



Bibles for Marginalised Children and Youth - *Distribution in Kenya*

Overview

Kenya is a Christian country and as a result both Christian Religious Education (in primary and secondary) and the Program for Pastoral Instruction (PPI, in primary) are approved by the Kenya School system.

According to UNESCO, there are 8.3 million primary and 7.5 million secondary Kenyan students, all of whom can participate in Christian religious education at school. What an opportunity! The downside is that according to research by a child outreach network, 98% of public primary schools do not have Bibles available in the classroom to assist in these lessons.

Kenya is described as a lower-middle income economy. However, more than 30% of the 47 million population are living in poverty. You can guarantee that most of these families would not own a Bible.

Bible Society of Kenya is committed to placing a Bible in the hands of these marginalised young people – one student at a time, so that even when they are old they will turn to God's word and not away.

The Need

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the Bible Society distributed over 12,070 copies of appropriate scriptures to children in 20 homes, six slum schools and 67 other schools in Nyeri, Nairobi, Kiambu, Meru, West Pokot, Baringo and Kajiado Counties. Impact reports received indicate that Bible knowledge among children and youth increased, leading to noticeable behavioural change, especially in children homes and slum schools.

There is an ongoing need for Scriptures among children in marginalised communities due to high poverty levels. Distribution of bibles among children from low income backgrounds increases regular bible reading across the whole family.



Impact

Over the next year this project seeks to place a Bible in the hands of another 12,000 children in urban poor and rural Kenya, with the aim of transforming lives through engagement with God's word.

While the ultimate goal is audacious and eternal, the initial impact will be seen in improved performance in the CRE subject and with the availability of Bibles, the PPI classes will be brought to life for primary students.

Families with no Scriptures will be exposed to God's word and Bible engagement will increase among the children receiving Bibles for themselves.

As part of the reporting process, Bible Society of Kenya has committed to focus group discussions with students and questionnaires seeking responses to the project from both students and teachers.

Testimonies

"I am forever grateful for this gift. Nobody has ever given me a Bible. Thank you." **Maria, Class 7, Mother Esther School and Rescue Centre.**

"You do not have an idea what these Bibles mean to these children! It is the best gift ever! What a blessing to think of us! Both teaching and studying the word of God will be easier henceforth!" **Hugh, Teacher- PCEA Namelok Boys Centre.**

Prayer Needs

- Pray that Bibles will be available so the children and youth will be reached with Scriptures.
- Pray for positive transformation for students and their families as God's word touches their hearts and minds.
- Pray that COVID-19 will recede so that people can return to a more normal life and not live in fear of the virus and impacted income.