



Bible Society *of* Kenya

# Bible Society of Kenya

*Quarterly Newsletter vol. 17*

## The Bible People



### ***STORIES INSIDE***

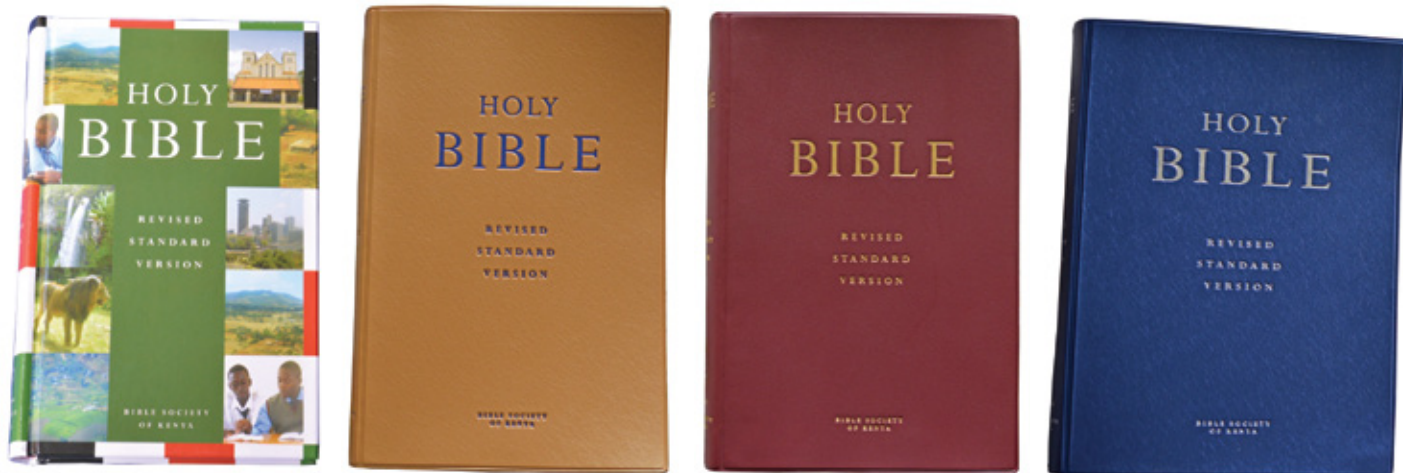
*Faith Comes By Hearing*

*Empowering Young Leaders  
With God's Word*

*Literacy*

*Sports Evangelism*

## Revised Standard Version



This version seeks to preserve all that is best in the English Bible as it has been known and used through the years. It is intended for use in public and private worship, not only for reading and instruction. Its features include;

- *Preface and subject index*
- *Attractive and durable covers*
- *Silver and gold edges*
- *Large font, easy to read*
- *Cross reference*

## **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

## **From The General Secretary**

Happy New year members,

I am delighted and glad that the Lord has enabled us to see 2018 in fullness of life, health, peace and energy to keep availing the Holy Scriptures to all. We pray that the Lord will continually renew our strength so that with united efforts we may be able to create great positive impact to communities within and beyond Kenyan borders to the glory of God.

We are glad to inform you that the process of translating the Banyala Bible has begun. The community is truly excited and looking forward to getting a bible in the language they understand best. The project is expected to take 10 years and will require steady funding. Translators have already begun the work and we pray that the Lord will walk with them through the journey they have started.

Our efforts to address alcoholism and drug abuse have been extended to Murang'a and Nyeri Counties and we thank God for the testimonies of how our programme has helped members of the community in their recovery journey. BSK shall continue to conduct workshops for trainers as we strive to help more people to overcome addiction and become productive members of the community.

BSK continues to be on the front line in encouraging responsible behavior among the youth and curbing HIV pandemic through youth evangelism. We held a youth tournament in Kayole to encourage youth to know their HIV status, to educate the youth on HIV issues and to spread the message of hope that is found in the word of God. Many youth attended and got tested of their HIV status. We also held a tree planting youth event where we encouraged the youth to be responsible and to take care of the environment.

Through the Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) programme, schools, hospitals, prisons, children's homes and other institutions have continued to receive the Word of the Lord in audio formats and we have received many positive reports of the impact of the programme. We endeavor to reach out to hospitals and to organizations to encourage the study of the word of God.

