



Trinitarian Bible Society

# Quarterly Record

Issue Number: **636, July to September 2021**

# Annual Report

**190th** Annual Report and Summary Financial Statements  
for the year ended **31 December 2020**



THE WORD OF GOD AMONG ALL NATIONS



# Trinitarian Bible Society

Founded in 1831 for the circulation of  
Protestant or uncorrupted versions of the Word of God

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The Rev. W. M. Patterson Jnr, B.A., D.D.

Mr. A. C. Thomson, M.A. Cantab.

*\* These are the serving members of the  
General Committee.*

As the QR was going to press we heard  
of the passing of Mr D. Oldham. We will  
write more on his work at the Society  
in the next QR.

# Quarterly Record

Issue Number: **636, July to September 2021**

## Annual Report

**190th** Annual Report and Summary Financial Statements for the year ended **31 December 2020**, for presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the Trinitarian Bible Society to be held, God willing, on 18 September 2021 at 11.00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London

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# THE 190<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GOD WILLING

commences at **11.00 a.m.** on

**Saturday, 18 September 2021**

at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London SE1 6SD

The Business Meeting at 11.00 will include reports and updates on the Society's work, including the Amharic translation project for Ethiopia.

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After the Business Meeting, at 2.00 p.m.

**The Rev. Dafydd Morris**

Deputation Speaker for the Society  
is expected to preach.

**All are invited to attend.**

(Time will be provided for lunch but attendees  
will need to bring their own lunch.)

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG ALL NATIONS

# A Word from the Chairman



**T**hrough the great mercy of our faithful God, the Trinitarian Bible Society has been remarkably maintained and sustained during the past, testing year. We can join with the prophet Jeremiah who amidst equally trying times acknowledged that '*it is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness*' (Lamentations 3.22–23).

Under God, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Senior Management Team in London, who along with the General Secretaries of each of our overseas branches, supported by many loyal staff members at home and abroad, have worked indefatigably and often remotely throughout the pandemic to continue the aim of the Society to spread the uncorrupted Word of God to all nations.

Also, to the praise of our faithful God we can see how the providential needs of the Society in continuing its work have been remarkably and abundantly supplied, even though many physical meetings of the Society have not been able to take place. However, while remote meetings may not be our first option of reaching our supporters, nevertheless the holding of such meetings has enabled the Society

to reach many who otherwise would not have had opportunity to support our endeavours. This has been a source of encouragement to us.

The times we live in are perilous both physically and even more so spiritually, yet the unchanging truth of God in His Word remains the rock upon which we would be built. It is a rock which is suitable as a strength and support for every generation of the Lord's people, including our own.

We greatly value the prayers and support of our supporters at home and abroad. May the Lord keep us faithful to our charge and give His indispensable blessing to our labours in His worthy Name and cause.

Gerald Buss  
Chairman of the General Committee

*William Tyndale House, London*



# Search for a new General Secretary

**A**fter two years of intensive and careful consideration, the General Committee and the Senior Management Team have now finished the Strategic Review of the Society's activities and approved a Strategic Plan. The General Committee is now beginning the process of seeking the Lord's mind in the appointment of a new General Secretary.

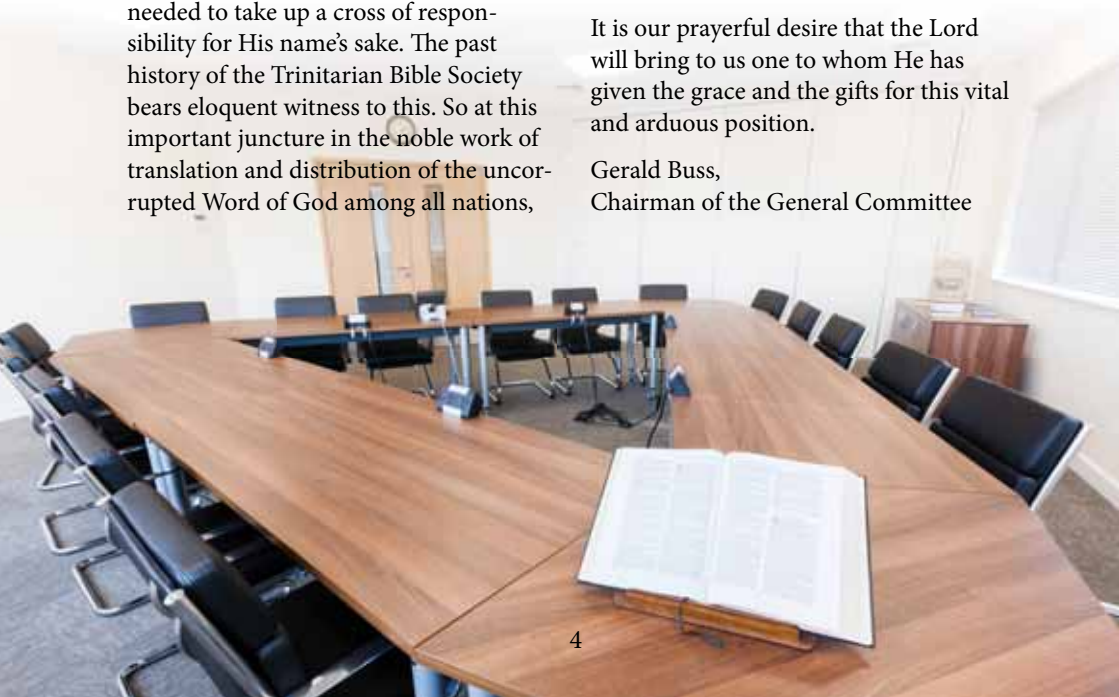
The advertisement for this responsible position is included in this issue of the *Quarterly Record*.

In the history of His work upon earth, the Lord has never failed to provide 'for such a time as this' when one has been needed to take up a cross of responsibility for His name's sake. The past history of the Trinitarian Bible Society bears eloquent witness to this. So at this important juncture in the noble work of translation and distribution of the uncorrupted Word of God among all nations,

may the same blessing be granted to the Society as we read in Ezra 8.18, 'And by the good hand of our God upon us they brought a man of understanding ...'. We need a spiritually minded leader qualified to lead the Society forward (under God) in this increasingly challenging age with an unqualified commitment to our Principles and Aim 'to promote the Glory of God and the salvation of men, by circulating, both at home and abroad, in dependence on the Divine blessing, the Holy Scriptures, which are given by inspiration of God, and are able to make men wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus'.

It is our prayerful desire that the Lord will bring to us one to whom He has given the grace and the gifts for this vital and arduous position.

Gerald Buss,  
Chairman of the General Committee







Vacancy

# General Secretary

**T**he vision of the founders of the Trinitarian Bible Society in 1831 was to 'promote the Glory of God and the salvation of men, by circulating, both at home and abroad, in dependence upon the Divine blessing, the HOLY SCRIPTURES...' This vision is very much alive and thriving 190 years later; indeed, it has been reinforced by our recent extensive Strategic Review and the resulting Strategic Plan.

We are now looking for a new General Secretary, a spiritually minded and experienced leader to oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to take the Society's work forward, under the oversight of the General Committee and supported by the Senior Management Team. The successful candidate for this full-time permanent post will undertake a wide-ranging strategic brief.

- To ensure the development and delivery of the Society's strategic plans
- To ensure the development and maintenance of strong relationships with the Society's key partners and stakeholders
- To oversee and support the Society's branches
- To ensure the Society's governance arrangements are appropriate and fulfilled
- To ensure the effective management of the Society's Headquarters
- To lead the promotion of the Society's principles and work

We are seeking an active supporter of the Society with a comprehensive understanding of and an unqualified commitment to our principles, beliefs, and ethos,



along with a genuine drive and clear call to this work. The successful applicant will be a spiritually mature member of a local church or assembly which is supportive of the Society, but with an understanding of the doctrine of separation that will not preclude him from actively working with other Christians from different churches.

Substantial experience of working at a senior leadership level and bearing significant responsibility is vital for this challenging role; experience within the Christian or wider charitable sector is desirable, but not essential. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills will be key, and demonstrable experience of providing clear, balanced advice (preferably at board level) is essential. The candidate will need to be able to articulate the Society's principles externally with conviction so as to motivate and persuade others (under God), as well as to work effectively with stakeholders from different countries, backgrounds, and Christian viewpoints.

We are looking for someone with well-developed organisational abilities and the necessary team leadership skills to motivate, enable, and encourage the Society's personnel internationally in the pursuit of our objectives. Demonstrable financial acumen is desirable as we seek to fulfil our Aim whilst ensuring that the Society's finances are sustainable (under God's providence).

A degree or professional level qualification would demonstrate intellectual capacity, but we are primarily seeking a natural organisational leader with the spiritual and personal qualities and skills outlined for this practical and people-centred role.

The post-holder will be expected to attend the Society's London Headquarters regularly and travel overseas (as required), but there will be considerable scope to work flexibly.

Remuneration will be competitive and commensurate with the candidate's experience, qualifications and skills. A contributory pension scheme is included.

To arrange an informal discussion or to obtain a copy of the job pack, please contact John Edwards, the Society's Executive PA, on 020 8417 8877 or email [j.edwards@tbsbibles.org](mailto:j.edwards@tbsbibles.org). The deadline for applications is Friday 1 October 2021.





# Operations Report



by Philip A. Blows, Operations Director

‘Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life’ (John 6.68).

**I**t is a fact that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke words which were difficult to hear (cf. John 6.60). This is evident from the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to John. Our Lord, the greatest teacher, started in the natural and spoke of the bread which they had eaten on the previous day before moving to the spiritual, speaking of ‘that meat which endureth unto everlasting life’ (John 6.27). As He continued the Lord Jesus spoke of the manna in the wilderness and identified Himself as the bread of life. Perhaps hardest of all were those words in which He told the assembled crowd that ‘Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you’ (John 6.53).

Many of His disciples declared this to be a hard saying. They murmured at it. Sadly, many ‘went back, and walked no more with him’ (John 6.66). But the twelve disciples remained, and Peter spoke for them. His answer to the Lord’s direct question, ‘Will ye also go away?’

is quoted above: ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.’ Peter, quickened by the Spirit, appreciated and believed that the hard sayings spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ were spirit and life (John 6.63).

Do we share in the experience of the disciples? If we are honest, we too sometimes find the words of the Lord Jesus difficult to hear. Do we sometimes murmur at them? May we, by the grace of God, not be among those who walk no more with Him. For to whom else should we go? God and God alone has the words of eternal life. Can we not extend this point to the whole inspired Scriptures? Out of all the books in the world, only the Holy Bible is God’s life-giving Word. Every copy sent out from our offices to be used in personal devotions, at a place of worship, or in free distribution, provides the ‘words of eternal life’ so desperately needed. Oh how we ought to pray that this vital ministry will prosper and increase—may the Lord truly bless it.

In this report I will give a summary of the work of the Operations Department during 2020. I hope it will be informative and encouraging to you, our members

and supporters, and that it will help you as you pray for the work. Round numbers will be used for very large circulation figures to make them easier to digest; the precise numbers can be found in the distribution table on page 27. It is always worth saying though that the activity we are engaged in is spiritual, for the glory of God, and thus cannot be measured by circulation figures alone.

In accordance with our Aim, which is unchanged since 1831, we seek to maximise, under God, the circulation of Bibles and Scripture portions in many languages amongst the nations of the world. This is best achieved by selling to those who can afford to pay and by granting to those who cannot, funds permitting.

## Grants

During 2020 over **2.1 million** Bibles, Scripture portions, and Scripture items were granted free of charge to institutions and individuals at home and abroad including missionaries, missions, prisons, churches, and schools. We scrutinise and score every grant application to ensure, as far as is practicable, that grants of Bibles, Scripture portions, and other items are distributed through channels which will be acceptable to our supporters.

Over recent years we have optimised the value of our grants budgets by using them primarily to fulfil large requests from grantees who are well known to us. Some of the large grants made during 2020 were:

- 100,000 Spanish New Testaments to several grantees in Latin America

(funded by GBS and in cooperation with TBS (USA))

- 8,000 Armenian New Testaments to a grantee in Armenia
- 5,000 Romanian New Testaments and 7,500 Romanian Articles to a grantee in Romania
- 4,000 English Bibles and 3,000 English Calendars to a grantee in Sierra Leone
- 3,900 Chichewa New Testaments to a grantee in Malawi
- 3,750 Armenian Bibles, 2,000 Armenian New Testaments, and 2,000 Russian Bibles to a grantee in Armenia
- 2,832 Portuguese New Testaments and 4,500 Portuguese Gospel according to John to a grantee in Angola
- 2,000 English Bibles to a grantee in Kenya
- 1,900 English Reference Bibles to a grantee in Kenya
- 1,700 Romanian Bibles to a grantee in Romania
- 1,000 Portuguese Bibles, 2,000 Portuguese New Testaments, 1,500 Portuguese Gospel according to John, and 100 Shona New Testaments to a grantee in Malawi
- 1,000 Chichewa New Testaments to a grantee in Malawi
- 1,000 English Bibles and 1,200 English Articles to a grantee in Zambia
- 700 English Reference Bibles to a UK prison
- 600 English Reference Bibles to a UK prison
- 500 English Bibles and 2,000 English Articles to a grantee in Malawi
- 500 English Reference Bibles to a UK prison

## Scripture Item Grants

- 30,500 English Calendars to a grantee in Uganda
- 26,000 French Calendars and 1,000 English Calendars to a grantee in Zambia
- 25,500 English Calendars to a grantee in Uganda
- 9,300 Hungarian Calendars to a grantee in Hungary
- 1,187 Scripture Verse Posters to a grantee in Nigeria
- 1,185 Scripture Verse Posters to a grantee in Zambia

Inevitably we cannot know precisely how each of these Bibles and other Scripture items will be used by the final recipient but we do earnestly pray that all will be for the glory of God and the salvation of men.



*Bibles and calendars arrive with a grantee in Sierra Leone*

## Sales

We also distribute the Holy Scriptures by way of sales, often at heavily discounted prices. Sales is the Society's main distribution channel in terms of volume, and it is worth pointing out that most of the items we sell will eventually be given

away free of charge on the mission field by supporters and customers. The total number of Scriptures and Scripture items sold worldwide in 2020 was **5.5 million**. Of these, 4.6 million were under licence to other publishers.

Remarkably, sales from our UK Headquarters were only down by 8% in 2020 compared to 2019,<sup>1</sup> despite the global Covid pandemic causing difficulties such as Christian bookshops being forced to close for much of the year and shipping to certain countries being difficult or impossible. In fact, our operations were remarkably unaffected by the lockdown: the warehouse team have been working on site throughout the pandemic and the office staff have worked productively from home. Several staff members and one trustee did fall ill with Covid but by God's grace recovered. We are most thankful to the Lord for the way that He has maintained the Society's work during this challenging year.

As can be seen in the figures above, a very significant part of our Scripture circulation comes through licensing arrangements with other publishers, which takes place mainly in Brazil: in 2020, **76%** of our circulation volume came through licensing and **24%** through publications which we procured and circulated ourselves. We license TBS Bible translations to other publishers because this enables us to reach more people with faithful and accurate versions of the Word of God, beyond the level that our own resources would allow. It should be emphasised that we are still conducting a major publishing and distributing work ourselves, apart from licensing: in 2020, over **1.8 million** Bibles, Scripture portions, and Scripture

items bearing the TBS name passed through our warehouses to be sent to customers and grantees around the world.

In 2020 the Society received the Feefo Platinum Service award for our sales work. This award is given to businesses that have achieved the Feefo Gold

Service award—an independent mark of excellence attested by real customers for businesses that deliver exceptional experiences—for three consecutive years or more. We are grateful not only for the diligence and commitment of our staff which is reflected in this award but also for the close attachment so many of our customers feel to the Society.

## Countries to which we send Scriptures

1. Albania	29. Dominican Republic	57. Kenya	86. Rwanda
2. Algeria	30. Ecuador	58. Liberia	87. Sao Tome & Principe
3. Angola*	31. El Salvador	59. Lithuania	88. Scotland
4. Antigua & Barbuda	32. England	60. Madagascar	89. Serbia
5. Argentina	33. Eritrea	61. Malawi	90. Sierra Leone
6. Armenia	34. Estonia	62. Malta	91. Singapore
7. Australia	35. eSwatini	63. Martinique	92. Slovak Republic
8. Belgium	36. Ethiopia	64. Mauritius	93. South Africa
9. Benin	37. Finland	65. Mexico	94. South Korea
10. Bolivia	38. France	66. Moldova	95. Spain
11. Brazil	39. Gambia	67. Mozambique	96. Sri Lanka
12. Bulgaria	40. Germany	68. Myanmar	97. St Kitts & Nevis
13. Burkina Faso	41. Ghana	69. Namibia	98. St Lucia
14. Burundi	42. Greece	70. Nepal	99. Sweden
15. Cameroon	43. Guatemala	71. New Zealand	100. Switzerland
16. Canada	44. Guernsey	72. Niger	101. The Netherlands
17. Cape Verde Island	45. Honduras	73. Nigeria	102. Togo
18. Chile	46. Hong Kong	74. North Macedonia	103. Trinidad & Tobago
19. China	47. Hungary	75. Northern Ireland	104. Uganda
20. Colombia	48. India	76. Norway	105. Ukraine
21. Cook Islands	49. Iran	77. Pakistan	106. Uruguay
22. Costa Rica	50. Iraq	78. Panama	107. USA
23. Cote D'Ivoire	51. Ireland	79. Paraguay	108. Venezuela
24. Croatia	52. Isle of Man	80. Peru	109. Wales
25. Cuba	53. Italy	81. Philippines	110. Zambia
26. Cyprus	54. Jamaica	82. Poland	111. Zimbabwe
27. Czech Republic	55. Japan	83. Portugal	*Scriptures distributed via Christian logistics organisations in the UK.
28. Denmark	56. Jersey	84. Romania	
		85. Russia	

## Countries

As an international organisation we seek to distribute Scriptures to as many nations as possible, as per our motto 'The Word of God among all nations.' In 2020 we distributed **7.6 million** Scriptures and Scripture items in **40 languages** to **111 countries**; these countries are listed on page 10.

