

Kenya: Bibles for Marginalised Children and Youth

Overview

The Bible Society of Kenya is committed to placing a Bible in the hands of 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. These Bibles will be distributed as a part of the Christian Religious Education in schools.

The Need

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

However, 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. Most families, therefore, would not own a Bible.





Project Goals

Each year, this project seeks to place a Bible in the hands of 5,500 children in urban poor and rural Kenya, through children's homes, slum schools, and other schools, with the aim of transforming lives through engagement with God's word.

While the ultimate goal is audacious and eternal – that when they are grown, students will continue to turn to God's word and not away from it - the initial impact will be seen in improved performance in the CRE subject. It is hoped that with the availability of Bibles, the PPI classes will be brought to life for primary students.

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.

In 2022, Bible Society is aiming to distribute 5,500 Bibles, which could impact up to 36,000 people in total.

In January and February, schools and children's homes in the prioritized areas will be contacted and dates set for distribution. From March to November, Scriptures will be distributed, and teachers trained in systematic Bible engagement techniques through the programme for pastoral instruction (PPI). Every three months the project will monitor, evaluate and report on progress.

Impact

There are already indications that Bible knowledge among children and youth have increased, leading to noticeable behavioural change, especially in children's homes and slum schools.

Continued distribution of Bibles among children from low-income backgrounds increases regular Bible reading across the whole family.

Through this project, families with no Scriptures are now exposed to God's word, and Bible engagement is increasing among the children who receive Bibles for themselves.

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.

