



Canadian Bible Society

Impact Report 2023

НОВЫЙ  
ЗАВЕТ

Господа нашего  
Иисуса Христа

**SAFE  
PASSAGE**

# SEEKING SAFE PASSAGE

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*

—Isaiah 43:2 (NIV)

In a world dominated by threat, how do we discover a path to safety?

When we feel the pressure on relationships, health, finances and personal circumstances, how do we carry on?

**So much of what we treasure in our nation and the world seems precarious. Yet somehow, we find hope.**

All that we witness—millions of people enduring sudden destruction of their homes, losing their lives to violence, living in oppression and persecution—pulls us down—until **something pulls us back up.**

Longingly, we peer into a hazy future, hoping to be granted safe passage, delivering us to our destination.

Thankfully, hearing God's voice in our hearts transforms His promises into our shelter and strength.

**God assures us that we can go forward in faith knowing that our ultimate destination is guaranteed, that He will walk with us every step of the way, and that our souls cannot be extinguished by human events.**

It can be a perilous journey. But we are in the hands of a Creator who gives us His Word so that we will know Him and find in Him the safe passage we so desperately seek.

# GOD'S WORD GUIDES US SAFELY THROUGH



**Life can be hard. Difficulties and trials disrupt our lives and plans, sooner for some, more painful for others, but eventually for all.**

But those moments when anxiety and fear are trying to take hold are also moments when the love of God and the assurance of His presence become alive and precious and provide safe passage for heart and soul.

That's why demand for God's Word rises rapidly during conflict, disaster and distress, when people are at their lowest point in life. Then and at many other times, you give people the experience of "safe passage" by helping them hear God speak.

Thank you for touching the lives of people who are exploited, trafficked, abused, or enslaved.

You nurture faith where belief is suppressed, and the Church is punished.

And you show up where trauma cripples lives, where entire populations are neglected, and where youth are adrift and at risk.

From everyone at CBS and everyone we serve, thank you for making it possible for people all over the world to hear God speak to them, and experience their own "safe passage."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rupen Das".

Rupen Das, President

## HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR IMPACT IN 2022

### Because of you...

- > Bible ministry continued in 35 countries across 46 projects (page 6)
- > You supported Christians in Ukraine and Türkiye as they stepped out to serve during war and disaster (page 10)
- > Audio Scriptures for the elderly are now available in 50 languages (page 12)
- > Leaders are being trained in Bible-based trauma healing (page 14)
- > Mohawk Bible completed after a lifetime of work (page 16)
- > New or revised translations are completed in another 25 languages (page 18)
- > 20 first translations in sign languages are completed (page 20)
- > The Church in Cuba presses forward for another million Bibles (page 24)
- > Healing and hope come to trafficked girls (page 26)

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



# THANK YOU to our supporters, partners, and friends!



Facing war, climate change, pandemics, natural disasters, economic and political turmoil, and personal distress, CBS donors proclaim that **“God is our refuge and strength”** and help **hundreds of thousands claim the promise of safe passage.**



**525,466**

Bibles, Testaments and Scripture selections were distributed in Canada— a **22.3% increase** over the previous year.



Scriptures were made available in Canada in

**75 languages**

other than French and English. Top languages: Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Eastern Arctic Inuktitut, Persian, Plautdietsch, Spanish, Ukrainian.



**33,855** donors across Canada contributed toward our revenue of **\$13.8 M.**



You directly supported **46 projects** for Bible ministry and translation in **35 countries**, as well as collaborative work through the United Bible Societies.

*“My faith is strengthened through trials, and in times of adversity, I could experience God’s justice and love more deeply. God’s righteousness cannot be questioned, and all difficulties and trials are His ways to strengthen my faith in Him. I have learned to rely on and look up to God in difficult times. Without the Bible, I would not know the truth nor the true God. My life would be ruined for believing in evil spirits. Thankfully, I took the step of faith to go to church and received my first Bible. My life has been transformed by God’s grace. Thank you for gifting us the Bible!”*

—Cao Jifa, Jilin province, China

#### Countries and regions we served in 2022-2023

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

# THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Your gifts break down the barriers to people hearing God speak.

## Your gifts move people from Bible poverty

- > Lack of availability
- > Difficulty to access

TO

## Bible provision

### Translation

- > Scriptures in the languages people need

### Publishing

- > Scriptures in the forms people need

### Distribution

- > Scriptures in people's hands

- > The Bible, in the hands of a person
- > When and where it's most needed
- > In the language closest to that person's heart
- > In a format easy for them to use
- > With help to understand it for themselves

