



Quarterly Newsletter vol. 14

BIBLE SOCIETY OF KENYA

THE BIBLE PEOPLE



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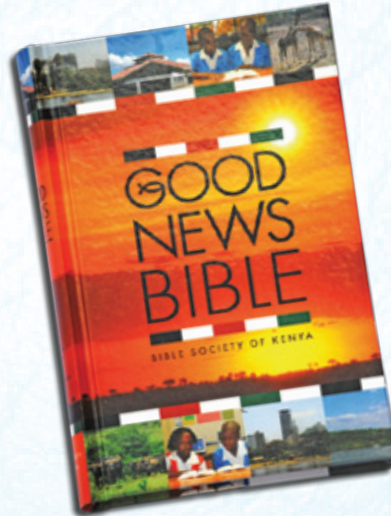
- *Bible Distribution To Children*
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Approved School Bibles



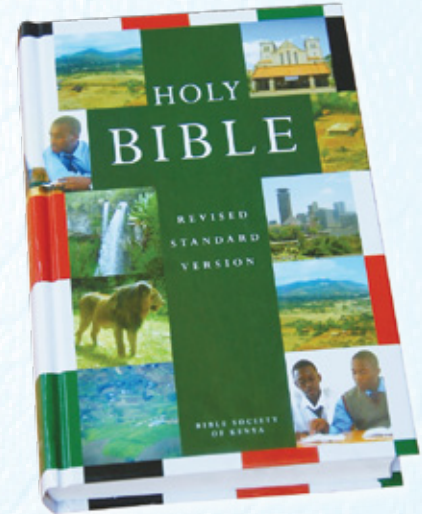
My First handy Bible School edition

This Bible is portable, has stories retold in simple language, captivating images and made of durable material. It's Suitable for children age 3-5 years. Approved by Ministry of Education for use in lower Primary schools.



Good News Bible 043P

This Bible is an easy to read translation, has captivating illustrations, suitable for use in Churches and individuals, has subtitles, word list, word index, maps and strong durable cover. Approved by Ministry of education for use in Primary Schools.



Revised Standard Version 043

This Bible is easy to read and understand, it's respected for its accuracy, has a strong durable cover. Approved by Ministry of Education for use in secondary schools.

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
- HIV/AIDS-Where is the Good Samaritan Today?
- Trauma healing



Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki

From The General Secretary

Dear Members,

We are very grateful to God for enabling us to complete the first quarter of the year 2016. As a Society we have continued to experience God's goodness and favour and we thank Him for that. Through our programmes we have seen people's lives change as per our mission of making available the Holy Scriptures in affordable and innovative formats for holistic transformation of people's lives through translation, production, distribution and Bible advocacy.

In line with Hosea 4:6 'My people perish due to lack of knowledge,' BSK did a new strategic plan for 2017-2020 with the overall theme of "Embracing Innovation for Greater Transformation."

In the last quarter, we diligently reached out to our communities with the different programmes we have as well as encouraged people to read the Bible and apply it in their daily lives.

We held several children and married couples workshops through the HIV Where is the Good Samaritan programme to increase the community members knowledge on HIV/AIDS issues as well as challenge them to live responsibly.

These workshops were held in different places including Kajiado, Kehancha and Nyeri Counties. As a result, there was increased knowledge on how to handle children issues as well as improve marriage relationships.

We also distributed Bibles to marginalized children in Embu County as well as encouraged teachers to use the PPI materials to train children in primary schools. Through these interventions many children have come to learn and appreciate God's word in their lives. We are looking forward to reaching out to most children through the Bible Eagles Club Fun Day events in the coming months.

Our branches held their Annual General meetings to network and also create strategies of how to enhance outreach of BSK programmes at the grassroots level. For the first time branch heads held a meeting with the Board. This was a great opportunity to network and plan on how to improve the implementation of branch activities.

We thank God for enabling us to complete the Revised Kalenjin Bible Translation. We are soon launching it to the public so that members of the Kalenjin community can read the word of God in a language they understand best.

I thank you for your continued engagement and support in our activities. The Society has progressed well due to your tireless prayers and giving. I encourage you to continue upholding BSK in prayer even as we look forward to making a positive impact in our communities.