## Feedback from Grantees

*This section was written by Louise Brett, one of our Sales and Grants Assistants.*

**A**t the time of writing this report, I am celebrating my 12th anniversary of working at TBS, and what a remarkable twelve years they've been! During this time I have read many heart-wrenching and thought-provoking letters from grantees around the world, who are so unbelievably grateful for the Scriptures that we have been able to grant to them.

One grantee in Kenya wrote to us and said,

Greetings in Jesus's name once again. We are very grateful to you and your organisations (TBS) for this wonderful gift of Bibles you have given our ministry, may God bless you and the entire organisation for this special gift and may God bless you extremely.

We, the disabled society, say a big thank you since it is not easy for many people to pay attention or to listen to us. There is a lot of discrimination everywhere we go and

we are jobless because of that. However, as a preacher and evangelist, I try to prove the world wrong by reaching people everywhere they are with the gospel of peace. I try to let them

know that God can use anyone and disability is not an issue. I have been denied jobs severally in public offices because of my condition, but I thank God that I can serve His people in this capacity. My prayer is only that you do not give up on people like us, we are always happy when someone somewhere pays attention to us. I have distributed the Bibles which you have sent to us to the most people who are very bad in need of them and they all say thank you very much.

This year we were hit with the coronavirus pandemic, which was in many ways devastating. However, God has a way of fulfilling His plans and purposes even through the dark times. Many of our customers here in the UK bought Bibles and left them in boxes outside their homes or places of worship for passers-by to help themselves. One church in Hertfordshire wrote the following:

We have been encouraged by the uptake on Bibles from our Bible box. So far, one hundred and twenty-four Bibles and New Testaments have been taken, along with twenty-six

In 2020 we distributed **7.6 million** Scriptures and Scripture items in **40 languages** to **111 countries**

booklets and tracts and twenty-seven children's magazines! The most popular Bible is the 'Windsor'. We know that this has been replicated in other areas and none of us could have imagined such an opportunity at the start of this year! May they be read and greatly used to the salvation of many.

Although this was written by a customer who bought the Bibles, nevertheless the people who received them did so free of charge. Another customer told me over the phone that she wanted to buy 100 New Testaments so that she could put them through her neighbours' letterboxes to give them something to read during lockdown—what a wonderful opportunity! This reminds of Genesis 50.20, which says, 'But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, at *it is* this day, to save much people alive'. I have been reminded this year of how God can turn circumstances around and use them for His glory.

The coronavirus has definitely affected some areas of the grants work this year, as some of our grantees were not able to complete the level of distribution that they would have liked. But the work of spreading the Gospel never stops and we were still able to process many hundreds of grants in 2020. Some of these grants are large, as listed above, while others are much smaller.

Despite the obstacles that we have faced over the last year we have been richly blessed by God and thank Him for His goodness to us in enabling us to keep this work going. The gratitude of the



*A pastor distributing Spanish Scriptures in Chile*

grantees that we send Scriptures to is evident in the many letters and reports that are sent to us.

We would like to thank our supporters for all of the prayerful and financial care that they have extended to us over another year.

## UK Railway Posters

Believers should take encouragement when Scripture texts are displayed prominently in public places. Likewise, unbelievers should be challenged by these same texts (ref. 2 Corinthians 2.15-16). Sadly, the opportunity to present the Word of God publicly appears to be diminishing. As was reported last year the scope of the TBS UK National Rail



Scripture Poster Campaign was curtailed in early 2020 as a result of our primary advertising partner informing us that they would no longer accept Scripture text posters (or any other religious material). Therefore, whilst **216** individual poster bookings were made by **66** sponsors for 2020—a new high—most of the posters could not be displayed.

We have contacted all of the Train Operating Companies involved more than once but were met with no response in most cases. Legal advice has been taken and further advice will be sought over coming months. Thankfully there is still one advertising company with whom we can display Scripture posters so we advise UK supporters interested in sponsoring a railway poster for 2022 to contact our grants department first for details of availability in their region. At the time of writing we are making enquiries into the feasibility of having Scripture Posters displayed in bus shelters. This medium has the advantage of making texts visible to motorists and pedestrians as well as bus passengers. Please pray that the Lord will overrule so that TBS can continue to display the Word of God in public places as we have done since 1975.

## Auxiliaries

The Society's published Aim speaks of circulating the Scriptures 'at home and abroad'. Therefore, as well as having an international focus to our work, we also encourage the circulation of the Scriptures at home. The Society's regional Auxiliaries, active in the UK, USA, and Canada, contribute significantly to this locally oriented work.

In 2020 the UK Auxiliaries were responsible for circulating over **17,000** Scriptures and Scripture items, the vast majority through grants to prisons, schools, hospitals, and care homes. We gladly record our thankfulness to the many Auxiliary Committee members who give their time to pursue the Society's Aim in their local regions. Please visit our website or contact your local TBS office for more information about how to support our Auxiliaries.

## Communication

Conferences and exhibitions provide valuable opportunities to explain our work in face-to-face settings. It will come as no surprise that most of the conferences and exhibitions we had planned to participate in during 2020 were cancelled because of the coronavirus. The Open Day at William Tyndale House planned for March 2020 also had to be cancelled, and our Annual General Meeting had to move online. God willing, the 2021 AGM will be in person at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. We earnestly look forward to having fellowship with some of our supporters in person again. In 2022 we plan to host a conference in London on the

*Chaplain RAF Fairford receives Bibles through the Wessex Auxiliary*



subjects of Text and Translation—please look out for future editions of *Quarterly Record* for further details.

## Staffing

As always I would like to thank each member of the Operations Department in London for their labours during 2020; without them, the work outlined above would not have been completed. Thank you to Mark Beardall, Louise Brett, Gary Hayes, Neil Lusk, Peter Stephenson, Michael Wade, and Hannah Woodhams. Thanks also to our Sales Representative to the retail trade, John Tennant. In addition to our staff, many volunteers give of their time to support the Society's work, whether in our warehouses and packing rooms, on boards and committees, or from home on tasks such as preparing children's material, running auxiliaries, or helping to maintain our database. There are too many of these dear friends to name, but we thank each one sincerely for all that they do for the Lord at the Society. Please continue to remember our staff and volunteers in your prayers.

## Conclusion

Returning to our opening meditation on John chapter 6, we affirm that the work of making known the exceedingly precious words of our Lord Jesus Christ must continue. There are many diversions and distractions in this world, but only the Lord Jesus Christ has the words of eternal life. May the Lord be pleased to continue to bless the translation, publication, and distribution of His Holy Word, and may we go to Him and to no other.

## Endnote

1. Physical sales, excluding licensing

*Although certain phrases and expressions used in the letters in this article may not be doctrinally correct or in correct English, we reproduce the letters essentially as received, knowing that the Lord is using His Word to the glory of His Name and the furtherance of His Kingdom as the Scriptures are distributed among the nations of the world.*



William Tyndale House

# Branch Greetings

## TBS (Australia)



On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Australian Branch of the Trinitarian Bible Society, we send greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We reflect upon the past year with great thankfulness to the Lord for His goodness to the Society in Australia. 'Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he* is good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever' (Psalm 106.1).

The Branch in Australia is attempting to generate interest in the Authorised Version by adding a section as to why you should use the KJV on the Words of Life Calendars and having a half-size version mailed out to potentially interested church groups. We pray that the Lord will bless these endeavours.

As with most organisations, 2020 proved to be an unusual year for TBS (Australia). In line with the Government's recommendations our office staff worked from home, only attending the office to pack and send orders. Demand for products was low for four or five months. However, in the Lord's goodness July brought more sales and the reopening of our office in Grafton. Sales for the year were down considerably until July, but picked up through the rest of the year, finishing only a little below the previous year. We have much to be thankful for; the Lord has continued to provide for the Society despite the many uncertainties of 2020. 'For I *am* the LORD, I change not ...' (Malachi 3.6).

During 2020 Australia's largest prison, with a population of 1,700 prisoners, opened near Grafton. We saw it as an opportunity and contacted the chaplain, who was at first reluctant to have the KJV Bibles which we offered to him. He finally accepted twelve and said he would see how it went. Two months later he was in touch wanting a larger supply and asking for ongoing support with KJV Bibles. We have recently received a letter from a prisoner in this gaol, thanking the Society for the Bible he received. 'The reason I write to you is it was a King James Bible I was given that changed my life. When I leave prison I intend on dedicating my life to God and I'm so thankful I became a believer. I owe my life to God and this King James Bible that holds His Word ... So, I send my love and appreciation to the Trinitarian Bible Society, for all the work they do to bring God into people's lives.'

During the year over 500 Bibles and New Testaments were provided to grantees for different purposes, together with 1,250 Words of Life Calendars for free distribution. ‘Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days ...’ (Ecclesiastes 11.1).

Editorial work for the Society has continued to be carried out in Australia during 2020–2021 by the Senior Editorial Consultant (Linguistics), Larry Brigden. Questions have been answered and translations checked in quite a number of languages. These include Zou, Mauritian Creole, Slovak, Hindi, Hebrew, Chinese, Korean, French, Bemba, and Haitian Creole. A partial New Testament in Chinese (the four Gospels, Romans, and Hebrews) was approved for publication by the Society. Once again, answers to translation questions have been recorded for future use on the Society’s tbs-wiki website.

Preparation for an important article on the textual question of Revelation 16.5 has been underway for some time now. The Received Text at Revelation 16.5 contains the triadic declaration ‘which art, and wast, and shalt be’, whereas the Critical Text substitutes the last member of that expression with ‘O Holy One’, thus setting the verse at odds with other parallel declarations found in the Book of Revelation (1.4, 1.8, 4.8, and 11.17).

We would again thank the many members and friends of the Society for their ongoing prayerful and practical support of our work and witness in this country. We are encouraged to continue our work in this day of small things, in view of the promise ‘so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it’ (Isaiah 55.11). Above all, however, we must acknowledge the Lord’s great goodness in all our endeavours on behalf of the Trinitarian Bible Society, for only God can give the increase; and we must again confess that without Him we can do nothing.

With Christian greetings

Alan Brown

National Secretary, Trinitarian Bible Society (Australia)

## TBS (Brazil)



‘And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish’ (Matthew 8.25). When the pandemic hit Brazil in March 2020 our board echoed the words of the disciples to our Lord, ‘Save us: we perish’. We were in a delicate financial situation with low cash on hand and needing to pay for a new printing of Portuguese Bibles. On top of this, our operating expenses were very high and our income level was dwindling.

It became apparent that the single most important thing that our board could do for the Trinitarian Bible Society of Brazil was to pray. And this they did.

In much prayer, our board made swift surgical decisions, reducing our staff and operating expenses by over thirty percent and making our Bible printing needs known to our supporters. The Lord heard our prayers, and what we thought would be a lost year by way of Bible distribution turned out to be a record year for us.

Back in 2015, when we had our last financial crisis in Brazil, we had to answer hard questions such as ‘why do we do what we do?’ It was during this period that we established our mission: ‘A faithful Bible for every person.’ We realize that in our own efforts this is quite impossible, but our Lord has many more friends than we do. This mission statement has guided us in making new partnerships, in the spirit of fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord.

Our Lord never gave a command to His people that He was not able to fulfill. Crossing Jordan into Canaan is a great example. The waters were overflowing the banks when our Lord gave the command to cross the Jordan, and the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant needed to take a step of faith, getting their feet wet in the process. Then the waters opened up.

This past year the Lord gave us a glimpse of how it is possible for every person to have a faithful copy of His Word. (As I mentioned, what we thought would be a lost year in Bible distribution turned out to be a record year for us: not through our own efforts but through the partnerships that the Lord gave us.) If you look at the figures below, you will notice something amazing.

Total amount paid in royalties for copies of the Bible in Portuguese that may have been printed by other publishers during 2020 under royalty (or other) agreements:

- 1,676,200 (complete Portuguese Bibles)
- 4,500,663 (Bible app users – individual users)

We rejoice at the number of printed copies, which in itself is astounding, but look at the Bible app users. These are individual users! We may never be able to place a printed copy of the Word of God into the hands of every person, but through the Internet the faithful Bible (in Portuguese and in many other languages) already is available to every person with a smartphone.

Brethren, pray for us.

Your fellow servants in Brazil,

Harold Ralph Gilmer  
Executive Vice-President, Trinitarian Bible Society (Brazil)

## TBS (Canada)

Greetings from TBS (Canada)



Allow me to borrow Paul's salute to every saint (Philippians 4.21) and say that the friends in Canada salute all TBS supporters wherever they live. Paul adds that it is 'chiefly they that are of Caesar's household' that salute those in Philippi.

What a wonder it would be for the Lord to raise up Bible-true Christians among the governors of our nations! Sadly, the contrary seems to be true.

During the past year, the Lord opened His armoury and 'brought forth the weapons of his indignation' upon the nations of the world (Jeremiah 50.25). But despite the continuing dechristianization of Canada, the Society could maintain its work unhindered. While most churches in Canada have been partly or totally closed since April 2020, the work of TBS (Canada) persevered. In His goodness the Lord spared all involved with the Canadian Branch and its auxiliaries. By renewal, He inclined the hearts of many generous friends of the Society. This enabled us to continue funding several translation and grants projects. We are happy to see some, such as the French and Amharic New Testaments, approaching publication.

Much of the work in Canada is done by volunteers in both the auxiliaries and Society's office in Chilliwack. It is a pleasure to work with such devoted and diligent helpers.

As in other years, we have posted Bible texts in public transit vehicles and on billboards along busy roadways. Thousands see these short texts from the Word of God. Sadly, few respond to these messages, but the words displayed in this manner will not return to Him void. In Isaiah 55.10–11 the Lord compares His Word to the rain and snow from heaven which water the earth and make it bring forth fruit. The Lord continues to send forth His Word today and has promised that it shall accomplish that which pleases Him.

The ultimate purpose of our Society is not to distribute as many Bibles as possible. Our fervent prayer must be that He will bless His Word so that sinners in every part of the world will cry out with the publican, 'God be merciful to me a sinner' (Luke 18.13). While many Canadians have turned away from the Bible and the God of the Bible, it continues to be our sigh and cry that He will use His Word and establish His church in those places where the seed falls in well-prepared earth.

With sincere greetings,

Adrian Stoutjesdyk  
General Secretary, Trinitarian Bible Society (Canada)



## TBS (New Zealand)



Greetings to you all from our little New Zealand branch! As we reported in our last greeting, we were able to have our postponed 2020 AGM in October. Our 2021 AGM was at the ordinary time, in March, in Carterton.

When we prepared the financial results for 2020, one thing stood out: we had basically no requests for donated Bibles in 2020. It's a year in which all missionary activity seems to have come to a stand-still. It's as if the voice of God stopped speaking in this manner. What a judgement upon our nation.

We were very glad to have our electronic Māori Bible released in the new TBS online Bible app. We much appreciate all the help and assistance from TBS Headquarters in this matter, and all the diligence that went into making it as correct as possible.

We are currently investigating options to see if we could publish a bilingual version of the Māori Bible, containing both English and Te Reo. Challenges are the small market size, and the cost might be prohibitive.

We continue to pray that the work of the TBS would be blessed. There is no other book where it is promised that those who hear it will live (cf. Isaiah 55.3).

Berend de Boer  
Chairman, Trinitarian Bible Society (New Zealand)

## TBS (USA)



The past year has brought about some most challenging and changing times which have been difficult and discouraging for many. However, we must never lose sight of the fact that our God is unchangeable. Through the voice of His deserved judgements and their repercussions, the Lord calls us collectively and

individually to turn unto 'Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever' (Hebrews 13.8). The Lord also reminds us in these unprecedented circumstances that He is in control. How many passages of Scripture are filled with words of comfort for those who by grace truly put their trust in Him! One such verse, Isaiah 41.10, exhorts us: 'Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness'.

