



**Bible Society of Kenya**

# The Bible People

*Quarterly Newsletter Vol. 19 September 2018*



## **INSIDE**

**Reducing illiteracy  
in Turkana**

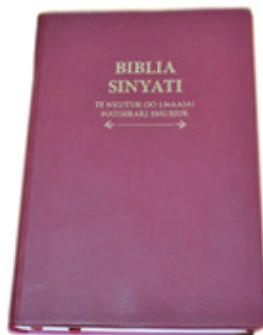
**Availing Bibles to  
needy children**

**Bible Society of Kenya  
Unveils Revised Maasai Bible**

## Revised Maasai Bible



*Protestant Bibles - Ksh 870*



*Deuterocanonical Bibles (Catholic edition) - Ksh 986*

### ***New Features of the Revised Maasai Bible***

- 1. The bible is written targeted at the Maasai of Kajiado and Narok unlike the previous one which was targeted at the Maasai community all the way from Tanzania to Samburu. Thus the language used is clear and concise using the dialects used in Kajiado and Narok including Laikipia Counties.*
- 2. Archaic words and expressions have been removed and any offensive words dealt with.*
- 3. More illustrations/pictures have been inserted in the bible to make the message clear.*
- 4. The introductions to each book have been expanded and made clear.*
- 5. The cross references have been added to assist pastors prepare for sermons.*
- 6. The font size used is much bigger making the bible more legible.*
- 7. Bible character information has been added at the beginning of the bible to help the readers familiarize themselves with bible characters even before they start reading the bible.*
- 8. Footnotes have also been added to help the readers understand the message of the bible.*
- 9. The glossary/wordlist has been expanded at the back of the Bible.*
- 10. The bible comes in two versions – one targeted solely for the Protestant Christians with the 66 books, and the other for the Catholic Community Churches with the Deuterocanonical books.*

## **ABOUT US**

### **MANDATE:**

*To share the good news of Jesus Christ by translating, producing, distributing and encouraging use of the Holy Scriptures.*

### **VISION:**

*A People transformed by use of Holy Scriptures.*

### **MISSION:**

*To make available the Holy Scriptures in affordable and innovative formats for holistic transformation of people's lives through translation, production, distribution and advocacy.*

### **CORE VALUES:**

- Christ-centeredness
- Stewardship
- Integrity
- Inclusiveness
- Innovation
- Partnerships

### **BSK PROGRAMMES:**

- Translation
- Distribution
- Youth and children outreach
- Outreach to marginalized communities
- Faith Comes by Hearing
- Literacy
- Trauma healing
- HIV/AIDS-Where is the Good Samaritan Today?
- Programme for Pastoral Instruction (PPI)

## ***From The General Secretary***

Dear members,

What a privilege to be well kept of the Lord in fullness of life, health and peace! We thank God for his grace upon us as we carry on with the mandate of availing the Holy Scriptures to all. We thank you for your unwavering support towards this course in kind, cash and in prayers. May the Lord abundantly bless and keep you.

The last quarter has been very successful and with your help, we've managed to reach out and touch hearts of many through Scripture distribution and programmes that promote Bible use. We give all glory to God for the smiles and reliefs we have seen on the faces of the people whose lives we have touched through this ministry.

Through partnership with the Netherlands Bible Society, we managed to respond to the lack of Bibles by school going children by distributing 811 Bibles in three schools in Kakamega County including; Ebuchira, Malaba and Emabole Primary schools. We also distributed additional 3,545 Bibles to school going children in other Counties including Baringo, West Pokot, Kajiado and Nairobi. It is our sincere prayer that these Scriptures will holistically transform the children's lives for a better Society.

As a way of appreciating members, BSK held members engagement forums in Kisumu and Nairobi. These event also brought together potential members who were encouraged to join BSK and be part of the noble work of availing Scriptures to all in languages they understand best.

We urge you our dear members to continue recruiting more members so that BSK may reach more people with her programmes at the grassroot level and increase involvement in BSK activities.

