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Canadian Bible Society
Société biblique canadienne

2019 IMPACT REPORT



Witness the FACES OF FAITH

You are instrumental in their journeys

// A student alight with the knowledge of God

// A refugee craving good news and hope

*// A congregation thrilled by God's
word in their own language*

// A prisoner devouring the message of God's love

// A soldier holding tight the testaments of grace and truth

*// A survivor of trauma receiving comfort
and guidance from the Scriptures*

*// A newcomer to Canada reverently
exploring the sacred pages*

As the Scriptures perform their mysterious
work of healing and transformation,
you are a witness, a companion and a friend
to those who are becoming the faces of faith.



We print by the tens of thousands.
We see one face at a time.

The Bible is not powerful on a printing press. It has no special impact in a shipping container or warehouse. In a bookstore, it takes up space on a shelf.
But the Bible in someone hands stirs to life. And the Bible in people's hearts transforms their lives.

That is why you'll find the Canadian Bible Society (CBS) at the intersection of faith and life—in Canada and in scores of other countries—because God speaks to the daily lives and eternal destinies of the people He created.

When we confirm an order to “print,” we look past the churning presses to the faces of waiting people, the faces of faith.

Ensuring that people hear God speak is the burning heart of the Canadian Bible Society. The Four Pillars of our work are Scripture translation, publication, distribution and engagement, with a growing emphasis on engaging people with the truth of God's Scriptures.

We deliver God's Word to the sharp edge of ministry, where people live and work, where they suffer and are helped, where they imagine their future and make life choices. Wherever people lift up God's name to those in need, or worship together, or seek truth, hope and salvation, we deliver.

You make that possible. We thank you for your faithful support, for giving generously, and for praying that God's Word would continue to transform lives.

—Rupen Das, Executive Director



In 2018-2019:



548,178 Scriptures,
Bibles, Testaments and Scripture selections distributed by CBS last year (including 120,000 Bibles)



Made the Word of God available in about
100 languages
here in Canada, through a variety of ministries, churches and organizations



Directly supported
60 projects
in **40 countries** outside of Canada



36,163 Canadian donors
together contributed toward our revenue of \$12.3 M



Partnerships stretching into
200 countries

YOUR IMPACT WAS FELT

in many ways over 2018-2019 (Here's a selection!)

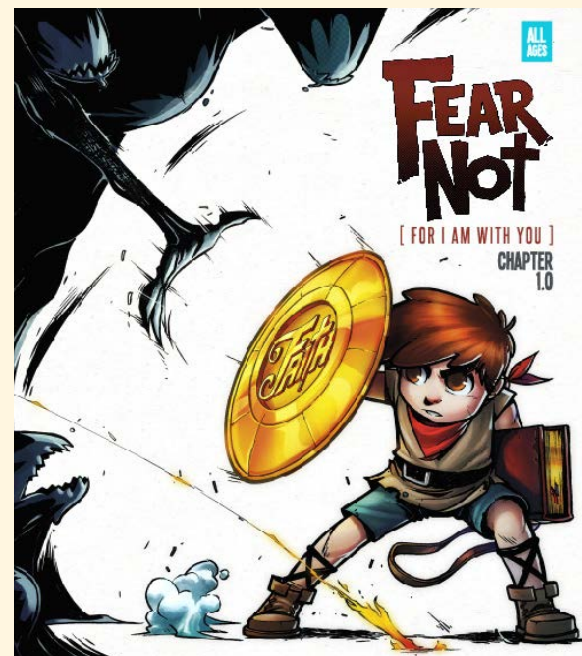
- > Bible Societies worldwide, including CBS, collaborated with churches and partner organizations to complete Scripture translations in 66 languages used by 440 million people.



- > In partnership with the National Prayer Breakfast committee, CBS wrote and published *Tracings of the Canadian Soul - Scriptures Set in Parliamentary Stone*, a short book providing a photographic and narrative celebration of the Biblical references found in the Centre Block of the Parliament buildings.