Since the beginning of the pandemic we have been humbled and encouraged to see the Lord's gracious hand providing for the work of the Trinitarian Bible Society. During the last year TBS (USA) has seen a remarkable surge in interest for the work of the Society. New customers, donations from those entirely unknown to us, and messages of support and prayer have come from far and near. Bible sales and donations for Bible grants in 2020 were substantially higher than previous years. We are also thankful to report that much progress has been made on the Spanish Bible revision; if the Lord wills the revision team will have completed its final draft by the early part of 2022.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of TBS (USA) we extend our warmest Christian greetings to the General Committee, the staff of TBS headquarters in London, and to all the members and friends of the Society. Again, we commend the events of the Annual General Meeting in prayer, that the Lord's presence and blessing may be experienced in abundance.

As we reflect upon the past year, may we end in the Lord Who has provided us with His precious Word, thus revealing unto fallen sinners the blessed tidings of Jesus Christ Who 'came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance' (Mark 2.17). It is our prayer that the labors of Trinitarian Bible Society may be used to that end throughout the world: to the salvation of sinners and to the honor of His precious Name.

William Greendyk  
General Secretary, Trinitarian Bible Society (USA)



# Report of the Deputation Speakers



One area of the Society's work that the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly affected is our deputation meetings. Since the first lockdown in March 2020 many meetings have been cancelled or rearranged for future months. We are thankful to those who have been able to retain their dates by facilitating online deputation meetings. Although these are not an adequate substitute for meeting in person, we are still grateful for the opportunity online meetings give to bring the ongoing work of the Society before our supporters for their prayerful support.

The Society's Deputation Speakers have also been using their time profitably by producing audio recordings of some TBS articles, preparing video presentations, and contributing articles to the *Quarterly Record* magazine.

As lockdown restrictions are easing and churches are beginning to reopen, many congregations are taking this opportunity to review the day of their midweek service. When arranging deputation meetings we have found that a substantial number of congregations have moved their midweek service to Wednesday night, primarily to provide an increased

measure of safety within their buildings. While we understand their reasons for doing so, we note that this can cause regrettable consequences for deputation meetings.

Prior to Covid-19 and the associated lockdowns, Wednesday was already the most popular night for a midweek service but at that time we were asked to take meetings any night of the week. Now with Wednesday quickly becoming the dominant night for a midweek service, opportunities for meetings are becoming very limited.

Put simply, we cannot regularly visit all our supporting churches whose meetings are now held on a Wednesday evening let alone arrange meetings with new supporting churches who also require a Wednesday night meeting. Sadly, congregations who normally enjoyed an annual meeting may find it is no longer possible to book a speaker for a Wednesday evening.

**Therefore we ask our long-standing and faithful supporters to consider hosting a deputation meeting on a weekday evening other than Wednesday.** This will enable us to regularly visit your congregation and keep you updated on

the progress of the Society as you share with us in providing Holy Scriptures among the nations of the world, as well as enabling us to expand our work to those unaware of our ministry.

Once again, we thank you for your prayerful support. We look forward to visiting with all our supporting congregations in the coming days, the Lord willing.

## Across Sea and Land

Throughout the long history of the Trinitarian Bible Society one aim of the London Headquarters has been to send out Deputation Speakers to visit as many churches as practically possible throughout the British Isles to make the Society's principles and work known. So meetings have been held anywhere in England and Scotland between Land's End and John O'Groats, and in all parts of the principality of Wales and the island of Ireland, even occasionally in other parts of the world.

Also, we are prepared to go to any denomination that wishes to have a meeting; starting with the churches that would be our natural supporters to churches where modern English versions are used and the people may be unaware of the unreliability of translations based on the Critical Text. Many such churches are nevertheless very interested to hear of the Bible translation and worldwide Scripture distribution work of the Society.

Full-time Deputation Speakers typically conduct at least 130 meetings each year: in churches, public halls, private homes, hospitals, tent-meetings, schools, field-meetings, and sometimes visits

to prisons, as well as representing the Society at a whole range of Christian conferences and preaching rallies. Denominations range from Anglican to Strict Baptist, Presbyterian to Salvation Army, as well as numerous independent Evangelical churches.

Thousands of people have been reached by this means over the years: not only those attending the meetings but others who listen to the presentations online. Frequently after meetings, people will ask what Scriptures we have available for their non-English speaking friends or family and are pleased to have further information or to be directed to our website so that they can purchase online. In addition thousands of children have been presented with a free copy of God's Word and have had the truths of the Bible explained to them.

Deputation Speakers serve as a public face of the Society, and many supporters who are regular readers of the *Quarterly Record* have mentioned that they enjoy having a live presentation of the current activities of the Society. Through the meetings they conduct, the Speakers are also able to reach people who may not

read the *Quarterly Record* and who otherwise do not follow the Society.

Deputation work is not without its challenges; some who attend the meetings express hostility to the Society's stance or may show themselves angry when the truth is proclaimed. But the overall reception is positive.

## Opportunities in Schools

Although the Coronavirus pandemic has prevented visits to schools since the spring of 2020, in normal circumstances efforts are made to reach out to the younger generation, many of whom have no understanding of the message of God's Word. Some years ago the Society wrote to 34,000 junior schools throughout the UK offering free Bibles and Ten Commandments Textcards for each pupil, and suggesting a visit to the school from a Deputation Speaker. This opened the door for several significant opportunities to spread the Word of Life.

For example, a school in London was happy to receive Bibles for use in the classroom but turned down the suggestion of personal presentation Bibles for the eleven-year-old pupils that were due to leave the school in the summer. The offer was declined by the Head of the Religious Education department on the grounds that they did not have the corresponding 'holy' books available to give to children of other faiths. The school then approached the Muslim community for Qur'ans but their request was declined, and it was very encouraging to find that, in the light of this, the Head of RE requested sixty Bibles for the year six leavers. In addition the head asked for

fifty more English Bibles and Bibles in seven other languages. The question was asked, 'could you come to our school for an hour or two to speak to the children about your charity'. The Society was pleased to be able to supply most of the Scriptures requested, adding to this despatch a large number of English Words of Life Calendars.

A Deputation Speaker accepted the invitation but learned that the visit was to be on the day of their Religious Fair which was intended to be a multifaith event. He was concerned not to be found in a compromised position but accepted. Upon arriving he was taken to a large hall milling with children and adults. Various displays had been set up which were manned by representatives of the world's major religions: Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian (Ritualistic) and Muslim—at this last some children were being shown the usual posture for Muslim prayers. However, amid this noise and religious confusion was a separate table with many copies of the pure Word of God (Bibles and Calendars) and a notice attached: 'Donations from the Trinitarian Bible Society'.

*Bibles distributed to a school*



The Speaker was given the opportunity to speak for thirty minutes to two groups of year six leavers. No one tried to restrict the content of the address. He spoke about Mary Jones and her love for God's Word (which was one of the events leading to the formation of TBS in 1831) and then went on to describe the present extent of the work throughout the world. A part of this was a presentation of salvation from sin through the Lord Jesus Christ. This was followed by a presentation of Royal Ruby Bibles and Words of Life Calendars which were very gratefully received. One little girl asked: 'Can I have another Bible for my Mum?' Another child said: 'my Mum speaks Portuguese; can she have a Bible in Portuguese?' With much pleasure he was able to fulfil these requests. A representative of the local press took photographs of the children reading their Bibles. One photo appeared in a central London newspaper.

The Deputation Speaker came away from the school feeling a sense of satisfaction that, in the midst of today's religious confusion, the opportunity still exists for God's Word to be made known in local schools. It must never be forgotten that today's children will become tomorrow's parents, business people, teachers and perhaps politicians, magistrates and judges. So few have even a basic knowledge of the God of Truth and salvation by grace through His Son Jesus Christ; only the last day will reveal how God has used these opportunities.

## Special Anniversaries

The Society aims to use special occasions as a platform for raising awareness of the important influence of the Holy Scriptures.

In 2011 the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first publication of the Authorised (King James) Version of the Bible proved a signification opportunity. Many special meetings were held under the auspices of the Society throughout the British Isles, drawing attention to the accuracy of the AV and its beautiful and memorable rhythmic language, and widespread influence throughout the English-speaking world. Numerous addresses were given on this theme which attracted the attention of a whole variety of churches. In addition, talks were given at unusual locations such as a field-meeting, a London hospital 'diversity day', and a group of people on a Sunday School outing at Hampton Court Palace.

That same year a request for an address on this subject came from an Anglican Church that annually holds 'Holiday at Home' meetings in the summer for elderly folk who are unable to get away for a break. A description was given of some of the translators of the Authorised Version—their Christian character, remarkable linguistic abilities, attention to detail and accuracy, etc. In particular, the gifted Laurence Chadderton was included, and mention was made of his conversion to Christ from a Roman Catholic background. Unfortunately, the suggestion that a Roman Catholic needed to be converted to Christ drew the ire of one elderly man who seemed deeply offended. Sadly, attempts to explain the necessity of conversion appeared to fall upon deaf ears. Thankfully such angry responses are rare.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 gave the opportunity for TBS to publish a special Commemorative Bible. These



were presented to many children particularly by churches who took up the suggestion of reaching out to schools in their neighbourhoods.

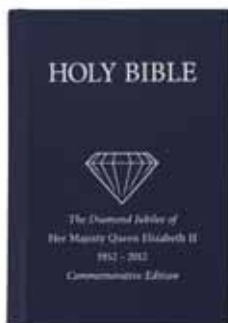
Many found that doors opened, and school visits were made by church ministers in addition to the Society's Deputation Speakers. The initial printing of 10,000 Bibles was soon depleted, requiring several more print runs. Over 40,000 of these special edition Bibles were needed to meet the demand.

It is hoped that Her Majesty the Queen will be spared to see her Platinum Jubilee, and plans are already afoot to produce a large number of suitably bound Bibles to commemorate this occasion. Such milestones in the UK attract widespread interest even in other countries and prove to be the means of providing openings into schools otherwise closed to the Society.

## Encouragement

As Satan, the Evil One, continues to make inroads into British society and as the Christian principles once widely accepted are derided, many of the Lord's people feel discouraged by the enveloping darkness. But, by way of contrast, deputation meetings can be a source of uplift as congregations hear of the broader picture of the Lord's work.

Meetings often include the reading of encouraging letters from a whole variety



of countries—well-known parts such as India, the Philippines and Brazil, or even extremely remote places (unheard-of by most people) such as villages in the interior of Africa or nomadic tribes living in the high north of Russia. The common theme is ‘Thank you for the Bibles and Scripture materials you sent, but please send us more next time.’

As translation work forms a large part of the Society's activity, information and updates are given on specific projects—the need for that particular translation, the challenges and the progress. Those who truly love God's Word rejoice to hear of others having the opportunity to read the Scripture in their mother tongue. We always make a point of calling for prayer—for wisdom and perseverance for our translators, for financial resources, and for God's blessing to attend the work—so that through the Scriptures the kingdom of Christ might be extended. The Holy Scriptures are preached at such meetings with the desire that the saints may be instructed and sinners converted to God.

Not only do the Society's Speakers encourage churches to be proactive in spreading the truth, but the Speakers themselves endeavour to do the same. It is a source of great joy to hear of the blessing of Heaven attending this work.

## From darkness to light

Some years ago one of the Society's UK Deputation Speakers stayed at a hotel in the south-west of England. In the morning he went over to the restaurant for a meal and while it was being cooked he read a few paragraphs from a newly

published book about C. H. Spurgeon—*Living by Revealed Truth*. When the breakfast arrived the waitress wanted to know what he was reading. This gave him opportunity not only to speak about Spurgeon, but to say a few words about the Gospel. Disappointingly, she replied, ‘I am interested in Buddhism.’ However, as the conversation progressed he suggested it would be good for her to read the Bible, and that he worked for a Bible Society. He went to his car and picked up a hardback Westminster Reference Bible and said, ‘If you promise me you will read it you can have this free of charge.’ She agreed, so he left her with a Bible and his contact details, and of course, thereafter prayed that the Lord would speak to her through it.

While taking meetings in that area the following year he stayed at the same hotel again, and in going over to the restaurant asked whether this young lady still worked there. He was told she had gone back to her home country.

However, four years later he found the following message on his answerphone: ‘... I don’t know whether you remember the girl at the restaurant in England, the really depressed unhappy girl, and you gave her the Bible and she promised you she would read the Bible. Well, she is reading the Bible now—and I am the girl, and I had a touch from Jesus this last December and He filled me with His Spirit. And now I’m reaching out to you to say thank you, and I would love to have a proper conversation with you by Skype or something like that.’

When contact was made, she went on to explain that: ‘What you didn’t know was the day before I met you I was feeling suicidal and I cried out to God that He would in some way make Himself known.’

In looking back she can now see that the conversation at the restaurant and the Bible she received was God’s answer to her desperate prayer. For some long time she failed to fulfil her promise to read her Bible but kept promising herself she would sometime. She became entangled with various kinds of dark and unseemly New Age teaching but one day a Christian man she met warned her of the danger she was in, and that she was being exposed to Satanic teaching. He told her she must read the Bible, which was the means of her fulfilling her promise. Her mother could not understand her new-found joy. The only explanation she could give was that perhaps her daughter was on drugs!

The Society’s Speaker and his wife have continued to have regular contact with her, and very recently have been able to put her in touch with a pastor near to where she lives. May this young lady be led by the Lord further into the truth as she reads her Bible.

Let us be encouraged to know that the Lord is doing His own work through His own Word in answer to our prayers.

So, ‘having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day’ (Acts 26.22).

May the Lord have all the glory.

## Distribution totals for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Sales		Grants		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
<b>Bibles<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,810,025</b>	1,271,001	<b>93,604</b>	59,227	<b>1,903,629</b>	1,330,228
<b>New Testaments<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>3,022,127</b>	5,687,765	<b>117,053</b>	20,403	<b>3,139,180</b>	5,708,168
<b>Portions<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>258,898</b>	409,782	<b>1,201,773</b>	1,582,968	<b>1,460,671</b>	1,992,750
<b>Golden Thoughts Calendars</b>	<b>37,972</b>	39,884	<b>402,512</b>	401,778	<b>440,484</b>	441,662
<b>Words of Life Calendars</b>	<b>250,960</b>	278,794	<b>204,804</b>	146,967	<b>455,764</b>	425,761
<b>Text Cards</b>	<b>88,229</b>	93,108	<b>1,095</b>	4,352	<b>89,324</b>	97,460
<b>Children's Items</b>	<b>26,082</b>	29,029	<b>521</b>	324	<b>26,603</b>	29,353
<b>Other Scripture Items</b>	<b>15,893</b>	8,487	<b>91,398</b>	5,476	<b>107,291</b>	13,963
<b>Articles</b>	<b>11,819</b>	52,432	<b>13,570</b>	7,142	<b>25,389</b>	59,574
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,522,005</b>	7,870,282	<b>2,126,330</b>	2,228,637	<b>7,648,335</b>	10,098,919

Notes: (1) Includes 1,676,200 Portuguese Bibles (2019: 1,105,566) produced with other publishers under Royalty Agreement.

(2) Includes 2,942,458 Portuguese New Testaments (2019: 5,610,880) in association with other organisations..

(3) Includes 1,189,200 Portions (2019: 1,351,300) in association with other organisations.



# The Vital Request of a Living Soul

**'Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee;  
and let thy judgments help me.' (Psalm 119.175)**

*By Mr Gerald Buss,  
Chairman of the General Committee*

What an amazing psalm is Psalm 119! Not only is it the longest psalm and chapter in holy Scripture, but it is divided into twenty-two sections with the verses of each section in Hebrew starting with the same letter. So it is a psalm of completeness, every letter of the Hebrew alphabet being used. This shows to us that God's Word, of which the psalmist says so much, is a complete and unique revelation of the holy mind and will of God to mankind. We need look no further than God's Word as is confirmed

in Paul's epistle to Timothy: 'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works' (2 Timothy 3.16-17).

We can also trace the character of the psalmist by his words. He had an overwhelming love and respect for God's Word. In almost all of the one hundred and seventy-six verses of this psalm, the Word of God is mentioned, in different ways. Laws, testimonies, precepts, judgments, commandments, statutes and truth are all set forth like



the many facets of a diamond—each one a distinctive ray of divine communication to sinners.

Further, the psalmist was very evidently a man of prayer. Consider how often he uses that little word ‘let’, almost implying that there are hindrances which he desires the Lord to overcome for the good of his never dying soul.

Likewise, as in our text he was a man who desired to praise His God. Like Jeremiah he could say, ‘Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart’ (Jeremiah 15.16). Like the prophet, the psalmist could say: ‘thy word was **unto me**’.

Further, the psalm starts on such a sacredly high standard: ‘Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD’ (v. 1). But it ends on a note of confession. ‘I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments’ (v. 176). How appropriate then are the words of verse 175: ‘Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me’.

In the words of verse 175 the psalmist longs for spiritual life! He was like the panting hart in Psalm 42, thirsting for God. For what is life? Our Saviour defines it for us: ‘And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent’

(John 17.3). Just as a new-born babe cries at birth—a precious sign of natural life—so the evidence of spiritual life is this cry for life. The cry is as in another psalm where the psalmist writes: ‘leave not my soul destitute’ (Psalm 141.8).

