

Scriptures for the ADF



Project: N/A
Tax-Deductible

Australia

Overview

Bible Society Australia (BSA) provides a Scripture Grant for Australian Defence Force (ADF) chaplains and Christian ministries working with the ADF to equip them with Scriptures and discipleship resources.

These materials support pastoral care, open doors to meaningful conversations, and help personnel explore faith in demanding environments.

The Need

There is sustained demand for specialty Scriptures in the ADF, as men and women take up the opportunity to search the truths of the Bible, encouraged by their 'padres'. There are many chaplains and ministries serving the armed forces, who are in need of Bibles and Scripture resources to share as a part of their work with servicemen and women. BSA has provided specialised ADF-badged Bibles for members of the armed forces for over 100 years.

- **170** full time and part time Army chaplains spread across Australia
- **581,100** people have served in the ADF / 2.8% of the Australian population aged 15 years and over (as per 2021 census)
- In 2021, **60,300** people were currently serving in regular service



Goals

The goal of this project is to Open The Bible to people serving in the ADF. By resourcing ADF chaplains and other Christian ministries with Scriptures and gospel materials, they can engage people with God's Word. This grant shares the transformative hope of the gospel, equipping gospel workers with both God's Word and the ability to encourage and disciple those they work with.

In 2026, BSA is looking to strengthen partnerships with ADF chaplaincy, and multiple ministries supporting the ADF. BSA hopes to expand distribution of the NIV Anglicised Tri-Service Bible and waterproof Scripture resources tailored for Navy, Army, and Air Force contexts, and to continue to equip chaplains with Scriptures and resources that spark conversations and strengthen pastoral care in both day-to-day interactions and crisis moments.

Impact

The impact of this Scripture grant is ultimately seen in the changed lives of recipients. In 2025, Bible Society Australia resourced ADF chaplains and several key ADF ministries — including Military Christian Fellowship-Australia, Solid Rock Ministries, Focus Military Ministry, Everyman's Welfare Service, and Sallyman/Sallyma'am.

Specialised resources such as waterproof New Testaments and camouflage-edition Bibles enabled personnel to

read God's Word in field settings. Chaplains reported new opportunities for Bible studies, workplace conversations, and renewed interest in Christian faith among young recruits and cadets. Many recipients encountered Scripture for the first time or reconnected with its message during periods of uncertainty, stress, or transition.

Impact in Numbers

29,000+

Scriptures and devotional resources were placed into the hands of ADF personnel through chaplains and ministry partners, including:

- **8,220** NIV Anglicised Tri-Service Bibles to support all ADF members
- **8,632** Christian resources (including devotionals and testimony-based books) provided to support discipleship and faith exploration.

Testimony

"I was excited to hear how well received the new ADF Bibles have been. [One of] our Rep[s], was saying that on his Base there isn't a Bible left. He said many of those who wanted a Bible weren't Christian, and are full of questions about the Bible and life ... one of the Chaplains ... also said the 'Field Guide to the Bible' and 'Meet Jesus' are great tools to gift these people. The Chaplain explained how people can be put off when faced with reading the Bible, but these booklets help those seeking to safely navigate and understand the Bible, meaning more likelihood of the person continuing to keep reading the Bible."

— Julie, Military Christian Fellowship

How Your Support Helps

\$20

will help cover the cost of one ADF Tri-Service Bible for a recruit or deployed member.

\$150

will help cover the cost of 50 copies of Tri-Service devotionals for chaplains to give at recruit courses.

\$750

will help cover the cost of 100 copies of the waterproof New Testaments for field and at-sea use.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." — **2 Timothy 2:15, NIV**