- > A long-term project delayed by civil unrest and natural disasters, the first Haitian Creole Study Bible, was completed in 2018. The volume includes commentary and study aids by Haitian Bible scholars. CBS provided typesetting and design, and is now discussing engagement strategies with the Haitian Bible Society. This is the only Scripture resource of its kind available in Haitian Creole.

- > CBS released *Fear Not*, a comic book series aimed at children ages 8-12, centred around the adventures of a boy named Samuel as he brings God's word to the people of the Land of the Desolate.



- > In 2018, over 12,000 *Adventure for Life* Bibles were distributed and sown into the life of Canadian children and youth through Camps and Vacation Bible School programs.



- > Amity Printing Company in China is the world's largest Bible printing press, and is supported through the generosity of partners like you. In 2018 the total number of Bibles produced in the 30-year history of the Amity press in China went past 180 million.



- > Café Logos at 1207 Kingsway in Vancouver opened in 2018 as a CBS pilot project. It provides a full-service coffee shop that incorporates a bookstore with Christian publications and Bibles, and space for small meetings and events.

- > In partnership with Tyndale University College and Seminary, CBS launched a new publishing imprint, Tyndale Academic Press. The press will bring forward the best intelligence and insight about practical ministry from the wide range of community-based research by Canadian professors and students. Then, as Canada's only provider of foreign language Scripture resources, CBS is collaborating with Tyndale Intercultural Ministries (TIM) Centre to provide intercultural resources for training and research.





Reaching around the world

Your support spans the globe.

The Canadian Bible Society is a member of the United Bibles Societies, a fellowship of 145 national Bible Societies around the world.

The Societies work in partnership with churches and other Bible agencies to facilitate and support Scripture translation and distribution work around the globe.

In addition to its work in Canada, in 2018, the Canadian Bible Society worked in 40 countries around the world, supporting 60 projects that help transform lives through God's Word. *Here's where your commitment was directly felt in the past year.* ➔

Arab-Israel
Armenia
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Bolivia
Belarus
Cameroon
Chile
China
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Egypt
El Salvador
Eswatini (Swaziland)
Ghana
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras

India
Israel
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Latvia
Lebanon
Lithuania
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Peru
Philippines
Pakistan
Palestine
Romania
Syria
Tanzania
Uganda
Ukraine

There are 7.6 billion people in the world.

7,000+

the number of **languages spoken** in the world today.

1,135

the number of language groups that have **some portions of Scripture** available in their language (one or more books).

674

the number of language groups that have **access to the entire Bible in the language they understand best.**

2,000+

the number of languages groups **without any of the Bible**, but with a possible need of a Bible translation to begin.

1,515

the number of language groups that have **access to the New Testament in the language they understand best** – 598 million people.

2,767

the **total number of current translation programs** around the world, on behalf of 1.9 billion people.

* 70% of all translations of the complete Bible have been provided by Bible Societies across the world.

GOD SPEAKS EVERY LANGUAGE.

Everyone deserves to hear what He has to say, in the language they understand best.

Rejoicing in Cuba

For a generation only two out of every five Christians owned a Bible. Your generous support brought 1.3 million new Bibles to Cuba between 2013 and 2018.



Jorge

Alysney Rodríguez Galán, from the Cuban Bible Commission of the Cuban Council of Churches, said, “Cuba . . . has no technology to print its own Bibles and no Christian bookstores, but it does not stop the growth of its Church. The soil is ready and we are ready as well.”

After decades of a severe Scripture shortage, a new generation of Cubans are rediscovering the God of the Bible.

In 1959, the Communist government sent Christian leaders to work camps,

shut down churches and forced believers underground. For a generation only two out of every five Christians owned a Bible. When restrictions began to loosen 30 years later, the few remaining Bibles were worn out or damaged. Church leaders were anxious to see the Cuban people reading God’s Word again. But decades of Scripture drought could be reversed only through a large influx of Bibles.