But how may the soul live?

Firstly we are told in words of the Old Testament, quoted to Satan in the wilderness by Christ Jesus as a reproof from the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God: ‘man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live’ (Deuteronomy 8.3). The Word of God becomes food to our soul as the Lord Jesus by His Spirit makes it spirit and life to our soul. ‘It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life’ (John 6.63).

Peter speaks of being born again by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God which lives and abides for ever (cf. 1 Peter 1.23): it is the Spirit and the Word together which give life. As was once said, the Spirit without the Word is dumb; the word without the Spirit is dead.

Secondly, the presence of God in the heart of the believer brings life with it. In the marginal references to Psalm 42.5 we are told that the expression ‘the help of his countenance’ may be rendered ‘his presence is salvation’. How often

have the drooping hearts and faith of God's people been enlivened when as on the road to Emmaus, 'Jesus himself drew near, and went with them' (Luke 24.15).

Thirdly, the blood of Christ has eternal life in it. The life of the church is through the death of Christ. On the night of the Passover in Egypt, the life of the firstborn Israelite depended on the sprinkled blood of the slain lamb. 'When I see the blood, I will pass over you' (Exodus 12.13). When a sinner feels the sentence of death in himself because of his guilt under the law, it is the blood of Christ which alone can remove that sentence. When a holy God looks on the repenting sinner through the shed blood of His dear Son, He commands that the sinner should live. Justice is satisfied with the obedience and death of Christ. So in that wonderful sense God's judgments, as seen answered in Christ, help the sinner. 'Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth' (Romans 8.33). Christ was delivered for His people's offences and raised again from the dead for their justification (cf. Romans 4.25).

But there is a further way in which the Lord keeps alive the souls of His people. The path of sanctification whereby the things through which God's people are called to pass are made a blessing to them.

As the Israelites multiplied and grew under Pharaoh's cruelty; as the waters of Marah were made sweet; as Joseph confessed to his brethren: 'ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good' (Genesis 50.20) so by these things God maintains an exercised faith in His people.

Hezekiah in Isaiah 38 was in a harrowing experience: the literal sentence of death; an excruciating pain in his body; an army of one hundred and eighty-five thousand men besieging Jerusalem; and most importantly a sense that he was not ready to meet his Maker at the judgment seat. When the Lord answered his prayer by adding fifteen years to his life and banishing his oppressors, He also gave Hezekiah a complete full pardon for his sins. In praise to the Lord he said: 'By these *things* men live, and in all these *things* is the life of my spirit ... The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I *do* this day' (Isaiah 38.16,19).

God's people are 'twice alive', once naturally and once spiritually. Jude speaks of those who are 'twice dead' (Jude 12). They are both spiritually dead and under the sentence of eternal death. The only answer to this terrible state is in this prayer of the psalmist: 'Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me'.

May it be ours also.



# Editorial Report



by Jonathan Arnold,  
Editorial Director

‘... wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, *even* unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound’ (2 Timothy 2.9).

**T**his text has been cited in many sermons, articles, and conversations in this past year during which activity for some has been greatly hindered. As the New Testament sets out, Paul experienced times of imprisonment and isolation, to the extent that towards the end of his life he expressed that only Luke was with him (2 Timothy 4.11). However, one of the remarkable things about Paul’s imprisonments was that they worked out by the grace of God for the furtherance of the Gospel (Philippians 1.12). Despite the stoning, shipwreck, imprisonment and house arrest that he suffered, the Word of God and the spread of the Gospel was not hindered. Even the persecution of the early disciples in Jerusalem resulted in the spread of the Gospel to wider Judea and beyond (Acts 8.4). In the providence of God, even when Paul was imprisoned we find the Lord used him to write inspired letters with shackles on his hands. And in being brought before rulers for judgement he was able to give testimony of his Saviour.

The futility of preventing the work of God and the spread of God’s Word as the Lord decrees is still true today. Regardless of the hinderances, opposition, or outright persecution that often comes against God’s Word and the people of God, Christ reminds us that He will build His church ‘and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it’ (Matthew 16.18). Throughout history God’s people have had to suffer bonds; some such as Tyndale suffered death so that we can have a faithful English Bible. We may have to suffer in some way as set out in 2 Timothy 2, but the Word of God is not bound.

On the contrary, this past year we have seen the Scriptures—even through a small organisation like the Society—reach individuals in some of the most persecuted countries on earth and to many others across the world. Translators prevented from travelling and stuck many miles from their families redeemed the time (Ephesians 5.16) and turned to the work of translation. Thus we have seen some tremendous progress and the completion of particular translations. As mentioned in earlier QRs, we have also seen Bibles taken

from outside homes and places of worship being gratefully received at a time of trouble.

The past year has been a timely reminder that despite many hinderances God's Word will go forth. In the translation report herein you will see how the Lord has graciously preserved our translators, enabled significant progress in a number of projects and brought to our attention new groups who are able and willing to translate the Scriptures. Just as much as we remind ourselves God's Word is not bound, we must also remember it will not return unto Him void (Isaiah 55.11).

*Thadou Bibles arrive in India*



In the past year the Society completed several new editions of the Scriptures. Printed editions included the Thadou Bible, the Simte Bible and the Shona Bible (both to be published and distributed later this year, God willing), the Chichewa New Testament (mentioned in last year's report), and the Pokot Gospel according to John. These print publications represent significant steps in making the Scriptures more widely available in Africa and India as

the Society seeks to distribute faithful Bible translations at home and abroad. (Full print distribution figures are in the Operations Report herein.) We have also made additional languages available digitally. This has garnered further interest as people have become more aware of [tbsonlinebible.com](http://tbsonlinebible.com) and the digital texts made available through apps.

- Total number of visits to the Online Bible App – 48,970.
- Total number of unique visits to the TBS Spanish Scripture website – 26,879.
- Total number of unique users of other apps (mainly for the Portuguese Bible in Brazil) – 4,500,663.

The Society continues to maintain our firmly held constitutional commitment to the English Authorised (King James) Version by making it available digitally with our other online Scriptures and in numerous print editions. Translated from the most reliable Greek and Hebrew manuscripts according to formal translation principles, the Authorised Version continues to stand as the most reliable English Bible translation. This historic and blessed translation to the English speaking world continues to be the standard that other translations aspire to reach. I would urge the reader who has seen the multiplying of English Bible versions—often one for each publishing house and ministry—to ask for the old paths that are well trodden and time-tested and that have been a rich blessing to generations. Even if it takes a little extra concentration and effort to understand, it is well worth it.

## Staff

The Editorial Department has been able to continue working despite the various difficulties of the past year. We are most grateful for our skilled staff who laboured for the Lord each day as we sought to maintain a high standard in all our publications. Whilst we have not been able to meet in person as much as we would have liked, the dedication to the work from the department's staff, consultants, and translators this past year through long online meetings and related complexities has proved a great blessing and something to be very thankful for.



Matthew chapter 1 in Chinese

The Editorial Department has a rolling five-year plan for forthcoming publications. This is presently populated by 45 foreign-language Scripture projects for publication in 38 different languages. Considerable work is being completed across the world by these Bible translation and revision teams as they work according to TBS principles. Each translation or revision is scrutinised intensively before being approved for publication.

Philip Hopkins, Senior Editorial Consultant (Projects), oversees many of our Bible translation and revision projects (with the projects with full time translators overseen directly by the Editorial Director). Philip's report on all our projects is at the end of this piece. In his two days per week for the Society Philip is also able to do some editing and proofreading, including for this

magazine! The rest of his week is taken up with the pastoral ministry for his church.

The Society's Senior Editorial Consultant (Linguistics) Larry Brigden provides vital advice on Greek and Hebrew to translators as well as analysing existing translations to determine their suitability for use by the Society, assessing Scriptures submitted for evaluation and determining the suitability of final translations or revisions for publication. Larry also continues to supply expert articles and answer difficult language questions sent by supporters.

Once approved, other members of the editorial team pick up each project as it moves to checking, typesetting, and publication.

Debra Anderson has continued to provide expertise in the department and diligent work in proofreading and checking the Scriptures we publish. We are indebted to her for her many years of labour as she prepares to retire from full-time work (she will continue to work for the Society two days a week). Special thanks must be given to Debra as much of her work may have been unseen and yet critical to the work that the editorial department does. She has been integral in producing the *Quarterly Record* and has been a great help to me and my predecessors, bringing the items together each quarter and editing them. This is the last edition where that compilation work is completed by Debra (although

we shall still benefit from her editing and proofreading), and we thank her for her hard work.

Natalie Christie has continued to work on the preparation of the typeset Amharic New Testament and Psalms, Words of Life Calendars, numerous English products, and the various new items we make available online. Likewise, Elizabeth Tichelaar, now working from Alberta, Canada, has worked with the translators to prepare the Golden Thoughts Calendars and Diary, along with maintaining and improving TBS webpages (such as the young supporter pages [www.tbsbibles.org/yslp](http://www.tbsbibles.org/yslp)), assisting our translators with tagging their text, and helping to implement our Editorial system (with Tim Tribe). During the year, the department also worked on increasing material for children, with a quarterly pamphlet—the Young Supporter—to accompany the Society’s magazine, and the further development of new educational children’s booklets for use in schools and churches.

Tim Tribe as the Society’s IT consultant has enabled us to progress the editorial system in leaps and bounds. We now have available online (and as a phone webapp) a number of the Society’s Scriptures, and we continue to develop our systems for the publication of the Scriptures online (through our website) as well as other epublications. The system will also enable us to integrate the translation and publication stages of our projects and thereby produce digitised output with greater efficiency; it

is already being used in part for all new projects as well as for several historic translations to assist the translators and

to enable them to review their work. We continue to roll out this process over time for long-standing translation projects as they come toward completion, enabling us to improve the timings for the final stages of our Bible projects and carry out digital checks on the work. With this system we are able to cultivate new ways to assist in the typesetting process.



TBS online Bible

Peter Hughes has received a relentless flow of Scriptures and publications to typeset this past year. At this present time, he is dealing with the typesetting of the Amharic New Testament and Psalms, the Chinese New Testament, the Dan New Testament, and the French New Testament. It is a great blessing to have such an expert in Bible typesetting and his talented eye for detail. He also completes much of the design work the Society uses for our publications.

David Astudillo, working at the branch office in TBS (USA), provides the Society with graduate level videography as we seek to make our projects known to people across the world. He has produced four videos that seek to explain the core part of the work of TBS: an Introduction to TBS, an explanation of our work in Promoting the Word of God, reports and footage of our distribution work worldwide, and an introduction to our translation work across the world. These are supplemented by shorter videos

on specific projects and publications. I would urge you to watch them if you are able ([www.tbsbibles.org/video](http://www.tbsbibles.org/video)) and hope it will be an encouragement to pray for the work: we are acutely aware that unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it (Psalm 127.1). David is also able to help our Spanish work as a native speaker and assisted in the design of the new article 'How the Bible Came To Be'. (We are also grateful to the Rev. Christian McShaffrey for providing this straightforward explanation to the issues at stake today regarding our Bible and its underlying texts.)

The preparation and publication of faithful editions of the Holy Scriptures are two of the Society's key goals. The printing in 2020 of the Thadou Bible and the Chichewa New Testament and the printing and distribution of the Simte and Shona Bibles (among others) in 2021 furthers our aim '... to produce or select versions whose textual basis is as close as possible to the Hebrew Masoretic and the Greek Received texts' (TBS Constitution, Laws and Regulations, Our Work III) and the fulfilment of our goal to provide the Word of God Among all Nations where we are able.

*One of the Society's short videos which can be viewed here: [www.tbsbibles.org/video](http://www.tbsbibles.org/video)*



I recently received a most helpful reminder of this part of the Society's work from our Vice-President Michael Harley, set out below.

## The Word of God among all nations

*by Michael Harley,  
a Vice-President of the Society*

**W**hat a wonderful watchword this is! It encapsulates in seven words the essential work of the Society to which it is called and is the reason for its existence. It is indeed inspirational and a rallying call. But it is not this watchword which counts. It is the Word of God. The Society's watchword is based on the import of the Gospel generally, and on two texts specifically.

'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations' (Matthew 28.19) and 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16.15).

Wherever the Gospel is preached it is preached by those who are well acquainted with it, because they know the Saviour Himself as Lord. The regions beyond (2 Corinthians 10.16) are especially our care, as they were Paul's. But the work of pioneer preachers, maybe more than any others, is severely hampered when new believers have no access to the Word of God for themselves. If they are totally dependent for the building up of their most holy faith upon the further preaching of the same pioneer preacher, how great is the limitation! The pioneer may be overloaded and grind to a standstill or be received into glory, whereas the printed Scriptures continue. The availability of the printed

Word of God may enable those who read it to be converted without human aid, and likewise the believer may grow in grace.

As we know, local tribal languages pre-dominate in many parts of the world. The Gospel is most readily understood when it is available in a convert's first language. The nuances of the Scriptures are so much more readily appreciated in a language well understood. If a country has very many tribal languages there are usually five or six which dominate and will be familiar up to a point to most who speak a given tongue. For the educated who understand English, Spanish, or French, Bibles may be readily obtained. But the Saviour's ministry, while not entirely to the uneducated, did not major upon the learned.

It is right for the Society to provide Scriptures in all the major tongues of the world, such as Spanish and the ongoing work in Chinese. By this means many people can be reached by one translation relatively promptly. And it is proper that we should urgently fulfil that aspect of our mission, for the time is short.

With that in mind, whereas it is the Society's policy to make whole Bibles available, Gospel portions (for example) may prove a not to be neglected means of outreach. We have heard in time past of people copying out for their own personal use portions which they have heard and valued; so why should they not have a printed edition or an electronic one? Furthermore it is indeed an excellent method to make available certain Scripture portions while the work itself is being translated. It provides us feedback. But more importantly it meets the need of those who may not live to see the entire translation.

But there are vast numbers of people for whom the major tongues will not easily serve the Gospel purpose. If we are to hold steadfastly to our calling to provide for all nations we must not neglect the smaller tongues. Human reasoning says that the least finance expended and the least (though considerable) effort of translation for the greatest returns is a prudent thing.

But the Lord's ways are not our ways. For all we know, He may be planning a revival in some little-known area from whom we have received a call for help. The work of translation may be even more demanding and the print run small. But these are still precious souls to be provided for.

We would encourage supporters of the Society to consider bringing before the Lord those who make the decisions as to the next translation work to be undertaken and who have a conclusion to reach, that they will seek and be fully aware of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They particularly have to balance the need with the finance available. They must also assess all the matters which have led up to the request for a translation while considering a similar assessment of the availability of those who are well conversant with their own language and either have (preferably) Hebrew and Greek in their armoury or, at least, can translate from the English or other familiar basic tongue. It is not an easy thing to come to one mind about what the Society should be involved in next. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. Do be faithful in prayer for all who are at the forefront of examining priorities, translating, publishing, and distributing the Word of God among all nations.



## Report on Non-English language Bible projects

*Philip J. D. Hopkins, Senior Editorial Consultant - Projects*

**T**his report provides comprehensive information on all of the Trinitarian Bible Society's non-English language Scripture projects in which we are currently involved or in which we have carried out research recently. This report chiefly covers the editorial part of these projects, but additionally includes some of the production, financial and planning aspects which also involve personnel outside of the editorial department. All references to the future, including proposed dates for publication, are subject to the Lord's will.

**A. In the past twelve months (May 2020 – May 2021) the following have been published.**

- Simte Bible
- Thadou Bible
- Thadou New Testament (large print edition)
- French Gospel according to Matthew (second edition)
- Pokot Gospel according to John

**B. In the preceding twelve months to the above (May 2019 – May 2020) the following were published:**

- Nepali Bible (digital edition)
- Chichewa New Testament
- Koiné Greek New Testament (digital edition of Scrivener Text)
- Persian New Testament.

**C. God willing, the following items are due to be published within the next**

**twenty-four months in regular print unless otherwise stated. (Further details about all of these projects are supplied on the following pages.)**

- Shona Bible
- Spanish Bible
- Vaiphei Bible
- Zou Bible
- Nepali Bible (second edition)
- Amharic New Testament & Psalms
- Chinese New Testament
- Dan/Gio New Testament
- Delitzsch Hebrew New Testament
- French New Testament
- Kom New Testament
- Russian New Testament (new setting)
- Turkish New Testament
- Biblical Hebrew Old Testament (digital edition)
- Chinese Gospels, Romans and Hebrews (digital and print editions)
- Bemba Gospel according to John
- Hindi Gospel according to John
- Modern Greek Gospel according to John
- Slovakian Gospel according to John

**D. The following are languages where we have a definite project in which some progress has been made in terms of preparation or publication (both digital and in print) of Holy Scriptures over the last twelve months.**



Amharic (Ethiopia), Bemba (Zambia), British Sign Language, Bulgarian, Catalan (Spain, Andorra and France), Chichewa (Malawi and Zambia), Chinese, Chothe (Manipur, India), Czech, Dan/Gio (Liberia), French, German, Greek (Modern), Hebrew (NT and Biblical OT), Hindi (India), Hungarian, Kalenjin (Kenya), Kikamba (Kenya), Kom (Manipur, India), Maltese, Mauritian Creole (Mauritius), Mongolian (Cyrillic and Traditional), Nepali (Nepal and India), original (Biblical) languages, Persian/Farsi (Iran), Pokot (Kenya), Portuguese (Brazil, Mozambique, Angola and Portugal), Romanian, Russian, Shona (Zimbabwe), Simte (Manipur, India), Slovak, Spanish, Swahili (Eastern Africa), Tedim Zokam (Burma), Thadou (Manipur, India), Turkish, Vaiphei (Manipur, India), Welsh, and Zou (Manipur, India and Burma).

