760,000
refugees in Jordan

Meeting the Needs

Holistic Support (Trauma Healing, practical aid, refugee support)

BSA has made an impact in people's lives through supporting Bible based trauma healing classes in Kenya, Syria, Vanuatu and Israel, along with practical and spiritual support for refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.

Jordan

(Jan-June 2024)

3,113 refugee and disadvantaged Jordanian families were assisted with basic needs. 1,243 Bibles were offered and received by these people.

Youseff*, a Syrian refugee says, "Our faith was strengthened and our physical needs were met. The love and support we received from our church community allowed us to start rebuilding our lives after the trauma we endured."

Youseff continues, "Today, our family is doing much better. We still face challenges, but we have found a community that supports us and helps us to move forward..."

Kenya

(Jan-June 2024)

83 girls (12-19yrs) who experienced trauma participated in the Bible-based Arise healing program. They learnt to share without holding back their experiences, and had the opportunity to consider healing by letting go of anger, bitterness, unforgiveness.

A Bible Society of Kenya staff member says, "the girls learnt how to deal with the pain they had endured for a long time. They were helped to take that pain to Jesus and find healing through forgiveness of all those who hurt them..."

As they have healed from their trauma, most of the girls have been reintegrated back into mixed boarding secondary schools.

Lebanon

(Jan-June 2024)

1,619 refugee children attended the 'Reconcile!' drama program, bringing them joy, hope, and forgiveness through the Word of God. 1,610 refugees in the camps willingly received Scripture.

Amir*, a 10-year-old Syrian refugee understood the message of the drama, and when asked if doing wrong things for money brings happiness, he replied, "No, only Jesus' love brings true joy."

Lamar, one of the presenters of Reconcile! says: "Children come to talk to me after the program, expressing their happiness. Some teenagers, who attended our programs years ago, come with their siblings and tell me how our programs changed their lives."





[Australia]

Bible Access for Indigenous Australians

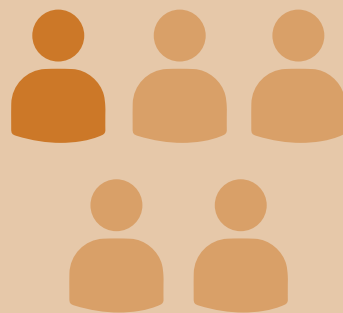
Needs

Bible Distribution in Remote Areas



43.8%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in regional areas



21.4%

live in remote or very remote areas, **making access to the Bible difficult**

Meeting the Needs

Bible orders fulfilled through BSA's Scripture Grant for Remote and Indigenous Communities by state:



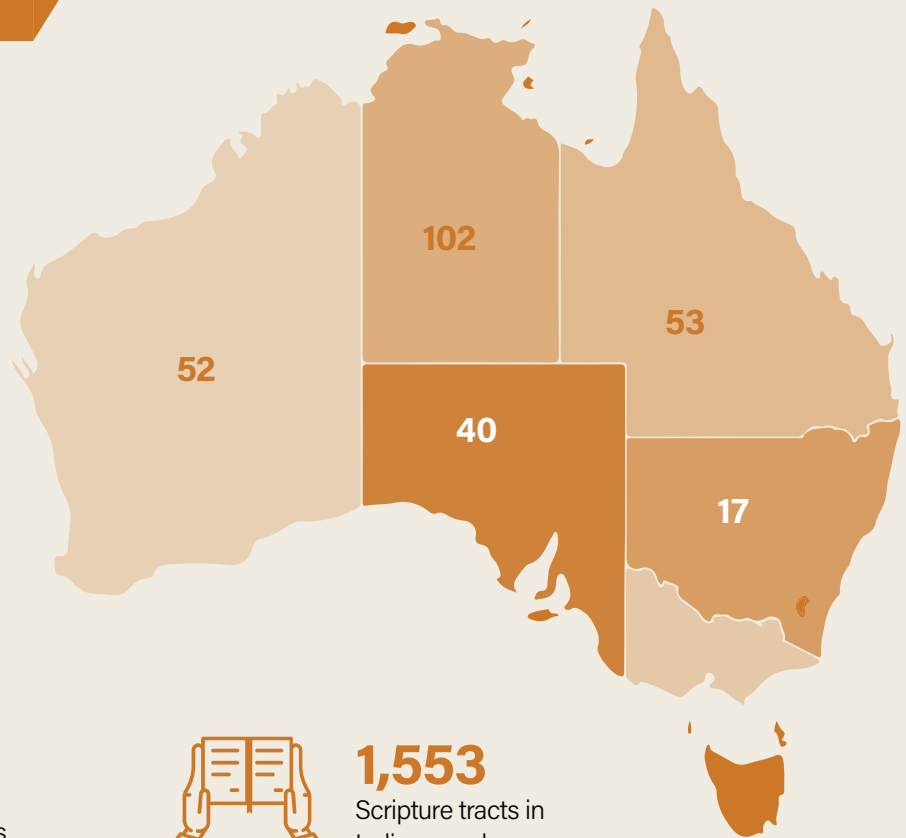
3,269
Bibles



683
Scriptures in
Indigenous Languages



1,553
Scripture tracts in
Indigenous languages



“Thanks for all your support in sending resources that really help a lot and make a big difference when I’m encouraging people to come and accept the Lord. Up here a lot of countrymen can’t read but you hear a lot of testimonies where they say they can’t read but they can read the Bible.”

