

ANNUAL REPORT: SENSITIVE INFORMATION



End-to-End 2020

AFRICA. ASIA. THE AMERICAS.



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Please handle contents with discretion.

TIME DOESN'T WAIT IN A PANDEMIC

In much of the world, resources for spiritual growth aren't easily accessible. Add in the shutdowns necessitated by a pandemic, and ministries could have easily thrown in the towel, opting to resume operations when the world reopened. But what would have come of God's people – those children of God who didn't yet know him? How would they cope in a world turned upside down? Thank you that you didn't stop and, as a result, resources continued to flow into 42 countries, impacting 1.6 million people through:

- Screenings of The JESUS Film, which tells the story of Jesus' life, as recorded in the Book of Luke.
- Audio Scripture listening groups in which people gather regularly to hear the New Testament in their heart languages. They talk about what they heard and ways to apply it to their lives.
- Bibles, New Testaments, and portions of Scripture for those listeners who can read, allowing them to study on their own.
- New churches planted where there were none before.

Thank you for not forgetting that faith truly comes by hearing!

YEAR-OVER-YEAR MINISTRY GROWTH

Year	Bibles	New Testaments	Scripture Portions	JESUS Film Screenings	JESUS Film Attendance	Listening Groups	Listening Group Attendance	Proclaimers & Audio Scriptures	SD Cards & Bible APP Downloads	New Believers	Churches Involved	New Churches Planted
2016	33,365	17,406	255,855	844	370,572	11,894	284,897	10,145	N/A	11,044	3,797	219
2017	62,066	18,472	278,713	1,385	152,737	14,439	509,130	15,991	310	28,338	3,773	195
2018	343,879	166,290	1,211,795	3,893	693,119	25,960	1,755,447	16,858	1,012	31,787	4,814	584
2019	684,003	99,846	375,067	2,166	267,182	28,350	1,633,841	34,122	22,221	54,062	6,856	514
2020	80,689	37,865	427,386	7,023	1,241,410	15,522	385,742	11,182	52	18,127	5,392	512

MINISTRY SCORECARD

On the next few pages, you'll find a ministry scorecard for the countries where the End-to-End ministry was expected to be implemented. Where there are no numbers reported, the activities did not take place. COVID-19 was the primary disruptor as most governments restricted people from coming together for events like a screening of The JESUS Film. Some Bible Societies found ways to offer all of the activities. A few Bible Societies either failed to report their activities or none took place, such as in Central African Republic, Kyrgyzstan, and Nepal.

Country	Bibles	New Testaments	Scripture Portions	JESUS Film Screenings	JESUS Film Attendance	Listening Groups	Listening Group Attendance	Proclaimers & Audio Scriptures	SD Cards & Bible APP Downloads	New Believers	Churches Involved	New Churches Planted
Angola	758	347	266	48	786	311	2,674	400		240	51	15
Bangladesh	2,000					415	7,779	253		10	460	
Benin				13	2,500	1,168	61,585	273		105	10	
Burkina Faso	2,847	200		6	450	590	26,550	650		78	590	1
Burundi	3,000					350	8,700	500		816	20	227
Cameroon	182		2	16	6,109	820	7,276	17		1,105	231	
CAR												
Colombia	400	200	11,250								13	
Dominican Republic	500	5,000	210,000			50	2,900	50		368	50	
Ecuador	2,000			20	300	99	99	300			58	58
El Salvador	4,772											
Gabon	1,790			9	1,014	219	5,796	270		3,309	11	3
Gambia	595	113	1,380	3	194	104	124,154	106		25	102	13
Ghana	2,500	50	1,310	18	1,735	385	10,038	220		229	133	15
Guatemala	1,173			139	21,461	90	120	120		30	58	
Guinea Conakry		700				72		17		22		
Gulf	180		1,080			3	120	60			3	
Guyana	480	45				20	200	75		3	6	1
Haiti	1,000			46	7,991					13	17	28
India (GNC)	12,345	20,091	199,468	157	1,121,499						28	
India (TTI)	4,650											
Kazakhstan	2,350							120				
Kenya	32	949		12	840	432	2,160	259		17	165	1
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liberia	2,925	450	1,200	9	2,212	22	429	56		140	45	5
Malawi	50	20		6	340	2	77	2		43	3	9
Mali	4,200			37	18,000							3

