



Canadian Bible Society

Impact Report 2022

# GIFTS OF PEACE



# WHERE IS THAT PEACE WE CRAVE

**When war destroys** communities, homes, and lives and forces millions to flee with nothing but what they can carry?

**When disease stalks** the world without remorse, and we are under threat, suffering, and grieving?

**When confrontation and controversy undermine** our communities, and we see friendships and families crack under the pressure?

**When our hearts and minds are under siege** from the challenges of life, and doubt, confusion, and anxiety threaten to capsize us?

**IN TODAY'S WORLD,** speaking of peace sounds absurd—until you encounter the great spiritual mystery through which we experience God's peace, whatever life brings.

We are not promised freedom from conflict, struggle, or loss, nor pain, injustice, or death. Our spirits may be terrorized, our hearts broken, our bodies crushed.

**But peace remains God's gift to us.**

**We find peace** in the revelation that God is redeeming all of creation, and we too will be redeemed.

**We find peace** by seeing Christ's footprints ahead of us on even the most difficult journeys.

**And we find peace** by hearing God speak to us, saying **"you are not alone—and you never will be."**

*"Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* —Matthew 28:20



# GIFTS OF PEACE

Within days of Russia's horrifying invasion of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Bible Society asked us if we would produce a pocket-sized Ukrainian translation of our *Words of Comfort* Scripture booklet. We agreed instantly.

That may seem to be a surprising priority for people engulfed in war.

Yet a crisis generates an intense desire to hear God speak. Our Ukrainian colleagues know that God's voice instills courage, inspires compassion, and comforts our hearts. Hearing the promises of God moves our soul-searching from "Why me?" and "How do I escape?" to "WHO is my salvation? How do I live in HIM?"

Receiving God's peace does not mean we accept evil. Instead, we pray and work for peace, called by the words of Jesus: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God." His presence in us compels us to pursue reconciliation, fight injustice, care for the suffering, and build pathways to better lives.

## Those all are gifts of peace that you make possible.

You touch the lives of people who are exploited, trafficked, abused, and enslaved. You nurture faith where belief is suppressed, and the Church is punished. And you show up where trauma cripples lives, and where youth are adrift and at risk.

Because you give, people hear God's voice in their darkest moments. God's Word brings them peace, a gift like no other.

Thank you, profoundly, for making possible those gifts of peace.



Rev. Dr. Rupen Das  
President



## HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR IMPACT IN 2021

### Because of you...

- > CBS-supported Bible ministry and projects continue in 33 countries (page 6).
- > Residents in long-term care homes continue to receive gifts of peace (page 10).
- > People wrestling with trauma continue to find healing (page 12).
- > Several ministries deeply engage youth at risk during COVID (page 14).
- > New resources in Indigenous languages are published (page 17).
- > Bible translation hits new milestones in 90 languages (page 18).
- > People craving God's voice around the world hear Him speak (page 20).
- > A new Bible-based 12-step addiction recovery program for Canadian churches and groups in development (page 35).
- > 30 sister Bible Societies that would have closed during COVID without help are still active in Bible work (page 38).

**Thank you for choosing the Canadian Bible Society as the channel for your ministry!**

THANK YOU to our supporters, partners, and friends!

*“After I read the Bible, I realized that all I had heard about Christianity before was wrong as there is no right outside what is written in the Bible and there’s no peace except with Jesus. This book has changed my life, saved me and moved me from the darkness I was living in into the light. The Bible has revealed to me the truth that I did not know before reading His Word. May God bless you and everyone who seeks to spread His word and I thank the Bible Society for publishing the Word of God.”*  
 —a woman in a country where Christian persecution is high. (name and country withheld)



**426,630**  
 Bibles, Testaments and Scripture selections were distributed in Canada.



Scriptures were made available in **77 languages** other than French and English in Canada.



**35,741 donors** across Canada contributed toward our revenue of **\$13.3 M.**



You directly supported **46 projects** for Bible ministry and translation in **33 countries** outside of Canada, as well as collaborative work through United Bible Societies.

**Countries and regions we served in 2021-2022**

- Arab-Israel
- Armenia
- Cameroon
- China
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- India
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lebanon
- Lithuania
- Mongolia
- Nigeria
- Palestine
- Peru
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Syria
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

# YOUR SUPPORT **BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS AND HELPS PEOPLE HEAR GOD SPEAK**

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## BARRIERS PREVENT PEOPLE FROM HEARING GOD SPEAK

**Bible Poverty:**  
Lack of access

**Bible Literacy:**  
Difficulty understanding

**Bible Relevance:**  
Difficulty in applying to life

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## PILLARS OF CBS TO REMOVE THE BARRIERS

