



Quarterly Record

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Quarter One 2025



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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ADVANCE NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 20 September 2025
if the Lord will

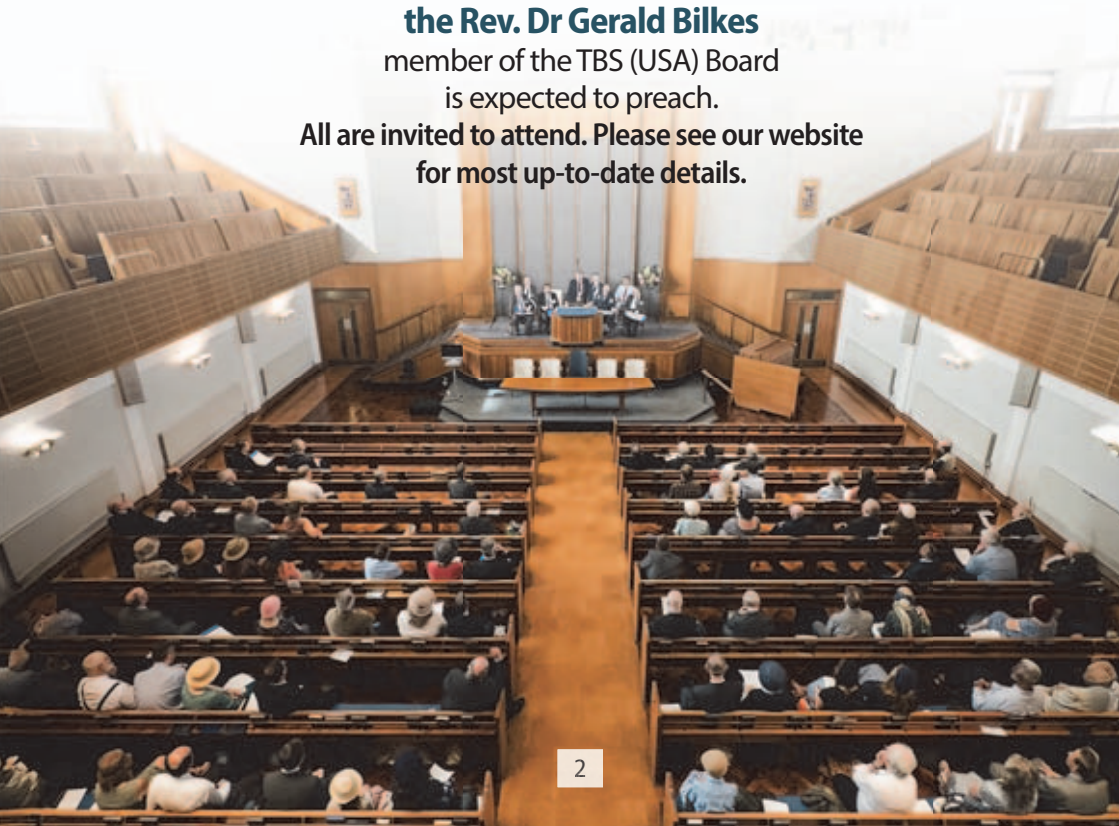
The Business Meeting at 11.00 a.m. will include reports and updates on the Society's work.

After the Business Meeting,
at 2.00 p.m.

the Rev. Dr Gerald Bilkes

member of the TBS (USA) Board
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

Christ's Word: the Foundation of Life

In Matthew 4.4, in response to being tempted by the devil to turn stones to bread the Lord Jesus Christ responded by saying, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God'. This statement is a necessary rebuke and a reminder to us that God's Word is where the Christian's recourse should be. It is by Christ, the eternal Word, set forth to us through the Scriptures, that we live. As the Holy Spirit guides us in the Word, the soul's nourishment comes from the promises of God, which are sweeter than honey and more sustaining than bread.

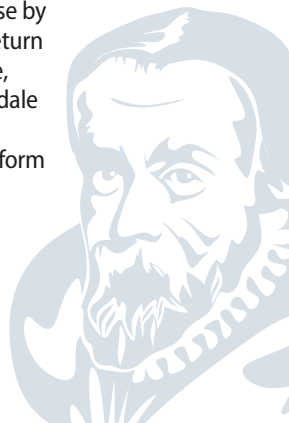
As Thomas Watson says in *How We May Read the Scriptures with Most Spiritual Profit*: 'The written Word is a divine treasury, or storehouse; in it is scattered truth as pearls, to adorn the inner man of the heart. The written Word is the true manna, which has all sorts of sweet taste in it ... David drank of this cordial; "This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word hath quickened me" (Psalm 119.50).¹ Therefore, a Christian without the Word is like a house without a foundation, a ship without an anchor,

and a soldier without a sword. As we begin this new year, may we remember that as we face each day the Word is even more necessary than our food.

William Tyndale's legacy

This truth about our need for the Word of God underscores the importance of making the Scriptures faithful and available. This year we are marking five hundred years since William Tyndale completed his translation of the English New Testament, and its subsequent complete publication the following year. It is hard for us to think of a day when a translation of the Bible into English was not available. However, this was the case in Tyndale's time. It is no coincidence that at a time when there was a challenging of church abuse by way of indulgences, and a return to justification by faith alone, men such as Luther and Tyndale pressed on to translate the Scriptures in a good literary form in their mother tongues.

Tyndale's translation was developed enough to sustain doctrine, but was within reach for those



who could read. Probably alongside the Authorised (King James) Version, no other book has shaped the language we speak and the history of English-speaking nations more than Tyndale's translation of the New Testament. It was essential for English-speaking peoples that English was shown to be a language advanced enough to hold the weight of translating from the original, Biblical Greek for the first time. Before this, the Bible was only widely available in Latin, or translated from the Latin (as was the case with John Wycliffe), and Scripture translation was forbidden.

Tyndale fervently believed the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' (Matthew 4.4). He was willing to risk his life so that those who knew English could read the Bible for themselves. Foxe reports that Tyndale's final words were, 'Lord, open the King of England's eyes'. This prayer for official approval of the circulation of the Scriptures in England was answered within two years when Henry VIII ordered Bibles to be placed in every parish church in England.

When Tyndale first published his New Testament, he exhorted readers to 'come with a pure mind, and ... with a single eye, unto the words of health and of eternal life, by the which (if we repent and believe them) we are born anew, created

afresh, and enjoy the fruits of the blood of Christ.'² This expresses the great motive behind Bible translation at the time of the Reformation: that people might understand and believe the truth about salvation and come to experience it for themselves.

Coming at the climax of this Reformation work of translation, the translators of the Authorised (King James) Version did not have to make many adjustments to Tyndale's work. In order to mark this anniversary, we are publishing a special commemorative edition of the Authorised (King James) Version. This is an edition of our new setting, the Hampton Text Bible, which we hope will be in stock later this year, Lord willing.

Continuing mission today

With Tyndale in mind, we press forward in our work. The problem in some countries may be a straightforward lack of any Scripture translation in their language. In others, we see sincere efforts to make translations of a translation—in some cases then used as a basis for further translation from the Biblical language texts. In my recent visit to Ethiopia I encountered the Amharic Good News Bible which is a direct translation of the Good News Bible in English; this Amharic translation was then used to translate into another language.

In developing formal equivalent translations from the Greek, we hope to



The AGM in Ethiopia



stand on what has gone before and with those who went before, like Tyndale, to try to highlight where the church needs to turn to sound doctrine. Like the English world at the time of Tyndale, we are dependent on the Lord to send those with the skills (or willingness to learn) of Greek and Hebrew as well as an in-depth knowledge of their native language. We sometimes have to wait, but we know in due time the Lord will call those that He has equipped for the work.

It was recently my privilege to visit both Kenya and Ethiopia to meet with various people the Society works with and those engaged in translating God's Word. In Kenya there are faithful men who have begun work on a Swahili translation, and the Gospel according to John should be available soon, Lord willing. In Ethiopia, the office there continues to receive interest from a number of people, churches, and organisations. I was impressed at the public meetings I attended to hear of those standing with the Society on its principles. We do have a small set of members there, and they are more than happy to contribute to the work that they regard as needful in their country. In a land that is referenced in the Scriptures, they are deeply concerned about the stand for the preserved Word of God. We were able to address two separate Bible colleges on the matter of inspiration and preservation,



The Swahili conference

as well as to distribute Amharic New Testaments and Psalms to the students and school children.

I was also gladdened to receive the following recent report from the General Secretary of TBS (USA) regarding distribution of the Spanish Bibles in Bolivia.

- ▶ From 24 October to 30 October, meetings were held in four different cities in Bolivia to introduce the RV-SBT [the TBS Spanish Bible] to pastors and laypersons.
- ▶ On Thursday 24 October I presented the work to around 160 people in a Reformed church in Santa Cruz that has already adopted the RV-SBT for its worship services. The following day, I presented the work to just over 220 people in Tarija for the same purpose. These two meetings were held in conjunction with the North American General Mission, a Canadian-based mission that has planted churches in these two cities.
- ▶ On Monday 28 October, I presented the work to over 250 pastors and laypeople in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia. There are many Christian churches and much interest in our work in this city, and we would have had an even larger attendance if it had not been for the street protests and highway blockades that were taking place at that time by certain groups disgruntled with the present government.



Visiting a school in Ethiopia



An attentive audience in Cochabamba, Bolivia



Presentation in La Paz, Bolivia

- ▶ Finally, on Wednesday 30 October, I once again presented the Spanish Bible and the work in Spanish to approximately 225 people in La Paz, Bolivia (the official capital city).
- ▶ In all of these meetings, the interest was very much felt, as evidenced by the excellent questions and comments at the end of the presentations.
- ▶ May the Lord add His blessing, and may He receive all the honour and glory!

As reported previously, there is great interest in the TBS Spanish Bible, and we

would ask you to please pray for the intricate logistics of getting Bibles to countries in Latin America where each country has its own legal nuances. The Lord has recently opened the doors in Colombia and Mexico, for which we are thankful. Just as much as for the Ethiopian office, please also remember those who labour in the work of the Latin American office as they distribute the Word of God.

Conclusion

During 2025, as in previous years, we will take up a particular theme for the year, which will be 'Christ in the Text', and this *Quarterly Record* contains the first devotional on this theme. We hope to expound further on this theme with articles and a conference on 12 June 2025, Lord willing.

I commend this edition of the QR to you. As is usual in the first edition of the year, we have included the AGM sermon preached by the Rev. Wesley Irwin in 2024. We also have an update on various translation projects. Some of them, such as the Kalenjin and Dan New Testaments, are being printed at the time of writing, and we have an article about the Kalenjin tribe. This edition also includes a short history of our Brazilian branch and distribution news from around the world. As always, it has many different parts of the Society's work represented and we would be grateful for your prayers as we start this new year.