I am also delighted to inform you that by the Grace of God, the revised Maasai Bible was launched in a very colourful event in Narok Stadium. We give thanks to God for enabling us to complete this journey that has taken five years. Our prayer is that the Maasai community will be positively transformed through this word that they understand in their heart language.

Our other programmes including literacy and trauma healing continue to bear positive fruits as is evident through the stories covered in this newsletter. We acknowledge your support as our valuable partners and continue praying that God will meet all your needs as you support our programmes and projects to enable us reach out to the wider population of people across the country. May the Lord abundantly bless and keep you.



***Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki***  
***General Secretary***

## ***Bible Society of Kenya Unveils Revised Maasai Bible***

Bible Society of Kenya officially unveiled the Revised Maasai Bible in Narok, Kenya. The Bible is a revision of the old Maasai Bible, firstly done in 1995. The Revision was done in consultation with the Maasai religious leaders and began in 2011.

The Bible which will specifically serve the Maasai Community living in Kenya and Tanzania regions is more advanced and offers a more independent, readable version of the Maasai Bible.

The revision was informed by the intelligibility of the Maasai dialects and evolution of language.

Speaking during the launch, Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki, Chief Executive Officer, Bible Society of Kenya said that the Revised Bible is a dedication to the Maasai people as part of the society's mission to ensure transformation through Scripture use. "At Bible Society of Kenya, our mission is to ensure that every Christian within the borders can read and understand the word of God. Through translation of the Bible into various languages we ensure that Christians can read the Bible in a language that they understand." She added.

The Bible Society of Kenya has lined up a number of translation projects to cater for various local communities to ensure preservation of indigenous local languages through scripture transformation and Bible work.



***Choir performing during the launch***



***Church leaders and County Government officials receive the unveiled revised maasai Bible***

## Bible Society of Kenya



*Joshua Ole Kaputa, a maasai gospel artiste receives a Bible from Mrs. Nyambura Musyimi, BSK Board Vice Chairperson*

*Translation Consultant Prof. Aloo Mojola, Translators and reviewers of the revised maasai Bible hand over the Bible to Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki, General Secretary*

The Society has translated over 21 Bibles into local languages and several Bible revisions and Bible portions for school-going children.

Mrs. Nyambura Musyimi, Vice – Chair, Bible Society of Kenya noted that revisions are important due to language evolution, population pressures, globalization and the spread of industrialization.

Narok County Governor Hon. Samuel Tunai noted that Bible literacy is a form of social development for the community. He applauded the Society's efforts of translating the Bible into indigenous languages and associated as a form of cultural preservation.

Kenya has 53 ethnic groups with 75 percent of the total population being Christians. Only 21 of these groups have complete Bibles. The society envisions Christianity penetration in the next 10 years and is ensuring every Christian owns a Bible, is able to read and understand the Bible through its Bible Literacy programme.

The chief guest of the launch which was held at Narok Stadium was Archbishop Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit, Archbishop Anglican Church of Kenya.

## Reducing illiteracy in Turkana



*A Turkana Lady learning how to write on the blackboard.*



*The lady smiling and enjoying her studies at Namoruputh*

Learning in Central Turkana is a dream yet to come true.

Lack of schools in the sub-county has increased levels of illiteracy. Mothers are not able to analyse information on their clinic cards because they can't even read a word and so they don't know when to next visit clinics. Young girls get married off at a tender age hence they have to handle responsibilities they are not prepared for.

For most people, reading and writing is basic. However, this is a major problem for the people living in Turkana as the levels of illiteracy are very high. Education remains a dream that residents are longing for so as to improve their livelihoods.

Turkana is the second largest County by land mass in Kenya and is considered one of the poorest with 88% of the people living below the poverty line compared with 45% nationally. Illiteracy levels are high with only half of the school going children being enrolled nationally below the national average of 95% report, 2018 by Charity - Save the Children.

Bible Society of Kenya has responded to the illiteracy issue among Turkana women by beginning 10 literacy classes where people can learn. An empowerment workshop for literacy teachers was held in Lodwar to train teachers so that they may train others in Turkana County.

