



Trinitarian Bible Society

Quarterly Record

Issue Number: **648, July to September 2024**

Annual Report

193rd Annual Report and Summary Financial Statements
for the year ended **31 December 2023**



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

Unless otherwise stated, Scripture quotations are from the
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Version in the United Kingdom are vested in the Crown.



Quarterly Record

Issue Number: 648, July to September 2024

Annual Report

193rd Annual Report and Summary Financial Statements for the year ended **31 December 2023**, for presentation at the Annual General Meeting of the Trinitarian Bible Society to be held, God willing, on 21 September 2024 at 11.00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London.

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2024
CONFERENCES, Lord willing

INSPIRATION & TEXT

8 NOVEMBER
LISBURN, N. IRELAND
Day Conference

SPEAKERS
CHRISTIAN MCSHAFFREY
JOEY DUNLAP

VENUE
T3 Conference & Event Centre
Lisburn BT28 2RF

12 NOVEMBER
LONDON, ENGLAND
Day Conference

SPEAKERS
CHRISTIAN MCSHAFFREY
TIMOTHY ROSS
JONATHAN ARNOLD

VENUE
IdeaLondon, 69 Wilson St
London EC2A 2BB

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETINGS

8 NOVEMBER
BELFAST, N. IRELAND

**SPECIAL YOUTH
EVENING MEETING**

SPEAKERS
CHRISTIAN MCSHAFFREY
DAVID ASTUDILLO

VENUE
Martyrs Memorial
Free Presbyterian Church,
356-376 Ravenhill Rd, BT6 8GL

23 NOVEMBER
SCOTLAND

**INSPIRED:
A YOUNG PEOPLE'S
DAY CONFERENCE**

SPEAKERS
CRAIG DENNISON
MATTHEW VOGAN

VENUE
Culduthel Christian Centre,
Inverness IV2 6AS

REGISTER AND FIND OUT MORE AT
tbsbibles.org/2024conferences



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

GOD WILLING

AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, LONDON SE1 6SD

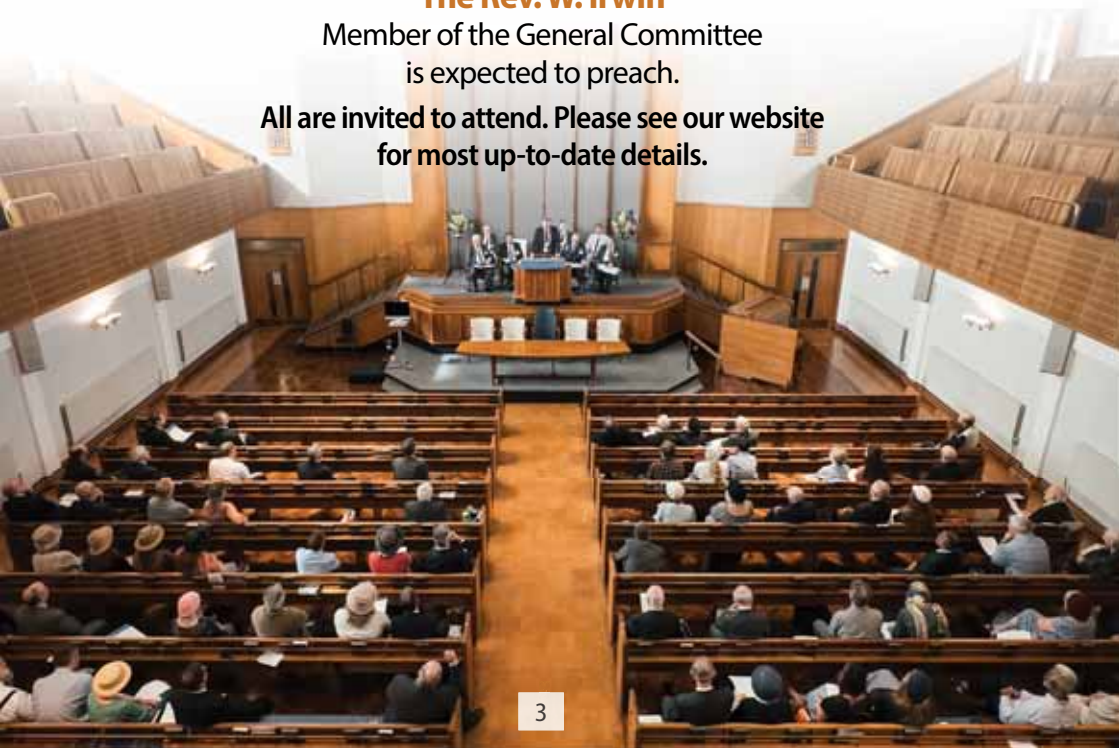
The Business Meeting at 11.00 a.m. will include reports and updates on the Society's work.

After the Business Meeting,
at 2.00 p.m.

The Rev. W. Irwin

Member of the General Committee
is expected to preach.

**All are invited to attend. Please see our website
for most up-to-date details.**





The General Secretary's Introduction

By Jonathan D. Arnold,
General Secretary

In presenting to you the 2023 Annual Report edition of the *Quarterly Record*, we are thankful to the Lord for the work appointed for us, and for the resources to be able to carry out that work. We are especially thankful where the Lord has graciously answered prayer this past year. In supporting the work of the Society before the Throne of Grace, and in practical ways by distributing the Scriptures as you are able, we trust we are co-labourers together in the work.

During 2024 we are emphasising the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures. The devotional article included in this magazine reflects on the unbreakable Divine Authority that arises from the fact that the Bible is God's Word written, 'All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3.16). We also have an article by our Senior Editorial Consultant (Linguistics) on the translation of Acts 26.28: 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian', which so many translate incorrectly, using a wrong theological interpretation to then

engender an erroneous translation. We strive in our translations to maintain a high view of the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures without incorrect additions, many of which are consistent with an interpretative approach to translating the Scriptures rather than a literal approach.

I trust that in this Annual Report you will gain a good appreciation for the worldwide nature of the Society's work. As well as maintaining Branches (whose greetings are included later in the magazine) we have distribution centres that play a vital role in distributing Scriptures and upholding the high view of Scripture that the Society stands for. There are also expanding translation and distribution efforts on a global scale; a small snapshot of this distribution work is seen in the brief reports in the final pages of this edition in 'The Word of God Among All Nations'.

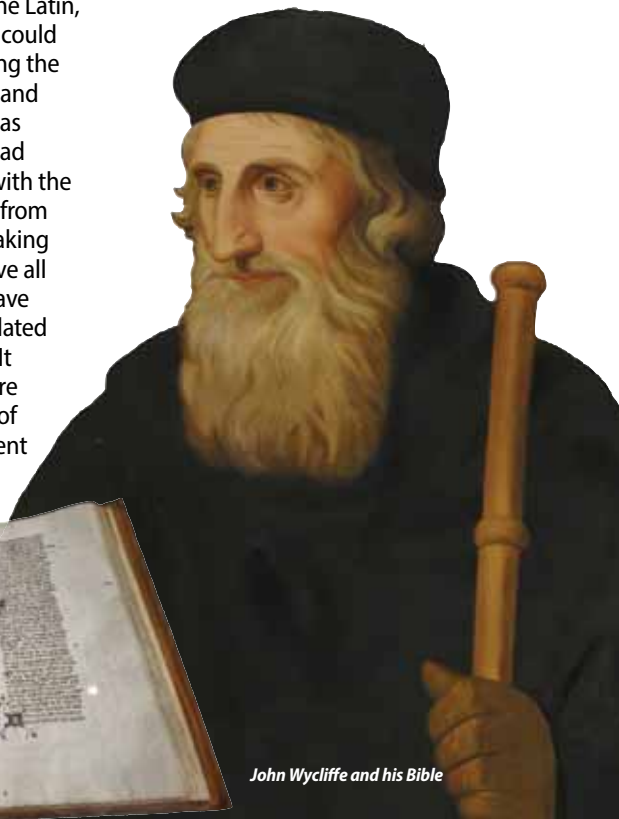
It is especially encouraging to see an increase in the number of Scriptures and Scripture items circulated through sales and grants in 2023. We are thankful we can work together with other organisations

who print our Scriptures such as Bearing Precious Seed (Milford, Ohio, USA) who last year marked a half-century of Scripture printing and distribution. We are also thankful for our sister society GBS who continue to support key projects such as the Spanish, Chinese, and Hebrew, and who endeavour to stand with us for the providentially preserved Word and formal equivalence translation methods.

This year, according to some, marks the 700th anniversary of the probable birth of John Wycliffe. The date 1324 is an estimate, yet what is not in doubt is the importance of Wycliffe's influence in relation to Bible translation. Under his leadership it became possible for ordinary English people to read the Scriptures in their mother tongue. While Wycliffe's translation was not from the Greek Received Text but from the Latin, those who laboured did what they could within their means. It is worth noting the motive which constrained Wycliffe and the humility with which this task was approached: 'this simple creature had much travail'. Our work continues with the same desire (albeit where possible from the Greek and Hebrew) and painstaking travail, 'With common charity to save all men in our realm which God will have saved, a simple creature hath translated the Bible out of Latin into English'.¹ It is worth also mentioning that we are approaching the 500th anniversary of the publication of the New Testament

in English by William Tyndale and the 490th anniversary of his death. We expect, Lord willing, to mark this anniversary through events and relevant publications during 2025 and 2026.

2023 was a milestone year for the Society, during which the Spanish Bible was published and received by thousands in Latin America. This was the result of over eighteen years of labour with support from TBS (USA) and GBS. We give thanks to the Lord, and as we continue with its distribution we also look eagerly to the publication of the Scriptures in a number of other languages, especially in India and Africa. There is more information about these projects in the Editorial Report in the pages that follow. We also have encouraging news of an increasing



John Wycliffe and his Bible



number of new languages which we are working on, many of which we have commenced pilot projects in. In the vast majority of these cases the translators are working as volunteers with a burden to have the Bible faithfully translated into their own language.

In the Lord's goodness we have seen an increase not just in our projects but also in the resources needed to meet that need. Whilst needs remain, it is a great blessing to be able to steward all that is necessary to maintain the work of the Society. We were particularly thankful for a large legacy during 2023, meaning that our income was considerably higher than anticipated. This is all explained in detail by the Resources Director in his report.

Our supporters in the UK and Ireland will be familiar with our Deputation Speakers who are often the main face of the Society, speaking in churches across the British Isles (and sometimes further afield). A report of their valued labours is also included in this magazine. After this issue of the *Quarterly Record*, we propose to maintain the details of our UK deputation meetings online rather than through a magazine insert which is sent out in copies circulated within the UK. This will reduce the significant time and money spent on this aspect of the work, and avoid publishing

details that have changed after the time of printing as the insert is produced a long time ahead of the meetings.

However, we don't want anyone to miss out through lack of online access, so if you still need a paper copy of the speaking engagements of the UK Deputation Speakers, please contact us via the main TBS telephone number and request a copy.

I hope that you will find the account of our work during 2023 stimulating and encouraging. God willing, we hope to hold our Annual General Meeting in September; we would encourage you to join us as we consider these reports and give a particular focus on our work in India. May the Lord alone have all the glory from His Word.



A happy recipient of the TBS Spanish Bible at a launch event

'And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified' (Acts 20.32).

Endnote:

1. *Middle English Text Series*, 'The Wycliffite Bible: From the Prologue', James M. Dean (Editor) accessed 6 June 2024 d.lib.rochester.edu/teams/text/dean-medieval-english-political-writings-wycliffite-bible-prologue (lines 234–236).



Operations Report

by Philip A. Blows,
Operations Director

'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!'

(Isaiah 52.7)

The beauty industry is big business. Every year hundreds of billions of pounds are spent worldwide by customers hoping that this or that product or service will slow down or even reverse the aging process to make them more attractive. Isn't it true that, more than ever, we live in the age of the superficial, the external, and the physical?

But what does the Lord have to say about beauty? He tells us that His view is not just skin deep: 'But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart' (1 Samuel 16.7).

Contrary to the beauty industry billions, the primary source of beauty is found deep within, where even the best lotions cannot penetrate. It is not the wearing of fancy hair, jewellery, and clothes, but '... the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price' (1 Peter 3.4). While wives (and this could apply to all women) are here in view, men would also do well to note the Scriptural principle, especially as male beauty is a booming sector within the industry.

And yet our text in Isaiah 52 tells us how we can make our feet beautiful. No, not a new beauty regimen, but something far more profound. It is by bringing good tidings; by publishing peace; by bringing good tidings of good; by publishing salvation; by declaring to the people of God that their God reigns! Is there a connection here with the work of the Trinitarian Bible Society? Men and women cannot call upon the Lord unless they believe, and they most often hear of Him via the means of preaching (see Romans 10.14). And what could be more indispensable to the preacher than his

Bible, faithfully and accurately translated from the original Biblical languages into his own tongue? Some people find that they have access to a copy of the Scriptures without the aid of a preacher, and the Lord can and does reveal Himself to such as these too.

Friends, be encouraged that whatever the world may have to say about us and our Christian endeavours, the Lord sees as beautiful each and every one who distributes His Word at home and abroad (and we can also say those who support this work to make it possible), who preaches faithfully from it, and who shares the glorious Gospel with friends, neighbours, and strangers alike. Oh that our concept of beauty would be directed away from the shallow, external view of the world and towards the deeper, spiritual things of the Lord.

The Society's Aim is unchanged since its founding in 1831:

The object of this Society is 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.

We cannot know the extent to which the Society has promoted the Glory of God in any given year, so must content ourselves with reporting on the circulation of the Holy Scriptures at home and abroad and sharing reports about various aspects of the work.

The headline circulation summary for 2023 is that 3.26 million Scriptures and Scripture items in 38 languages were circulated to 111 countries, to the glory of God and the salvation of men.

Grants

During 2023 over 1.62 million Bibles, Scripture portions, and Scripture items were granted free of charge to institutions and individuals at home and abroad. Every grant application is scrutinised 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.

As well as supplying many smaller grants to approved recipients, we also supply large grants each year to grantees who have a close association with us. Some examples of larger grants awarded during 2023 are listed below. We would like to thank the GBS, our sister society in the Netherlands, for funding the distribution of the Spanish Scriptures in the list.

- ▶ 8,200 English Bibles and 1,400 Shona Bibles to **Zimbabwe**
- ▶ 5,000 Armenian Bibles to **Armenia**
- ▶ 3,000 English Bibles to **Botswana**
- ▶ 2,000 Portuguese Bibles to **Angola**
- ▶ 2,000 Ukrainian Bibles to **Ukraine** (via Germany)
- ▶ 2,000 Ukrainian Bibles to **Ukraine** (via Germany, in addition to the previous line)
- ▶ 2,000 Ukrainian Bibles to **Romania**
- ▶ 1,700 Portuguese Bibles and 5,000 Portuguese New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs to **Angola**
- ▶ 1,500 English Bibles and 950 Chichewa New Testaments to **Malawi**
- ▶ 1,500 Romanian Bibles and 2,000 Ukrainian Gospels to **Romania**
- ▶ 1,300 English Bibles and 100 Chichewa New Testaments to **Zambia**
- ▶ 1,000 English Bibles to **Kenya**

- ▶ 1,000 English Bibles to **Kenya** (in addition to the previous line)
- ▶ 1,000 English Bibles for **India**
- ▶ 840 English Bibles and 500 English New Testaments and Psalms to **Kenya**
- ▶ 750 English Bibles and 400 English New Testaments and Psalms to **Nigeria**
- ▶ 500 Spanish Bibles to **Mexico**
- ▶ 7,000 Spanish New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs to **Colombia**
- ▶ 6,400 Spanish New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs to **Venezuela**
- ▶ 5,900 Romanian New Testaments and Psalms to **Romania**
- ▶ 4,000 Spanish New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs to the **USA**
- ▶ 2,000 Ukrainian New Testaments and Psalms to the **UK**
- ▶ 2,000 Romanian New Testaments and Psalms to **Romania**
- ▶ 1,800 Amharic New Testament and Psalms to **Ethiopia**
- ▶ 1,500 Ukrainian New Testaments and Psalms and 300 Ukrainian Bibles to the **UK**

Whilst these Scriptures were sent out by us in 2023, in some cases the local distribution is still ongoing. Pray that the Lord would oversee and bless the scattering of this Gospel seed throughout the world.

Sales

Supporters will be aware that we also distribute the Holy Scriptures by way of sales, often at heavily discounted prices. This is an important distribution channel for the Society, and most of the items we sell will later be given away free of charge on the mission field. **Some 1.64 million Scriptures and Scripture items were sold by the Society worldwide in 2023.**

Of these, 583,000 were under licence or royalty to other publishers.

In 2023, **82%** of our **total circulation** (grants plus sales) came through publications which we procured and circulated ourselves, and **18%** through licensing or royalty arrangements with other publishers.

In 2023 we once again received the **Feefo Platinum Service award for our sales**

work. This award is given to businesses that have achieved the Feefo Gold standard for three consecutive years or more. Over the last year, our average **Feefo Service and Product ratings were both 5.0 out of 5.0**, which is very rare for retail. Our all-time Service and Product ratings both currently stand at 4.9/5.0. We are grateful for our dedicated staff members, and our loyal and supportive customers. To read verified reviews of our Scripture publications, click on the star ratings on the individual product pages in our website store tbsbibles.org/store or visit feefo.com/en-GB/reviews/trinitarian-bible-society.

Grants and Sales were very evenly matched in 2023, such that **50%** of the items circulated were granted and **50%** were sold.

Taking grants and sales together, the total number of items circulated in 2023 was 13% higher than in 2022. This was largely due to an increased number of **Portuguese Scriptures** being sold under license in Brazil. Overall, **490,181** more copies of the Scriptures (Bibles, New Testaments, and Portions) were circulated in 2023 than in the previous year. Surely this is a great cause for thanksgiving!

In 2023 we distributed **3.26 million** Scriptures and Scripture items in **38 languages** to **111 countries**



Countries to which we sent Scriptures in 2023

Our motto is 'The Word of God among all nations.' As mentioned earlier, in 2023 **we distributed 3.26 million Scriptures and Scripture items in 38 languages to 111 countries**; these countries are listed below and then the languages are listed opposite.

1. Albania	37. Finland	75. Northern Ireland
2. Algeria	38. France	76. Norway
3. Angola	39. Georgia	77. Oman
4. Argentina	40. Germany	78. Pakistan
5. Armenia	41. Ghana	79. Panama
6. Aruba	42. Gibraltar	80. Paraguay
7. Australia	43. Guatemala	81. Peru
8. Austria	44. Guernsey	82. Philippines
9. Barbados	45. Haiti	83. Poland
10. Belgium	46. Honduras	84. Portugal
11. Benin	47. Hungary	85. Puerto Rico
12. Botswana*	48. India	86. Romania
13. Brazil	49. Indonesia	87. Russia
14. Bulgaria	50. Ireland	88. Rwanda
15. Burkina Faso	51. Israel	89. Scotland
16. Burundi	52. Italy	90. Senegal
17. Cameroon	53. Jamaica	91. Singapore
18. Canada	54. Japan	92. Slovak Republic
19. Central African Republic	55. Jersey	93. South Africa
20. Chad	56. Kenya	94. South Korea
21. Chile	57. Lithuania	95. Spain
22. China	58. Madagascar	96. St Lucia
23. Colombia	59. Malawi	97. Sweden
24. Congo, The D. R.	60. Malaysia	98. Switzerland
25. Costa Rica	61. Mali	99. Taiwan
26. Cote d'Ivoire	62. Malta	100. Tanzania
27. Croatia	63. Mauritius	101. Togo
28. Cuba	64. Mexico	102. Turkey
29. Cyprus	65. Moldova	103. UAE
30. Dominican Republic	66. Mozambique	104. Uganda
31. Ecuador	67. Myanmar	105. Ukraine
32. El Salvador	68. Namibia	106. Uruguay
33. England	69. Netherlands	107. USA
34. Estonia	70. Nepal	108. Venezuela
35. Ethiopia	71. New Zealand	109. Wales
36. Fiji	72. Nicaragua	110. Zambia
	73. Niger	111. Zimbabwe
	74. Nigeria	

* Scriptures distributed via
Christian partners in the UK.