Your generous support of the Million Bible Mission brought 1.3 million new Bibles to Cuba between 2013 and 2018. The demand is such that Bible Societies have

pledged to provide a further one million Bibles by 2022.

On June 2, 2018, the first Million Bible Mission concluded with an unforgettable day of celebration and worship in Havana.

Jorge, a Methodist church leader was there and rejoiced that his congregation members finally had Bibles, which he called “a great treasure.” “[I want] to profusely and eternally thank everyone at the Bible Society, wherever they are, for supporting this project,” Jorge said. “My gratitude to them is endless.”

Touching the face of God

Around the world, there are an estimated 285 million people with visual disabilities. Most live in developing countries where all resources to support them – including Bibles that would help them through their spiritual and emotional struggles – are scarce. *In 2018, CBS, in partnership with the Bible Societies of Uganda, Ghana and Argentina, distributed in these countries, Braille Bibles, Bible portions, Bible stories, solar powered audio Proclaimer devices for listening groups and SD memory cards.* In Uganda, many opportunities were created for the blind people to lead readings in church and public gatherings.



An unlikely face of faith

One day, God spoke directly to Li's heart as she read Jesus' words in Mark 5:36: "Do not be afraid. Just believe." Suddenly her fears of rejection and disapproval ceased to stand between Li and her Saviour.

When the Bible was banned in China, believers hand-copied entire books from a single shared Bible. Even after the Cultural Revolution in

1976, obtaining a Bible was nearly impossible.

That makes Chinese believers like Li Wen living miracles. "I grew up as an atheist," says Li Wen. "There should have been no chance for me to know God and his Word."

Li traces her unlikely faith to her work as a typesetter at Amity Printing Company, the authorized Bible press for the church in China. "My job was to help typeset the first portion of [the] Chinese Bible," Li says. "Still, I only read the Bible as part of my work." But over time Li learned more about the call to follow Jesus. Coworkers shared the gospel and invited her to Bible studies. One day, God spoke directly to Li's heart as she read Jesus' words in Mark 5:36: "Do not be afraid. Just believe." Suddenly her fears of rejection and disapproval ceased to stand

between Li and her Saviour. "God's grace came upon me," she says. "I made a decision to follow Jesus, and the joy of belief filled my heart."



God speaks when needs are greatest

In a crisis, people are drawn to the Word of God, for comfort, hope and the message of salvation. As they encounter His Word, they turn their faces and hearts to Him. CBS supports many ministries that encounter the worst of human need and suffering. In their work, having Scriptures freely available in local languages is essential.

In the past year, you helped CBS provide Scriptures to many ministries that span the globe and meet every manner of human need.

CBS supports many ministries that encounter the worst of human need & suffering ➤

- > People struggling with alcohol in Kenya
- > Orphans in Tanzania
- > Widows and urban slum dwellers in India

- > People exchanging weapons for Bibles in the Caribbean
- > Domestic violence victims in Costa Rica and Nicaragua
- > Youth in China

- > People freed from sex trafficking in Guatemala
- > Children with Down Syndrome and their families in Romania

- > Children in sports in Chile
- > Children benefiting from breakfast programs in Peru

- > Youth in Israel and in Palestine
- > Syrians exiled to Lebanon, traumatized by war



Rescued from the sex trade



Support for specialized rescue teams allows many girls like Savina to see life in a different way. Their stories are giving hope to those who are waiting to be freed. One of these girls commented that after the degradation and abuse of her past, she now believes that “My body is the temple of God.”

When oil was discovered in the western region of Ghana in 2008, the area was flooded with outsiders. At the same time, communities saw an explosion in child prostitution, decimating the lives of young girls. Savina, 16 years old, was one of these girls. Influenced by her friends, she abandoned school to work as a prostitute. “My involvement in commercial sex led to repeated abortions. It nearly cost me my life,” she said.