Country	Bibles	New Testaments	Scripture Portions	JESUS Film Screenings	JESUS Film Attendance	Listening Groups	Listening Group Attendance	Proclaimers & Audio Scriptures	SD Cards & Bible APP Downloads	New Believers	Churches Involved	New Churches Planted
Mexico		1,721				1,721	9,952	1,721			28	28
Mozambique	1,002			10	500	2,153	21,618	1,128		968	807	3
Nepal												
Niger	845	30	24	15	1,310	477	3,200	285		148	5	5
Nigeria	967			91	15,879	501	16,977	160		3,215	102	
Paraguay		3,000				32	1,186	18		255	15	
Peru				33	920	85	415				31	
Philippines	1,500	1,500		6,000	10,000	1,000	12,000	2,000		3,000	1,000	
Rwanda	1,433					940	14,636	35		750	231	
Sierra Leone		218				1,380	12,313	228		77	343	24
South Sudan	18,725	25				122	1,987	134		156	32	
Suriname	108	556		3	125	381	1,056	193	52	7	23	
Tanzania	3,560	2,500	1,016	315	24,900	184	4,200	379		2,799	65	40
Togo	1,520	150	390	16	2,345	347	14,594	298		42	257	14
Uganda						671	6,049	759		10	342	
Zambia	300			1		202	2,170	2		135	24	19
Zimbabwe						174	2,732	94		12	33	
TOTAL	80,689	37,865	427,386	7,023	1,241,410	15,522	385,742	11,182	52	18,127	5,392	512

2,184,326+

received God's Word through End-to-End ministry last year!

BIGGEST WINS

THE JESUS FILM

The End-to-End ministry continues to reach people across the world – introducing them to their Savior and changing their lives in many, many ways. Despite the pandemic, almost five times more people saw The JESUS Film in 2020 than in 2019. In fact, more people saw the film in 2020 than the attendance numbers for the previous three years added together!

CHURCH PLANTING

Churches are still flourishing. The number of new churches planted as a result of the End-to-End ministry continued to increase in 2020. Churches give communities a place to worship – a place for Christians to support each other.

SUSTAINING WORK

While this powerful ministry model didn't reach any new countries in 2020, Bible Societies were able to sustain work in four of the six countries that were added in 2019: Burundi, South Sudan, Colombia, and Haiti. Bibles were distributed in El Salvador, the fifth country.

SUPPORTING MINORITY CHRISTIANS

The End-to-End ministry continued to support areas where Christians are a minority – where there is not a church for people to find strength and support. Christians in Bangladesh, India, and the Philippines received God's Word and were able to study the Scriptures, even if they are unable to read.



CHALLENGES AND RESPONSE

PANDEMIC PERSEVERANCE

COVID-19 threatened to undermine the End-to-End ministry in 2020, but God's Word couldn't be contained. Following safety protocols, Bible Societies around the world introduced people to Jesus through The JESUS Film, when and where it was possible. People had the opportunity to study Scripture in listening groups centered around their families or a small number of people who came together regularly to hear the New Testament on an Audio Scripture player. People who were anxious about the impact of COVID-19 on their lives found comfort in God's promises to take care of his children. The Bible was living water to a very thirsty world.

RISING ABOVE VIOLENCE

Conflict and violence ignored the pandemic and continued to wreak havoc on lives around the world, including Burkina Faso, Haiti, India, and Niger. It was in the hardest places that the number of listening groups soared, such as refugee camps.

NEW PATHWAYS OF INNOVATION

Government restrictions are always a concern for some nations, especially those where Christianity is not the majority faith tradition. But in 2020, almost all governments implemented restrictions in order to protect their people from COVID-19. This meant the cancellations of some screenings of The JESUS Film, which is the first step in the End-to-End ministry. Churches were closed to prevent people from gathering. And even travel from region to region was forbidden in some places, which prevented Bible Societies from fully reporting on ministry taking place in their countries.