Languages in which we distributed Scriptures in 2023

1. Afrikaans	10. Chinese	20. Italian	30. Romanian
2. Albanian	11. Dutch	21. Lithuanian	31. Russian
3. Amharic	12. English	22. Maltese	32. Serbian
4. Arabic	13. French	23. Māori	33. Shona
5. Armenian	14. German	24. Ndebele	34. Spanish
(Eastern)	15. Greek (Modern)	25. Nepali	35. Turkish
6. Bemba	16. Greek (Koiné)	26. Persian	36. Ukrainian
7. Bulgarian	17. Hausa	27. Pokot	37. Welsh
8. Catalan	18. Hebrew	28. Polish	38. Xhosa
9. Chichewa	19. Hungarian	29. Portuguese	

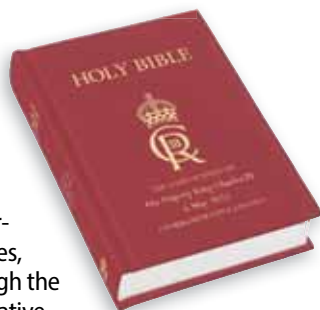
Feedback from Grantees

It is always an encouragement when we receive an email, letter, or phone call with an expression of thanks for a TBS Bible or other Scripture item that has been received. Some letters are sent by prisoners writing on cheap paper in their prison cells, others are sent by grantees labouring at home and abroad to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with needy men, women, and children (as per introductory remarks). Do look out for the latest distribution news in 'The Word of God Among All Nations' in your *Quarterly Record* magazine. Some supporters tell us that they like to use these photos and letters to help inform their prayers for the Society's

work, along with other content which we publish in print and online.

Coronation Bibles

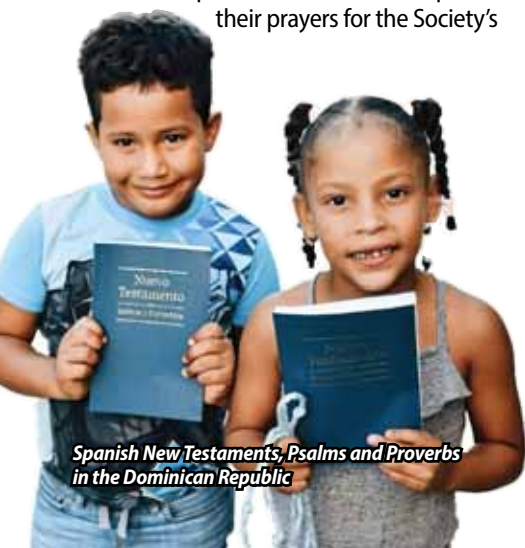
The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May 2023 provided another valuable opportunity to distribute Bibles, mainly in the UK, through the means of a commemorative edition. Over the course of 2023, 46,000 Coronation Bibles were distributed, with many being given to school children by our auxiliaries.



The following are verified customer comments about this Bible from our store.

- 'Excellent pocket-sized Bible attractively produced and very useful for carrying to church.'
- 'So good to find a commemorative edition of KJV at a price low enough to be given away.'
- 'I ordered this Bible as a gift. It's a wonderful Bible to honour the coronation of his majesty King Charles III!'

May the Lord grant every person who



Spanish New Testaments, Psalms and Proverbs in the Dominican Republic

received a commemorative Bible the desire to read it and to seek the Saviour revealed by it.

UK Scripture Poster Display Campaigns

As a Christian Society with a core emphasis on the Holy Scriptures, we believe that it is a great public benefit to present the Holy Word of God freely to members of the public. To this end, we have for many years operated a campaign whereby we coordinate the display of large Scripture posters in public places throughout the UK. These brightly coloured posters feature a Scripture text in a large, legible font, and are easily visible to passers-by.

In 2023, the focus of the TBS campaign switched from rail stations to bus shelters, which are visible to a wider audience including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and bus passengers. Over the course of the year, 57 two-week poster bookings were made through funding provided by 25 sponsors.

TBS Scripture poster on display at a railway station



UK recipients of this *Quarterly Record* will find enclosed a sponsorship form for the 2025 TBS UK Bus Shelter Scripture Poster Campaign. Please pray that the Lord will bless the 2024 and 2025 campaigns.

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 2023 the UK auxiliaries were responsible for circulating over 25,000 Scriptures and Scripture items, the vast majority through grants to schools, prisons, hospitals, and care homes. Over 18,000 of these publications were Bibles and around 1,000 were New Testaments. We are thankful for the many auxiliary committee members and volunteers who give their time to pursue the Society's Aim in their local regions. Please visit our website (tbsbibles.org/auxiliaries) or contact your local TBS office for more information about how to support our auxiliaries.

Children's Quizzes

Each year we publish two quizzes, one for junior students and a senior version, on a theme connected to the Society's work and principles. These quizzes can be completed by anyone, but children in countries in which TBS has an office can earn a Scripture award through them. Completed quizzes are returned to the respective TBS offices for marking, and where a good effort has been made a prize is then sent out. Quizzers can choose to receive one of several TBS Bibles or Scripture items for themselves, or they can ask that a Bible or New Testament be granted on their behalf to an overseas grantee selected by TBS HQ.

Our hope is that the children will enjoy completing the quizzes and will also be edified by doing so.

In 2023 the theme of the quiz was *The Real Story of Mary Jones and her Bible*. All of the answers could be found in the excellent article of the same name by Graham Chewter in *Quarterly Record* 642. An audio reading of this article can be found here: tbsbibles.org/MaryJones

In total, 219 correct quiz submissions were received from children worldwide.

111 English Royal Ruby Bibles were awarded to children as prizes, 75 of which were the Commemorative Coronation edition. Additionally, 216 French New Testaments were granted to French-speaking children in West Africa on behalf of children who completed quizzes (two copies are being sent on behalf each of the 108 children who requested that a grant be made).

We are hugely indebted and thankful to a gifted and faithful volunteer in the UK who helps our Editorial Department to prepare the annual children's quizzes. She also marks each one (for the UK) and responds to the quizzer with a handwritten card; no doubt the arrangements are similar in our Branches. May the Lord bless this investment in these young lives and may He raise up another generation to involve themselves in the important work of the Society.

Conferences and Exhibitions

Conferences and exhibitions provide valuable opportunities to explain our work in face-to-face settings. As well as sending delegates to represent the Society at

events in the UK and throughout the world, we also host a few public events ourselves each year. In June 2023 we held a special Trinity and Text conference at William Tyndale House, in which the Promoting and Upholding activities of the Society were exercised. A similar conference was subsequently held in Northern Ireland. The events were very well received, and audio



Sales display at the 2024 Open Day

and video recordings of the presentations are available on our website at tbsbibles.org/TrinityAndText. They are well worth watching—why not set aside an evening on your own or with others to watch some of the videos? Finally, the AGM in September, held as usual at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, was an encouragement to members and visitors who attended.

Staffing

2023 was a time of very significant change in the Operations Department in London. In December 2022 Mark Beardall was promoted to Warehouse Supervisor, replacing Gary Hayes who had retired after nineteen years with the Society, and Peter Stephenson was



promoted to Senior Packer to assist Mark. In April 2023, Jorge Iraola was appointed as Packer to strengthen the warehouse team and get them back to full staffing levels. Then in mid-2023 Mrs Hannah Macpherson (then still Miss Hannah Woodhams) moved across to the Resources Department to take on the role of Executive PA. Sarah Hills and William Arrowsmith were appointed as Operations Officer and Sales and Grants Officer respectively, and Lareina Kiser completed her fixed-term contract work supporting the grants team. If reading about all of this staff movement leaves you somewhat exhausted, imagine what it was like managing it! It has in truth been a gruelling period, but we are so thankful for those whom the Lord has supplied for the team and trust that He will enable us to serve Him effectively together.

I would like to thank each member of the Operations Department in London (past and present) for their labours during 2023; without them the work outlined in this report would not have been completed. Thank you to William Arrowsmith, Mark Beardall, Louise Brett, Sarah Hills, Jorge Iraola, Lareina Kiser, Neil Lusk, Hannah Macpherson, Peter Stephenson, and Michael Wade. Thanks also to Clive Doherty, our Sales Representative to the retail trade.

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 various useful tasks. There are too many of these dear friends to name, but we thank each one most sincerely for all

that they do for the Lord at the Society.

Please continue to remember our staff and volunteers in your prayers.



Endnotes:

Round numbers have been used for some large circulation figures in this report to make them easier to digest; in some cases, the precise numbers can be found in the distribution table on page 30. Digital circulation figures can be found in the Editorial Report.

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.



Branch Greetings



Trinitarian Bible Society
(Australia)



On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Trinitarian Bible Society's Australian Branch, we extend our warmest greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. As another year has come to a close, we once again raise our voices in gratitude, for 'Hitherto hath the LORD helped us' (1 Samuel 7.12). Throughout 2023 the Society faithfully continued its mission of spreading God's Word across Australia, with our base in Grafton, New South Wales, serving as the central hub.

Spreading the Gospel Through Scripture Distribution

The Society remained committed in 2023 to providing Bibles and Scripture materials free of charge to those in need through grants. Notably, nearly 3,500 Bibles were distributed to grantees, with a significant portion (2,700) being the Australian Commemorative Bible.

The impact of these Bibles is evident in the heartfelt notes from Grantees:

- 'The children will love' the excellent Commemorative KJV Bibles received for Scripture classes.
- 'Thank you so much ... I have more than 200 young boys and girls asking for Bibles, and today God has answered my prayers.'
- 'The children were delighted with their new Bibles'—a sentiment echoed with pictures of excited young recipients.
- A request for an extra 200 Bibles highlights the growing demand as new families discover a welcoming space for Scripture learning.

■ Gratitude from the city of Coffs Harbour underscores the desperate need for God's Word in 'this sinful country'.

Sales and Distribution Highlights

■ **Bibles:** 4,225 Bibles sold in 16 languages, along with 1,843 New Testaments in 14 languages.

■ **Gospels:** Sales of Gospels saw a significant increase (65% over 2022 totals) reaching 41,322 copies across 12 languages.

■ **Calendars:** 30,700 calendars found homes in 11 languages.

■ **Tracts:** 11,900 tracts were distributed.

■ **Articles:** 1,720 articles reached those seeking spiritual guidance.

■ **Orders Despatched:** A commendable increase to 847 orders fulfilled compared to the previous year.

■ **Donations:** We are incredibly thankful for the continued support of our community, with donations exceeding \$100,000 in 2023.

■ **Sales:** Overall sales reached \$147,322, reflecting a 26% growth from 2022.



Young people with TBS (Australia) Commemorative Bibles

A Fruitful Visitation by the Rev. Craig Dennison

A highlight of 2023 was the visit of the Rev. Craig Dennison, the Society's Deputation speaker, in July and August. The Rev. Dennison travelled extensively, holding meetings in Brisbane, Grafton, Riverstone, Ryde, Melbourne, Nullawarre, Kingston, Newstead, Port Lincoln, Lock, Maitland, Padbury, and Harrisdale. The well-attended meetings were filled with appreciation for the Rev. Dennison's insightful talks, often accompanied by informative PowerPoint presentations.

Continued Editorial Support by Larry Brigden

Throughout 2023 we were blessed by the ongoing editorial support of Mr Larry Brigden, our esteemed Senior Editorial Consultant (Linguistics). His expertise has been instrumental in ensuring the accuracy of our Scripture translation projects. Mr Brigden meticulously checks translations against the Masoretic Hebrew Text and Greek Received Text, offering invaluable guidance to translators facing challenging passages.

This past year he provided assistance with projects in Albanian, Bemba, Chamling Rai, Chinese, Doteli, German, Hebrew, Kannada, Kisanga, Khawngtu, Lithuanian, Slovak, Sunuwar, Tedim Zomi, Telugu, Turkish, and Vaiphei. His insights extended beyond individual translations, as he also addressed questions regarding the use of italics and the Arabic Bible Digitisation project. The ever-increasing number of active translation projects highlights the growing demand for accurate Scriptures around the world, and we are grateful for Mr. Brigden's dedication in ensuring the Society upholds its commitment to faithful translations.

Looking Forward with Gratitude

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed members, supporters, and friends for their unwavering prayerful and practical support. Your contributions are instrumental in furthering the Society's mission and strengthening our witness in Australia. With unwavering faith, we take comfort in the Lord's promise: 'A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time' (Isaiah 60.22). The need for God's Word remains immense in Australia, just as it is in countless other lands. Let us not grow weary in our pursuit of spreading the Gospel, for 'in due season we shall reap, if we faint not' (Galatians 6.9).

With warm Christian regards,

Alan Brown

National Secretary,
Trinitarian Bible Society (Australia)



Trinitarian Bible Society
(Brazil)



By God's grace, the total number of complete Portuguese Bibles distributed last year was 397,265. The amazing thing about this number is that only 57,264 were distributed through our own office. The remaining 340,001 Bibles were distributed through the special partnerships that the Lord has blessed us with. The number is very special: 397,265—every Bible counts, for it represents a person.

We do not see Bibles—we see people. Each Bible is treated with special care, for we realise that it is someone's Bible. Our mission at the Trinitarian Bible Society of Brazil is

to get a copy of the faithful Word of God into the hands of every person. We realise that we cannot do this on our own, and that is why we are so thankful for our partnerships; but we also realise that most people might never have a printed copy of the Word of God.

In Brazil alone, there are an estimated 220 million people. We are very grateful that the total number of Scriptures circulated since our beginning in Brazil in 1968 is greater than this number (reaching a total of 228 million), but

the need is ever increasing. When compared to the number of Portuguese speakers in this world—an estimated 260 million people—397,265 Bibles seems very little, as but a drop in the bucket. That is why we are so thankful for the other avenues that the Lord is opening.

Through the special partnerships with Bible Apps in the Portuguese language, the total number of individual users last year was 4,805,811. To God be the glory! These users collectively read 162,130,838 chapters of the Bible. What a wonderful promise we have: '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). It might be that one day every Portuguese-speaking person will have a copy of the faithful Word of God, be it in print, or be it via a Bible App.

Our primary purpose still is 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'. Brethren, pray for us.

Your fellow servant,

Harold Ralph Gilmer

*Executive Vice-President,
Trinitarian Bible Society (Brazil)*

*São Paulo, Brazil's most populous city
and home to TBS (Brazil)*





Trinitarian Bible Society
(Canada)



The past year for TBS (Canada) has been one of anticipated change. Our General Secretary, Mr Adrian Stoutjesdyk, had indicated in 2022 that he would like to retire from his duties in 2023, not because he was tired of the work but *in* the work.

Because of his age and health concerns, he considered it prudent to set in motion the process of finding someone to replace him. The applicants were interviewed online via Zoom early in March 2023 and in person at a Board of Directors meeting in mid-April, with the result that I was accepted to replace Mr Stoutjesdyk. He agreed to continue as General Secretary until 31 December 2023 and mentor me so I could take over on 1 January 2024. Since then, he has also continued to be a very valuable source of advice and encouragement!

A period of transition started in August 2023, and my first official duty was to find office and warehouse space in Lethbridge, Alberta. We must acknowledge the Lord for providing a building well-suited for our needs. The owner had never heard of the Trinitarian Bible Society, but as a Christian he was very anxious to make his building available for the purpose of distributing God's Word.

Mr Stoutjesdyk underwent open-heart surgery in August to repair a leaking heart valve, and it pleased the Lord to guide the hands of the physicians and grant him a remarkable recovery. Together, Mr Stoutjesdyk and I visited several schools, churches, and individual supporters in the province of Ontario in mid-October, which was a farewell tour for him and an introductory tour for me. His final public speaking engagements as General



The new TBS (Canada) office

Secretary of TBS (Canada) were in Alberta and British Columbia in November and December respectively.

Near the end of December, Chilliwack volunteers loaded the office furniture and warehouse stock into a trailer, and it was transported to Alberta where Lethbridge volunteers unloaded it. One chapter of the history of TBS (Canada) came to an end and a new chapter started. Despite all the changes, and despite rising inflation, drought on the prairies, and extensive forest fires, the past year saw a significant increase in financial support for the Society, which was very humbling and for which we cannot be thankful enough.



With this brief overview of the past year, I extend TBS (Canada)'s hearty greetings to TBS London at William Tyndale House and each of the other Branches. It may seem strange that I have written the Annual Report for Mr Stoutjesdyk's last year as General Secretary, but I did so upon his request. May the Lord in grace be mindful of him according to the needs of his soul and body, granting him rest after fourteen busy and eventful years at the helm of TBS (Canada).

May the Lord bless and prosper the Trinitarian Bible Society in its efforts to make 'The Word of God Among All Nations' a reality. May He grant prayer in our hearts both for the Society and for each other in our various roles. Most importantly, may His Holy Spirit accompany His Word. Then sinners will be pricked in their hearts and cry out with the Pentecost multitude in Acts 2.37, 'Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?' Then that same 'bride church' multitude will confess with Peter in Matthew 16.16, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God'. Christ has promised His church that 'the gates of hell shall not prevail against it' (Matthew 16.18). Let that be an encouragement for 2024.

On behalf of the Trinitarian Bible Society (Canada),

William Grisnich

General Secretary, Trinitarian Bible Society (Canada)



Trinitarian Bible Society (New Zealand)

From New Zealand we extend our Christian greetings to all the members and friends of the Society. It warms our hearts to see the work done by the General Committee, the staff at Headquarters, and our translators. We pray that the Lord will bless all our efforts in transmitting and translating His Word.

In New Zealand we are still working on reprinting the Gospel according to John in the Māori language. We have also made some progress towards producing a bilingual Bible, although both still require substantial effort.

We have been encouraged by a few reports in our nation of people desiring the Word of God in a sound translation in the past year. However, much work could be undertaken here in our nation to enlighten Christians that soundness and faithfulness of translation are more important than any other consideration, and much wisdom is needed here for discussions on this topic.

May the Lord bless you all.

Berend de Boer

Chairman, Trinitarian Bible Society (New Zealand)



Auckland



Trinitarian Bible Society
(USA)

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff at Trinitarian Bible Society (USA), we extend our warmest Christian greetings to the members of the General Committee, the staff at the TBS Headquarters in London, and all those who are involved in the TBS Branches, auxiliaries, translation projects, or in any other facet of the work of the Trinitarian Bible Society throughout the world.

The year 2023 has once again provided us with many reasons to humbly acknowledge the Lord's gracious hand in providing for and upholding the work of the Society. At TBS (USA) we have witnessed a continued strong, and even growing, interest in the work in different areas of this vast country. We continue to be encouraged by strong sales and donations from our supporters, as well as the comforting knowledge that many individuals and churches throughout the United States regularly lift us up in prayer, that the Lord may prosper and bless the work and bring to naught the opposition to it that is experienced from time to time. The words of Psalm 127.1 are as true for the work of the Society as they are for any other endeavor: 'Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it.' We recognise our dependence upon Almighty God to bless His own Word and the work of the Society in distributing it. How vitally important, then, are our prayers and the prayers of our supporters to that end!

The past year was an important one for TBS (USA) in many ways, not least regarding the printing and promotion of the Society's revision of the Spanish Reina-Valera Bible, a project that had involved more than fifteen years of work for the revision team. In July the first Spanish Bible presentations were held in Colombia and Chile. A recent *Quarterly Record* article (QR 646, January–March 2024) has described these public presentations and thanksgiving services, where hundreds of eager attendees came to receive a copy of the RV-SBT, as the Society's Spanish Bible has been named. Later in the year, presentations were held in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Peru. At each of these presentations we have endeavored to remind ourselves and all of those in attendance that it was the Lord's goodness and wonderful provision that allowed us to complete this monumental project. The Spanish Bible revision team had brought together a group of brethren with different skill sets that remarkably complemented one another; however, we must never lose sight of what God's Word teaches us also in this regard: 'What hast thou that thou didst not receive?' (1 Corinthians 4.7). May all glory go to God alone as we continue to present the Society's new Spanish Bible to thousands, and as we see the interest in the work grow exponentially in the Spanish-speaking world.