Equipping Children With God's Word

Do you teach your child how to read and study the word of God? BSK is passionate about children learning God's word. The Society participated in a Programme for Pastoral Instruction (PPI) trainer of trainers workshop organized by Scripture Union on January 30th–3rd February 2017 at Mary Ward Centre, Karen.

The purpose of the meeting was to equip participants on discipling children for Christ. The trainers were equipped with skills on how to integrate children's games in teaching children God's word in general and using the PPI content in Primary schools.

BSK realizes that children need to know and appreciate the word of God from a tender age so as to apply it in their lives when they grow up. This will enable them to be leaders with a difference in years to come.

The 41 participants present at the event were drawn from organizations that are interested in the children's outreach and the PPI program. Some of these members were from CONNET (Children Outreach Network) e.g. BSK, Maisha Kara Children's Foundation, Life Words, Scripture Union, Christ is the answer Ministries, Nairobi Chapel and One Hope. Mr. James Kathuraku, the Bible Advocacy and Scripture Use Manager represented BSK at the forum.

The facilitators were from Australia, Pakistan and Scripture Union of Kenya. They emphasised the importance of teaching PPI in schools and Churches, as this will give children a good foundation of God's word.

BSK plans to implement the PPI programme in 10 schools, and train 100 teachers in 2017. The first training is scheduled for 25th February 2017 at St. Luke's ACK Church in Muthurwa, Banana, Kiambu County.



PPI workshop participants holding the PPI books

Hope For The Traumatised

We live in times where we are faced with a myriad of traumatic experiences ranging from situations like war, genocide, criminal activity, sexual abuse, human trafficking, urban violence, abandonment, disease, loss of a loved one and natural disasters.

Bible Society of Kenya started the Trauma Healing program in 2010 with an aim of bringing healing to children and adults who have gone through traumatic situations in their lives as well as equipping local churches to care for people with deep emotional and spiritual injuries.

The Society hosted a team of trauma healing facilitators on 1st March 2017. The meeting was attended by the General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki, Bible Advocacy and Scripture Use Manager Mr. James Kathuraku, Programme Officer for Trauma Healing Rev. Dedan Kamau, representatives from Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), Serving in Mission (SIM) and other facilitators trained on how to conduct trauma healing in Kenya.

The meeting reviewed the audio trauma healing program being aired on Hope 93.3 FM to assess its effectiveness and impact. The team noted that Trauma Healing is a very important tool to meet the needs of many Kenyans who are undergoing difficult times and hardships caused by the ongoing drought, unemployment and other social ills. The team appreciated BSK for its initiative to reach out to people who are hurting.

Feedback received from listeners shows that the program is touching people's lives and they are getting help from qualified trauma healing counsellors.

The trauma healing programme continues on Hope FM every Friday at 7:30 PM. Staff and members are encouraged to listen to the program and invite their friends to listen so that more people may get healed of their pain, and get renewed hope from God's word.



Pst. Kamau sharing a point during the meeting

The Good Samaritan Programme Continues To Spread Its Wings To Different Counties In Kenya.

On 6th March 2017, a team comprising of Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki, General Secretary, Mr Thomas Tharao, Head of Operations, Translation and Productions Manager Mr Stephen Kimani, Customer Relations Officer Miss Tabitha Wairimu, Pst. Anthony Gatonye and Mr. Joseph Irungu travelled to Kuria to hold a sensitization workshop in Kehancha, Kuria in Migori County.

The meeting took place at Sunrise Hotel where it brought together 18 community leaders and pastors from One Accord Pastors Fellowship Program to hear about where is the Good Samaritan Today Program. The sensitization meeting targeted the Family, children and the classic modules respectively. The pastors noted that the youth were the most vulnerable as some engage themselves in prostitution at early ages between 2-18 years as a result of poverty and high illiteracy levels among the Kuria Community.

According to a report from Soteni International Organization of 2009, 15% of 200,000 population are HIV positive. This trend has however continued to increase due to stigmatization and the primitive cultural practices of female genital mutilation among young girls.

Pastor Julius Maroa the Chairman of One Accord Fellowship stated that the trend was worrying and therefore there was need of the Youth Take Charge Program to be taught among the youth and Family Module for married couples. The pastors also expressed interest to have community and Church leaders trained so that they can increase knowledge on family issues, HIV and avoiding risky behaviors among couples so as to encourage healthy marriages.