**E. The following are languages in which we are carrying out research or giving consultancy advice, and/or exploring the possibility of doing some (further) work.**

Abkhaz (Abkhazia), Basa (Nigeria), Bhojpuri/Hindustani (various countries), Cebuano (Philippines), Haitian Creole (Haiti), Hmar (India), Italian, Kannada (India), Korean, Tagalog (Philippines), Urdu (Pakistan)

**F. The following are languages in which we have stalled projects, yet some prospect of further progress.**

Afrikaans (South Africa), Gangte (Manipur, India)

**G. The following are languages in which initial work or research has come to a**

**premature end (at least for the present). For these projects we await the Lord's provision of suitably qualified personnel.**

Kisanga (Dem. Rep. Congo), Lhaovo (Burma and China), Lisu (Burma and China), Polish, Tamil (India and Sri Lanka) and Xhosa (South Africa).

The following section provides more detail on all the foreign languages in which we are currently working plus some languages in which we have either worked in the past or carried out research in recent years. The languages are listed alphabetically under the following geographic regions: Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Caucasus, Indian subcontinent, rest of Asia, and the Americas.



## Africa

### Afrikaans (South Africa)

Our sister society, the Gereformeerde Bijbelstichting (GBS), continue to prepare an Afrikaans translation of the standard notes which accompany the Statenvertaling Bible. At the present time there are no active leads towards preparing a new edition of the Afrikaans Bible.

### Amharic (Ethiopia)

After extensive checking and proofreading we rejoice that the typeset copy of the Amharic New Testament and Psalms has just been finalised and made print ready. As there is a scarcity of thin paper printers in Ethiopia, the initial print run of 10,000 copies will be produced in Europe and then shipped to Ethiopia. An additional 5,000 copies are due to be printed by Bearing Precious Seed

(BPS), Milford, Ohio. TBS is exploring the possibility of having a more formal presence in Ethiopia to aid distribution. After the forthcoming production and distribution of the New Testament and Psalms, our translator plans to resume the Old Testament translation work with Genesis. In recent months he has also translated several TBS articles into Amharic which are available to view at [www.tbsbibles.org/amharic](http://www.tbsbibles.org/amharic). We are thankful for the financial support from TBS (Canada) for this project, and for the funds raised by firstBible International for printing the New Testament and Psalms.



First page of the Amharic New Testament

## NEW! Basa (Nigeria)

The Society has been in discussion with a group from the Basa tribe in a remote part of western Nigeria who wish to prepare a new edition of the Bible, as the current edition is based on the Critical Text and their language has developed significantly since it was published.

Discussions have been facilitated with the help of a minister in Northern Ireland who has spent time among the Basa people. At the time of writing it looks unlikely that we will be able to move forward with this project but we commit the situation to the Lord in prayer.

## Bemba (Zambia)

Bemba is a major Bantu language spoken primarily in Zambia by the Bemba people and as a lingua franca by related ethnic groups in neighbouring countries. Four years ago, the Society and Free Grace Evangelistic Association (FGEA) partnered to prepare a faithful new edition of the Bemba New Testament with primary reference to a Received Text interlinear New Testament and the Authorised (King James) Version and then secondarily to older editions of the Bemba Bible. We are thankful that the typeset copy of the Gospel according to John is close to being finalised for printing. First drafts of Matthew and Mark have been completed and are being read by a renewed team of local reviewers. The translation team have just begun working in Luke.

## Chichewa (Malawi and Zambia)

The Society is also working in partnership with FGEA to prepare a new edition of the Chichewa Bible with primary reference to the Authorised (King James) Version. Last year we rejoiced to see the publication of the Chichewa New Testament. An initial print run of 5,000 copies was swiftly distributed in Malawi and Zambia mainly through FGEA. A follow-up quantity of 25,000 (printed by BPS of Milford, Ohio) are currently being distributed in Malawi by an American group. TBS are due to complete a further printing later this year for distribution

in Malawi. The Chichewa translation team continue to progress well in the Old Testament, with Genesis to Song of Solomon in at least first draft. Many of these books have also been reviewed in detail. It is hoped that this interim project based on the Authorised Version will eventually lead to a new translation directly from the Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Received Texts.

### **Dan/Gio (Liberia)**

After painstaking proofreading by the local revision team and extensive checking by the Editorial Department, the Dan/Gio New Testament text is now being typeset. Thereafter it will need to be thoroughly proofread as it is a complex language with an unusual alphabet. We are thankful that funds for printing the New Testament have already been provided by TBS (Canada). The Society longs to see the Old Testament being translated, but for this funding is needed to support the basic living expenses of the translators so they can devote the appropriate time to the project in Liberia.

### **Kalenjin (Kenya)**

Kalenjin is primarily spoken in Kenya and has several million speakers. In the past twelve months the translation team has finalised and proofread the New Testament text. Cross references are currently being inserted, after which the team hope to pass the text to the Society for evaluation. They have also begun translating the Old Testament, for which they have subdivided into three groups.

### **NEW! Kikamba (Kenya)**

Last year it was reported that we had had only very intermittent contact during the past two years with a young Kenyan man

who had been noting down the errors he finds in the present Kikamba Bible. The prayerful desire was expressed for the necessary resources to be made available so that we could provide such contacts with the accurate Scriptures they crave. The Lord has heard and abundantly answered our prayers! Last September the Society was contacted by a suitably qualified native Kikamba speaker with knowledge of the Biblical languages, who desires to translate the Scriptures directly from the best Hebrew and Greek Texts. After the usual vetting by the Society approval was given by the General Committee for him to be the lead translator on our Kikamba Bible project. Just recently he has begun translating the Gospel according to John. We are grateful to the Friends of Africa Missionary Endeavour (FAME) mission for their financial support of this project. Please remember this project in your prayers.

### **Kisanga (Democratic Republic of Congo)**

Kisanga (or Sanga) is chiefly spoken in some of the southern areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo. We are still prayerfully seeking someone who could evaluate the textual basis and translational accuracy of the Kisanga Bible published by the Society in 1991.

### **NEW! Mauritian Creole (Mauritius)**

Mauritian Creole is a French-based creole language spoken by about 1.3 million people in Mauritius, a subtropical island in the Indian Ocean about 1,200 miles (about 1,930km) off the south-east coast of Africa. A creole is a stable natural language that develops from the simplifying and mixing of different languages into a new one within a fairly brief period of time. In addition to its French base,

Mauritian Creole includes words from English and from the many African and Asian languages that have been spoken on the island. Most Mauritians are of Indian descent, and Mauritian Creole has gradually replaced the ancestral Indian languages as the mother tongue. Accordingly, Mauritians tend to speak Mauritian Creole at home and French in the workplace. French and English are spoken in schools. In 2020 the Society was contacted by a native Mauritian who had already embarked on a project to prepare a faithful edition of the Bible in Mauritian Creole. After our usual checks had taken place, we were pleased to appoint him to the role of lead TBS Mauritian Creole Bible translator. We also evaluated his already completed work on the Gospel according to John and found it very good. Our contact and his small team have also prepared first drafts of Jude, Titus, 2 Thessalonians, 2 and 3 John, Philemon, and Mark, and have started translating Matthew.

### **Pokot (Kenya)**

Pokot is a language spoken by approximately 700,000 people, the majority of whom live in the northern part of Kenya. Earlier this year just over 5,000 copies of the revised Gospel according to John were printed in



*Pokot Gospel  
according to  
John in Kenya*

Kenya; these are now being distributed there and have been well received. A follow-up quantity of 2,500 copies has recently been printed. Our Pokot reviser and his helpers have completed their work on Matthew and Mark and are now revising Luke. The Society provides financial support for translation meetings using incoming funds that are specifically designated for the project.

### **Shona (Zimbabwe)**

Since the adoption of its 2013 constitution Zimbabwe has sixteen official languages, but the country's main tribal languages are Shona, spoken by approximately 70% of the population, and Ndebele, spoken by about 20%. The TBS Ndebele Bible was published in 2012. Typesetting of the Shona Bible was completed last year, but we had been waiting for designated funding so that it could be printed. We are thankful that 10,000 copies of the Shona Bible are now due to be printed this year in Europe and shipped to Zimbabwe, where they are eagerly awaited. The Society is grateful to the Zimbabwean Mission of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland under whose auspices the Shona Bible translation was carried out and to those who have expressed willingness to provide the funds for printing.

### **NEW! Swahili (Eastern Africa)**

Swahili is a lingua franca that is mainly spoken in the countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, but also in Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan. In these countries people will typically have a tribal language as their mother tongue, and use English in education and as an official language and Swahili as a common language in business and trade. For many years we had been

prayerfully asking the Lord to provide faithful workers to prepare a new edition of the Swahili Bible based on the best Biblical texts: the Hebrew Masoretic of the Old Testament and the Greek Received Text of the New Testament. We are thankful that in recent months those prayers have been heard and we trust answered. Earlier this year the General Committee approved the commencement of a pilot project on the Swahili Gospel according to John with a very suitable lead translator. He is based in Kenya, and is leading a well-qualified team drawn from Kenya and Tanzania. In recent weeks they have begun translating the Gospel according to John.

### **Xhosa (South Africa)**

Xhosa is one of the official languages of South Africa. For some years the Society has made known the need for a new translation to be prepared directly from the Biblical languages, with secondary reference to the available editions of the Xhosa Scriptures. However, this project has not yet been taken up by any of our partners as we had hoped.



### **Europe**

#### **NEW! British Sign Language (UK)**

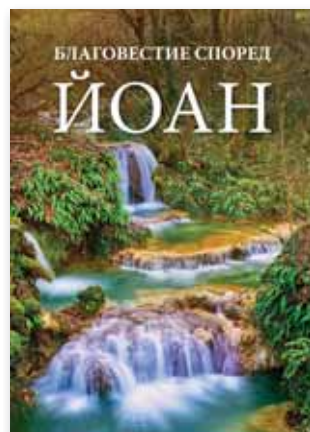
In the Lord's providence, an experienced British Sign Language (BSL) translator has begun a pilot with the Society to provide a BSL edition of the Bible. Work has begun on the Gospel according to John and will be developed over the coming year. BSL is regarded as a language in its own right. There are around 87,000 individuals who use BSL as their preferred language in the UK (for whom English may be a second or

third language) and a total of 151,000 individuals in the UK who can use BSL (not including translators and interpreters). The project is based on the Authorised Version and will consist of a video recording of the person signing, and will be made available through [tbsonlinebible.com](http://tbsonlinebible.com). We hope this might provide a vital resource for hearing impaired Christians.

### **Bulgarian**

In God's sovereign purposes (which at times are mysterious to us) our Bulgarian reviser, Spassimir Stantchev, passed away on Friday 2 April 2021 at the age of 46. He had been increasingly unwell for the past

couple of years. We hope to pay tribute to Spassimir in a subsequent edition of the *Quarterly Record*. Spassimir began in 2014 to revise the first Bulgarian Protestant Bible, widely known as the 'Constantinople' or 'Slaveikov' Bible, which was first published in 1871 in Constantinople (Istanbul). In 2018, 5,000 copies of the revised Bulgarian John were printed; these continue to be distributed both in print and online (the text is available via the Society's online Bible at [www.tbsonlinebible.com/#bg\\_JHN\\_1](http://www.tbsonlinebible.com/#bg_JHN_1)). We have a native proofreader who is supportive of the Society's textual and translational position, but as yet we do



*Bulgarian Gospel according to John*

not have someone suitably qualified to take on Spassimir's work. We pray for the Lord's overruling in this sad situation.

### **Catalan**

The Society's Catalan Bible, first published in 2009, continues to be circulated throughout the region of Cataluña. Various initiatives are in progress to make these Scriptures available more widely through digital and audio means. Corrections to the first edition text are also being discussed.

### **Czech**

The 1613 Kralice Bible is one of the classic Reformation-era Bibles. Although considerable changes have taken place in the Czech language since then (to a far greater extent than in English during this period), we have several Czech contacts who would use this Bible if TBS republished it. At the end of last year the volunteers preparing the digital text of the entire Bible completed their work and handed it over to the Society's Editorial Department for checking and finalising.

### **French**

Since 2013 the Society has been revising the 1872 Lausanne Bible. By God's grace, the New Testament has been typeset and the revision team and some helpers are now proofreading the text. A few further amendments are expected at this stage before it is approved for printing. Consideration is now being given as to how best to promote the new TBS French New Testament. In the Old Testament, the team have completed Psalms and Proverbs and are currently working through Genesis. Earlier this year a second edition of the French Gospel

according to Matthew was published. We are grateful to our friends at TBS (Canada) for their financial and prayerful support of this project.

### **German**

During the past twelve months the Society has been in touch with a small group in Germany who have proposed some minor corrections to our 1912/1998 revised Luther Bible. Some corrections are indeed necessary, and once further proofreading of the New Testament has been carried out we aim to make these and any further corrections in the next printing of the TBS German Bible.

### **Greek (Modern)**

Last year we rejoiced that the Lord had provided someone to translate the Society's edition of the Koiné Greek New Testament directly into current literary Greek rather than lightly revising earlier editions of the New Testament in Modern Greek. The translator and their reviewer have so far completed the first fifteen chapters of the Gospel according to John in first draft.

### **Hungarian**

We are thankful for answered prayer in the provision of a native Hungarian speaker who is enthusiastically preparing a digital text of our present Hungarian Bible so that it can be retypeset. Thus far he has prepared the digital text of the New Testament from Matthew to Romans. It has still not been possible to explore the demand for a new revision of the Society's Karoli Bible, but the electronic copy of the text being prepared would prove beneficial for any such project.



## Italian

The British and Foreign Bible Society have confirmed that they are happy for us to prepare our own typesetting of the text of the 1821 Diodati Bible which we currently buy from them. However, as a first step we need help—preferably from a native Italian speaker—to prepare a faithful digital copy of the text.

## Maltese

The team in Malta have continued to revise the New Testament so that it conforms to the latest set of Maltese grammar rules. The revision moves slowly, mainly because each team member is engaged full time in other work and can therefore only give from their limited spare time. We ask the Lord to bless their labours and to give them more time for this revision.

## Polish

Although the Polish employed in our New Testament is challenging for many modern Polish speakers, there is still good demand for this edition. Nevertheless, we would very much like to bring together a group of godly Polish Christians so that the text could be brought into closer conformity to the Greek Received Text using current literary Polish in accord with the Society's principles.

## Portuguese (Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, and Portugal)

In God's goodness, hundreds of millions of copies of our Portuguese Scriptures have been circulated throughout the Portuguese-speaking world since the Bible was first published in 1994. Over recent years our branch in Brazil has led

efforts to update the published text so that it conforms to the changes specified by the internationally recognised Portuguese language academy. We are thankful that our current Portuguese Bible text is now available online at [www.tbsonlinebible.com/#pt\\_GEN\\_1](http://www.tbsonlinebible.com/#pt_GEN_1).

## Romanian

In the past year we have been able to expand our range of Romanian Scriptures and materials. In 2020 more than 20,000 copies of a new setting of the New Testament and Psalms were published, together with several thousand copies of Romanian translations of three TBS articles: *The Lord Gave the Word*, *What today's Christian needs to know about the Greek New Testament* and *Why 1 John 5.7–8 is in the Bible*.

## Russian

God willing, the digital text of the TBS Russian Bible will soon be published on the Society's online Bible. The new print setting of the Russian New Testament has been delayed, but it is hoped that it will be ready before long and that we can then start preparing a new setting of the whole Bible as the current image is becoming progressively more worn. We have recently commissioned Russian translations of two TBS articles: *What today's Christian needs to know about the Greek New Testament*, and *How the Holy Bible Came To Be* by Christian McShaffrey.

## Slovak

Slovak is the official language of the Slovak Republic and spoken by approximately five million people as a native language. It is closely related to Czech and Polish. Our lead translator has been able to find a suitable working method



for the translation and has recently completed the draft text of the Gospel according to John. He is being aided by several other native Slovak speakers who provide translation advice and feedback and proofread the text. The team are moving on to translate Romans and are keen to see either John or John and Romans as the first published output of their work. Please remember this project in your prayers.