Endnotes:

1. T. Watson, *How We May Read the Scriptures with Most Spiritual Profit*, gracegems.org/Watson/reading_the_scriptures.htm, last accessed 08.01.25.
2. W. Tyndale, *Tyndale's Preface's, New Testament 1426*, bible-researcher.com/tyndale2.html, last accessed 02.01.25.

THY WORD IS TRUE FROM THE BEGINNING



‘Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning:
and every one of thy righteous judgments
endureth for ever’

Psalm 119.160

BY PASTOR M. J. HARLEY

A Vice-President of the Society

What God said in eternity past is unknown to us except from when He chooses to reveal it, and the extent to which His choice extends. However, we do know that, ‘from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God’ (Psalm 90.2). When David said, ‘The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool’ (Psalm 110.1), he is indicating communication between the Persons of the Godhead which would otherwise be unknown to us. Likewise, ‘The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of

Melchizedek’ (Psalm 110.4); surely this indicates the speech of God in Heaven before the world was created.

The Lord has invested His inscripturated Word to us with the same unalterable truth and power. God’s Word is His word whether spoken or written. From the first word of the Bible until the last it is all true. John tells us God’s choice of His words are to be our guide when he writes, ‘And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not

contain the books that should be written' (John 21.25). 'These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name' (John 20.31). The Scriptures are written for the purpose of imparting salvation through His Name. Inasmuch as a selection has been made known to us in His Word, we have all that we need to know about the way of salvation. We need nothing else, except the Spirit to direct our thoughts concerning it. The Holy Scriptures bear the same powerful Word of God, tailored in His Divine wisdom for our benefit.



Scripture contains all we need to know. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, 'The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times' (Psalm 12.6). The words of Scripture contain a true record of creation, when no man was present; only God Himself could describe it as it was. It is true concerning the fall of man, that we might know our unredeemed condition. It is also true concerning the worldwide flood, that we might see the wrath of God revealed against all ungodliness. We do well to exercise faith in the declarations of Scripture when it is pitted against the theories of unredeemed scholars; 'I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation'

(Psalm 119.99). When Scripture contradicts widely held and widely taught beliefs about creation, the nature and origin of evil, marriage, and many other matters, its integrity stands high above what the best human minds (all fallen) seek to make popular in their rejection of God.

Nowhere else is the true being of the Lord Jesus Christ revealed, and His true mission as Saviour and Redeemer, than in the Holy Scriptures. The whole Old Testament reveals the background of His incarnation. His work upon the cross, His atonement for His people's sins by the shedding of His blood, is given its true significance only in Scripture. The reality of resurrection for all His people is verified by His own resurrection. We know infinitely more about Jesus Christ from the Bible than what secular historians and philosophers are able to reveal; our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ rests solely on the truth of the Scriptures.

In short, the truth about everlasting life is guaranteed by its origin in the Person of the Word of God declared in the Scriptures. What the Father and all Persons of the Godhead declare in Scripture is precisely as the Creator sees and speaks things, and by definition must be one hundred percent true. The Bible is His Word inscripturated. With the greatest of skill, as silver tried and perfectly purified, the Lord has kindly made available to us all His thoughts and purposes which we need to know to be saved. By His Spirit, He has guided the Scripture writers, fallible men, to compile an infallible record.

God's private words to other members of the Godhead are unknown to us, but the Bible is of equal perfection and power as those words of God unknown to us. The

power that brought to pass the words, 'Let there be light: and there was light' (Genesis 1.3) is the identical power to that which records them. Furthermore, in the same way as 'Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever' (Psalm 119.160), the everlasting Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will have the last word. There will be speech from the judgment seat, and it will share the same utmost truth and purity which is communicated in the Holy Scriptures. It will be the last word upon our lives against which there is no appeal.

Some might alter the Scriptures or omit parts to suit themselves in an attempt to escape God's Truth. But beware lest any of us fall into this snare: 'If any

man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book' (Revelation 22.18–19). We must be very careful that we do not fall into this temptation in our private meditations if we baulk at what the Scriptures say about the plague of our own hearts. We must not dismiss its statements or invent our own alternatives. Let us hold fast to Scriptural truth which never changes, for God's 'Word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of [His] righteous judgments *endureth* for ever'.

DOES IT MATTER?

Acts 8.37

AV/KJV

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

ESV

[Missing]

It does matter ...

Because every word of God matters (Proverbs 30.5). But also because there is evidence since the earliest times for the retention of these words in early writers, translations, and Greek manuscripts.

The verse fits best in the context of the passage. To find out more read the article Why Acts 8.37 is in the Bible.

tbsbibles.org/acts8verse37





The Holy Scriptures and Their Impact on the World

The sermon preached by the

Rev. W. Irwin

member of the TBS General Committee

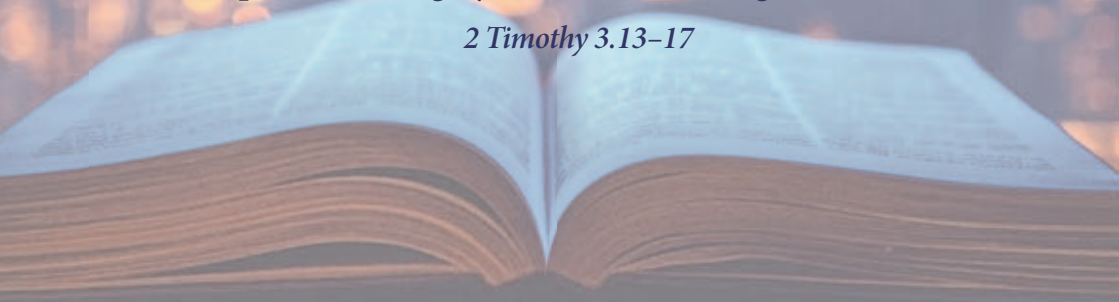
at the 193rd Annual General Meeting

Saturday 21 September 2024

Edited for publication

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works

2 Timothy 3.13–17



In the 193 years since the founding of the Trinitarian Bible Society in 1831, we may reasonably assume that some brother has taken at least part of this text and preached it at one of the Annual General Meetings. This is because in the closing section here of 2 Timothy 3, the focus is squarely upon the Word of God, and it is this God-given, Divinely inspired book that is at the centre and the core of all of the activities of the TBS. I want you to see what the Scriptures say or reveal about themselves, and the impact that they have in this world.

The abandonment of Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 3.13

Turning to verse 13 to begin with, I want you to note the abandonment of Holy Scripture: 'But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived'. Where is there a reference to the Word of God in this thirteenth verse? If you actually stop and think about what Paul is saying here, you will see that he is simply telling us what happens when men abandon the teaching of Holy Scripture. Note the transition from godly living in verse 12 to evil living in verse 13. You will notice that there is a change in character and conduct set before us in these two verses. In verse 12 we read of those that 'live godly in Christ Jesus', and then in verse 13 we come to 'evil men and seducers' who 'wax worse and worse'. As we examine this thirteenth verse, we encounter a sobering description of what occurs when men and women forsake and abandon the teaching of God's Holy Word. We are given a very clear picture of the character and the conduct of those who abandoned truth.

Observe how these men are depicted. Paul, speaking here by inspiration, gives

us good insight into the conduct and character of these evil men. They are depicted as **depraved men**; they are termed here 'evil men', which refers to individuals who surpass the general depravity that is in all humans. Their actions go beyond the norm, echoing the evil even in the days of Noah. These are not isolated cases, or just some individuals; instead they are spoken of here in the plural: 'evil men', men who oppose the Truth of God.

Those who are abandoning or would abandon the Truth of God are not only depicted as depraved men, they are also depicted as **devilish men**. They are spoken of here as being seducers, which is one of the characteristics of the devil himself: we will all know the Biblical record of how Satan came to Eve in the garden and seduced her to believe the lie. People can be persuaded to believe lies just as Eve herself was, and the seductions of these evil people in our day sadly continue to draw away men and women from God's Holy Book.

They are also depicted as **degenerating men**. Scripture says they 'wax worse and worse'. I have not termed them degenerate men, though they are certainly that, but instead that they are degenerating men. They progressively move from bad to worse in a downward trajectory away from truth, holiness, and righteousness.

They are also depicted as **deceptive men**. Paul tells us they are 'deceiving, and being deceived'. These individuals both deceive others, and they themselves are deceived; we might say they are 'deceived deceivers'. What a tragedy. It's a tragic cycle: deceived themselves and leading many others into their deception and delusion. Paul in Romans 1.25 speaks of

those ‘who changed the truth of God into a lie’. That was a deception of immense proportions. Can there be a bigger deception than that, to change truth into a lie? But is that not what you and I are seeing, certainly in Western society today?

For a more detailed picture of what this abandonment of Scripture looks like read 2 Timothy 3.2–5. In these verses Paul lists nineteen characteristics of those who abandoned the Word and the Truth of God. Time doesn’t permit that we look at the whole list, but as the first one Paul says ‘men shall be lovers of their own selves’ (2 Timothy 3.2). While this is not a sin we hear spoken about much, it is still a sin. Men are indeed lovers of their own selves. We are living in a generation that is very much in love with themselves. This self-centeredness is amplified by social media which has become a hallmark of our day and age. Has there ever been a generation that is so much in love with themselves? ‘Who is like me? Let me post lots of photographs on Instagram of me having breakfast so people will know all about me’.

Look at these other eighteen characteristics listed, and you will be enlightened about what happens when Scripture is forsaken and abandoned. Why is there all this depraved, devilish, degenerating, and deceptive behaviour in our society today? The simple answer is because men have abandoned Holy Scripture.

The adherence to Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 3.14

The fourteenth verse of our text reads ‘But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned

them’. I want you to observe here the **adherence** to Holy Scripture by drawing your attention to the word ‘continue’. Paul says to Timothy, ‘But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned’. It is as if he is saying, ‘Timothy, I want you to adhere. I want you to stand fast by Holy Scripture’. When initially preparing this sermon I was going to begin my message at verse 14, but then I noticed that verse 14 begins with ‘but’, a conjunction. As a conjunction it connects this verse with the verse that goes before, so there’s a connection with verse 13. However, the ‘but’ also introduces a contrast. Paul has already reminded Timothy of those who have abandoned the truth and would lead others to abandon it. But then he comes with this very personal and powerful word—an apostolic command—and he says to this young man, ‘But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned’. He is simply saying, ‘Timothy, you’ve got to take a different line. You have got to go in the opposite direction to those who have forsaken the Word of God’.

As men abandon truth we are to hold fast and continue in the truth. Not forsaking it, instead we are to cling to it. The more men and women would depart from it, the Word of God here is calling us, as Christians, to continue in the Word. In fact, it’s not just a recommendation, it’s a command. In the light of the abandonment of Scripture and its teaching, Paul is saying to Timothy, ‘Timothy, your personal duty before God is to adhere to the teaching and the truth of the Word of God. In your ministry you will encounter those who will seek to abandon a Scriptural position, but you Timothy, continue. Stand fast’.