The pastors requested that their Sunday school teachers from different churches to be trained on the Children module so that they can save the young generation by equipping them with knowledge on basic life skills and how to live responsible lives.



Pastor Anthony Gatonye addressing the meeting



Group photo of BSK Management and the participants

Distribution Of Bibles To Children

Over the years, Bible Society of Kenya has continued to fulfil its mandate of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through translating, producing, distributing and encouraging the use of Holy Scriptures. The Society fulfils this mandate by availing Bibles to all people both young and old because God's word is useful to all.

On 9th March 2017, a team from BSK consisting of Mr. James Kathuraku, Bible Advocacy and Scripture Use Manager and Mr. Benson Mwangi, Programme Officer for Literacy and Children Outreach, visited three schools in Embu County; Kianjokoma, Nthingini and Gategi Primary Schools to share scriptures with children. Children from these schools are very needy and do not have Bibles.



Children at Kianjokoma Primary school enjoy reading Bibles donated by Bible Society of Kenya



More than joy expressed by these Kianjokoma Primary School children for receiving Bibles from BSK



Kianjokoma Primary school teachers appreciate PPI materials



Gategi Primary school children enjoy reading their Bibles from BSK

BSK has distributed Bibles in marginalized areas and children homes in various Counties in the past to ensure children interact with God's word as a tool to bring positive transformation and behaviour change in their lives.

The Head teacher of Gategi Primary School appreciated BSK for the donation saying that "we have never received such a precious gift since the school was started. These Bibles will help the students to perform better in CRE," She said. The teachers also benefited from the Programme for Pastoral Instruction (PPI) materials which they said will help them to teach God's word to different age groups in a structured manner.

The pupils' governor of Kianjokoma Primary school Peter Njeru, a class five pupil appreciated BSK for giving them Bibles and promised that they will replicate by reading and applying it in their lives. Kudos to the team for a job well done!

Courtesy Call To Eacc Chair

A team from Bible Society of Kenya consisting of the Board Chairman Prof. Mumo Kisau, General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki, and Eastern Zone Operations Manager Rev. Canon William Matolo paid a courtesy call to the recently appointed Chairman, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Bishop Eliud Wabukhala to congratulate him on his new assignment. Present in the meeting was Mr. Halakhe Waqo Chief Executive Officer Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Chair thanked the leaders for their time and support, and emphasized the need to join hands so as to win the war on graft.



(General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki, Board Chairman Prof. Mumo Kisau and Eastern Zone Operations Manager Rev. Canon William Matolo paid a courtesy call to the recently appointed Chairman, Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission Bishop Eliud Wabukhala to congratulate him on his new assignment. Present in the meeting was Mr. Halakhe Waqo Chief Executive Officer Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission)

Branch Officials Interactive Forum

For the first time in the history of Bible Society of Kenya, both Board and branch chairmen met to interact and deliberate on how to make branches more vibrant and active.

Currently, BSK has eight branches including Kakamega, Kisumu, Machakos, Meru, Nyeri, Kericho, Vihiga and Nairobi. The Board Chairman Prof. Mumo Kisau shared from Mathew 5:13 reminding the members that both BSK and the Church are the salt and the light of the world. He challenged the members to be salt and light in their areas of operation especially now that we are approaching the elections.

Board members thanked the branch chairmen for every effort they are making to take the BSK mission work to the grassroots through the various activities they are doing.

The branches were commended for their involvement in planning and participating in the Bible Eagles Club Fun day, noting that the event is reaching many children with God's word and has attracted attendance from different Church denominations, children homes and schools. Prof. Mumo noted that branch officials need to be mentored, trained on fundraising, be assisted to enhance the BSK brand on the ground and recruit young people to be part of their branch membership.



Prof Mumo Kisau Board Chairman addressing the meeting



Participants keenly following discussions

The General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki thanked the officials for their tireless efforts to see BSK mission actualized on the ground noting that through their efforts the Society has gained significant brand awareness. She added that the Society plans to expand its branch network by establishing more branches.

The meeting took place at the BSK boardroom on February 24th 2017.