Savina’s teachers asked the specialized rescue team for help. After four days of searching, the team located Savina, and invited her to enter their counselling ministry, which uses Bibles and other materials from the Bible Society of Ghana.

Savina now cites 2 Corinthians 5:17: “...if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come...” as a truth that helped her decide to turn to a new life. She is back in school and has resumed her studies.

She commented that, “I want to thank the rescue team for guiding me back to church and giving me a new Bible. This has strengthened my faith as I pray to the Lord to help me overcome all my challenges”

HEARING
GOD SPEAK
IN CANADA

Face-to-face with Cree Scripture



Dolores

Dolores Sand is an experienced translator and educator, and a passionate advocate for the Cree language. She may be found reading Scripture in Cree during church services, or teaching groups using varied techniques that include performing Elvis songs in Cree!

Since the mid 1800s, there has been a translation in Plains Cree, deeply loved by many Cree Christians. But an updated version was seen as vital. For two decades Cree Anglican priest, Rev. Stan Cuthand, laboured on an updated translation. His work was taken forward by Dolores and her collaborator Gayle Weenie, who recently completed the revision of the Four Gospels

and the Book of Acts. In 2018 CBS published these books in a single volume, and Catholic and Anglican leaders immediately began promoting and distributing it.

But CBS realized that a contemporary translation needed significant buy-in from the Cree community. Now Dolores' mission is to get people personally involved with the Scriptures. She now serves as 'Cree Bible Engagement Advocate' for CBS. Her toolkit includes the beloved historic translation, and the revised Cree translation of the five books, plus new translations of Ruth, Mark, James and a volume of 50 Psalms. As well, Dolores uses audio Scriptures and smartphone apps. She also leads the development of a set of 30 Bible Stories for children, which has been translated and recorded in Plains Cree and is now being translated and recorded in Woodland (th) Cree.

Dolores represents one of the first waves of the CBS investments in ensuring people not only receive but encounter the Scriptures. She takes every opportunity to gain a hearing. "I continue to reach out to school boards, First Nations and church organizations, to further introduce these publications and promote Bible engagement."



Freedom begins before the jail doors swing open

When Lisa Pak accompanied a mother to visit her son in jail, Lisa brought a "Key to Freedom" Bible, prepared especially for people who are incarcerated. Lisa is CBS Regional Director for Ontario and Nunavut. She knew the young man, and his crimes, and was surprised at his warm welcome, and especially when he said he already had the Bible.