It should come as no surprise to us that, along with the huge support for and interest in the work, there will also come trials and challenges to keep us dependent upon the Lord in every step of the way. When these challenges do manifest themselves they can be the source of discouragement. We have borne witness to several occurrences in the printing

and distribution of the Spanish Bible that can definitely serve as a reminder that where the Lord works, including by means of the distribution of His Word, the enemy of souls will make use of everything at his disposal to hinder that work. Printing problems, supply chain issues in Latin America, and a fire in a Colombian port that destroyed 3,000 Spanish Bibles which had arrived there the previous day after a three-month journey from the printer in Brazil, represent just a few of the difficulties we have faced as we strive to keep up with the vast demand for our Spanish Bible. We covet the prayers of our many supporters, that we may see the Lord's hand overruling the cross-providences that come our way, and that His Word may be fulfilled as we read in Acts 19.20: 'mightily grew the word of God and prevailed'.

TBS (USA) has also been encouraged in 2023 with the presentation of the Society's newly completed Chinese New Testament, which was received with much interest by many Chinese pastors and laypersons at conferences in the Washington D.C. area and in the city of Chicago, both areas which contain large Chinese communities. We ask that you remember the Chinese translators working in the United States as they continue their daily work on the Old Testament.

During the past year we have also seen an increased interest in the Society's work in areas of the U.S. where this had not been previously seen, for which we are grateful. This has providentially opened doors for me to present the work of the Society, both in English and Spanish, in churches from different parts of the country. During the previous fifteen years the work on the Spanish Bible revision represented the vast majority of my work, and I have not had the time to do much in the way of presenting and promoting the work of TBS in the United States. I look forward to now being able, the Lord willing, to become more active in this part of the work here in this country, where there still remain many church groups and denominations that uphold the same principles concerning the preservation and translation of God's Word as does the Society.

We would be remiss in not mentioning, by way of appreciation, the close working relationship we continue to enjoy with our colleagues at our TBS London Headquarters. Our General Secretary, Mr Jonathan Arnold, has been an invaluable source of constant help and guidance as we navigate the uncharted territory of Bible printing and distribution in Spanish-speaking Latin America. We give thanks to the Lord for being able to work as brothers of one house with him and each of the other members of the Senior Management Team, along with their entire staff. Perhaps during the past year, more than ever, the words of Psalm 133.1 have rung true for us, 'Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!' May the Lord grant a blessed and prosperous 2024, to His honor and glory.

Be commended to the throne of grace, for Jesus's sake.

On behalf of Trinitarian Bible Society (USA),

William Greendyk

General Secretary, Trinitarian Bible Society (USA)



Report of the UK Deputation Speakers

by Graham Chewter
& Craig Dennison

From the Highlands and Islands to the Channel Islands and Beyond

Last year proved to be another very full year of deputation meetings. Most of our supporting churches wish to have a fresh presentation each year, which helps them to pray for the Society's work in a more informed way.

Although some supporters in the UK may be discouraged by the seemingly small impact that is being made by God's Word among their congregations and local communities, yet many hearts are uplifted by hearing of the Lord's work elsewhere, providing them with a broader picture of the Lord's work worldwide.

At a local meeting, in addition to hearing of the Society's expanding work, the visit is also accompanied by a display of the wide range of TBS publications. Viewing these many items online is good, but seeing them 'in the flesh' is even better, especially if there is a wish to buy a Bible, because handling a new Bible to get 'the feel' of it before purchasing is much appreciated. Furthermore, greetings cards, bookmarks,

and colouring and Scripture quiz books for children remain perennial delights.

In these times, when secular humanism, atheism, and the LGBT agenda have made such terrible inroads into the schools, our supporters are much encouraged to hear that openings still exist for us to visit schools and speak to children about the way of salvation.

For example, the coronation of King Charles III presented an opportunity to visit schools and present commemorative Coronation Bibles to the children. The presentations were conducted during school assemblies, where a lesson was given on the greater King revealed in Scripture—King Jesus. For instance, over 2,300 Bibles were presented to schoolchildren in Northern Ireland. One teacher made contact to say how excited the children were to receive a

copy of Scripture, with over half the class acknowledging this was their first-ever Bible.

While the gift of Bibles each year, in as many schools as possible throughout the UK, has been a regular feature of the Society's work, the King's Coronation of last year (and the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022) were the means, in God's providence, of gaining access to more schools than usual.

Of particular interest was the visit made to the Society's former Headquarters in Dorset Road, London, which is now a Free School. The children learned that a true Christian is like a jewel in the crown of Christ the King. This was followed by every child, as well as fifteen teachers, receiving a Coronation Bible.

In contrast to Northern Ireland, for the majority of children in England the Bibles we present are the only ones they have ever seen or handled. Sadly, Biblical illiteracy is widespread; but having addressed the children we often find their interest is sufficiently awakened for them to desire to receive a copy of the Scriptures for themselves. Prayer is valued for the rich blessing of Heaven upon a younger generation who are deliberately being targeted by present-day sinful ideology, spawned by the father of lies.

Occasionally Deputation Speakers take meetings overseas. In July 2023 the Rev. Dennison was asked to visit Australia to conduct deputation meetings on behalf of TBS (Australia) (a full report was given in *Quarterly Record* 647).

In December he visited Ethiopia for a public meeting of TBS members and supporters. The public meeting was held in central Addis Ababa. The room was almost filled, with many people travelling several hours to be present. Various talks

and presentations were given and the feedback from the public meeting was very positive. After the meeting one attendee commented, 'I will never use a translation from those critical texts again, I will only use the TBS Amharic translation going forward'.

In 2024, the Lord willing the Rev. Dennison will be representing the TBS throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic, Scotland, and the north of England, as well as the USA and Ethiopia.

During October 2023, Graham Chewter visited the USA, preaching and representing the Society's work in Michigan and Florida. A visit to Pensacola Christian College was especially encouraging where a warm reception was received. Opportunity was given to address three language classes at the college's Theological Seminary on the use of the traditional texts of Scripture (Hebrew and Greek) and principles of translation. This was followed by an address by Bill Greendyk on the hunger for the TBS Spanish revision of the Reina Valera Bible.

Who knows—in God's purposes, some of these students may become missionaries or Bible translators who may work with the Society in years to come. It was therefore encouraging to see their interest in the Society's work at this stage of their training. The USA Branch of TBS is prayerfully concerned to see the work expand throughout that vast country.

As well as deputation meetings, the Society's speakers also promote the work by setting up displays at Christian conferences, visiting Bible colleges (where Hebrew and Greek Bibles are supplied free of charge), and assisting in open air Scripture distribution.

Your prayers are much appreciated, for 'Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it' (Psalm 127.1).

'The scripture cannot be broken'

John 10.35



By Pastor M. Harley, a Vice-President of the Society

Breaking the law of our land is regretably something which happens daily. Breaking the Word of God, for example the commandments, is also a daily occurrence, though with much more serious consequences. If I were to drive beyond the speed limit, I may earn trouble for myself, a fine perhaps or some other penalty. The law does not cease to have force because I have broken it; it is not thereby invalidated. Its authority is not reduced in any way by having transgressed it. People think that if they reject God's Law and refuse to submit to it that it has no claims on them. But no matter how much they ignore it and break it, the authority of God's Law remains. Adam and Eve broke God's commandment but still were obliged to obey Him.

And that is the meaning of our text, though maybe just an aspect as there are many applications. The Scripture cannot be invalidated, because it comes with the authority of God Who cannot lie. The infringement of the Word of God comes with dire consequences. We immediately classify ourselves as sinners and the only escape is belief in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that upon repentance His blood cleanses from every sin.

Were I to break the law of God I would earn the wrath of God upon myself, but it would not invalidate the Scripture. We cannot break it with impunity; every disobedience has its recompense. But the Holy Scriptures remain unimpaired.

As early in the unbreakable Scriptures as Genesis 2, two longstanding laws of God are established which our modern generation feels free to break; not only as individuals but by the laws of the land. In Genesis 2.3 we read, 'God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made'. In defiance of this, Sabbath breaking is widely legalised. Another example is in Genesis 2.24 where the marriage between one man and one woman is established. Modern laws of the land legalise the breaking of marriage and the blurring of the sexes. People may try to explain and interpret away clear commands of God on these matters but they cannot destroy their authority. The commandments are not invalidated; we simply heap up trouble for ourselves as the Apostle Paul makes clear in his epistle to the Romans:

'Despise thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds' (Romans 2.4–6).

The Lord Jesus Christ takes it for granted that among the Jews of His day it was correctly accepted that the Scriptures cannot be broken—that is, they could not be invalidated. The point of His reasoning depends upon this very matter. It is proof positive. His contemporaries had objected to the Saviour calling Himself the Son of

God. But the use of the expression 'gods' had Biblical precedent. It concerned lesser men than the Lord Jesus Christ. In Psalm 82.6 it is written, 'I have said, Ye *are* gods'. Likewise 'he judgeth among the gods' (Psalm 82.1). They are the judges in the land, whether kings, princes as their deputies, or appointed judges and magistrates. They are placed there by God to uphold His Law, but they would die like men despite their exalted status. Whereas the Saviour is perfect, if the expression can be attributed to lesser men it can

certainly with justice be attributed to Him.

Omission of certain texts, for example Mark 16.9–20 and John 8.1–11, does not render them invalidated. Those who dispute them simply disqualify the versions which omit them or support those omissions. Those who perpetuate and follow their leading simply heap up trouble for themselves.

A very quick assessment of our standing before God is made by comparing our behaviour with the ten commandments of Exodus 20.1–17. Infractions, whether it be one or many, can only be atoned for by the blood of Jesus Christ, of whom we read, 'when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons' (Galatians 4.4–5). Not to come to Him is to verify His words of Proverbs 8.36, 'he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death'.

The deteriorating days in which we live must not loosen our conviction, the Saviour's conviction, that 'the scripture cannot be broken'.

The Scripture cannot be invalidated, because it comes with the authority of God Who cannot lie. The infringement of the Word of God comes with dire consequences.



Calendars & Diaries for 2025

The Society's Golden Thoughts and Words of Life calendars, and our Pocket Planner Diaries, are ready for distribution. Our Golden Thoughts calendars are available in ten languages, the Words of Life in twelve, and the diary, in two cover options, in English only: each format has many functional and evangelistic uses. Please note stock levels may vary between TBS Branches.

Words of Life Calendar

Scripture text per month with an attractive photograph.

Available in the following languages:

- English (ENGWLC25)
- Albanian (ALBWLC25)
- Bulgarian (BULWLC25)
- Catalan (CATWLC25)
- French (FRAWLC25)
- Hungarian (HUNWLC25)
- Romanian (RONWLC25)
- Russian (RUSWLC25)
- Serbian (SRPWLC25)
- Spanish (SPAWLC25)
- Ukrainian (UKRWLC25)
- Welsh (CYMWLC25)

UK	AUS	CAN	NZ	USA
£1.20	\$2.00	\$1.10	\$2.10	\$1.25

Golden Thoughts Calendar

Scripture text per day, without pictures.
Suitable as a Bible reading plan.

Available in the following languages:

- English (ENGGTC25)
- Afrikaans (AFRGTC25)
- Armenian (ARMGTC25)
- French (FRAGTC25)
- Hausa (HAUGTC25)
- Ndebele (NDEGTC25)
- Portuguese (PORGTC25)
- Shona (SNAGTC25)
- Spanish (SPAGTC25)
- Xhosa (XHOGTC25)

UK	AUS	CAN	NZ	USA
£0.95	\$1.50	\$0.85	\$1.70	\$1.00



Pocket Planner Diary

Week-to-view diary in English featuring a Scripture text per day, Bible reading plan, and weekly footnote for interest and prayer. By using a different cover material and removing the gilt page edging, our blue edition has become much more affordable.

■ **Pictorial cover, marker ribbon** (DY25/SC)

■ **Blue cover, marker ribbon** (DY25/SBL)



	UK	AUS	CAN	NZ	USA
DY25/SC & DY25/SBL	£5.40	\$9.55	\$5.50	\$9.40	\$6.00

Calendar Distribution Ideas

A 35% free distribution discount is available for calendars which will be given away free of charge in Christian evangelistic work at home or overseas. Here are some ideas that may help you think of places in which you might be able to distribute these popular and greatly appreciated calendars.

For personal use

- To indicate appointments and events
- To give to friends and acquaintances
- To accompany seasonal cards and gifts

Ideas for Congregations and Groups

(with the permission of the appropriate group.) To give to:

- Your church, chapel, or assembly
- Visitors
- Sabbath-school children
- Lunch clubs

Ideas for Public Distribution

- For literature tables
- For exhibitions and county fairs
- For door-to-door personal work
- Through letterboxes
- For charities, groups, and associations

- For schools and hospitals
- For retirement care homes
- For shops and restaurants
- For medical and dental surgery receptions
- For coffee shops, restaurants, clubs, sports centres

The Society can ship calendars and diaries directly to third parties (prisons, hospitals, schools, missions, etc.) but only with the recipient's prior agreement. Please contact us for more information.

Please seek permission before leaving copies in public places. It is also advisable that contact details be provided on all copies being distributed.

Diary Distribution Ideas

Diaries make excellent gifts for family and friends, as well as for members of staff, volunteers, and helpers at churches, charities, groups, associations, and companies.

(Please note that the free distribution discount is not available on diaries.)

To order, please visit our website, or contact your local TBS Branch office by phone.

Distribution totals for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Sales		Grants		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Bibles	*567,532	228,361	**83,791	225,451	651,323	453,812
New Testaments	133,044	121,420	224,827	147,980	357,871	269,400
Portions	***578,093	601,969	883,270	655,195	1,461,363	1,257,164
Golden Thoughts Calendars	41,195	31,479	255,711	203,855	296,906	235,334
Words of Life Calendars	195,588	180,575	148,582	145,740	344,170	326,315
Text Cards	71,679	89,847	3,804	2,880	75,483	92,727
Children's Items	18,366	14,825	2,555	414	20,921	15,239
Other Scripture Items	18,123	137,604	9,725	85,317	27,848	222,921
Articles	17,231	19,290	13,844	6,049	31,075	25,339
TOTAL	1,640,851	1,425,370	1,626,109	1,472,881	3,266,960	2,898,251

Notes: * Includes 340,001 Bibles (2022: 0) produced with other publishers under Royalty Agreement.

** Includes 0 Bibles (2022: 177,074) produced with other publishers under Royalty Agreement.

*** Includes 243,140 Portions (2022: 195,030) in association with other organisations under Royalty Agreement.





Editorial Report

by Matthew A. Vogan,
Editorial Director

'He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law'

(Isaiah 42.4)

In this verse we see the constancy of the Lord Jesus Christ: He will not falter nor be discouraged in the great work of establishing His Gospel and Kingdom in the earth (see Matthew 12.17–21). It becomes us therefore to be so ourselves in relation to our small part in that work.

In the simple promise and prophecy that follows, 'the isles shall wait for his law', there is encouragement for the work of the Society in particular. These words from the eighth century B.C. present the ongoing picture of the truth of God reaching to the uttermost parts of the earth.

The Nations

The distant Gentile nations, the coastlands, and scattered islands of the furthest reaches of the Mediterranean and beyond are here referred to as 'the isles'. The in-

habitants of these remotest parts are the 'people, from far' (Isaiah 49.1) found at 'the end of the earth' (Isaiah 42.10). The Lord describes them as 'the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory' (Isaiah 66.19). They are worshippers of false gods, ignorant of the true Saviour.

This is still the case today. There are scattered islands to the furthest reaches of the earth speaking many languages. Many have never heard the Gospel, others are in remote communities among the nations that make up parts of Africa and Asia. This Annual Report indicates a growing number of languages that we have been able to engage with. Some are tribal languages spoken in comparatively isolated parts of the world, and in some cases the Word of God has never been translated into the mother tongue of these people groups.

There are also vast numbers in larger nations and even great cities who sit in darkness. Think of the 10/40 window: the area across North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude, which includes the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. It contains two-thirds of the world's population, and 95% are still unevangelised.

Yet even in the major languages and the more developed parts of the world there is a fearful spiritual remoteness from the true God. Are there not many we meet, and even know, who are without God and without hope in the world? Many of them are entire strangers to the Word of God. Who will bring the Word to them if we do not? There are also large numbers in Western and other nations who do not have the Scriptures in their first language, including those whose plight is less visible because it is not based on their ethnicity but rather on their impaired hearing which means that their mother tongue is a sign language.

The Word

We may be tempted to despair at the sheer magnitude of this task, yet Christ shall not fail nor be discouraged. The powerful transforming means of His Word is at His complete disposal. The entrance of Christ's Word brings light into the darkness of the nations that are at a distance from their Creator. By 'his law' is clearly meant revealed truth; while it can mean teaching, it must at least include the revealed will of God in His Word which teaches us everything that we are to believe or practice. Without Scripture this will not be fully available to the nations. Because it is the whole revealed will of the Redeemer, we see that the whole Bible is needed in translation. The isles continue to 'wait for his law' when they have only received it in part. The Word of Life must keep going forth in its fullness until the nations are leavened with this truth (cf. Isaiah 2.3). It works powerfully yet often unobserved, 'He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street' (Isaiah 42.2). He uses this means to establish the faith of the Gospel and 'set judgment in the earth'.

The Need

The isles wait for Christ's Law because they need it. Some of those who expound this verse view the need as subjective and others as objective. The word used here does mean to wait with expectation or longing and is found elsewhere in Scripture e.g. Job 29.23. Some indeed are conscious of their need whether by realising the inability of any man-made religion to offer the truth, or by coming into contact with a little knowledge of the true God. Some have embraced the Gospel but realise they do not have access to the whole counsel of God in a language they can understand.

Others do not wait with longing; they are ignorant of the Saviour and His Word of salvation, and blinded by the darkness of

false religion. Yet until the Word comes to them, they must remain in the darkness of sin. Nothing but the Word can meet their desperate need by nature. The American commentator Henry Cowles expresses this emphatically,

The isles need His law; 'law' in the sense of His great system of revealed truth; they perish without it; and can have no real life till they attain this law; and therefore may be said to wait for it, though unconscious of the good it will bring them. Their waiting is not that of distinct expectation, nor even of specific desire, but of crushing want which may be thought of as itself waiting for and even imploring this Divine supply. They wait for it in the sense that they perish without it, that this only can give them life.¹

Of course, it is the mighty work of God's grace and Spirit that is needed to make the Word read and heard effectual unto salvation. And this is what the verse brings before us: it is Christ's work to 'set judgment in the earth' although He uses various means. Chiefly He works through His church, and the Society is able to act as a handmaid to the church. Isaiah 42.4 speaks very much of the motto of the Society: the Word of God among all nations. There is a great purpose behind this work and it is the purpose of the Society 'to promote the Glory of God and the salvation of men' by the circulation of Scripture.

Those who selected this as the main object of the Society in 1831 were perhaps aware that the old writers stated these to be the chief ends of Scripture, or God's aim in providing us with the Word. The primary or highest end was the glory of God 'shining in every syllable'. As one writer put it, 'These writings lead a man wholly out of himself, and out of the whole world, and from and above all the creatures to the Creator alone,

to give him the glory of all'. The secondary aim of Scripture which serves this is the salvation of men; these Scriptures 'bring solid and eternal comfort and salvation to their souls which follow their direction. They make us wise unto salvation, as seen in 2 Timothy 3.15, 23.² Pray with us that they may make many wise unto salvation to the very ends of the earth, for the greater glory of God.

Our Staff

We must give thanks to the Lord for continued health and availability of our staff since the work would be greatly hindered without this. It will be clear from the report that follows that the number of projects and potential projects is increasing considerably.

It is remarkable that in his two days per week for the Society, Philip Hopkins, Senior Editorial Consultant (Projects), continues to sustain a significant share of our Bible translation and revision projects (while those with full-time translators are overseen directly by the Editorial Director). It is a demanding role, and we are thankful that he is able to travel on behalf of the Society, particularly visiting Kenya and Liberia earlier this year. In the remainder of the week his work as a pastor is of course demanding and we are thankful to the Lord for sustaining grace in it all.