Timothy was a young man, and this is a word to a young person which is still applicable to young people today:

continue adhering to the principles, the practices, and the truth of the Word of God, irrespective of what others might do. This is a personal duty. It was spoken singly and particularly to Timothy, 'Timothy, others may be going this way, but this is your duty'. And that is the duty of all of us: to firmly adhere to the truth and the teaching of this Holy Book.

Sometimes we may look at young people and worry that they are drifting. That may be the case in some instances. But it's not only young people that can drift away from a Biblical position, principles, or priorities. Older people can do it as well. In fact, the history of the church of Jesus Christ is sadly sullied by men and women who have started out well, adhering to the truth, but as the years have gone by they have loosened their hold on truth and may have even lost their grip on it entirely.

This is not the first time in this epistle that Paul exhorted Timothy to adhere to the truth. In 2 Timothy 1.13 he said, 'Hold fast the form of sound words'. That is an exhortation that comes to us all today, to 'hold fast'. The book of Hebrews encourages believers not to waver in their profession despite being put under pressure to loosen their adherence to apostolic and inspired teaching and depart from Scripture. Satan is still using that ploy today. Therefore it is all the more important for you and me, men and women, young or old, to take this command of God to heart today and to adhere firmly to God's precious and Holy Truth.

The prophet Daniel was a man that was put under pressure in Babylon to play loose with the Word of God. Daniel 1.8 says, 'Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat'. May it be our

determination and purpose that by the grace, help, and strength of God we will hold firm to His precious and Holy Word.

The acquaintance with Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 3.15

The fifteenth verse highlights Timothy's acquaintance and early exposure with the Scriptures and their profound impact on his life: 'from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus'. By means of the Scriptures and the blessing of God upon His Own Word, Timothy was brought to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to experience the salvation that is only to be found in Him.

From an early age Timothy was exposed to God's Word, and learned it. He was a young man, who even as a child was learned in the truth of Holy Scripture. He was not just merely acquainted with the Scriptures, but he was, as we know from subsequent testimony, acquainted with the Saviour that these Scriptures present to us. The word 'child' here refers to a very young child; it could even refer to an infant. This means that Timothy's familiarity with Holy Scripture began at a very early age. The same word is used to describe our Saviour or to refer to Him when He was yet a babe in the manger, and is also translated as 'infant' in Luke 18.15 to describe the children brought to Jesus.

There are a couple of deductions we can draw from this. Firstly, children need to be **exposed** to Scripture. Paul's example with Timothy emphasises the importance of exposing children to the Scriptures. Parents should introduce their little ones to God's Word at the earliest

possible opportunity, both in the home and in the public gatherings of God's people for worship. Early exposure to Scripture lays a foundation for faith and for understanding.

We can also glean that children need to be **educated** from and in the Scriptures. 2 Timothy 3.14–15 make a considerable emphasis upon a Biblical or Christian education: 'But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures'. There is an emphasis upon Timothy having learned the Scriptures from a very early age. Timothy was one who was conversant with Scripture. He knew what the Bible was about: he knew its message, and knew the truths that were presented to him. He was also convinced of the Scriptures because it tells us he was to continue in the things which he had learned and had been 'assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*' (2 Timothy 3.14). Timothy had a deep conviction that the Scriptures were undoubtedly and clearly the Word of God. They were to be relied upon; they were truth. 'God is not a man, that he should lie' (Numbers 23.19). Therefore Timothy was able to be assured

that what he had was the Word of the living God.

Furthermore, we can see from the text that Timothy was converted through the Scriptures. They made him 'wise unto salvation'. In all the work of the Trinitarian Bible Society, our aim ultimately, is the glory of God through the salvation of precious souls. On the back page of the *Quarterly Record* the aims of the Society are written, and the third one is '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'.

The Society's ultimate goal is to bring light and life through the Gospel of Christ to those who are lost in sin and darkness. This mission hinges upon making God's Word accessible through faithful and reliable translations of the Scriptures. From Genesis to Revelation the Scriptures point us to Christ. We must not just merely know the Scriptures, but know the Saviour that they present to us.

The authority of Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 3.16

We can observe the authority of Holy Scripture in the opening clause of the next verse of our text: 'All scripture is given by inspiration of God' (2 Timothy 3.16). In this verse Paul very clearly declares the Divine origin and authority of the Scriptures: their authority derives from God Himself. They are not just what Paul wrote, or what Moses says, or what the church teaches. They are the Word of God. Although we may speak of them as the writings of Moses, or of Paul, or of Peter, we know that they are in fact the very words of God Himself.



► **Firstly, consider the source of this inspiration.** The phrase, ‘All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God’ emphasises to us very clearly that the Scriptures originate from God Himself. The term inspiration more literally can be understood of as ‘God breathed’ or ‘breathed out from God’. This means that the human authors were guided infallibly and inerrantly by the Holy Spirit of God. Our Bible doesn’t come from human authority, it comes from the highest authority possible.

Part of the procedure in establishing laws in the United Kingdom is that those laws have to pass through the House of Lords, which gives them authority. Our Bible comes from an even higher authority; it comes from the Lord of lords and King of kings. It carries the highest possible authority because it comes from Heaven, from the very mouth of God. I think Isaiah recognised that when he said, ‘The LORD *is* our lawgiver’ (Isaiah 33.22).

► **Secondly, consider the script of this inspiration.** The Lord has given us an inspired book, and the very word ‘scripture’ carries some significance for us in this matter. It derives from the Latin word ‘*scribere*’, meaning ‘to write’. This is the source of the English words scribble, script, scribe, and manuscript. In other words, it’s referring to a written text. And that is exactly what is being conveyed here: God has given us His Word, but He has given it to us in a script, in a book, in a written form. This is a most valuable and precious thing for all of us to have, certainly for our whole world ever to possess: God’s Word in a book that we can take and read and learn what God would have us know about Himself, about the way of salvation. We have a treasure; we have a book like none other! We have a book of which we can say, like David when he spoke of Goliath’s sword, ‘*There is none*

like that: give it me’ (1 Samuel 21.9). May we be most deeply thankful that God in His goodness has given us a book with His will, with His words.

► **Thirdly, consider the scope of this inspiration.** How much of Scripture is inspired? Our text leaves us in absolutely no doubt. It tells us ‘All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God’. This means that every part of it—the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and twenty-seven books of the New Testament—are all equally inspired, and as a consequence they are therefore authoritative. John Burgon eloquently describes the Bible’s Divine nature when he says,

The Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the throne! Every book of it, every chapter of it, every verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, is a direct utterance of the Most High. Well spake the Holy Ghost by the mouth of the many blessed men who wrote it. The Bible is none other than the Word of God, not some part of it more, some part of it less, but all alike, the utterance of Him who sitteth upon the throne, absolute, faultless, honouring, supreme.¹

And Burgon was absolutely right: what a treasure the Lord has given us, the Holy Scriptures in a book that we can read and learn and love.

The adequacy of Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 3.16–17

‘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), for the purpose that ‘the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works’ (2 Timothy 3.17). Here Paul

is emphasising the profound adequacy of Holy Scripture. All Scripture is profitable.

Paul is talking about two things in these verses. He's talking about the adequacy of Scripture, but he's particularly speaking about the sufficiency and the suitability of Scripture. The Holy Scripture simply stated gives us everything we need: provides us with all that we need to know about God, about the way of salvation. It meets every spiritual requirement that the sinner or saint might ever need. It provides all the teaching, censures, warnings, and the instruction to make us complete and mature Christians. It is wholly adequate for every spiritual need that your soul or mine might ever have.

► **Firstly, consider the adequacy of the Scripture in the saving of sinners.**

The Scriptures point us to one Person—Christ—and our need of Him, and of our need of salvation in Him. Even the law, which shouts forth our condemnation, points us to Christ as the Saviour; as Paul says, 'the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ' (Galatians 3.24). O the adequacy of the Holy Scriptures in saving sinners!

► **Secondly, consider the adequacy of the Scripture in sanctifying sinners.**

When God saves a sinner, what does He do? He doesn't cease to work; rather He continues a work in His people. And by the blessing of God upon His Word, He works through His Word so that we might have the nature or the character of a man of God. This is a Holy Book. The Psalmist said concerning God's Word in Psalm 12.6, 'The words of the LORD are pure words'. Our text itself calls the Scripture the 'holy scriptures'. By the blessing of God they make us a holy, sanctified people. The Lord Jesus Christ in John 17.17 prayed, 'Sanctify them through thy truth'. God

will always work out the sanctification of His people through His Word, by the application of it by His Spirit.

► **Thirdly, consider the adequacy of the Scripture in schooling Christians.**

This book, we are told, is 'profitable ... for instruction in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3.16). Do you want to know how to live godly so that God's Name and grace may be glorified? This book, the Bible, will give you the answer. One theologian wrote, 'God has given to the world one organically complete revelation adapted to all, sufficient for all, provided for all. And from this one completed revelation, He requires each to draw his whole spiritual sustenance'.² That is what we have in this book, a book that more than meets your spiritual requirements.

Conclusion

That statement in the New Hampshire Confession of Faith is true which says, 'We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction, that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter'.³ TBS, with your support and with the blessing of Almighty God, will continue on in this great work in publishing and in proclaiming the Holy Scriptures in print and in the pulpit. Let us continue to publish God's Holy Word in faithful translations. Let us present it to the peoples of this world so that they too may be led to experience the salvation that is found in our wonderful Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Through your help, and with the blessing of God, we can reach many with the message of salvation.

I trust that God will bless His Word to you, and also to the millions who have or who will yet receive a copy of the Word of God,

this inspired Book. May the Lord help us to continue in this work, 'For the Glory of God and the Increase of His Kingdom through the circulation of Protestant or uncorrupted versions of the Word of God'. Amen.

Endnotes:

1. J. Burgon, sermon preached 1860, biblehub.com/library/burgon/inspiration_and_interpretation/sermon_iii_

inspiration_of_scripture_gospel.htm#, last accessed 07.01.25.

2. A. Kuyper in *Counterfeit Miracles* by B. B. Warfield, (New York, USA: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1918), p. 26.

3. 1853 *New Hampshire Confession of Faith*, gracegems.org/new_hampshire_baptist_confes.htm, last accessed 08.01.25.



Forthcoming UK Meetings

Please see our website for all deputation meetings within the UK. This list contains other special meetings.

Auxiliary Meetings

◆ **18 January 2025**, 2.30 p.m.

Wessex Auxiliary AGM

Market Lavington Community Hall

St Mary's Road,

Market Lavington SN10 4DG

◆ **22 February 2025**, 2.30 p.m.

West Anglia Auxiliary AGM

Barton Church Hall

Church Road, Barton-le-Clay,

Bedford MK45 4LA

◆ **1 March 2025**, 11.00 a.m.

South Scotland Auxiliary AGM

Anniesland Reformed Baptist Church

4 Herschell St, Anniesland,

Glasgow G13 1HR

◆ **29 March 2025**, 3.00 p.m.

Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk

Auxiliary AGM

Oulton Broad Free Presbyterian Church

114–120 Victoria Road,

Oulton Broad NR33 9LU



Save the Date

God willing, we hope to hold a conference on
Christ in the Text
on Thursday 12 June 2025 in London, UK.
More details to follow nearer the time!



Runners training on the red dusty roads of rural Kenya

'SO RUN, THAT YE MAY OBTAIN'
1 CORINTHIANS 9.24



The **Kalenjin** New Testament

By Natalie Hanks, Lead Editor



In Kenya there is a tribe that produces the world's best runners. This tribe, the Kalenjin, are outstanding long-distance athletes. Scientists have called them 'the running tribe' and have studied why this makes them unique—it could be higher than average lung capacity and haemoglobin, unusually slim ankles and calves, muscle fibre types, or lifestyle, training, and diet. Over the years they have won many gold medals and set many records. However, much more importantly, many of these people are Christians (nominal or otherwise), and those who are truly the Lord's are running 'with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith' (Hebrews 12.1–2).



William Ruto The current president of Kenya, William Ruto, is an evangelical Christian and a member of the Africa Inland Church. When he was deputy president, he was on a mission to get Bibles to as many people as possible, asking leaders and members of Parliament to ensure that the people they represented got access to Bibles published in their local languages so that they can read and understand God's Word. At an event he said, 'As I stand here today I am a beneficiary of the Bible that was written in Kalenjin. It is the Bible in Kalenjin that made my father to read the Word of God, to stop what he was doing, married my mother and took us to school'. He then quoted, 'If you speak to a man in a language he understands, it goes to his head. But if you speak to a man or woman in his or her own language, it goes to his or her heart.'¹ This is one of the aims of TBS: to translate Bibles into people's own native, heart language.

TBS has been working on the Kalenjin New Testament for over ten years now, and, at the time of writing, it is being printed. We hope and trust that it will be blessed to many souls in Kenya. But who are the Kalenjin people, and why do they need a new version of the New Testament?

The Kalenjin people

The Kalenjin people mainly live in Kenya, a country in the east of Africa. There are many different people groups who live in Kenya, which can broadly be categorised into the following categories: Bantus, Nilotes, Cushites, Arabs, and Asians, along with Europeans (who make up one per cent of the population). Nilotes (or Nilotic people) are thought to have originated in the Nile Valley, and the Kalenjin people fall into this category, along with other tribes such as the Maasai and the Samburu. The Kalenjin (numbering over six million) are one of the five largest ethnic groups in Kenya, and there are also a small number of them in Uganda and Tanzania.

The Kalenjin tribe itself is made up from ten smaller subtribes which have cultural and linguistic differences. These are the Nandi, Kipsigis, Tugen, Keiyo, Marakwet, Pokot, Sabaot, Sengwer, Teriik, and Ogiek.

The Kalenjin live predominantly in the highlands of the Rift Valley area of Kenya. The Rift Valley is an intra-continental ridge system that runs through Kenya from north to south. The valley contains a series of lakes, the Cherangani Hills, and a chain of volcanoes, some of which are still active. The valley is bordered by escarpments to the east and west. On the western side these rise to the highlands, where many of the Kalenjin live. The elevation of Eldoret, an important city in Kenya where several of the TBS Kalenjin Bible Committee live, varies from about 2,100 metres at the



The Great Rift Valley

airport to more than 2,700 metres in nearby areas. This height above sea level is comparable to some of the high valleys and mountains of Alpine Switzerland and may also give some advantage to the local athletes!

Pre-colonial Kalenjin

Before the rise of colonialism in the nineteenth century the majority of the Kalenjin were semi-nomadic farmers. They raised cattle such as sheep and goats and grew various crops including millet, maize, tea, and sorghum. Traditionally they lived in round houses built from sticks with mud and dung plaster, and thatched with grass. These houses are still common today, although the majority of people live in square or rectangular homes with timber walls with solid roofs.

The people in the tribe were divided into groups: the men were divided into boys, warriors, and elders, while the women were divided into girls and married

women. The men were split into 'age sets' and when the men of a particular set became of age their job was to protect the tribal lands of their village; their weapons were typically spears, shields, swords, and clubs. Each tribal village usually had a headman.

Traditional clothing was made of animal skins. Earrings were common in both men and women; the practice was to stretch the earlobes as much as possible down to the shoulders. The women would make elaborate beadwork, including decorating the outsides of gourds used for storing mursik (a traditional fermented cow or goat milk, prepared in a special gourd lined with soot and charcoal from plants such as the African senna).

The colonial era

During the nineteenth century early European explorers started advancing into eastern Africa and Kenya, and in 1895 Kenya became a British Protectorate. White

settlers took over much of the tribal land, and started growing crops such as tea in the highlands.

The Kalenjin had a fearsome reputation as warriors, and the area was regarded as a 'closed country' as the tribes wanted to protect their homeland. Between 1890 and 1906 the 'Nandi Resistance' was a conflict that took place between the Kalenjin (mainly the Nandi group) and the British colonial administration. The conflict itself was triggered by two British traders who had set up trading posts from the coast to Lake Victoria, wanting to have a trade monopoly with the Nandi, but tensions had already been building up as the Nandi people were resistant to a new railway line being built. They organised two convoys to travel into the area, but after antagonising the Nandi both traders were killed along with the majority of the people with them. The East Africa Protectorate and Foreign Office reacted by leading expeditions against the Nandi, but were not able to end Nandi resistance until 1905 when they killed the Nandi leader, Koitalel Arap Samoei.

Until the middle of the twentieth century the Kalenjin did not have a common name and were usually referred to as the 'Nandi-speaking tribes' by colonial officials. During the Second World War men from these 'Nandi-speaking tribes' who had been drafted to fight started to use the name Kale or Kole—meaning the scarification of a warrior who had killed an enemy in battle—to refer to themselves. A local wartime radio broadcaster called John Chemallan would also introduce his wartime broadcasts with the phrase Kalenjok meaning 'I tell you'. The story goes that this influenced a group of fourteen young Nandi-speaking men who were trying to find a name for their peer group,



Nandi warriors from the early 20th century

and they settled on Kalenjin. This term grew in popularity among the wider Kalenjin group, and eventually came to denote all Nandi-speaking tribes and those associated with them. In 1948 the Kalenjin Union in Eldoret was founded.

Independent Kenya

In 1963 Kenya gained independence, becoming a republic in 1964. It was ruled as a one-party state by the Kenya African National Union (KANU), led by Jomo Kenyatta from 1964 to 1978. The next leader was from the Kalenjin tribe,



Daniel Toroitch Arap Moi, who served the longest, into the 1990s. He was an evangelical Christian from the Africa Inland Church (AIC), and granted freedom of worship. During this time many evangelical Christian churches were established.

After some years of unrest, Kenya became a multiparty country in 1991, and passed a new constitution in 2010. In 2022 William Ruto, from the Kalenjin tribe, became the fifth president of the country.

Many of the Kalenjin people remain pastoral farmers in their homelands, with a way of life that has not changed substantially over the years. However, a significant number (like William Ruto) have moved to Kenya's cities where large numbers are employed in the government, army, police, business, banking, and finance.

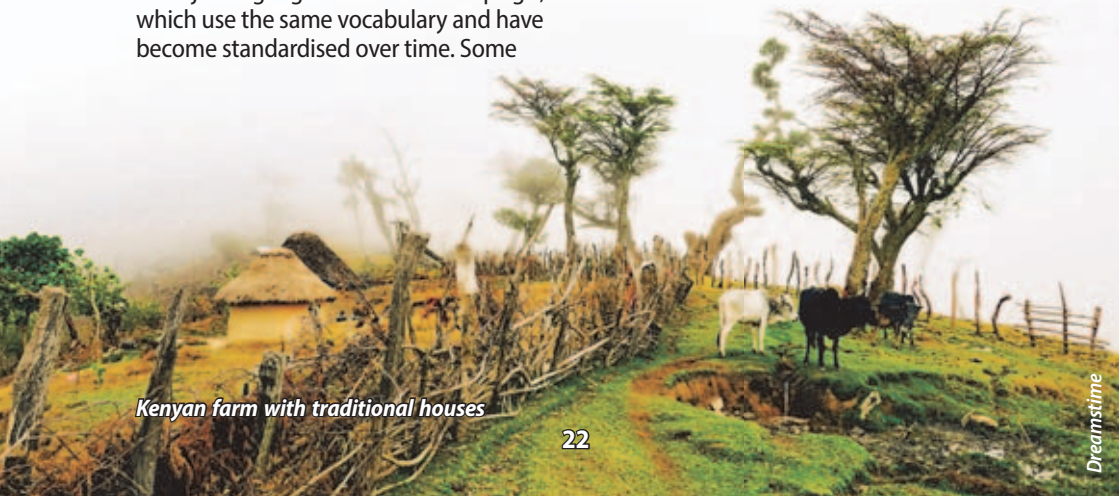
Kalenjin language

The tribes which make up the Kalenjin group speak their own languages or dialects, which differ from each other within the Kalenjin group, and also differ from other languages spoken in Kenya. These languages within the Kalenjin group are not mutually intelligible but some are linguistically closely related. The two main dialects which became known as the Kalenjin language are Nandi and Kipsigis, which use the same vocabulary and have become standardised over time. Some

of the other dialects (such as Pokot) are very different, and cannot be understood across the other tribes which make up the wider Kalenjin tribe. This is why TBS has a separate Pokot project.

The Kalenjin language is spelt phonetically. It is mainly a spoken language, rather than a written language. While the older generation learnt the language in school, for two generations it was not on the syllabus meaning that they don't know the language in written form so well. However, it has recently been reintroduced to the syllabus so young people today can read it better. The language has few literary works, but these include a Bible, hymnbook, and grammar book. The 1969 Bible (mentioned later in this article) helped to set the standard for language, and the grammar book aligns with it. There is no body or organisation overseeing spelling and grammar, meaning that spelling is a challenge for the TBS translators.

Kalenjin has ten vowels and three tones, with a three-way distinction of vowel length. It also uses 'clicks' for some consonants, which add emphasis or have specific meanings. An example is the word for 'honey' which is pronounced with a click.



The Kalenjin and Christianity

Traditionally, the Kalenjin had a tribal religion. They believed in a supreme god called Asis or Cheptalel, who was represented by the sun. Beneath Asis was Elat (Ilat/Ilet), who controlled the thunder and lightning. Kalenjin did not have a definite name for the supreme deity but used attributes such as Chebopkooiyo (god of protection), Chepomirchiio (god of wars, who oversees the army), Chepkeelyen Sogol (deity of the nine planets), and Chemalus (one with unconquerable wisdom), amongst other names and characteristics.

The Kalenjin believed that spirits of the dead intervened in the affairs of humans, and had to be placated by sacrifices of meat and beer. They also believed that diviners had magical powers and could help control rain and floods. The religion had its own moral rules and regulations, some of which could be considered similar to the Levitical Laws.