**Translate:**  
Scriptures in the languages people need

**Publish:**  
Scriptures in the forms people need

**Distribute:**  
Scriptures in peoples' hands

**Engage:**  
Scriptures taking hold

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## PRIORITIES GUIDE WHO WE SERVE FIRST

Lives are at risk

Faith is suppressed

Trauma is profound

Youth need hope

The Church seeks help



*“If I did not read this book, I would not know God. I would still be lost. The Bible means everything to me. God speaks to me when I read it.”*

—Deyu, farm worker in rural China

# LOUD AND CLEAR IN LONG-TERM CARE HOMES

*“After I became completely blind, not being able to read the Word of God has been a huge setback. With the audio device, it has been SO VERY ENCOURAGING to hear the Word of God—it touches my soul. We leave the music on so my wife and I could enjoy it together. Thank you CBS, for opening this inroad into my soul! I pray that you continue to expand this ministry to many others like myself. It has made a big difference in my life!”*

—Bruce Littlejohn, Ex-Missionary

In 2020, CBS launched a pilot program to support individuals in long-term care homes, in the form of audio Scriptures and music delivered through specialized easy-to-use audio devices and selected large-print Scriptural resources.

Audio Scripture passages, familiar Christian music, and beloved hymns can add greatly to the spiritual and emotional well-being of vulnerable people.

Chaplains and care workers in the pilot project are now reporting that the audio Bibles contributed to the mental well-being of elderly residents and to the spiritual care strategies of staff and chaplains, and touched our elderly's very hearts.

## We have great momentum to expand

COVID 19 meant that what we had hoped to accomplish in 12 months took 22.

- > Interviewed 200 long-term care homes to research needs/suitability
- > Recruited 70 Homes to participate in the pilot project, 20 above the target
- > Delivered 1020 MegaVoice units to the elderly or their caregivers – 20 more than the first target
- > Distributed units in English, French, Ukrainian, Hindi, and Chinese
- > By the end of 2021, CBS reached 4,000 residents of long-term care homes via audio Scriptures

Now with the credibility of the program established and relationships built in the long-term care network, we are positioned to place devices in hundreds of more eager hands. Thank you for helping our elderly hear God speak.

## Reconnected with His Saviour

*“My husband Dan who recently moved into a long-term care home is confined to his bed or to a wheelchair. Struggling with dementia, he has very little communication. Often, he is lonely, sad, and discouraged. When we gave him the device, his spirits picked up immediately. We place it on his pillow, and he listens to Scripture and the beautiful music for hours on end. It is truly a source of comfort and encouragement to him as he is no longer able to read. He loves the Word of God, and this has opened a new channel to hear God's word and the great hymns of faith! We as a family want to thank you for helping Dan re-connect with his Saviour. May God bless you as you continue to expand this important ministry to others.”* —Anna Hoath, Calgary

*“It has been a lifeline for many of my residents here at Baycrest.”*

—Rev. Karen Fox, Multifaith Chaplain, Baycrest Hospital, Toronto

# BIBLE-BASED TRAUMA HEALING GAINS MOMENTUM

## Trauma Healing ministry draws on the restorative power of God's Word.

The Bible-based curriculum for groups includes basic mental health concepts. The group sessions and personal work help participants to identify their pain, share their suffering, bring their pain to the cross of Christ for healing, and, for cases where the trauma was caused by the actions of another person, learn to forgive their oppressors.

The program is built on using well-trained facilitators, who move from "Apprentice" to "Certified" to "Master" status. Training those facilitators has been the top priority to date.

By the end of 2021, CBS had:

**153**  
Apprentice Facilitators

**15**  
Certified Training Facilitators

**1** Master Facilitator  
(and two more people now completing this highest level)

Many of the CBS training sessions included staff of mission organizations, youth centres and a refugee resettlement ministry who are taking this training back to train their staff.

Starting a Trauma Healing Group is daunting, and we have discovered that the Apprentice Facilitators need more support than we envisioned at the beginning. In 2022, we are introducing a Mentor and other support programs for facilitators.

Our goal in 2022 is to see as many as 40 new groups form and work through the program together, finding healing through the Word of God.

*"The best thing I learned is forgiving and taking the burden to the Cross. I feel released, happy, open, light, and delighted that I forgave all the people that hurt me a lot and I am now free enough to grow spiritually and personally."* —A refugee

*"I always thought that I was praying honestly to God. But there was something about writing it down (in the Lament to God activity) and being given permission to vent to God with the assurance that nothing you can say will ever offend or surprise Him that gave me freedom I didn't know I needed."* —A church staff member



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO YOUTH AT RISK

*“If God is real, why did my mother kick me out of our house when I was 13?” I needed to take a moment and feel the grief in the question from this tearful young woman. I said I did not know why her mother decided to make that choice. But that I knew God was saddened because he wants her to feel loved and safe. I shared some Scripture about God’s love from one of the Bibles that CBS had given to us. She spent some time reading the Bible before going to sleep. Thank you, CBS for the generous gift. It helps us show the youth the deeper meaning behind the work that we do.”*

—Director of a youth program

The needs of youth at risk called for an emergency response during COVID. Gifts from CBS donors were used in 37 locations serving youth at risk across Canada. About half of the gifts were Bible-based resources and the other half emergency operating grants.