## Your gifts move people from Bible disconnect

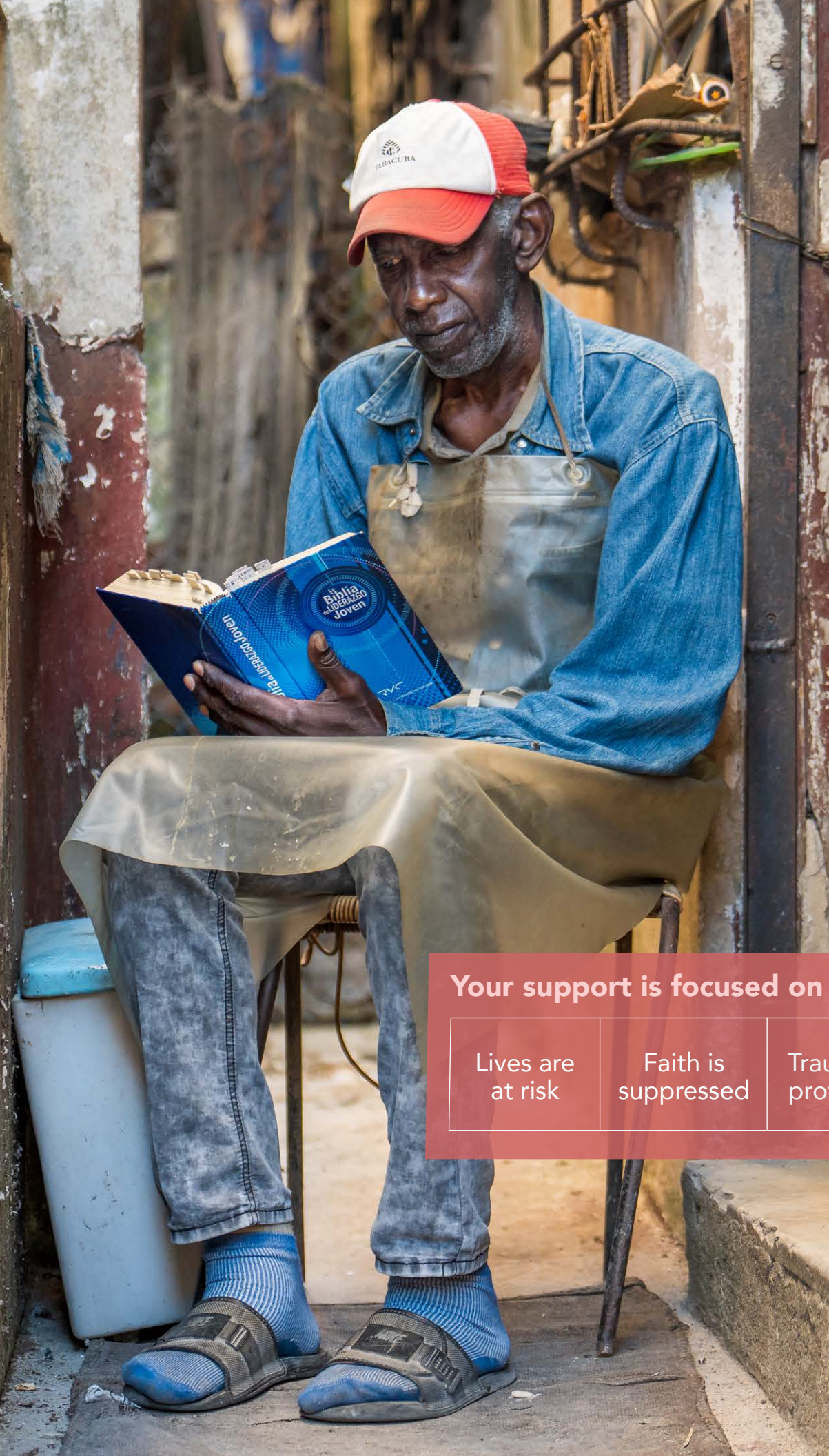
- > Lack of awareness of the power of Scripture
- > Fear and suspicion of God's Word
- > Difficulty understanding and applying the Bible

TO

## Bible engagement

Encouraging, supporting, facilitating, and guiding people to encounter God's Word

- > Bible programs
- > Healing groups
- > Classes and seminars
- > Literacy work
- > Digital tools
- > Training and counseling



*When I heard for the first time through the Bible Society volunteers that God carried my pain, my heart broke and I decided to speak to God. They gave me a Bible and now I understand that this is how God speaks to me. I know that my grandmother would be very happy to know that now I believe in God.*

—Susana, age 14, Guatemala

Your support is focused on urgent needs, where:

Lives are at risk

Faith is suppressed

Trauma is profound

Youth need hope

The Church seeks help

# HOPE AMIDST FEAR

## IN A DISTRESSED TÜRKIYE & UKRAINE



*Ukraine is going through a period of unseen darkness and desperation... thousands have been killed, cities and towns are ruined, people experience terrible violence and inhumane treatment. There is no safe place in the whole country.*

*Amidst all this, overwhelming spiritual mobilization is going on. Churches and Christian organizations are helping people, bringing humanitarian supplies, offering shelter, providing psychological help and sharing the Gospel...and we see an unprecedented interest in the Bible: every day, pastors and priests call or visit our offices and ask for free Scriptures as they reach out to people filled with fear and despair. —Ukraine Bible Society*

For the long months since the invasion of Ukraine, CBS has been part of a sustained international thrust to meet the spiritual and physical needs of those devastated by war— in Ukraine and the surrounding countries.

By the end of the first year, 718,973 copies of Bibles, Gospels and other Scripture publications had been printed in Ukrainian and Russian, distributed in Ukraine and to refugees in several countries.

*In this special moment we must [communicate] to our Christian brothers and sisters that they are not alone. And to the wider non-Christian society, [we say] that God is caring for them and standing with them in this very difficult time. Our support will reflect God's love and care towards people who think of God as punisher rather than caregiver.*

—Turkish Bible Society

## TURKISH CHRISTIANS SPRING INTO ACTION

A massive earthquake on February 6, 2023, centered in Kahramanmaraş, Türkiye killed hundreds of thousands of people and trapped many more.

The Bible Society in Türkiye quickly began working with the small network of Christian churches to provide clean water, food, shelter and warm clothing to their affected fellow citizens. Later stages of their plan include helping people find permanent shelter, as well as offering trauma healing groups for the rest of 2023.

The Canadian Bible Society is supporting the Bible Society in Türkiye as it channels resources to local churches that expect to serve as many as 100,000 people.

## SUPPORT FOR THE **ELDERLY**

*“At 90 years old, Mr. Gélinas found reading very difficult, even with a magnifying glass. As I showed him how to use the MegaVoice audio device, he realized that he would now be able to listen to God’s Word at any time and tears of joy streamed down his face. When he left, he said, still crying with joy: ‘Thank you, thank you, thank you very much.’”*

—Patrick Larouche, Quebec

### Audio Scripture support for elderly Canadians rapidly expands

#### FROM TWO LANGUAGES TO MORE THAN 50

In 2020, the CBS pilot program to support elderly individuals in long-term care homes brought them large-print Scriptural resources, audio Scriptures and music played on a “MegaVoice”, an easy-to-use digital audio player.

#### **This ministry is now growing quickly.**

- > Hospices and hospitals with elder care and palliative units received material
- > We offer Scripture in more than 50 languages in addition to English and French
- > We distributed almost 900 devices
- > We commissioned the manufacturer to produce a CBS version that is easier to use for those with cognitive challenges

**Thank you for your support.** You are bringing the comfort of God’s Word to elderly people across Canada.

*“My precious mother and late father were ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for many years. My mother always considered the Word of God to be vital to her walk with the Lord and she taught us early about the Gospel. Now when diminished eyesight makes it virtually impossible for her to read the Bible, the MegaVoice in Cree is a treasured gift reaching deep into her soul and spirit. She can now hear the Word of God that she dearly loves.”* —Freddy Coon-Come, Mistassini, Quebec



#### **Languages in demand**

The most requested languages for audio Scriptures in addition to French and English are Arabic, Chinese, German, Hindi, Persian, Spanish, Tagalog, Ukrainian, Tigrigna, and Cree.