Your continuous support is a great encouragement to us and we pray that the good Lord will continue to bless and reward you in all your endeavors now and in years to come.



***Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki***

## **Banyala Bible Translation has begun**

BSK has commenced translation of the Banyala Bible so that the Banyala community can have access to the great message of the Bible in the language they understand best.

The Banyala community do not have their own Bible. They are currently struggling to use the logooli language which in many instances is unclear and conveys a different meaning in Banyala. The community has a population of over 273,198 people who live in Navakholo Constituency, Kakamega County around the Kakamega Forest. Without the Bible the growth and depth of Christianity will remain stunted among the Banyala Community.

The Banyala of Kakamega are said to have migrated from Budalang'i with a leader known as Mukhamba. They speak nearly the same dialect as the Banyala of Budalang'i, but with differences in pronunciation. The Banyala of Kakamega are sometimes referred to as Abanyala ba Ndombi. This is because of a powerful colonial chief, Ndombi wa Namusia who reigned with an iron fist. He was succeeded by his son Andrea Ndombi.

Although originally one people with the Abanyala ba Maero (Busia), Abanyala ba Mukhamba (Kakamega) have since acquired a new cultural identity and phonology. To distinguish between the two Nyalas, they are generally known by their ancestry of Maero and Mukhamba. They migrated eastwards from Busia centuries ago fleeing interclan wars and floods to first settle in Eutieri and spreading through the Navakholo area of Kakamega. They share the constituency of Lurambi with the neighbouring Abatsotso. According to recorded genealogy, Mukhamba was their earliest known ancestor although his son Munyala founded the sub-nation. Banyala's economic activities include farming and herding.



*Banyala translators during a working session*



*Guests who attended the BSK annual fundraising dinner in support of the Banyala translation project*

Below are some testimonies on how the Lunyala Bible will be helpful;

**Testimony from a pastor**

*There will be no need to translate certain words or phrases from other dialects to Lunyala when preaching. God's word will be readily apparent to the congregants as the vocabulary, idioms and sayings used in the Lunyala Bible will be from day to day usage. More members of the congregation will be encouraged to read and study the word of God on their own in the course of the week.*

**Testimony from a young person**

*My name is Emmanuel Uluma. I am 23 years old. I am a P1 primary school teacher. Lunyala is my mother tongue. I communicate mostly in Lunyala when interacting with my parents and their age mates in the village. As a primary school teacher, I have developed a good rapport with school going children in the village and when interacting with them outside school, the language of communication is mostly Lunyala. A Bible translation to Lunyala will greatly help me to communicate better in Lunyala since I will be able to read the Bible in the language that I mostly speak. Preaching and witnessing will be made easier and clearer because there will be no need of struggling to find a suitable word or phrase in Lunyala to clarify a point as is the case now. Also as a congregant, I will be able to share clearly with others, who are not regular church goers, the Sunday message.*

**Testimony from a teacher**

*The challenge we face as teachers is at biblical experience stage of the lesson. Here, the Bible used is the Kimaragoli one. Although Kimaragoli and Olunyala language use the same alphabets and vowels, glaring differences are notable in syllables, vocabulary and sayings. The CRE teacher has the task of studying the scripture in Kimaragoli and make a verbatim translation into Olunyala before the lesson. When he gets to the stage for biblical experience during the lesson, he must read the Bible verse in Kimaragoli, translating phrase by phrase into Olunyala. Then he reads/drills his Olunyala translation so as to build harmony with the rest of his lesson. If the whole Bible was translated into Olunyala language, it would make a lesson presentation for the teacher easier and simpler. He/she would not have to grapple with subjective translation every time he/she has to prepare a CRE lesson. His/her learners would quite enjoy CRE learning sessions as the scripture reading/message would be grasped on first reading in their vernacular language*

BSK is inviting you to partner with us in this noble initiative of availing the Bible in Lunyala language by supporting the translation of a verse, chapter or book of your choice. Each verse costs approximately Kshs 1000. You can send your donation through our Paybill 518100 or write a cheque to Bible Society of Kenya.



## **Faith Comes By Hearing**

Through the generous support of our partners, we have continued to spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to communities through the Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) programme. Many people have come to hear and apply the Word of God in their day to day situations.

Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) programme is offered free of charge for committed groups and churches. The audio Bible is available in English, Kiswahili, Ololuyia, Lukakamega, Lutirichi, Maasai, Luo, Gikuyu, Kiambu, Kimeru, Kikamba, Borana and Somali languages.

BSK has availed talking bibles to prisons, schools, children's homes, churches, learning Institutions, hospitals, offices, non-governmental organizations and other institutions. The recipients have received the word of God with a lot of joy and we are glad to see positive change in people's lives through this programme, especially to the people that are unable to read and write but are able to listen to the word in audio format.

We visited Chemi Chemi Academy and St. Mary's Education Centre in Kibera slums. Both schools have a population of more than 200 students from lower class to upper class and are run by local NGOs in Kenya. The children in these schools come from low income families that are not able to provide for their children's basic needs including food, clothes, shelter and education. BSK donated Bibles and audio Bibles to these schools and they greatly appreciated the kind gesture. In both schools there is a set time every week in the school programme for the children to listen to the Bibles.



***Diana Mutindi from Chemi Chemi Academy shows off a proclaimer received from BSK***

Below are some of the testimonies from students and teachers;

*I did not have a Bible when growing up neither did my family have one. I am grateful for the privilege to listen and read the Bible in my school and I really appreciate Bible Society of Kenya for thinking about us. I am now able to understand the Bible better and even teach my classmates who do not understand well. **Diana Mutindi, Chemi Chemi Academy.***

*I am very happy for the opportunity to listen to the Bible because we don't have one at home. I didn't know how I can be born again but after listening to this audio bible, I have known that Jesus died for me so that I may receive salvation. I thank Bible Society of Kenya for the privilege to listen and own a Bible. **Raphael Onjula, Chemi Chemi Academy.***

*I have seen great improvement in Christian Religious Education (CRE) performance since these pupils began listening to the audio Bible. I have also noticed positive behaviour change among the pupils because of the knowledge and counsel received from the Bible. The pupils have also experienced hope in life despite the challenges they face in their lives. **Pst. David Mutua in charge of discipleship and evangelism, Chemi Chemi Academy.***



**Raphael Onjula from Chemi Chemi Academy  
happy to receive a talking Bible from BSK**





**Students from St. Mary's Education Centre, Kibera listening to the talking Bible during a class session**

*I used to have bad behaviour like running away from school and didn't want to be corrected by anyone when I did wrong. When I began listening to the talking Bible I learnt that I should obey my parents and leaders. This has helped me to perform better in my school work as I have become obedient and have taken my studies seriously. I thank BSK for the availing this Bible to our school. **Sarah Vuyanzi, St. Mary's Education Centre, Kibera.***



**Pupils from St. Mary's Education Centre, Kibera keenly listening to the talking Bible**

*I thank Bible Society of Kenya for availing the talking Bible to my school. I used to perform poorly in Christian Religious Education (CRE) but now I perform better because I have a better understanding of what the Bible says. **Stephen Owino, St. Mary's Education Centre, Kibera.***

BSK will continue distributing the word of God in audio format to communities and institutions as we are encouraged by the positive transformation the Bible is bringing into people's lives.

If you would like your church or organization to have the FCBH programme, please call us on 0722205843 / 0733410020 or email; [info@biblesociety-kenya.org](mailto:info@biblesociety-kenya.org)

## **Giving Hope to Recovering Alcohol and Drug Addicts**

In a bid to help recovering alcohol and drug addicts to regain hope in life, the Bible Society of Kenya runs an alcoholism and drug abuse programme to offer support and encouragement to those affected. Below are some testimonies from people who have successfully recovered from drug addiction.

### **Faiza Wanjiru**

Meet Faiza Wanjiru, a 35 year old lady from Mjini Village, Township Ward, Kiharu Sub County in Muranga County, with a very inspiring story on God's faithfulness on her life's journey towards recovery from drug addiction.

Faiza got pregnant at the age of 14 years and to her, this was an addition to the already existing troubles in her life. Her parents were separated when she was four years old hence she was living with her older brother who had educated her up to class 8. She then began looking for her mother who she hoped would educate her further. Instead, her mother chased her away to fend for herself and take care of her child. At this point she felt rejected and wondered how she would ever go through life.