In 2021, COVID isolation and disruption grew deeper. Lockdowns and school closures made it hard for at-risk youth to escape abusive or chaotic home situations. In rapidly rising numbers, they turned to youth ministries and centres.

Workers noted a steep rise in the incidences of depression and drug use, and in suicide and suicidal ideas and impulses. More youth became homeless and vulnerable to all the risks of life on the street, including sex trafficking.

CBS provided a critical one-time financial boost to help programs avoid closing their doors and gave Bibles and spiritual resources that the leaders identified as vital to their work.

**Thank you for making this intervention possible.**

### Where did your support find youth at risk?

- > Youth homeless shelters
- > Centres serving those victimized by sex trafficking
- > An addiction recovery centre
- > Outreach ministries to Indigenous youth
- > A camp for Indigenous youth
- > A maternity house
- > A pregnancy centre
- > Three churches with specialized youth outreach
- > Local youth organizations (*Youth for Christ, Youth Unlimited*)



# RECLAIMING LANGUAGE, RENEWING HEARTS

“When Christianity was introduced to our people in the mid to late 1800s, our people fully embraced it because it fell in line with our Inupiat values,” said community leader Crawford Patkotak.

“But at the same time the suppression of our language was in our face. ‘Learn English language. Do away with your native language.’ The damage is very much alive in a lot of people still.”

Ida Olemaun, a translator from the community said, “Everybody spoke Inupiat. When we had to attend eighth grade, that’s when the breakdown started. It breaks my heart, it really does, because I have five children and I cannot share the emotions and the feelings when I speak my language... It’s built in me. It’s part of me.”

Mourning the loss of their language and wanting to preserve it for their children, a team of women, some over the age of 80, began translating the Bible. They are now supported by CBS specialists but at the outset they had no guidance.

Yet, said Molly Pederson, they strongly felt God’s presence. “You know we couldn’t just do this by our own strength. God shows us that He’s right there with us. I know that we are not doing it alone,” said Molly. “We are inspired. we are given words. He’s there helping us.”

“We’re so overwhelmed. It becomes alive. You cannot prevent yourself from saying ‘Amen. Hallelujah!’ God is so good. God is so great,” said Ida.

“With everything our people have had to endure, I believe we cannot hang on to the hurt of the past,” noted Crawford. “We cannot afford to pass that hurt on to the next generation. And the only way we can do that is through the Word of God.”

*“(Never learning our language) cut lines of communication*

*between me and all the Inupiaq-speaking elders, including the ones who knew Jesus as their personal Saviour. When I spend time on this project, I increase my knowledge of Inupiaq and am left feeling whole and healed.”*

—Willie, a young volunteer on the Inupiaq translation project



## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE TRANSLATION BENCHMARKS

### CREE BIBLE BECOMES GIFT TO POPE

In 2001, CBS published the Eastern/James Bay Cree New Testament. A new edition published in 2021 was presented to Pope Francis in Rome by the Indigenous delegation on March 30.

### MOHAWK

- > Old Testament and Gospels ready for final review
- > Rest of the New Testament books edited and ready for consultant checking

### INUKTITUT

- > Published the revised New Testament
- > Typeset and printed the whole Bible
- > First-pass revision of Pentateuch complete

### INUPIAQ

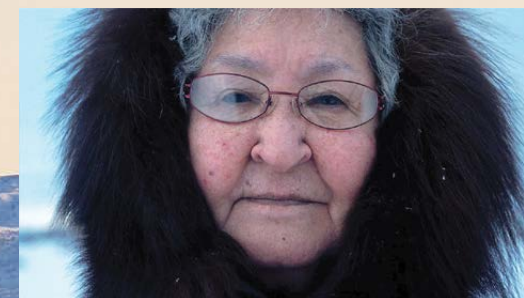
- > Pentateuch & Psalms publication Printed and is on its way to Alaska
- > Team review of Joshua and Ruth through 1 Kings finished and 1 Samuel checked by consultant

### INUINNAQTUN

Gospel of Mark and Scripture readings from prayer book published digitally

### MISSION LITERACY

These 30 illustrated Bible stories promote reading skills while introducing children to the joy of reading God’s Word. In 2021, CBS published the Inuktitut series as e-books, and they will soon be printed. The Woods Cree version is close to completion.