— **Deirdre Butters, Western Australia**

“Receiving the grant significantly enhance(s) our ability to provide spiritual support to Aboriginal patients at Alice Springs Hospital. Many of these patients prefer to read and speak in their own languages rather than in English.”

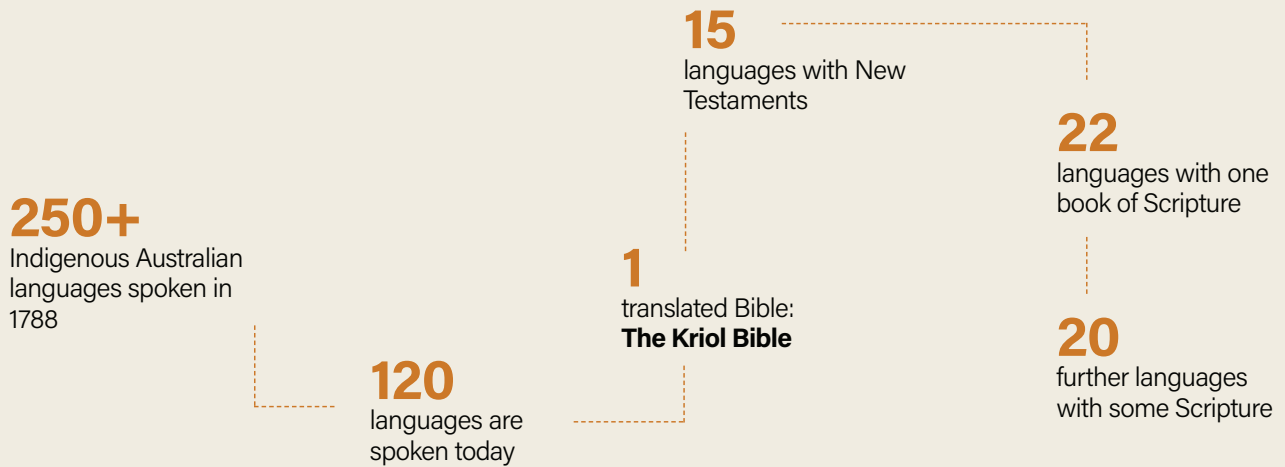
— **A hospital chaplain, Alice Springs**

“We need Bibles and Scripture resources for the whole Indigenous Community. Mature believers, new believers, children, youth and adults — all of the people need Bible studies, daily Bible devotions, and Sunday School resources. [So] the resources have been devoured by people here ...”

— **Sally Hawkins, Pioneers Australia, Milingimbi (an island community just off the North-East coast of Arnhem Land)**

Needs

Bible Access in Indigenous Languages



Meeting the Needs

Bible Society Australia's translation roadmap has **27 active projects** and **100+ potential translation projects**.

Progress on some translation projects:



*created by Pitjantjatjara artists and translators, supported by BSA in collaboration with the Iwiri Corporation and Emmaus Christian College

Training Indigenous Translators

In order to facilitate Bible translation in Australian Indigenous languages, BSA is supporting Nungalinya College and the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) First Nations Ministry Training (FNMT).

Darwin, NT

Nungalinya Certificate in Bible translation:

30 students from Murrinhpatha, Yolngu Matha, and Bininj Kunwok language groups

Darwin, NT

Olive Trees Hill workshop*:

13 Indigenous translators, 9 language groups, 4 days, Acts 1:8-12 translated.

WA and SA

AEF FNMT Discipleship Training:

16 students from Broome, WA

57 students from Perth, WA

14 students from Port August, SA

*held at Nungalinya College, in partnership with AuSIL

“... hearing God’s word in your own ‘heart language’ is vital to a life of faith ... In the Northern Territory there are still around 100 First Nation Languages that are passed down as ‘mother tongues’ with around 15 which are strong and largely spread. As Indigenous people are multi-lingual, most people would understand one of these languages, even if it was not their own mother tongue. Translation work has a long history in the NT ... the great need is to continue the translation work, especially being led by trained Indigenous people so the whole process is owned by local communities.”

— Ben Van Gelderen, Principal of Nungalinya College, January 2024

[Australia]

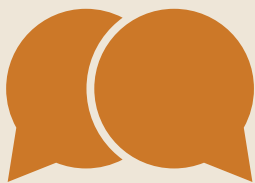


Needs

Audio Bible for Indigenous Communities

64%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people indicated a lack of literacy in their heart languages (2014 study)

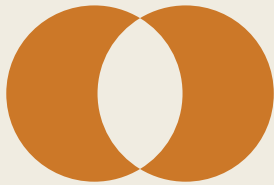


For **thousands of years** stories have been shared from **generation to generation** through oral tradition.

21
/56

Indigenous language Scriptures translated have some audio available

Meeting the Needs



BSA **collaborates with Christian ministries** to ensure access to God's word, **providing Scripture** in audio and online formats.



70%

Kriol Old Testament audio complete.

A joint* recording workshop in Darwin had 2 teams of readers and recordists working side-by-side.

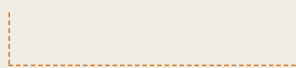
*BSA, Nungalinga College, AuSIL, and YWAM



64

Indigenous languages Scripture available online (text and some audio) on the **Australian Bibles app**. Developed by BSA with AuSIL/Wycliffe and Nungalinga College.