Bsk Branches Hold Annual General Meetings

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

In the past few weeks four branches held their Annual General Meetings to get reports on the previous year's performance as well as plans for the future. This branches were; Nyeri, Meru, Machakos and Nairobi. During these AGM's elections were done for Nyeri branch where new officials were elected to serve. As for the three branches the officials in office will continue to serve until elections are done in due course.

Over the years these branches have been involved in planning for successful events including Bible Eagles Club Fun Days, Good Samaritan workshops, prayer breakfasts for leaders and Bible launches.

The Chairman of the Board Prof. Mumo Kisau was in attendance at the Machakos AGM meeting. He lauded the branch members for the good work they are doing to take the BSK mission and programmes to Machakos County and its environs. Members were encouraged to continue recruiting more members so as to ensure vibrancy in the branch as well as increase involvement in BSK activities. He encouraged members to continue praying and supporting Bible work, visit many Churches and share with them what BSK is doing.

The General Secretary appreciates BSK branches and looks forward to launching even more branches soon so as to expand the work of BSK to the grassroots. Thanks to all BSK members for their untiring support to seeing the Society grow to greater heights! May God richly bless you.



Machakos Branch AGM



Nairobi Branch AGM 11th March 2017

A Bible For The Banyala Community

The Bible Society of Kenya has continued to place the Bible in many people's hands through its translation work. As a result, 21 complete Bibles have been translated into local languages. The most recently launched Bible is the Oluluyia Bible which was launched on July 2016 during a very colorful event where the community was very excited to receive the Bible in their own language after 23 years of translation.

A coalition of pastors from Banyala speaking group approached BSK requesting to have a Bible translated in Kinyala, as they could not fully relate with the other existing Luhya Bibles which include; Lunyore, Lubukusu, Logooli, Lukakamega; Luterichi / Lwitakho / Lwisukha and Oluluyia Bible (for the Marama / Shisa / Tsotso / Wanga). Following the request, BSK planned for a meeting with Church leaders in Navakholo Kakamega County to forge a way forward on the possibility and necessity of the translation project for the Banyala. The meeting took place on 6th March 2017 at Friends Church Chebuyusi, and 20 pastors from various denominations in the region were in attendance.



The Pastors keenly following the discussions

The Banyala are Bantu ethnic group that originated from Uganda and are a result of intermarriages between Banyoro and Baganda. After migrating from Uganda, the Banyala settled in Kakamega and Busia counties. Since culture does not exist in isolation, some aspects of the Banyala culture have been influenced by interaction with other Luhya sub-groups, including borrowing and sharing of some words and meanings. According to 2009 National census, Navakholo where the Banyala reside had a population of 137,165 people while Busia had a population of 743,946 which comprised of a mixture of Banyala and a few other Luhya dialects including Luo. The population has continued to increase over the years. The Banyala's main economic activity is farming. Like other Luhya sub-groups, the Banyala practice male circumcision as a cultural rite of passage.

The language of any community changes with time owing to external influences. If there exists no forms of preserving culture, it erodes and with time ceases to exist due to assimilation. The Church leaders expressed the uniqueness of Banyala language and the need to preserve the uniqueness; that very few of their neighbors understood Kinyala whereas the Banyala could understand most of their neighbors' dialects. One way of preserving this unique dialect would be the translation of the Bible in Kibanyala.

The General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki informed the pastors that the very reason of having pastors from all denominations in the meeting was because BSK is non-denominational and would not wish to have bias and denominational influence on the final product. Inclusion of all religions in the project will ensure that the outcome (Kinyala Bible) meets everyone's needs irrespective of their denominational affiliation. For the project to be a success, the Church needs to fully own the project in all perspectives regardless of their differences in denominations.

The audience was taken through the Bible translation process in summary by BSK translation Manager, Mr. Stephen Kimani. This gave them basic understanding of the entire process. Despite being informed that the whole translation exercise could take up to 10 years or more, the pastors expressed their enthusiasm and determination to be part of the journey.

The pastors were encouraged to participate in Programs for Pastoral Instruction (PPI) in schools near them. BSK would avail material for that. In these PPI programs, the pastors would use the developed Kinyala material to teach children the word of God.

Also present in the meeting was the Head of Operations Mr. Thomas Tharao, Western Zone Manager Rev. Dalmas Oleko, Kakamega Branch Chairman Rev. Amos Andala and other officials, Customer Relations and Admin Officer Tabitha Wairimu, HIV Programme Assistants Joseph Irungu and Pst. Anthony Gatonye.

