



Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support  
Project Fact Sheet 2022

## RIMS: Bible Distribution

### Overview

Each year Bible Society Australia distributes Indigenous Bibles and Scripture Resources to organisations and churches who minister to Indigenous communities around Australia, free of charge. This ensures that Indigenous

Scriptures are not only published but are made available to the local church communities, engaged with, and lead to transformation.

### The Need

Distribution is the crucial final step to ensuring that precious Scripture translations are available in local church communities. Decades of work by translators go into these Scripture resources, and it is vitally important that communities are given the chance to celebrate these great achievements and dedicate their Bibles.

There are many challenges and difficulties in ensuring the distribution of Indigenous Scriptures around the country. Most of the languages translated are located in remote communities in the Top End of the Northern Territory, central desert communities and remote communities in the Kimberley and Far North Queensland.

Bible Society is committed to accessing the most efficient and effective distribution methods. These include a combination of traditional postage methods; travelling partnerships; vehicles; technology (online resources) and the Indigenous Scripture Grant Program.

## Project Goals

In 2022, through the Indigenous Scripture Grant Program, Bible Society will provide Indigenous Ministers, Sunday school workers, teachers, prison and hospital chaplains with free Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scripture resources to the value of \$80,000.

This is an increase in funds from previous years due to the increased demand for Scripture resources from remote communities. Many of these communities are closed to visiting ministry due to COVID restrictions.

## Impact

This project impacts the organisations and churches who are supplied with Scriptures to help them as they minister to Australia's First Nation people.

The Indigenous Scripture Grants Program provides invaluable support to ministers and ministry work in outback Australia. The impact of this project is also felt in the communities and by the individuals who receive Bibles in their heart languages, as God's word influences their lives. Through the distribution of Indigenous Scripture resources many thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be able to face life's challenges with Scripture in their hands and hearts.

In early 2022, Pastor Timothy from Derby in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia received from Bible Society large print Bibles and youth Bibles for his congregation to assist in this congregations' faith formation. Pastor Timothy has been separated from his congregation due to border restrictions for the last six months.

In 2021, Bible Society was able to provide Children's Bibles to a Christian College in Queensland who have an annual mission trip to communities on three islands in the Torres Strait (Thursday, Murray and Warrabar Islands) and run very successful Children's Programs in the local churches there using the Bibles.

## Testimonies

A young Aboriginal woman from Karalundi received a Family Easy Reading English Bible through a Bible Society Grant, and consequently felt a burden for her father, who was not a Christian and led a wild life. This young woman prayed for her father and sent him the Bible. She later shared, *"I gave him some Bible lessons when I came to visit. He began reading his Bible and studying the lessons. One day he heard the voice of God speak to him saying, 'you need to change your ways.' He said, 'I opened my heart's door and invited Jesus to come in'. He continued to read his Bible."* Those in the community with this man remarked that he was a changed man. This man says he takes his Bible everywhere with him; it has become like a faithful friend.

*"Thank you so much for providing these resources. Aboriginal people love the presentation of the materials and it really helps us in our goal of helping Aboriginal people to be both proud of their identity and culture and be proud of being a follower of Jesus."*

- Liz Roberts, Minister of Lifestreams Community Services and the Good Damper Ministry serving homeless and vulnerable people in Perth.

## Prayer Needs

*"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it". Isaiah 55:10-11*

Please pray that as these resources are sent out around the country, they will yield spiritual fruit and achieve God's purposes.