Top 5 languages used through the Australian Bibles app:



Kriol, Plain English Version, Gunwinggu (Kunwinjku), Gumatj, and Pintupi-Luritja





Bible Access and Engagement for Australians

Needs

55%

of Australians don't own a Bible.

This is a drop from the 90% who did in the 1950-60s.



28%

of Australian Christians read their Bible Daily or most days (2021 NCLS survey)



59%

of Australian teens hold a high view of the Bible and occasionally read it (Barna's 'The Open Generation', 2022 study)



43.9%

of Australians ticked "Christian" on the census in 2021 — a drop from 52% in 2016



16,000+

Australians use Auslan to communicate

Meeting the Needs

Auslan Bible Project



2023

Easter for Children: BSA's book, *Who, What, Why, How Easter* was produced in Auslan in partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators and released as a free resource for BSA's *Jesus. All About Life* Easter campaign.



2019

Auslan Digital Bible Launched: John's Gospel, Acts (revised), and Paul's letters (selections) available for the first time, including free access online to all Scripture translated so far.



1996

Beginnings: Christians in the Deaf community approached Bible Society translation consultant, John Harris to help them translate the Bible into Auslan.

2024

Auslan Bible on YouTube:

The Auslan Bible YouTube channel was launched, with new videos: The Lord's Prayer, Jesus Calms the Storm, The Lost Sheep, and Jesus Welcomes the Children.

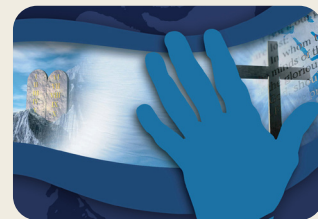


2022

Christmas for Children: BSA's book, *Who, What, Why, How Christmas* was produced in Auslan in partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators, telling children the Christmas story.

2020

A New Team: The experienced translations team planned and prepared to pass the baton of Auslan translations for the Deaf on to a new team.



1999

First Scripture Launched: Bible Society launched the first two books of the Bible in Auslan, Ruth and Jonah.

[Australia]

Meeting the Needs

Bibles for Bubs



13,784

babies have been enrolled in the program over 6 years



1st

Storybook Bible as a bub received upon registration



1st - 5th birthday

birthday cards and parent guides posted to each child



Age 5

receive a full children's Bible



2,160

The Big Rescue Bibles distributed to 5 year olds on their birthday in FY 2023-24



Masterclass

For school students in years 9-11, Masterclass explores **contemporary issues** from a **biblical perspective** and include Q&A sessions which gives students the freedom to ask searching **questions about the Christian faith.**



Sydney

641 Youth
24 Schools



Perth

300 Youth
13 Schools



Adelaide

250 Youth
10 Schools

1,000 people from 17 schools and 9 churches registered to watch Masterclass online.

“It’s always a joy to take students to Masterclass. The whole day is infused with the Gospel in a way that makes it accessible to Christian students and to those who are investigating Jesus. The music is fantastic — energetic, fun and God-honouring. The talks are always a highlight — relevant, biblical, thought-provoking, encouraging and just the right length for a teenage audience. The concluding Q&A was clear, sensitive, biblical, and addressed questions raised by the audience.”