#### **Fast forward for Indigenous communities**

The project now also serves Indigenous communities beginning with Cree and will soon add Inuktitut as we move towards the completion of the Inuktitut digital translation project.

# TRAUMA HEALING

## GAINS MOMENTUM

In 2021, CBS introduced Bible-Based Trauma Healing in Canada. In 2022, it became known as the **“Caring for the Wounded Heart”** program and 30 multi-week groups were conducted, bringing healing to people’s hearts.

The Bible-based curriculum 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 depends on well-trained facilitators, who move in status from “Apprentice” to “Certified” to “Master”
- > By the end of 2021, CBS trained 153 Apprentices, 15 Training Facilitators and one Master Facilitator. At the end of 2022, CBS had 255 Apprentices, 27 Training Facilitators, two Master Facilitators and three more on their way to completing that highest level

*“We just don’t want to leave; we are so full of blessing.”*

Recently, Tuk folk had an opportunity for an amazing experience through the Canadian Bible Society “Healing Workshop” held in Tuktoyaktuk. All who participated were Indigenous, except me.

Each day addressed a theme, such as wounds, suffering, or grief. A story was read aloud, and we were given time to reflect. Then the team guided us to ponder one or two questions. What might so and so in the story be feeling? What might make things worse or better? Did you ever have feelings like these? Then we had more time to ponder, maybe write, maybe have a skit, maybe share. And a final invitation was to bring our heart and its wounds to God in various guided ways. It was amazing how we gradually got in touch, opened up, went deep, or had a laugh or a tear. It had been powerful, bonding and freeing.

Twice with two different groups, at the end of a three-hour session, mostly with elders, no one wanted to leave. They were savouring the amazing thing that seemed to have taken place. Finally, one of the elders said, “We just don’t want to leave, we are so full of blessing...”.

**The brilliance of the program is not only in its grounded content (psychological and Biblical) but in its methodology and the fact that it is held locally, in small communities.** The workshop was six days, for approximately four hours a day, and we ran it twice. And the material has been adapted for both teenagers and for prison ministry. This workshop has great potential!

With deepest gratitude, I thank CBS and Stacey and Debra for the amazing gift you have given us here in Tuktoyaktuk, on the Arctic Ocean and with a view to the future...!

—Sister Fay Trombley, Pastoral Leader, Tuktoyaktuk



# MOHAWK BIBLE

## EMERGES FROM A LIFETIME OF WORK

In September 2023, the lifelong investment of Harvey Satewas Gabriel in his Mohawk language will culminate in the publication of a complete translation of the Bible from English to Mohawk.

When he was 17, he was astonished to hear his United Church minister John Angus translate Scripture into Mohawk as he preached—the first time Harvey had heard Mohawk read aloud. From that very day, he began thinking about translation.

A fluent Mohawk speaker, Harvey was eventually asked to read the Scriptures in Mohawk at church. But reading in Mohawk required that he translate short portions. In 1980, those efforts led him to embrace the challenge of translating the entire Bible.

For more than 40 years he laboured, at times working alone, and at other times with scholars from CBS, and always with unwavering encouragement from his wife Susan. A grant from the United Church of Canada Foundation, and linguistic and translation expertise from the Canadian Bible Society helped him finish this great task.

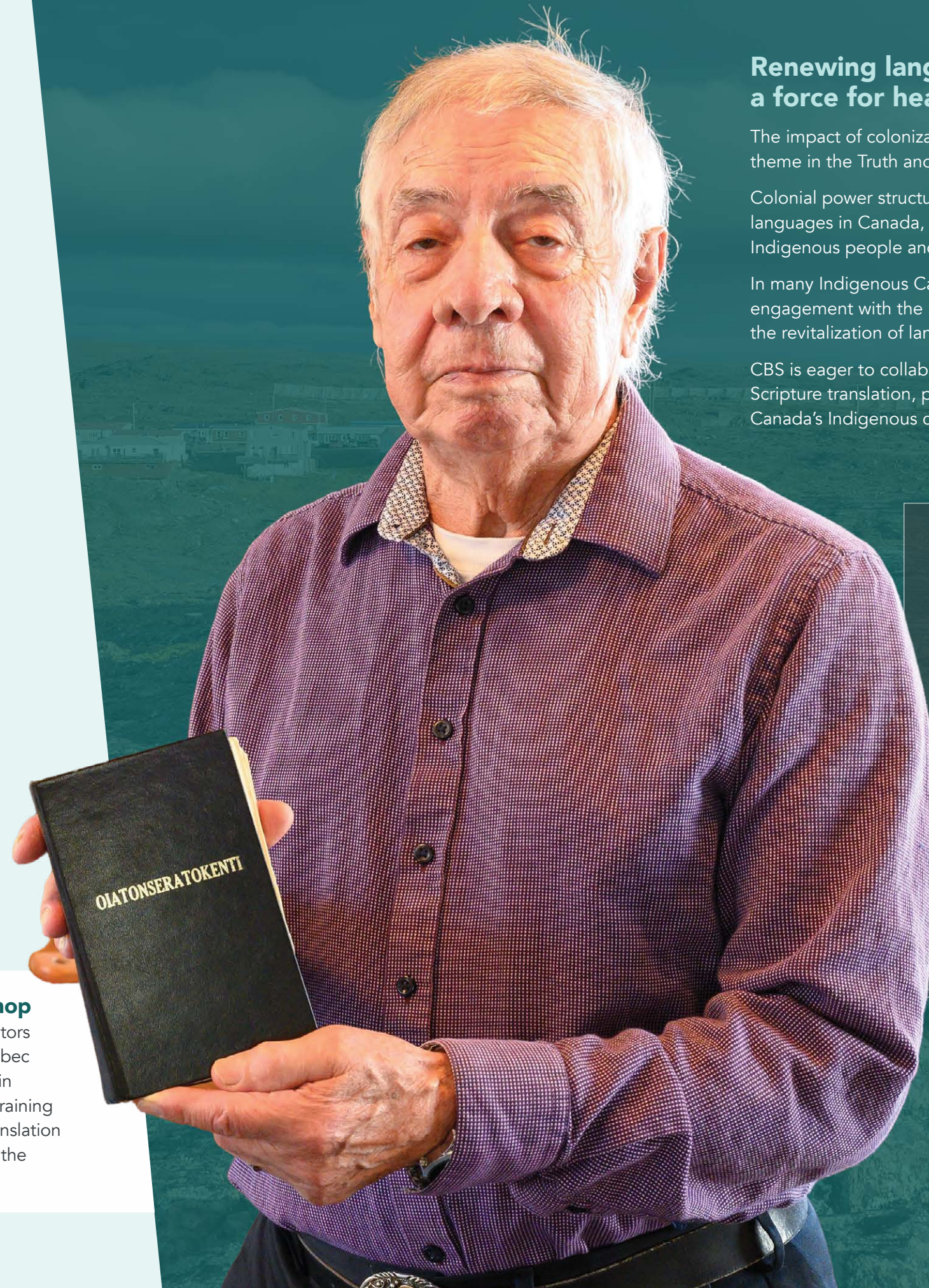
Now at age 84, he's looking forward to the unveiling of the first Mohawk Bible, being published by CBS. "I don't think anybody just comes along and says, 'I'm going to translate the Bible.' I don't think that is how it is done. I think God will test you like he tested me in 1957." Harvey certainly has met the challenge.