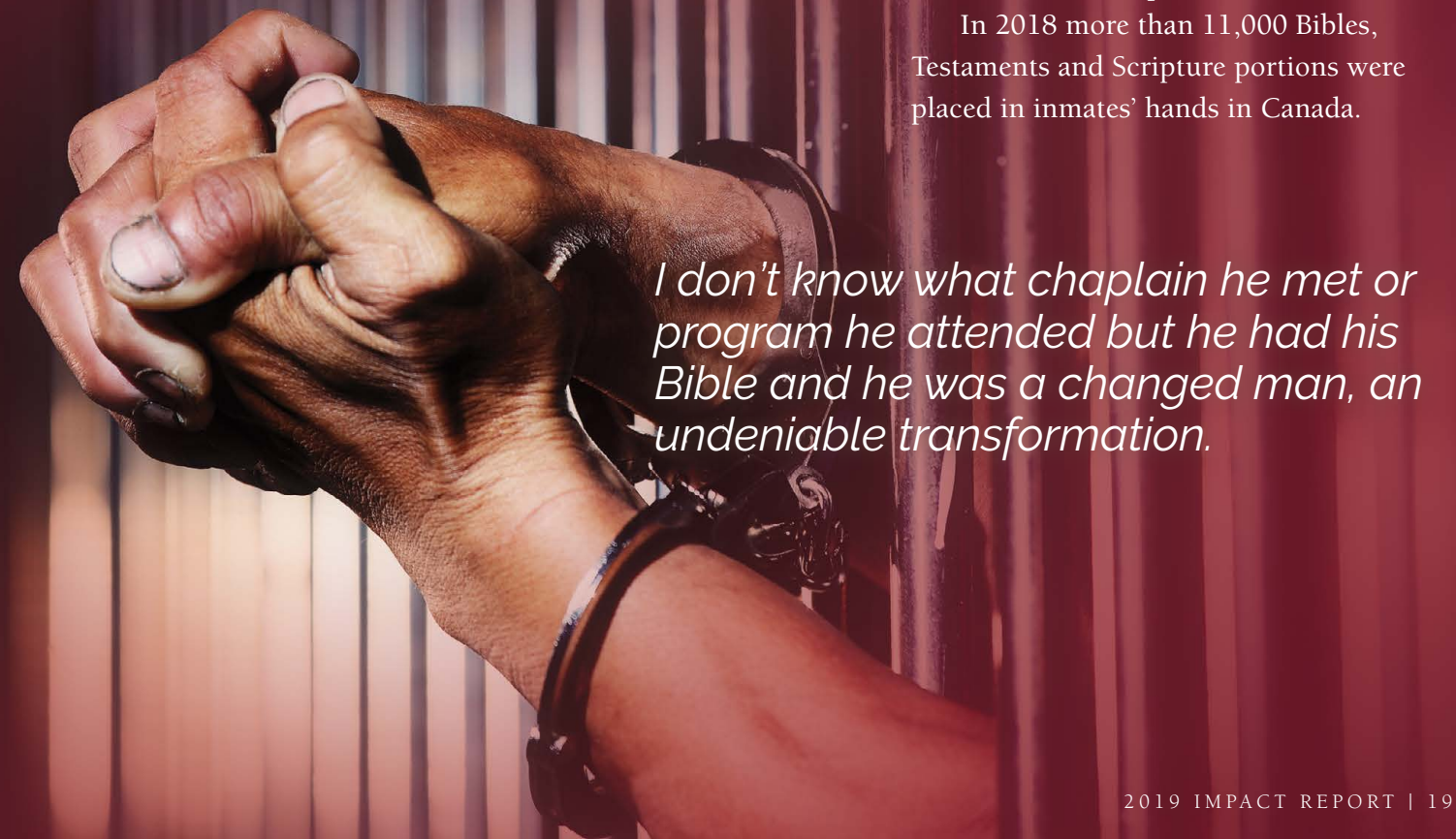
"He shared that despite being in the worst time of his life, he had truly met God. I don't know what chaplain he met or program he attended but he had his Bible

and he was a changed man, an undeniable transformation," said Lisa.

"Despite being incarcerated, the weight of the world seemed to be off his shoulders. He wanted to get out and return home but there was genuine joy in him. Each subsequent conversation was encouraging; he knew that God was in His life and always had been. Now he's been released, and is home and happily attends a local church.

"The Chaplains and ministers that selflessly serve and diligently share the gospel with those in correctional facilities continually request the 'Key to Freedom' Bible for their Bible studies and programs. I can attest to its impact."

In 2018 more than 11,000 Bibles, Testaments and Scripture portions were placed in inmates' hands in Canada.



I don't know what chaplain he met or program he attended but he had his Bible and he was a changed man, an undeniable transformation.



Punjabi churches spark new translation



Rev. Joel David

“I’ve been praying for this [new translation] since 1994,” said the Rev. Joel David, senior pastor of Asian Christian Church in Edmonton.

Punjabi Christians worldwide have two main Scripture options, an “old” version that is historic and established, and the revised Common Language Bible.

But Punjabi Christians in Alberta felt the need for an “upgraded” translation. For example, word choices for translating the names of God, and of Jesus did not use the expected honorific terms, a fact which is troubling to a Punjabi reader.