But in many places, Bible Societies found work-arounds to implement the ministry. One Bible Society got its Audio Scripture players into closed-off areas by working with partners to include them with relief food. Others encouraged families to form listening groups and then to pass on the Audio Scripture players to their neighbors. Many turned to technology to help spread God's Word – putting the Bible on SD cards so that people could download Scripture on their smartphones. Others turned to social media, such as a school chaplain in Paraguay who sent his students and their parents daily devotionals before virtual school started. Organizations such as Renew Outreach Ministries, Talking Bible International, and Hosanna Ministries (FCBH) were crucial to making the audio program a success, providing valuable tools along with training. And in 2020, radio played an important role in reaching millions of people with Scripture.

“We were amazed to see the radio hosts calling us and soliciting the Bibles in order to distribute them to the listeners who were listening” to Scripture played on the airwaves.

— Lydie N'Landu Massa,
General Secretary of Bible Society of Democratic Republic of Congo

“During the COVID-19 containment period, the number of listeners increased significantly – in terms of millions – as a result of the presence of all families [staying] home.”

— Pastor Gode Mongala Moke,
Director and host of Radio Sango Malam (Good News Radio)

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Below are updates from our ministry partners around the world.

AFRICA

Angola

- COVID-19 did little to thwart the Bible Society of Angola's efforts to introduce its people to the Word of God. When the lack of infrastructure threatened to hold people back from reaching the small towns of Caxito and Cabosha in the roadless province of Bengo, Bible Society representatives boarded a canoe for the trip.
- “Despite the pandemic restrictions, we showed The JESUS Film in people’s yards and on the streets,” Bible Society staff reported. But it was the interaction with those coming to view the film and those attending the listening groups that led to the ministry’s success. When Angolans heard about Jesus’ life on Audio Scriptures in their heart language, the message took root. Many people received Scripture for the first time. Some 758 Bibles, 347 New Testaments, and 266 portions of Scripture were distributed. A total of 786 people attended a viewing of The JESUS Film, and 465 new listening groups were established. Some 240 Angolans professed faith in Christ, and 15 new churches were planted as a result.
- People from a variety of communities were open to learning about Jesus, with listening groups starting in the provinces of Luanda and Bengo, in hospitals, clinics, printers, bakeries, and reception centers for children and youth in vulnerable situations.
- As impact grew, families began sharing and interacting with the Word of God. Churches associated with the program were equipped with audio and visual materials. They were re-energized to spread the Word. Many of those attending listening groups began attending a local church, helping them mature as Christ-followers and strengthening the churches. Many of those local churches reached out to support the Bible Society, joining in its programs.



Benin

- Work in the small West African nation of Benin was definitely impacted by the pandemic. Still, thanks to dedicated believers, the ministry brought The JESUS Film to 2,500 people, many of whom joined listening groups each week where they gathered to hear the gospel on an Audio Scripture player. A total 61,585 people regularly attended one of 1,168 listening groups. Ten local churches carried on the work of the End-to-End ministry, recording that 105 people proclaimed Christ as their King.
- During the year, 588 listening groups were visited, representing almost half of the groups meeting in Benin. Some 247 Proclaimers were distributed. And Bible Society staff met with churches involved in the ministry to plan for work in 2021, including the training of more local people as listening group leaders.

Burkina Faso

- Between violent attacks by extremists and the COVID-19 pandemic, this was a difficult year for people in Burkina Faso. But God's work can't be stopped, and the End-to-End ministry continues to grow in the West African nation. More Bibles were distributed in 2020 than 2019 (2,847 compared with 2,106) and the number of listening group participants jumped from 15,125 to 26,550.
- The intercommunal attacks and violence by extremists rocked this long-stable country, but it also created ministry opportunities that otherwise might never have occurred. In 2020, almost 1 million people were forced to flee their homes to escape violent attacks – a 92 percent rise over 2019 numbers. The violence showed no regard for religion, affecting both Christians and Muslims. In some communities of displaced people, where Muslims often outnumber Christians, many Muslims were intrigued with the Audio Scriptures played as part of the End-to-End ministry, bringing at least 40 of them to faith in Christ.