During the eighteenth century Protestant missionaries arrived in East Africa. One of the first was Johann Krapf (mentioned in more detail in *Quarterly Record* 647, April-June 2024). Krapf had a vision of a chain of mission stations across Africa from the east to the west—which later became one of the goals of the Africa Inland Mission (AIM) set up in 1895 by Peter Cameron Scott. Missionaries of the Africa World Gospel Mission (WGM) pioneered the work among the Kipsigis while missionaries of the Africa Inland Mission started the work among the Nandi and Tugen.

Christianity spread quite rapidly through the Kalenjin-speaking areas during this period, and traditional religion saw a decline. Today, many are Christian, belonging to groups such as the Africa Inland Mission, while a smaller number are Roman Catholic, and a few are Muslim. By reference, 85.5% of Kenya is Christian (33.4% Protestant with many belonging to groups such as the Africa Inland Church; 20.6% Catholic; 20.4% Evangelical; 7% African instituted churches), and 11% Muslim, with a remainder as other religions.²

The Kalenjin Bible

In 1939 the first Kalenjin Bible was translated into the Nandi language by the Africa Inland Mission (AIM), and in 1953 the Kipsigis New Testament. Between 1958 and 1966, a committee worked to produce a Kalenjin Bible which most of the subtribes could understand. This was translated from the Revised Standard Version (which is based on the Greek Critical Text) and was published in 1969 by the Bible Society of Kenya (under the United Bible Societies umbrella). This version is called the Kalenjin Union Version of the Bible. Once it was completed, the



Peter Cameron Scott

individual Nandi Bible and Kipsigis New Testament were seldom used, although there was a revision of the 1939 Nandi Bible, published in 2019, which, while purportedly based on the Authorised Version, still has missing words and verses in the New Testament.

In 2016 the Bible Society of Kenya published the Revised Kalenjin Bible (Bukuit Ne Tiliil), the aim of which was to update some of the terminology and wording used, and to add the Roman Catholic deuterocanonical books (they produced two editions, one without the deuterocanonical books for Protestants, and one with them for Roman Catholics!). The translation deviated from the conventional spellings and used the scientific spellings. At the launch of the Bible in Eldoret, three athletes from the town ran with their Bibles to symbolise that the recipients of the Bible were ready to run with it in preaching the Gospel. Sadly, this edition is also based on the Critical Greek Text.

For many years the 1969 Kalenjin Bible was the version used most in church services, although it is now only published in very small numbers by the Bible Society of Kenya who seek to replace it with the newer 2016 edition. Meanwhile, younger people tend to use English or Swahili Bibles. Overall, the Kalenjin speaking people still don't have a Bible accurately translated from the original Biblical languages, so that they can read the Word of God in their own heart language.

The TBS project

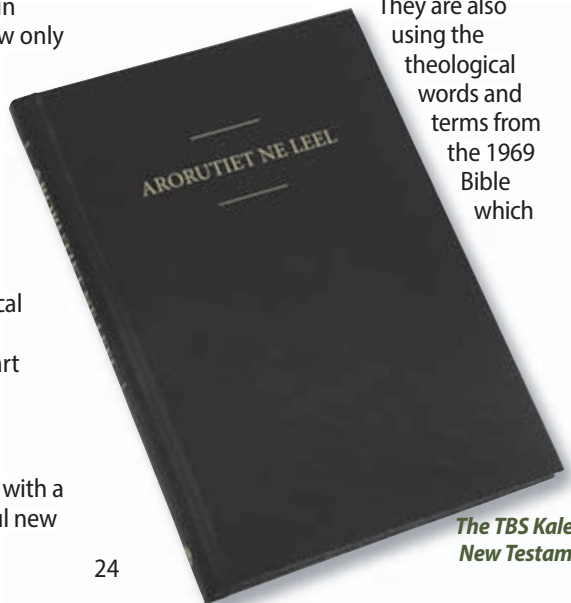
Since 2014 TBS has been working with a team in Kenya to prepare a faithful new

translation of the Kalenjin Scriptures directly from the Biblical languages, with secondary reference to the Authorised (King James) Version and extant Kalenjin Bibles.

We rejoice that the Kalenjin New Testament has recently been sent to print, and we hope to receive the printed copies shortly, Lord willing. Please pray that this New Testament might be a blessing to many people in Kenya. Work is also ongoing on the Old Testament translation, and we hope that the whole Bible will be ready for typesetting by the end of 2025.

The TBS edition of the Kalenjin Bible is in 'harmonised Kalenjin' which covers six of the dialects of the Kalenjin peoples: Kipsigis, Nandi, Keiyo, Marakwet, Tugen, and Terik. The lack of standardisation of literary Kalenjin has proved a challenge, especially as the newer 2016 version of the Kalenjin Bible was partially rejected due to its departure from the established standard of spelling. This means that the TBS translation team made the decision to retain the older form of spelling to make the edition more widely acceptable.

They are also using the theological words and terms from the 1969 Bible which



The TBS Kalenjin New Testament



set the standard. However, the team have changed a few words such as those used for atonement and that for righteousness, which is now a distinct word from justification and truth. There is also no Kalenjin word for snow, so it has been borrowed from Swahili.

The Sabaot and Pokot dialects are not covered by this edition, especially the Pokot which is a very different language. However, TBS has been working on a separate Pokot New Testament project since 2012. This new Pokot translation is primarily from the Greek Received Text 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 original 1967 TBS Pokot New Testament was a pioneering edition prepared by Tom Collins and Lawrence and Annette Totty, missionaries to the Pokot people. Despite their best endeavours some of their local helpers back in the 1960s suggested poor translation choices which need correcting. In addition, the language has continued

to progress over time, thus making a new edition even more important. So far, the team are working on the New Testament, and the Gospel according to John has been published.

‘Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God’ (Hebrews 12.1–2).

Endnotes:

1. Presidential Communication Service, Capital News Kenya, ‘Living by our religious value will conquer national challenges’ 7 December 2018 capitalfm.co.ke/news/2018/12/living-by-our-religious-values-will-conquer-national-challenges-uhuru/, last accessed 06.11.24.

2. 2019 Kenya Population and housing Census, Volume IV, *Distribution of Population by Socio-Economic Characteristics*, December 2019, housingfinanceafrica.org/app/uploads/VOLUME-IV-KPHC-2019.pdf, last accessed 17.10.24.



Editorial Report

by Matthew A. Vogan,
Editorial Director

We are thankful for recent progress across much of our translation work. While this report does not cover all ongoing projects, it highlights significant progress or important updates of some. Please continue to pray for our translators, many of whom experience conflict, persecution, and economic difficulties. All references to the future, including proposed dates for publication, are subject to the Lord's will.



 **AMHARIC; Ethiopia (60 million)** Launch events for the New Testament have been held in London and Sweden in recent months. The first draft of much of the Pentateuch has been prepared. We are grateful for a further printing of 35,000 copies of the New Testament and Psalms at Bearing Precious Seed, together with 10,000 printed elsewhere.

 **BEMBA; Zambia (4.1 million)** It was a joy to hear that the New Testament has been drafted and will progress to the various levels of careful review. After this, the translators will be able to progress to

work on the Old Testament, Lord willing. The Free Grace Evangelistic Association (FGEA) kindly partner with us on this project.

 **CHICHEWA; Malawi and Zambia (14.3 million)** The Bible has now been typeset and is in process of being thoroughly proofread before it is prepared for printing in the early summer of 2025, God willing. The Society is grateful to FGEA for their long-term partnership with us on this project. There is great anticipation for the publication of this Bible.

 **DAN; Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire (1.6 million)** The New Testament has been printed with the funds received through the generosity of a particular congregation, and the Old Testament translation work is being supported by firstBible International. Initial draft translation work is progressing through the historical books.



KALENJIN; Kenya (c. 5 million)

The New Testament is being printed through the kind support of firstBible International. Meanwhile, the Old Testament is expected to be complete and ready for typesetting towards the end of 2025.



KIKAMBA or KAMBA;

Kenya (5.2 million) The Gospel according to John has now been successfully printed and is being distributed. We are grateful to the Friends of Africa Missionary Endeavour (FAME) mission for their financial support of this project, including printing costs.

Kikamba Gospel according to John



NDEBELE; Zimbabwe

(3 million)

The proposed corrections to the Bible have been passed to the TBS and are being reviewed; it is intended to include all accepted corrections in the next printing of the Bible.



SWAHILI; Tanzania and Eastern Africa (86.5 million)

After thorough review work on the draft Gospel according to John, plans to print a trial edition are nearing fruition. The recent team conference helped to consolidate progress on the rest of the draft books prepared for the New Testament.



KISANGA or SANGA;

Democratic Republic of Congo (431,000)

The Society published a Kisanga Bible in 1991. It has needed some correction and review. However, we hope that it will be possible to publish the Gospel according to John initially.



MAURITIAN CREOLE or MORISIEN; Mauritius

(1 million)

The Gospel according to John is being printed, and work continues on translating the rest of the Gospels.



NAMBYA; Zimbabwe and Botswana (105,000)

The early indications from an analysis of the Gospel according to John which was published by the TBS in 1976 are that some revision work is going to be needed.



ALBANIAN; Albania

(7.5 million)

We continue to look at the changes needed to the Gospel according to John text we have in hand, and assistance from any further native speakers would be highly valued.



NEW! BRETON; France

(206,000)

Towards the close of the nineteenth century the TBS undertook a Breton translation project and engaged in widescale distribution of the printed Bible. While numbers of speakers have declined, there has been a recent revival of learning in this Celtic language. However, there have been some changes in Breton over the past one hundred and fifty years due to standardisation of the language. A group have recently finished revising

the Guillaume Le Coat Bible into current literary Breton. It is possible to license it for printing with some amendments. For the project to proceed, we require a native Breton speaker who would be willing to assist us in further evaluating and revising the text.



CATALAN; Spain (9.3 million)

Good progress has been made on some minor corrections to the first edition, so that the work on the New Testament is virtually complete.



FRENCH; France and many other countries (311.7 million)

The Psalms and Proverbs are now finalised and it is hoped these can be printed with the New Testament in due course. A draft of the Old Testament historical books is in process of being reviewed, and many points were able to be resolved during a team conference in September 2024. If the Lord will, 60,000 New Testaments are planned for distribution in Africa in partnership with FGEA and kindly funded by GBS.



GERMAN; Germany and Austria (133.9 million)

We are thankful that the whole Bible has now been digitised and added to our online Bible, see tbsonlinebible.com/#de. The Gospel according to John in German has recently been published in print as a standalone item.



MODERN GREEK; Greece (13.2 million)

The Gospel according to John has been well received thus far. The translator is now working on the other Gospels, but is in great need of help from a native Greek speaker who is using the language on a daily basis.



ITALIAN; Italy (66.8 million)

A native Italian speaker is helping us check the digital text. Once those checks have taken place, the aim is to make the Italian Bible digitally available on our online Bible.