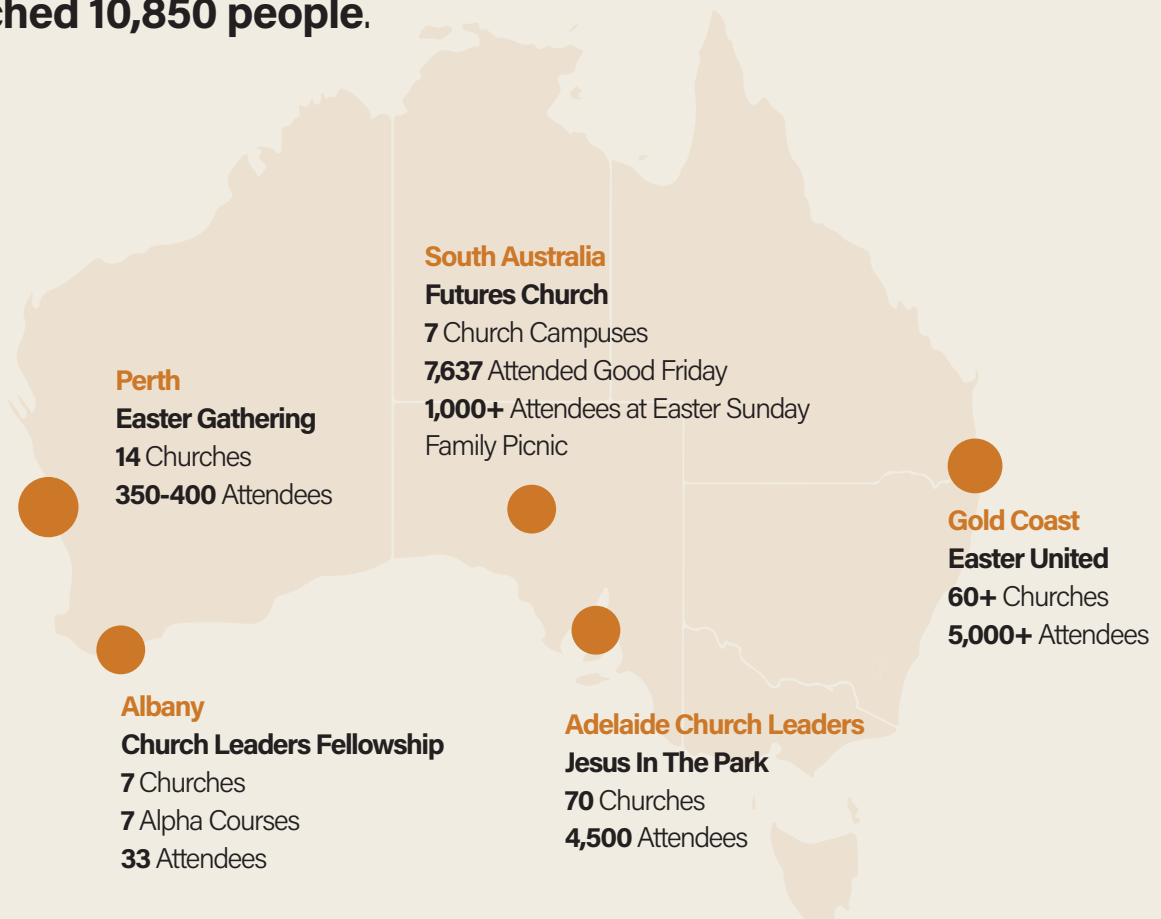
— Teacher attending Masterclass



Meeting the Needs

'Jesus. All About Life'

In Australia for Easter 2024, BSA **supported 794+ churches** with the *Jesus. All About Life* campaign, supplying a range of Easter outreach materials and sponsoring evangelistic events which **reached 10,850 people.**





“At the Bible Society stall at Jesus in the Park there were people coming up to the stall, it was packed all day. People looking at old and new Bibles, **we were able to give away the [New Beginnings] Bible to lots of people in the community.** Where we were was pretty much an unsaved community, they just loved what we were doing and we were able to say, this was brought to you by Bible Society Australia, without them, it wouldn't have happened. **The event had a massive impact on the churches.**”

— **Hugh Marquis**, coordinator of 'Jesus in the Park', Adelaide

Daily Bible Devotions

BSA helps Australians engage with the Bible, every day, with a daily reading from Scripture, a reflection from varied Christian voices, and encouragement to pray, sent via email and available on **bible.com.au**.



4,389

email subscribers receive BSA's Daily Bible devotions



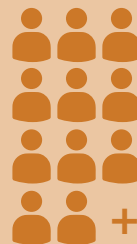
1.7m+

total Daily Bible emails delivered in FY2023-2024



50.7%

open rate on the Daily Bible emails



17,898

users visited bible.com.au to read Daily Bible devotions

Meeting the Needs

Bible Publishing

120

Publishing Projects Each Year

80% are new projects (including new Indigenous language Scripture)
20% reprints of popular Bibles and resources



4 Key Programs

1. Bibles and Scriptures (subsidised for outreach)
2. Custom Bibles for schools and ministry partners
3. Acorn Press books
4. Scripture resources for Remote and Indigenous Ministry and Bible Societies Oceania

Bibles for Outreach



20,000

'Read this.' Bibles

printed for youth with 6,850 distributed by Youth Alive ministries and 4,360 copies distributed by BSA so far

23,706

'New Beginnings' Bibles

supplied to churches and ministries with over 60,000 distributed over four reprints



Scriptures for Mission



2,000

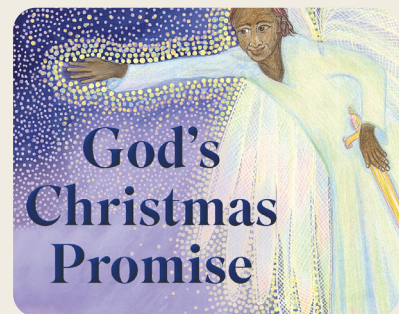
Veterans' New Testament

published for Australian war veterans, with trauma healing resources, and distributed through RSLs

80,000

copies of *God's Christmas Promise*

published with illustrator Fern Martins, an Indigenous artist, and gifted to 570+ churches and ministries



"What a gift to Australia to have our magnificent First Nations culture reflected in the story of the nativity. What richness this will bring to our churches to use it and how proud I am to share this with our community to reach them with the message of Jesus this Christmas!"

— Nicole, who received copies of *God's Christmas Promise* for her church



70,000

copies of *The Easter Love Story*

published for distribution by churches, illustrated by Fern Martins

Custom Bibles

40,000+

Custom Bibles

created for Australian schools and ministries, including: 25,000 Christian Surfers' New Testament



[Australia]

Bible Access & Engagement

Meeting the Needs

BSA Scripture Grants Partners



45

Australian Defence Force (ADF) chaplains and chaplaincy teams

and ADF associated ministries received Bibles and Scripture resources through BSA's Scripture Grant



145

Orders filled for Scripture teachers

supplying Bibles for use within their Special Religious Education or Instruction classes



28

Prison Ministries chaplains

received Bibles and Scripture resources through BSA's Scripture Grant



17

Hospital Chaplaincy teams

received Bibles and Scripture resources through BSA's Scripture Grant



58

Other Christian Ministry partners

received Bibles and Scripture resources to use in their ministry in youth hubs and camps, among seafarers, red-light districts and more.