The Punjabi versions originated with the Bible Society of India (BSI). In 2016 the Albertan churches asked CBS for help getting an updated translation. CBS explained the need of Punjabi Christians in Canada to BSI, who agreed to the use of

their version and sent a leading translator to help with the project.

First will come a relatively quick revision of the existing text, addressing all obvious deficiencies and easier updates, to be followed by a complete revision over a longer timetable.

In 2018 CBS published the Gospel of John in the updated version. Now the team is halfway through the New Testament. The project is rooted in Punjabi networks in Alberta and British Columbia but CBS is also now engaged with interested leaders of Punjabi congregations in the Greater Toronto Area.

“We are very grateful to CBS,” said Rev. David. “For many people in the Punjabi church worldwide this need has been foremost in our minds for several decades.”

“Yes, it is God’s timing. But it is also due to the willingness of CBS to hear the need and step in and do the hard work required.”



CBS produces and distributes Scriptures in Canada in dozens of the languages of Canadians whose first language is neither English nor French. We made the Bible available in about 100 languages in 2018.

The top 10 in 2018 were

- > Spanish
- > Haitian-Creole
- > Chinese
- > Arabic
- > Tagalog
- > Inuktitut
- > Plaudietsch
- > Farsi
- > Hindi
- > Swahili

“Their journey of understanding begins.”



Mary Ellen

The work is emotionally demanding. People’s stories often include severe hardship and suffering. And communicating about faith and belief with limited common language is challenging. But having lived in Japan as a newcomer, Mary Ellen Tierney understands the needs of people navigating the complexities of living in a new country.

Mary Ellen is Director of Barnabas, Victoria Hills, a ministry of Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church (WMB). Victoria Hills is home to many newcomers to Canada. Mary Ellen’s focus is working with newcomers through teaching English as a second language as well as leading Bible Studies.

The work is an integral part of the mission of WMB, to help newcomers to Canada make friends, build community, build confidence, and feel they belong. Mary Ellen runs as many as four Bible studies at a time, and attracts a mix of Christians and those with little or no knowledge of Christianity or Christ. The *Word of Welcome* edition of the Bible

“I love studying about the places Jesus went because I have been there.”

—PALESTINIAN MUSLIM MAN

“I am so happy that I was informed that you would start a Bible study this summer. I believe God must have heard me as I have been struggling with the book.” —KOREAN WOMAN



provided by CBS, with simplified English and modern idioms, makes it easier for people to understand.

Helping people belong, to Canada, to a community and to a church is an open door to learning of God’s love.

“Many have never opened a Bible, and some come from a “closed” country where freedom to worship and read the Bible is not permitted,” said Mary Ellen.

“They are learning that God loves them, and their journey of understanding Jesus and his message begins. It is a deep joy and privilege to watch people decide to follow Jesus and grow in their faith.”

“I feel like it (studying the Bible) is more important than school studying.”

—KOREAN WOMAN



Word of Welcome Bibles

Newcomers to Canada might connect with CBS Bibles at several points in their journey.

Word of Welcome Bibles are often provided during language classes, or at a Bible Study in a local church. *Word of Welcome* is an easy-to-understand version with a dictionary and other helpful resources. As well, since 1955, CBS has offered all new Canadians a special Bible at Citizenship ceremonies across the country, in either English and French.



CBS and the Canadian Military

CBS' ministry to Canadian soldiers began in 1914, and many hundreds of thousands of Testaments and Bibles, custom-designed for military personnel, have been distributed. In 2018, distribution expanded to include not just Army personnel, but personnel in the Navy, the Air Force and Cadet training camps. In 2018 more than 5,700 Bibles were requested by military chaplains to use in their ministries.