LITHUANIAN; Lithuania (2.8 million)

Our analysis of the translation we reviewed indicated some issues that were sadly not possible to resolve with the translator. We look to the Lord to provide a suitable translation in this language.



MALTESE; Malta (573,000)

We rejoiced to hear that the draft revision work on the Maltese Bible is complete, notwithstanding the translator's recent serious health issues. However, the linguistic work this brother is doing will need further review by others, which we trust will happen if the Lord will. Please continue to remember this project in your prayers.



POLISH; Poland (41.8 million)

The necessary corrections have been made to the translation of the Gospel according to John, and it would be very helpful to get feedback from Polish speakers on the draft text. 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. A Polish translation of *The Lord Gave the Word* is also being prepared.



PORTUGUESE; Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, and Portugal (263.9 million)

A few minor updates are being made to the formatting of the Portuguese text.



ROMANIAN; Romania

(25.6 million) Our review of the edition of the Romanian

Scriptures published in 2018 has completed. This focussed on ways in which the revised Romanian text of the New Testament could be brought closer to the Received Text, as well as addressing some issues in the Old Testament. It is currently being prepared for printing. During 2025 it is hoped to translate other TBS articles, as well as continuing to distribute and promote existing material within Romania.



UKRAINIAN; Ukraine

(39 million)

The new Popchenko edition of the New Testament is very popular and sold out quickly, so we hope to undertake another printing of the New Testament if the Lord will. The translator has now completed a draft of the Old Testament. The Society also continues to publish the Kulish version of the Ukrainian Bible which is in an old western dialect of Ukrainian, and we are currently working on a digital text of this.



STANDARD ARABIC; Saudi Arabia and other countries

(332.4 million) We are thankful

for good progress in preparing a digital text of the Society's print edition. The New Testament has been double checked and corrections implemented. We are glad to have the prospect of a reliable digital Arabic Bible text to make available online, and with which to prepare new settings of the Arabic Scriptures.



HEBREW; Israel (9.3 million)

After completing all checks and

corrections the New Testament has been typeset and is being carefully checked. In addition, a project to record an audio version has commenced through a partner organisation. We are very grateful to three Dutch organisations—GBS, da Costa Foundation, and the Board for Israel—who have provided substantial financial support to the project.



KURMANCÎ or NORTHERN KURDISH; Turkey and Syria

(16.4 million) Our review of an

existing Kurmancî translation concluded that, while it used a literal approach, the source text was from the Critical Greek Text rather than the Received Text. We are praying that a project to translate from the latter may be possible.



PERSIAN or FARSI; Iran

(78.8 million) We pray for

others to become involved in this work alongside our reviser who is heavily engaged with many commitments. Attempts have been made to transcribe the Persian in Tajik for Tajikistan, but these are at a very preliminary stage.



TURKISH; Turkey (90 million)

The whole Bible has now been reviewed. A few months at

the start of 2025 will be needed for proofreading to make sure there are no spelling or punctuation errors.

Turkish Gospel according to John





population in India and Bhutan. Tamang is the most widely spoken Sino-Tibetan language in Nepal. Eastern (Purbiya) Tamang is the main variant which is spoken in the north of Nepal by around 1.3m people. The Gospel according to John has now been approved for publication.

 **BHOJPURI; India (52.6 million)**
A new draft translation of the Gospel according to John in Bhojpuri has been prepared and is currently being reviewed.

 **NEW! GUJARATI; India (62.7 million)** With the help of a native Gujarati speaker we are drafting the Gospel according to John with reference to our recent work in Hindi.

 **BORO; India (1.4 million)** The Boro Gospel according to John is being printed. Much of the rest of the New Testament is in first draft. As well as in Assam where our translation team are based, Boro is spoken in Nepal and West Bengal, but we have not yet established connections with Boro-speaking Christians in these parts.

 **HALAM; India (58,000)** The draft Gospel according to John is being analysed currently. It would be the first publication in this language.

 **CHOTHE; India (c. 4,400)**
The draft translation of the whole Chothe New Testament is currently being analysed.

 **HINDI; India (691 million)**
Now that the Hindi Gospel according to John has been published, work is underway on the other Gospels. A significant period of promotion is planned for early 2025, along with the printing of a translation of *How the Holy Bible Came to Be*.

 **DESAURI THARU; Nepal and India (c. 450,000 in Nepal and c. 500,000 in India)** The Gospel according to John has been printed and distribution is underway, translation work is now progressing steadily through the Pauline Epistles. We are grateful to the William Carey Foundation in North America for supporting the team to continue working on the New Testament.

 **HMAR; India (99,000)**
We are thankful for encouraging progress on this project. The New Testament has been drafted apart from the Gospel according to Mark. The task now is to proofread and finalise the text.

 **EASTERN (PURBIYA) TAMANG; Nepal (1.3 million)**
The Tamang are a major ethnic group in Nepal, comprising more than 1.6m people, with a further

 **NEW! KASHMIRI; India and Pakistan (7.1 million)**
From the 1930s TBS published Kashmiri Gospels in Roman script. To our knowledge these were never transcribed into the Perso-Arabic script, although this was desired. The latter is the more common script in use for this language. Recently, some native speakers have begun to do the work of transcription, after which it

will be necessary to undertake an analysis of the translation.



KOM; India (15,000)

The New Testament has now been submitted 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 continues to make good progress in the Old Testament.



NEW! KONKANI (GOAN); India (3.7 million)

We have established a pilot project with Konkani speakers who wish to translate using the Devanagari script and in the main form of Konkani which should enable the Scriptures to reach a greater proportion of those speaking this language. Historically Bibles have been produced in Roman script by Roman Catholics using a type of Konkani that has Portuguese and other influences, which is not so well known by the general population.



LIMBU; Nepal (400,000)

We hope to establish contacts who can help us to assess some corrections to the Gospel according to John after which it can be typeset for printing.



MAITHILI; (22 million) Nepal and India and THAITI MAITHILI; Nepal (1.6 million)

The Gospel according to John in Thaiti Maithili has been printed and we look forward to hearing news of distribution. Meantime

we are exploring the possibilities for translation in Maithili.



NEPALI; Nepal (31.9 million)

Further work is needed on the digital text but we have been able to make a Nepali edition of our maps for inclusion in the next printing. Work has been slow on preparing a Roman script text of the Nepali Bible for speakers in Bhutan, but we hope that it may soon proceed quicker.



PASCHIMI KHAM; Nepal (c. 300,000)

The Gospel according to John has now been printed and we are pleased to report that this has also been adopted as a New Testament project.

Paschimi Kham Gospel according to John



NEW! PUNJABI; EASTERN, India (37.2 million) and WESTERN, Pakistan (82.3 million)

Arising from the work in Hindi and Urdu, draft translations of the Gospel according to John in both forms of Punjabi have been prepared, and are being reviewed.



SIMTE; India (10,200)

Some relatively minor corrections are being finalised for the reprint of the latest edition. There is great need for additional copies of the Scriptures due to the current political situation in Manipur. We are grateful for the partnership with firstBible International on this project.



TAMIL; India/Sri Lanka (86.7 million)

A relatively light revision of the old Tamil Version of the Bible in relation to the Greek Received Text and to update archaic vocabulary has been completed for the Gospel according to John. Good feedback has been received,



and the reviewed text has been approved. Meanwhile, our translator has completed revising the Gospels and is working on Acts and the Epistles.



TEDIM ZOMI; India (257,000)

The Gospel according to John is now in process of being printed.

It is hoped that the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs can be drafted by the spring of 2025, together with typing out of the rest of the handwritten Bible translation.



THADOU; India (346,000)

Corrections continue to be made; once this is complete 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.



URDU; Pakistan and India (237.9 million)

The Gospel according to John has been prepared in Urdu, both in the Latin alphabet and in the Perso-Arabic script used in Pakistan. We hope this may lead to a deeper work in Urdu.



VAIPHEI; Manipur, India (42,700)

We are very thankful that the typeset Vaiphei Bible has nearly been finalised after much painstaking review and correction. 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. We also expect to print two TBS articles in Vaiphei.



ZOU; Manipur, India, and Myanmar (87,500)

The typeset text has now been finalised and is nearly 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.



CHINESE; China (1.1 billion)

The team have finished the first draft of the Pentateuch and Joshua, and are now finalising the Psalms. We continue to seek possibilities for printing the New Testament in Traditional Chinese characters. With the valuable assistance of a native Chinese speaker, we have been able to make significant progress in promoting the Chinese New Testament on social media and via a new website. A plan is also in place to contact Chinese speaking churches and Christian organisations. We are thankful to firstBible International who raised funds for a New Testament printing, which supplemented the Society's own printing. TBS is also very grateful for substantial financial support given by GBS for the project.



JAPANESE; Japan (123.5 million)

The Gospel according to John has been drafted and is ready for review.



KHAWNGTU CHIN; Myanmar (c. 5,000)

The translators have worked diligently and swiftly with a genuine commitment to a quality translation from the Received Text, and

their work has been of a high standard. The translation of the Gospel according to John has been approved for publication. The team continue to apply themselves to translating the other Gospels. Another translator in a related language has been able to provide help defining the grammar of Khawngtu Chin since this had not yet been done for their language.



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 and is undergoing a deeper review. We are planning to publish a Korean version of *Why John 7.53–8.11 is in the Bible*.



LISU; Myanmar and China

(1 million) The review committee have completed their work on the New Testament of the 1980 Lisu Bible and are working through

the Old Testament. They had to relocate due to the fighting in their home state, but are continuing with great commitment.



NEW! MANOBO; Philippines

(323,620) The Manobo are an indigenous people group from

Mindanao in the Southern Philippines who comprise nine subgroups speaking 15 languages. Besides a Christian population, there are animists some of whom live in the jungle area and have never heard the Gospel. Our translator has visited these to seek to reach them. There are also some Muslims. A native speaking pastor is working on a pilot project on the Gospel according to John.



MONGOLIAN; Mongolia

(2.8 million) The team are working well towards completing the translation in 2026. A recent visit by

the team leader has helped with progress on the Old Testament, and revision work on the New Testament also continues. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Great Company of Publishers for the Old Testament portion of this project.



TAGALOG; Philippines

(83.3 million) The Gospel

according to John is currently being printed. The translator is working through the New Testament Epistles. We gratefully acknowledge kind support from a church in Canada for this project together with TBS (Canada).



ZOKAM; Myanmar (411,000)

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.

ONLINE BIBLE

Around ten languages have been added to the Online Bible over the past year. Reading plans, additional help, Metrical Psalms, and other features are soon to be available.

Conclusion

We look to the Lord for everything that is necessary to bring all of this work to completion in His time. Please pray for wisdom, grace, and strength for those who prepare and check the text.