Larry Brigden has also borne a growing burden of projects to advise us as Senior Editorial Consultant (Linguistics). Translation teams often find his knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew helps them resolve difficult points, while his scrutiny and approval of the independent analysis of translations is a crucial stage in the process of bringing them to publication. Larry's articles on points of translation (as in the current issue) are carefully considered and widely valued.



Editorial presentation at the 2024 Open Day

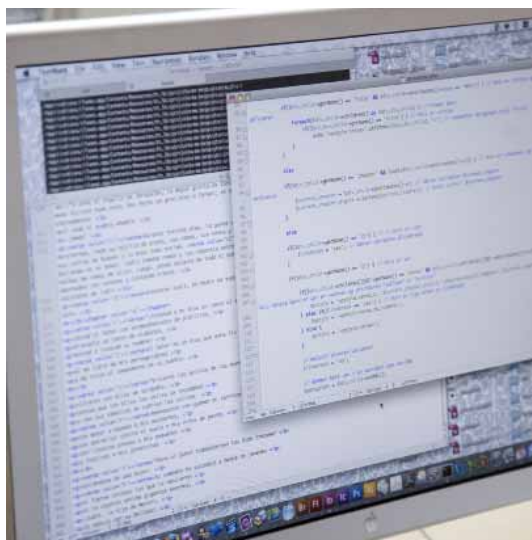
Natalie Hanks leads the detailed and careful checking of all our print and digital publications to ensure they are of high quality. Those attending the Open Day in March were able to get a fascinating insight into this area. The *Quarterly Record* maintains an excellent standard in terms of design and content owing to her diligent endeavours. Natalie is also involved in bringing many of our new English products to fruition, and oversees the Society's social media presence.

Based within reach of the new TBS (Canada) office in Alberta, Elizabeth Tichelaar has been able to work alongside the new staff there. She shoulders a significant workload in reviewing and preparing the text of translations through system checks, and painstaking editing and proofreading. She also works with translators to prepare the Words of Life and Golden Thoughts calendars, and the diary. Another aspect of her role is to ensure that there is fresh, well-presented content on the TBS web-pages as well as providing supporters and the media with regular email newsletters.

Daniel Bulcan has been able to establish himself in similar role of reviewing and checking manuscripts for publication. Once publications have reached the printer, further intensive checks on the proofs

and final printed edition are needed. Daniel is on hand for this important step in the process. We also continue to call on the proofreading skills of Debra Anderson occasionally, and were sorry for her sore loss in the passing of her husband George who himself laboured in the work of the Editorial Department over many years.

From his home in Wales, our Graphic Designer, Peter Hughes, undertakes the arduous work of typesetting Scriptures in a host of different languages and scripts. We are thankful that automations connected to the Editorial System mean that work which could previously take months can now be undertaken in considerably less time. He is also able to design new fonts and settings such as for our forthcoming



Typesetting the Scriptures

English Hampton Text Bible. The volume of projects that require the detailed laying out of Scripture is at times significant, but we are able to benefit from Peter's years of experience and careful attention to detail.

With many translations, such as Chinese and French, coming to publication we have been able to continue using David

Astudillo's videographic skills to promote these projects. He was heavily involved in the launch and promotion of the Spanish Bible. Likewise, there have been a significant number of more general videos that help to communicate our principles in a way that many find engaging. David's creative skills are also used in much design work for the Society.

Tim Tribe, the Society's IT consultant, continues to develop and support the Editorial System which greatly assists our work. A vital new tool to support translators is a proof site where they can preview and review the translated text in a similar way to the TBS Online Bible. Online Scriptures are valued across the world, and a number of languages (some that have never before had the Scriptures) have been added over the past year to tbsonlinebible.com. We have also been able to call on the highly valued labours of a number of volunteers for specific tasks.

In addition to the print distribution figures provided in the Operations Report herein, it is encouraging to see



Digital Access in 2023

- Total number of visits to the **Online Bible App** – **185.6 thousand**
- Total number of unique visits to the **TBS Spanish Scripture website** – **158.4 thousand**
- Total number of unique users of other apps (mainly for the **Portuguese Bible in Brazil**) – **4.8 million**



increased digital access to TBS Scriptures across the world as the following statistics for 2023 demonstrate.

These are our ongoing labours that the Lord has been pleased to assign to us, despite our being conscious of much weakness and unworthiness in all we do. What an inestimable privilege to be able to say as it were, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare *it* in the isles afar off' (Jeremiah 31.10). The Lord confirms us in this with His own promise, 'Surely the isles shall wait for me' (Isaiah 60.9). And surely that is strong encouragement for our prayers together to that end!

Endnotes:

1. Henry Cowles, *Isaiah: with notes, critical, explanatory and practical* (New York, USA: 1869), p. 331.
2. Edward Leigh, *A systeme or body of divinity consisting of ten books* (London, UK: 1654), Book I, I, p. 8. Similar expressions were used by earlier European theologians like Franciscus Junius, Franciscus Gomarus, and Lucas Trelcatius.



Annual Report on Non-English Language Bible Projects

*Prepared by Matthew Vogan, Editorial Director &
Philip J. D. Hopkins, Senior Editorial Consultant (Projects)*

This article 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.

In the past twelve months (May 2023–April 2024) the following have been published.

- ▶ **Ukrainian** New Testament
- ▶ **Traditional Chinese** New Testament digital online edition
- ▶ **Slovak** John-Romans digital online edition
- ▶ **Desauri Tharu** John digital online edition
- ▶ **German** John digital online edition
- ▶ **Korean** John digital online edition
- ▶ **Pokot** John digital online edition
- ▶ **Shona** Bible digital online edition
- ▶ **Swahili** John digital online edition
- ▶ **Thaiti Maithili** John digital online edition

In the preceding twelve months to the above (June 2022–May 2023) the following were published:

- ▶ **Hungarian** Large Print Bible (new setting)
- ▶ **Romanian** Large Print Bible (new setting)
- ▶ **Spanish** Bible
- ▶ **Russian** Bible digital online edition
- ▶ **Chinese** New Testament
- ▶ **French** New Testament
- ▶ **Koiné Greek** New Testament (new setting)
- ▶ **Russian** Large Print New Testament (new setting)

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.)

- ▶ Chichewa Bible
- ▶ Czech Bible (digital online edition initially)
- ▶ Hungarian Bible (digital online edition only)
- ▶ Italian Bible (digital online edition only)
- ▶ Vaiphei Bible
- ▶ Zokam Bible
- ▶ Zou Bible
- ▶ Dan/Gio New Testament
- ▶ Delitzsch Hebrew New Testament
- ▶ Kalenjin New Testament
- ▶ Kom New Testament
- ▶ Biblical Hebrew Old Testament (digital online edition only)
- ▶ Slovak Gospel according to John and Epistle to the Romans
- ▶ Boro Gospel according to John
- ▶ Hindi Gospel according to John
- ▶ Italian Gospel according to John (new setting)
- ▶ Kannada Gospel according to John
- ▶ Kikamba Gospel according to John
- ▶ Korean Gospel according to John
- ▶ Mauritian Creole Gospel according to John
- ▶ Modern Greek Gospel according to John
- ▶ Swahili Gospel according to John
- ▶ Tamil Gospel according to John
- ▶ Telugu Gospel according to John

The following section provides more detail on most of 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 (some are not likely to progress, others are being researched but some are potential projects).

The languages mentioned are listed alphabetically under the following geographic regions: Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Caucasus, the Indian subcontinent, rest of Asia plus Oceania, and the Americas. Population numbers are approximate and reflect the total number of speakers worldwide, and include second or other language speakers in addition to native speakers (these are also rounded).

75 languages:

a definite project in which some progress has been made over the last twelve months.

31 languages:

carrying out research or giving consultancy advice, and/or exploring the possibility of doing some (further) work.

2 languages:

stalled projects, yet some prospect of further progress.

3 languages:

initial work or research has come to a premature end (at least for the present).



Africa

AFRIKAANS [RESEARCH];

South Africa (18 million) – Afrikaans is spoken in South Africa and Namibia, and to a lesser extent in Botswana,

Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Over the past twelve months we have been in touch with a native Afrikaans-speaking pastor who, together with several others, is keen to work with the Society in preparing a new translation directly from the Greek Received and Hebrew Masoretic Texts. The main contact has begun translating the Gospel according to John. Another brother is translating the TBS article *The Lord Gave the Word* into Afrikaans. Our sister society, the Gereformeerde Bijbelstichting (GBS), continue to prepare an Afrikaans translation of the standard notes which accompany the Statenvertaling Bible.

■ **AMHARIC; Ethiopia (60 million)** – We are grateful for the financial support of a number of partners, which has facilitated several printings of the New Testament and Psalms, copies of which continue to be very well received among Amharic speakers in Ethiopia and other countries. The Society has registered in Ethiopia and a distribution office has been established in Addis Ababa. Old Testament translation has slowed in the past year due to the demands of the registration and distribution on our translator's time. Nevertheless, the first draft of much of the Pentateuch has been prepared. Significant avenues of distribution have been established in many parts of Ethiopia

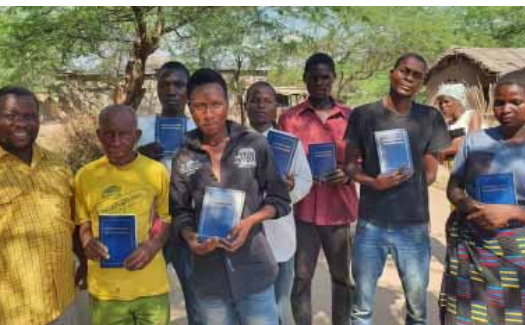
and also in South Africa. We are grateful for financial support from TBS (Canada) and other donors for this project, and for the funds raised by firstBible International (fBI) for printing the New Testament and Psalms at Bearing Precious Seed, Milford, Ohio, USA. At the time of writing a further 30,000 copies of the New Testament and Psalms are being printed.

■ **BASA [RESEARCH]; Nigeria (326,000)** – The Basa are a tribe found in a remote area of western Nigeria. Regrettably, at present we have no open door to progress work in this language, but we pray that the Lord would raise up Bible translators in Basa who can prepare the new faithful Bible version which they very much need.

■ **BEMBA; Zambia (4.1 million)** – Bemba is a Bantu language spoken primarily in north-eastern Zambia by the Bemba people and as a lingua franca (language of wider communication) by about eighteen related ethnic groups throughout Zambia. Bemba has several dialects, many being varieties of Bemba spoken by other tribes who have historically fallen under Bemba influence. After the Gospel according to John was published several years ago, translation of the rest of the New Testament has picked up pace over the past twelve months, aided by the appointment of two additional translators. At the time of writing, only the Epistles of John, and Revelation remain to be drafted. The Gospel according to John was distributed in Zambia through individual local churches to which translators and reviewers belonged, and through Free Grace Evangelistic Association (FGEA) conferences and seminars. Once the Bemba New Testament is published, it is intended to use the same means of distribution and include other church organisations and denominations. The Society is grateful to the FGEA for their partnership with us on this project.



Our Amharic translator at work



Distribution of Chichewa New Testaments

■ **CHICHEWA; Malawi and Zambia (14.3 million)** – Chichewa is a Bantu language spoken primarily in Malawi but also in parts of Zambia and Mozambique. It is hoped that, in God's timing, this interim project based on the Authorised Version will eventually lead to a new translation directly from the Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Received Texts. After extensive checks, the Old Testament translation has been finalised. The New Testament has also been thoroughly reviewed and is currently being checked by the Editorial Department. Once the complete Bible text has been approved by TBS it will be typeset, thoroughly proofread, and then prepared for printing. The Society is grateful to FGEA for their long-term partnership with us on this project. The Chichewa New Testament has proved very popular. Alongside distribution via TBS contacts in Malawi and the extensive FGEA network in Malawi and Zambia, our friends at Bearing Precious Seed have also been able to print and distribute tens of thousands of copies through their contacts in Malawi. The same distribution avenues are envisaged for the Chichewa Bible.

■ **DAN/GIO; Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire (1.6 million)** – Dan is a tonal language spoken in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. The Society's Senior Editorial Consultant – Projects was able to visit Liberia in February and a report of that informative visit is

due to appear in a future *Quarterly Record*. After years of careful checking of the tone marks, spelling, vocabulary, and sentence structure, the New Testament text is close to being finalised. The Lord has kindly provided funding for the printing of the New Testament through the generosity of a particular congregation. Meanwhile, the Old Testament translation began in December 2022 and is being generously funded by firstBible International. Initial draft translation work has progressed as far as 1 Samuel. Prayer is requested for one of the translators who suffered a stroke last year. Distribution is due to be through the local churches and church denominations connected with the translators.

■ **GUÉRÉ or WÈ SOUTHERN/NEAO and WÈ WESTERN/KAOWLU [RESEARCH]; Côte d'Ivoire (479,000 and 25,000)** – During the past year we were able to make good contact with speakers of the Guéré (Neao) language who could help us assess how far a New Testament published by TBS in 1982 may meet our current standards and principles. A Guéré (Kaowlu) New Testament was also published in 1991. These historical partnerships were with Baptist Mid-Missions (now Bibles International) and we understand that they are undertaking or planning revision projects in these languages.

■ **KABYLE [PILOT PROJECT]; Algeria (7.9 million)** – Kabyle is a Berber language predominantly spoken in Kabylia, a region in northeast Algeria as well as in the capital Algiers. Kabyle borrows significantly from French but mostly from Arabic, which, as in other languages, can present challenges for Bible translation. There is significant persecution for Christians in Algeria, and movements for Kabyle autonomy have attracted additional repression. Historically there was significant publication and distribution of Kabyle Scriptures by the Society from 1920 onwards, and TBS printed various

Gospels during the 1950s and up until 1967. Previous investigations have indicated the need for an accurate translation and replacement of Arabic words. The draft of the Gospel according to John has been reviewed and corrections are being made before it can be recommended for publication. Given the restrictions on Christian activity, distributing Gospels in Algeria could be challenging, but we trust that it will nevertheless be possible for Kabyle speakers to access it.

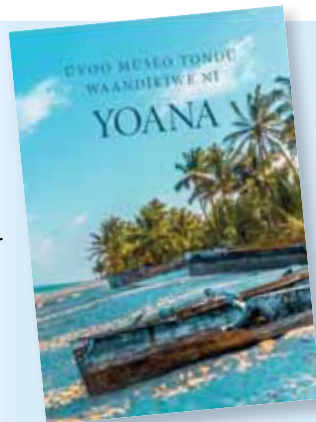
■ **KALENJIN; Kenya (c. 2 million)** – Kalenjin is one of the tribal languages belonging to the Nilotic family. There is little published literature in the language. Since 2014 TBS has been working with a team in Kenya to prepare a faithful new translation of the Kalenjin Scriptures directly from the Biblical languages, with secondary reference to the Authorised (King James) Version and other extant Kalenjin Bibles. The New Testament has been typeset and thoroughly reviewed. A set of final corrections need to be checked by the team, after which it should be finalised for printing. The team have also nearly completed a second proofreading of the Old Testament, after which they will embark on a final proofreading, aiming to complete by the end of 2024. The New Testament and then the Bible are due to be distributed primarily through two key denominations and several inter-denominational Bible colleges. We are thankful for firstBible International partnering with us on this project.

■ **KIKAMBA or KAMBA; Kenya (5.2 million)** – Kikamba is a Bantu language, spoken chiefly in the Kenyan counties of Machakos, Kitui, and Makueni. After detailed checking and proofreading, the Gospel according to John is typeset and ready for printing. Translation of the Gospel according to Matthew is close to completion and a draft translation of *The Lord Gave*

the Word is now ready for review. Once published, distribution of the Gospel according to John is anticipated through a number of local churches and church denominations. We are grateful to the Friends of Africa Missionary Endeavour (FAME) mission for their financial support of this project.

■ **KIRUNDI or RUNDI [RESEARCH]; Burundi (13.2 million)** – Kirundi or Rundi is a Bantu tonal language; the majority of speakers are in Burundi, but it is also spoken in Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, and other countries. French literacy is especially low in Burundi outside the main city of Bujumbura, and Kirundi is the first language in these parts. The existing translation in this language was rendered from the Louis Segond 1910 French Bible and thus deficient both translationally and textually. Through our friends in FGEA there is a desire to see a sound translation made in this language, but we do not yet have individuals who have come forward for the work.

■ **KISANGA or SANGA [POTENTIAL PROJECT]; Democratic Republic of Congo (431,000)** – Kisanga (or Sanga) is a Bantu language chiefly spoken in some of the southern areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Society published a Kisanga Bible in 1991. After some delays we have been able to evaluate this Bible, and it is evident that there are some areas where corrections are needed or revision would



Cover of the Kikamba Gospel according to John

be necessary to comply with the standards and principles of the Society. However, copyright on the New Testament and Isaiah text is held by the Scottish Bible Society and any amendment would be subject to their approval. It may be possible to begin with the Gospel according to John.

■ **LALA-BISA** [RESEARCH]; **Zambia (353,000)** – Lala-Bisa or Bisa is a Bantu language of Zambia that is closely related to Bemba. While there is no Bible in this language, we have been informed that all Bisa speakers can read Bemba (one of our current projects). After careful deliberation with our friends at FGEA, it was agreed to focus our efforts in Zambia on the Bemba project and leave the minor language variants of Bemba, such as Lala-Bisa, until the Bemba Scriptures have been published.

■ **MA'DI** [CONSULTANCY]; **Uganda and South Sudan (326,000)** – Ma'di is a central Sudanic language spoken in South Sudan and Uganda. TBS is providing a consultancy-only service to our friends at WorldView Ministries, to whom this project belongs. We were able to help review the text of John and Romans, providing feedback on back translations of key verses. These books are now in process of being printed for distribution to the community. The ongoing work is moving along very well. The team of five translators are working diligently and it is estimated that, God willing, they are about one year away from being ready to publish the New Testament.

■ **MAURITIAN CREOLE** or **MORISYEN** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Mauritius (1 million)** – Mauritian Creole is a French-based creole language, but also includes words from English and from the many African and Asian languages that have been spoken on the island. Over the past year our lead translator has benefitted from his studies at the firstBible School of Translation, and this has been a help to his translation efforts.

The Gospel according to John has been typeset and thoroughly reviewed. A set of final corrections need to be made and then checked, after which it should be finalised for printing. Since the last Annual Report three members have joined the lead translator, and it is hoped they will finalise the Gospel according to Mark and first epistle of John in the next twelve months. Distribution of the Gospel according to John is due to commence with local Baptist churches and then to be expanded to other denominations as opportunities arise.

■ **NEW! NAMBYA** [RESEARCH]; **Zimbabwe and Botswana (105,000)** – Nambya, or Nanzwa/Nanzva, is a tonal Bantu language spoken by the Nambya people in northwestern Zimbabwe. It is either classified as a dialect of Kalanga or as a closely related language. It is a first language in the community and is taught in some primary schools. The Nambya people are mainly animistic historically but there is also a large minority of Roman Catholics amongst them. In 1976 the Society produced a Gospel according to John in Nambya. We have been making enquiries for those who could review this and have been able to make contact with a Nambya-speaking pastor at the time of writing to undertake an analysis.

■ **NDEBELE; Zimbabwe (3 million)** – Ndebele (specifically northern Ndebele) is a Bantu language spoken by the Northern Ndebele people of Zimbabwe. It is closely related to Zulu. Southern Ndebele is a



2012 TBS
Ndebele Bible

separate language spoken in South Africa by 2.5 million, although there is some degree of mutual intelligibility between them. Since the TBS Ndebele Bible was first published in 2012, suggestions for corrections, mainly to the language, have been received from a variety of readers. These are now being reviewed, and recommended corrections arising from this review are due to be submitted to the TBS by the end of the year with the aim of all accepted corrections being made in the next printing of the Bible.