(Report adapted from The Eastern Door.)



### First Nations Translators Workshop

Last November, First Nations Bible translators from Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec gathered at the Bible Conference Centre in Guelph, ON for five days. They received training from Wycliffe, SIL, and CBS to serve as translation project facilitators and Bible translators in the Oji-Cree and Naskapi languages.



## Renewing language and culture, a force for healing

The impact of colonization on Indigenous languages is a major theme in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2015 report.

Colonial power structures greatly reduced the use of Indigenous languages in Canada, with grave implications for the well-being of Indigenous people and communities.

In many Indigenous Canadian communities, the translation of and engagement with the Scriptures is seen as strategic and valuable for the revitalization of language and culture.

CBS is eager to collaborate and welcomes requests to engage in Scripture translation, publication, distribution, and engagement for Canada's Indigenous communities.

*"A woman saw the Ojibwe / Saulteaux Shorter Bible we had and said 'This is my language—where can I get a copy of this?' As I handed her the Bible and told her she could keep it, she burst into tears and said, 'I have been praying for a Bible in Ojibwe.' She took my hand and with tears running down her cheeks thanked God that He had brought her the Bible. We were very moved."*

—Nation at Prayer, a CBS partner, from Mission Fest 2022

# INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION UPDATE

## MORE OF GOD'S WORD FOR MORE PEOPLE

As a friend of CBS, you sustain translation work in Canada and around the world. You propel more first translations and new translations so that more people can hear God speak.

We work collaboratively through the United Bible Societies (UBS) fellowship. It includes 150 Bible Societies operating in more than 240 countries and territories and collectively is the world's biggest translator, publisher and distributor of the Bible.

- > From Brazil to Bangladesh, 57 language groups—a total of 100 million people—received first translations of Scripture portions, New Testaments or Bibles
- > New or revised translations were completed in another 25 languages used by over 623 million people
- > 20 first translations were completed in sign languages for people on five continents
- > 2 braille translations were released

*“It is a new day for Ethiopia. I feel we have joined the Christians of the 4th and 5th century as they first received the Word in the language that spoke to their heart. Now we are welcoming the Word that our Christians yearned for a long period of time, and it is a treasure that has come to our homes.”*

—His Holiness Abune Matthias, Ethiopian Orthodox Church Patriarch during the dedication of the newly compiled and published Ge'ez Bible, June 2022.

### Remarkable

- > The Bible Society of Nigeria translated the first full Bible into Okun in just five years, breaking its previous translation record of completing the Igala Common Language Bible in 11 years
- > The First full Bible for Vietnam's Tày community, the second largest ethnic group in Vietnam with a population of over 1.8 million, was published

The UBS Fellowship vision for translation by 2038

Starting in 2018, complete **1,200** Scripture translations in 20 years

**800** first translations—320 new or revised translations.

At end of 2022, **133** translations completed—333 were in progress

**734** projects yet to begin

# OPENING DOORS TO THE ISOLATED AND EXCLUDED

CBS supports multi-year initiatives for translation, production and distribution of Scriptures for sign language users and those with visual impairments.

## SIGNING GOD'S LOVE

- > *The Visual Bible for the Deaf in Russian Sign Language* serves Deaf communities in **Russia, former USSR nations, Israel, Germany** and **USA**. More than 4 million people can benefit. So far, 14 chapters of the Gospel of Mark are available
- > In **Cuba**, sign language is an official language and many in the Deaf community speak no Spanish. The completed Gospel of Luke was launched on USB drives in March 2023; the translation of the Book of Acts is next
- > In **Bolivia**, confirming the accuracy of the Bolivian sign language expressions was a priority. Eight key stories from the Gospel of Luke were translated, and the team continues with Luke, Ruth and Jonah
- > In **Lithuania**, with the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke available, the team started on Acts, and published a video "dictionary" of 55 signs that are important in the Bible, which is of great use to sign language teachers

## OVERCOMING VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

**Braille literacy** – The Bible Society in Ghana is boosting braille literacy and aims to directly serve 1,500 students with visual impairments. Last year, they distributed 10 complete braille Bibles, Scripture portions, magnifying glasses, and 200 MegaVoice devices. They also conducted an awareness campaign and Bible advocacy and engagement events.

**Talking Bibles** – The Bible Society of Kenya has introduced audio Bibles for the millions of people who cannot read and write, focusing on communities with low literacy and high poverty. In 2022, they formed 710 listening groups, engaging almost 13,000 people, and distributed a range of materials.

**Bible distribution to visually impaired school children** – Kenya has 45,000 visually impaired children of school age. This outreach aims to reach 1,500 students aged 12-20 years, in three schools, with large-print materials and braille Scriptures.

*At the age of 10, I lost my sight. My parents had no money to treat me. I felt sad and wished to die. Suddenly, I could not see my friends and play with them. My parents kept me indoors for four years due to shame. As thoughts of suicide flooded my mind, an uncle discovered my plight. He took me to a blind school, and I learned braille. My pains turned to joy when I read the Bible in braille for the first time. The Bible gave me hope and now I can boldly say, I have handed over all my pains to Christ."*

—Gina, age 16, in Ghana



# CONSTANT DEMAND IN CHINA

CBS is an eager partner in the ongoing commitment of UBS to supply Christians in China with more Bibles.

There is a great demand for Bibles in China every year. Since its establishment in 1987, Amity Printing has printed 89 million Bibles that have been distributed across China, according to December 2021 data. Though the official Christian population in China is 46 million, unofficial estimates show there are 100 million Chinese Christians now—far more than the number of Bibles currently available.

