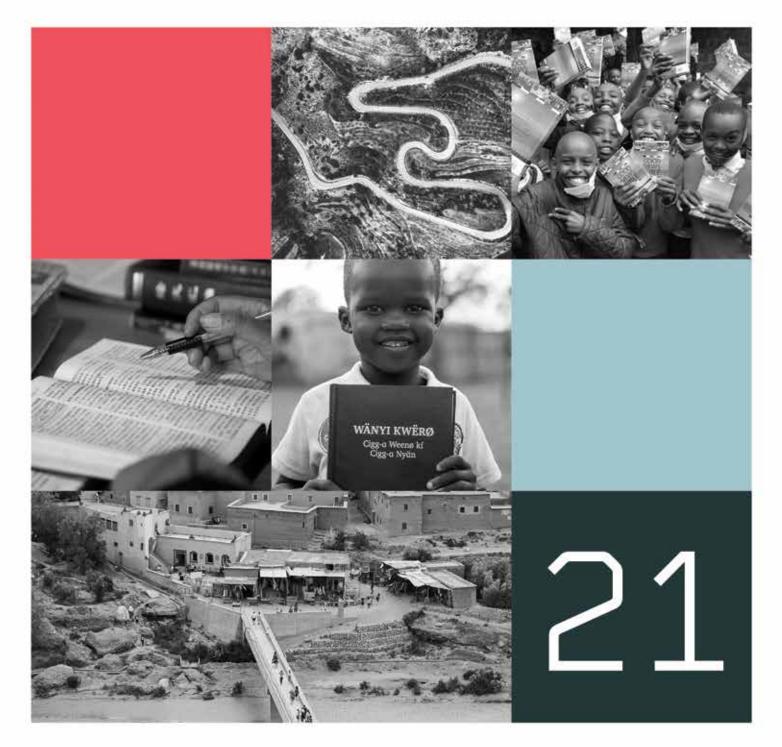


# IMPACT REPORT



### 3

# / Intro

"In recent years, there are many turbulences in the world we live like the COVID pandemic....

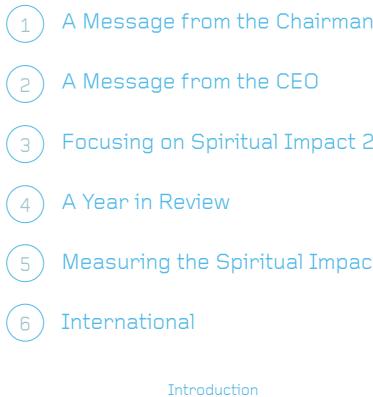


"In recent years, there are many turbulences in the world we live like the COVID pandemic. Human beings are beginning to wake up. They realise that life is brief. And they need to know how to make the most out of the time they have. However, many people do not know the answer and no one around them can help them. So, a library full of Christian books is a good place to come. The Christian Library will open the door for the Divine light to shine upon the world."

- Pastor Simon, who oversees Christian education for the Vietnamese Evangelical Baptist convention.

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) Australia

Language: Transla Engagement Advocacy Distribution



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Profile 🥒

# A Message from the Chairman

# It is quite remarkable to chair an organisation as diverse in its offerings as Bible Society Australia.

The five different brands - Bible Society the mission, Acorn Press and BSA Publishing, Koorong (a significant Christian book retailer), Eternity News (a media outlet) and CPX (Centre for Public Christianity) - all seek to impact their different audiences/partners/ beneficiaries. But what does that impact look like?

This annual review seeks to report on Impact, because For every person who walks into a Koorong store or in the end that is what drives all of us. Is the work that we are doing changing lives? Are people turning to Christ through their engagement with the Bible? Do students here in Australia who attend a Masterclass they increase their study of the Bible as they seek to know Jesus better? Do they share the Good News array of backgrounds who were given a Scripture with others?

As a Bible Society supporter, you give financially and pray for the work, because your life has been changed from your encounter with the Risen Christ and you want others to have that same intimate relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.

Your support is making a significant difference. Lives are being changed. People around the world - through learning to read; hearing the Scriptures in the language of their heart; Bible-based trauma healing; an encounter with a chaplain; the provision of care packages; listening to a podcast; receiving the gift of some Scripture portions; the list goes on - are giving their hearts to God.

This is the work of Bible Society Australia, in partnership with United Bible Societies and other partnerships here in Australia. Our vision is to impact and influence the world by Opening The Bible to all people everywhere by all means possible.

As you read this report, I invite you to reflect on your own journey before you accepted Christ into your life and had no knowledge of God, to what brought you to this place you inhabit now, a spiritually mature Christian believer. That is what we seek for all who are the recipients of Bible Society's work and products.

makes an online order. For the reader of a CPX story published in their local newspaper. For secondary event. For the nearly 300,000 people across a diverse portion through our Scripture Grants program. For our Eternity readers and the many people across the world who encounter our partner Bible Societies through attending different programs. For the ongoing commitment of Indigenous Bible translators in partnership with RIMS (Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support) to translate the Bible, one book at a time, into the heart languages of our Indigenous brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is the prayer of our staff. This is the prayer of the United Bible Societies fellowship. This is the prayer of my fellow directors on the board. And I know this is your prayer as well because you so faithfully give to this extraordinary work of God's. Thank you. We would not exist without you.

Anne Robinson

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40: 28, 31 (NIV)



Profile 🥒

# A Message from the CEO

As I write this, numbers dominate our lives. Be they the daily COVID case numbers, or the numbers in ICU, or how many have been vaccinated, or how close to the magic 80% before those in lockdown are able to resume a more social, less restricted life.



1.7 million people in a remote part of Vietnam having the whole Bible available in their own language. That is a future number, but one that keeps translators purposeful and energised.

225 Syrian adults and children, seriously traumatised by ongoing war, finding eternal hope through a Bible-based trauma healing program.

Your financial support for the church in China means that nearly 500,000 people will hear God's word from preachers and seminary students who had not been able to afford Bibles and other Scripture products.

My hope is that your heart will sing as you read this Impact Report, for every page highlights changed lives as a result of your commitment to Bible Society.

# A few more numbers to highlight:

26,000 People read our online Daily Bible devotions across the year.

380,000

Numbers are important. These numbers represent human hearts. Hearts softening to Jesus. Hearts transformed by Jesus. Individuals all over the world who, through you and others like you, have fallen in love with Jesus and want to

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

I commend our first BSA Impact Report to you. May the numbers captured inside inspire and encourage you as they do me, as together we seek to do our part towards Jesus' great commission!

