



Bible Society of Kenya

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Quarterly Newsletter vol. 18
May 2018

The Bible People



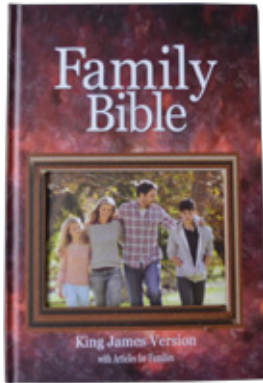
STORIES INSIDE

*BSK holds its 47th Annual
General Meeting*

The joy of owning a Bible

*Empowering adults
with literacy skills*

Family Bible



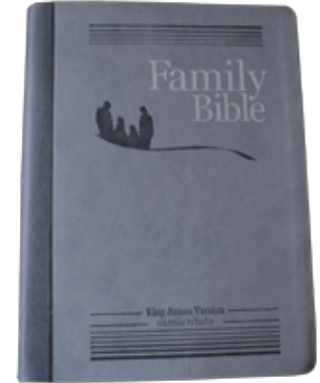
Kshs. 2,030/=



Kshs. 3,997/=



Kshs. 2,378/=



Kshs. 3,997/=

It's features include;

- **480 articles on topics for families**
- **Introductions and outlines to the book of the Bible**
- **Cross references**
- **22 Bible lessons for families**
- **All year round Bible quotation**
- **Bible reading plan**
- **Has white and silver edges**
- **Has attractive covers; leather and hard cover**

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

Dear Members, Partners and Friends,

The BSK team wishes to thank God for his faithfulness in bringing us this far. Since the year began, we have had several projects running which have turned out successful through God's provision and favor.

We have continued to avail God's word to many people as per our mission; to make available and promote use of Scriptures for holistic transformation of peoples' lives. We pray that the hands on which the Bibles were placed will lead to transformed lives.

We held a successful National Annual General Meeting on March 24th 2018 at Agape Church and we are grateful that members turned up in large numbers to attend the event. New Board members were elected and were welcomed to the dynamic team of Board members. We trust that the Lord will give them insight as they spur the society to greater heights.

Through our Trauma Healing programme we held several trainings which brought together trainees from various institutions e.g. churches, government, prisons, community leaders and youth. The trainees have been equipped with adequate knowledge to assist others go through various situations. We have received positive reports of people regaining hope from the word of God and we are glad to be of positive impact in our communities.

We further held a Literacy Adult Education sensitization meeting in Turkana, Lodwar with key church leaders and partners in Adult and Continuing Education Department. The literacy programme is aimed at empowering the girl child who cannot access education in most marginalized communities due to culture related issues and lack of resources.

Through this programme we endeavor to empower learners so that they can read their Bible as well as improve their standards of living.

The HIV Good Samaritan project held workshops to empower church and community leaders on how to reduce the prevalence of the virus as well as embrace people who are infected and affected in their communities. Through this programme we equipped participants with knowledge on how to begin income generating activities which will help them sustain their lives.

We are happy to announce that we have launched a platform where people can buy Bibles in instalments, pay for membership subscription and donate towards Bible work. The platform (***288#**) is available on Safaricom network now and will soon be available on other networks. You are welcome spread the word and register as well.

We really appreciate your prayers and financial support which have greatly helped us achieve our mission. We sincerely thank our donors who have helped us run various programmes that are bringing transformation in people's lives. We invite you to celebrate with us the achievements God has divinely enabled us attain. We implore you to continue praying for our projects and consider partnering with us as we endeavor to avail God's word to all.



Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki

BSK holds its 47th Annual General Meeting

The Bible Society of Kenya held a very successful National Annual General Meeting on March 24th 2018 at Agape Fellowship Church. This was the 47th AGM and members turned up in large numbers to attend the event.

The National Annual General Meeting is an annual forum for BSK registered members where they come to interact, receive reports of performance for the previous year, elect new Board members and receive projections on the upcoming plans for the year.