"I heard talking about the audio program by church members and I decided one day to join them for listening. I realized that it was the Word of God. ... At the beginning, my experience as a Christian was a little bit difficult for me because of my traditional background, and also because my husband is the chief of Gala, so I'm not free for everything. But little by little, I have been really strengthened by the Word of God. ... I'm so thankful for this precious gift I received for the first time from the Bible Society. ... My prayer is that the Lord allows us to spread his Word everywhere."

— Naab Paga of Borgo, Burkina Faso

Burundi

- The JESUS Film could not be shown in 2020 in Burundi out of concern for people's safety. Still, Bible Society of Burundi found other ways to spread God's Word, primarily by hosting a total of 350 listening groups where people heard the gospel and applied what they learned. Leaders of the 20 churches involved mobilized their congregations to be part of listening groups, starting a total of 119 new groups. Altogether, 8,700 people gathered each week to listen to Scripture and discuss what they heard. Those original 20 churches also branched out to form 227 new houses of worship. The body of Christ grew by 816 people who professed faith in Christ!
- A lack of transportation made it difficult for volunteers to reach some locations, as well as to distribute Bibles as planned. Still, 3,000 were given away and plans for 2021 work will take this into consideration.



“Before I got the Bible gift, I was lazy to follow God’s way . . . I had a grudge against my neighbors who took all my properties by force under the pretext that I am an orphan – I mean with neither parents nor siblings to defend me. To be honest, I couldn’t get rid of that grudge. I hated them too much. But after I was given a Bible and began reading the Word of God, something started changing in me. . . . In Ephesians 4:25, it says: ‘If you get angry, do not sin; may the sun not set on your anger, and do not give access to the devil.’ The Word transformed me so that I felt more love within me, until I happen to ignore what my neighbors did to me. I decided to forgive them. On their part, they recognized that they were wrong, and they humbly asked for forgiveness. I couldn’t figure out the peace and joy I had after reconciling with my neighbors. I did all this because I wanted to free myself from the hatred that I had for them. I thank God for the reconciliation which transformed my life through the Word of God.”

— Pierre Barekensabe, 54, of Mwaro Province,
holds his Kirundi Bible

Cameroon

- In most of 2020, the Cameroonian government prohibited large groups of people from gathering. As a result, The JESUS Film was shown just 16 times. But God’s Kingdom can’t be contained. Despite the restrictions, the number of listening groups grew from 457 in 2019 to 820 in 2020. Participation in the listening groups jumped from 6,571 in 2019 to 7,276 in 2020. As a result of this growth, 231 churches got involved and at least 1,105 people came to profess Christ as Lord.
- One approach Bible Society of Cameroon took was to get families to form their own listening groups, or for existing prayer groups to become listening groups where the focus was on listening and discussing Scripture. Over and over again, people said the Bible was a comforting resource during a difficult time.
- Because the Audio Scripture players can be used discretely, this program also made it possible for non-Christians to study God’s Word in a safe and private way. The Bible Society discovered that each of the various Scripture tools had distinct advantages when used in different settings. Projectors worked to introduce people to Christ. Audio Scripture players were helpful for those who are unable to read. And SD cards and the Bible app proved appropriate for use in unsecured areas.

“I’ve been a preacher of the Word for years. I have a Muslim friend to whom I have preached for a long time without success. One day I gave him a Proclaimer so that he would listen to the Word of God. His wife is always complaining of his infidelity. One day he went, and he bowed down to his wife to ask for forgiveness. He tells her that he has just listened to a word that condemns his behavior. Together with his wife, they called me. They decided to accept Christ and all of their obsessions were

destroyed. They went so far as to offer land for the construction of a church. His wife, realizing that I couldn't be reached all the time because of my phone, decided to buy me a good smartphone."