# 90 TRANSLATION PROJECTS IN 2021

## ALMOST TWICE A WEEK, SOMEONE NEW GETS TO HEAR GOD SPEAK IN THEIR OWN HEART LANGUAGE

Despite a second year of COVID disruption, in 2021, Bible Societies across the world completed Scripture translations in 90 languages used by 794 million people—just over 10% of the world’s population.



**48 were first-ever translations**, three of them full Bibles.



New or revised translations were completed in **another 43 languages.**

## A 20-YEAR VISION FOR 2018-2038

Since 2018, the Canadian Bible Society has been a partner on a bold vision to complete 1,200 Scripture translations by 2038—880 first translations and 320 new or revised translations.



### By the end of 2021, CBS supporters helped reach these global benchmarks

- > 103 completed
- > 312 in progress
- > 785 remaining

**70% of the world’s complete-Bible translations were done by Bible Societies.**

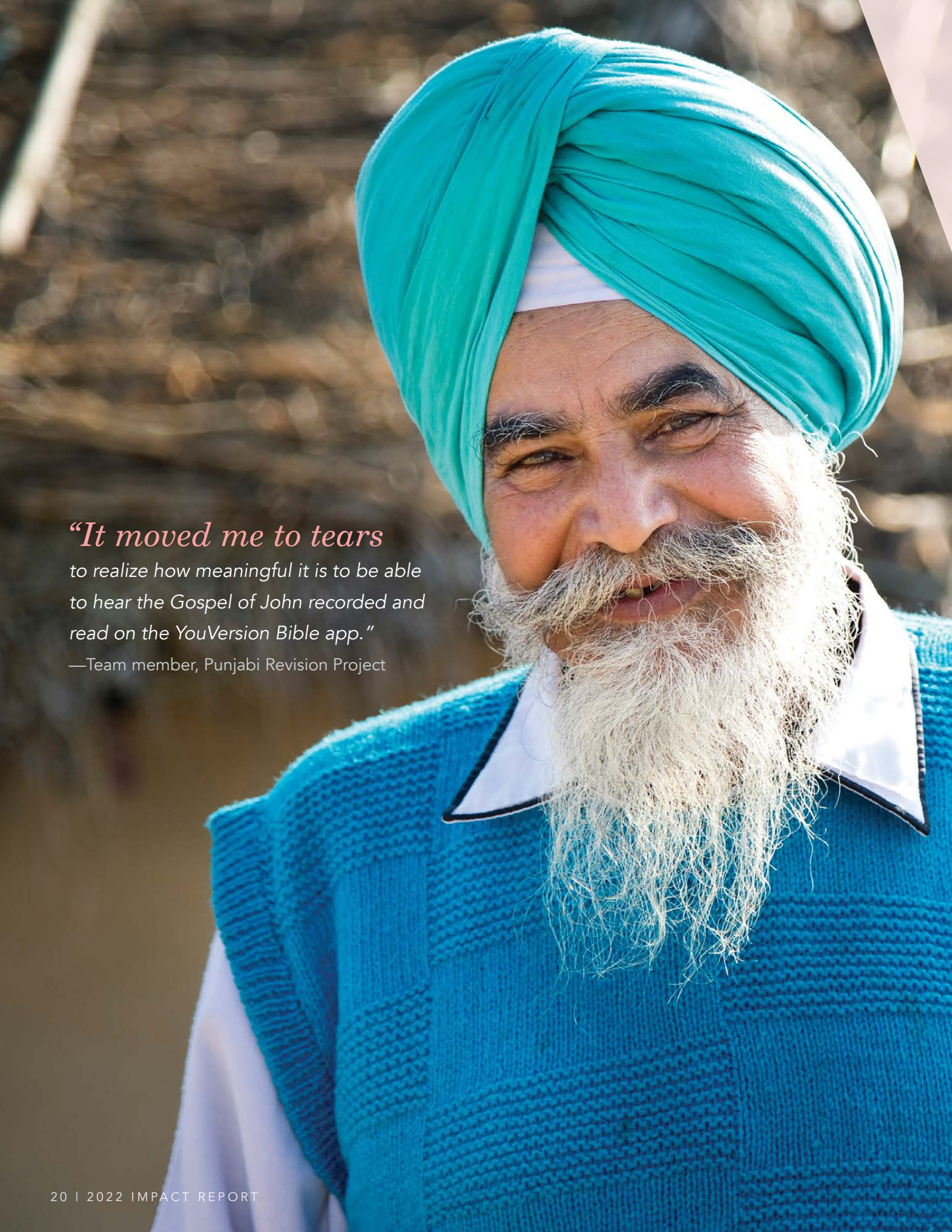
## THROUGH CBS YOU SUPPORT BIBLE TRANSLATION IN 4 WAYS

- 1) Support for the UBS global translation effort
- 2) Funding CBS-selected projects by sister Bible Societies
- 3) Specialized technical services by Canadian staff on projects around the world (in software, digital services, and typesetting)
- 4) Several CBS-managed Canadian translation projects every year

## GOD SPEAKING IN GUATEMALA

As part of an ongoing project to translate the Old Testament, the Kaqchikel Occidental translation team in Guatemala published the books of Judges and Esther.

