

## **Bible Society Australia Financial Results 2019**

Bible Society Australia in 2019 continued its mission of Championing the Bible both in Australia and Internationally. Its work was supported through generous donations and volunteering across the country involving hours of effort to both raise funds and awareness of our work. We are deeply grateful for this assistance and recognize that we could not undertake our mission without this support.

Total donations and Bequest income reached \$12.1 million in 2019, the highest level since nationalisation in 2011. This enabled our direct mission both here and overseas to grow to \$9.2 million with effectively 76 cents in every dollar donated going to mission. A total of 38 projects in 36 countries involving translation, distribution, engagement and advocating for the Bible saw thousands of people impacted by the work.

In Australia 90,000 scriptures were distributed through grants to chaplains working in schools, prisons, hospitals, and the ADF. Our Masterclass program and other youth events reached 3,200 young people to engage with the Bible, and the work of Centre for Public Christianity continued its advocacy for the Christian faith through the release of the For The Love of God film in cinemas, and talks and seminars around Australia. Eternity magazine in print and digital provided stories of encouragement to Christians across Australia, and our publishing of local Christian authors continued to reach many with a distinctly Australian voice. Our Indigenous programs including translation, resource distribution, and Bible engagement have provided ongoing support to rural communities.

Overseas in China paper for printing of 1.4 million Bibles, in Iraq Scripture care packages, and in Nicaragua free Bibles continue to provide the Bible for all those in need. Translation work in Indochina and the South Pacific help those to be able to read the scriptures in their heart language, and our engagement projects in South Africa, Pakistan, and Lebanon are examples of helping people to be able to understand the scriptures. We are deeply thankful for the opportunity to continue this work around the world throughout 2019.

In an increasingly challenging economic environment Bible Society Australia is committed to prudent financial management. This means the directing of our efforts to build our capacity for the future, whilst maintaining controls on costs and outgoings. To this end our investment in digital communications, and fundraising activities have increased in 2019 to help ensure that resources are available to continue the work. In an increasingly regulated sector, the focus on compliance and the conduct of our mission in Australia and overseas continues to grow to ensure it meets the highest standards of governance.

Bible Society Australia in 2019 has a strong balance sheet with net assets of \$40.4 million and liquid funds to enable it with God's help to continue to grow the work of Bible mission both now and into the future.

Malcolm North  
Acting Chief Financial Officer  
11 November 2019