— Pastor Roger Abata of the True Church of God, Garoua, North Region, Cameroon

Gabon

- The End-to-End ministry carried on in Gabon despite the health crisis impacting the country. In 2020, the number of listening groups grew by more than five times, from 41 in 2019 to 219 groups in 2020. The number of people attending doubled, from 2,321 in 2019 to 5,796 in 2020. Bible Society of Gabon adopted a new online training strategy that allowed everyone to work remotely. The JESUS Film was shown nine times to more than 1,000 people, including a screening in Central Prison in Libreville, Gabon. Bibles and Audio Scripture players were distributed to support the listening groups. The Scriptures were also broadcasted in multiple languages on the radio, with listenership growing from 1,700 to more than 37,000 a day.

"This message came at the right time in my journey with Christ Jesus. Love those around us, even if they are not nice. This is the challenge I would take up after the listening session, out of obedience, but with difficulty, failures, attempts, and tenacity. I realize that my efforts, however vain, are recognized by God and I feel that he is like a caring coach who encourages me to persevere.

"... I train [people] everywhere to always listen to the Word of God. ... I pray to God to bless the initiators and donors who allowed this program to be born and, above all, continue so that many people can have access to and meet the Lord Jesus Christ."

— Audrey Ibinga Boucka, Gabon

The Gambia

- When listening groups gathered in The Gambia, they met as their government and the World Health Organization directed: participants were masked and socially distant. Bigger listening groups were divided into smaller groups to help keep people safe. Yet despite the restrictions, the number of people attending a listening group jumped dramatically, from 30,888 in 2019 to 124,154 in 2020. While churches all over the world closed to in-person services, The Gambia Bible Society distributed Audio Scripture players, Scripture on SD cards, and 595 Bibles to churches for use by listening groups. When participants gathered to hear God's Word – and they heard it in their own language – word of the ministry spread to family and friends. Members of non-Christian religions sought out the SD Cards so they could study the Scriptures in a safe and discrete way.

"My life was good because I have known the Lord. I now understand him better than before and I have really grown to know the Lord better. When it comes to decision making, I now seek the face of the Lord. And for behavior and attitude, I am now calm. I see God really doing something good in my life."

— Natalie Samuels from the Manjai West Coast Region of The Gambia

Ghana

- In Ghana, all End-to-End ministry activities came to a halt at the peak of the pandemic in 2020. It was only in the last quarter of the year that Bible Society of Ghana was able to resume activities like safe viewings of The JESUS Film, socially distant listening group meetings, and distribution of Bibles, New Testaments, and portions of Scripture.
- God's Word also spread throughout the country as a result of the Bible Society's partnership with local radio stations that aired the audio files as part of their line-up for free, or at a reduced cost. As the lockdown continued, people had time to reflect upon God's Word where they found comfort and hope for the future.

"I do not know how to read or write because I was not privileged to attend school. However, since the introduction of this Audio Scripture listening group in our church – through the help of Bible Society of Ghana – I am now able to meditate on the Word of God whenever I listen to it."

— Forgive Dzatdzetor, 47, of City of Truth Church in Hatsukorpe – Denu, Ghana

"The introduction of this audio Ewe Bible has brought unity among the churches in the Local Council of Churches. We have used it as an evangelism tool to reach out to many in our surrounding villages. It has lit a Pentecostal fire in idol worship communities, which has led to many giving their lives to Christ. ... May God continue to supply the needs of Bible Society of Ghana so many of us can also continue to benefit from the overflow."

— Bishop Christian Nutsuwor, 55, chairman, Ativuta Local Council of Churches
— Agbozume, Ghana

"As a church leader, work does not often allow me to study the Bible, but with the introduction of this audio Bible in Ewe, the Word of God has been made alive in my daily life. I now communicate to my maker all the time because the Audio Bible has enriched my prayer life."

— Mawuli Kpeglo, 32, Jasikan district, Ghana

Guinea-Conakry

- The End-to-End ministry was new to the West African nation of Guinea-Conakry in 2020. Severely hampered by pandemic restrictions, the Bible Society in Guinea-Conakry formed 10 listening groups, distributed 700 New Testaments, and reported that 22 people professed faith in Christ.