The face of volunteers

We treasure and celebrate our many CBS volunteers. They elevate the impact of Bible translation, publication, distribution and engagement in a dozen different ways. **Barry Kwok does it by cycling.**



Bibles for Humboldt

Last year, CBS had the opportunity to bring the comfort of God's Word in the aftermath of the tragedy that killed 16 members and injured 13 more of the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team. With the prayers and encouragement of our donors, CBS provided 29 Bibles personalized for each team member. One family tearfully expressed deep appreciation for the Bible they received in memory of their son. They knew nothing could replace their son, but the Bible brought God's deep comfort to their hearts.

Meeting specific needs

CBS serves many special audiences with Scriptures:

- > For the hearing impaired, with simpler sentences
- > In Greek and Hebrew for seminary students
- > For youth attending summer camps
- > Braille and audio Bibles for the visually impaired
- > For varied special occasions in local churches



My first experience as a participant with Bike for Bibles (B4B) was the 2008 ride from Vancouver, BC to Calgary, AB. Bill Absolom, the BC District Director for the Canadian Bible Society at the time, approached me after a Sunday morning service, gave an overview of B4B and invited me to cycle to Calgary with the team that year.

I told him I didn't have a road bike and hadn't been on one in more than 30 years. I thought the idea was totally crazy. Yet within a week I had purchased a new bike and had all of six weeks to train for the nine-day, 1050 km journey!

They say that ignorance is bliss and this was true for me. I had a very steep learning curve, understanding how to navigate a bike at speed on the open road, and balancing training with fueling and recovery.

I wasn't ready when I left for Calgary but by the grace of God I made it. It was tough slugging most days but also totally exhilarating. I don't remember much of the scenery or locations where we stayed overnight. What stood out were the lasting friendships that were forged during that ride.



This year's B4B ride through the Rockies will be my ninth. I look forward to the riding challenges but what I look forward to the most is coming together as God's family, joined by our love for Jesus as well as our passion for cycling.

Barry teaches skiing full time in Whistler in the winter and is also a professional photographer. During summer, Barry works part time at a bicycle shop in Vancouver. His technical skills and knowledge of road bikes make Barry invaluable when emergency repairs are needed during the B4B ride. Since he started riding for B4B, Barry has put in about 30,000 kms on his bike, raising thousands of dollars for various CBS causes.

FINANCES

Canadian Bible Society Summary Statement of Operations (000s)

Year ended February 28

	2019	2018
Revenue		
Contributions	\$ 6,089	\$ 6,240
Legacies	3,190	2,704
Bible sales	1,632	1,608
Investment income and other revenue	1,433	933
	12,344	11,485
Expenses		
National ministries	4,324	4,190
World ministries	2,032	2,206
Fund development	1,766	2,118
Administration	1,969	1,778
Amortization of Capital Assets	319	356
	10,410	10,648
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before undernoted items	1,934	837
Gain on sale of capital assets	-	369
Unrealized gain on investments	(1,221)	215
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ 713	\$ 1,421

* All excess funds are designated to support the ongoing work of CBS.

Audited financial statements are available online at www.biblesociety.ca

From sea to sea

The Canadian Bible Society has a presence across Canada with 5 Regions:

- British Columbia and Yukon
- Prairies and Northwest Territories
- Ontario and Nunavut
- Quebec
- Atlantic

These Regions exist to support the following districts:

- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Nova Scotia
- New Brunswick
- Prince Edward Island
- Quebec
- Northern Ontario
- Central Ontario
- Southwestern Ontario
- Greater Alberta
- British Columbia

Members of the Board of Directors of The Canadian Bible Society

- Capt. Noel Asirvatham
- Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell
- Tom Cadenhead
- Brian Evans
- Rev. Robert Graham
- Rev. Brian Lise
- Mathew Maniate
- Rev. Paul Worden
- Beverly Daniels (Bermuda)

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

—JOHN 1:14





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Société biblique canadienne

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We are a member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. This means that we adhere to high ethical and operational standards. The CCCC seal is evidence that we are committed to integrity and excellence in ministry.