### – Grant Thomson

proclaim their faith.



6

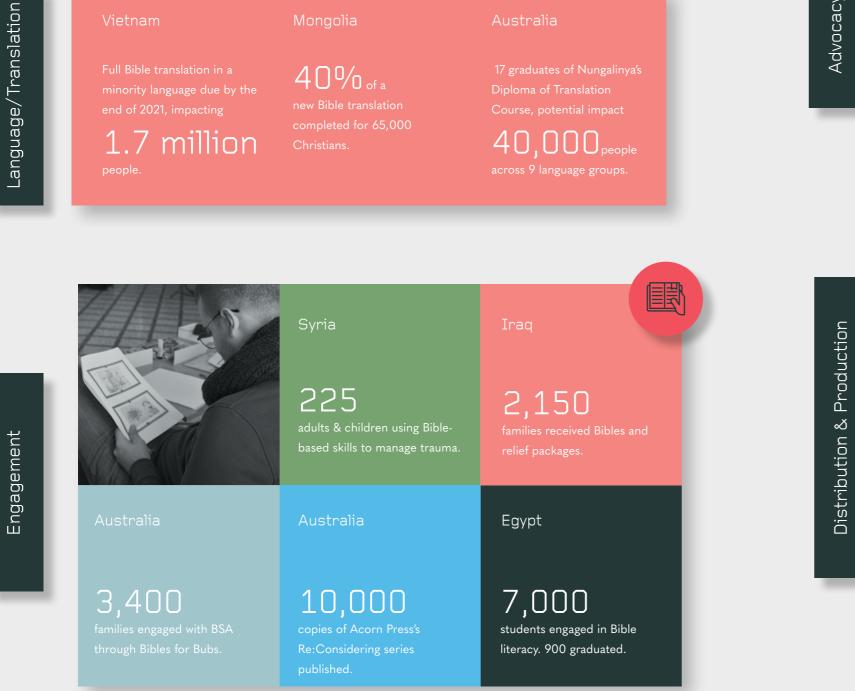
Eternity News stories were consumed



# 13,000

Books teaching the foundations of faith for new Christians were sold.

# 2021 0 Focusing on Spiritual Impact 2021



# Advocacy/Capacity Building

9

# Vietnam

China

100,000 affordable Bibles distributed to Christians.

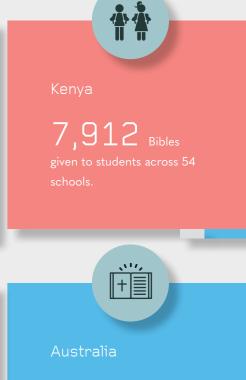
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Australia Scripture Grants

LUR

174,000 Scripture items given to seekers





# 380,000

# 2021 / A Year in Review

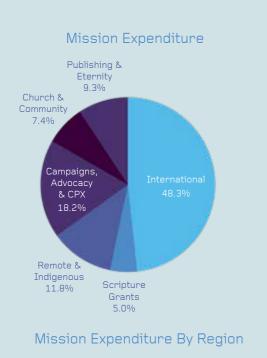
Total Donations & Bequests \$12.3 Million



Mission Expenditure

Of each dollar raised goes towards mission\*

\* Net of funds held over for future years



8.0%

Africa 10.8%

Distribution 24.3% Engagement 37.2%

Mission Expenditure by Area

Mission Funding by Source







Spiritual Impact 2021 🥒

Measuring the Spiritual Impact of Bible Ministry

### Bible Society Australia has adopted the definition of Global Scripture Impact...

in seeking to measure the impact of supporters' prayers and financial gifts on the lives of the beneficiaries. In this report, three impact indicators will be utilised: Willingness, Understanding and Action. The methodology is based on the empirical research of Dr James Engel, former Chair of the Communications Department Wheaton Graduate School, USA. Dr Engel developed the Engel Scale, which charts the journey of someone with no knowledge of God as they progress into a spiritually mature Christian believer. Working with the UBS fellowship, Dr Engel created the simplified Willingness, Understanding, Action model, which fits within a discipleship formation paradigm.

Willingness is defined as evidence of an initial engagement with Scripture. It requires the individual to request and

receive a Scripture item. This can be tracked both digitally and in-person.

Understanding measures how important God's word is becoming in someone's life. This can be documented through their commitment to a Bible study group after participating in a trauma healing program or other program offered by our Bible Society partners. Digital understanding is defined as consuming Scripture online for seven days or more in a 30 day period.

Action is that step towards commitment. Acts of service stemming from Bible engagement. Leading a Bible study, volunteering, telling and/or praying for others, praying publicly.

Ultimately, this is why we, as Christians, give. To see lives changed for eternity. There are several testimonies in this report. These individual stories of transformation speak into the spiritual impact of Bible ministry.



International 🥒

# Introduction

Throughout the year 2020-2021, Bible Society Australia (BSA) has partnered with Bible Societies around the world to Open The Bible to all people everywhere by all means for the calendar year 2021 and ongoing. This is an exciting possible. From July to December 2020, Bible Society donors initiative which we know our supporters will welcome. supported Bible work across 44 projects, but excitingly, due

to funding decisions by the Board, Bible Society increased our support to 58 international projects across 27 countries



52% of BSA's international projects are within the Asia Pacific region, as we place a priority on partnering with our neighbouring Bible Societies to achieve our mission, and theirs.



# New projects for 2021

include the first Christian library in Vietnam; distributing the Bible among marginalised youth in Kenya; education in literacy - and, at the same time, reconciliation - in Rwanda; revising the Tok Pisin Bible in Papua New Guinea and making an audio recording of the newly completed translation of the Sonaha New Testament in Nepal.



# Bible Society partners and their projects impacted by the ongoing crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic

This past year has been one of continued hardship and of online classes and the occasional in-person meeting, challenge, with many of our Bible Society partners and their ensuring that people are still reached despite necessary projects impacted by the ongoing crisis of the COVID-19 COVID restrictions. Bible Society Slovenia has also had pandemic, as well as existing challenges of violence, unrest an amazing response on their social media accounts, as and displacement in many countries. Encouragingly, some they post encouraging messages from the Bible, as well as Bible Societies have adapted and are even now reaching translated Bible reading plans on the YouVersion Bible app. people with God's word, along with his love and hope for the future. Bible Society Vietnam has begun to transition In the section below, you are invited to read highlights from their long-standing and popular Learning through Listening a selection of our international projects. All 58 projects literacy project to being an online project in 2022, uploading could not achieve their outcomes without your support. their material to YouTube in preparation for the change. Our Bible Society partners join with us in giving thanks to Literacy projects in Lebanon, as well as the trauma healing God for your vital contributions. projects in Slovenia, have adapted their courses to a hybrid

# International 🥒

# Language: Translation

Translating the Scriptures into the heart language of people groups across the world is integral to the work of all Bible Societies. Why? Because the evidence of repeated testimonies is that when people hear the life-transforming words of the Bible in the first language they heard as infants and children growing up, it communicates more deeply than a second or third language. It speaks to their heart.