The workshop was attended by literacy teachers who will ultimately teach adult learners in the marginalized areas in Turkana and its environs. The twelve day intensive training was done in partnership with Summer Institute of Linguistics consultants who played a crucial role in developing the Turkana learning materials as well as conducted the teachers training. Mr. Bernard Oketch, a government official from the Directorate of Adult and Continuing Education Turkana County attended the training and spoke on the characteristics of an adult teacher.



**An old man doing his assignment at Namoruputh**

**ACK Kapua group photo with learners**

The teachers were equipped with knowledge and skills on how help the learners use the Ngaturkana learner's primer, pronounce syllables and read comprehension stories. Further training included teaching adult learners to apply life-skills, conduct income generating activities, nutritional enhancement, proper hygiene standards, and environmental conservation that will help improve their lives.

In July 2018, a community based literature development workshop was held to develop supplementary readers' materials that will help in addressing issues affecting the Turkana community. The workshop brought together seven Turkana professional writers who developed 30 stories from different genres such as folk stories, moral stories, Bible stories and information stories.

A follow up visit was done in the different learning centres in Turkana County namely; Kangagetet, AIC Lolupe, Lokaparaparae, Soweto KAG, Lorengippi, Namoruputh, Napeded, Turkwel and Loborot.

Despite the hot weather, learners are very excited about acquiring basic education. The classes have more than 250 learners who are mainly young girls, women and men who have never gone to school.

The teachers are working tirelessly to ensure that learners acquire skills and education in their mother tongue so that in future they will read the Bible.

Majority of the learners are now able to run their businesses, transact through the mobile phones, improve their health status by observing proper nutritional care and help Pastors in evangelizing to their fellow community members.

*"I am a pastor of the ACK Kapua church and I have never gone to school though I can read in Ngaturkana language. My biggest challenge is writing. When I received information that Bible Society of Kenya is starting a class in my church, I was excited that God had answered my prayers. I mobilized people in my area especially women to come and learn. I believe that the knowledge we are acquiring will change people's lives in our village. On a daily basis I help the teacher to follow up with the learners especially when they have gone to graze in the fields because the biggest challenge is food and water for the animals and individuals. My desire is to see a generation that is empowered with the Word of God and positively transformed lives as a result of the acquired knowledge."*

**Estiglan Naomi - ACK Kapua learning center.**

We trust that this literacy project will bring positive transformation in the learner's lives, help them make informed decisions and choices, reduce gender misrepresentation in leadership roles and reduce 10% of infant mortality rates among children below 5 years.

Bible Society of Kenya thanks her donor the Finnish Bible Society for enabling women and men in Africa to attain literacy skills.

## Availing Bibles to needy children

*"I have never owned a Bible in my life. We have family Bibles which I read Bible once a day so that I can remember what we have learnt in Christian Religious Education. I love the book of Ephesians; it teaches me to respect my mother and father so I may live long. Now that I have my own Bible it will help me pass exams and remember God's word."* **Blessing Imani, Ebuchira Primary School.**

This was the joy we saw in the face of Blessing Imani and his fellow students when we distributed Bibles at Ebuchira Primary School located in Lurambi constituency Kakamega County. The school started with a nurse school in 1988 and has since grown from less than 100 students to 778 students currently. The school is sponsored by the Church of God.

The students cannot afford Bibles because they are expensive. Additionally, after introduction of free primary education, parents expect that their children will receive Bibles and other books for free which is not the case. Since students don't have Bibles they cannot make reference during Bible readings hence they lack knowledge of God's Word.

Another challenge is that the chaplain does not have a structured way to conduct Programme for Pastoral Instruction (PPI) yet it is examinable in Kenya Certificate of Primary Education and students do not perform well in Christian Religious Education. Furthermore, most children do not go to church because their parents leave them behind to take care of homes while they go to church. This school is a representation of many schools in the area. The children also need classrooms as some of the classrooms are overcrowded.



**Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki, General Secretary reads a Bible with a student from Ebuchira Primary School**



**Emabole Primary School students pose for a photo after receiving their Bibles**



**Students at Ebuchira Primary School express their joy after receiving Bibles from Bible Society of Kenya**

Bible Society of Kenya in partnership with the Netherlands Bible Society responded to the lack of Bibles by distributing 811 Bibles to students in three schools in Kakamega County including; Ebuchira, Malaba and Emabole Primary schools. Additionally 3,545 Bibles were distributed to other Counties including Baringo, West Pokot, Kajiado and Nairobi. The recipients of the Bibles expressed their gratitude to Bible Society of Kenya for helping them to grow spiritually.

*"I did not previously own a Bible. We have a family Bible; the Gideon's. I read the Bible three times a day so that God can help me when I am in need. My favourite Bible story is David and Goliath. Now that I have my own Bible I will go with it to church and use it when I want to pray."* **Eucabeth Mtende, Ebuchira Primary.**

*Thank you for the gifts you have extended to our school. Previously we had problems with Bibles in classes because the members of the community are poverty stricken and cannot afford to buy Bibles. We have had difficulty in getting bibles for the students to study in class and it has been hard for the CRE and PPI teachers. My sincere gratitude goes to Bible Society of Kenya. This Bibles will be of great benefit to us since each pupil owns a Bible. I want to believe that it will boost the students academically and they will also grow spiritually. Thank you very much."* **Mr. Stephen Chamegere, Head teacher Ebuchira Primary.**

## ***BSK Members Interaction Forums***

The Bible Society of Kenya continues to reach the grassroots through its branches which are located in different Counties around Kenya.

As a way of appreciating members, BSK held a members engagement forum that brought together members from Nairobi and Kisumu environs. This event also brought together potential members who were encouraged to join BSK and be part of the noble work of availing Scriptures to all in languages they understand best.

BSK has nine branches including Machakos, Nyeri, Meru, Vihiga, Bungoma, Kericho, Kakamega, Kisumu and Nairobi. Over the years, these branches have been involved in planning for successful events including Bible Eagles Club fun days, Good Samaritan workshops, Trauma healing programme, prayer breakfasts for leaders and the business community, Bible launches and membership recruitment.

The General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki appreciated all the guests for attending the forums noting that the Society is continuing to grow to greater heights because of the prayers, support and participation of the members. She noted that BSK is very intentional about placing a Bible in every hand, thus has introduced a USSD platform \*288# that enables people to buy Bibles in instalments then the Bible will be delivered to the person.

She added that the platform allows one to register for membership, donation towards Bible Work and pay membership subscription. The potential members were encouraged to register for the service and begin the process of becoming members of BSK.



***Members interacting during the breakfast forum held at All Saints Cathedral Church***



***Members interaction forum in Kisumu at Jumuia Hotel***



*Group photo of the guests who attended the breakfast*

In the Nairobi meeting, testimonies were shared from two former Board members and members of Nairobi branch Mr. Isaac Litali and Ms. Njeri Kangethe. These members shared their fond experiences having been BSK members for a long time. They encouraged the potential members and their family members so that they can appreciate the noble work Bible Society of Kenya is doing to transform people's lives through Bible translation and other bible advocacy projects.

The event in Kisumu brought together members from Western and Nyanza regions including the business community, churches, NGO's and Government. Both events created a good opportunity for members to network as well as deliberate on how to enhance vibrancy in the branches.

Members were also encouraged to continue recruiting more members so that the BSK may reach more people with her programmes at the grassroots level and increase involvement in BSK activities.

## ***Enhancing Partnership with Customers***

Bible Society of Kenya had an opportunity to interact with her customers from Kakamega town and its environs on July 11th 2018.

The Society conducts business forums in various towns as a way of meeting and interacting with bookshop owners, enhancing business ties with them, gain a better understanding of the environment they operate in and increase their knowledge on Bible work.



***Mrs Elizabeth Muriuki, General Secretary addressing customers during the forum***

Twelve bookshops were in attendance including; Vic, Christian Literature Centre, Gohil, Eshimwenyi, Reliz, Dodiya, Bungoma Catholic Bookshop, Luanda Best, Vaghela, Kakamega Catholic Bookshop and Ivory Bookshop. Three Kakamega branch members were in attendance and they urged the bookshop owners to consider joining BSK as members and assist in spreading the Word of God widely through their outlets.