Scriptures Supplied through BSA Scripture Grants

In the FY 2023-24, BSA gave away thousands of Bibles and Scripture resources, including:

4,744

Age-appropriate children's Bibles

distributed to volunteer teachers to use with Australian school children taking part in religious education



3,429

CEV Big Rescue Bibles

655

CEV Youth Bibles

660

Jesus Storybook Bibles

7,118

ADF Tri service CEV Compact Bibles

provided to ADF chaplains and ministries for use in their service



"What's a Bible?' Jim asked ... [he] requested a look at a Bible ... [and] was quite taken with Jesus ... Our conversation continued, with Jim asking who Jesus really was, and [why] he cared for the people and directed his followers to also care for people in need ... he asked if he could keep the New Testament to continue reading. Because of our Bible Society grant I could of course say, 'Yes!' We have booked a time to meet again."

- Mary, a prison chaplain



"Many students are eager to borrow and read a Bible, many students don't have one at home ... Many of them pour over the pictures and read the stories associated but others will read the gospels and learn more about Jesus for themselves! [BSA's Scripture Grant] does wonders for my students ... they get to engage themselves and their family in God's word in their home ... and I am able to put a Bible in the hands of every kid who comes to my SRE classes (which is around 170 per week)."

- SRE volunteer teacher



"I recently accepted Christ during the Easter Camp held by Overseas Students Fellowship (OCF) Victoria ... they gifted me my first Bible [provided by BSA]. The community at OCF introduced me to the Bible, teaching me how to navigate and understand it. During each Bible study session, I used that Bible to read and discuss various verses ... Now, having grown in my understanding of God, I am excited to read the Bible every day and discover what God wants to tell me. This journey has not only deepened my faith but also transformed my life in ways I never expected."

- Amanda, Overseas Students Fellowship

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer over an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The Bible is open, showing text on both pages, though the text is mostly out of focus. The lighting is soft and focused on the hands, creating a sense of solemnity and devotion. The background is dark and blurred.

Financials & Fundraising

Financial Year 2023-24:

Bible Society received

\$12.9m

from

14,671

Generous Supporters



70
Bequests (\$3.71m)



12,681
Supporters (Appeals/Giving/Sower)



1,531
Individual Supporters (\$3.6m)



389
Church & Para Church (\$597k)

Messages of thanks and support from donors



"You are doing a great job, keep on sowing the Word of God in these young hearts."

"It is encouraging to know that God's word is being well received, and that as a result of what they are reading, [people] are asking questions of the Chaplains."

"It is wonderful to see God's work with the Pitjantjatjara Bible, it looks impressive. So many people involved, all connecting in some way to God."

"Even though the Kenya Bible distribution program is non tax deductible I feel I must carry on supporting it. May the Lord richly bless you and the team."

"... still such illiteracy! How sad for those people, but how wonderful that the Bible Society can meet an earthly need while sharing about Jesus."

Partnership with Churches

100

Church and Community Events

12+

Fundraising Events

25k+

People Reached

12.5k+

Bibles for Youth Provided

Financial Performance 2023-24



Total Donations and Bequests

\$12.9m



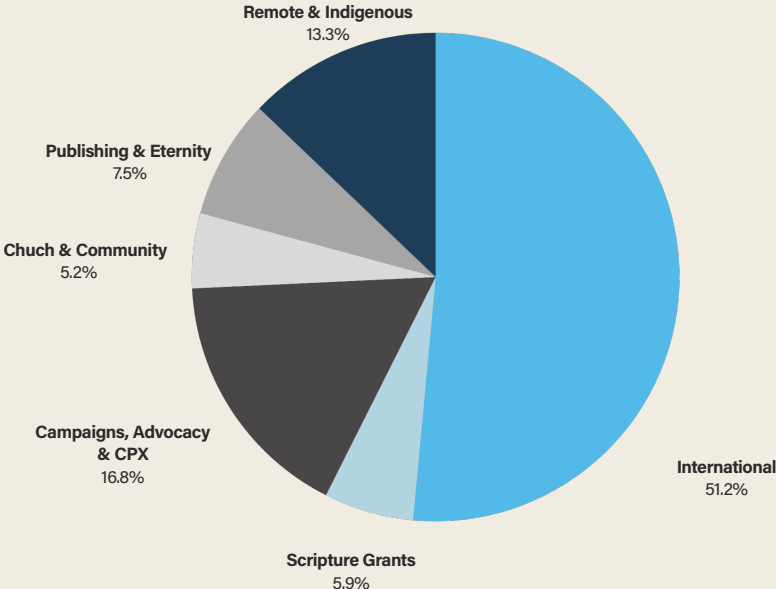
Cents of each dollar raised goes toward mission*