Translation work is, by its very nature, slow. Not only does it need to be understood by the hearer/reader, it needs to be accurate to the Greek and Hebrew texts.

The fellowship of United Bible Societies has committed to a translation road map. Bible Society Australia is working extensively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, responding to their invitations to partner in this work of keeping oral languages alive through God's word.

We also are supporting translation projects in Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Nepal and Vietnam. In this Impact Report you can read about two of our International language/ translation projects and several of our local Aboriginal oral and written translation projects.



The impact of this project will be felt in the years to come. 1.7 million people speak this minority language, including 16,000

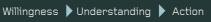
This ethnic minority is the second biggest among Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Vietnamese ethnic minorities, with 1.7 million people. The Amos, Obadiah and Jonah). Community checking was whole Bible in their native language will give the opportunity done for 14 books (Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, for a great spiritual impact on this community. With the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, New Testament already complete, the goal is to finish the Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel and Hosea). Although full Bible translation by the end of 2021. translation consultant spot checking was delayed by COVID in 2020, it has progressed in 2021, along with final checks and plans to publish the Old Testament. From July 2020 - June 2021,

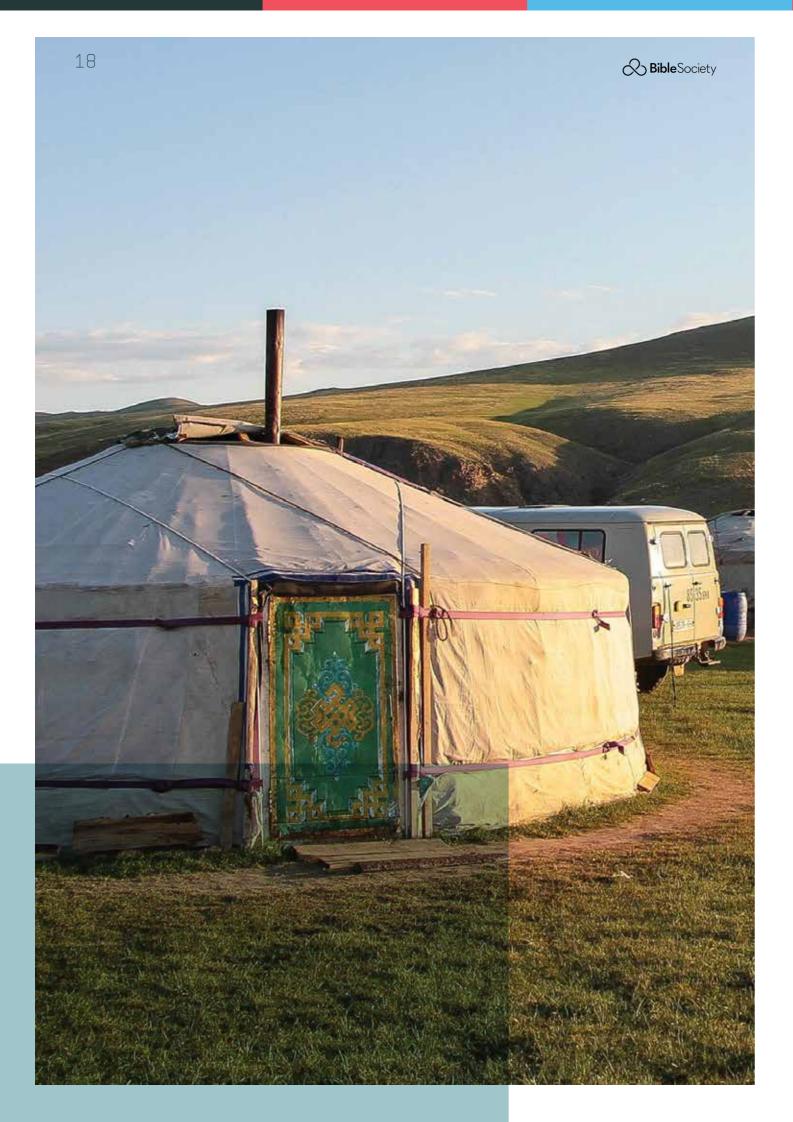
the first draft of the Old Testament was completed and revised. Internal reviews were completed on 14 books The translation work is 90% complete, and the full Bible is (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Isaiah, expected to be ready by December 2021.

### Testimony



# Vietnam Minority Language #2





### Spiritual Impact

This project is supporting at least 65,000 Christians to understand and engage in God's word with a more accessible translation.

The project aims to meet the need for a new Mongolian translation that is easier to understand for the 65,000 (approx.) Christians in Mongolia. Begun in 2015, the translation is projected for completion in 2027. As of June 2021, over 40% of the project has been completed.

At the close of June 2021, the translation project reached a landmark point where, for all the books of the Old Testament, the team had completed the stages of draft translation, peer review and team discussion. The books of Daniel and Proverbs were made available on the mobile app "Bible MSV." On Bible Society Mongolia's Facebook page, the translators have been publishing a verse twice a week and an explanation text from their Glossary once a week. This is raising awareness of the project and encouraging feedback from readers.

The translators' excitement about this project is captured in these words from Bayar, Mongolian Union Bible Society's Mongolian Standard Version Project Manager:

"It's like all the time you were watching TV in black and white. But now you watch it in colour...You see all the little things that have an impact...When you are able to see things directly in the original, you find things that are directly parallel to your culture."



# Mongolia



International /

**Bible**Society

# Engagement: Literacy & Trauma Healing

Engagement projects are many and varied, but the common denominator is the Scriptures. These projects are needsspecific to each country or region. Some involve Biblebased Trauma Healing, others are building the capacity of communities who have missed out on education, offering Bible-based Literacy classes. This financial year, your support has funded projects in Cambodia, Lebanon, Laos, The Gambia, Togo, South Sudan, Cameroon, Mozambique, South Asia, Rwanda, Vanuatu, Myanmar, Egypt, South Africa, Vietnam, Pakistan, Syria and the Middle East, as well as Engagement projects in Australia as reported later in this Impact Report.