*Spanish New Testament,  
Psalms and Proverbs*

## Spanish

Notwithstanding changes to working arrangements due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the team is now well into the prophetic books and it is hoped that the first draft revision of the Old Testament will be completed in early 2022. Meanwhile, 75,000 of the 100,000 copies of the Spanish New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs that were printed last year with the generous help of GBS have been distributed to key contacts in fifteen countries. The remaining 25,000 copies for distribution are awaiting border openings in countries where non-essential freight is still not permitted to enter. The demand for our Spanish New Testament has been very encouraging,

and we have received a lot of positive feedback from all fifteen countries where copies have been distributed. Despite a year of difficulties the Lord has allowed good progress to be made, despite two of the four team members becoming ill with COVID-19 in 2020, one of whom was seriously ill and hospitalised for two weeks. (We thank the Lord that he is now much better.) The Society is very grateful for the substantial financial support given by GBS for this major project.

## Welsh

A native Welsh pastor continues compiling a glossary giving alternative words for and/or explanations of archaic words in the classic William Morgan Bible. Thus far he has completed Genesis to Jeremiah in the Old Testament and Matthew to Acts in the New. The aim is for the words included in the glossary to be inserted as marginal notes in a new setting of the William Morgan Bible, thus providing similar help for Welsh readers as the Society's Westminster Reference Bible does for English readers of the Authorised Version.



## The Middle East and the Caucasus regions

### Abkhaz (Abkhazia)

Abkhaz is the official language of the self-proclaimed Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, which borders Russia and Georgia. As part of his preparation for translating the Scriptures into Abkhaz, our translator is typesetting a grammar book that was prepared by one of the recognised authorities on the language. After that he hopes to commence translating the Gospel according to John,

whilst taking what opportunities he can to improve his abilities in Abkhaz. Please pray that further progress will be made on what is one of the last languages in Europe without a complete Bible.

## Hebrew

The Society continues to revise the Delitzsch Hebrew New Testament (DHNT) so that it is more faithful to the Greek Received Text and in a more understandable form of Hebrew. God willing, the basic revision of the whole New Testament will be completed and typeset for print by the end of 2022. Trans World Radio (Netherlands) are working to produce an audio edition of our revised New Testament text. We acknowledge the generous financial support for the DHNT revision project received over many years from the Finnish Bible Institute and from the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. We are very grateful to three Dutch organisations—GBS, da Costa Foundation and the Board for Israel—which provide substantial financial support to the project.

## Persian/Farsi (Iran)

Persian, otherwise known as Farsi, is the major language spoken in Iran. Our main reviser continues to have many competing calls on his time, including a busy pastorate as well as a wider ministry to Iranian Christians, many of whom are refugees scattered across the world. Although substantial work has already been done on the revision of the Old Testament in hardcopy, it needs both to be reviewed and digitised; please pray that our reviser will have time to carry this forward. Following the publication of the revised Persian New Testament text in 2019, we hope that a second printing of

5,000 copies will soon commence at BPS of Milford, Ohio, funded by firstBible International.

*Persian  
New Testament*



## Turkish

We are thankful that the print-ready file for the Turkish New Testament has just been sent to BPS of Milford, Ohio so that 5,000 copies can be printed with funding from firstBible International. Our late translator's daughter has done some editing of the Old Testament text, but additional pressures in the past year have slowed that work. Please pray that this important editing can recommence.



## The Indian subcontinent

### Chothe (Manipur, India)

Over the past twelve months progress on our Chothe Bible has been hindered by the Covid-19 pandemic in India, with our translator prevented from getting to his office on several occasions for weeks at a time. He is now working in Romans, having prepared the four Gospels and Acts in draft form. The TBS Chothe Bible is one of the first significant written productions in this language, so our translator is faced with scouring the language for the appropriate vocabulary and terminology.

We are grateful for the contribution of TBS (Canada) towards this project.

### **Gangte (Manipur, India)**

A group in India are preparing a new translation of the Gangte Bible from the Authorised Version. God willing, a face-to-face meeting between editorial staff and the local Gangte translation committee will be arranged once travel restrictions have eased, after which it is hoped that the Society can formally take on this project.

### **Hindi (India)**

Hindi is the sixth most spoken language in the world. Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, is also one of the two official languages of the Government of India, the other being English. Last year the TBS General Committee approved the Hindi text of the first Epistle of John, which is available to view at [www.tbsonlinebible.com/#hi\\_IJN\\_1](http://www.tbsonlinebible.com/#hi_IJN_1). Since then our translator has faced some personal challenges, but he has recently begun translating the Gospel according to John. Our Nepali Bible translator, who also knows Hindi, has been able to furnish some valuable feedback. A few other Hindi speakers have also provided comments, but it would be helpful for a further native Hindi speaker committed to TBS principles to work alongside our translator. Our translator also plans to subsequently prepare a new translation of John in Bhojpuri, which he hopes will be mutually intelligible to those speaking Caribbean Hindustani.

### **NEW! Hmar (Northeast India)**

The Hmar language is spoken by the Hmar people, who are scattered across the far north east of India in the states

of Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. Hmar speakers number just shy of 100,000. Earlier this year the Society was contacted by a suitably qualified Hmar speaker with Biblical language training who desired to translate the Scriptures with particular reference to the Authorised Version. Two other well qualified brothers have committed to supporting him in this endeavour. Following the usual vetting by the Society, the Editorial Department have submitted a recommendation to the General Committee for a pilot project on the Hmar Gospel according to John to commence with the main contact as the lead translator, supported by the other brothers.

### **Kannada (Karnataka, India)**

The Society's Kannada Bible, a translation from the Authorised Version, was first published in 1987 and then reprinted in 1991. Over the past twelve months we have found personnel with a good knowledge of Kannada and English to help us assess our published edition, although the evaluation has proceeded very slowly. Please pray that this would soon be completed so that we can assess what needs to be done to bring this Bible up to the Society's present textual and translational standards.

### **Kom (Manipur, India)**

In the past year the usual editorial checks were carried out on the draft text of the Kom New Testament. It is planned that the identified corrections will be made as the text is being proofread, which has so far been completed for Matthew, Mark and Luke. Please remember the translator and his review committee as they undertake this work, particularly as

their in-person meetings have recently been disrupted by the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated lockdowns in India. We are grateful for the contribution of TBS (Canada) towards this project.

## Nepali (Nepal and India)

In God's goodness the Society's 2011 Nepali Bible has become established as a standard edition among Nepali speakers across the world. Last year the surviving co-translator of the Bible completed his light revision of the 2011 text, and after the usual editorial checks the General Committee approved the revised text for publication. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated lockdowns in India, Bible sales have fallen significantly in the past year and the revised edition has not yet gone to print. Moreover, some additional feedback has been given which will necessitate some further minor changes to the 2020 text. We hope that in due time the digital text on an Android app will be updated to the revised text and made available on the Society's online Bible. Work continues in Nepal to prepare a Braille edition of the New Testament. An audio recording of the entire Nepali Bible was approved in 2019 and we hope that this will be made more widely available in the coming months.

## Simte (Manipur, India)

The revised and typeset Simte Bible text has been thoroughly checked by all concerned and earlier this year the print-ready file was sent to our friends at BPS, Milford, Ohio. Some last-minute corrections and equipment problems at BPS delayed the start of printing for several months. However, it is a joy to report that

on Friday 21 May this year 7,000 copies of the Simte Bible were printed and are currently being bound, following which these Bibles will be shipped to India. Please pray that they will arrive safely and soon be distributed to enthusiastic hands and read by eager eyes!



First page of the Simte Bible

## Tamil (India and Sri Lanka)

It took years and several attempts to obtain a satisfactory evaluation of the old version Tamil Bible, which was found to be an essentially good translation but in need of additional work to bring it up to TBS standards. The Society continues to seek faithful Tamil personnel who have the ability, desire and time to work on a Tamil Bible revision project.

## Thadou (Manipur, India)

Last November it was heart-warming to see the joy with which 11,000 copies of the Thadou Bible were received by the Thadou people. What pleasure they had

in holding the first complete faithful edition of God's Word in their hands. Just a few weeks later, reports were received notifying us that some individuals had already read through the entire Bible, their first opportunity to do so in their native tongue. Although it had been planned for personnel from TBS and firstBible International to be present at the inaugural distribution service this was not to be, and we had to be content with viewing photos and videos of this happy occasion. The Bibles, together with 20,000 copies of a large print edition of the Thadou New Testament, were soon distributed widely across Northeast India to Thadou speaking churches, each of which marked the occasion with a special service of thanksgiving. If the Lord will, there is a further thanksgiving service due to be held this November in Manipur, but we wait to see if anyone from TBS and firstBible International can make it in person. We are grateful to firstBible International for funding the printing of these Scriptures.

### **Urdu (Pakistan)**

Urdu is the official national language of Pakistan; it is also spoken in India and is a recognised minority language in South Africa. Feedback from various quarters indicates that there is some nervousness among Christians in Pakistan concerning the possibility of a new edition of the Urdu Bible. However, we believe that it is right to pray that the tens of millions who speak Urdu as their first language should one day have a faithful edition of God's Word. Just days before writing this article we were made aware that a contact in Australia with an Urdu-speaking wife was well underway with a new edition of the Urdu Bible based on the Received

Text; when that version is finalised in the coming months, he has confirmed his willingness for the Society to evaluate it.

### **Vaiphei (Manipur, India)**

We give thanks to God that the Vaiphei Bible revision committee have recently completed their work and have passed over the entire Bible text to the Editorial Department for checking. In handing over the text our main Vaiphei contact remarked, 'Lots of people asked me and my colleague when we were going to complete our revision work and when can we have the TBS Vaiphei Bible in our hands and read it? People are hungry for the Word of God, and they are seeking to buy/get hold of the Bible, but we are unable to put one in their hands yet, this pains me much.' We pray that the remaining stages of checking, approving, typesetting, and then printing and shipping will go smoothly. In the meantime the Vaiphei Committee are translating two TBS articles—*The Lord Gave the Word* and *Which Bible: Does it really matter?*—which will be published alongside the Bible in due course.

### **Zou (Manipur, India and Burma)**

In this project, the Lord has enabled more progress to be made in adversity than might have been the case in more typical circumstances. Since early 2020 our main Zou Bible translator has been detained in India and unable to return to his home in the Philippines. However, he has put aside the inconvenience and used the time very profitably to complete his work on the Zou Bible. The text has recently been approved by the Editorial Department and is now before the General Committee for their approval. In parallel, our lead translator has gathered

a small team of helpers who are proof-reading the Bible before the text is passed over to TBS. We thank the Lord for such excellent progress and ask for His help in the remaining stages of the project.



## Rest of Asia

### NEW! Cebuano (Philippines)

Cebuano, also referred to as Bisaya or Binisaya by most of its speakers, is primarily spoken in the southern Philippines. A Filipino brother recently submitted a Cebuano translation of the first chapter of the Gospel according to John. We are now looking for someone to help evaluate his work.

### Chinese

Over the past twelve months the Society's Chinese Bible translators have made good progress with their work, to the extent that we hope the whole New Testament will be published next year. Translation has also commenced in the Psalms. In addition, the four Gospels, Romans and Hebrews are now ready to be published online. We are thankful to firstBible International who are funding a print run of the four Gospels, Romans, and Hebrews at BPS; they are also interested in printing the New Testament next year. The Society is very grateful for the substantial financial support given by GBS for this major project.

### Korean

During this year the Society has been providing consultancy support to a partner organisation by evaluating currently available translations in the Korean language. In recent months we found two Korean Bibles that are based on the

Received Text, but which need some further work before meeting the Society's standards. We have now received permission to use one of these Bibles and make edits as we deem appropriate.

### Lhaovo (Burma and China)

All of the Lhaovo New Testament and a small part of the Old Testament are available in digital format. We continue looking for someone competent in Lhaovo and English to help us evaluate the accuracy of this text.

### Lisu (Burma and China)

We have a complete digital text available of the original TBS Lisu Bible which was first published in 1980. In God's providence, we have still not been able to find someone to evaluate the TBS Lisu Bible, some corrections proposed for it, and another Lisu Bible published more recently by another organisation. We pray for the personnel to help us move forward in this language.

### Mongolian

Since 2009 the Society has partnered with Dr Charles Keen (assisted by other American Independent Baptists) to prepare a new edition of the Mongolian Bible translated directly from the Greek Received Text and the Masoretic Hebrew Text. The first edition of the New Testament was published in 2017. The Old Testament translation team of native translators is overseen by a locally based American missionary, who opened his report like this: 'God continues to bless and strengthen our team, and despite the continued COVID-19 pandemic we are making steady progress as we work online. In the past year, the New Testament style revision has been slow



*Mongolian New Testament*

due to certain challenges and restrictions on meeting. We have made excellent progress on the Old Testament, however, and we thank God for His mercy, grace, and wisdom'. He also reports that 'the Old Testament books of Genesis through Esther, Psalms, Hosea, Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah have all been translated, and most have been reviewed by the editorial team. The rest of the Old Testament books are in process of translation. Currently the team is working on Amos and Jeremiah'. The translation team is helped by one of the Society's editorial consultants and by several local reading committees. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Great Company of Publishers for the Old Testament portion of this project. The Society funds the revision work on the New Testament.

### **Tagalog (Philippines)**

Regrettably only very limited progress was made on the Tagalog Bible project by the brother who desired for some years to work with us. However, in the past year two other Filipino men have come forward with a keen desire to work on a new translation of the Tagalog Bible.

Late in 2020 both of them submitted a new draft translated text for assessment by the Society. However, in the Lord's providence it has taken us some while to find a native Tagalog speaker with good English who is willing and able to evaluate this work in accordance with the Society's instructions. Nevertheless, someone suitable has recently been found who is undertaking this evaluation and so we pray that we can move this project further forward. We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by a church in Canada for this project.

### **Tedim Zokam (Burma)**

Since meeting in 2017 with the Tedim-Zokam Bible translators at our USA Branch Office, the translators in Burma are continuing to review and revise their second draft of the entire Bible. This painstaking work is being carried out alongside the translation team's other considerable commitments. In recent months they have been significantly impacted by the violence in the land. In his report our main contact wrote, 'The situation of Myanmar is likely improving but bombing, fighting, killings are still in every part in Myanmar every time. [It is] Unsecure everywhere'. He then quoted Psalm 34.7. This team covet our prayers.



### **The Americas**

#### **Haitian Creole (Haiti)**

Haitian Creole is a French-based creole language spoken by 10–12 million people worldwide and the only language of most Haitians. For several years TBS has been providing a consultancy-only service for some American missionaries who are overseeing a project to translate the



Authorised Version into Haitian Creole. Over the past twelve months the Society's Senior Editorial Consultant (Linguistics) has reviewed key verses in Philippians through to 2 Thessalonians and given more generic translation advice.

## Biblical languages projects

### Digitisation of the Society's Hebrew Masoretic Text

Our editorial consultant in Israel continues to correct mistakes in the digital Hebrew text obtained in 2015 and to make the consonantal corrections needed to match it to our published Ginsburg text. It is planned to include with it the *qere* and *ketiv* marginal notes which provide helpful assistance to the Biblical Hebrew reader. It is our desire to conclude this project as soon as possible so that we can make a sound digital Hebrew text available. Once this is complete, this will also enable us to produce a new setting of the printed Hebrew Old Testament text as the current image is becoming rather worn. The digital text of the Society's Greek New Testament Text is available at [tbsonlinebible.com/#rt](http://tbsonlinebible.com/#rt).

### Author's Postscript

It has been an even greater privilege than usual to compile this report, given the excellent progress made on many projects, the revival of some moribund projects, and the commencement of some new projects long prayed for. In addition to all the languages mentioned, we are in discussion with native personnel in further African and Indian languages concerning

their desire to prepare a faithful edition of God's Word in their tongue. God willing, we will have further new projects to report next year.

Despite the advancing and expanding nature of the Society's Bible translation and revision projects, the author was brought somewhat down to earth recently by a request from a TBS supporter. They asked if we had any Scriptures in the Kashmiri language, which is spoken in Kashmir, a region divided between Pakistan, India and China. They were advised that, sadly, we do not have any Scriptures in Kashmiri. They replied asking if we had any Scriptures in a language that their Kashmiri contacts might understand. A look was taken. In the six immediately related languages, we didn't have any Scriptures and they were all completely unknown to this author. At the next level up in the wider Indo-Aryan family of languages, many of the languages listed were familiar but we only had a complete Bible in one of them, which is Nepali. The relationship between Kashmiri and Nepali is probably not close enough for them to be mutually intelligible.

This correspondence illustrated once again that there is still much work to be done to prepare faithful Bible translations in the great majority of the world's 6,000–7,000 languages! We ask with the Apostle Paul: 'who *is* sufficient for these things?' (2 Corinthians 2.16). The answer is the same as the Apostle gave in 2 Corinthians 3.5, 'not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God'.