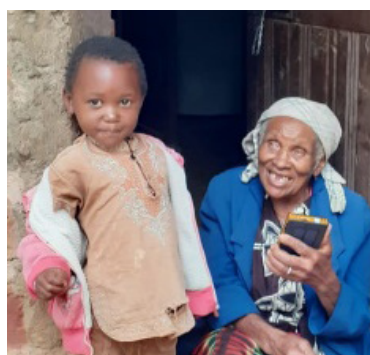
Kenya

- As churches closed throughout Kenya to keep people safe from COVID-19, Bible Society of Kenya took God's Word to the people. Through its efforts, the End-to-End ministry was active in 18 counties and God's Word was supplied in 20 different languages. In addition to Audio Scripture players, the Bible Society encouraged people to download Bible apps and The JESUS Film on their phones. Scripture was always at hand!
- As a result, ministry grew in 2020 as compared with ministry in 2019. The number of listening groups jumped from 219 in 2019 to 432 in 2020. Attendance held its own, with 2,123 participants in 2020, compared with 2,160 in 2019.
- Bible Society staff thank God for the availability of Audio Scripture players and equipment to screen The JESUS Film, both of which contributed to the ministry's success. Staff also cited the popularity of some of the Audio Scripture players, which let listeners hear the gospel in their language, as well as the news, even in remote locations.
- A total of 865 Bibles were distributed through The Timothy Initiative.

"In one of the listening sessions, we listened to the story of the demon-possessed man. A member in the group had a sick relative and she related with that story. Her faith made her believe the relative would be healed and indeed, he has been healed!"

— Pastor Mugo, Embu County, Central Kenya

Pictures from Kenya below, showing: Two women listening attentively to their Proclaimer; three Masai pastors testing their new audio listening device; an inmates' listening group at the Bomet Prison, and students during a classroom listening session. Also, a joyful grandmother enjoying her just received audio Bible with a grandchild, and a festively adorned Masai woman receiving her own audio Scripture from a local bishop.





“That day the Lord led us to do the listening group by the roadside. A certain lady heard us discussing the Word of God and she immediately joined us. Unknown to us, her daughter had suicidal thoughts and the mother was so scared. She sat quietly listening to John 14 and verse 14 changed her life: ‘If you ask anything in my name, I shall do it.’

“We prayed for her daughter and sooner than later, we received a call that her daughter had given her life to Christ that afternoon.”

—The Rev. James Mwagi, Kisii County, Western Kenya

“The Proclaimer that Bible Society of Kenya gave our church has made our faith grow immensely. The bigger testimony is that, through this, we have many people coming to listen and a new church has been planted.”

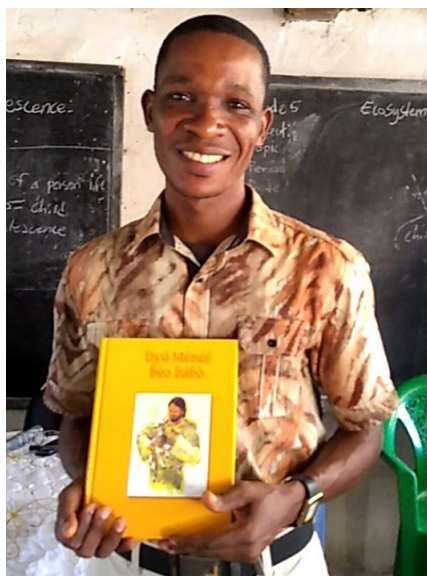
—The Rev. Simon Muteshi-Kakamega, Western Kenya

Liberia

- The COVID-19 crisis impacted ministry in Liberia, but did not thwart Bible Society in Liberia’s efforts to introduce people to their Savior. It was able to host nine screenings of The JESUS Film, but was prohibited from gathering large groups of people to listen to the New Testament. Instead, churches introduced smaller listening groups. People gathered as families and in smaller groups, offering an intimate encounter with the Scriptures. Many of those involved started conducting prayer services in their homes or online. They found God was giving them hope for the future and they wanted to share that hope with others. Sensing that the ministry was helping people, many commercial radio stations began developing Christian programs for their listeners, even requesting Audio Scripture players for their broadcasts.