1,704 students have moved from Willingness to Understanding. As they continue reading and listening to the Scriptures, individual Action becomes increasingly likely as God's Spirit moves, impacting many more lives.

Among the ethnic minority groups in Vietnam there are with 704 students, each graduate receiving their own New many who have no access to education, and a large number Testament. Four workshops were hosted in three provinces. Each of the 71 facilitators was equipped with a pocket New who live in remote locations. As many as 10% of the population are likely to be illiterate. Using audio recordings, Testament and the Gospel of Mark. Bible Society Vietnam, in partnership with Vietnamese churches, are helping these people learn literacy skills. This year, a further 1,000 students graduated. 850 Bible

picture books along with three different Scripture portions Because of the COVID lockdown, all classes scheduled for and New Testaments were presented to the students. MP3 2020 were held in the second half of the year. 132 classes players were also given out to support the ongoing learning were opened with 1,578 students, all of whom received a through listening process. textbook and Scripture portions. 71 classes graduated

### Testimony



# Vietnam Learning Through Listening

# Engagement: Literacy & Trauma Healing 🥒

far north Cameroon to read, write and engage in Scriptures through Bible-based literacy classes. These people live under the constant threat of terrorist attacks by the Boko these people to stand firm in God despite the challenges, and to Open The Bible for them.

praying together; sharing their

direct result of this project.

Like everywhere, literacy classes scheduled for 2020 were impacted by the pandemic. In the second half of the year, 26 of the 117 scheduled classes finished the year, and 16 continued into 2021. 3,000 manuals were produced for the classes in 2020. 323 level 1 and 2 classes have operated this year.

have started to sew clothes. Students are active in church, giving announcements, becoming group leaders, taking positions on church councils, and even preaching. In short, several learners are already very useful to the church.

### Testimony





25

Engagement: Literacy & Trauma Healing 🥒

Egypt Children and Adult Post Literacy project

ACTION: Faith is being strengthened, family life supported, as people go on the hard journey of healing.

The Children and Adult Post Literacy project aims to develop a lifestyle of literacy for students of all ages and prevent a relapse into illiteracy. Using the Scriptures as the curriculum basis, students develop their reading and writing skills, while learning to practically apply Biblical principles in their own lives. The program focus is to facilitate personal and spiritual development as individuals accept responsibility and take initiative for their ongoing learning.

Spiritual Impact

ACTION: Former students are sharing their new-found skills

with others, including signing up to facilitate others in the same

project. 900 students have

graduated.

In July 2020, literacy classes resumed after COVID restrictions were eased. From July 2020 to June 2021, 400 classes were formed with 550 teachers, 7,000 students and 900 graduates. Nearly ten thousand student books have been distributed along with 690 facilitator books, 71 MP3 players and 298 Large Print New Testaments as Graduation Gifts.

Bible Society Egypt has recruited potential new facilitators, many are former students. They have been empowered to take action by the program.

The Bible Society of Slovenia is empowering those working needy and traumatised. The project held a three-day with traumatised people, to help guide them into new advanced equipping seminar and a four-day initial equipping ways of life with the help of the Biblical message. Many in seminar. Around 65 people attended healing groups. their country have faced violence, abuse, suicide, divorce, The Bible Society Slovenia staff have continued the healing alcoholism, depression, post war wounds and division that have a negative impact at both the individual and groups that started online at the end of last year/beginning of 2021. community level.

New initiatives and new models of Trauma Healing ministry online were launched mid-2020 to continue serving the

### Testimony

read and write.

### Testimony



# Slovenia The Bible Helps to Heal Wounds and Trauma

# Engagement: Literacy & Trauma Healing 🥒

Syria Trauma Healing for the Syrian Community

225 adults and children have learned how to draw on God to help manage trauma. They have the potential to positively impact many more people through churches, families, work and school. This project is also empowering churches to serve their broader communities. 2,800 children are likely to be positively impacted through engagement with Sunday School.

Most people in Syria are suffering from some form of teachers on the program of the Psychological Trauma trauma as recent years have included violence, conflict and hardship. By running Trauma Healing Seminars, this project is equipping local churches to run their own Trauma Healing Centres. These churches are then reaching out to 25 different local churches in Hama will benefit from this their communities and, together with other organisations, supporting people dealing with the experience of trauma.

In October 2020, Bible Society Syria set out to support the city of Hama with training in Psycho-Biblical Resiliency for Kids. They conducted training for 23 Sunday School

Healing through the Bible for 8- to 13-year-old children. The training equipped the teachers to help children through the physical, psychological and spiritual trauma of war. At least program impacting as many as 2,800 children.

In cooperation with the Syriac Orthodox Church in Aleppo, a three-day Trauma Healing program for families and their children took place in May 2021.

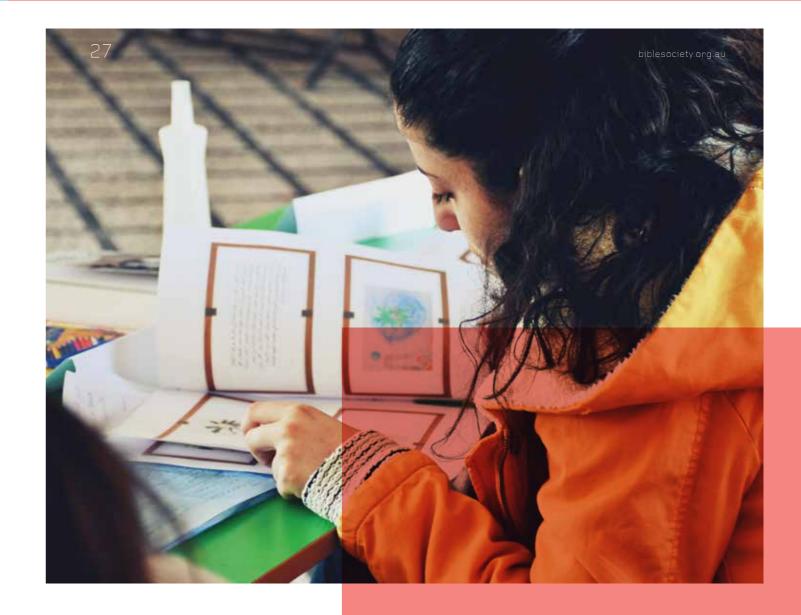
# 128

children attended a program and received a gift and a healthy meal.