■ **NKOYA [RESEARCH]; Zambia (36,000)**

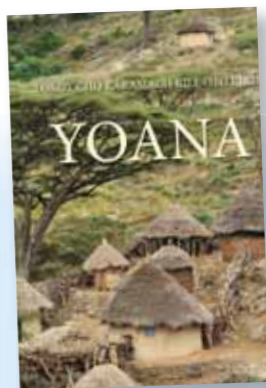
– Nkoya is a Bantu language spoken in Western Zambia (near to Mongu). It is similar to Losi, but with many differences. There is an Nkoya version of the Bible, but it is not an accurate or faithful translation. After careful deliberation with our friends at FGEA it was agreed to focus our efforts in Zambia on the Bemba project, and leave the less widely spoken languages until the Bemba Scriptures have been published.

■ **POKOT (PÖKOOT); Kenya (883,000)** –

Pokot is a tribal language mainly spoken in the northern part of Kenya. This new translation is primarily from the

TBS Greek New Testament with secondary reference to the Authorised (King James) Version. Our lead translator also refers to the first edition TBS Pokot New Testament of 1967, as well as the Pokot New Testament published by the Bible Society of Kenya and other extant African language translations. The team have made slow but steady progress and have completed

Acts and Romans in the past year; they are now working through 1 and 2 Corinthians.



Pokot Gospel according to John

The Society provides financial support for translation team meetings using incoming funds that are specifically designated for it. The Gospel according to John was distributed through the churches connected with the translation team who come from different Pokot-speaking settlements.

■ **SHONA; Zimbabwe (10.9 million)** –

Shona is the main tribal language of Zimbabwe and is spoken by approximately 70% of the population. The Zimbabwean Mission of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland (FPCS), which was responsible for the translation work, has distributed Shona Bibles in hospitals, schools, churches,



Shona Bible distribution

prisons, and through public meetings. Other denominations have also distributed the TBS Shona Bible, for which demand heavily outstrips supply. The FPCS mission in Zimbabwe is currently revising its translation of the Metrical Psalms in Shona.

■ **SWAHILI; Tanzania and Eastern Africa (86.5 million)** –

Swahili is a language of wider communication chiefly spoken in the countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The translation work is being undertaken directly from the Greek Received Text by a suitably qualified Swahili speaker, supported by

several other Swahili speakers: four based in Kenya and one in Tanzania. In 2023, the Gospel according to John was published online. It has subsequently been reviewed by a Swahili grammar specialist who recommended changes which are currently being discussed. A Swahili translation of the Society's article *The Lord Gave the Word* has been made. It is planned to print a trial edition of the Scriptures first and call for feedback, as Swahili exhibits considerable regional variation and we would like our edition to be widely accepted across East Africa.

■ **XHOSA** [RESEARCH]; **South Africa (19.2 million)** – Xhosa is one of the official languages of South Africa. We continue to pray that a new translation project, directly from the Biblical languages, might commence with suitably qualified translators raised up by God for this work.

■ **NEW! ZULU** [POTENTIAL PROJECT]; **South Africa (27.8 million)** – The first Zulu Bible was translated by the missionary William C. Wilcox, who devised a written form of the language. Having begun the project in 1845 the translation was completed in 1883. The New Testament was primarily based on the Received Text. It was then revised various times afterwards to conform to the Critical Greek Text, and other modern versions have also been produced in past decades. During the past year we have been contacted by some Zulu speakers with a desire to see a translation based on the Received Text. This has not developed into a project as yet, but we continue to commit the matter to the Lord.



Europe

NEW! ALBANIAN

[POTENTIAL PROJECT]; **Albania (7.5 million)** – Also known as Shqip, this is the official language of Albania and Kosovo, and a co-official language in

North Macedonia and Montenegro. It is spoken by large numbers in other surrounding countries and the wider diaspora. While there were efforts towards translation work in the late 1990s, these did not prove fruitful. Recently it has been possible to review an existing translation and with some corrections the Gospel according to John is suitable for publication.

■ **BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE; UK**

(86,000) – In October 2020 the General Committee agreed to commence a pilot project in British Sign Language (BSL), where the signing would be placed in video above the English Authorised Version on the Society's online Bible. Since the last Annual Report, the main signer has obtained BSL Level 6, which is the top BSL qualification. However, the project overseer has been very unwell, which has hampered progress. Please remember this project in your prayers.

■ **BULGARIAN; Bulgaria (7.9 million)**

– Following the passing of our Bulgarian reviser in 2021 we do not have someone duly qualified to take on his work, and so we look to the Lord to provide suitable personnel to move this work forward.

■ **CATALAN; Spain (9.3 million)** – The Society's Catalan Bible, first published in 2009, continues to be circulated throughout the region of Cataluña. Gideons International printed 20,000 copies of the New Testament and Psalms in Catalan on licence from us, and we trust the Lord will bless that distribution. Various initiatives continue to make these Scriptures available more widely through digital (and potentially) audio means. Recently we have been making further progress on some minor corrections to the first edition. The full text of the Catalan Bible is publicly available on our online Bible at tbsonlinebible.com/#ca.

■ **CZECH; Czech Republic (12.3 million)**

– The 1613 Kralice Bible is one of the classic

Reformation-era Bibles. It has been fully digitised, and the digital text has been proofread by a native speaker. A set of cross-references for the Czech Bible has also been completed. It is hoped that the digital text will be published on the TBS online Bible app by the end of this year. Owing to limited demand, any printing is likely to be on a short run digital press. Contact from churches or organisations with distribution channels would be welcome.

■ **NEW! FINNISH** [RESEARCH]; **Finland (5.6 million)** – There was a Reformation-era Finnish Bible translation from the Received Text by the Lutheran Michael Agricola in 1548. A fourth edition of the 1642 revision was published in 1776 which was later revised in 1852. After this the Finnish language was standardised and there was a need to reflect this in the Bible, but the 1933 edition was then also conformed to the Critical Greek Text. During the past year we were able to meet with a native Finnish speaker who could confirm this information and indicated the need for the 1852 revision to be updated to reflect modern Finnish. This would be a significant piece of work and we look to the Lord for someone who might have the burden and abilities to undertake this task.

■ **FRENCH; France and many other countries (311.7 million)** – Since 2013 the Society has been revising the 1872 Lausanne Bible. The French New Testament published in 2023 has been very well received, especially in Francophone Africa. Work in the Old Testament proceeds.

French New Testament

Having initially prepared Psalms and Proverbs, the team have since progressed through the Pentateuch and are presently revising 2 Samuel. Individual team members are working in 1 Kings. It is hoped at some stage we will publish the New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs. So far several organisations, including FGEA, have been instrumental in distributing the New Testament, and we are also grateful to our friends at TBS (Canada) for their financial and prayerful support of this project. Around 40,000 New Testaments are planned for distribution in Africa in partnership with FGEA and kindly funded by GBS.

■ **GERMAN; Germany and Austria (133.9 million)** – The Society has received feedback on a list of possible corrections to our 1912–1998 revised Luther Bible. While some corrections were assessed as being helpful, others were not. We continue to mull over how best to move forward with the suggestions and feedback received.

■ **NEW! GREENLANDIC or KALAALLISUT** [RESEARCH]; **Greenland (57,700)** – Greenlandic is the official language of Greenland and is spoken by the Greenlandic Inuit. It is the most widely spoken of the Eskimo–Aleut languages and is closely related to the Inuit languages in Canada such as Inuktitut. The main variety is Kalaallisut, or West Greenlandic. The New Testament was translated by Norwegian missionaries and printed in 1766. Further translation work was done by Johan Kleinschmidt in 1822 which was later revised and published together with the Old Testament around the end of the nineteenth century. The orthography was being defined in the nineteenth century but was later reformed in 1973. The Danish Bible Society produced a modern version in 2000. During the past year we have been in contact with a man who is transcribing the Samuel Kleinschmidt version of the Old



Greenlandic New Testament from the old orthography to the current one. The work has been delayed due to personal issues, but we are following the progress.

■ **MODERN GREEK; Greece (13.2 million)** – Work to translate the Society's edition of the Koiné Greek New Testament directly into current literary Greek has progressed well. After review of the draft text of the Gospel according to John by independent native Greek speakers, it has now been typeset. Once further corrections have been incorporated, final proofreading will take place. The Society is also considering a future publication of the modern Greek text alongside the original Koiné Greek as this will be helpful for Greek speakers wishing to learn Koiné Greek, reassure Greek Orthodox readers, and be of interest to others.

■ **HUNGARIAN** [POTENTIAL PROJECT]; **Hungary (12.4 million)** – The digital text of the TBS 1908 Károli Bible has been completely prepared, although initial checks have highlighted some important corrections that will need to be made. In addition, we have resumed active contact with a native Hungarian pastor who has already done some linguistic revision to the 1908 text. He has also recruited several helpers to work on a full Hungarian Bible revision project. However, his efforts have been somewhat curtailed for the time being by family illness, and so prayer is requested for the situation.

■ **ITALIAN; Italy (66.8 million)** – The digital text of the entire Diodati Bible was fully prepared together with a set of cross references, but we stand in need of at least one native Italian speaker to help us check the text. Once those checks have taken place, the aim is to make the Italian Bible digitally available on our online Bible.

■ **NEW! LATVIAN** [RESEARCH]; **Latvia (2 million)** – For some years the Society has

been exploring the potential for the Latvian Scriptures. It has been difficult, however, to establish contact with Latvian speakers who can help evaluate existing translations and the manuscript of a revision contributed to the Society. We continue prayerfully to seek a native speaker who could assist us with this.

■ **NEW! LITHUANIAN** [LICENSING]; **Lithuania (2.8 million)** – For some years the Society has been able to make a Gospel according to Mark available in Lithuanian. In recent months a contact has brought to our attention a translation from the Received Text which compares favourably against another Received Text translation. After a successful analysis of the Gospel according to John we are proceeding with an analysis of the full Bible in the hope that it may be possible to print this translation under licence.

■ **MALTESE; Malta (573,000)** – Since the last Annual Report we were very encouraged to appoint a new lead reviser on this project to revise the TBS Maltese Bible so that it conforms to the latest set of grammar rules and to update the language to modern usage. The new project lead has worked apace, notwithstanding serious ill health and a long spell in hospital. The Lord has therefore answered prayer that the work would move forward. However, the linguistic work this brother is doing will need further review by others, which we trust will happen. Please continue to remember this project in your prayers.

■ **NORWEGIAN; Norway (5.4 million)** – The Society has been in touch for some years with a translator in Norway, working on a new edition of the Bible in Norwegian primarily using the English Authorised Version but with secondary reference to the underlying Biblical texts. Following a recent review the translator informed us that he is now going through the whole Bible for

the last time before the text is ready to be printed. We hope that the text will be available to us for checks and typesetting towards the end of 2024, God willing.

■ **NEW! POLISH** [Pilot Project]; **Poland (41.8 million)** – During the past year we have been working with an individual who is seeking to revise the text, bringing it into closer conformity to the Greek Received Text using current literary Polish. After he made some adjustments to align with TBS principles, the Editorial Department were happy with his work on the Gospel according to John, but we are keen to see his work on the other Gospels before proceeding from the pilot project to a closer arrangement with him. During the coming year it is hoped we will be able to publish the Gospel according to John (subject to Committee approval) and for the translator to finish work on all four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. Contact from churches or organisations with distribution channels would be welcome.



■ **PORTUGUESE; Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, and Portugal (263.9 million)** – In recent decades hundreds of millions of copies of our Portuguese Scriptures have been circulated throughout the Portuguese-speaking world. The currently published text conforms to the rules specified by the internationally recognised Portuguese language academy. Our Portuguese Bible

text is available through the Society's main platform at tbsonlinebible.com/#pt or for Portuguese speakers through our Brazilian Branch website biblias.com.br. Each year there are millions of visits to the Brazilian website and other apps to view the Scriptures.

■ **ROMANIAN; Romania (25.6 million)** – Since the close of 2023 the Society has been undertaking a review of the edition of the Romanian Scriptures published in 2018. This has focussed on ways in which the revised Romanian text of the New Testament could be brought closer to the Received Text. This has progressed well and should be complete by the summer of 2024. During 2025 it is hoped to translate other TBS articles as well as continuing to distribute and promote existing material within Romania.

■ **RUSSIAN; Russian Federation (255.3 million)** – The Society publishes the Russian Synodal Bible, which is widely used among Russian-speaking Christians. As well as several print editions, it is also available digitally on our online Bible app, tbsonlinebible.com/#ru. A Russian translation of *The Lord Gave the Word* is also available online and in print.

■ **SLOVAK; Slovakia (7.4 million)** – Slovak is closely related to Czech and Polish and is the official language of the Slovak Republic. We are delighted to report that, at the time of writing, the Gospel according to John and Paul's Epistle to the Romans has just been published. The translator has set up a Slovak webpage for people and organisations to be able to order their

Slovak John and Romans



copies free of charge. It is also anticipated that like-minded individuals, churches, and missionary organisations will distribute our Slovak text. John and Romans has also been published on our Online Bible App tbsonlinebible.com/#sk. The lead translator is currently translating the second half of Matthew and looking forward to working next in Mark. A second draft translation of the Society's article *The Lord Gave the Word* has been prepared but further work is necessary.



Spanish Bible distribution

■ **SPANISH; Spain and Latin America (559.6 million)** – The final revision of the entire Bible was completed and published in 2023. Since that time, numerous special thanksgiving and launch services have taken place in different countries of Latin America, as well as in the United States. No developments are foreseen regarding further revision of the Spanish Bible, but we do continue to receive some helpful suggestions for corrections to the current text, and some corrections have been made in the latest printing. Additional suggestions that are being sent to us occasionally primarily have to do with the Scripture references at the bottom of the page. Work on the Spanish involves, at this point in time, the development of different editions, such as large-print or with imitation leather covers, etc.

■ **NEW! SWEDISH [LICENSING]; Sweden (13.2 million)** – The classic Reformation translation of the Scriptures into Swedish was the Gustav Vasa Bible, first published in 1541. King Karl XI initiated a revision of this Bible in 1686 but it was not published until after his death and therefore it bore the name of his son Karl XII when it was published in 1703. It was replaced by a Bible based on the Critical Text in 1917 known as the *års kyrkobibel* or Church Bible and in the past thirty years by modern versions. During this period a project has been ongoing with the Swedish Reformation Bible Society to prepare a translation based on the Masoretic Hebrew Text and Greek Received Text with reference to Karl XII's Bible as well as the Authorised (King James) Version and other translations from the end of the nineteenth century. Swedish was standardised at the end of the nineteenth century and, like some other European languages, it is carefully controlled by a government agency. The translation work is now close to completion and we hope to undertake an independent review with a view to publishing it. We would appreciate the help of any native or fluent Swedish speakers who could assist with this. A number of our articles have been translated into Swedish and we hope to publish these on our website.

■ **UKRAINIAN [LICENSING]; Ukraine (39 million)** – The Society continues to publish the Kulish version of the Ukrainian Bible, and copies of this Bible are still available from us. However, we recognise that the Kulish edition is in an old western dialect of Ukrainian, which is challenging for many Ukrainians to read. Thus, we are pleased to advise that 10,000 copies of the Popchenko New Testament have recently been published. The Popchenko edition is in current literary Ukrainian and so accessible to all Ukrainian readers. In

the meantime, Mr Popchenko continues with his translation work, and currently an edition of his New Testament and Psalms is being prepared for typesetting. Within the next few months he and his team plan to finish all of the Old Testament in first draft and over the next twelve months hope to have at least 50% of the Old Testament in second draft. Please remember his work in your prayers, as there is great demand for the Scriptures among Ukrainians at this time.

■ **WELSH; United Kingdom (548,490)**

– Last year our Welsh contact finished preparing a set of draft marginal notes for the William Morgan Bible along the lines of those supplied in the Society's English Westminster Reference Bible. He also prepared a glossary of terms. His painstaking work continues to be thoroughly examined by around ten native Welsh speakers, and we await their detailed feedback.



The Middle East and the Caucasus Regions

■ **ABKHAZ; Abkhazia (171,860)** –

Abkhaz is the official language of the self-proclaimed Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, which borders Russia and Georgia. The prospective translator advises that it will take him another year of Abkhaz grammar and idiom studies before he ventures to translate any part of the New Testament. Finding a qualified Christian native speaker is still a priority and a matter for prayer. We ask the Lord to supply all that is needed so that this project could move significantly forward in the coming year.

■ **STANDARD ARABIC; Saudi Arabia and other countries (332.4 million)**

– Over the past year, the Lord has supplied both a good quality digital text of the Smith Van Dyck Arabic Bible and a well-qualified native Arabic speaker to check this digital text against the Society's print edition. Do pray for the brother who has recently begun to undertake this checking work, which is a vital step in ensuring that, in due course, we have a reliable digital Arabic Bible text to make available online and with which to prepare new settings of the Arabic Scriptures.

■ **GEORGIAN [LICENSING]; Georgia (3.9 million)**

– Our friends at the Russian Bible Society based in North Carolina, USA, are producing a translation into Georgian. Having reviewed the General Epistles the team is moving on to review the Gospel according to Matthew which is due to be completed this summer. We hope that it may be possible to undertake our own independent review before the end of 2024 with a view to publishing Matthew under licence in 2025, God willing.

■ **HEBREW; Israel (9.3 million)** – Since 2009 the Society has been working 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. All books have been drafted, tested, reviewed, and analysed. The team's work has been checked book by book by the Society's Senior Editorial Consultant – Linguistics but an analysis of the entire New Testament was also necessary. At the time of writing this has been completed successfully and we are in a position to recommend the Hebrew New Testament as fit for publication. God willing, it will be printed by the end of the year. 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.

■ **NEW! KURMANCÎ or NORTHERN KURDISH** [RESEARCH]; **Turkey and Syria (16.4 million)** – There are three main Kurdish languages, but these are not mutually understandable: Kurmancî (mainly Turkey and Syria), Sorani (Kurdistan, Iraq), and Pehlewani (parts of Iran and Iraq). Kurmancî is spoken in the northern part of Syria, the south eastern part of Turkey (Anatolia), the Shengal area (Iraq; the land of Yezidian people), some minor adjacent areas, and in the Kurdish diaspora. It uses the Latin script except for a variety in the Caucasus that uses the Cyrillic. Kurmancî is the mother tongue of many and also used as the medium of instruction in some schools. Historically, the language was suppressed and its use heavily punished, meaning that it has not been well standardised as a result. A missionary working in the Middle East has agreed to help us review an existing Kurmancî translation to assess how far it meets our standards.

■ **PERSIAN or FARSI; Iran (78.8 million)** – Persian, also known as Farsi, is used officially within Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan in three mutually intelligible standard varieties, namely Persian, Dari, and Tajik. We are very pleased that the online edition of the TBS Persian New Testament at tbsonlinebible.com/#fa is being accessed from Afghanistan, Iran, and other countries where Persian speakers reside.

Our main reviser continues to be very busy, and only has limited time in which to revise the Old Testament text of the 1895 Persian Bible. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the Old Testament revision work will one

day be completed so that the complete revised Bible can be published. Use of the New Testament text (in part or in whole) has been granted to several other organisations, who have prepared their own printings of various portions of the text.

■ **TURKISH; Turkey (90 million)** – We are thankful to the Lord for excellent progress on the revision of the Old Testament. Over 90% of the Old Testament has already been reviewed and we are on track to finish revising it by the end of the first half of 2024. This means that the latter half of 2024 can be spent on reviewing the New Testament. After this work has been completed by December 2024/January 2025, Lord willing, a few months will be needed for proofreading to make sure there are no spelling or punctuation errors. Other Turkish language versions are in progress with other organisations, but these are not based on the Received Text, and most do not use more formal equivalent translation methods. The Bible version that has been cherished in Turkish Protestant churches is a translation from the NIV and much prayer is needed that Christians would come to see the need to have the whole Word of God more accurately translated into Turkish. Our reviser has already started making use of the Old Testament translation in preaching and it has been well-received; we pray that many other churches will come to adopt the translation in time.