UBS has supported Bible printing in China for over 30 years by subsidizing the cost of Bible paper, allowing more Bibles to be printed and making them more affordable.

Chinese Christians are known to love reading the Scriptures, and millions of Christians in China will be encouraged to read the Bible if they have a copy of their own. This will help them grow in their faith, strengthen their understanding of God's truth and resist false teaching and heresy, which is currently a major threat faced by the Church in China.

Last year your gifts to CBS helped to:

Provide paper to print  
**1.17 million**  
Bibles in China

Deliver more than  
**70,000**  
Bibles for free to those who cannot afford one including **40,000 large-print Bibles**

*“This is my first Bible. I was a little overwhelmed when I held it in my hands, thinking to myself that this is no ordinary book, it is the Word of God! Now my favourite pastime is reading the Bible. The Word of God gave me real satisfaction and joy which cannot be derived from dancing or winning at Mahjong tables. My favourite verse is Psalm 91:14, ‘Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.’ That’s why I changed from loving the world to loving God. Thank you for this gift of the Bible! You have given us access to the door of salvation.”*

—Yuan Guiying became a Christian at age 65 and received her first Bible from her local church.

*“I had only three years of formal education but after reading the Bible, God filled me, and I felt like I have been in school for many years. I have become wiser, and I use the Word of the Lord to manage my household matters. It is indeed very helpful. My Heavenly Father attracts me deeply because his Word is living and is a compass for my life, pointing the way I should go. His way is my only way, and I will walk in His way without turning left or right. May the Lord lead us!”*

—Liu Luomin, Hubei Province, China



# BUILDING ON THE MOMENTUM IN CUBA

You helped CBS and UBS reach the collective goal of printing and distributing one million new Bibles in Cuba.

- > We're pressing on to deliver another million Scriptures
- > Every Bible is seen as benefitting at least two people
- > Our partner works with churches from more than 60 denominations

## **"Unprecedented opportunities"**

From our partners, the Cuban Bible Commission: The completion of the One Million Bible project has generated unprecedented opportunities for Bible provision and Bible engagement in Cuba. The growth of our distribution network and organizational capacity has greatly increased the width and breadth of Bible efforts in Cuba. The favour of God and historical relevance of this moment is a God-sized opportunity that must be acted upon. Placing the Word of God in the hands of a hungry nation will encourage evangelism, discipleship, church growth and leadership development. This will serve the beneficiaries in complementing their missional goals of reaching all of Cuba for Christ.

*"There's a light in my house. When epilepsy started affecting my two-year-old daughter, we became worried. My Christian neighbour started to pray for us. He cast out all negativities. I experienced freedom for the first time. It seemed to me that I was under bondage until then. I felt instantaneously released. My daughter's health was restored, and we got rid of all ungodly practices. The very next Sunday, we were in the church, and they gave us a Bible. The page opened to Job 1:21—'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.' It touched me in a very special way. I felt like I received the answer that I was seeking all my life. Only God is my provider, my support, and my sustenance. I know I can count on Him. Without Him, I am nothing. My favourite verse is Psalm 4:8: 'In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.' I read the Psalms to my children every night before they go to bed. Compared to what I have right now, that [previous life] was not a life at all. I am not angry anymore. My life has been transformed by His Word, by His love. The Gospel restored my relationships. The Lord blessed my little baby and restored my life, my family, and my home. There is a light in my house. If you come to my house, you will be able to see that light." —Serraino, in Cuba*

# FREEDOM, PROTECTION AND HEALING

*“I was just 12 and walking to the coffee fields to help my mother. Two men from the village sexually abused me. I became pregnant. When I recall it, I feel a lot of pain in my heart. That pain began to change when volunteers from the Bible Society came and started to teach me about God. One of the lessons that changed my life was ‘the best gift’ because I learned about forgiveness. To be able to live in freedom and peace, we all need forgiveness and God’s grace. Every day I ask God to help me forgive my two aggressors. My favourite verse is: ‘Never take revenge, my friends, but instead let God’s anger do it.’ (Romans 12:19a) Thank you so much for the gift of these Bible lessons and my first Bible.”* —Elizabeth, 14, San Martin Jilotepeque, Guatemala

Every few seconds a young girl is sexually trafficked, exploited or assaulted.

## Awareness, prevention and redirection

The **Bible Society of Ghana** and partner counseling ministries equip teenage girls with moral and life skills education to raise their awareness of potential dangers, and help them make informed decisions leading to a transformed and hopeful life.

### In 2022, the Bible Society of Ghana

- > Doubled the program reach to 60 schools from 30 in 2021
- > Doubled the number of trained volunteers from 50 to 100
- > Connected with about 20,000 girls
- > Distributed approximately 5,000 Bibles and 3,000 Scripture portions

Bible Societies in several countries partner with front-line ministries that work with victims of sex trafficking, or girls who have become pregnant due to sexual assault.

Girls who have been through such traumatic experiences need and welcome the comfort, restoration, love and freedom that can only be found in the message of the Scriptures, explored in a caring, safe and supportive environment.

## Free to Live: Rescuing girl victims of sex trafficking

Free to Live is a program of the **Bible Society of Guatemala** that assists girls and teenage victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking, through Biblical and inner healing workshops, in different homes in the country.

- > 770 Bibles given to girls rescued from human trafficking and sexual abuse
- > 368 Proverbs devotionals delivered
- > 610 workbooks distributed

# STANDING WITH PEOPLE WHOSE FAITH MAY COST THEM THEIR LIVES

*“Prior to COVID-19, I used to attend a (house) church service on Sundays. Now, I would like to thank the Bible Society for providing me an opportunity to worship God and have fellowship with you EVERY DAY! I thank God for the Bible Society that has provided an opportunity for people like me who can worship and be nurtured along with other Christians from around the world, while feeling so close to all of them. I feel like I know every one of you. Thank you!”*

—A 32-year-old single mom, a refugee who lives in the diaspora along with her daughter.

## House-Church Movement:

More than  
**1,000**  
house churches  
and growing

Evangelical  
Christians  
growing at  
**19.6%**

## Total number of people these two projects aim to impact:

**1,539,500**

\* Names of the two countries in the Middle East have been withheld due to confidentiality reasons.

## Strengthening Bible work for the most vulnerable

In 2022, with funding from UBS member Societies including the Canadian Bible Society, a Bible Society in a persecuted region printed 252,105 copies of Scriptures.