The Guest speaker for the day was Ms. Flavia Murugi from Parklands Baptist Church who spoke on this year's theme ***"Developing Strategic Relations and Capacity for Expanded Reach and Sustainability."*** She noted that the Word of God is the foundation that all of us are grounded. She added that we should be like Jesus who never changed yet he lived on earth. She further added that Christians should learn times and seasons and be prepared like an athlete, soldier and farmer who always look forward to achieving something after they have invested.



Prof. Mumo Kisau, Board Chairman addresses members during the AGM

New board members were elected to the Board to join the dynamic team that endeavours to take the mission of the Society to greater heights. Our desire is that as the ministry of BSK grows, more Christians will join the dynamic team of members who will collectively impact the community positively through God's word.

Additionally, the Society set apart a display area to showcase its programmes to the members. This enabled them to have an in-depth understanding of the Societies' programmes and it was very much appreciated by the members.

The General Secretary Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki appreciates all its members, Board and staff for making the Society what it is today. We are also calling on the Church to support this noble course of availing God's word to all in languages they can understand best.



Members keenly listening to discussions during the AGM

The joy of owning a Bible



Thank you BSK! Say pupils from Kibini Primary School

*I have never owned a Bible. My family owns a Maasai Bible which I cannot read because it's shared by all my parents and siblings. I love the bible because it enables me to grow spiritually. I enjoy singing and interacting with small children so that when they grow up they can look at me as their role model. My favourite Bible story is the story of Ananias and Saphira which teaches that stealing from the Church is wrong, says **Charity Naismoi Simoren, 10 years, Ilparrua Primary School Kajiado County.***

In line with the mission of Bible Society of Kenya, to make available the Holy Scriptures in affordable and innovative formats for holistic transformation of people's lives, we have continued to inspire hope in people's lives through our Bible advocacy programmes.

In April 2018, Bible Society of Kenya and Netherlands Bible Society distributed Bibles to 22 schools from marginalized areas including Kajiado, Embu and Nairobi Counties. Most of these children come from challenging backgrounds where they don't have access to basic things like food, shelter, clothing and even education. The Bible distribution was aimed at enabling the children to own and interact with the word of God so as to grow their spiritual and moral values.

We interviewed some of the students and teachers that benefited from this programme and most of them confessed that they had not owned a Bible before. They appreciated the Scriptures received and promised to read them and to improve their performance in Christian Religious Education. The teachers also promised to utilize the Bibles in teaching during their Programme for Pastoral Instruction (PPI) lessons so that pupils may know God personally.

*I often read the Bible especially in the evening with my parents. My favourite story is the one of Noah since he was obedient when he was asked by God to take good care of animals in the boat. Given a Bible, I would love to share with my neighbour a friend so that he may improve in CRE, says **Peter Njeru Kinyua, 12 years, Kianjokoma Primary School Embu County.***

*I am in form one and love reading as a hobby. My family has only one Bible which I share with my mother. I enjoy reading the Bible in the morning as it encourages me to have an easy day at school. I also read the Bible at night and pray to God to protect my father who works as a policeman at night. I get encouragement by reading the Bible when I am sad and lonely, says **Valerie Moraa, Mihango Secondary School Nairobi County.***

*"I read the bible twice a day because there are interesting stories and they encourage me. My favourite bible story is the story of Moses, it teaches me God is powerful than other gods. Now that I have my own bible I can be kind and honest to others."***Peter Odonyi, Missions of Hope, Mathare, Nairobi County.**

*"It was a challenge to teach without Bibles especially for me I am a CRE teacher. I would have a Bible but the students don't, the few who have Bibles are torn hence unreadable. Some have versions like Revised Stadard Version (RSV) which are abit heavy for them to internalize"***Moses Mutwiri, Teacher Mukuru, Nairobi County.**

It was a great joy to see the smiles on the children's faces as a result of owning Bibles. Bible Society of Kenya thanks her donors, Netherlands Bible Society of Netherlands for their generous as this will help the youth to grow in a godly and responsible manner.