Dora Marina Cuc Bocel, 41, who leads the translation team, often reads aloud from the completed Scripture portions for her mother and grandmother, who cannot read. “They really pay attention,” says Dora. “They say to me, *‘Hearing it in Kaqchikel is so beautiful and exciting! We understand it. It is God speaking to our hearts.’* This motivates me because, just as they are blessed by the Word of God in our language, so many others will also be blessed.”



## PUNJABI PROJECT **CREATES EARLY IMPACT**

*“It moved me to tears  
to realize how meaningful it is to be able  
to hear the Gospel of John recorded and  
read on the YouVersion Bible app.”*  
—Team member, Punjabi Revision Project

For CBS, publishing in the languages of the heart of Indigenous communities and the diaspora church is a high priority. One’s own language is the way God speaks most clearly and powerfully.

In 2021, the Punjabi Bible revision project digitally published the Gospels, plus Acts and Romans, and made them available on the YouVersion app. This project is a complete revision of an older and outdated translation.

Meeting with Punjabi church leaders in Calgary, project leader Michael reported weeping as he listened to what people were sharing. One man nearly blind from diabetes has the Bible in audio on his phone so he can still listen. A woman shared that during regular reading of the Bible with her husband, God spoke to him about addictions in his life and he is finding healing.

In December, Punjabi churches began using the newly published printed Gospel of John to share during their outreach events. Now reports are coming in about how individuals are being affected because they received and read a Gospel of John in their own language.

***Now, on to Corinthians and  
the rest of the New Testament!***

Punjabi is the  
world’s **10th**  
most spoken  
language.

**Over 200  
million**  
people speak  
Punjabi.

**Canada has the  
world’s second largest**  
diaspora Punjabi community after  
the United Kingdom.

# INSTANT RESPONSE TO UKRAINE'S REQUEST

As shells began to fall, the Ukrainian Bible Society swung into action.

At grave personal risk, they delivered food and water to many affected communities and served communion to community defence groups and to the military.

They also immediately began networking to support people fleeing the country and Ukrainian refugees in surrounding countries, with large volumes of humanitarian aid—bread for the body and bread for the soul.



Their first request to the Canadian Bible Society came immediately—to produce a Ukrainian translation of **Words of Comfort**, a small pocket-sized Scripture booklet. We quickly did the translation, typesetting and design and it was printed in one of the neighbouring countries.

In addition to distributing emergency food, water, and other supplies, within the first month, the Ukrainian Bible Society reported the need for 100,000 copies of **Words of Comfort** as well as 800,000 copies of New Testaments, Children's Bibles, and Bibles in Ukrainian. These are vitally needed beyond their own borders by Bible Societies in Poland, Hungary, Moldova, and Romania who have received a very large number of refugees.

Despite the overwhelming flow of people and a rapidly changing situation, they also began laying the groundwork for the trauma healing and counselling ministries that will be needed in the region. CBS is committed to active and significant support of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. **Thank you for joining us in the days ahead.**

*"After I experienced all the horrors of the war, God opened Himself to me, and led me to believe in His existence. I am so thankful to Him that I am here, alive, and for the Bible I received. I hope I am standing at the beginning of my spiritual path."* —Artem, 25, Ukraine military personnel

The Ukrainian Bible Society is operational, with staff *risking their lives as they share God's Word with those who desperately need it.* "God has enabled the Bible Society to address the spiritual needs," says Rupen Das, CBS President. Michael Perreau, UBS Director General, asks us to lift to God our brothers and sisters and ask Him to protect them as they share His Word with traumatized people.

# PERSEVERANCE FOR GENERATIONS

## CHINA

In 2021, Canadian Bible Society donors joined with thousands of others from around the world making it possible to print and distribute 1.23 million Bibles in China. In addition, another 900,000 Bibles held up by supply chain and COVID distribution issues were printed and distributed by May 2022.

*Thank you—and praise God for the lasting impact of God's Word.*

### **Nurturing a lasting faith**

About 50 years ago, Mdm Niu Qiulian endured the terror of the Cultural Revolution in China. The family and many others suffered intense persecution for their faith, and Bibles were confiscated and burned.

Today, Mdm Niu is 92 and blessed with five generations of her family living under her roof. Many of them are serving the Lord, and one great-grandson has recently completed his Bible school training. She is also the founder of a church that now includes about 200 people.