HINDI SCRIPTURES

By Natalie Hanks, *Lead Editor*

Hindi, an Indo-European language, is one of the most spoken languages in the world. Together with Urdu the two languages are known as 'Hindustani' and unitedly they have around 600 million native speakers. Hindustani is spoken mostly in India and Pakistan. It is what is known as a 'pluricentric language', which means it has several different standard forms—Hindi is written in Devanagari script, while Urdu is written in a Perso-Arabic script, but the language underlying both is very similar. There is a great need for sound Scriptures for Hindi churches.

Christianity and Hindi

Christianity amongst Hindi speakers in India sits below three per cent, with only a minority of Christians identifying as Protestant. Christianity is thought to have come to India in the second century. Greek kingdoms existed in India, and some Indian kings married Greek women, meaning that it would have been easier for Greek speakers to travel and preach in Greek. From the early eighteenth century various Protestant missionaries (such as William Carey and Henry Martyn) were present in India.

Early Hindi Bible translations

The history of Bible translations into Hindi and Urdu are closely connected. The earliest Bible translations into Hindi were done by

missionaries. These missionaries had great challenges in relation to first learning the languages and the different scripts that are used, as well as then tackling printing and literacy needs. However, a Bible translation was vitally important because it would enable native speakers to spread the Gospel and to establish churches.

In 1745, the German missionary Benjamin Schultze published a Hindi-Urdu New Testament in the Deccani dialect. Then two Englishmen, William Carey (1761–1834) and Henry Martyn (1781–1812), determined to give their lives to this task.

A brilliant language scholar, Henry Martyn learnt Urdu, and within five years from commencing to learn it, he had translated the whole of the New Testament, helped by native speaking helpers. Sadly he died young before its publication in Urdu script in 1814. The title page stated that it was 'translated from the original Greek by Henry Martyn and afterwards carefully revised with the assistance of Mirza Fitrat and other learned natives.' The full Bible was later published in 1843, based on Martyn's drafts of the Old Testament.

William Carey gave himself to translating in other tongues especially Bengali, but also supervised the publication of other Bibles. He longed for translations in all the major languages and this was mostly realised,

with dozens of different publications, and the establishment of the Serampore Mission Press in India. A team of translators under Carey's supervision began work in Hindi and by 1811 the Hindi New Testament was published. This was based on the Urdu by Henry Martyn, and Schultze's earlier work. Carey and his team also worked on translating the Hindi Old Testament, which was completed in 1819.

A different edition of Martyn's work adapted to Hindi by William Bowley (c.1780–1843) appeared in 1826 with an Old Testament in 1834. Bowley had to work from the English, however, as he did not have proficient Hebrew. Other missionaries, including William Yates (1792–1845) and John Parsons (1817–1869), undertook to revise the work of Carey. Joseph Owen (1814–1870) worked during the 1850s to finalise the Old Testament.

Modern Hindi Bible translations

As the nineteenth century progressed, Hindi was a unifying language for northern India and the Khari Boli dialect became more influential. This meant that standardisation and refinement of the language was needed because Hindi varies across the different regions where it is spoken, resulting in different forms.

From the late nineteenth century onwards the Hindi and Urdu Bibles were revised further. Some of the changes were related to the language but many were from the new views of the text of Scripture, following the publication of the Critical Greek Text in 1881 by Westcott and Hort. For instance, in 1893 a committee of

different missionaries began to revise the Urdu New Testament conforming it to the Greek text underlying the English Revised Version. In 1919 a significant revision of the Hindi Bible was published. This gained a strong position and has been widely seen as the Old Version in continuity with what Carey published. However, this was based on the Critical Greek Text and had verses missing and other textual issues. Various other editions have been published since, including Jehovah's Witness Versions, and a translation of the NIV.

The TBS project

A new edition of the Hindi Bible is required. While the earlier Carey-era translations are good, we cannot simply digitise and re-publish the text, because there have been so many changes to the Hindi language since then, and it has been more standardised. The current Hindi Bibles are based on the Critical Greek Text, meaning that there is no accurate, reliably translated Bible from the original Biblical languages, in a format that be read by modern day Hindi speakers.

Therefore, in recent years TBS has commenced a Hindi translation project, with reference to the earliest editions of the Old Version Hindi Bible compared with later revisions. It is with great rejoicing that the Hindi Gospel according to John was published, and is now available both in print and on our Online Bible App: tbsonlinebible.com/#hi. Our translator is well underway with translating the rest of the New Testament. Please pray for this project, and that the published Gospel according to John might be blessed to many Hindi readers.

India Gate through the morning smog of New Delhi



German
product code: DEUJN



Modern Greek
product code: ELLJN2



Hindi
product code: HINJN

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We are once again thankful to the Lord to be able to announce three new publications of the Gospel according to John.

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SPECIAL OVERPRINT

Words of Life Calendars for 2026

We offer churches and other organisations the opportunity to have their contact details printed onto each page of their calendars. It is our hope that this overprint facility will prove useful to the furtherance of the Gospel in various localities. **Please note that all orders must be placed online at tbsbibles.org/overprintform**

Advance notice

To enable the timely delivery of overprinted calendars it is necessary for initial design and print preparation work to commence many months in advance. All orders must therefore be placed by **Saturday 31 May** so that we can ensure delivery by the end of October 2025, God willing.

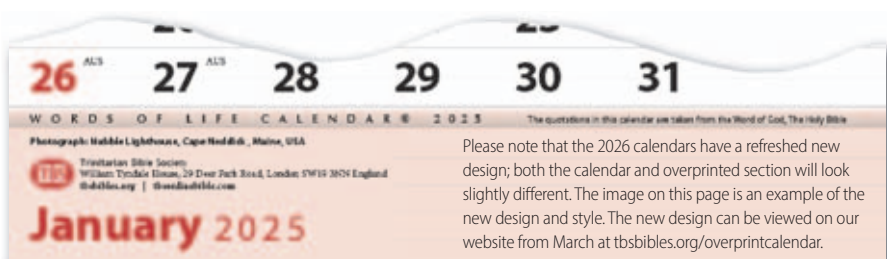
Price

Calendars cost £0.80 each (plus VAT). Minimum order quantity for each edition is 1,000. UK shipping is free. All other shipping charged at cost. Discounts cannot be applied to orders for overprinted calendars.

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what is entered on the form.

We accept overprint orders in the following languages: English, Albanian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese, French, Hungarian, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Serbian, Ukrainian, and Welsh.



Please note that the 2026 calendars have a refreshed new design; both the calendar and overprinted section will look slightly different. The image on this page is an example of the new design and style. The new design can be viewed on our website from March at tbsbibles.org/overprintcalendar.



TBS (Brazil) A HISTORY

By Harold Gilmer,
Executive Vice-President of TBS (Brazil)

Belém ◆

Recife ◆

Brasília



Belo Horizonte ◆

Rio de Janeiro

São Paulo ■

Inventions are usually born out of a need, and this was the case in the starting of the Trinitarian Bible Society of Brazil on 7 June 1968. But we must go back a couple of years to understand what led to this need.

In the year of 1966 the General Secretary of the Brazilian Bible Society met in Europe with five priests, who proposed a joint revision of the Bible, unifying the translation for both Roman Catholics and Evangelicals (as the non-Roman Catholics are referred to in Brazil). This volume would naturally contain the Apocrypha for the Roman Catholics. The priests suggested starting their own Bible Society just in case the Brazilian Bible Society would not

comply with their wishes. The General Secretary brought their proposal before the thirteen-member board—twelve considered the proposal as being of the Lord, but one member opposed: the Rev. Synesio Lyra (who was the pastor of the oldest evangelical church in Brazil: the Fluminense Congregational Church in Rio de Janeiro). He wrote an open letter criticising the proposal, calling it ‘childish’.

That same year, the Rev. Thomas L. Gilmer arrived in Brazil as a missionary, along



Rev. Dr. Thomas Gilmer

with his wife Linda and two-month-old daughter. The Rev. Gilmer was a missionary through the International Board of Jewish Missions, but was also a representative for Pastor Don Frazier, father of the Bearing Precious Seed movement, which supplied copies of the Bible or Bible portions to missionaries. On behalf of Pastor Frazier, the Rev. Gilmer requested permission from the Brazilian Bible Society to print fifty thousand copies of the Almeida Revista e Corrigida (Almeida Revised and Corrected—ARC) edition of the Portuguese Bible. The request was denied with a statement that the ARC would be phased out and replaced with another revision of the Atualizada (Updated),

few almost imperceptible differences. Both claimed to have copyrights on the ARC, and both said no permission would be granted for anyone else to print the João Ferreira de Almeida translation. However, Dr Silas Evangelista de Oliveira, an outstanding lawyer, fully researched the claims of the two organisations and found that neither had such copyrights. Missionary Robert C. Collins said that he had heard that at some time in the past the Trinitarian Bible Society of London, England, had printed the Almeida translation of the Bible.

These two pieces of information surprised some conservative pastors and missionaries in Brazil. In a meeting held to discuss



The old TBS (Brazil) office from 1992 to 2005

which would also eventually be replaced by an edition produced with the Catholics that would include the Apocrypha.

A request made to JUERP (the publishing arm of the Brazilian Baptist Convention) was also denied, with a statement that JUERP was working on a new revision of the Bible based on eclectic Greek texts, which would replace the ARC. These two groups, the JUERP and the Brazilian Bible Society, printed the same edition with a



New TBS (Brazil) office in 2005



Dedication of the new office in 2005

these matters, it was mentioned that the Trinitarian Bible Society had indeed published the Portuguese Bible in the past. (According to records, the last edition of the Portuguese Bible was in 1948, the same year that the Brazilian Bible Society was founded.) It was decided that the Rev. Gilmer would contact TBS requesting permission to publish the Portuguese Bible.

Dr Silas de Oliveira, the Rev. Robert Collins, the Rev. Armando Pinto de Oliveira, the Rev. William Le Roy, and the Rev. Walter Reichen comprised the first board of TBS (Brazil).

Revision of the Portuguese New Testament began immediately. The board came together for the first revision meeting, each with his own copy of the Greek



Evangeline Ruth Hammond with Bearing Precious Seed Portuguese Gospels

The Rev. Gilmer wrote to the Rev. T. H. Brown (then TBS General Secretary), who informed him that TBS had an edition of the Portuguese New Testament that needed orthographic revision which they would send, and also provide a copy of the Old Testament for revision. Permission was granted for the organising of the new Trinitarian Bible Society of Brazil, who would have copyright on the Portuguese Bible, as would the TBS based in London. It was understood at that time that TBS (Brazil) and TBS (UK) would pursue further partnerships in distributing the Portuguese Bible.

Thus, on 7 June 1968 the Trinitarian Bible Society of Brazil was founded, having the Rev. Synesio Lyra as the first president. Along with him, the Rev. Thomas L. Gilmer,



Bible revision meeting



Lilian Gilmer proofreading

New Testament. To their surprise, their Greek New Testaments differed from one another! While all were the Nestlé Aland Greek Critical Texts, they were printed in different years, and had suffered changes. The TBS in London furnished

the board members with copies of the Textus Receptus Greek New Testament. The Textus Receptus was the basis for the original Almeida Portuguese translation as with other Reformation Age translations including Luther's German Bible and the Authorised (King James) Version in English. The TBS also provided copies of the Old Testament Hebrew Masoretic text.