77c

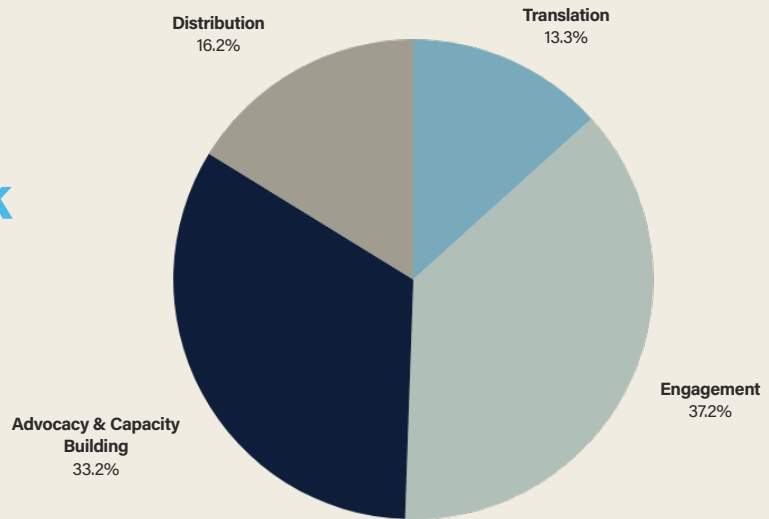
*Net of funds held over for future years.

Mission Expenditure

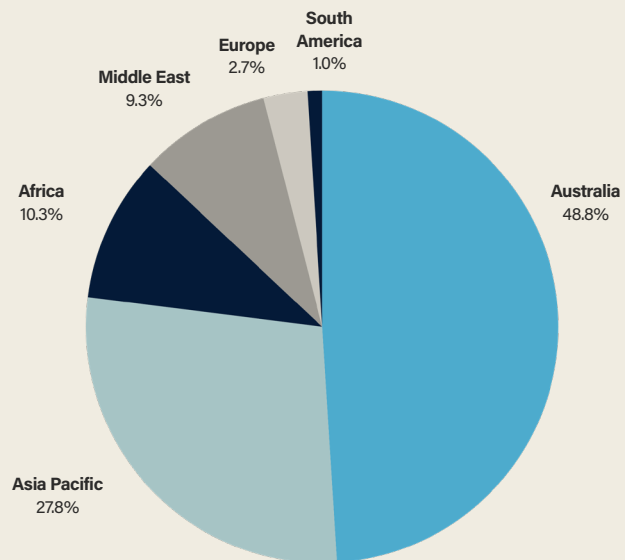
\$10.1m



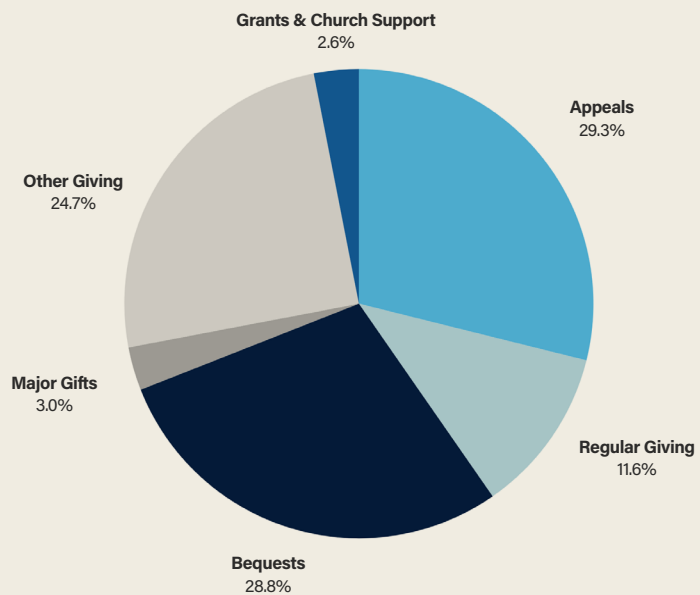
Mission Expenditure by Mission Work



Mission Expenditure by Region



Mission Funding by Source





Governance

**Bible Society Australia is governed by our Board,
with the following members serving:**



Ruth Limkin (Chairman)

Ruth is the founding CEO of The Banyans Health and Wellness, working in the area of wellbeing and recovery. She remains a credentialed Pastor, in voluntary leadership, at Hope Centre, Brisbane.



Melissa Rule

Melissa brings over 30 years experience in marketing and communications across sectors, currently leading communications at the Baptist Union of Victoria and is active in her church, New Hope Baptist in Melbourne.



Michael Harvey

Michael operates his own public practice accounting firm MDH Accounting Pty Ltd and is a member of Tailrace Community Church in Launceston.



Andrew Wiseman

Andrew is a partner at Allens Lawyers, a leading international law firm, and specialises in intellectual property and technology law. Andrew attends St Andrew's Anglican Church, Roseville, NSW.



Grant Dusting

Grant is the Director of Strategy at McCrindle, social research and advisory firm. He and his wife Lauren are actively involved at Nations Church, Perth.



Barry Morris

Barry is a chartered accountant and former CFO of Bible Society Australia; he is a former Director of TEAR Australia and is a member of St Andrew's Anglican Church Roseville, Sydney.



Mark Schultz

Mark is a Minister and Team Leader in Mission Resourcing for the Uniting Church in South Australia. He attends the Glenunga Uniting Church and Encounter Church, Prospect.



Sally Manion

Sally is a chartered accountant and semi-retired from her career as a wealth management and superannuation fund executive. Sally serves as a board member of the Anglican Church Growth Corporation and is a member of St Matthews Anglican Manly.