Mdm Niu's father was publicly humiliated and physically punished because he preached and taught the Bible. Yet he continued to minister as people gathered in secret and quietly read whatever fragments of the Bible they possessed. Mr Niu would explain the Scriptures, encouraging these troubled believers with the Word of God.

When they were caught, Mr Niu faced even harsher treatment, and the family was derided and hated for believing in a foreign religion. Still, Mdm Niu trusted in God's love and clung to the promises of His Word.

Beginning in the 1980s, Christians were allowed to begin gathering under heavy surveillance. Eventually, when Bible distribution was allowed and Mdm Niu first received a 'whole' Bible again, she leapt for joy.

From time to time, this lady of faith speaks to encourage the congregation and remind them of God's love. A favourite Scripture of hers is Psalm 117:1-2: "Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"



## PERSEVERANCE FOR **GENERATIONS** CONTINUED

### CUBA

Your gifts continue to support the program that is steadily placing Scriptures in the hands of Cubans, working towards the goal of providing a million Scriptures in over a multi-year period.

Giving the Bible to a nation hungry for His word is encouraging evangelism, discipleship, church growth and leadership development across all 60 denominations in Cuba. In 2021, with your support, we distributed more than 270,000 Scriptural resources including 120,300 Bibles.

*“I lived a ‘lost’ life, totally different from what I live now, with no values or principles. One day, a friend introduced Jesus to me, and I started to attend a church. Everything changed when I started to read the Bible. It makes you know the truth and the truth sets you free. Now I have my own Bible—that I read daily—I appreciate a lot! It’s hard to explain how the Bible has transformed my life. My parents and neighbors asked me what had happened to me and are amazed with the big change in my life.”*

—Christian Fález Díaz, age 24, in Havana, received a Bible through the Bibles for Cuba program supported by Canadian donors

*“Before I received the Bible, my life was full of bitterness and sadness; a life of resentment and hate due to the difficulties I was going through before I met Jesus. After I received my Bible, it has taught me a lot about the life of a woman in the Word of God. Esther’s story showed me how to live a life of fullness in the Lord! My biggest wish is for the Word of God to be revealed to the world! I would love to teach others who have a great need for the Lord, and to share what I have learnt through the Bible.”*

—A Cuban lady’s story, after receiving a Bible.

# BREAKING DOWN PHYSICAL BARRIERS

*“Today I am finally reading Bible verses in my mother tongue of Acholi, and moreover in Braille, on a piece of paper. Before this year ends, God willing, it is our cry, our prayer, that we shall have the full braille Bible in Acholi!”*

—Ms. Apoko Collins, a teacher at the blind section of Gulu Primary School in Uganda.

When neglected groups need help hearing God speak, the Canadian Bible Society and partners around the world respond.

In 2021, thousands for whom God might have seemed silent, were helped through your gifts. Although COVID slowed progress, day by day more people who are visually or hearing-impaired gain access to the tools they need to encounter God’s Word.

## BRILLE BIBLES AND LITERACY IN UGANDA

Distribution is backed up by literacy classes for people with visual disabilities, radio programs, and clubs and camps for children who are visually-impaired. Initiatives include training facilitators, trauma healing groups, advocacy for the rights and protection of people with visual disabilities, particularly children, and distribution to remote communities.

In the last seven years the Bible Society of Uganda has directly served **48,000 people with visual disabilities.**

They in turn engage thousands more with what they have learned and the resources they have received.

Translation of the Braille Bible from English to **Runyankore Rukiga** and **Acholi** is in progress and nearing completion.

## SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION IN LITHUANIA, CUBA, RUSSIA

Your gifts support studio costs and equipment needed for recording, editing and producing visual tools, as well as the key elements of any translation—translation teams, Biblical study, technology, testing with interpreters and among adults and children from the community of people with hearing impairments. In Cuba and Lithuania, the focus of 2021 was the Gospel of Luke while in Russian Sign Language, the team was devoted to the Gospel of Mark.



As of August 2021, Russian Sign Language videos of Mark chapters 1-10 had been viewed **over 10,000 times** on YouTube.

Videos produced as part of The Gospel in Cuban Sign Language have been used in **more than 60 ministries** in Cuba.

# RESCUING AND EMPOWERING GIRLS

Child marriage, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and sex trafficking destroy the lives of millions of children and teenagers each year. Teenage girls are lured into prostitution due to poverty, peer pressure, broken homes, a lack of understanding or are forced into the trade by adults.

CBS partners challenge some of the darkest evils in the world, reaching out to rescue and empower teenage girls from spiritual and physical bondage.

Partners provide a wide range of interventions, from Biblical trauma healing to provision of food, shelter, and education. They also help in setting up micro-businesses and other legitimate ways of earning an income.

In their work, Scripture in many forms, both print and audio, allow girls to hear God speak and feel His power as they strive towards a new life.