Bsk To Launch The Revised Kalenjin Bible

The Bible Society of Kenya will soon launch its 23rd Bible; the Revised Kalenjin Bible.

This long awaited Bible has taken 7 years to revise. The project began in 2007 with three translators, Rev. Samuel Kikwai (AGC), Father Charles Kiruy (Catholic) and Rev Rugut (RGC) later replaced by Bishop Musa Maina (RGC). A team of Reviewers and Management Committee members also worked tirelessly to see this Bible come to fruition. The Society desires to see the lives of the Kalenjin community transformed through God's word that's why it's in the process of availing this Bible for use soon.

The Kalenjin community is made up of 14 mutually intelligible dialects, which can be grouped into four clusters: the Rift Valley, the Mt. Elgon, the Pokot and the Ogiek groups. Initially, there was only one Bible for all the dialects, which was published in 1939 based entirely on the Nandi dialect. Most of the dialects could not understand this Bible hence leading to the publishing of the Kalenjin Union version in 1969. This version adequately caters for all the Rift Valley dialects. Later on, the Pokot Bible was launched in 2009 to cater for the Pokot speakers.



Kalenjin Bible translators handing over their complete work to the General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki

In 2002, the Kalenjin Church leaders approached the Bible Society of Kenya with a request to have the Kalenjin Union Bible's contents readdressed to make them more understood by their people.



The translators pose for a photo with the GS and Head of Operations Mr. Thomas Tharao

The Kalenjin language belongs to the South Nilotic group of languages. It has several dialects, but the most mutually intelligible ones include Nandi, Kipsigis, Tugen, Terik, Marakwet, and Keiyo. All these people are estimated to be over 3 million in number (1999 census). Their basic lifestyle evolves around livestock farming, especially cattle, sheep and goats, for the purpose of both sale and domestic use. Cash crop farming is also practised in some areas like Trans-Nzoia County.

The whole region occupied by the Kalenjin community has mixed climatic conditions: Whereas some areas are rich in both soil and rainfall, some are both arid and semi-arid with agriculturally unproductive land, but ideal for livestock keeping, especially goats. Despite this picture, poverty is rampant amongst the people. The literacy level is average due to especially the younger generation's interest in pursuing studies. Most of the older generation (40 years and above) is illiterate, but fluent speakers of their respective dialects.

Features of this new Bible include;

Extra Features in the Revised Kalenjin Bible

- DC books.
- Pictures/Illustrations.
- Enhanced footnote and explanatory notes.
- Enhanced cross reference system.
- Words that have similar meaning in different Kalenjin dialects.
- Kalenjin calendar.
- A precious stones table.
- A preface and various introductions to the Bibles.
- Concordance of word occurrences and references in the bible.
- Enhanced glossary table.
- Enhanced maps.

The Bible Society of Kenya is therefore very privileged to avail this Bible to the Kalenjin community so that they can read God's word in a language they understand best.

Why Should You Read Your Bible?

1. It helps us live life better- Matthew 4:4
2. It helps you obey God and not sin- Psalm 119:9-12
3. To guard yourself from false teachings-1 John 4:1
4. To spend time with the Lord-Proverbs 2:6-7
5. You will be convicted more of sin-Hebrews 4:12
6. To know more about our beloved Savior Jesus, the cross and the gospel-John 14:6
7. To give us encouragement-Romans 15:4-5
8. So we don't start getting comfortable and drift from God-Revelation 2:4
9. It's exciting and it makes you want to praise the Lord more-Psalm 103:20-21
10. You will know God better-Romans 10:17
11. To defend the faith-1 Peter 3:14-16
12. To defend against Satan-Ephesians 6:11
13. God's Word is eternal and the earth is not-Matthew 24:35
14. Hearing God's voice: His Word gives us direction-Psalm 119:105
15. It helps us grow as believers-Psalm 1:1-4
16. It helps us serve God better-2 Timothy 3:17
17. To use your time wisely instead of turning your mind to other priorities-Ephesians 5:15-16
18. For spiritual discipline-Hebrews 12:11
19. It will make you wiser-Psalm 78:3-4
20. For better fellowship with other believers-2 Timothy 3:16



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