\*Middle Eastern country 1 is closer to catastrophic challenges than ever. Political changes add to the economic oppression of its people. Religious discrimination continues. Christians are imprisoned in this country more than any other time during the past 40 years.

Bible printing is banned. Distribution is punished. Christian churches are forbidden. Amidst this despair, people continue to seek peace through Christ.

Their Bible Society in Diaspora, which works from outside the country, emerged from the pandemic with new opportunities to serve their people and people of another country in the region where persecution is high.

They aim to become an outreach of the United Bible societies (UBS) to meet the Scripture needs of their global diaspora communities, and to create a business plan for a sustainable future of the Bible Society “so that their people worldwide continue being blessed by God’s Holy Word delivered to them with accuracy and affordability.”

## Serving the Persecuted Church

Sustained troubles in Middle Eastern country 2 have left many historical Christians feeling desolate and seeking a way out. Many have emigrated, weakening the church.

Their Bible Society is uniquely positioned to serve the persecuted Church by providing the Word of God and advocating for the Church’s importance as witnesses for Christ. Their vision is that churches will be united around the Bible and will strive to make it available to their congregations.

Through organized visits and building church relations, the Bible Society encourages Christians to remain in their country. This effort serves 75 historical, traditional, and contemporary churches—and about 40,000 people.

They produce calendars that serve as a great tool to engage the people. 28,000 were distributed last year. The Bible Society took part in 22 country-wide exhibitions involving churches and the Ministry of Tourism. Along with churches, they held 16 drama performances and Scripture distribution for children.

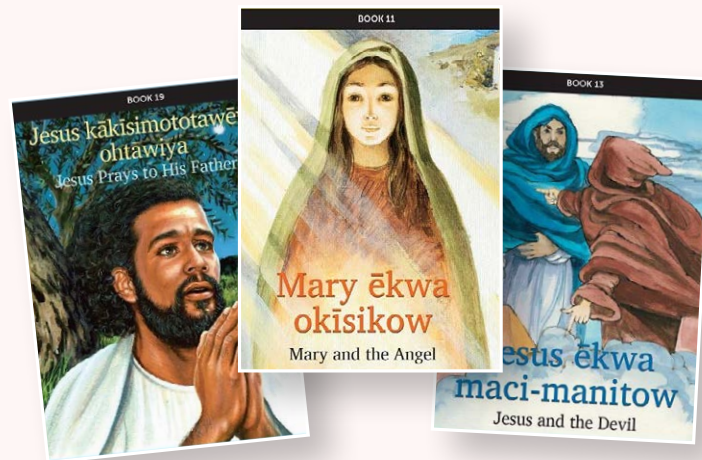
Their work is conducted while rockets fire from a neighbouring country. When these attacks displaced about 500 families in one region, the Bible Society provided them with relief packages.

# HEARING GOD SPEAK

## ACROSS CANADA

### Canadian translation milestones

- > Completed Mohawk translation (to be published in 2023)
- > Published the Inupiaq Pentateuch & Psalms
- > Audio recording of the Inuktitut NT (a collaboration with Faith Comes by Hearing)
- > Inupiaq OT team completed Genesis-2 Kings plus Psalms (55% of the OT)
- > A workshop with Blackfoot community members and church leaders to explore translation needs and possibilities



### Mission: Literacy continues its reach

- > **6,570 sets of Mission: Literacy** books were distributed in nine communities through our partners
- > These **30 illustrated Bible stories** promote reading skills and help preserve Indigenous languages while introducing children to the joy of reading God's Word

Lisi Iblauk, an Inuit storyteller, uses **Mission: Literacy** books to introduce children to her heart language, Inuktitut, and to encourage engagement with the Bible.



### Revised Punjabi Bible portions already in use

Last year, the revision process of the Punjabi New Testament reached the book of Colossians and CBS printed the Gospel of John. Every chapter is precious to the Punjabi Christians who await this more accurate, and up-to-date translation.

When a Punjabi pastor met with representatives from CBS, he was handed copies of the newly printed Gospel of John. As he read a few verses, he was moved to tears. "We believe this was so needed and have waited so long!"  
—CBS staff report



### Canada's spiritual landscape—a challenge and opportunity

In 2022, the Canadian Bible Society and Cardus (a non-partisan Canadian think tank) contracted Angus Reid to survey a representative sample of the Canadian population. The goal was to take stock of spirituality in Canada today, so that faith leaders are better equipped to minister in their communities. 47% of the respondents identify themselves as "Spiritually Uncertain." The results underline the urgency of getting God's Word in people's hands and helping them hear God speak.

2022

Canada's  
Spiritual  
Landscape





# MOMENTUM IN CANADIAN DISTRIBUTION AND ENGAGEMENT

## Christmas Cheer for Indigenous Communities

CBS along with a few partners and Crossroads donors shipped Christmas gifts worth **\$552,000 to 131 northern Indigenous communities** which included every province and territory in Canada.

*“Jim asked to be Santa that night and he truly was the best Santa. It was only later that he told me he lost two family members that fateful weekend. He said it was the first time he laughed, and it made him feel good to bring joy to so many children and families. I was so moved by the fact that he was still standing and giving back to his community. I don’t know how one would recover from something like that without a miracle from God. I am still in awe and praising God and praying for the healing to continue. This little community of 1892 has gifts from CBS that are in almost every home on the reserve.”*

—Bev Hadland, Crossroads Christian Communications Inc.



## Youth Impacted

Many youth outreach services and camps use CBS Bibles in their ministries. CBS distributed a total of 10,800 Camp Bibles last year. A key partner, One Hope Canada distributed 3680 CBS Bibles in 2022, up from 1820 they distributed in 2021.

## Inspiring Youth

Early this year, 22 students in our leadership program participated in the **“SOAR”** retreat. We were able to give all attendees a Bible from CBS. This young woman is in our leadership program. She is from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. She believes she has a call to ministry and is one of the ten young people who rededicated their lives to Christ at this retreat.

—Inspire our Nation, Saskatoon



*“One day, 7-year-old Rebecca took home a Bible from the rack in our foyer. She seemed keen to learn more about it. Her parents shared a beautiful story. At a Girl Guides show and tell night, Becca brought her Bible! In front of everyone, she explained how they are taught to be kind and loving in Girl Guides and that the Bible teaches the same thing! As they were telling us this story, we felt nothing but blessings as the Bible led to a 7-year-old ministering to a group of people! It is amazing how God uses us big or small to share the light of the world.”*

—Sarah Snow, Castledowns Salvation Army Church in Edmonton



## Bibles for Confirmation Candidates

Blue Veil Charity, a CBS partner, recently received 500 Bibles from CBS and gifted them to confirmation candidates at various events.