### Trauma healing training with 24 trainees took place in a Franciscan Monastery.

# 25

for the participants and the trainer, in addition to 10 Bibles for participants who didn't have a personal Bible.



This training helped the families to understand more about the reasons for anxiety and how to deal with it. The children also were able to face what troubled them through war and have been equipped to use the Bible to try and solve their problems.

# Testimony

# International /

# Advocacy

Advocacy projects are enabling projects. As you can see from the two examples below, these projects are equipping theological students, pastors and communities in the provision of Bible resources, so they can focus their energy on teaching and serving their flocks. You are supporting Christian leaders and their communities in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, China and Israel.



equipped with Bible resources, each with the potential to impact hundreds of others.

This project is making Scripture resources available to In the first half of 2021, many applications were received preachers, Bible school students and Bible teachers in from 7 provinces. To date, 562 sets of Bible tools have China who experience financial hardship. Your support been given to lay preachers and students in four provinces, enables China Partnership (CP) to provide these Bible namely Jiangsu, Hubei, Hebei and Shaanxi. teachers and leaders with reference books and Bible study Through the ministry of these tools which assist and enrich their studies and preaching.

In the second half of 2020, a total of 2,272 sets of Bible tools were given to lay preachers and students in three provinces, namely Guizhou, Gansu and Hubei.

### Testimony

Willingness > Understanding > Action



# China **Bible Study Resources** for Poor Preachers and Seminary Students

lay preachers and students, hundreds of thousands will be impacted.

ACTION which can only increase as the Library's reputation spreads.

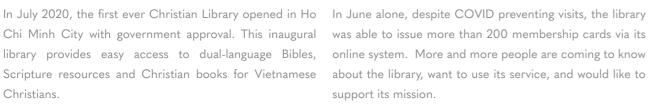
Chi Minh City with government approval. This inaugural library provides easy access to dual-language Bibles, Scripture resources and Christian books for Vietnamese Christians.

At the beginning of 2021, 1,200 English books – with a focus on Biblical Studies - were ordered to build the collection. The library will reach 10,000 volumes by the end of 2021.

**Bible**Society

Advocacy 🥒

Vietnam The Christian Library in Vietnam



# Testimony



**Bible**Society

International /

# Distribution

Ultimately, we hunger for all people to own and love a Bible of their own. There are more than 7 billion people in the world. And each one of those 7 billion is a beloved child of God. This past financial year you have assisted in the distribution of Bibles in Kenya, China, Nicaragua, Iraq, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Please see the reports of three of these projects below. We distribute and sell Scripture products in Australia through our Scripture Grants program and Koorong.

33

Potential Willingness of 10,000+ students to engage.



Christian Religious Education in all schools and the Program for Pastoral Instruction (PPI) in primary schools are approved by the Kenya School System. However, 98% of public primary schools do not have Bibles available in the classroom to assist in these lessons. Bible Society of Kenya is committed to placing a Bible in the hands of these marginalised young people.

### Testimony

Willingness > Understanding > Action



# Kenya **Bible Distribution** Among Marginalised Children and Youth

# In 2021:

7,912

far in 54 schools.

Through Bible Trivia sessions it has been observed that there is an increase in the knowledge of the Scriptures by the students.

178,203 Bibles have been distributed to Christians desperate to own their own.

Each year, this project aims to see Chinese people own There is a growing demand for large-print Bibles for a large their own Bible. It does so by funding Bible paper to support the printing and distribution of Bibles to a growing number of Christians in China, and to offer free Bibles to those who cannot afford to buy their own.

Bibles were distributed through Church partners. Bible Free Bibles have been provided for distribution in several paper support enabled the printing of 79,713 Bibles. In addition, 98,490 Bibles were given away to those who Jiangsu, Shandong Shaanxi, Yunnan, as well as other could not afford to purchase one. Of the Bibles that were Catholic Dioceses. distributed free, 37,690 copies were large-print Bibles.

proportion of elderly Christians, especially those who live in poorer rural areas. Many of them suffer from deteriorating eyesight and face challenges in reading the standard-sized Bibles.

provinces, including Chongqing, Gansu, Hubei, Hunan,

2,150 families and 2,000 children supported by

local churches.

This project aims to holistically support Christians under pressure in Iraq. By distributing Scriptures and relief packages that provide for physical needs, including food, medicines and hygiene supplies, Bible Society hopes to encourage a dwindling Christian population to persevere in the faith.

- From July 2020 June 2021, 1,850 families received packages which contained food, hygiene items, Bibles, and Scriptures for children
- In addition, 2,000 Children received Christmas gifts (pyjamas) and a Family Bible each.

### Testimony

### Testimony

BibleSociety

China

Distribution /

Affordable Bibles for

the Millions in China



# Iraq Scriptures and **Relief Packages**

• 300 families received a Family Bible each.

The need is huge and increasing because of the COVID situation and the lock-down which has affected hundreds of families who used to earn their living on a day-by-day basis. The Bible Society in Iraq has obtained permission to distribute the relief packages in Iraq even during total lockdown.

The project has strengthened the churches that hosted this distribution program.

Willingness 🕨 Understanding

Australia 🖊

# Language: Translation

# Roadmap for Translation

Bible Society's Remote and Indigenous Ministry Team met together in Adelaide in early 2021 for a Strategy Meeting to discuss Bible Translation plans for the next 5-10 years. This was a very productive time, and the outworking of these discussions will help direct the Roadmap for Translation.

A roadmap trip visiting various Indigenous communities and people involved in Indigenous ministry was undertaken in far north Queensland. Links were made and renewed with Kuku Yalanji and Gugu Yimidhirr speaking communities (Lutheran), some Pentecostal churches and the Anglican Diocese of North QLD. Four languages in the Torres Strait have indicated a desire to resume Bible translation and the Lutheran communities are keen to create their own vernacular Christian resources (with BSA help). Discipleship resources in Aboriginal English was the top request across all the groups.





### Spiritual Impact:

The POTP will impact well over 10,000 Pitjantjatjara speakers, including two other language groups along with the Western Desert language families, who understand Pitjantjatjara.

Ongoing progress is being made in the Old Testament translation of POTP with another 23 Psalms being firstdrafted in Jan-June 2021, leaving just ten Psalms yet to undergo a first draft. Bible translator Lilian Wilton has completed another five chapters of Job. Tjikatu Burton has finished a first draft of Esther, and is now working with Carolyn Windy on the second draft.