Turkish Gospel according to John





The Indian Subcontinent

■ **NEW! ACHHAMI** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal** (c. 500,000 +)

This is an unwritten Indo-European language that Ethnologue lists as a dialect of Nepali, but it is actually an ancient form of Nepali that Nepali speakers do not understand. It is spoken in some western districts of Nepal (including Bajhang, Baitadi, Surkhet, and Bardiya). As with other rural people groups, these are largely subsistence farmers, but some migrate to India for work. Sometimes this leads to exploitation, especially human trafficking and prostitution. The Achhami people share many of the social problems found in remote parts of Nepal such as child marriage, illiteracy, and lack of proper health and sanitation provision. Hinduism with its caste system is mixed with shamanism and other superstitions in these parts. Following approval of a pilot project we await a drafted Gospel according to John.

■ **BORO; India (1.4 million)** – Boro, also known as Bodo, is spoken primarily by the Boro people of North East India and Nepal. The current Boro Bible was published in the 1960s in the now unused Latin script and is not based on the Received Text. Since 1975 the language has been written using the Devanagari script, which is also used for Hindi and Nepali and a number of other languages. The Boro Gospel according to John has been typeset and is being checked by the team based in Assam. The team there have also prepared much of the rest of the New Testament in first draft, and hope in the next twelve months to complete the draft translation of the whole New Testament. The Boro Baptist Convention and several other denominational groups are expected to be the main conduits of distribution.

■ **NEW! CHAMLING RAI** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (c. 100,000 +)** – This is an unwritten Sino-Tibetan language spoken in the east of Nepal by more than 100,000 people. It is a distinct form of Chamling (which has a New Testament). The districts include Udayapur, Khotang, and Bhojpur. The people are subsistence farmers, but some of the men have traditionally enlisted for the British or Indian armies. Levels of literacy are low. The religion practiced in these parts is animism and shamanism. As with other such languages the doctrinal understanding of the native churches is weak due to the lack of a Bible in their language. Following approval of a pilot project the draft Gospel according to John has been reviewed and approved for publication. We await feedback on some corrections before we typeset it.

■ **CHOTHE; India (c. 4,400)** – In the last twelve months the Chothe Bible team have prepared much of the rest of the New Testament in first draft, and hope in the next twelve months to complete the draft translation of the whole New Testament. Earlier in 2024 we were able to supply a new laptop to the team, which has helped their work and encouraged them. The TBS Chothe Bible is one of the first significant written productions in this language, which makes this a particularly challenging translation endeavour. We hope to publish the New Testament within the next two years, and it is anticipated that distribution will be through the Chothe Baptist Churches Association.

■ **DESAURI THARU; Nepal and India (c. 450,000 in Nepal and c. 500,000 in India)** – Desauri is one of the Tharu language variants spoken by the Tharu people of the Terai region in Nepal and in the neighbouring regions of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar in India. The team write, 'the translation of the Bible into Desauri will

not only make the Word of God accessible to the Desauri-speaking population but also enable them to understand and comprehend it in their own language. The Gospel according to John is ready for printing after having been reviewed by those in the language community. It has never been written down before and this will be the first publication in that language. Having completed the Gospels, the translation team expect to complete the Acts of the Apostles shortly. We are grateful to William Carey Foundation in North America for supporting this small team to continue working on the rest of the New Testament.

■ **NEW! DOTEI** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (c. 1 million +)** – Doteli is a largely unwritten language spoken mainly in the Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces of Nepal. Many speakers live in remote parts of the hilly regions and only speak this language and not Nepali. There is around 30 to 35% literacy. There are four main dialects of Doteli: Baitadeli, Darchuli, Dotaili, and Bajhangi Nepali. There is also another dialect that is spoken in a smaller district called Silgudhi by about 5,000 people, which has about 20 to 25% similarity with the Bajhangi Nepali dialect. There is a New Testament that has been made available recently in this dialect but it is based on the Critical Text and in any case is not accessible to most Doteli speakers. The majority of the churches are evangelical and independent. There is no Scripture in the language but there is some very basic Christian literature, and they have been praying to get the Bible for some time. Following approval of a pilot project the draft Gospel according to John has been reviewed, approved for publication, and typeset but needs further checking.

■ **GANGTE** [PILOT PROJECT]; **India (16,500)** – Last year the General Committee gave their approval for the Gangte Bible



Philip and Matthew with the Gangte Bible translators

project to run as a pilot project, starting with the Gospel according to John. The work is a new translation from the Authorised Version with reference to the underlying Hebrew and Greek. Sadly, the lead translator was hindered in commencing this work by a serious accident affecting one of his sons, who remains to this day in a coma, though looked after at home which entails long hours of arduous care. Consequently, our translator has only got as far as John chapter ten—please prayerfully remember him and his family in this sad situation.

■ **HALAM** [PILOT PROJECT]; **India (58,000)** – The Halam language is spoken by the Halam tribal group, mostly based in the Indian state of Tripura. In 2023 the General Committee gave their approval for the Society to undertake a pilot project in Halam, commencing with the Gospel according to John. This work is from the Authorised Version with reference to the underlying Hebrew and Greek, and is the first Bible translation endeavour in this language. The team have already prepared first and second drafts of the Gospel. Community review of the first draft has already been conducted and the second draft is currently being reviewed in the same way by pastors, leaders, and other Christians in

the community. God willing, the translators hope to issue their text for the Editorial Department to check later in the year.

■ **HINDI; India (691 million)** and **BHOJPURI; India (52.6 million)** – Hindi is the sixth most spoken language in the world and one of the two official languages of the Government of India, the other being English. Bhojpuri is chiefly spoken in eastern Uttar Pradesh, western Bihar, and western Jharkhand in India as well as western Madhesh and eastern Lumbini in Nepal. Since the last Annual Report, we have been very thankful for the Lord answering prayer by supplying native Hindi speakers, committed to TBS principles and with a critical eye for grammatical and other translational details, to work alongside our translator. The additional help enabled the Hindi Gospel according to John to be finalised, and it has recently been approved for publication by the General Committee. Our translator has also completed a draft translation of the Gospels according to Matthew and Mark in Hindi, the latter together with a Roman script text in Urdu. In addition, a new draft translation of the Gospel according to John in Bhojpuri has been prepared. We now seek further capable people with excellent Bhojpuri to review that initial work.

■ **HMAR; India (99,000)** – The Hmar language is spoken by the Hmar people, who are scattered across the far northeast of India. In the Lord's goodness, the project has progressed well. The Gospel according to John is in final form. The translation team has also prepared the rest of the New Testament text in first draft, apart from Jude and Revelation, which they hope to complete soon, Lord willing. In the coming year the team will seek to proofread and finalise the text. There are well established church denominations among the Hmar, through which the Scriptures can be distributed.



Matthew and Philip with the Kannada revision committees

■ **KANNADA; India (58.7 million)** – The Kannada language, also called Kanarese or Kannana, is the official language of the state of Karnataka in southern India. Kannada is also spoken in the states that border Karnataka. We are thankful that, following the sad death of the original project leader in 2022, an American missionary has very ably overseen the TBS Kannada Bible revision project. The team have carefully prepared a draft text of the Gospel according to John for review by several trusted pastors and other church leaders. They have also recently completed a draft of Matthew, after which they intend to revise Romans. It is hoped that the review of John will be the final stage before the text is finalised and passed to the Editorial Department for checking. At present we are also preparing a translation of *The Lord Gave the Word* for printing.

■ **KOM; India (15,000)** – Since the last Annual Report, the Kom New Testament has been typeset. Several rounds of corrections have taken place, and it is hoped that the typeset text will soon be finalised and made ready for printing. We are grateful for the partnership of our friends at firstBible International who have raised the funds for this New Testament to be printed by their sister organisation, Bearing Precious Seed of Milford, Ohio. Our translator has

progressed well in the Old Testament, having prepared the draft translations of Genesis to Ruth inclusive.

■ **NEW! LIMBU** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (400,000 +)** – Limbu is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in the far east of Nepal (Koshi district) by more than 400,000 people. Like the Chamling, the Limbu people are subsistence farmers, but some of the men have traditionally enlisted for the British or Indian army. There are significant levels of migration especially involving the better educated as there is a high level of unemployment in this part of Nepal. Costly marriage customs also tend to impoverish them as the woman can ask any amount from the groom. The Limbu people have their own traditional religion with its scripture, rules, and rituals mixed in with some shamanic practices. While there is a Bible in Limbu, it is only based on the dialect spoken in Dhankuta which accounts for about 13% of the Limbu. Limbus in other districts of Nepal and also in India do not understand Dhankuta Limbu. Following approval of a pilot project, the draft Gospel according to John has been reviewed and approved for publication. It is not yet typeset while we wait for feedback on some corrections.

■ **NEW! MAGAR DHUT** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (800,000 +)** – Also known as Maghar Dhut or Dhut Magar, this is an unwritten Sino-Tibetan language spoken in many parts of Nepal, but different from the three main Magar varieties: Eastern, Mid-Western, and Western. There is no Bible in this language. The religion is animism and traditionally they worship ancestors, although there is Buddhism and Hinduism amongst them as well. Following approval of a pilot project we await a drafted Gospel according to John.

■ **NEPALI; Nepal (31.9 million)** – The Society's 2011 Nepali Bible became

established as a standard text among Nepali speakers across the world. We were able to license use of the audio text to quite a few other organisations, and it has also been published by a third party in a diglot edition with the English Authorised Version. A braille edition of the New Testament has been circulated too. The lightly revised second edition text of the Bible, in which the language has been adapted more towards that used in Nepal, has been in circulation for two years and has been well received, particularly in Nepal. Recently, TBS obtained the current text from the translator in order to prepare our own setting of the Bible text. However, the text needs extracting from the files we received so that the Editorial System markers can be added, after which it can be entered into our online Bible app and then be typeset.

Nepali is also spoken by the Lhotshampa people group from southern Bhutan, but they read it in the Roman script rather than the Devanagari script. An automatic conversion from one script to the other is being checked by those with native ability but there are many issues in the text that need to be corrected and the work is proceeding slowly thus far. There are many Lhotshampa refugees from Bhutan, who are primarily found in the United States, Canada, and Nepal as well as in other nations.

■ **NTHENYI NAGA** [RESEARCH]; **India (c. 13,000)** – Nthenyi is a Sino-Tibetan language, written in Latin script, and spoken in the northeast Indian state of Nagaland. The Society has been passed a revised draft copy of the New Testament in Nthenyi Naga by a contact who is known to us. Although the project has not been done with TBS, we shortly plan to evaluate what has been done and report back to him on our findings.

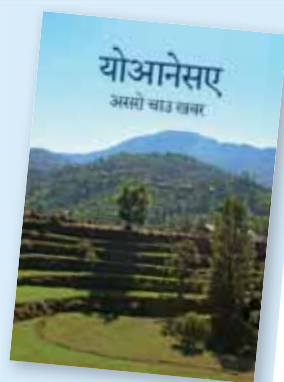
■ **NEW! PASCHIMA GURUNG** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (c. 500,000 +)** – This unwritten Sino-Tibetan language is spoken in the north of Nepal and some parts of India. They are subsistence farmers, but some of the men have been Gurkhas employed in the British army. Their communities are affected by child marriage, illiteracy, and lack of drinking water. Animism, Buddhism and Hinduism are all practiced among them. Following approval of a pilot project we await a drafted Gospel according to John.

■ **NEW! PASCHIMI KHAM** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (c. 300,000)** – Around 300,000 people speak Paschimi Kham in the very remote hilly regions of western Nepal. The people are animist, Buddhist, and a little Hindu, and many have never even heard the name Jesus. Following approval for a pilot project, the draft Gospel according to John was reviewed thoroughly and approved for publication.

■ **NEW! PURBIYA TAMANG** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (800,000 +)** – Tamang is a major language of Nepal with more than 1.5 million speakers but the Purbiya Tamang variant is an unwritten Sino-Tibetan language spoken in the north of Nepal. They are subsistence farmers with the usual problems of child marriage and illiteracy, as well as lacking health, sanitation, and clean drinking water. The main religion practiced in these parts is Buddhism but Hinduism is also in evidence. Following approval of a pilot project we await a drafted Gospel according to John.

■ **NEW! RAJBANSHI (TAJPURIYA)** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (c. 500,000 +)** – This indigenous Indo-European language is spoken in western Nepal. The people are subsistence farmers, and cultural customs like the dowry system can impoverish them, and sometimes leads to suicide. Illiteracy and unemployment are other social problems. One of those close to the Desauri team is from the Rajbanshi-Tajpuriya community. He worked there as a local missionary for ten years and established a church among the people. There is now a great need for a translation in their language. There is a Bengali-Assamese Rajbanshi language spoken in eastern Nepal which has a New Testament, but Tajpuriya is different. Following approval of a pilot project we await a drafted Gospel according to John.

■ **SIMTE; India (10,200)** – The high regard of the Simte people for the TBS Simte Bible has led to a request for a reprinting of this Bible, which we hope can be accomplished especially as some copies have been destroyed in the ongoing conflict in Manipur between the majority Hindu Meitei people and some of the majority Christian hill tribes, including the Simte. Some relatively minor corrections will be needed for the reprint and these are in hand to be made to the digital text we hold online. In addition, the local Simte Bible Committee are still planning to do a more in-depth review of



The Paschimi Kham Gospel according to John



Matthew and Philip with the Simte Bible revision committee

the second edition and thus to prepare a further revised edition in the coming years. We are grateful for the partnership with firstBible International on this project.

■ **NEW! SUNUWAR** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (c. 100,000 +)** – Sunuwar or Sunwar is an unwritten Sino-Tibetan language spoken in the Sindhuli and Ramechhap districts. They are subsistence farmers, and the same social problems afflict them as other rural communities: illiteracy, child marriage, poverty, and unemployment. They practice the animistic Kirat religion traditionally. The Sunuwar found in other parts of Nepal is different to the Sunuwar spoken in Okhaldhunga by around 5,000 people. There is some Scripture available in that language, but this is not mutually intelligible. Following approval of a pilot project the draft Gospel according to John has been reviewed and approved for publication. It is not yet typeset while we wait for feedback on some corrections.

■ **TAMIL** [PILOT PROJECT]; **India/Sri Lanka (86.7 million)** – Our Tamil Bible translator has worked very hard over the past twelve months in preparing a new edition of the Gospel according to John. Initially he laboured to prepare a completely new translation of the Gospel according to John directly from the underlying Greek Received Text, with secondary reference to extant Tamil Bibles and to the Authorised Version. However, this was not well received as Tamil Christians have a deep attachment to the old Tamil Version. This being the case, the project now being undertaken is a relatively light revision of the old Tamil Version to ensure closer conformance to the Received Text and to update archaic vocabulary. Recently, the revised text of the Gospel according to John was issued to about a dozen Tamil contacts for review and feedback, but we would welcome further native Tamil speakers to act

as volunteer reviewers. Whilst we wait for comments on John, our translator has pressed on with revising the Gospels according to Matthew and Mark.

■ **TEDIM ZOMI; India (257,000)** – We are thankful that this project is progressing well. The hand-written translation of the New Testament books has now been typed out. Preparation for trial publication of the Gospel according to John is ongoing and will be finished soon, God willing. It is hoped that the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs could be drafted by the end of March 2025 as well as the typing out of the rest of the handwritten Bible translation. There is a wide Zomi diaspora in different parts of India, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, and the USA, and existing contacts have good opportunities for distribution.

■ **TELUGU** [PILOT PROJECT]; **India (95.8 million)** – Telugu is a major language, fourth among the languages with the highest number of native speakers in India. The Society published a Telugu New Testament in 1983 but in the early 1990s we were told that it had problems such as omissions; by that time we had already stopped publishing it. Some revision work was undertaken in the late 1990s and 2000s, but it transpired that there were issues with that work too. Having received Committee approval for a pilot project, the freshly translated Gospel according to John has been reviewed and analysed and we hope that in the coming months it may be suitable to recommend for publication.

■ **THADOU; India (346,000)** – The Thadou people have a great love for the TBS Thadou Bible and this, together with the destruction of some copies in the ongoing conflict in Manipur, has led to a request for a reprinting of this Bible.



However, we received more corrections to the first edition text than we had anticipated, which will delay the reprint. Once the corrections have been made and checked, a completely new typesetting will need to be undertaken before the Bible can be reprinted. We are grateful for the partnership with firstBible International on this project.

■ **NEW! THAITI MAITHILI** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Nepal (1.6 million)** – Thaiti or Thetiya Maithili is only spoken and has not yet been written down. The people live in the eastern part of the Terai, a lowland plain that borders India. The Thaiti form the majority in several districts of Nepal. They use this language in their churches/house fellowships, but it is a strongly majority Hindu community and those who profess Christ are often ostracised. The villagers do not understand Nepali and Hindi but those who are educated or have migrated to Kathmandu un-



The Thaiti Maithili Gospel according to John

derstand Nepali. Thaiti Maithili is completely separate from the Maithili language. Maithili is spoken in the Terai from east to west but Thaiti is spoken in only two or three districts of Nepal. Following approval for a pilot project, the Gospel according to John was drafted, reviewed successfully, and approved for publication. It is hoped that this can be printed once distribution channels are secured.

■ **URDU; Pakistan and India (237.9 million)** – Urdu is the official national language of Pakistan; it is also widely spoken in India and in some other countries where there are large immigrant populations. It is our ongoing prayer that those who speak Urdu should one day have a faithful edition of God's Word. However, our efforts to find out more about an independent effort to prepare a new edition of the Urdu New Testament have not yielded fruit. Therefore, as mentioned in the section on our Hindi project, our translator is preparing the Gospel according to Mark in Hindi and Roman script Urdu, which we hope will lead to a deeper work in Urdu.

■ **VAIPHEI; Manipur, India (42,700)** – Since the last Annual Report, the typeset Vaiphei Bible has undergone several rounds of painstaking review and correction. This is a common feature of Bible projects for tribal languages as no automated/integrated spell checkers exist for such languages and so corrections must be made manually, word by word. It is hoped that the typeset text will soon be finalised and made ready for printing. The Vaiphei people have suffered more than most in the ongoing conflict in Manipur, and we are especially keen to get the complete Bible into their hands soon. Before that, as so many corrections have been made, the Editorial Department will need to carry out one final round of extensive checks on the final text. We are grateful for the partnership

of our friends at firstBible International who are raising funds for this Bible to be printed by their sister organisation, Bearing Precious Seed of Milford, Ohio. The Vaiphei Committee have also translated 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. The Bible and the accompanying articles will be distributed by the TBS Vaiphei Bible Revision Committee, the Vaiphei Christian Association, and the Evangelical Organization Church.

■ **ZOU; Manipur, India, and Myanmar (87,500)** – Since the last Annual Report, the typeset Zou Bible has also undergone several rounds of painstaking review and correction. It is hoped that the typeset text will soon be finalised and made ready for printing. Widespread distribution of the Bible by three major Zou-speaking denominations is already planned. We are grateful for the partnership of our friends at firstBible International who are raising funds for this Bible to be printed by their sister organisation, Bearing Precious Seed of Milford, Ohio.



Rest of Asia

■ **ASANG (KHONGSO) [CONSULTANCY]; Myanmar (4,000)** – Asang-Khongso is one of the tribal languages of Myanmar. TBS is

providing a consultancy-only service to our friends at WorldView Ministries to whom this project belongs. Having reviewed the Asang-Khongso New Testament, providing feedback on back translations of key verses, we were happy for them to include a statement that it met our standards for translation. We were subsequently thankful to hear of it being printed and delivered. This is the first copy of the New Testament for the Asang-Khongso people who prayed

for over sixty years to have the Scriptures in their own language. Work now continues on the Old Testament.

■ **BURMESE [RESEARCH]; Myanmar (43.1 million)** – We have been in correspondence since 2021 about a new draft translation of the Burmese Scriptures being carried out in Myanmar under the auspices of a church in the USA. All of the Scriptures have now been translated, the New Testament has been edited, and editing of the Old Testament translation is around the half-way stage. Progress has slowed partly due to some health issues and mostly due to the civil war in Myanmar and the dangers to personal safety as well as the disruption involved. When the final editing process has been completed it may be possible to conduct our own review and analysis while the church decides on how best to pursue publication. We hope that some of our booklets such as *The Lord Gave the Word* can be translated into Burmese in due course to inform believers in Myanmar about the issues involved in Bible text and translation.