Testament, along with Psalms and Proverbs in 1982. The complete Portuguese Bible was published in 1994.

According to the Rev. Thomas L. Gilmer (one of the founders and current president of the Trinitarian Bible Society of Brazil), 'The reason that the Trinitarian Bible Society of Brazil was started was to ensure the continuity of publication of the Holy



TBS (Brazil) board with Jonathan Arnold, Philip Blows, and Bill Greendyk

Following this, expert linguistic Portuguese professors, volunteers, and some paid revisers worked diligently to assure that all orthographic changes were made, as demanded by authorities of all the Portuguese-speaking countries. Meanwhile, Hebrew and Greek scholars diligently verified the excellent translation of Almeida.

The first revision of the Portuguese New Testament was completed and sent to London by ship, but the revision was lost at sea. This being the only copy, revision commenced again. The Gospel according to John was completed first, and this edition was adopted by the Pocket Testament League of Brazil. The New Testament was published five years later in 1973. Gideons International were the first partners to adopt the Portuguese New



TBS (Brazil) showroom

Bible, translated by João Ferreira de Almeida. The fact is that some wanted to change Almeida (and had already made some changes). We set out to verify Almeida's text, to place it in the current spelling and with fidelity (to the Hebrew and Greek texts he used), so we ended up calling the text Almeida Corrigida Fiel (ACF). *Almeida Corrigida Fiel* means 'Almeida Corrected Faithful'. It bears the name Faithful, for it seeks to be faithful to the same Greek and Hebrew texts that Almeida used in his translation of the Portuguese Bible.

The Almeida Portuguese Bible was actually the first foreign language Bible that the Trinitarian Bible Society edited and corrected after it was founded in 1831. Almeida completed the translation of the Portuguese New Testament in



TBS (Brazil) stockroom

1691 (the second edition of 1693 is the one he approved) in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the help of the Dutch Reformed Church. He passed away before completing the translation of the Old Testament, having translated up to Ezekiel 48:31. The Rev. Jacobus op den Akker completed the translation, which was published in separate volumes. According to our records, the first edition of the complete Portuguese Bible was not published until 1819 (we have a copy of that Bible in our library here in Brazil). The first revision of the Portuguese Bible by the Trinitarian Bible Society began in 1837 under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Boys of Trinity College, Cambridge. The work was completed in 1844 and the Bible printed in London in 1847.

The Almeida Corrigida Fiel (ACF) published today remains faithful to the same Biblical texts and translation principles as the original edition, but is in current Portuguese, revised according to the new orthographic agreement, and is suitable for all Portuguese-speaking countries. By God's grace, since TBS (Brazil) was founded



A Bible delivery

in 1968, more than ten million complete Bibles and almost two hundred million New Testaments have been distributed through our partnerships. That's not counting the more than twenty-four million ACF readers on Bible apps. The ACF can be found in all major bookstores in all of Brazil and every Portuguese-speaking country in the world. We are endeavoring to establish further outlets in every Portuguese-speaking country in the world. All of this for the glory of God!

Brazilian directors and staff

All our directors must be financially independent enough to give one day, or more, each month, if necessary, to help. A pastor whose church is willing to release him to help is considered financially independent enough to be a director. Our paid staff of six people is indeed a skeleton crew. Our President and Executive Vice President are both missionaries supported by their contributing churches.

Our mission: A copy of the Faithful Bible for each person

Why do we do what we do? Looking in the rearview mirror of time, we see the little girl, Mary Jones, longing for her own copy of God's Word in her own language—Welsh. It was contemplating this reflection in the mirror of time that we established



a clear mission: a copy of the Faithful Portuguese Bible for each person. This clear mission is guiding all that we do, and everything we produce now is keeping in mind 'who' will be reading that Bible. Because of that, we've made our Bibles even more legible, focusing on each age group and their particular needs (from children to senior citizens, with a wide range of Bible sizes, settings, and bindings).

Once we have completed our mission (that is, each person having their own copy of the Faithful Bible), we must continue our work to fulfill our primary purpose, which is the glory of God and the salvation of men; like Philip with the eunuch: 'Understandest thou what thou readest?' (Acts 8.30). Note that the eunuch had his own copy of the Holy Scriptures. That's why we do what we do.

1. All our translations and revisions are done directly from the original languages (Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Textus Receptus), using formal equivalence translation methods.

2. We supply Bibles, New Testaments, and Biblical portions at an affordable price so that all may sow the Faithful Word of God.

3. All that we produce is made with each person in mind. Everyone needs a Bible to call their own.

4. We produce articles and hold conferences with the aim of strengthening faith in the Word of God, and challenging people to become translators of the Holy Scriptures.

Vengeance is mine; I will repay

A Testimony by Harold Gilmer, TBS (Brazil)

'If you ever forget why you do what you do, simply look in the mirror', I recently told Moacir, one of the most dedicated salespersons we ever had at TBS (Brazil). You must read his story to understand why I said that.

While still in his mother's womb, Moacir was given away. Tragedy struck his life at five years of age when his adoptive father was murdered. At nine years of age, while visiting the prison with a priest, he met the man who killed his father. 'I am going to kill you when I grow up', he swore to that man that day. Then things got worse—his adoptive mother died that year.

Unwanted by his siblings, he lived in several houses before seeking out his biological mother at the age of seventeen. She had moved from Recife, in the northeast of Brazil, to São Paulo, in the south, where the office of TBS (Brazil) is located. To say that he was unwelcome is an understatement. He basically worked for a place to sleep—vengeance was his food. The desire to revenge the blood of his father made Moacir stay away from bad influences.

Fifteen years later, we met Moacir for the first time through his mother-in-law, who began attending our church. Now a grown man, a wife and daughter had not deterred his focus. He was about to fulfill his promise to slay the man who slew his father: that was his only purpose in life. He mentioned his plan to one of our fellow missionaries, who, by God's grace, dissuaded Moacir and presented to him the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Miraculously, he called on the Lord and his life was turned right side up. Moacir found forgiveness in the Lord Jesus Christ, and forgave the man who killed his father!

I had the privilege of discipling Moacir and watching him grow in the Lord. When an opening for a salesperson became available at TBS (Brazil), he was invited to work with us. Two years later, we needed someone to represent us in Moacir's hometown of Recife at the ICCC (International Counsel of Christian Churches). Moacir was chosen. For the first time since leaving home, he returned to Recife, not bearing a gun, but carrying a Bible to give to the man who had killed his father.

'Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord' (Romans 12.19). Moacir did not meet

the man who killed his father—time had already taken his life—but he gave the Bible to that man's sister. Two years later, he returned to Recife for yet another conference, once again on the behalf of TBS (Brazil). Those are the only two times he has ever returned to his home state.

Moacir found a new purpose in life. He loves sowing the Word of God

and he loves serving the needy children at church. Recently a mother came to him and said, 'Moacir, you need to talk to my son. His father was murdered, and he wants to kill the man who killed his father'. Moacir lovingly told his story to that boy.

Moacir is a living testimony of why we do what we do. Oh, may we never lose focus of our primary purpose, which is 'The glory of God and the salvation of men'.



Moacir at TBS (Brazil)



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 Spain

We have received all of the Bibles that you sent to us. Thank you so much for this precious gift! We have already given one of the boxes to a sister church so that they have Bibles to give to visitors who come. We plan to use these Bibles by giving them out free of charge to anyone who wants one! We run a media ministry and we often run advertisements so people can get a free Bible if they don't have one. Thanks again!



Africa



From Ghana

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to you all. God bless you abundantly for the Bibles and calendars you sent to me. The Scriptures you sent are seriously changing lives.



From Malawi

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ! I have emailed you, mainly to confirm that we have safely received our grants of Golden Thoughts calendars. We

*Distribution to
children in Ghana*





Distribution to students in Kenya

are greatly appreciating the grant because this will help to lift up the work of God here in Malawi, including other countries here in Africa. May the Lord Jesus Christ be glorified. We also thank you for granting us with different languages. This will boost up the work of God in different countries of Africa, not only Malawi. May the Lord Jesus Christ keep on blessing TBS, so that the blessings can keep on flowing in the world. Thanks.



From Kenya

Dear brethren, Peaceful greetings in the precious Name of Jesus. We are grateful that these donated Bibles have been of value to the life of many Kenyans. We have been reaching across with these wonderful Bibles of correct translation. So many pastors and people over here have corrupted Bibles, but we thank God that through your donation, they now have the correct Bibles to share the Word of God with. We are also grateful that those people who could not afford Bibles due to financial constraints are now having a free Bible for their own use. We are constantly praying for you in the Name of Jesus.



From Nigeria

This is to say a very big thank you for the way you are showing us love in our ministry by sending us two parcels of Golden Thoughts calendars and two parcels of Royal Ruby Text Holy Bibles.

We can't do without saying a very big thank you to Trinitarian Bible Society and the Grants Department as well.



Distribution in Nigeria

Distribution to school children in Sierra Leone



From Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, the work may also continue. This week the new school year started again. In addition to the work in Limba, the contacts continue to expand to other areas, the demand for reading materials and schooling is growing. We have also started online training for pastors. God's Word may in this way be spread in many places in Sierra Leone. In Limba a large group meets every Sunday in the church building. It is extraordinary how the Lord works, and what we may believe also in the hearts of young people in Limba. There has also been a request for

Bible reading material from neighbouring Liberia. We would like to hand out the TBS evangelism calendars again at the beginning of 2025. For the past two years, the TBS has provided us with these wonderful calendars.



The Americas



From the USA

Thank you so much for your help and efficiency to send out the pocket size New Testaments to the addresses ahead of us! It is such an abundant blessing to us to have them! We have been going through them at a rapid pace due to the multiple performances and great desire from those we meet.

I wanted to let you all know that they have been received with incredible eagerness and gratitude by the incarcerated individuals that we have been visiting throughout the facilities in Colorado and now Kansas. One of them had asked for a Bible during our last visit a year ago, we met him again this year, and he told us that since then, he has been diligently reading it. He said that the words of Jesus have

Distribution in the USA



changed his daily conduct and given him an entirely new perspective on his future. Many others have told us how, for the first time, they would consider the message of the Gospel and wanted to study the Word of God.

So, many thanks to each of you at the Trinitarian Bible Society for making this possible! We pray God's increasing grace upon you all!



From Colombia

TBS Spanish Bibles were distributed to churches in Medellín, Colombia, where they were received with much thanksgiving.

From Colombia

I hereby address you on behalf of the seminary, to thank you for the donation of Hebrew-Greek Bibles given to our students, which represents a great advance for their theological and exegetical education. We are happy to have this Bible resource be part of our students' personal libraries.

We hope to continue to be in contact with you, so that these ties with our institution remain. I thank you in advance for your attention and consideration.





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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.



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