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



Pupils at Ilparua Primary School in Kajiado show off the Bibles they have received from BSK



We are so happy to own Bibles, say pupils from Ruthimitu Primary School

Trauma Healing and Recovery – A story of Healing

*"I am a born again Christian and second born in a family of 14 siblings. My parents are still alive. I am married and blessed with three children, though one died at the time I was given a life sentence. I was a witch doctor by profession, a heavy drunkard, drug addict and adulterer. I murdered someone which resulted to a death sentence. I thank God that my entering prison has changed my life. I gave my life to Christ and I am fully committed to Him. The book of 2 Corinthians 5:1-7 says – therefore whoever is in Christ is a new creation, the old has passed and the new has come. I thank the Bible Society of Kenya for bringing the Trauma Healing programme to Kamiti Maximum Prison. I have greatly benefitted from it and will share the knowledge with the community around me." **John (not real name)***

According to some inmates, serving a life sentence in prison feels like along and arduous journey towards a freedom that is not guaranteed. Most inmates confessed that when they entered prison they were traumatized because they experienced lack of freedom, no interaction with their loved ones, diseases, trauma and some felt that they didn't deserve to be in prison.

Bible Society of Kenya reached out to inmates in Kamiti Maximum Prison with its trauma healing programme so as bring hope to the inmates as well as equip them with knowledge on how to handle trauma as well as train others in similar situations. This was the first time the training was conducted in a prison in Kenya. The five day training was conducted in partnership with Count Me In, a Non-Governmental organization comprising of youth who are passionate about making a difference in society.



An officer at Thika Women's prison receives Bibles from Mrs. Anne Gichuru of BSK

Trauma is a psychological, emotional response to an event or an experience that is deeply distressing or disturbing. Some of the inmates openly shared their stories of how their lives have transformed as a result of being in prison. The training was very engaging as the facilitators handled different topics and participants could identify with the topics. The sharing gave them a lot of relief and helped them to begin the journey towards healing.

"I have felt so much relief after attending the trauma healing training. It was like a pus filled wound which eventually burst and oozed out the pus, what a relief! Having been in prison for many years, I needed someone so close to help me manage the trauma I have had for long. I thank God for bringing the instructors who sacrificed all their time to reach inmates in Kamiti Maximum Prison. The teaching was comforting, cautionary and accompanied by biblical references. It is rare to find people with a very big heart to impart such valuable knowledge upon people intensively considered as base in society long live our instructors." **Peter (not real name)**

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

The training culminated in a graduation ceremony where each student who successfully attended all the classes was awarded a certificate and a book titled Healing the Wounds of Trauma Book for further reading. BSK also donated Bibles for the prison Library for use by the inmates. The ceremony was graced by guests from the American Bible Society who awarded certificates to the inmates.



Group discussion time



Mrs. Elizabeth Muriuki hands over Bibles to be used in the Library



Group photo of all participants who attended the trauma healing training

In March 2018, BSK visited Thika Women's Prison in conjunction with KTN's Tukuza Programme. This was a way of sharing Christ's love with the inmates during the Easter season. We donated Bibles to the inmates and they greatly appreciated the gesture.

Bible Society of Kenya is grateful to the American Bible Society for funding the Trauma Healing Programme so that people may receive hope in life through God's Word.

If you would like your church or organization to have be trained on the Trauma Healing programme, please call us on 0722205843 / 0733410020 or email; info@biblesociety-kenya.org

Equipping Leaders with Trauma Healing Skills

Bible Society of Kenya has continued to conduct the trauma healing programme so as to help members in the society who are ailing from wounded hearts after undergoing traumatic situations in life.



Trauma Healing class session at Community Presbyterian Church

Trauma is caused by a direct experience, witnessing someone else's suffering, and even hearing of someone's trauma. Victims relive the memory of their trauma and this causes them wounds that might last a lifetime. Domestic violence, sexual abuse, human trafficking, ethnic violence, natural disasters or loss of a loved one can result to trauma.