■ **CEBUANO [RESEARCH]; Philippines (16 million)** – Cebuano, also referred to as Bisaya or Binisaya by most of its speakers, is primarily spoken in the southern Philippines. We have been in contact with a number of people who speak Cebuano who would like to ensure there is a translation from the Received Text that conforms to it as closely as possible.

■ **CHINESE; China (1.1 billion)** – There is growing interest in our translation project, especially following a Chinese Christian conference in the USA at the end of 2023. The team have currently almost finished the first draft of the Pentateuch and the second draft of Psalms. They plan to finalise the book of Psalms and print it out together with the New Testament by the end of this year. We were able to publish



A page from the Chinese New Testament

an online version of the New Testament in Traditional Chinese characters which are in common use among many Chinese speakers in the Asian countries beyond mainland China. Recently, we have had valuable

assistance in the promotion of the Chinese New Testament online and in other ways. We are thankful to firstBible International who raised funds for a printing of the New Testament, which supplemented the Society's own printing, and TBS is very grateful for the substantial financial support given by GBS for this major project.

■ **NEW! ILOCANO** [RESEARCH]; **Philippines (6.5 million)** – Following contact with a pastor whose congregation lacked Bibles in Ilocano, it was possible to make contact with some people who are publishing an Ilocano translation from the Received Text. At the time of writing, however, it has not been possible as yet to obtain the text for someone who could review it for us.

■ **NEW! INDONESIAN** [RESEARCH]; **Indonesia (199 million)** – Indonesian is the official national language of Indonesia, a predominately Muslim nation and the fourth most populated country in the world. The language is a form of Malay and used as a language of instruction in education. During the past year we sought an evaluation of an existing Indonesian translation, but this did not prove fruitful. Another translation from the Received Text is in the final stages of preparation. We continue to pray to have access to a

faithful and accurate translation in this major language and to have contact with native or fluent speakers of this language who could assist.

■ **NEW! JAPANESE** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Japan (123.5 million)** – The Society published Japanese Scriptures over a century ago. The classic Received Text translation from the Meiji era is, however, in need of revision due to the significant changes in Japanese orthography and language in the post-war period. In recent months we have been in touch with an individual with abilities in the Original Languages who is also fluent in Japanese. He has a commitment to our principles and an interest in a revision fully conformed to the Received Text that would reflect the standards required by current literary Japanese. Recently, the Committee approved a pilot project with him, commencing with the Gospel according to John. We are thankful to the Lord for answering our prayers to begin work on a faithful and accurate translation in this major language.

■ **NEW! KHAWNGTU CHIN** [PILOT PROJECT]; **Myanmar (5,000)** – Khawngtu Chin is from the Kuki-Chin branch of the Tibeto-Burman group of languages. The speakers of this language live in the mountainous Sami region of Paletwa Township, Chin State, Myanmar. They are 98% Christian (of which 75% are evangelical Christians) but suffer from comparative poverty as well as a lack of amenities and development. Chin State in the northwest region of Myanmar has witnessed ongoing violence and human rights violations, as well as ethnic and religious persecution since the military junta came to power through a coup several years ago.

As with speakers of the other Chin dialects, the Khawngtu have a strong desire to have the Scriptures in their own heart language. In services the Burmese Bible

is used for reading and preaching. A New Testament into the Khawngtu language based on the Authorised Version was printed in 2005. It is agreed, however, that this work needs review and revision with reference to the Greek Received Text. There are two pastors who wish to take up this work, and a group of pastors who are willing to review the work. In April, the General Committee approved a pilot project on the Gospel according to John in the first instance.

■ **KOREAN; South Korea (81.1 million)**

– We are in process of digitising and reviewing an existing Korean translation in order to publish it online. The Gospel according to John has been digitised, reviewed, and approved for publication. We also have received some interest in translating some of our material on the text of Scripture into Korean.

■ **LHAOVO or MARU/LONG VOW;**

Myanmar and China (124,500) – All of the Lhaovo New Testament and a small part of the Old Testament are available in digital format. Through the Lisu community, we have some hopes of contacts who can evaluate the accuracy of this text. We continue praying that this will result in publishing the Scriptures for the benefit of this people in due course.

■ **LISU; Myanmar and China (1 million)**

– We have a complete digital text available of the original TBS Lisu Bible which was first published in 1980. Recently we have been able to make contact with people who can help us to evaluate the TBS Lisu Bible, some corrections proposed for it, and a Lisu Bible published by another organisation. Indeed, some who are forming the review committee were involved in the original work in 1980. At the time of writing, we have made the text of the Gospel according to John available for review. We pray that this may prove fruitful.

■ **NEW! MANOBO [RESEARCH];**

Philippines (323,620) – Some Manobo people in the jungle areas are only minimally reached or have never heard the Gospel. During the past year we have been prayerfully encouraging a native-speaking pastor who has begun to translate the Old Testament into Manobo. To date, only New Testament translations have been produced.

■ **MONGOLIAN; Mongolia (2.8 million)**

– 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 and Hebrew Masoretic Texts. The first edition of the New Testament was published in 2017 but is being lightly revised to improve some of the phrasing. Work has progressed well on the Old Testament with almost 80% being translated in first draft and around 15% finalised. 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 which is ongoing. The team are working well towards completing the translation in 2026.

■ **SURIGAONON [RESEARCH];**

Philippines (501,000) – We had contact with a pastor who ministers in Surigaonon, a regional language spoken in the province of Surigao del Norte. There is no Bible in this language. Despite initial discussions it has not so far been possible to proceed further due to that pastor suffering illness.

■ **TAGALOG; Philippines (83.3 million)**

– We rejoice that the text of the Tagalog Gospel according to John was approved for publication by the General Committee earlier in 2024. It has now been typeset and proofread. However, a hyphenation dictionary is currently being prepared in order to ensure that the typeset copy is



The Tagalog Gospel according to John

correctly hyphenated. God willing, over the summer months the Gospel will be finalised for printing and then printed. Distribution of the Gospel is anticipated through a circle of Baptist churches. Our translator has also worked very hard in the rest of the New Testament and has completed first drafts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Romans. Currently, he is translating the Acts of the Apostles. We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by a church in Canada for this project.

■ **ZOKAM; Myanmar (411,000)** – Since the last Annual Report, the complete Zokam Bible text has been through our Editorial System and reviewed by the translation team. These steps resulted in a large number of corrections, which are being processed by the Editorial Department. After further editorial checking and corrections, we anticipate raising a request for Committee approval to publish the Bible, following which it will be typeset. Please pray for the Editorial Department as some of the work is very painstaking. Please also pray for our translators as they labour amid some very challenging circumstances. Notwithstanding this, there are still extensive distribution channels open for the Bible once published.



Oceania

■ **MĀORI; New Zealand (200,600)** – The Society produced a light revision of the 1868 translation in 2012. Work to prepare a

diglot English-Māori edition of the Gospel according to John is ongoing and due to be passed to reviewers before long.

■ **NEW! TONGAN** [RESEARCH]; **Tonga (188,830)** – Tonga is a nation made up of 170 volcanic islands in the southern Pacific Ocean. It has a young population, with more than 50% below the age of twenty-five. Tongan is the main language together with English. During recent months we have been corresponding with someone with connections to Tonga who has a burden for an accurate translation to be available in that language. God willing, they may be able to connect us with a native Tongan who can help us review the options for the Old Tongan Bible which was produced by Thomas West in 1862 based on the Received Text. Tongan orthography has changed in the intervening period so that 'j' and 'b' are currently represented by 's' and 'p' which might require some revision of the Old Tongan.



The Americas

■ **NEW! BRAZILIAN SIGN LANGUAGE** [POTENTIAL PROJECT]; **Brazil (630,000)**

– Brazilian Sign Language is a well-established first

language for deaf people of all ages in Brazil. It is used in education contexts. Our Brazilian Branch is in the early stages of exploring the potential for a project in this language. If this develops the signing would need to be placed in video above the TBS Almeida Corrígida Fiel Version.

■ **HAITIAN CREOLE** [CONSULTANCY]; **Haiti (13.2 million)** – Haitian Creole is a French-based creole language spoken chiefly in the very troubled country of Haiti. It is the only language of most Haitians. For some 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 three years the lead

translator and the overseeing missionary have been receiving further training in Bible translation. After this is completed, they intend to finalise John and Romans for publication as the first main step of reviewing the draft text of the Haitian Creole Bible.

■ **NEW! PARAGUAYAN GUARANI**

[POTENTIAL PROJECT]; **Paraguay**

(11 million) – Paraguayan Guaraní is the official language of Paraguay together with Spanish, and is one of the main languages of 70% of the population. It is entirely different from some smaller Guaraní languages spoken in other countries. It is a relatively complex language with twelve vowels, unusual word order, and tonal marks. There is only one full Bible in the language, and it is not in print. Around the time of recent launch events for the Spanish Bible in Bolivia and Paraguay it was possible to meet with individuals who are burdened for an accurate Bible in this language from the Received Text. While no project is established as yet, we pray that the Lord will give

wisdom and help in exploring the potential for work in this language.

Biblical Languages Projects

BIBLICAL HEBREW; Digitisation of the Society's Hebrew Masoretic Text – Since 2015 work has been ongoing to ensure accurate consonantal corrections so as to match it to our published Ginsburg text. The work has been slow due to various issues encountered and other circumstances but we have been able to publish Isaiah on the Online Bible. At the time of writing, we expect most books to be completed except some of the historical and poetical books. The finished work is due to include the *qere* and *ketiv* marginal notes which provide helpful assistance to the Biblical Hebrew reader. Once this work is complete, it will enable us to produce a new setting of the printed Hebrew Old Testament text for publication together with the Hebrew New Testament as well as the Greek Received Text.



‘Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian’

— *Acts 26.28* —

By **Larry Brigden**, *Senior Editorial Consultant (Linguistics)*

Many modern commentators think that the Authorised (King James) Version translation of Acts 26.28, ‘Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian’, is incorrect and claim that ‘the Greek words cannot possibly bear the meaning which is thus put upon them.’¹ Instead they suppose that Agrippa is asking a question, not in earnest, but derisively and sarcastically, as rendered in the English Standard Version (ESV): ‘In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?’ But there are a number of problems with this modern understanding of the verse, and a number of clear and cogent reasons for favouring the translation found in the Authorised (King James) Version.

In the first place, there is no indication in the Greek text that Agrippa is actually asking a question. The original reads very much more like a plain statement, without

the punctuation required for a question.² And there is no subjunctive mood in the Greek which the ‘would’ of a conditional question would strictly require, nor any future tense which might possibly also serve the same or similar purpose. The Greek has only the simple present tense and the plain indicative mood corresponding to, ‘thou persuadest me’.

Secondly, how reasonable is it to suppose that Agrippa would ask such a question? Had Paul spent a ‘short time’ persuading Agrippa? Not at all. Paul had gone to some lengths in his explanation of the truth of Christianity (vv. 2–27). And how reasonable is it to suppose that Agrippa would ask such a question derisively and sarcastically? In verse 32 Agrippa appears to speak in earnest in regard to Paul, ‘Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed to Caesar.’ And if Agrippa



is in earnest in verse 32, why not also in verse 28?

Thirdly, how is Paul's reply in the very next verse, 'And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds' consistent with a supposed derisive and sarcastic question from Agrippa? Paul is saying that he most earnestly wished that Agrippa, and all those that heard Paul, would go the full length and be as fully persuaded of the truth of Christianity as Paul himself was. This reply of Paul in verse 29 is entirely consistent with the Authorised (King James) Version's translation of verse 28 as: 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.' Agrippa says that he is almost at the point of being persuaded, and Paul responds that whether it should be in a little or in much, he earnestly desired that Agrippa and all those who heard Paul should be fully persuaded to become a Christian.

Thus, the Authorised (King James) Version translation of Acts 26.28 is clearly to be preferred, being far closer to the original Greek of the verse than the more modern translations are. It should also be noted that the Authorised (King James) Version translators were by no means alone in thus understanding the verse. It was understood in the same or similar way by the early Church Fathers Chrysostom³ and Cyril of Jerusalem⁴, by the early English Bible translators (Wycliff, Tyndale, Cranmer, Geneva) and 'by some of the best scholars since that time'.⁵

But it may be suspected that the underlying reason modern translators and commentators cannot accept the plain statement in the text, and instead attempt to give an unnatural rendering of the words and a rendering quite unsuitable to the context, is because they do not understand how an effectual work of the

Holy Spirit is needed above and beyond mere intellectual conviction.

This looks very much like an example of poor theology engendering a poor translation. The theology of the AV translators, being more orthodox than that of the generality of translators today, enabled them to rightly perceive the meaning of Acts 26.28. There may be an intellectual conviction of the truth, but while it remains unaccompanied by an effectual work of the Holy Spirit it must fall short of salvation.

There are other examples recorded in the New Testament where this same truth is held forth. The rich young ruler most earnestly inquires of Christ how he may 'inherit eternal life', being evidently fully persuaded that our Lord will faithfully and infallibly direct him, and yet in the end cannot comply with the direction given him (Luke 18.18–30); Herod heard John the Baptist 'gladly' and acknowledged him as a 'just man and an holy' (Mark 6.20) and yet in the end had John executed (Mark 6.27). These cases demonstrate the Biblical truth that mere intellectual conviction is not in itself sufficient. There must be an accompanying effectual work of the Holy Spirit.

Thus, John Gill gives the following illuminating and instructive exposition of the meaning of 'almost' in Acts 26.28:

An almost Christian is one that has much light and knowledge, but no grace; he may know something of himself and of sin, of its being a violation of the law of God, and of the bad consequences of it, but has not true repentance for it; he may know much of Christ in a speculative way, concerning His person and offices, as the devils themselves do, and of the good things which come by Him, as peace, pardon, righteousness, and salvation; but has no application of these things to himself; he

may have a large notional knowledge of the doctrines of the Gospel, but has no experience of the power, sweetness, and comfort of them in his own soul.⁶

This theological truth was evidently clearly understood by the Authorised (King James) Version translators who therefore had no difficulty in translating Acts 26.28 simply and accurately as it stands in the Greek. But the more modern translators and commentators, on the other hand, perhaps lacking a clear understanding of this theological truth, miss the plain meaning of the original Greek words and end up translating the text with a meaning which the original cannot by any means naturally bear.

Endnotes:

1. C.J. Ellicott (ed.), *The New Testament Commentary for English Readers*, Vol II, (London, Paris, New York: Cassell & Co., 1884), p. 169. See

also R. C. H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of the Acts of the Apostles* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1961), p. 1055.

2. It is true that the original Greek manuscripts did not have any punctuation and that this was added by later editors. Nevertheless, the fact that the editors never added the punctuation required to indicate a question clearly indicates that they never understood it as such.

3. Homily 52 on the Acts of the Apostles.

4. Catechetical Lecture XVII.

5. R. Jamieson, A.R. Fausset, and D. Brown, *A Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Old and New Testaments*, Vol. 2, (Hartford, USA: S.S. Scranton & Co., 1878), p. 216. Some of those scholars would include Matthew Henry, Matthew Poole, John Gill, and John Calvin.

6. J. Gill, *An Exposition of the New Testament*, Vol. 2, (London, UK: Matthews and Leigh, 1809), p. 386.

DOES IT MATTER?

Good will toward men.

Luke 2.14

AV/KJV

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.

ESV

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!

Because every Word of God matters (Proverbs 30.5). But also because there is overwhelming documentary evidence since the earliest times for the reading 'good will toward men'. They have been read and used by millions all over the world for nearly two thousand years and preserved through the ages. They are quoted by early Christian writers from Irenaeus onwards.

The ESV says something totally different and seems to make God's favour depend on something in us. To find out more read the article *Good Will Toward Men*.

tbsbibles.org/GoodWillTowardMen





Financial Highlights 2023

*by David J. Broome,
Resources Director*

Introduction

The Society's Trustees and Management would publicly acknowledge the Lord's great goodness in supplying the Society's needs during 2023 in faithfulness to His own promise: '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).

In this Annual Report, the key points from the Society's finances over 2023 are highlighted and the summary financial statements are given at the end. The full Trustees' Annual Report & Financial Statements for 2023, which include considerable additional information about the activities and administration of the Society, are available both on our website (tbsbibles.org/AnnualReport) and in printed form; we would encourage members and supporters of the Society to visit our website or contact our Headquarters to request copies.

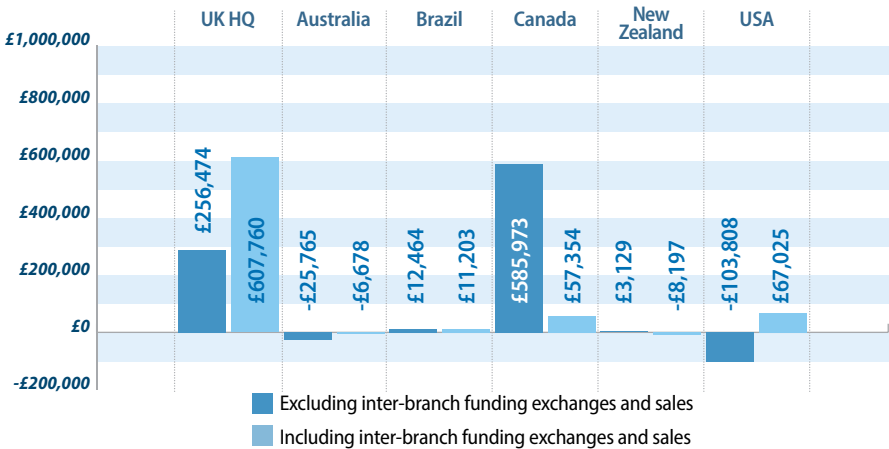
The Result for the Year

The Society's Total Funds increased by £673,781 during 2023. After gains and losses caused by movements in foreign exchange rates are removed, the Net Income for the year was £728,467. This figure is the accumulation of a surplus from TBS London of £607,760, and a net surplus from the Society's five Branches totalling £120,707. The Trustees are very thankful to God for all His provision during the year.

The Net Income of £728,467 is broken down by Branch in the following chart; the figures are presented both excluding and including sales and funding exchanges between London and the Branches. The key points to take from this are:

- TBS (Australia) and TBS (USA) employed translation consultants which are overseen and funded from London. Hence these Branches' deficits normally become surpluses when inter-branch funding is added back.
- TBS (Canada) sent very significant funding to London (hence their profit reduces when inter-branch funding is included).

