

Building Future Literacy



Global

Project: 103368, 102039, 102175, 90203
Tax-Deductible

Overview

Bible Society Australia is supporting a coordinated global literacy effort through the United Bible Societies that strengthens Bible-based literacy across the Asia Pacific and undergirds UBS literacy worldwide. In 2026, this work brings together training, practical support for Bible Societies, strengthened literacy expertise, and global coordination to ensure that communities across the region have access to effective, locally led literacy initiatives that open the way for meaningful engagement with Scripture.



The Need

Many Bible Societies need practical help to design, resource and evaluate quality literacy programs that complement translation and Scripture engagement. The demand has outpaced specialist capacity, with only a small global team supporting numerous projects. There is a need for standardised tools, such as a literacy handbook, common guidelines, mentoring, and regional advisory visits to lift quality and consistency. Four focused UBS literacy projects seek to meet these needs, contributing to a different aspect of strengthening literacy, whether through regional advisory visits, staff training, specialist development, or global coordination and multilingual support.

- **3 literacy specialists** alone currently assist UBS literacy projects globally
- **12+ countries** are currently being supported by one Literacy Advisor
- **4 major global regions** require working groups to be established, in order to plan activities for the next two years

Goals

The overall goal of these literacy projects is to strengthen Bible-based literacy across the UBS Fellowship so that Bible Societies can deliver high-quality, locally led programs that help communities engage with Scripture.

In 2026, the focus will be on strengthening Bible Society teams and improving the quality of literacy programs. This will include providing practical, region-based training and mentoring for literacy staff, supported by quarterly Communities of Practice that help teams apply what they learn. The UBS Literacy Handbook and Guidelines will be finalised to give Bible Societies clear, consistent tools for planning and evaluation. Advisory visits across Asia Pacific will continue, helping countries establish or strengthen their literacy projects. At the same time, the Literacy Officer-in-Training will advance through the MA Diploma stage and fieldwork, expanding specialist capacity. Globally, the literacy office will coordinate multilingual communication, regional working groups, data reporting, and key partnerships that keep literacy efforts aligned and growing.

Impact

These projects are raising standards, improving regional and global cooperation, and equipping Bible Societies to offer stronger, more sustainable literacy programs that help communities engage with God's Word in meaningful ways.

In the last three years, regional training events brought staff together to build skills, share learning and improve program planning, with a 2025 workshop in Manila preparing participants to create culturally appropriate reading materials for new learners.

At a global level, the Literacy Coordination Office has continued to provide essential backbone support — maintaining multilingual communication, coordinating data and reporting systems, and guiding strategy across regions, including growing support for Francophone and Spanish-speaking Bible Societies.

Specialist development also advanced, with the UBS Literacy Officer-in-Training progressing from a completed Postgraduate Certificate to entering the MA Diploma stage in 2026, helping build long-term expertise within the Fellowship.

Impact in Numbers

10,000

people reached via advisory-supported literacy projects (Asia Pacific)

Testimony

"Establishing a global framework for literacy is like a guide for the Bible Society staff doing literacy projects and programs around the world ... it's like a step-by-step guide for them, how to do a project ..."
— Cito, UBS Literacy Advisor (Asia Pacific)

23

staff / 13 Bible Societies trained in materials development in 2025 (Manila)

How Your Support Helps

\$30

will help provide a day of meals and training materials for a participant in a regional workshop.

\$450

will help cover a week of accommodation for a literacy staff trainee.

\$3,600

contributes towards an advisory field visit that strengthens local literacy projects.

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."
— **Colossians 3:23-24, NKJV**