The books of 2 Chronicles and Ezekiel have nearly been front-translated, leaving only a few remaining Old Testament books yet to be front-translated.

# Pitjantjatjara Old Testament Translation Project (POTP)

# Language: Translation 🥒

Spiritual Impact:

6,000 Indigenous people from Kimberley people groups will hear God's word in their heart language! Audio Scripture Projects Oral Bible Translation

Kimberley Project, in partnership with YWAM

Kimberley Kriol is spoken by approximately 5,000 speakers in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. However, this new method of Oral Bible Translation has the potential to 'Open The Bible' to hundreds of people who haven't had the opportunity to work on Bible Translation previously. This translation method is specifically designed for 'oral languages,' particularly those with very few written words, allowing mother tongue speakers the opportunity to engage in translation work even if they are illiterate in their own language or in English. Youth With a Mission's (YWAM) Every

Tongue Ministry has identified four traditional language groups in the Kimberley who have expressed interest in doing an Oral Bible Translation Project.

These are: Jaru (353 speakers); Gooniyandi (130 speakers); Kija (100 speakers) and Walmajarri (283 speakers) which makes a total of 833 speakers according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census.

Several audio recording workshops were held over the past 12 months, including:

Kriol Old Testament recording workshops in Darwin (a 3-week and a 1-week workshop) A Western Arrarnta Gospel of Mark audio recording in Alice Springs and Hermannsburg An audio recording workshop at Wadeye (Port Keats) in the Northern Territory. Spiritual Impact:

A total of 40,054 speakers could be impacted through future language translation work as a result of this significant project.

The three year Diploma of Translation Course commenced<br/>in 2019 and in November this year the first cohort of 17languages represented in the Diploma of Translation Course<br/>and a further 11,705 speakers potentially impacted through<br/>the 'In Community' Workshops.Students from 9 different language groups will graduate.<br/>These 9 groups are: Burarra (995 speakers); Tiwi (2,040<br/>speakers); Kriol (20,000 speakers); Gupapuynu (330<br/>speakers); Djambarrpuynu (4,264 speakers); Wangurri (150<br/>speakers); Warramiri (100 speakers); Maung (370 speakers)<br/>and Dhanu-mi' (100 speakers).Several Bible Storytelling and Painting Workshops were run including<br/>an Oral Bible Storytelling and Painting Workshop at an<br/>Aboriginal Christian Leader's conference in Katherine,<br/>along with weekly Oral Bible Storytelling sessions with<br/>students at Nungalinya College in 2020.

Throughout this course there have also been 'In Community' Workshops which have engaged a further 20 language students in a further 10 language groups (Alyawarr – 1,000 speakers; Pintupi-Luritja – 2,080 speakers; Pitjantjatjara – 3,000 speakers; Western Arrarnta – 1,500 speakers; Anmatyerr – 1,000 speakers; Njebbana – 100 speakers; Kunwinjku – 800 speakers; Kuninjku – 100 speakers; Djinang – 125 speakers and Anindilyakwa – 2,000 speakers). Making a potential impact total of 28,349 speakers for the

"...in November this year the first cohort of 17 students from 9 different language groups will graduate..."

38

# Language: Translation 🖊

Training and Workshops Diploma of Translation Course, partnership with Nungalinya College

Engagement 🖊

# Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support (RIMS)

Written by Australian Christians, Daily Bible seeks to email and on our purpose-built website: www.bible.com.au. support Christians as they grow their faith, understand the Web users can access both current and previous devotion Bible and find rest, hope and purpose in Christ. These short series. devotions are sent out 365 days a year to subscribers, via

26.000 total across

### Spiritual Impact:

impacted through their engagement with the Scriptures.

# Anglican Lectionary App

This app has been developed specifically for the languages spoken in the Northern Territory Anglican Diocese which consist of: Kriol (20,000 speakers); Wubuy (400 speakers); Kunwinjku (800 speakers) and Anindilyakwa (2,000 speakers), making a total of 23,200 language speakers. This does not include those connecting with the Plain English Version (PEV) which is also available on this app.

### Testimony

Hello, Please can you inform Dr Hawkes that his series Stormy Waters part 1 and now part 2 is the most beautiful series I have read.

This morning I have been brought to tears (again) by his love for the Lord, his honest reflection of life and the beauty of the presence of God in his suffering...

new Pitjantjatjara Prayer Book (90 prayers), as well as a number of reading checks and edits of previous prayers. The new Bible App Tjukurpa Palya has been installed on peoples' phones, and Megavoice devices containing the Pitjantjatjara audio New Testament have been purchased by keen community members.

The translation team completed a guarter of the

# Engagement 🖊

# Daily Bible

# the year:

\* The average open rate in all industries is 21.33% (accordina t maustries is 21.33% (according to Email Marketing Benchmarks and Statistics by Industry, Mailchimp).

God bless and thank you for taking me through a snippet of this journey with you. It has penetrated my heart with encouragement to continue worshiping the magnificent Lord Almighty and fighting the good fight. Love in Christ, Belinda

# Engagement 🖊

# Bibles for Bubs

### Spiritual Impact:

3,400 Australian families asked for a Bible for their infant. This demonstrates a willingness to engage with God's word. Over 10,000 families are now connected to Bible Society through this engaging program.

Each year, the Bibles for Bubs project aims to provide Bibles for 2,000 babies born in the previous year and commits to sending a handwritten birthday card and Bible reading tips for the first five years of each child's life. In the fifth year, each child will receive a Big Rescue Bible.

In 2021, over 3,400 requests were received within a week of applications opening on February 1st. By the end of April, these families began to receive their Children's Bibles. One recipient wrote, "We just received our first Bibles

for Bubs package. I must say how timely it was for me to read the included letter from CEO Grant Thomson. I was really struggling today with the task of raising this baby, and his words in the letter were very reassuring and a huge encouragement to me. So, a special thank you to him as they were words I really needed to read".

There are now over 10,000 children in the program, which began in 2018.

# Acorn Press

to God and his word. The Re:Considering series, small thought pieces written by the fellows of Centre for Public the hope to more fully engage Catholic primary students in Christianity, invites people to look at familiar things from a God's word. Thousands of hours of writing and meticulous new angle. Over 10,000 of these books, written particularly picture research has created 'an extraordinary resource for to appeal to the curious, secular reader, are being printed students and their teachers.' The Encyclopedia Bible will and distributed and will, we pray, encourage readers to launch in October 2021. reconsider the beauty of Christ.