*In 2021 CBS directed your support for girls caught in sexual exploitation to ongoing ministry projects through sister Bible Societies and their partners.*

**GHANA:** Awareness-campaigns for 2,000 girls aged 12 to 17 through schools, direct ministry to those already caught in the sex trade and helping churches recruit and train volunteers. Distributed 8,000 Scripture portions, Bibles, and Bible literature, as well as trauma healing programs to bring biblical comfort and hope to abused women and girls.

**GUATEMALA: Free to Live**—temporary shelter to girls aged 7-17 who have been trafficked and sexually abused and need to experience the love of God, and the comfort, restoration and freedom through Christ that can only be found in the Scriptures. As many as 700 girls a year are affected.

**CAMEROON: Project Esther**—engaging more than 1,000 youth in awareness campaigns, camps, workshops, trainings and other events for hundreds of girls, supporting a dozen girls in income generating initiatives, and distributing 300 Bibles and 500 Bible portions.

*“My mother died when I was very young. Ever since I was little, my uncle abused me sexually. When I turned 12, my grandfather sold me to an 18-year-old man. A few days later, I managed to run away. The police took me to a shelter but with no family to turn to, I will be here till I turn 18. In the weekly Bible Society program “Free to Live” I received Scriptures to encourage and restore me. I am thankful for having my first Bible and for the Bible workshops.” —Margarita, age 17, in Guatemala*



# A LIFELINE TO THOSE MOST VULNERABLE



## For those who have been displaced

CBS directly supports partners conducting vital ministries to refugees in two countries that we do not name in public. At any given time, one project provides almost 2,000 families with basic living essentials and school supplies, and helps children enroll in school. In 2021, the group used 1,000 Bibles, 2,000 New Testaments and 5,000 Scripture portions.

In another project, the focus of 2021 was training people to lead trauma healing sessions. Our partner is working towards having 500 trained leaders who engage up to 6,000 people at any given time.

*In the  
face of  
persecution*

In 2021, CBS-supported projects in **persecuted** communities reached **1.6 million people.**

To **protect** recipients, **Bibles are disguised** to look inconspicuous.

**Every Bible** you send to the persecuted church is read on average by **three or more people.**

## For children who are alone— “Please give me a real Bible.”

*Through CBS you have supported several ministries by sister Societies in different countries that care for abandoned, orphaned, or abused children.*

In a country we cannot name, our partner told us of a boy, Vazgen (not his real name), who lived at a children’s centre with his 10-year-old sister. Both were victims of sexual abuse. At first only the younger sister was included in Bible lessons. Vazgen was excluded, because of his disruptive behaviour.

One day his sister asked that he be allowed to participate. Vazgen was very calm during the lesson and asked for a Children’s Bible to read. After a week, Vazgen came and said: “I finished the Children’s Bible. This is a wonderful book. I heard that there is a ‘real, big Bible’ that priests read. I want to read that one. Please, give me a real Bible”.

## For those scarred by trauma

Sara, age 24, lost her husband and his family when they were used as human shields during fighting in her country. Upon her request, we provided her a Bible. A few days later she surprised us when she kept repeating, “**Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us**” (Ephesians 3:20). This Bible verse touched her as she kept looking for God who is the source of strength and unconditional love, and how God can plan for her life and open new doors for her.

*—from a sister Bible Society providing humanitarian aid and Bible-based trauma healing programs, with CBS support. Sara is not her actual name, and the name of the country is withheld.*

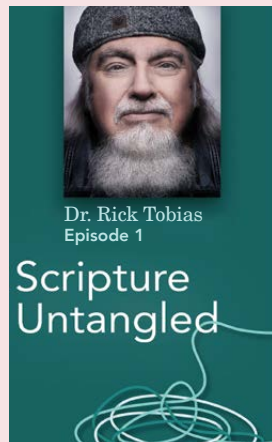
# UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

## Introduced in 2020, The Bible Course proved its potential in 2021

"It was a great privilege to facilitate the Bible Course this past year. We had no dropouts, and many said they would take it again to gain more insights. The teenagers kept a low profile but I am told that they were very engaged and there were side conversations to discuss the content. "There is such rich teaching in each session; ... the material is very current and relevant... (with) a beautiful overview of what the Bible covers from beginning to end. I especially loved how things were tied together, reviewed, and built upon throughout. The visuals helped to remember the storyline of the Bible, the narrators were



engaging, and the written materials were an asset for the leader. I highly recommend the Bible Course for anyone, a Christ follower or not. We plan to offer it again. Thank you for this awesome resource!"  
—Linda Thiessen-Belch, Faith Mennonite Church, Leamington, Ontario

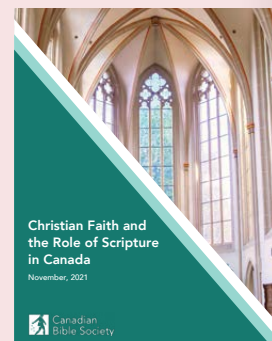


## Scripture Untangled Podcast

The Bible can feel overwhelming, confusing, or hard to believe. Scripture Untangled is a newly launched CBS podcast that offers interviews with culture leaders, pastors, and Bible thinkers to help people be inspired to know Jesus more and dive into the Bible for themselves. It will bring influential voices from across Canada and beyond, sharing both the impact of Scripture in their own lives, and how they have honestly wrestled with big and important questions of faith and the contents of Scripture.