A classic initial trauma healing session was conducted at Elim Ministry Dagoretti from Monday 9th - 14th April 2018 where 23 participants were trained on how to handle trauma related issues. Each lesson in the training presented what the Bible teaches on how to handle trauma. Participants learnt about the need for trauma healing, how to heal from their own trauma and to care for traumatized people. The training had sessions where participants shared the difficult situations they had undergone. Through this lesson, most people felt relieved of their burdens after the class and they are now able to help others deal with trauma.

The last day of the training was very significant as participants listed their pain on a piece of paper and burnt them to symbolize the beginning of healing of pain by God. This session is known as taking your pain to the cross. After this session most participants confessed that they feel their burdens have been lifted and they are glad they attended the training.



Graduands pose for a photo after the training at Elim Church

We interviewed one of the participants and they had this to say;

"When I first joined the class, I was just attending because my landlord who was hosting the training had prompted me to come. However after the lesson on forgiveness, I realized that all the challenges I have been having since 2017 are because I carry so much unforgiveness in my heart towards my parents, siblings and other Christians. I suddenly lost my husband last year and I felt nobody was there for me including my family. Now I have begun the journey towards forgiving them and I am beginning to feel unburdened." says **Mary (not real name)**

Other successful trauma healing trainings were held for inmates and officers at Kamiti Maximum prison with 45 participants. Another training was held for community and church leaders at Community Presbyterian Church in Nairobi. We thank God that people are regaining hope for life and they are spreading the good news with others who are facing difficult situations in life.

If you would like your church or organization to be trained on the Trauma Healing programme, please call us on 0722205843 / 0733410020 or email; info@biblesociety-kenya.org. To support Solai tragedy survivors, you can give dry food stuff, clothing, books / stationery or donate through paybill 518100, account Solai.

Empowering adults with literacy skills

Bible Society of Kenya held a Literacy Adult Education sensitization meeting in Turkana, Lodwar with key church leaders and partners in Adult and Continuing Education Department.

The purpose of the meeting was to create awareness on the need to enhance literacy among women in the Turkana community as well as to enhance partnership with different institutions who handle literacy in marginalized communities.

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 poverty level, compared with 45% nationally. Illiteracy levels are high with only half of the school going children enrolled nationally below the national average of 95% (2018 report by Charity Save the Children). The adult literacy rate in the County is at 20%.

The programme dubbed *Literacy for Women* in Africa is aimed at empowering women through education. The girl child cannot access education in most marginalized communities due to cultural issues. This programme will also accommodate men. This programme, will equip learners with functional knowledge and skills in numeracy, basic knowledge among many others.



Mr James Kathuraku, Bible Advocacy and Scripture Use Manager making a presentation to participants in the meeting

The sensitization meeting was attended by 23 participants with 10 Churches represented and Turkana County Officer in the Adult and Continuing Education. BSK was represented by Mr. James Kathuraku, Bible Advocacy and Scripture Use Manager and Mr. Joseph Irungu the Literacy Project Coordinator. The Church in Turkana will provide learning centres and assist in recruiting participants.



Group photo of key participants at the Turkana Literacy sensitization meeting

The Government through the Directorate of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE) received the idea well and promised to support the learners through giving assessment tests in different levels to evaluate the learning process. Ultimately these learners will advance to become teachers in different capacities.

The Turkana County officer in Adult and Continuing Education Officer Mr. Dominic Ngoko noted that the challenge facing adult literacy in Turkana is shortage of teachers and learning centres. He encouraged Church leaders to enrol their congregants to the classes as a way of acquiring knowledge and enhanced spiritual way of life.

BSK hopes that ultimately, the people of Turkana will be able to read their, improve their standards of living through involvement in different economic activities as a way of reducing poverty levels in the community.

BSK thanks her donor the Finnish Bible Society for making the literacy programme a reality and empowering the people of Turkana County with education.

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

Embracing mobile technology to bring God's Word closer to the people

Mobile phones have had a major impact on our lives and the way that we perform everyday tasks and have brought a whole new meaning to the term multitasking. About twenty years ago, it was almost impossible to send money to someone who was miles away or to make a phone call at the click of a button. One would have to go to a telephone booth, insert some coins then make a call to a waiting person on the other side of the booth. Mobile phones have indeed revolutionized not only communication but many aspects of day to day lives.