Having lost hope, Faiza began to look for ways of survival which included agreeing to sell her son at Ksh 20,000. She had already received a deposit of Ksh 10,000 when the information leaked to the police who arrested her and took her to Kirigiti Police station. At this time she had gotten into prostitution and using drugs including cocaine, heroin, alcohol, and bhang. Faiza even engaged in shoplifting activities in Nairobi supermarkets which landed her in Langata women prison.



*James Kathuraku (left) Bible Advocacy and Scripture Use Manager addresses the recovering drug addicts and care givers in Muranga*

After 5 years in Langata women's prison, Faiza's mother came to look for her. After sometime she was released and taken to a rehabilitation centre opened by the government. Faiza testifies that the rehab really helped her because she was taught on ways to start the journey to recover from drug addiction. Some of Faiza's friends ran away from the rehab centre because they could not stay away from drugs. Unfortunately some died because of being caught in criminal activities. Families of those friends lost breadwinners and lost direction in life including stalled education.

Faiza is grateful to God for helping her get out of drug addiction. She adds that prayers have drawn her closer to God and she has learnt to live a life of obedience from the Bible. Through the help of community health volunteers who assist the community with social issues she has been able to feel loved and valued. Faiza notes that she is now close to her 19 year old son whom she couldn't even recognize when she came out of prison.

Faiza is now an inspiration to her community as she reaches out to drug addicts and teaches them on parenting and encourages them to stop taking drugs. She especially thanks the Bible Society of Kenya (BSK) for helping her through one of the TOT'S who trained her to reach out to those affected by alcoholism and drug addiction in Muranga County.

Faiza thanks BSK for the programme they are running and is requesting for Bibles to be given to recovering drug addicts so that they may receive hope for life as well as draw closer to God.

### **Kennedy Muriithi**

Kennedy was engrossed in drug addiction for more than 10 years. Smoking bhang, cigarettes, drinking beer and chewing khat (mira) became his daily routine as they were readily available in his neighbourhood. Kennedy would be sent by his elder brother and friends to buy drugs and in the process his curiosity led him to the trap of drugs. Without knowing it, he got deeply immersed into drugs and lost control of himself.

Through desperation and lack of a stable job, Kennedy was always involved in unpleasant activities which would land him in trouble. One particular day he was involved in a land dispute where he disagreed with a neighbour. This case landed him in jail for four months. During this period, he lost his wife and two children. After serving in jail for four months, he was released and he met a community health volunteer who advised him to stop taking drugs as they will kill him.

Kennedy is now a reformed man, he stopped taking drugs in 2016. He testifies that he can now interact with people freely and even get jobs that meet his needs. He adds that through prayer and reading God's word he has seen transformation in his life. He further says that being close to people who encourage him has helped him to regain hope.

Thomas Kimani, a community health volunteer in Township ward notes that Kennedy has reformed greatly. He met him when he was in a bad state of drug addiction. Thomas has continued to encourage Kennedy to avoid places and people where drugs are sold to avoid a relapse. Kennedy has also avoided peer pressure from friends who would otherwise take him back to drugs. His health is now fully restored.

Kennedy thanks the Bible Society of Kenya who reached out to him through a TOT called Jacqueline who visited the village where he comes from with the message of hope drawn from the Bible. He looks forward to being re-united with his family.

## **Empowering adults with reading and writing skills**

The Bible Society of Kenya (BSK) has a mandate of availing scriptures to people in different languages. In a bid to reach adults with literacy skills, BSK is conducting literacy projects among the Maasai, Turkana, and Pokot communities.

The Maasai, Turkana and Pokot communities have Bibles in their local languages. A large percentage of them are not able to read. BSK is uplifting the literacy levels in these communities through producing materials that will ensure learners are equipped with literacy skills. We have also reached primary schools with easy reading bible literacy portions called New Readers Portions.

Through these projects, over 1000 learners have graduated since 2010 and are now equipped with skills to read, write and do transactions. Despite drought and migration in these areas the people who have gone through these classes have recorded great transformation in their lives.