The Bible Society Australia Group includes The Centre for Public Christianity (CPX). Together, we are working to fulfil our mission and vision. The Centre for Public Christianity (CPX) is a media company that offers a Christian perspective on contemporary life. CPX seeks to promote the public understanding of the Christian faith by engaging mainstream media and the general public with high quality and well-researched print, video, and audio material about the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century.

Needs



38.9%
No Religion

Australia has become rapidly more secular in recent years. The number of people ticking “Christian” on the census dropped from 52% in 2016 to 43.9% in 2021, while the “no religion” category rose to 38.9%. There is a whole generation who are estranged from the Christian story and the Christian church.

However, while younger people especially are much less connected and less knowledgeable about Christian faith, surveys show they are more open to spiritual questions and the “non-material” realities of life than older generations. Some commentators believe that we are now seeing signs of spiritual hunger and a burgeoning interest in matters of faith.



The need for a clear, thoughtful, and generous Christian presence in public is clear,

and CPX is working hard to be such a presence.

Meeting the Needs

Media Engagement



This financial year CPX commentators appeared in secular media outlets 67 times and were cited by journalists 4 times. Each of these touchpoints provided an opportunity to offer a Christian perspective on contemporary life in the public square.

- CPX writers appeared regularly in a new spirituality column in *The Guardian Australia*
- Justine Toh regularly appeared on ABC Radio National's program *God Forbid* and Simon Smart on ABC TV's *The Drum*.

Speaking in the Public Square



48 Talks
to audiences ranging
from 50 to 1,000+

- Max Jeganathan spoke at International Christian Education Conference in Perth.
- Justine Toh hosted a forum in Sydney Town Hall that included NSW Premier, Hon. Chris Minns.

School Engagement



293
Schools



"Intelligent. Widely read. Engaging. Sensitive in answering questions. Thank you"



990
Teachers regularly resourced

"Explained how to navigate Christianity in the current world culture."

"Very encouraging and had practical aspects to apply in our lives, classrooms, and families."

Life & Faith Podcast

34
Episodes

129,115
Downloads

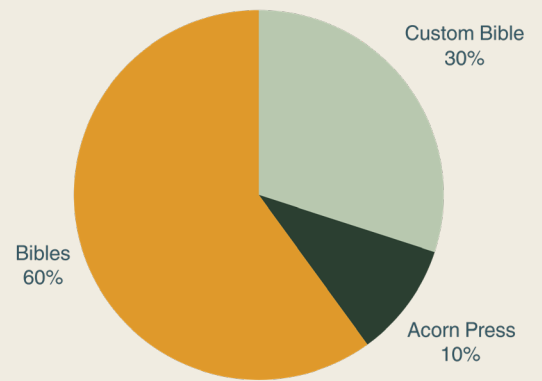
CPX produces a podcast that explores the beauty and complexity of faith in the 21st century.

- One highlight was an episode about people who came to faith through the atheist Richard Dawkins.
- Another highlight was an interview with war crimes investigator, Janine DiGiovanni, on her work and how her faith motivates her to bring justice to some of the worlds most oppressed people.



Acorn Press supports BSA Bible publishing by inviting Australians to explore Scripture through thoughtfully selected books that address topical, resonant themes, written by reputable and respected Christian authors, amplifying uniquely Australian faith voices.

Acorn Press enjoys a cohesive partnership with Koorong books and works closely with BSA’s Scripture Grants program, and BSA’s mission work in Australia and around the world, producing high-quality books that support the mission of the BSA group.



Needs

43.9%

of people in Australia identify as Christians (ABS 2021). However, many of those who identify as Christian do not read the Bible consistently.

“ Reading a Christian book may be the first step

toward understanding the Christian worldview and reflecting on issues or challenges they personally face from a Christian perspective.

Christian literature can provide spiritual guidance

at transitional times in people’s lives and usually directs readers to the word of God as the source of answers to their deeper questions.

New Releases

The Re:CONSIDERING Series

Acorn Press has partnered with CPX to publish insightful books that address timely topics in contemporary Australian culture, bringing a distinctly redemptive Christian point of view. The series, in keeping with CPX content, is written to have broad appeal, inviting all people into conversations through which they might explore the tenets of the Christian faith and the truth and beauty of the Gospel.

- ***The End of Men* by Simon Smart launched in June 2024**
- **1,300+ copies** sold in the first three months of release
- **Author Simon Smart**, Director of CPX, has been interviewed about the book with both Christian and secular media outlets, including ABC Radio, Hope 103.2, Vision Radio, *The Guardian*, and more.
- **Other popular titles in the series include:**
 - The Pleasures of Pessimism* by Natasha Moore, 2020
 - The Cost of Compassion* by Tim Costello, 2020
 - Achievement Addiction* by Justine Toh, 2021
 - The End of Thinking?* by Mark Stephens, 2021



The Discipline of Suffering Dr Katherine Thompson

- Shortlisted for the 2024 Sparklit Christian Book of the Year.
- *Breathe and Still*, Thompson's series of short and accessible books, have been well-received and are now in their second print run.

Koorong

Koorong equips and inspires people on their personal journey with Jesus by offering Australia's largest range of Bibles and Christian resources, spanning denominations, cultures, and languages.

Koorong is unique as a Christian retailer owned by Bible Society Australia since 2015, with profits from the business funding Bible Society Australia's mission of Opening The Bible with all people, everywhere, by all means possible.