Net Income 2023

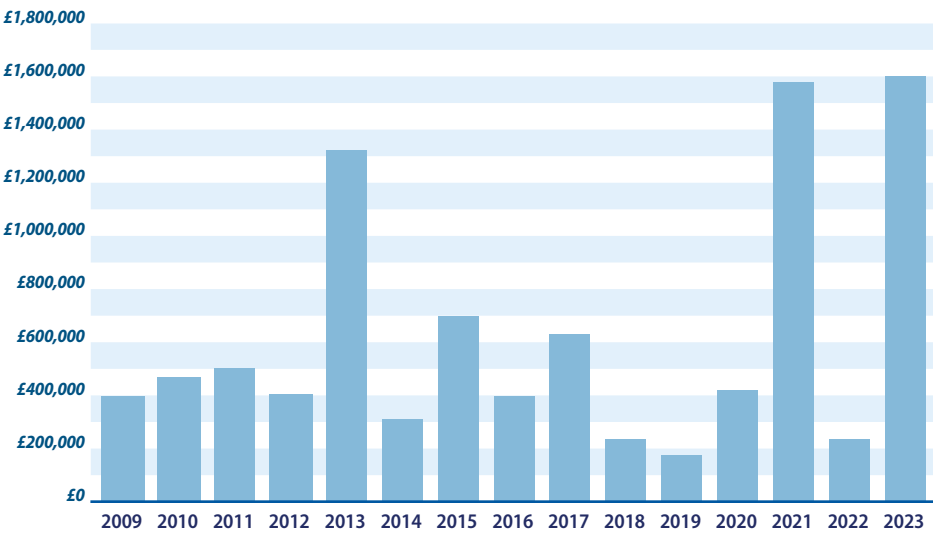


Incoming Resources

The 2023 worldwide income was £5,894,899, up 33.4% from £4,419,267 in 2022. This overall increase was significantly driven by four main factors:

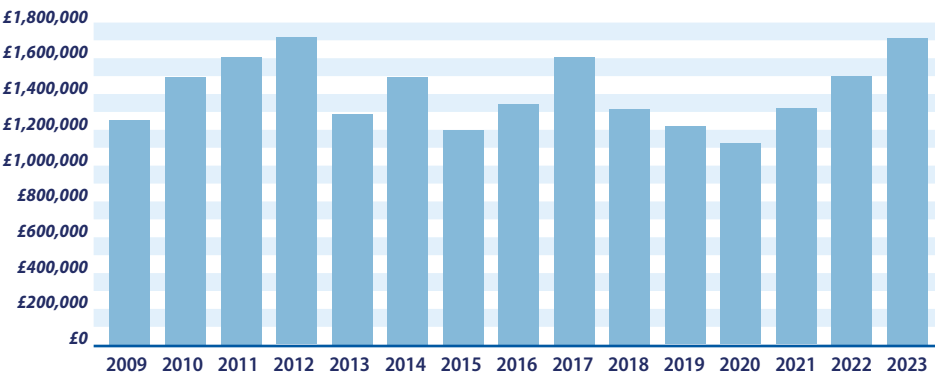
- **Donations and Legacies** were up by £1,184,848 (42.5%) to £3,973,391. This was mainly due to:
 - A £1,381,736 (626%) increase in Legacies to £1,602,219, largely as a result of a single legacy of £1.3m, which is certainly the Society’s largest single legacy in memory, if not ever;
 - A £38,430 (10.9%) increase in Collections to £390,582;
 - A £135,974 (40.8%) increase in Partner Funding to £469,276, due to a combination of factors, including which projects were externally funded during the year, the timing of funding on those projects, and how much funding was given; offset by
 - A £359,093 (20.1%) reduction in Donations to £1,428,508, although it could be argued that this disguises what is really a significant real terms increase, because there was a one-off donation in 2022 of over £550,000 arising from the closure of a private charitable trust.
- **Income from Charitable Activities** – Distribution of Scriptures (Sales and Royalties) rose by £227,057 (15.3%) to £1,709,076, which almost entirely arose in the UK (although the Cost of Sales rose by more, see later). It is thought that this UK increase is significantly a timing issue, with some large orders fulfilled at the very end of 2023, with a corresponding reduction in Sales in 2024.
- **Investment income** rose by £67,091 (47.8%) to £207,432, due to rising interest rates, higher cash deposits, and use of a new Charity Deposit Platform in the UK.

Legacy Income 2009–2023



We continued to pursue our goal of distributing Holy Scriptures by way of sales in 2023, often at heavily discounted prices. Indeed, the vast majority of the Bibles purchased from us will ultimately be given away free of charge. The total number of items sold worldwide in 2023 was 1,640,851 (2022: 1,425,370), of which 583,141 (2022: 372,104) were under royalty. Of the total, 1,278,669 (2022: 951,750) were Bibles or Scripture portions, 236,783 (2022: 212,054) were calendars, and 125,399 (2022: 261,566) were text cards, children's items, other Scripture items, and articles. Total Sales income in the year was £1,648,024 (2022: £1,447,070); the production cost of these items was £1,073,734 (2022: £780,588), and there was additional royalty/licensing income of £61,052 (2022: £34,949).

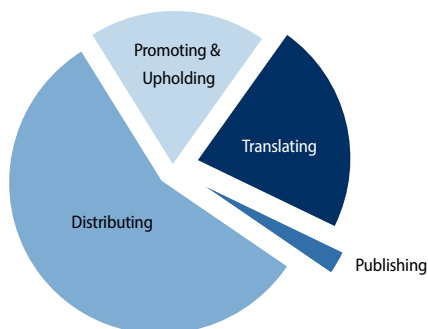
Sales & Royalty Income 2009–2023



Resources Expended

Split of the Society's expenditure by core activities:

- Translating the Scriptures
- Publishing the Scriptures
- Distributing the Scriptures
- Promoting and Upholding the Scriptures

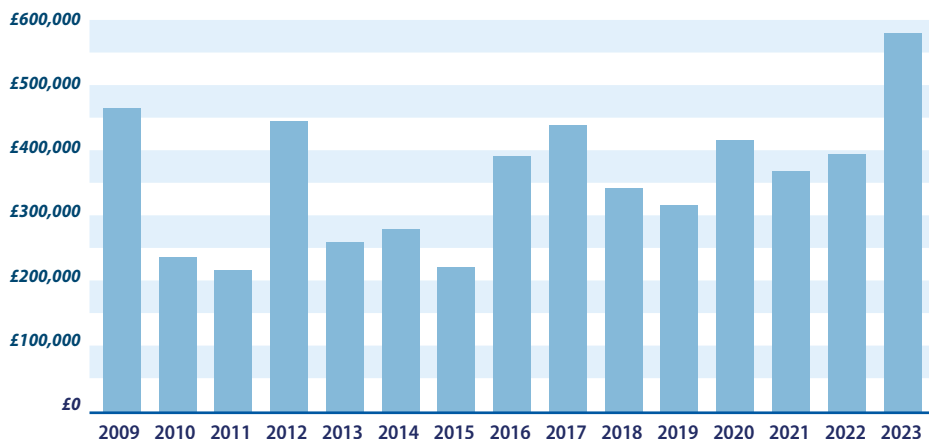


Worldwide operating expenditure in 2023 was £5,064,573, up £1,036,960 (25.7%) compared with 2022. This increase was largely driven by:

- The cost of **Translating the Scriptures** was up by £56,787 (5.3%) to £1,124,034, due to the increasing number of translation and revision projects combined with the increasing costs of personnel in the recent inflationary environment.
- The cost of **Publishing the Scriptures** (i.e. the stage between completion of the translation and it being available to distribute) rose by £32,598 (37.7%) to £119,033 as the Society has published more translations in 2023, including the French and Chinese New Testaments and the Spanish Bible.
- The cost of **Distributing the Scriptures**:
 - The direct and indirect **Costs of Sales** were up by £352,232 (22.4%) to £1,924,164 due to the increase in Sales and the rapid inflation in the cost of producing Scriptures in recent years.
 - The direct and indirect **Costs of Grants** were up by £254,926 (48.1%) to £785,019 due to an increase of the granting of Scriptures, particularly connected with the launch of various new editions as well as an increase in donations given specifically for the purposes of Scripture granting (see further detail below).
 - The cost of **Distribution Centres** has risen by £30,138 (59.9%) to £80,493 following the opening of new centres in Colombia and Ethiopia during the year.
- The cost of **Promoting & Upholding the Scriptures** was up by £313,034 (49.4%) to £946,203 as the Society increases these activities, particularly in Latin America in connection with the new Spanish Bible and in the UK.

During 2023, 1,191,888 (2022: 1,028,626) Bibles and Scripture portions, 404,293 (2022: 349,595) calendars, and 29,928 (2022: 94,660) 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 £573,655 in 2023, compared with £386,571 in 2022.

Cost of Scriptures Granted 2008–2023



Short/Medium Term Resources

The Society's Net Current Assets have increased by £784,625 (10.4%) to £8,338,266 at 31 December 2023. Within this, the liquidity situation remains healthy, with cash balances (including deposits maturing within three months) of £1,517,937 and cash on deposit totalling £3,632,049, a total of £5,149,986 at the year-end.

Long-Term Resources

The Society's UK operation held Fixed Asset Investments of £1,697,772 at 31 December 2023, down from £1,733,955 in 2022, which is largely the result of stock market movements over 2023.

The freehold properties of the Society (including the International Headquarters in London) are stated at the book cost of £2,523,075 at 31 December 2023 (2022: £2,568,269). The leasehold properties of the Society are stated at the book value of £273,833 (2022: £301,270). 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 2023 UK Free Reserves (i.e. Unrestricted Funds less Tangible Fixed Assets less Stock & Work in Progress) were £3,730,616 against a requirement of £1,050,910 (i.e. 4/12ths of 2023 UK Unrestricted Funds Expenditure less Depreciation), giving a surplus of £2,679,706. In accordance with the Society's Financial Strategy, the use of these funds is planned with the 5-Year Financial Plan 2024–2028 whilst always maintaining a Balanced Budget (defined as when the Free Reserves are maintained at a level at least equivalent to four months' expenditure in each individual year of the 5-Year Financial Plan).

Future Financial Plans

The Society's Financial Plan 2024–2028 was approved at the same time as the 2024 Budget in October 2023. The Financial Plan is updated annually, and in accordance with the Society's Financial Strategy it seeks to provide for the wise and efficient use of reasonably anticipated income, as well as available Free Reserves, over the 5-year Plan period. The Trustees are thankful that in the light of the resources available, it has been possible to again approve a sustainable Financial Plan for the period 2024–2028, including embedding the improved staffing levels approved in the previous year's Plan.

Going Concern Considerations

The Trustees are well aware of their responsibility to be satisfied that the Society is a going concern, given that the Financial Statements are prepared on this assumption. To this end, various scenarios have been tested based on 2023 expenditure levels and the 31 December 2023 Balance Sheet position. This scenario testing shows that the Society has sufficient General Fund reserves for at least 12 months following the approval of these Financial Statements, even if income fell to 'worst case scenario' levels. Consideration has been given to the effect of recent inflation and supply chains problems caused by the war in Ukraine, particularly affecting the Society's salary and Scripture production costs, as well as higher interest rates and the potential for income to fall.

Conclusion

The Trustees are very thankful to God for the faithful provision that He has again made for this work during 2023, 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 193 years. Although the Society is better funded than it has been for some years (partly due to a large one-off legacy), there are yet challenges ahead, with the lasting effects of recent high inflation and supply chain issues pushing up costs, so we need to remain cautious, prayerful, and vigilant. We are very grateful to our wonderfully 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



Trinitarian Bible Society

We have examined the summary financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 72 to 74.

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.

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 65 to 70.

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 2023.

Moore Kingston Smith LLP

Statutory Auditor

7 August 2024

9 Appold Street
London EC2A 2AP



Trinitarian Bible Society

Consolidated Statement Of Financial Activities

For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income & endowments from:						
Donations & legacies	3,209,331	763,157	903	-	3,973,391	2,788,543
Charitable Activities –						
Distribution of the Scriptures	1,702,242	6,834	-	-	1,709,076	1,482,019
Investment Income	72,562	125,174	9,696	-	207,432	140,450
Other Income	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	8,255
Total income & endowments	4,989,135	895,165	10,599	-	5,894,899	4,419,267
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	14,338	13,627	-	-	27,965	24,254
Charitable activities:						
Translating the Scriptures	539,293	476,795	107,946	-	1,124,034	1,067,247
Publishing the Scriptures	119,033	-	-	-	119,033	86,435
Distributing the Scriptures	2,450,129	298,265	98,944	-	2,847,338	2,216,508
Promoting & Upholding the Scriptures	929,670	4,303	12,230	-	946,203	633,169
Total expenditure	4,052,463	792,990	219,120	-	5,064,573	4,027,613
Net gains/(losses) on investments	2,577	-	-	(104,436)	(101,859)	(133,461)
Net income/(expenditure)	939,249	102,175	(208,521)	(104,436)	728,467	258,193
Transfers between funds	(303,999)	(58,478)	362,477	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Foreign exchange gains/(losses) - fixed assets	(17,677)	-	-	-	(17,677)	40,927
Foreign exchange gains/(losses) - other	(24,727)	(12,282)	-	-	(37,009)	163,688
Net movement in funds	592,846	31,415	153,956	(104,436)	673,781	462,808
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward (restated)	8,508,148	689,061	194,505	2,783,596	12,175,310	11,712,502
Total funds carried forward	9,100,994	720,476	348,461	2,679,160	12,849,091	12,175,310



Trinitarian Bible Society

Analysis Between Branches For The Year Ended 31 December 2023

	UK £	Australia £	Brazil £	Canada £	New Zealand £	USA £	2023 TOTAL £
Income and endowments:							
Donations & legacies	2,684,348	54,987	35,207	709,751	2,959	486,139	3,973,391
Charitable activities	938,913	77,213	418,266	53,851	4,838	215,995	1,709,076
Investment income	192,230	6,302	7,026	411	1,114	349	207,432
Other Income	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Total income & endowments	3,820,491	138,502	460,499	764,013	8,911	702,483	5,894,899
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	17,436	-	-	10,529	-	-	27,965
Charitable expenditure	3,442,145	164,267	448,035	170,161	5,782	806,218	5,036,608
Total expenditure	3,459,581	164,267	448,035	180,690	5,782	806,218	5,064,573
Net operating profit/(loss)	360,910	(25,765)	12,464	583,323	3,129	(103,735)	830,326
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	(104,436)	-	-	2,650	-	(73)	(101,859)
Net income/(expenditure)	256,474	(25,765)	12,464	585,973	3,129	(103,808)	728,467
Inter-branch transfers	351,286	19,087	(1,261)	(528,619)	(11,326)	170,833	-
Net income/(expenditure)							
Consolidated	607,760	(6,678)	11,203	57,354	(8,197)	67,025	728,467
Foreign exchange gains/(losses)							
Fixed assets*	-	-	(2,340)	-	-	(15,336)	(17,676)
Foreign exchange gains/(losses)	(5,047)	(11,499)	13,240	(7,890)	(1,980)	(23,834)	(37,010)
Other*							
Net movement in funds	602,713	(18,177)	22,103	49,464	(10,177)	27,855	673,781

* 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.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

At 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets:						
Tangible assets	2,813,053	-	-	-	2,813,053	2,887,714
Investments	173,039	-	-	1,524,733	1,697,772	1,733,955
	2,986,092	-	-	1,524,733	4,510,825	4,621,669
Current assets:						
Stocks & work in progress	1,538,499	-	-	-	1,538,499	1,436,813
Debtors	2,079,731	-	-	-	2,079,731	575,775
Investments (< 1 year to maturity)	2,477,622	-	-	1,154,427	3,632,049	4,582,864
Cash at bank & in hand	449,000	720,476	348,461	-	1,517,937	1,524,465
	6,544,852	720,476	348,461	1,154,427	8,768,216	8,119,917
Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year	429,950	-	-	-	429,950	566,276
Net current assets	6,114,902	720,476	348,461	1,154,427	8,338,266	7,553,641
Net assets	9,100,994	720,476	348,461	2,679,160	12,849,091	12,175,310
Financed by:						
Total Charity Funds	9,100,994	720,476	348,461	2,679,160	12,849,091	12,175,310

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 2023 were approved by the General Committee on 17 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by M. Keogh-Brown (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 2023 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 Scotland



We really appreciated a recent visit from the Rev. Dennison of the Trinitarian Bible Society. It was a blessing to hear about the work of TBS in

Ethiopia and how the Lord is using the organisation.

The children were presented with a special Coronation edition of the KJV Bible. We pray that they would search the Scriptures and come to know the Lord in a saving way in the days of their youth.

'Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path' (Psalm 119.105).



Bible distribution in Scotland



Africa

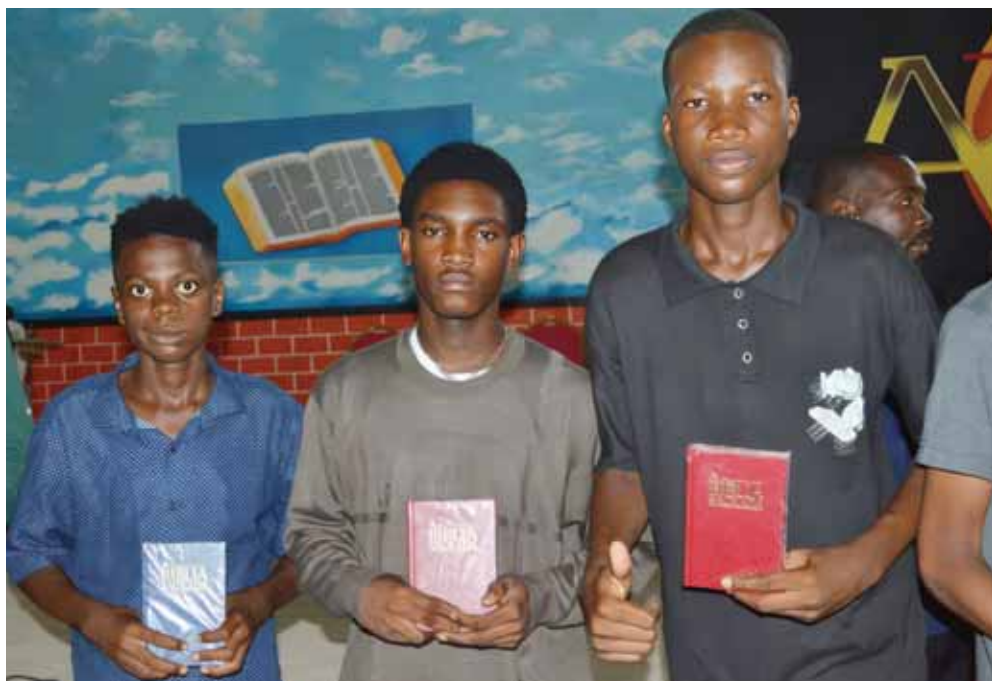


From Angola

May God bless the entire TBS team richly. I have come by this means to inform you that thanks be to God we received the Bibles. We would like to say a huge thank you to the entire TBS team who helped us have this blessing. I would also like to say that a commission has been set up to distribute the Holy Scriptures in various parts of Luanda (capital of Angola).



*Portuguese Bible
distribution in Angola*





From Kenya

We had previously received a grant of 1,000 calendars from yourselves and they were transported to Kenya towards the end of last year. My husband and I are based in Northern Ireland and we have just returned from a mission trip to Kenya and while there we had opportunity to distribute almost all of the calendars, there were just a few left when we travelled but they were allocated to go to some particular churches.

We would like to thank you once again for the grant of the calendars. We found them to be such a good method for outreach. Although we work primarily with children, we obviously meet many people, and we found the calendars to be such a good opening. They provided a good ice breaker to speak with locals. We can honestly say that we didn't have even one refusal. More than that, the people were just so happy and excited to receive the calendars. We spent time in the capital of Nairobi, Mombasa on the coast, a town called Nakuru in the Great Rift Valley, and also a number of weeks in a more rural area in Western Kenya.

Calendars were accepted not just by those in churches and schools, but by many unsaved people we met. We were able to give to security guards and even some police men on check points. In a guest house we stayed in, we were able to give to all the staff members



Calendar distribution in Kenya

and those who worked in adjoining supermarket. Also, in the guest house, a calendar was accepted by one of the chefs who is a Muslim and was, at the time, fasting for Ramadan. He was delighted with the calendar.

The hunger in the remote areas in the western areas were especially encouraging. Word spread to the neighbouring villages and people just kept coming. Thank you



Calendar distribution in Kenya

again so so much. We hope to receive calendars again and will be able to return to many of these areas and follow up with so many of these dear people.



From Ghana

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I was able to make a trip to the northern part of Ghana to have the calendars freely distributed. I left Accra and the journey



Calendar distribution in Ghana

was smooth and successful by His grace. It was very difficult to share the calendars because I didn't have enough. I went with only four hundred copies. The demand was overwhelming. The youth in the deprived communities and villages are in need of Bibles, which I didn't have.



Picking up a delivery in Nigeria



TBS posters in Nigeria

From Nigeria

I went to the General Post Office last week on Friday, and I received 43 mail bags from them. Here are the photos of the 43 bags that I picked up on Friday last week, and I am grateful. God bless TBS so much.



The Americas



From Argentina

Spanish Bibles were thankfully received by these ladies in Argentina. (above)



From Chile

Spanish Scripture verse posters were distributed in Chile. (bottom left)





Trinitarian Bible Society

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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.



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