Acorn Press publishes books that draw people closer An extensive 180-page new encyclopedia section was written for the BSA CEV Catholic Encyclopedia Bible in





Spiritual Impact:

empowered to think deeply about their faith and what this means to their life and the lives of those around them.

Masterclass challenges students to live lives that honour God and tell others of God's amazing love for them. Two live-streamed events were held in the last financial year. The first, in August 2020, was for students in years 9-11. 3,497 people registered for the shortened online program. The second event, for Year 12 students, with the theme 'Anchored in Christ', was held in April 2021. The goal of this new Year 12 Masterclass was to reach out to students who are about to emerge from the routine of schooling into the world. The transition period between school and adult life has been identified as a key drop off point for many Christian teenagers. 1,670 students tuned in, and feedback was very positive.

### Testimonies

"Great job with tackling this new platform! Although it's definitely not the same as meeting in person, I really valued the experience as a whole."

speeches, it's really helped me control my thoughts and helped me take another step towards finding a life with God and the plan/journey he has for me."



# Masterclass

(In response to the Year 12 Masterclass) "As a teacher it was a privilege to be present as our students processed these big issues and then looked for positive ways to move forward. I know that they "Thank you so much for the messages, music, talks/ were very thankful for the Masterclass, as was I... thank you!"

# Australia 🖊

# Advocacy

Bible Society's work in advocacy is different in Australia to the enabling role we inhabit with our international partners. In Australia we are advocating for the truth of the gospel through our two media brands: Centre for Public Christianity (CPX) and Eternity. CPX engages with secular Australians (as you can see outlined below) and seeks to equip Christians of all ages to be able to represent Christ to their friends and colleagues. Eternity is a news service, reporting to its predominantly Christian audience on matters of Church and State from a Christian perspective. Both CPX and Eternity advocate for Christianity across social media platforms, through podcasts, videos, and their own branded websites. CPX publishes regularly in secular news publications.





# Centre for Public Christianity (CPX)

1 | | |

CPX exists to make the truth, beauty, and goodness of Christianity clear to secular Australians. Launched in 2007, CPX seeks to present a clear, measured, and respectful picture of the Christian faith and the way it can impact all of life for the good, through high quality and well-researched presentations, print, video and audio material.

### Media Engagement

This financial year CPX appeared in secular media outlets 123 times.

- 57 published articles.
- 41 radio interviews.
- 2 television appearances.
- In addition, CPX's work was cited by journalists 25 times.

Each of these touchpoints provided an opportunity to offer a Christian perspective on contemporary life in the public square.

Highlights include:

- CPX's Easter Research featured in a very positive story on *Media Watch*
- Justine Toh wrote several articles for The Canberra Times
- Natasha Moore was interviewed on ABC Radio Sydney 702 about her book, *The Pleasures of Pessimism*.

"What a wonderful article you wrote on the ABC website. I have forwarded it to many friends as an encouraging, practical, sensitive and thoughtful piece of writing that should be compulsory reading. You are a great voice of reason!"

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### Speaking in the public sector

Despite COVID restrictions causing the cancellation of many events, CPX staff gave 54 talks at 51 events – many online – to audiences ranging from 25 to 1,000+. Highlights include:

- Simon Smart to Defence Force Academy Cadets in Canberra.
- Mark Stephens at Basecamp Men's Convention over two weekends.
- Tim Costello at the High Court of Tasmania's Annual service and dinner.

### School Engagement

CPX resources are used in schools across the country and the team has been active in increasing our reach in this area.

- Schools using our material in their curriculum grew by 20% (from 83 to 100).
- Schools regularly interacting with CPX in some way e.g. engaging us for staff training seminars – grew marginally from 249 to 258 (4%).
- Teachers receiving our education newsletter grew by 25% (from 564 to 709).

### Social Media Engagement

The CPX team posts regularly on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

- Our Facebook posts reached over 170,000 people during the year.
- Instagram followers increased by 33% (from 1,200 to 1,600).
- YouTube subscribers went up by 20% (from 2,430 to 2,930).

# Advocacy 🖉

# Eternity

Eternity, as a leading Christian journalistic voice in Australia, seeks to speak with credibility and authority about the issues I step out in the corner I always pray before and after the that affect people in their everyday lives. The assumption is game. It just gives me the strength and belief," To'o said. that most readers understand the importance of engaging with the Bible, and much of Eternity's challenge is around what action for God readers might take as a result of engaging with Eternity web and podcast content.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (NIV).

Naomi Reed, the queen of Australian Christian writers. There is absolutely no sign that she is finding it hard to meet more people who want to tell the story of how they came to Christ. And in Eternity we have told the stories of people standing for Christ, whether footballers, scientists, prisoners – all sorts of people from tiny towns to our large cities. These stories are all about changed lives through the revelation of God.

The Faith Stories series was awarded Gold in the Annual Australasian Press Association Awards for Best Social Media Campaign. The judge wrote: "There wasn't anything gimmicky about your campaign, it was just engaging content, clean cut design, not excellent quality photos, but the photos and stories were real and authentic and that's what matters."

Gold was also awarded in the categories: Best Feature by Multiple Authors and Best Review.

A story with real heart was Eternity's Kylie Beach's profile of NSW State of Origin Blues winger Brian To'o, taking a knee

and quietly committing his game to the Lord. "Every time

Eternity covers the "Christian" part of stories the main media leaves out, such as Rebecca Abbott's profile of Dr Ungunmerr Baumann, Senior Australian of the year, quoting her contribution to Bible Society's Our Mob God's Eternity's 'go to' verse this year has been 1 Peter 3:15 Story. "I am beginning to hear the Gospel at every level of my identity. I am beginning to feel the great need we have of Jesus – to protect and strengthen our identity; and to make us whole and new again."

One of our most popular columns is Faith Stories by Eternity's digital reach and impact continue to grow:

5.67m in 2019/20) this equates to 188,000 average monthly users, up from 138,000.

### Podcasts:

total downloads for the 2020/21 financial year:

362,210

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Feby Chan How God rebuilt my faith after my husband was executed

Naomi Reed's faith stories

Finding Jesus in jail

The getting of wisdom



# Distribution /

# Scripture Grants

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### Testimony

"One of our MCF (Military Christian Fellowship) members said his faith has been strengthened so much during this deployment, he's met a number of other ADF Christians he didn't know before. They are looking to start a Bible study group, even if only doing it virtually. He loves his waterproof Bible,

# Spiritual Impact:

174,000 pieces of Scripture placed into the hands of seekers and Christians by chaplains. Each of those people willingly received God's word.