# Financial Highlights 2020



by David J. Broome, Resources Director

## Introduction

**T**he Society's Trustees and Management would publicly acknowledge the Lord's great goodness in supplying the Society's financial needs during 2020, a year that was fraught with much difficulty and uncertainty as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite concern in the Spring about the potential impact of the pandemic on the Society's income, worldwide income was slightly up on 2019. We have proved again the Lord's faithfulness to His own Word: 'And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work' (2 Corinthians 9.8). However, we must remain prayerful as the Society still faces financial challenges as we seek to reach a balanced budget without dependence on Legacy income as part of our Financial Strategy and five-year Financial Plan.

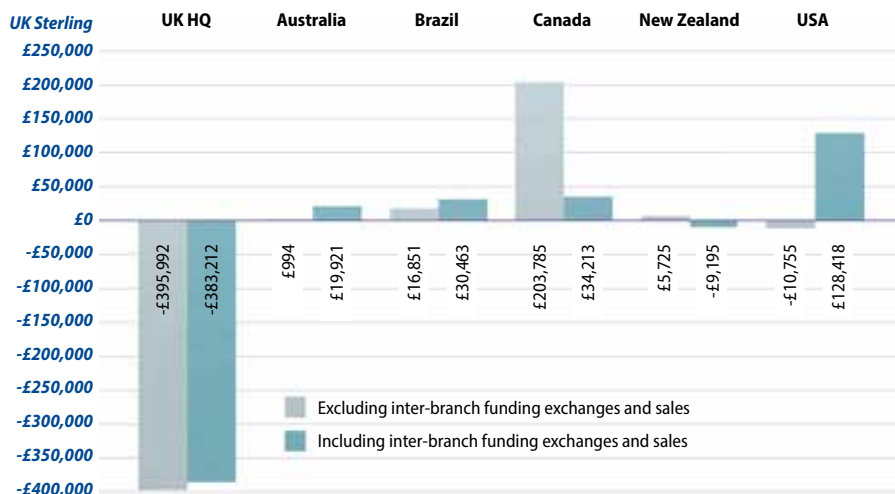
In this Annual Report, the key points from the Society's finances over 2020 are highlighted and the summary financial statements are given at the end. The full Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for 2020, which include considerable additional information about the activities and administration of the Society, are available both on our website ([www.tbsbibles.org/TBS\\_Annual\\_Report\\_Financial\\_.pdf](http://www.tbsbibles.org/TBS_Annual_Report_Financial_.pdf)) and in printed form; we would encourage members and supporters of the Society to visit our website or contact our Headquarters to request copies.

## The Result for the year

The Society's Total Funds reduced by £372,274 during 2020. With gains and losses caused by movements in foreign exchange rates removed, the Net Expenditure for the year was £179,392. This figure is the accumulation of surpluses from four of the Society's five Branches totalling £213,015, offset by a very small deficit from TBS (New Zealand) (£9,195) and a deficit of £383,212 from TBS London. The Trustees are very thankful to God for all His provision during the year.

The Net Expenditure of £179,392 is broken down by Branch in the following graph; the figures are presented both **excluding** and **including** sales and funding exchanges between London and the Branches.

## Net Expenditure 2020



The key points to take from this are:

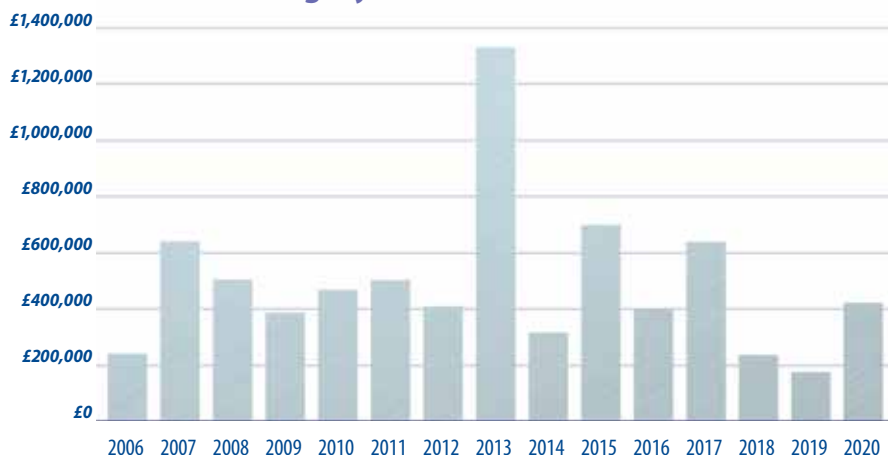
- TBS (Australia) and TBS (USA) employed translation consultants who are overseen by and funded from London (that is why this year the TBS (USA) Branch loss becomes a profit when inter-branch funding is added back).
- TBS (Canada) sent very significant funding to London (hence their profit reduces significantly when inter-branch funding is included).

## Incoming Resources

The 2020 worldwide income was £3,500,332, up 4.7% from £3,342,975 in 2019. This increase was significantly driven by four factors:

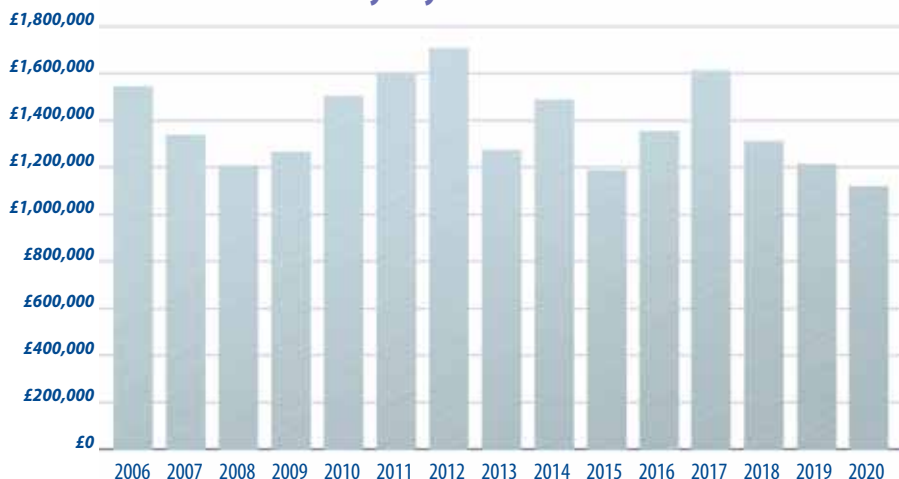
- Donations and Legacies are up by 12.2% to £2,222,465, but this is almost exclusively due to a rise of 141.6% (£245,512) in legacy income, with Donations, Subscriptions and Collections all remaining almost identical to 2019.
- Income from Charitable Activities (Sales) fell by 8.3% to £1,117,803, which is not surprising in the Covid-19 pandemic year when so many individuals' and organisations' activities were limited.
- Investment income fell by 34.6% to £93,419, largely due to reduced dividends paid by companies during the pandemic, reduced interest rates on cash deposits, and lower levels of deposits as some cash reserves were used.
- Government Grants of £66,645 were received from the British and Australian Governments to alleviate some of the costs of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Legacy Income 2006–2020



We continued to pursue our goal of distributing Holy Scriptures by way of sales in 2020, often at heavily discounted prices. Indeed, a great many of the Bibles purchased from us will nevertheless ultimately be given away free of charge. The total number of items sold worldwide in 2020 was 5,522,005 (2019: 7,870,282), of which 5,807,858 (2019: 6,958,766) were under royalty. Of the total 5,091,050 (2019: 7,368,548) were Bibles or Scripture portions, 288,932 (2019: 318,678) were calendars, and 142,043 (2019: 183,056) were text cards, children's items and other Scripture items. Total Sales income in the year was £1,017,382 (2019: £1,156,508); the production cost of these items was £668,059 (2019: £635,143), and there was additional Royalty income of £100,421 (2019: £63,039).

## Sales & Royalty Income 2006–2020

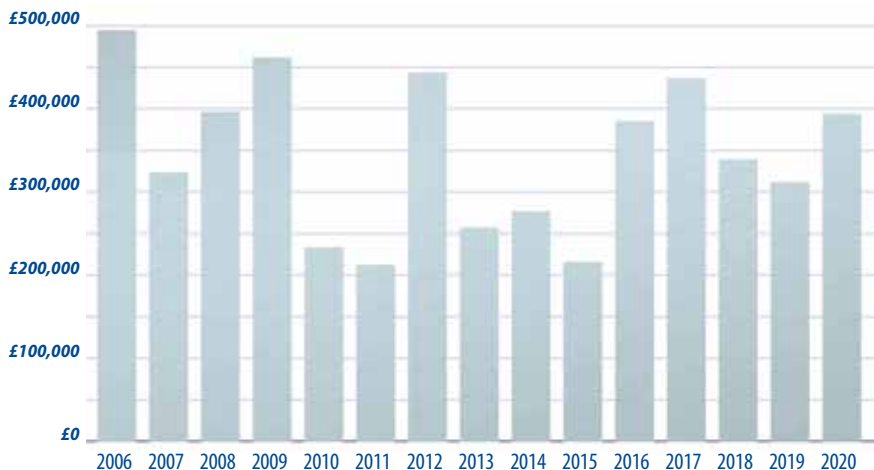


## Resources Expended

Worldwide operating expenditure in 2020 was £3,554,640, down just 0.2% (£58,551) compared with 2019. Within this cost reduction, there are three most significant areas of variance between the two years:

- An increase in the Costs of Grants Made of £123,485 (26.7%). It is very typical for the value of the Society's grants programme to vary somewhat from year to year according to the openings that are given and the level of specific funding provided for the grants in distinct areas or languages. However, the significant influencing factor here is the 100,000 copies of the Spanish New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs for Latin America mentioned in the Operations Director's report above and funded by our sister organisation GBS.
- A reduction of £116,270 (31.1%) in expenditure on Education and Promotion, largely due to a reduction in travelling both in the UK and across the Society's Branches due to the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in connection with the promotion of the Spanish Scriptures and the Society's principles in Latin America.
- A reduction of £46,926 (5.3%) in Infrastructure & Support Costs due to a combination of reduced senior management costs in both TBS London (no General Secretary in post) and TBS (Brazil), offset to some extent by the additional cost of introducing the new Xledger financial system.
- A reduction of £31,738 (4.1%) in Translation & Editorial Costs due to there being no General Secretary in post, combined with a number of other less significant variances.

## Cost of Scriptures Granted 2006–2020



During 2020, 1,412,430 (2019: 1,662,598) Bibles and Scripture portions, 607,316 (2019: 548,745) calendars, and 106,584 (2019: 17,294) text cards, children's items, other Scripture items and articles were supplied free of charge to institutions and individuals including churches, missions, prisons, schools and missionaries. The production cost of these items was £389,179 (2019: £311,931).

## Short/Medium Term Resources

The Society's Net Current Assets have reduced by £153,301 to £4,971,026 at 31 December 2020. Within this, the liquidity situation remains healthy, with immediately available cash balances of £1,172,504 and cash on deposit totalling £2,070,648, a total of £3,243,152 at the year-end.

## Long-Term Resources

The Society's UK operation held Fixed Asset Investments of £2,252,099 at 31 December 2020, down from £2,380,511 in 2019, this reduction being the result of stock market movements over 2020.

The freehold properties of the Society (including the International Headquarters in London) are stated at the book cost of £2,656,725 at 31 December 2020 (2019: £2,710,301). The leasehold properties of the Society are stated at the book value of £291,273 (2019: £306,099). The Trustees are of the opinion that the open market value is in excess of the book value expressed in local currencies.

At 31 December 2020 UK Free Reserves were £1,675,165 against a requirement set in the Society's Financial Strategy of £693,064 (i.e. 4/12ths of 2020 UK General Fund expenditure less Depreciation), giving a surplus of £982,001.

## Effect of Covid-19 Crisis

At this time, when the Covid-19 crisis is putting financial stress on many charities, the Trustees are very thankful that through God's wise superintending providence the Society's financial situation has not really suffered. This trend seen in 2020 appears to be being maintained in 2021, with income levels for the first four months of 2021 being very much in line with the Budget. The Society also has a very significant legacy pipeline of £1.3m which is not budgeted for, so there is reason for optimism that the Society will not be plunged into a short-time financial crisis, even though in the longer term there are still significant challenges to achieving a balanced budget without using Legacy income.

The capital value of the Society's Endowment Fund (Golden Thoughts Calendar Fund) investment portfolio dropped to a low by around 24% (compared to its 31 December 2019 value) as financial markets crashed at the start of the pandemic, but by the end of 2020 it had recovered to a drop of just 5.4%, and even that was more than recovered early in 2021.



In signing off the Society's Financial Statements the Trustees needed to be able to demonstrate that they were satisfied that the Society remains a Going Concern. Various scenarios had been tested based on 2020 expenditure levels and the 31 December 2020 Balance Sheet position. The scenario testing showed that even in the worst case, the Society, both internationally and at individual branch level, has sufficient General Fund reserves for at least 12 months following the approval of these financial statements. The Trustees believe that the worst-case scenario modelled is very unlikely to materialise, and even if it did they are prepared to take the necessary mitigating action to rebalance the financial situation.

## **Future Financial Plans**

During 2020 the Society's UK General Committee approved a new Financial Strategy, and the Financial Plan 2021–2025 was approved at the same time as the 2021 Budget in December 2020. The aim is to maintain the Society's finances on a sustainable footing, under God, by gradually trimming the UK core budget to a level where it is not dependant on Legacy for regular expenditure, and instead this income is used for one-off or easily controllable expenditure such as Scripture Grants. A proportion of the funds received from the sale of John Wycliffe House in 2019 will be used over the three to four years that it will take to achieve this and therefore it has been decided at present not to invest these funds for the long-term.

## **Conclusion**

The Trustees are very thankful to God for the remarkable provision He has made for this work during 2020, which has enabled the Society to meet its objectives, particularly the progressing of translation work in many different languages and the granting of Scriptures, as well as the maintaining of the more routine activities of the Society.

We believe that the Lord will continue to provide for the Society as He has done in maintaining it for the past 190 years. It is obviously very difficult for anyone to predict what the effect on world economies might be in the longer term as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the effect that this might have on the Society's income in the long term. However, we are very thankful to the Lord for His provision in 2020 and the continuance of this into 2021. We are also very grateful to our very loyal supporter and membership base for their continued prayerful and practical support. We would encourage you each to be much in prayer for our financial needs, as well as for all our other practical and spiritual needs.

# Independent Auditor's Statement to the Trustees of the



We have examined the summary financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages 60 to 62.

## **Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Auditor**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summary financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendation of the Charities SORP (2015).

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statements with the full annual financial statements.

We also read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement. The other information comprises only the Financial Highlights on pages 53 to 58.

## **Basis for Opinion**

Our examination involved agreeing the balances disclosed in the summary financial statements to the full annual financial statements. Our audit report on the full annual financial statements of Trinitarian Bible Society describes the basis of our audit opinion on those financial statements.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion the summarised financial statement is consistent with the full annual financial statements of Trinitarian Bible Society for the year ended 31 December 2020.

**Moore Kingston Smith LLP**  
Statutory Auditor

9 July 2021

Devonshire House  
60 Goswell Road  
London EC1M 7AD



# Trinitarian Bible Society

## Consolidated Statement Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Endowment Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Income &amp; endowments from:</b>					
Donations & legacies	1,480,688	741,777	-	2,222,465	1,980,512
Charitable activities – Publication & distribution of the Scriptures	1,110,451	7,352	-	1,117,803	1,219,547
Investment income	27,932	65,487	-	93,419	142,916
Other Income – Government Grants	66,645	-	-	66,645	-
<b>Total income &amp; endowments</b>	<b>2,685,716</b>	<b>814,616</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,500,332</b>	<b>3,342,975</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	159	11,143	-	11,302	10,761
Charitable activities – Publication & distribution of the Scriptures	2,730,693	812,645	-	3,543,338	3,602,430
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2,730,852</b>	<b>823,788</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,554,640</b>	<b>3,613,191</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(350)	-	(124,734)	(125,084)	282,036
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>(45,486)</b>	<b>(9,172)</b>	<b>(124,734)</b>	<b>(179,392)</b>	<b>11,820</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	75,947	(75,947)			-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Foreign exchange gains/(losses) - fixed assets	(18,523)	-	-	(18,523)	(15,810)
Foreign exchange gains/(losses) - other	(168,412)	(5,947)	-	(174,359)	19,951
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(156,474)</b>	<b>(91,066)</b>	<b>(124,734)</b>	<b>(372,274)</b>	<b>15,961</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward	6,877,743	789,034	2,918,953	10,585,730	10,569,769
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>6,721,269</b>	<b>697,968</b>	<b>2,794,219</b>	<b>10,213,456</b>	<b>10,585,730</b>



# Trinitarian Bible Society

## Analysis between Branches For The Year Ended 31 December 2020

	UK £	Australia £	Brazil £	Canada £	New Zealand £	USA £	2020 TOTAL £
<b>Income and endowments:</b>							
Donations & legacies	1,488,462	24,610	18,961	304,211	5,319	380,902	2,222,465
Charitable activities	486,182	64,655	336,370	50,579	4,586	175,431	1,117,803
Investment income	90,011	2,204	845	8	208	143	93,419
Other Income - Government Grants - Covid	23,347	43,298	-	-	-	-	66,645
<b>Total income and endowments</b>	<b>2,088,002</b>	<b>134,767</b>	<b>356,176</b>	<b>354,798</b>	<b>10,113</b>	<b>556,476</b>	<b>3,500,332</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	11,143	-	-	-	-	159	11,302
Charitable activities	2,348,117	133,773	339,325	150,707	4,388	567,028	3,543,338
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2,359,260</b>	<b>133,773</b>	<b>339,325</b>	<b>150,707</b>	<b>4,388</b>	<b>567,187</b>	<b>3,554,640</b>
<b>Net operating profit/(loss)</b>	<b>(271,258)</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>16,851</b>	<b>204,091</b>	<b>5,725</b>	<b>(10,711)</b>	<b>(54,308)</b>
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(124,734)	-	-	(306)	-	(44)	(125,084)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>(395,992)</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>16,851</b>	<b>203,785</b>	<b>5,725</b>	<b>(10,755)</b>	<b>(179,392)</b>
Inter-branch transfers	12,780	18,927	13,612	(169,572)	(14,920)	139,173	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>							
<b>Consolidated</b>	<b>(383,212)</b>	<b>19,921</b>	<b>30,463</b>	<b>34,213</b>	<b>(9,195)</b>	<b>128,418</b>	<b>(179,392)</b>
Foreign exchange gains/(losses)							
Fixed assets*	-	120	(15,852)	-	-	(2,791)	(18,523)
Foreign exchange gains/(losses) Other*	19,489	14,765	(187,824)	(4,811)	2,116	(18,094)	(174,359)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(363,723)</b>	<b>34,806</b>	<b>(173,213)</b>	<b>29,402</b>	<b>(7,079)</b>	<b>107,533</b>	<b>(372,274)</b>

\* These figures do not reflect a real profit or loss in the Branches' accounts during the year, but arise because the Society's financial statements are expressed in sterling. Since exchange rates move during the year, this has the effect of restating the opening balances of the Branches' accounts in the financial statements.