The General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki talked about BSK'S programmes and activities. She acknowledged

the great role that bookshops play in making BSK mission a reality by availing God's word to the end users through stocking of Bibles in their bookshops. The customers expressed interest in being trained on the Trauma Healing programme as they wanted to be equipped with skills and knowledge on how to handle trauma related issues as they relate with their customers. The Management assured them that the training would be organized so that they could be equipped with the relevant knowledge and skills.



*Group photo of all participants*

The BSK team in attendance included; Head of Business Development Mr. Thomas Tharao, Church Relations and Membership Manager Rev. William Matolo, Western and North Rift Sales Executive Mr. Peterson Nduati, Sales Manager Mr. Robert Sawe and Customer Relations Coordinator Ms. Tabitha Wairimu.

The customers noted that they were glad to be part of the team that contributes to the furtherance of God's kingdom as is articulated in the BSK mission to make available and promote use of Scriptures for holistic transformation of people's lives. They further appreciated the Society for the wide variety of Bibles available for their buyers which helps in enhancing spiritual nourishment in the community.

The meeting ended with a sumptuous meal served at Golf Hotel in Kakamega.

We thank God for a successful event.

## Bringing Hope to Solai Tragedy Survivors

Survivors of the Patel dam tragedy in Solai – Nakuru County that burst its walls, swept anything in its paths and claimed the lives of 47 people and a trail of destruction in Nyakinyua and neighbouring villages are still recovering from the deep scars and horrific memories of the fateful day even as they slowly begin to pick –up the pieces and rebuild their lives.

It is evident that any signs of rainfall is a recipe for fear and panic among survivors of the Patel dam tragedy. This is because they are still traumatized from the events that happened and turned around their lives in a way they had not anticipated.

More than 200 families have not found a place to resettle and re-start life all over again. This is because they lost their property, businesses, livestock, livelihoods and loved ones.

A team from Bible Society of Kenya visited Solai twice with an aim of bringing hope to the survivors through the trauma healing programme. It was evident that the participants we interacted with were seriously traumatised and required intensive sessions to heal their emotional and psychological wounds.

Mr. Joseph Gathoga, a father of four, and a motorcycle driver lost all his children and wondered if God is really fair. He was so hurt to a point that he feels life is not worth living. His family is all that he had, their absence left him empty and hopeless. However, after going through the trauma healing sessions we held, he confessed that he is feeling like his burdens have been lifted and he is ready to move on with life.



*A lady who survived the Solai tragedy receives food from BSK*

The trauma healing sessions were very engaging as the facilitators handled different topics and participants could identify with the topics. The sharing of stories gave the participants a lot of relief and helped them to begin the journey towards healing.

## Bible Society of Kenya

The practical session of taking their pain to the cross where all participants listed their pain on a piece of paper which they later burnt symbolized the beginning of their healing process. This was the most life changing session as participants released their burdens to Christ. Most of the participants confessed that they will forgive those who hurt them and live a positive life.

**Jane Kareithi, a mother of seven**, testified that she lost her husband in 1999 hence has been struggling to raise her family alone. *"I have held forgiveness in my heart towards my daughter who had wronged me for a year. She was also affected by the dam tragedy but I did not go to visit her despite the fact that she was in dire need of my help. After going through the trauma healing session, I have purposed to forgive her and reconcile with her so that we may live harmoniously."* I thank the Bible Society of Kenya for coming to train us and allowing us to air our hurts so that we can receive healing from God.

*"I am very happy to have gone through this training. I felt so much pained by the incidences that happened in Solai. I was traumatized by the events which led to the loss of friends, neighbours, children, families and property. I have had a very heavy heart and felt like we are being punished for something we are not aware of. The training has helped me to release my burdens to Jesus who is well able to carry them and give me peace of mind. I am now free and I am looking forward to encourage my friends who are still experiencing sorrow in their lives. Thank you so much Bible Society of Kenya for your kindness and thinking about us in this challenging time."* **Says Jane Njeri, resident.**

After the training sessions, each participant received a pack of food, clothes and books and they were overjoyed by the kind gesture. We thank all our supporters for their kind donations and we look forward to be the good Samaritans to our brothers and sisters in Solai.