Koorong serves as a key distribution point for selling Bibles and resources published by BSA, to the public, as well as through BSA's Scripture Grant program to chaplaincy and ministry partners serving in churches, remote Indigenous communities, prisons, hospitals, and other key ministries.

15

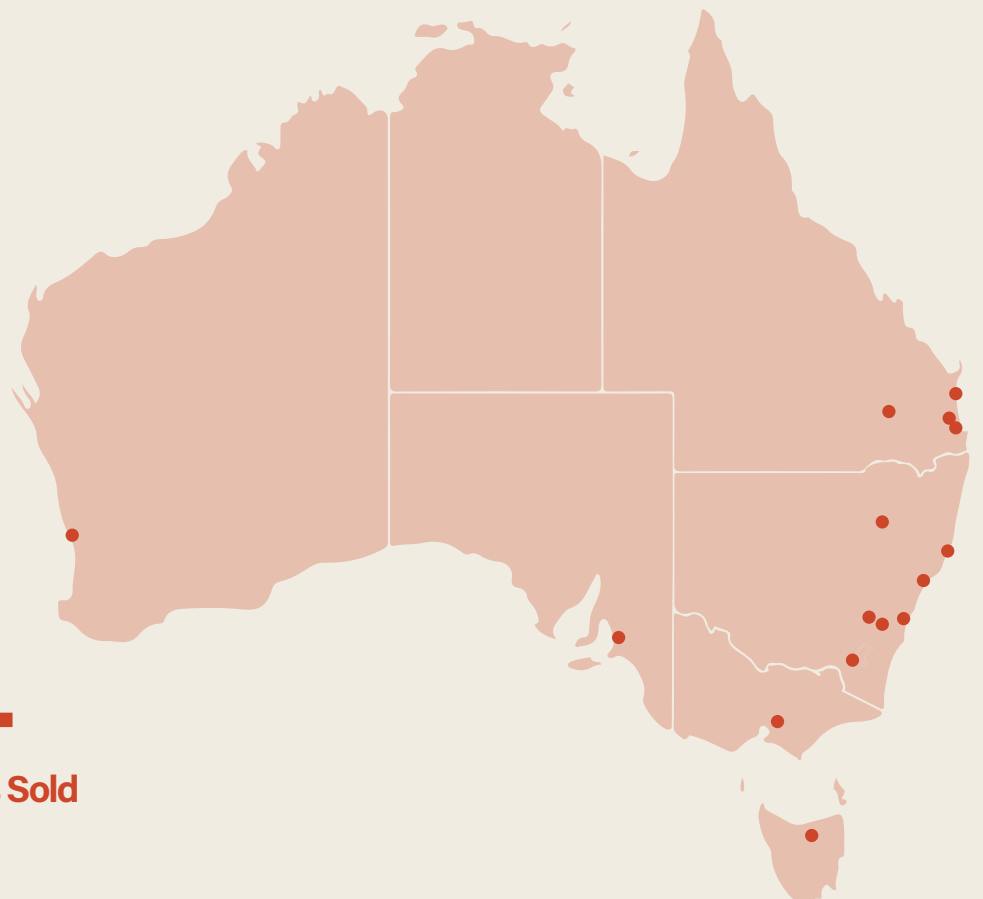
Stores in Australia

362k

Bibles Sold

2.4m+

Christian Resources Sold



Meeting the Needs

626k
Customers Served

2,500
Churches Served

Store Events:



Author Signings



**Childrens
Book Readings**



Bookstalls at churches, community events and conferences such as the annual Grandparents Conference.

Work in Progress



In September 2023, Koorong undertook a digital transformation, transitioning to new systems. This process presented numerous challenges, impacting business operations and the customer purchasing experience.

Our team have worked tirelessly to resolve issues and to serve our customers to the best of their ability and we thank them for their amazing resilience.

While we have made substantial progress in resolving most of the issues that arose, some aspects still require attention, and we are actively working to complete this process.

Koorong extends our heartfelt thanks to our customers for their loyalty and patience during this period of change.

The new system opens up exciting opportunities for Koorong's future, including:

- Click and collect, with 8,000+ customers already benefitting from this service
- A new loyalty program that offers enhanced benefits and rewards for customers.



Transparency and Accountability

Bible Society Australia (BSA) is committed to transparency and accountability and is proud to share with you how your contributions are **transforming thousands of lives through Bible access and engagement.**

BSA has stringent financial accountability measures to ensure transparency and accuracy in the handling of funds. Donations are sent through the United Bible Societies to the relevant implementing Bible Society. This process ensures that your contributions are used effectively and efficiently for mission work in the field. All international funding transfers adhere to the **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) External Conduct Standards.** As a registered charity within Australia, we also **adhere to the ACNC Governance Standards.**

We believe that every contribution, whether big or small, holds the power to transform lives, and it is our honour to steward your gift with wisdom and care. We take every measure to manage resources with due diligence to ensure maximum reach to the beneficiaries of our mission.

As a result, your support has touched the lives of countless individuals, providing them with the invaluable gift of God's word. You can give confidently, knowing that your support will be stewarded well and will make an indelible impact in lives around the world. Together, we continue to impact and influence all people, everywhere, by Opening The Bible.

Thank you for entrusting us with this responsibility.



