



102230 – PNG  
Project Fact Sheet 2022

# Rebuilding the Bible Society in Papua New Guinea

## Overview

There is an urgent need to build the capacity of Bible Society Papua New Guinea (PNG) in order to reach future generations with the word of God.

After a new board and General Secretary were appointed to Bible Society PNG in February 2019, the task of establishing sustainable, impactful Bible based mission work began. Sadly, the new General Secretary Verenagi Ravu, passed away from COVID-19 in March 2021.

However, the remaining BSPNG staff member continues to work closely with the United Bible Societies global mission team to implement the mission, with early goals focussed on reinstating services to ensure Scriptures are available to people in PNG.

## The Need

There are more than 800 languages in PNG with more than 300 languages yet to receive any Bible translation. Almost 89% of the approximately 8.9 million people are in the (largely remote) rural areas. Much of the population are uneducated and live in poverty. Literacy is a major challenge; many would not be able to read the Bible. There is a vast need for Bible translation, Bible distribution, literacy and church partnerships, especially in the rural areas.

The word of God already has a place in the rural communities of PNG, so the distribution of Bibles to these remote communities is of paramount spiritual importance to the people living there.

To meet these needs, it is essential that the Bible Society is present and sustainable.

## Project Goals

There hasn't been a functioning Bible Society in PNG since 2018. Rebuilding the Bible Society began in 2019, with the appointment of a new board and a new General Secretary. Sadly, COVID-19 caused many delays and setbacks, and the new General Secretary also lost his life in 2021.

The goal of this project continues to be enabling the Bible Society, to ensure Scriptures are available to all in PNG, so that all people may Open The Bible.

Despite all the challenges in 2020-2021, Bible Society PNG was able to successfully complete the majority of renovations on properties they own in Paga, and Lae.

Their Five-Year Strategic plan was finalized for implementation in 2022 onwards.

In 2022 final inspections will be done on property renovations and steps taken to find tenants. Key staff – including a new General Secretary – will be recruited. Also, BSPNG will begin fundraising activities to generate income to support the Society's operations. Finally, a corporate plan will be reviewed, a corporate image built, BSPNG marketed for greater awareness, and training will be conducted for BS staff.

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## Impact

The impact of the successful renovation of BSPNG properties will be felt in the local income generated from renting the properties, which will support ministry work in PNG.

Although the recruiting of new staff and the distribution of Bibles have not yet been achieved (due to delays with COVID-19), both will have an impact on

evangelism and Christian growth: individuals and families will be transformed by Opening The Bible. There will also be freedom to plant new churches, and to continue education in the schools and colleges with God's word, thus reducing illiteracy.

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## Testimonies

"Sadly, Vere [Verenagi Ravu, BSPNG's General Secretary, appointed in 2019] was taken from us before he could see the full implementation of the plans he had worked on. However, the foundation he created is solid. Vere planted good seed in good soil. Now someone else will water and many will continue to be impacted by the work he started."

- Andre Minnaar, United Bible Societies Global Mission Team.

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## Prayer Needs

- Please pray for these foundational stages of development, as they are vital in ensuring residents of PNG can access and engage with the word of God for many generations to come.
- Pray that God will provide the right people to be recruited to be part of the rebuilding team.
- Pray that BSPNG ministries will be successfully reactivated.
- Pray for the appointment of a new General Secretary and the BSPNG Annual General Meeting in 2022.