*A Maasai Adult Learner performing a numeracy test during class time at Enkusero-keri P.O.M.C Center in Kajiado County.*



*"I joined the adult class in 2013. "I was encouraged by a local pastor to join the adult class. Initially I used to rely on listening to proclaimers and other preachers to build my evangelism messages. Though not fluent in reading, I can now read bible verses in Maasai language. Before joining the class, I was a full time herdsman but I am now able to trade and manage my animals properly. Adult learning has helped me in evangelism since even those who disregarded me as uneducated now respect me when I speak to them about the word of God,"*  
**Joshua, African Inland Church Evangelist.**



**Joshua Makui**

*"I joined the adult class in 2011 after being encouraged by my sister in-law. I am a second wife and a mother of four boys and three girls. Prior joining the class I couldn't write my name nor do simple addition arithmetic. I am now able to write my name and comfortably read a bible verse in Maasai. My aim for joining the class was that I could read the Bible for myself and now I am able to. I am also able to check my lower primary children's homework. When my relatives go to hospital, they always trust me to check the doctor's comments because they now consider me educated. I am so happy to receive such recognition from my relatives. Thank you Bible Society of Kenya for empowering me with such great knowledge,"*  
**Elizabeth Likana.**



**Elizabeth Likana**

We thank our donors for their continued support towards these projects. We will continue to conduct these classes so that many people may get empowered as well as learn the word of God in their own language.

To begin a class in your community or to support a literacy class, kindly contact us on 0722205843 / 0733410020 or email; [info@biblesociety-kenya.org](mailto:info@biblesociety-kenya.org)



## Sports Evangelism

The Bible Society of Kenya (BSK), in conjunction with Soweto Hope Sports Association held an exciting football tournament dubbed shoot out HIV at Jacaranda Grounds in Kayole.

The event brought together over 2,000 teenagers from Soweto slum to learn about HIV in a campaign held to reduce new infections among the youth.

A total of 16 football teams which consisted of 8 ladies' and 8 men's teams from Soweto participated in the football tournament. The football matches served as a way of bringing the youth from Soweto together to know their HIV status and to be trained on other BSK programs which included Faith Comes by Hearing, Trauma Healing, Economic Empowerment and Take Charge.

Shoot out HIV is a programme of the Good Samaritan project aimed at sensitizing youth on responsible sexual behaviour and how to make informed choices on HIV issues.

A research done by the Ministry of Health on the current HIV prevalence countrywide indicates that it is at 5.6%, yet the intended level is zero HIV status. This means that a lot still needs to be done to eradicate the HIV pandemic.

The Bible Society of Kenya's approach is drawn from the teachings of the Good Samaritan in the Bible who reached out to a needy person as an act of kindness. This story is found in Luke 10:25-37.



*Soweto Queens football team pose for a photo*

The BSK General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki emphasized that based on the Ministry of Health research, prevalence rate of HIV infection among the youth is still high. She added that the purpose of the Good Samaritan Programme is to inculcate good morals and positive behavior change among the young people who are leaders of today.

The partners involved in the event were Mama Lucy Hospital who provided VCT services and KBC TV who covered the event. These organizations immensely contributed to the success of the event and they are greatly appreciated by Bible Society of Kenya.

Bible Society of Kenya looks forward to a society where young people will read, appreciate and apply God's word in their lives as it will give them direction in all their undertakings.

Present at the event were BSK members of staff who worked tirelessly to see the event succeed. We thank God for a great event!

### **Testimonies**

*"I thank Bible Society of Kenya for empowering me with knowledge and skills on how to live responsibly and to know my HIV status. I used to abuse hard drugs since 2015 but since I began interacting with BSK I was challenged to stop taking drugs as they were not adding any value to my life. I am also grateful that BSK allowed girls to participate in this year's football tournament. This has helped me to have a sense of belonging and regained hope for life."* **Jane Otieno, Soweto Divas Football Club.**

*"I thank BSK for organizing this football tournament. Through our interaction as teams, we have stopped taking drugs and now live united as brothers and sisters. I have managed to avoid peer pressure and to focus in life,"* **Tiberius Okalo, Tumaini Football Club, Soweto.**



**Men from Tumaini football Club in Soweto pose for a photo after playing**

*"I was a street girl for a long time. Life was tough for me until I met some friends who introduced me to God and I came to know that there's still hope within the challenges I was facing. Through my friends, I came to know about BSK who have taken me through several trainings including; take charge, faith comes by hearing and life skills. Now I am a mentor to fellow girls in my neighborhood and I teach them God's word. I have seen positive change in the lives of many girls in my team. I thank BSK for empowering us and helping us to know the word of God,"* **Emily Tata, Soweto Queens Football Team.**

## **African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) Empowering Young Leaders with God's Word**

The Bible Society of Kenya hosted a life changing conference for the youth aimed at empowering them to become leaders of today through the forum of African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI).