With mobile phones, families can keep in touch close to every minute. Even when we travel to other countries for work or leisure we can still connect with our families. Organizations have not been left behind in taking advantage of the recent development in telecommunication and have embraced technology to publicize their brands, make sales, interact with their customers and make a positive impact in people's lives.

Out of the 53 languages in Kenya, Bible Society of Kenya has translated the Bible in 21 language groups but there are individuals that are yet to own a Bible due to low levels of income. Since our desire as Bible Society of Kenya is to have the word of God availed in every hand, we developed a USSD platform to allow the low income earners to purchase the Bible in instalments and at their own pace. An individual with a simple phone with basic features can access this service. The USSD platform also contains other features including; donations and membership subscription.

Introduction of this platform will increase the local language Bible ownership among Kenyans. Over the years, Bible Society of Kenya has received many requests for a solution to help low income earners to be able to purchase Bibles for individuals and families.

The Bible is a big book with the average Bible having about 1,800 pages and at Ksh 870, it's the cheapest book of its size in the market yet most low income earners can't afford. Most of the low income earners live in rural areas, have no access to digital Bibles, prefer reading local languages, and print to digital. This target market also face the challenge of having to travel sometimes 30 to 50 Kilometers to find well-stocked bookshops. This is because bookshops tend to be located in larger urban areas.

Bible Society of Kenya

Our ultimate goal is to avail the Word of God to all people irrespective of their economic status. We desire to see transformed lives and a society that is morally upright. This platform is easy to use and we recommend it to everyone who desires to own their own Bible or to buy a gift for a friend or loved one.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)



But thanks be to God,
who in Christ always leads us
in triumphal procession, and
through us spreads the
fragrance of the knowledge
of him everywhere..

2 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

**For more of these
Dial *288# to buy a Bible!
in instalments**

Terms and conditions apply

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



**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

1. Youth mentorship training
in Kisumu and Nairobi – May/June
2. Golf tournament – June
3. CSR event – June
4. Maasai Bible Launch – August
5. Nyeri Breakfast – August
6. Bible Eagles Club Nyeri – August
7. Bible Eagles Club Bungoma – August
8. Business Leaders' Breakfast – July/August
9. Trauma healing programme
on Kameme fm – Ongoing



Starter Bible
Kshs. 638



My Jesus Bible
Kshs. 662



My Mini Bible
Kshs. 580



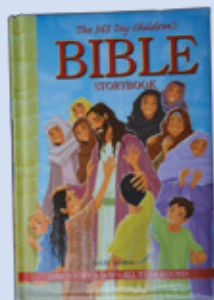
Kids' Jesus Puzzle Bible
Kshs. 986



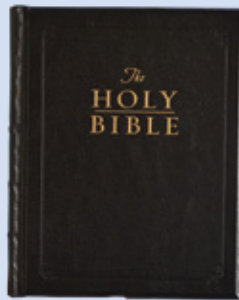
Kid's Heroes Puzzle Bible
Kshs. 986



Gikuyu old 052 Kshs. 1,392
(Wedding Bible)



The 365 Day Children Bible
Kshs. 1,740



ESV Pulpit Bible
Kshs. 8,700

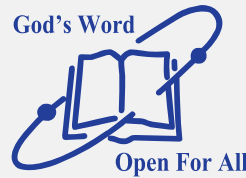


Old Gikuyu Bible
Kshs. 870



Old Gikuyu Bible -
Wedding gift Kshs. 1,392

Order your Bible on info@biblesociety-kenya.org or tel 0722205843/0733410020/0771 234984 or *228#



Bible Society *of* Kenya

P.O. Box 72983 - 00200, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: 6002827 / 6002425

Cellphone: 0722 205843 / 0733 410020 / 0771 234984

Email: info@biblesociety-kenya.org

Website: www.biblesociety-kenya.org



fb@biblesociety-kenya.org



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