**Distribution momentum regained as pandemic eases**

**525,466**

Bibles, Testaments, Bible portions and selections were distributed in Canada in 2022-2023, compared to 426,630 the year prior—

**a 23% increase.**

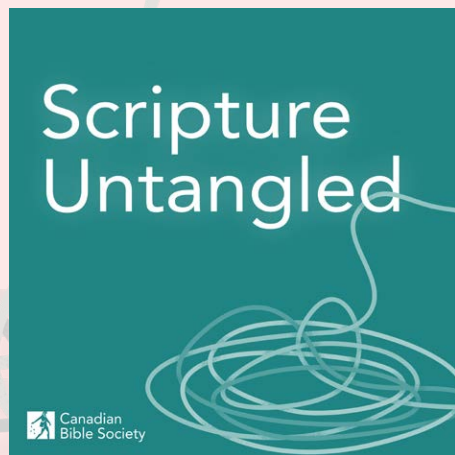
*“We are very focused on the Word, memorizing it and the importance of having the Word of God guide and direct their paths. Being able to send these children home with a Bible they can read and continue to learn the truth of Jesus is such a great blessing.”* —Circle Square Ranch Grand River Brantford, ON



# PRESSING PLAY ON DIGITAL OUTREACH



The CBS Scripture Untangled podcast brings influential voices from across Canada and beyond. They share the impact of Scripture in their own lives, and how they have wrestled with important questions of faith in Christ and the Word. By the end of 2022, 30 episodes were released, including the special episode on the life and faith of Queen Elizabeth II, and an episode with Anatoliy Raychynets, Deputy General Secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society.



*“On the CBS podcast, you talked about how Scripture gives strength. Listening to your story was encouraging, inspiring and practical. I loved the part about how Scripture came alive when you shared it in community. Your life verse: Isaiah 41:10! Thank you for being vulnerable and authentic! A reminder that God LOVES unconditionally, is WITH us and will never forsake us, no matter what.”*

—A response to the podcast with Melinda Estabrooks



Church and ministry leaders are faced with the challenge of helping their congregations read the Bible, engage with it, find hope in it and understand it for themselves. This video interview series hosted by Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling delves into perspectives on the Bible as shared by Christian leaders and how it has influenced them over the years. We also hear about how they engage with the Bible and help their congregations stay connected to the Word. Five videos have been released to date.

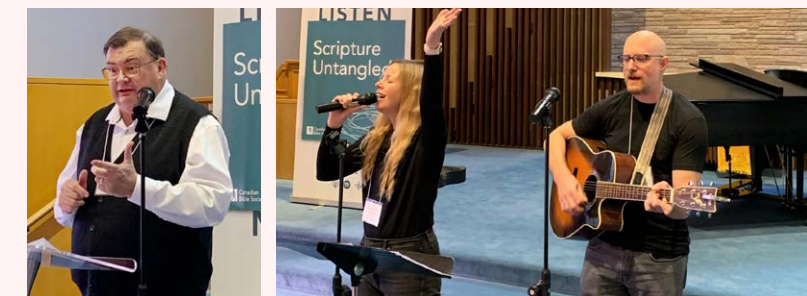


## The Bible Course widens its reach

This eight-session course was introduced in 2020. By the end of the year, it had impacted more than 5,000 people across Canada.

*“Our family, through the eight sessions, discovered a captivating overview of the Bible story. All of us found **this edifying course provided an invaluable framework of God’s actions and plans**, which has spring boarded into a deeper study and understanding of God and His Word. We are confident others will have the same fulfilling experience.”*

—A family from Redwood Park Church, Thunder Bay



## CBS preaching workshop

CBS kicked off its preaching workshop series with the **“Preaching Advent”** workshop in Vancouver. Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling and Pastor Elita Friesen (The Way Church) provided in-depth teaching on the lectionary texts for the 1st and 2nd Sundays of Advent while Rev. Heather Joy James, Aaron Miller, and Daniel Martin led in worship.

# RAYS OF HOPE



## Dynamic spiritual vitality in the Diaspora Church

When Canadian Christians focus on secularization and declining church numbers, they often forget the dynamism and growth in churches rooted in immigrant communities. Last year, CBS began a long-term effort to help diaspora churches serve and grow. We are first trying to identify all the diaspora churches and ministries in Canada, to meet with their leaders to see how best CBS can support them, and to introduce these leaders to each other.

- > More than 200 languages are spoken in Canada. To help the diaspora churches grow in faith and hope, CBS provided many of them Scriptures in their heart languages
- > Last year, CBS hosted two diaspora seminars with 113 attendees representing over a dozen ethnicities. Plans are on for more; Toronto, Edmonton and Calgary later this year

[biblesociety.ca/diaspora](https://biblesociety.ca/diaspora)



## *“We have scarcity of Bibles in our languages.”*

*This statement was repeated during my meeting with the Ethio-Eritrean Ministerial in Toronto. These churches are desperate to have access to Bibles and other Scripture resources in Tigrinya and Amharic. They expressed deep gratitude to CBS for working hard to source Bibles for them. One of the pastors translated the CBS Scripture booklet, “Words of Comfort” to Amharic so we can print and make it available for the dozens of churches across Canada.*

—Majd Alajji, Regional and Diaspora Church Relations Manager, CBS

## Overcomers launched

Overcomers is designed for individuals or groups, in-person or online and can be joined from anywhere. In 2022, CBS adapted the program and made it available in Canada early in 2023.