Bible Society Australia's Scripture Grants Program provides Scriptures and resources to chaplains and gospel workers in prisons, hospitals, ports, military bases and training centres, and in school Scripture classes.

Over the course of the 20/21 financial year, just under 174,000 Bibles and Scripture products were distributed. This included more than 3,000 Toddler Bibles to families with new infants, plus an additional 7000 other products to families registered in the Bible for Bubs program.

The Scripture Grants Program is managed by Missions in partnership with the Publishing arm of Bible Society. The ongoing commitment and generosity of our supporters has enabled thousands and thousands of Australians to have access to God's word.

Publishing created dedicated Bible editions for the Australian Federal Police, WA Police, Victorian Police and NSW Corrective Services and began work on Bibles for Ambulance Australia. Gospels for the Christian Motorcycle Association Australia, for Youth with a Mission and a fresh new set of NIV Gospels for general outreach and evangelism were also published for distribution through the Program.

36,000 Bible comics have been purchased for distribution via chaplains and a mission partner across Australian prisons in a new partnership between BSA and Kingstone Comics in the US.

"The comics provide a wonderful way to convey the gospel to those who have difficulties with the English language. With much appreciation." A coordinator of the Prison Ministry Comic Packs.

Bible Society also continues its special relationship with the Australian Defence Forces and printed over 15,000 Bibles and Scripture products including new compact editions of the Navy and Army New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs and the launch of the Tri-Service Devotional.



especially when a rainy day or at night, he can pull it out and read it no matter the weather." Julie

# Distribution /

# Disaster Relief and other Grants

COVID restrictions impacted some ministries through our Chaplain and Parachurch (C&P) grant. For example, ministries in prisons, kids' camps, detention centres, some Seafarer and red-light ministries were unable to operate in-person if located in states experiencing repeated lockdowns. Despite that, nearly 10,200 Bibles, New Testaments and gospel resources were distributed to those engaged in prison ministry and 7,322 items of Scripture were given to hospital ministry workers. A further 16,321 Bibles, New Testaments and gospel resources were distributed through other parachurch ministries.

A total of 33,804 Bibles and Scripture items equipping those in frontline ministries to speak God's love into the lives of those they serve.

### Testimony

"Bill came to the chapel one day to 'talk with the chaplain'. He stated that in a moment of desperation he picked up a Bible belonging to his cell mate and began to read it for the first time. He claimed that he could not explain why, but he knew in his heart that it was true and he had come to the chapel believing that God could help him. He was so excited and it was like he had discovered the most important thing in his life. We had a wonderful time working through some very important faith questions. Witnessing God bringing hope to the desperate through his word is an event that I often witness in prison." – Richard

Koorong seeks to equip and inspire people on their personal journey with Jesus by offering the largest range of Bible and Christian resources in the southern hemisphere.

The Impact can be understood in the numbers of people purchasing God's word and study materials about God's word.

- 380,000 Bibles
- Over 37,000 children's Bibles
- 21,000 theological books to assist Australian Christians everywhere by all means possible. seeking to deepen their faith

"I want to sing the praises of Deborah in Customer Service at Koorong. Deborah took the initiative to respond immediately to my online order – finding alternative stock of Baptism and Confirmation certificates to fill my urgent need.

### 20,000 copies of the Beyond Trauma booklet and cards have been given to ministries on the front line in the wake of floods, fires and to assist those experiencing mental anguish due to extended lockdowns.

Last Sunday, I gave an 80-year-old lady the

Beyond Trauma booklet, with the card. She told

me a few days later that she wishes she had been

given such beautiful and helpful resource 40 years

ago, when her husband was accidentally shot and

killed in a hunting incident. She has sadly suffered

day, she was talking to me as a woman renewed.'

Through the Bibles in School's grant 4,932 Big Rescue Bibles

and youth Bibles were distributed to primary and secondary

school classrooms to enable Scripture teachers to Open

The Bible with students during their lessons. A further

3,800 Jesus Storybook Borrow Bibles were distributed to

"Thanks again for the set of Bibles to use in my

them last week and the children were all very

scripture classes at XXX South PS. I started using

enthusiastic. Now we are looking forward to the

chronic depression for many years, but on this

Testimony

– Melanie

primary schools.

Borrow Bibles arriving!"

– Bronwyn

# Distribution / Koorong



- 13,000 books teaching the foundations of faith for new Christians are sowing deep roots in the lives of young believers
- Over 100,000 devotionals are now bringing comfort, challenge and wisdom to Christians drawing closer to God in their daily walk.

Koorong's proceeds support the mission of Bible Society Australia as together we seek to impact and influence Australia and the world by Opening The Bible to all people

As a chaplain in two large WA high security prisons, she has made several prisoners very happy – such shine is rare in these institutions.

Thanks for having such great, creative staff."

# A last word of thanks from us to you

# To our Bequestors...

In FY20-21 BSA received \$3.79 million from 80 generous bequests at an average \$47.4k per bequest.

In July 2020 BSA had 699 known committed bequestors. This grew to 744 by end of June 2021, an increase of 45 committed bequestors, despite a difficult engagement year. We are very grateful for the extra-special gifts received through generous bequests, which helps to fund around 30% of all BSA projects.

# To our Supporter Care donors....

The Supporter Care team continued to build strong are supp relationships with our beloved Bible Society supporters across a difficult year of separation, encouraging them to give out of their passion for the work of Bible Society. These our Supporters' passions and interests in Bible Society as well as financing Bible Society's mission to Opening The Bible to all people everywhere by all means possible.

In the past financial year, we either started new relationships or built on existing supporter relationships with 1,417 supporters across Australia. We love chatting about Bible Society's mission with our supporters, and in this COVID time we stayed connected by phone and email.

The Board and staff of Bible Society are indebted to every one of those 1,417 supporters, along with our Lighthouse family, Kooroong supporters, regular givers and others who have more recently heard about our Bible mission work.

Those 1,417 supporters generously donated \$3.3 million to support our mission. This is a slight increase on the previous year, an incredible response from our supporters given the impact of COVID and testament to the faithfulness and passion of those who support our mission.

# To our Church friends...

Our Church Relations team has continued to grow partnerships and connections across all denominations. BSA is particularly grateful for our ongoing partnership with World Day of Prayer, and the many churches who are supporting our Australian Indigenous and International Projects. Thank you. We love coming to visit and welcome all invitations to speak about the enormous challenge of Opening The Bible to all people everywhere by all means possible.