ABLI is a dynamic forum for change in the African society. It applies Biblical principles to empower and inspire leaders of all backgrounds to address specific challenges within their communities, as well as providing an opportunity for networking and exchanging ideas on a wide range of issues pertinent to African cultures.

The gathering brought together youth from diverse walks of life including universities, colleges and churches who came to be empowered with knowledge and skills from the dynamic speakers with expertise in various fields from entrepreneurship, corporate leadership, politics and religion. The major topic of the day was leadership from the perspectives of leading with the heart, leading with the mind and leading with the hands. The Speakers included Rev. Gibson Anduvate, Senior Pastor International Christian Centre, Pastor Gerald Gichanga, Ripples International, Ms. Dominicah Gakii, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Ms. Caren Wakoli from Emerging Leaders Foundation and Mr. Anthony Mwangi (Mr. Tee).



*Mr Tee one of the guest speakers addresses the youth during the conference*

The General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki appreciated all the participants for attending the forum noting that we are all leaders wherever we are. She also noted that BSK is partnering with young leaders to develop a network of people who will bring change in our society. She added that the Bible should bring us together as brothers and sisters hence we should strive to be peace ambassadors in our areas of influence.

Some of the quotes by the keynote speakers

*"Prioritize growth over income. Never monetize your gifting"*

**- Rev. Gibson Anduvate**

*Faithfulness in one season opens a door in another season*

**- Rev. Gibson Anduvate**

*"You cannot lead others if you cannot lead yourself"* **- Mr. T. Kenya**

*You have to unlearn what you grew up learning especially if it's a hindrance to your purpose in life."* **- Dominicah Gakii**

*"Authority flows from our relationship with God."* **- Pst. Gerald Gichanga**

*"What is that one thing that you are good at? Pursue it."* **- Ms. Caren Wakoli**

A day before the ABLI youth conference, BSK gathered about 50 youth and staff members to exercise their leadership skills by planting trees at the Ngong Forest Sanctuary. The youth were drawn from various Universities who expressed their joy in planting trees as they felt they were contributing towards being good stewards of the environment. The Universities represented were Kenyatta University, Mount Kenya University, Moi University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology. BSK will continue to engage and empower the youth so as to equip them to adequately face life challenges both now and in the future.



**Group photo of all participants**



**Youth keenly following teachings during the ABLI youth conference**



Present at the tree planting event was Dr. Mohammed Girma the International Advocacy Officer from the British and Foreign Bible Societies who was pleased to be part of the great movement of impacting young leaders. He noted that youth empowerment is part of ABLI's thematic areas noting that he has a passion to see the youth bring positive transformation in society. The Head of Business Development Mr. Thomas Tharao spoke about Bible work noting that the tree planting activity was a way of giving back to the community as well as replenishing the raw materials from which Bibles are printed.



*Youth from different Universities and Churches pose for a photo after the tree planting event*





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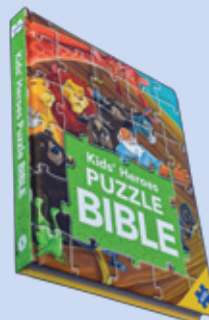
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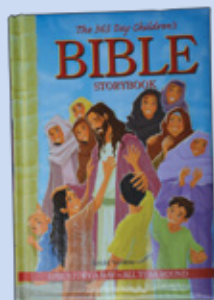
*Kids' Jesus Puzzle Bible*  
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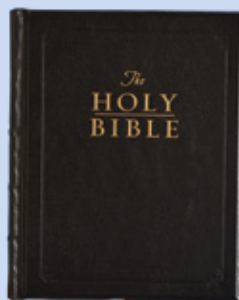
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