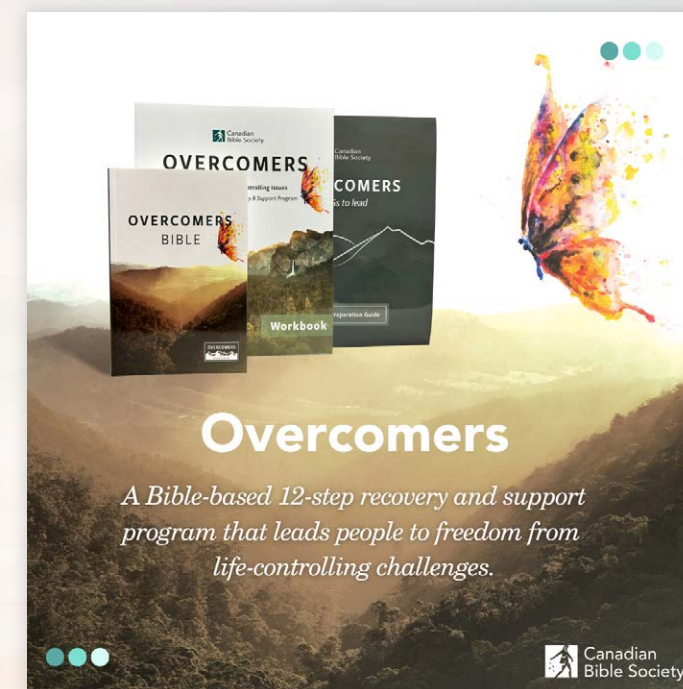
### Journey to hope and freedom from life-controlling issues such as:

Anger | Codependency | Love & Relationship  
Addiction | Physical, Sexual, and/or Emotional Abuse |  
Drug Addiction | Alcoholism | Childhood Dysfunction |  
Grief | Mental health | Gambling Addiction

### More about Overcomers

- > Created in 1985, the program is based on the concept originally developed by Alcoholics Anonymous
- > Positive impact on the lives of thousands of people from all walks of life for nearly 40 years
- > Used successfully in a wide variety of settings including community support groups, churches, treatment centres, outreach programmes and at-risk youth centres

[biblesociety.ca/overcomers](https://biblesociety.ca/overcomers)



## Overcomers

*A Bible-based 12-step recovery and support program that leads people to freedom from life-controlling challenges.*

Canadian Bible Society

## Well-received

The new Overcomers product suite has only been available in Canada for four months. So far, over 700 individual Overcomers resources have helped people on their journey to freedom and healing.

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 serve and support the Management Leadership Teams and Districts within each region.

**Members of the Board of Governors**

- Capt. Noel Asirvatham
- Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell
- Tom Cadenhead
- Pierre Cloutier
- Brian Evans
- Rev. Robert Graham
- Rev. Dr. Francis J. Guinta, Jr.
- Rev. Brian Lise
- Mathew Maniate
- Darryl Rachul
- Rev. Ron Short
- Alana Walker Carpenter
- Rev. Paul Worden
- Guest: Mrs. Beverly Daniels  
President of the Bermuda 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.



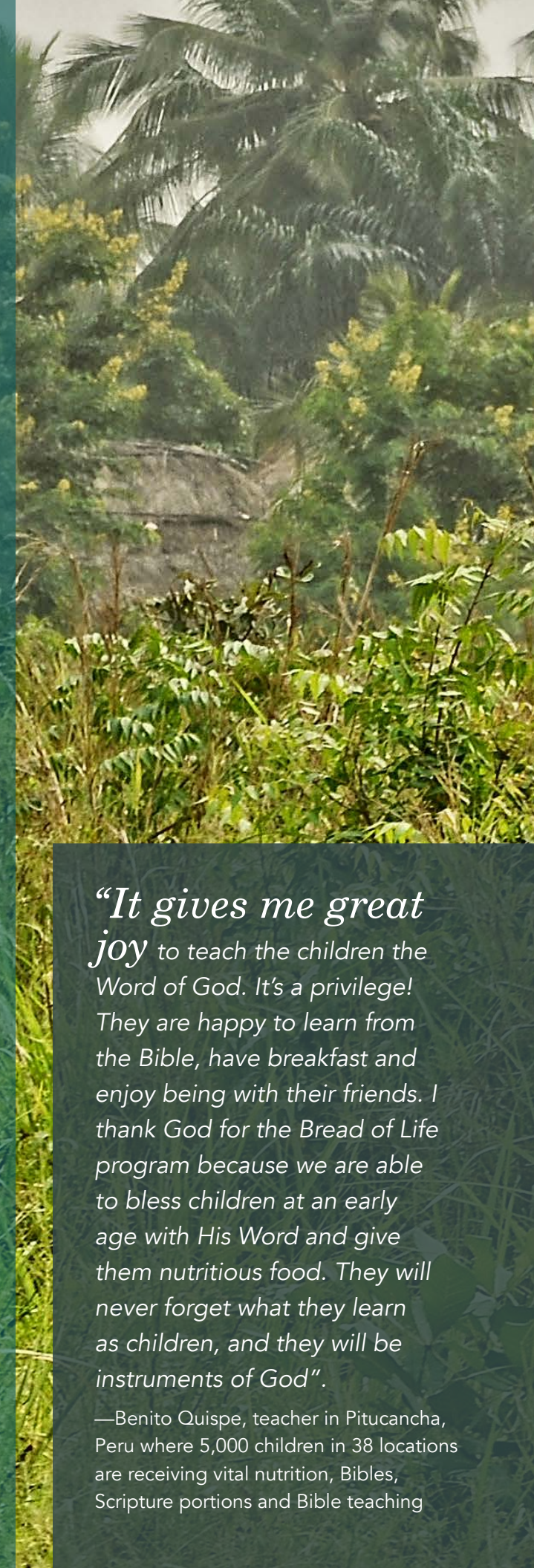
# FINANCES

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

Year ended February 28

	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Contributions	\$ 7,731	\$ 7,756
Contributions-Government subsidy programs	—	448
Legacies	2,745	2,564
Bible sales	1,902	1,655
Investment income	1,324	916
Rental and other income	89	10
	<b>13,791</b>	<b>13,349</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
National ministries	7,241	6,064
World ministries	2,252	2,187
Fund development	1,088	1,256
Administration	2,222	1,985
Amortization of capital assets	144	152
	<b>12,947</b>	<b>11,644</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses		
before undernoted items	844	1,705
Loss on sale of capital assets	—	(80)
Gain on sale of assets held for sale	1	484
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(2,420)	1,933
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ (1,575)</b>	<b>\$ 4,042</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)



*“It gives me great joy to teach the children the Word of God. It’s a privilege! They are happy to learn from the Bible, have breakfast and enjoy being with their friends. I thank God for the Bread of Life program because we are able to bless children at an early age with His Word and give them nutritious food. They will never forget what they learn as children, and they will be instruments of God”.*

—Benito Quispe, teacher in PitucanCHA, Peru where 5,000 children in 38 locations are receiving vital nutrition, Bibles, Scripture portions and Bible teaching



Canadian  
Bible Society



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