## Research sets stage for new strategies

To better understand the state of Christian faith in Canada today, the Canadian Bible Society commissioned Credence & Co. to research questions of faith and Scripture in Canada, through a study of literature, interviews with key leaders, and dialogue circles with Christian leaders in Canada. The report highlighted some daunting realities, but also identified opportunities for faith and Bible engagement in Canada. The effort will assist CBS in understanding its role in the current social context, and powerfully inform visionary strategies to get more Canadians deeply engage with God's Word.



## Overcomers

Established in 1985, and now a CBS national program which will be relaunched in fall 2022, Overcomers is a faith-based, 12-step recovery program that supports those dealing with life controlling issues and both chemical and behavioural addictions.

Overcomers will have a new companion Bible in the Contemporary English Version that will feature all 12-steps with relevant and connecting passages and highly impactful devotionals with hot topics connected to life controlling issues.

# CANADIAN SNAPSHOTS

## The Bible on campus

During the 2021-2022 school year, 915 students started the Discovery faith study across all active campuses served by **Catholic Christian Outreach**. These students had the opportunity to receive a free Bible along with the invitation to explore a personal relationship with Jesus, and what that could mean for them. 657 students completed the Discovery faith study, meaning they heard the Gospel proclaimed, and many of their lives were deeply impacted by the truths of scripture.



*“Now, I do my best to pray and read a few verses of the Bible every day and to really talk to God about what’s nagging at my heart, mind, and soul. In all my conversations with God, this is the prayer that stuck with me the most: ‘Lord Jesus, my heart is restless until it rests in you.’” —Marian*



Midway through 2020, CBS released Words of Comfort, a selection of 52 Scripture passages that speaks to our fear, our hurt, and our hunger for hope. At time of writing, it had been downloaded more than 17,000 times.

21,704 Scriptural resources were distributed during the year among Indigenous communities in Canada.



250 Bible Stories for Tiny Tots and 150 Little Children’s Bible Storybooks for preschoolers to grade 4 children were gifted to the Pikangikum First Nation.

## Scripture in the hands of campers

*“The Bibles provided to us continue to be an enormous blessing to camp ministry. Being able to offer campers Bibles that are in a ‘child-friendly’ translation, and where Scripture can be looked up by page number in addition to Bible reference is such a great support in ministry. The cabin leaders have come to know that they are free to distribute Bibles to campers who need it. Cabin leaders often write words of encouragement in the front cover or mark and highlight verses before presenting a Bible to a camper, so they have easy places to start engaging in the Word.”*

—Michael (Valley View Bible Camp, Manitoba)



## THANK YOU FOR HELPING KEEP BIBLE MINISTRY ALIVE DURING COVID

During the first two years of the pandemic, many smaller Bible Societies in several countries were at risk of closing their doors as COVID decimated their staff and funding.

A concerted and coordinated effort by members of the United Bible Societies created a pool of emergency funding. The funds were used to preserve the precious knowledge, networks, and ministry capacity of 30 Societies.

Your support means that they did more than simply survive—they now are able to reengage the full range of their work more quickly.

## FINANCES

### Canadian Bible Society Summary Statement of Operations (000s)

Year ended February 28

	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>		
Contributions	\$ 7,756	\$ 7,247
Contributions – Government funding	448	1,398
Legacies	2,564	2,484
Bible sales	1,655	1,332
Investment income	916	749
Rental and other income	10	17
	<b>13,349</b>	<b>13,227</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
National ministries	6,064	5,582
World ministries	2,187	1,874
Fund development	1,256	1,380
Administration	1,985	2,146
Amortization of capital assets	152	234
	<b>11,644</b>	<b>11,216</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses before undernoted items	1,705	2,011
Loss on sale of capital assets	(80)	(4)
Gain on sale of assets held for sale	484	1,703
Unrealized gain on investments	1,933	1,396
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ 4,042</b>	<b>\$ 5,106</b>

\*All excess funds are designated to support the ongoing work of CBS.  
Audited financial statements are available online at [www.biblesociety.ca](http://www.biblesociety.ca)

### The Canadian Bible Society has a presence across Canada with five 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 Governors

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Bible Society



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



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