Training session going on



Joyful faces from Solai residents after receiving food stuff, clothes, stationary and spiritual nourishment from Bible Society of Kenya

## ***Developing godly leaders – African Biblical Leadership Initiative***

The Bible Society of Kenya is reaching out to youth through the African Biblical Leadership Initiative. This programme aims at developing youth as leaders of today through moulding them to be responsible leaders who are value-driven and sufficiently equipped to make change in their communities.

The programme focuses on empowering youth to take on leadership roles in society as well as conserving the environment. The youth are also mentored and trained in effective communication skills, writing skills, effective use of social media and public speaking.

Bible Society of Kenya is partnering with Emerging Leaders Foundation (ELF) to reach out to these youths. Some of the testimonies are;

*"Thank you Bible Society of Kenya for giving me an opportunity to be empowered. My life will not be the same again."* **Says Kevin Omondi, Kisumu Cohort.**

*"I am very grateful to Bible Society of Kenya and Emerging Leaders Foundation (ELF) for moulding me and empowering me with knowledge on how to handle life issues. I have discovered my passion in life and I will nurture it so that I may impact my generation."* **Says Calvin Matoke, Nairobi Cohort.**



***ABLI Kisumu cohort participants***



***Class session at ABLI Nairobi cohort***

## ***Rising on Wings as Eagles***

For the sixth time Bible Society of Kenya (BSK), held a successful Bible Eagles Club Fun Day, a programme for children and youth aimed at engaging them with Scripture in a fun environment, develop life skills and instill a desire for transformation through God's word on August 17th 2018 at Moi Nyeri Primary School.

Over 400 children attended the event and took part in various fun filled activities including bouncing castles, singing, dancing, face painting and memory verse recitals tailored to engage them with Scripture. Over 10 Churches participated in the event from various denominations.

*I am so happy to receive a Bible today from Bible Society of Kenya. This will help me to learn much about the Word of God and also in learning Christian religious education. Next year I will bring my friends so that they too may participate in memory verse recitals and receive Bible gifts."* **Jeremy Ndungu, Full Gospel Church.**

This programme is aimed at instilling good morals and positive behaviour change among children. The purpose of this event is to sensitize young leaders of tomorrow from different backgrounds to appreciate the importance of the Bible in their lives and for the future.

The theme of this event is drawn from the book of Isaiah 40:31 which states that "they will rise on wings like eagles."



**Children from pre-school show off their drawings during the Bible study session**

**A time to study the Word of God**

BSK also endeavours to see young people grow in a godly manner hence it avails Scripture to them in simplified language and format so that they may read, understand and apply in their day to day situations.

Last year similar successful events were held in five Counties with more than 3,000 children in attendance. These forums are held annually and are open to children and young adults from 3-18 years to enjoy fun activities and fellowship as they engage with Scripture.

Other upcoming events will be held in Bungoma & Machakos in November 2018. The Nairobi event will take place in December 2018 and will be bigger better with an expected attendance of 5000 children, from Nairobi and its environs. Registration is ongoing.

**For further enquiries call 0722 205 843**

## Bible Society of Kenya Services Now Available on your Phone

Simply Dial



- ☒ Buy a Bible and pay in instalments.
- ☒ Donate and support our programs
- ☒ Pay your membership subscription in instalments.
- ☒ Register to become a member.

**REGISTER**  
for the services  
**NOW**

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**NB: After you are successfully registered, dial \*288# again to access the services**

**For more information Call: 0704448917**

**Help us spread the word about the USSD platform to your networks.**

### **Upcoming Events**

*Bible Eagles Club Fun days - Bungoma, Machakos in November & Nairobi in December 2018*  
*1-5 Oct: Trauma Healing Equipping in Mombasa*  
*25-26 Oct: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Workshop in Kirinyaga County*  
*12-16 November: Advanced Trauma Healing Workshop in Nairobi*  
*27-30 November: National Trauma Healing Community of Practice in Nairobi*



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