# Trinitarian Bible Society

## Consolidated Balance Sheet At 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Endowment Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>					
Tangible assets	2,975,368	-	-	2,975,368	3,062,476
Investments	14,963	-	2,252,099	2,267,062	2,398,927
	2,990,331	-	2,252,099	5,242,430	5,461,403
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Stocks & work in progress	1,321,053	760	-	1,321,813	1,535,072
Debtors	542,667	23,196	-	565,863	555,913
Investments ( < 1 year to maturity)	1,528,528	-	542,120	2,070,648	2,070,075
Cash at bank & in hand	498,492	674,012	-	1,172,504	1,393,385
	3,890,740	697,968	542,120	5,130,828	5,554,445
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	159,802	-	-	159,802	430,118
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>3,730,938</b>	<b>697,968</b>	<b>542,120</b>	<b>4,971,026</b>	<b>5,124,327</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>6,721,269</b>	<b>697,968</b>	<b>2,794,219</b>	<b>10,213,456</b>	<b>10,585,730</b>
Financed by:					
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>	<b>6,721,269</b>	<b>697,968</b>	<b>2,794,219</b>	<b>10,213,456</b>	<b>10,585,730</b>

## Note to the Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements are only a summary of information included in the Society's financial statements and Trustees' report.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society. For further information, the full accounts, the Auditors' report on those accounts and the Trustees' Report should be consulted, copies of which can be obtained from the Society at William Tyndale House, 29 Deer Park Road, London SW19 3NN.

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for 2020 were approved by the General Committee on 21 June 2021 and signed on its behalf by G. D. Buss (Chairman) and R. A. Clarke (Treasurer). A copy has been submitted to the Charity Commission.

The report of the Auditors on the full accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 was unqualified.

# The Word of God Among All Nations



Although certain phrases and expressions used in these letters may not be doctrinally accurate or in correct English, we reproduce the letters essentially as received, knowing that the Lord is using His Word to the glory of His Name and the furtherance of His Kingdom as the Scriptures are distributed among the nations of the world.



## Europe



### From TBS London grants department

I thought I'd share a bit of encouragement for you. A man who lives in the north-east and does a lot of evangelism there recently set up a mission account with us and has since placed several orders. There are a large number of eastern European people there and so he often buys items in those languages. Today he called and said he wanted to send his order to a Church of England school where the headteacher had been receptive to his offer. He ordered Portuguese Gospels of John, Arabic Gospels of John, Lithuanian Gospels of Mark, Bulgarian Gospels of John, Series 1 Colouring Book sets and Modules 1 & 2 of Children's Workbooks (enough for one per child). He told me several stories of openings he has had for distributing the Word of God and of people being delighted to receive a gospel in their own language.



*Her smile says it all*

### From England

This little girl earned her Children's Scripture Learning Programme Bible. As you can see she is very pleased.

### From TBS London sales department

Individuals and churches are still buying Bibles as the demand continues for Bibles placed outside churches and houses. A



contact at a church in England wrote the following on his latest order: 'For your encouragement, yesterday the 200th Bible was taken from our Bible Box. So far taken: 105 large Bibles (e.g. Windsor), 82 small Bibles (e.g. Royal Ruby), 13 New Testaments, 16 Hebrew Scriptures. May the people who have taken them read God's Word and be brought to the Saviour'.

### From prison inmates in England

- I would like to request a pocket size King James Bible. I had received one before in 2012 and it has been very useful tome, but it is showing its age from daily wear and tear: the cover has fallen off, pages are falling out, and yet I don't want to let it go but it is time for a replacement. Thank you.
- I want to thank you truly from the depths of my heart, for the beautiful gift I received while in my cell. That gift is the Compact Westminster Reference Bible.
- I was praying one night for my family and asking God to please forgive me of my sins when a female officer came to my cell and said 'I have mail for you'. I got off my knees and received the mail. As I opened the package and took the Bible out, I started to cry. Ten years I've been incarcerated and not once have I cried. I cried for what seemed like 20 minutes. As the officer was passing by doing a security check she noticed I was sitting on my bunk with the Bible on my lap, my tears were wetting the Bible. She looked at me and said 'God loves you, son, He loves you more than you'll ever know'. That's what my mother used to always say

to me. Even in her dying bed in 2005, May 25th, of a malignant tumour, she looked up at me and said those words and passed away in my arms. I say that to say this, Thank you so very much. I know now because of your act of kindness, that God loves me more than I'll ever know. And that to me is all I need to know. You know, when I opened the Bible I could not see the lettering, and I prayed on it. A man just went home a week ago and he was throwing a lot of the stuff he was not taking with him away. As we was walking out of the door he had a small case in his hand, he was about to pass my cell, and stopped in front of my cell and said 'Brother, do you have any use for this?' I said, 'What is it?' He said, 'A magnifying glass I use to read my Bible'. I didn't know what to say I looked at him my eyes watering, and said 'Yes, I do, for that same reason'. He handed it to me and smiled and said 'God is good' and with that he left.

- Thank you for caring!



## Africa



### From Kitwe, Zambia

Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am requesting for Bibles for my fellow church members and pastors. We as a church are donating Bibles and books to different hospitals, prisons, schools, colleges and orphanages within our country. We thankfully received the Bibles you sent earlier and we humbly request more to easily spread the Gospel.



### From Nigeria

Please find attached some photos of our distribution of the large grant that you sent us.



*Nigerian Scripture distribution*



ministry will be very much grateful in Jesus's name if our request will be taken into consideration as the Bible says knock and the door shall be

opened. Thank you in anticipation as we await your positive response. [Ed.: we currently have a New Testament translation project in Bemba with plans to soon publish the Gospel according to John; we would encourage our readers to pray that the remaining work on the New Testament would soon come to fruition.]



### From Kitwe, Zambia

Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our outreach ministries request for the printing and publication of our commonly spoken, read and easily understood Local Bemba language translated Holy Bibles here in Zambia specifically in Kitwe on the Copperbelt Province. A copy has been enclosed in this mail to help for the printing and publication. We are very much urgently and geared to reach out to the poor and spread the word of God to the needy. Additionally we would like to thank you very much for the English Bibles you sent to us and were received on the 13th of January and were distributed accordingly with an overwhelming response from the recipients. We as a

*Bibles for Zambian children*





## India



*Scriptures for Indian students*



### From India

Thanks for granting Bibles in Hebrew/Greek and English. We are blessed by you. These are very useful in our Bible school.

my days praying and try to spread the good news as I go through my days here. And I owe my life to God and this King James Bible that holds His word. So I send my love and appreciation to the Trinitarian Bible Society for all the work they do to bring God into people's lives. I would ask someone to pray for me if someone gets this letter. Please send a prayer for me as I am unsentenced and I'm scared for my future although I know God is here.

### From TBS (Australia)

We began supplying Bibles to the prison near Grafton which opened last year, Australia's largest, with 1700 inmates. In December, TBS contacted the Chaplain, who was very unimpressed that we only had KJV but, after some convincing, he agreed to take 12 copies. He was back in touch in February, saying he had given them all out and could he have some more and would we be able to supply Bibles to him regularly. Quite a change!

[Ed.: see the report in the greetings from TBS (Australia) on page 15.]



## Australasia



### From Australia

I am an inmate in a correctional centre in Australia. I am writing to you to tell my story of how I was reborn and found God in my life. I've always felt close to God through my life but it wasn't till a few bad choices landed me in gaol that I called to Him and He did answer. The reason I write to you is it was a King James Bible I was given that changed my life. When I leave prison I intend on dedicating my life to God and I'm so thankful I became a believer. God really is everywhere; I've seen Him working in so many ways here in prison. Of all places it seems to hold so many people at spiritual crossroads. I spend



## The Americas



### From the USA

Many thanks for the generous donation of the beautiful New Testaments. We receive them with great joy and anticipation of all they will accomplish in the lives of those they reach! Much love in Jesus.

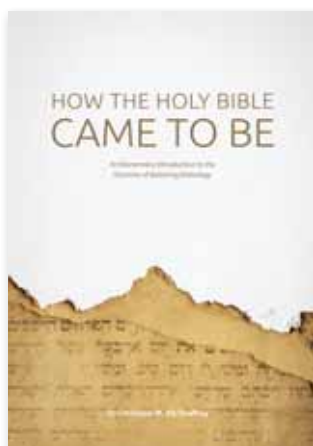
## From Wisconsin, USA

Thank you for sending 175 copies of “How the Bible Came to Be” for free distribution. I shared these freely with others on three different occasions.

1. The members of our local church were encouraged to share a copy with acquaintances that might be interested in the topic. 2. Copies were also made available at the September Presbytery meeting. About 75 copies were taken, with three men asking for multiple copies to display on the literature table at their local church. 3. The remainder of copies were made freely available at a conference in Wisconsin in March.

Ninety-seven people attended and, again, some requested several copies for their church book table. As requested a few pics are attached. Again, thank you very much for the grant and may the Lord continue to bless our respective efforts to spread the good news of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*This article can be read and downloaded at [www.tbsbibles.org/howtheholybiblecametobe](http://www.tbsbibles.org/howtheholybiblecametobe)*



*Wisconsin church book table*

Word, it seemed that Christianity had turned itself against God. I often wondered if there was anyone still concerned with transmitting to our generation exactly what God has spoken in the past by means of His prophets and apostles. The cloud of new Bible translations introduced to Cuba seemed to only increase the distance between the different versions and between Christians themselves.

It seemed like those who were presented to us as the persons entrusted with translating our beloved Bible from the faithful originals so that we would have precisely what God had spoken, and so that our faith in the inspired and infallible Word of God might be more solid, worked towards a completely contrary effect. It was as if they wanted us to lose our faith in the Scriptures, and as if they tried as hard as they could to distance us from the ‘more sure word of prophecy’ (2 Peter 1:19).

Many of us became confused, not about Scripture itself, but about those who we thought were on the side of God and His Word, to the point that we held onto our Reina Valera Bible yet again and rejected the supposed wisdom whose goal seemed



## From a pastor in Cuba

Among the many battles we have lived through when dealing with those who incessantly have tried to instill doubt regarding the infallibility of God’s



to bring us further from the true Word of God.

But, what a joy it was for me when I heard of the Trinitarian Bible Society! What joy it was for us when dear brother Bill Greendyk came and spoke in our country about the work of TBS! Finally I met someone

who was on the Lord's side regarding the translation of the original texts! At long last, a Bible Society that sought to strengthen Christianity's faith in the Word of God! Thanks a million to the Trinitarian Bible Society! The information that TBS is printing in our country is of inestimable value. Please, brethren, we need you in Cuba, in my state, in my city. We need you to continue making available literature about the Textus Receptus and the falsities of the Critical Text. Christianity in Cuba needs it! As



*Preparing to distribute the Spanish Scriptures*

for me, I wait eagerly for the revision that TBS is carrying out on the Spanish Bible to be ready so that we can have that Bible in our hands, in order to be able to hand it out to every member of our church. We will then be able to praise and thank God for preserving His Word in spite of the countless attempts to destroy it. We will also then be able to thank Him for having used the Trinitarian Bible Society in this beautiful work to His Glory and for a blessing to the Church. Thank you, TBS!

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?  
by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.  
With my whole heart have I sought thee:  
O let me not wander from thy commandments.  
Thy word have I hid in mine heart,  
that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 119:9–11



# Trinitarian Bible Society

## International Headquarters

Trinitarian Bible Society  
William Tyndale House  
29 Deer Park Road  
London  
SW19 3NN  
England

**Telephone:** (020) 8543 7857

**website:** [www.tbsbibles.org](http://www.tbsbibles.org)

**email:** [contact@tbsbibles.org](mailto:contact@tbsbibles.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/tbsbibles](http://www.facebook.com/tbsbibles)

### Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

### Registered Charity No.:

233082 (England) SC038379 (Scotland)

**V.A.T. Registration No.:** GB 215 9219 67

## Auditors:

Moore Kingston Smith LLP  
Devonshire House  
60 Goswell Road  
London EC1M 7AD

## Solicitors:

Bates, Wells & Braithwaite  
10 Queen Street Place  
London EC4R 1BE

## Bankers:

Arbuthnot Latham & Co Ltd  
Arbuthnot House  
7 Wilson St  
London EC2M 2SN

**Account Name:** Trinitarian Bible Society

**Sterling Account No.:** 71529601

**Sort Code:** 30-13-93

**Swift ID Code/BIC:** ARBUGB2L

**Euro Account No.:** 31529601

**IBAN for Euro Account:**

GB35 ARBU 3013 9331 5296 01

## International Branches

### Australian Branch

**National Secretary:** Mr. A. Brown, B.E.

Trinitarian Bible Society (Australia)  
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**Tel.:** +61 2 6642 8880 **Fax:** +61 2 6642 8881

**email:** [TBS@trinitarianbiblesociety.org.au](mailto:TBS@trinitarianbiblesociety.org.au)

### Brazilian Branch

**President:** The Rev. Dr. T. L. Gilmer

**Executive Secretary:** Pr. H. R. Gilmer, M.A.

Sociedade Biblica Trinitariana do Brasil  
Rua Julio de Castilhos, 108/120  
Belenzinho, 03059-000 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

**Tel.:** (11) 2693-5663 **Fax:** (11) 2695-3635

**email:** [sbtb@biblias.com.br](mailto:sbtb@biblias.com.br)

### Canadian Branch

**General Secretary:** Mr. A. Stoutjesdyk, B.Ed., M.Ed.

Trinitarian Bible Society (Canada)  
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**Tel.:** (604) 793-2232 **Fax:** (604) 793-2262

**Toll free:** 1-855-793-2232

**email:** [office@tbscanada.org](mailto:office@tbscanada.org)

### New Zealand Branch

**Chairman:** Mr. B. de Boer

Trinitarian Bible Society (New Zealand)  
PO Box 137025  
Parnell, Auckland 1151, New Zealand

**Tel.:** 09 263 5919

**email:** [sales@tbs.org.nz](mailto:sales@tbs.org.nz)

### USA Branch

**General Secretary:** Mr. W. Greendyk, B.A.

Trinitarian Bible Society (USA)  
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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49544, USA

**Tel.:** (616) 735-3695 **Fax:** (616) 785-7237

**email:** [tbsusa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tbsusa@sbcglobal.net)



## The Aims of the Society

To publish and distribute the Holy Scriptures throughout the world in many languages.

To promote Bible translations which are accurate and trustworthy, conforming to the Hebrew Masoretic Text of the Old Testament, and the Greek Textus Receptus of the New Testament, upon which texts the English Authorised Version is based.

To be instrumental in bringing light and life, through the Gospel of Christ, to those who are lost in sin and in the darkness of false religion and unbelief.

To uphold the doctrines of reformed Christianity, bearing witness to the equal and eternal deity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, One God in three Persons.

To uphold the Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

**For the Glory of God and the Increase of His Kingdom through the circulation of Protestant or uncorrupted versions of the Word of God.**

*For introductory literature and catalogue please contact the Society.*



### Trinitarian Bible Society

William Tyndale House  
29 Deer Park Road  
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