“I found myself into a business where I was making a lot of profit that got me living a life that was displeasing in the sight of God. I even abandoned my church. I profited dishonestly. Because of this, my business was always unstable. ... I remember there were times I ran out of business and couldn’t care for my family; my kids were thrown out of school because I couldn’t afford to pay their fees. Life became unbearable for me. ...

My pastor came looking for me. ... He came and encouraged me to start going back to church and that God is the only source of our hope and blessing through His son Jesus Christ. ... He told me about the (End-to-End ministry) that was about to begin.



When I got there for the first time, he put me in charge of the attendance roster, making me the first to always be at the church for the listening group. During our listening group, we learned how to be honest in our dealing as children of God because God is faithful. And if we give ourselves to God as in John (chapter 15), then our Father in heaven who has already chosen us will give unto us whatever we ask in his name.

It was from those teachings that I surrendered myself to God, with my trust in him for everything. Now I have a business running successfully by applying those things I learned about stewardship during our listening sessions. Thank God for the opportunity to hear God's Word that has made me a living testimony of his transformation."

— Emmanuel Bloyouway, 46, of Great Emmanuel Church in New Cotton Tree community, Margibi County, Liberia

Malawi

- Bible Society of Malawi was unable to meet its ministry goals because of the pandemic, but undertook work where it could. It had hoped to plant 12 new churches, but because of restrictions on church gatherings, planted nine new churches. Fifty Bibles and 20 New Testaments were distributed. The JESUS Film was shown six times.

Mali

- Bible Society in Mali switched to plan B when the pandemic cut off access to large groups of people. Staff met with leaders of churches, house churches, and evangelists to enact their new plan to spread the Good News across the West African nation. Instead of meeting the needs of large groups, it focused on ministering to house churches, supplying 4,200 Bibles in French and Boomu. The JESUS Film was screened in 37 villages, attracting more than 18,000 attenders. During the time of confinement, the ministry was strengthening the faith of God's people. Nominal Christians became active again. And members of the majority religion turned to God's Word for comfort. As the Bible Society happily reported, "We can say that the restrictions on COVID-19 have not been just negative. On other levels, they helped achieve certain project objectives."



Mozambique

- When the churches closed in Mozambique, it was the Bible Society in Mozambique's opportunity to bring God's Word to the people through the End-to-End ministry.
- "The churches were closed, but through End-to-End we provided the Word of God through Proclaimers or printed Bibles. The work that is normally done by the pastors was being done by End-to-End," reported the Bible Society in its 2020 report.

- With churches shut to inhibit the spread of the coronavirus, the Bible Society taught local pastors how to operate Audio Scripture players and other digital tools that would put The JESUS Film and Scripture at people's fingertips. The pastors delivered the devices to the homes of their congregants. The idea was that each family could use the devices for two to three days and then pass it on to the next family. In all, 2,153 listening groups met, including 1,088 new ones. A total of 21,618 Mozambicans came closer to their Lord during a very difficult time.

"I was a healer and in that job, I hurt many people thinking that I was benefiting others with my witchcraft. My niece is a believer from the Assembly of God Church who listened (to Scripture) at home. ... She invited me many times to listen, but I was refusing. One day, God touched my heart, and I accepted my niece's invitation to participate in listening with her. ... I decided to give my life to Christ. In the week that I went to the church, there was a church crusade on the same weekend. I received the Word of God and having Jesus touch my heart, I decided to give up all the things I used for the practice of healing. I renounced that life and received the Lord Jesus as my Lord and Savior of my life. Today I am a free person."

— Alda Jose Mabui, member of the Evangelical Church Assembly of God in Maputo province, Mozambique



"I thank God for the [End-to-End ministry] because it changed my life. I didn't care about Bible readings. For me, reading the Bible was only for those who have time because I was saying to myself that I do not need to commit to it. But from the day I started to be part of the listening group, my routine changed. Now I feel that I am engaged in my spiritual life. We are in quarantine and the day that the Proclaimer comes to my house, I feel that I am with God's blessing."

— Albertina Manuel João, 30, member of the Crista da Aliança Divina Church, Beira, Mozambique

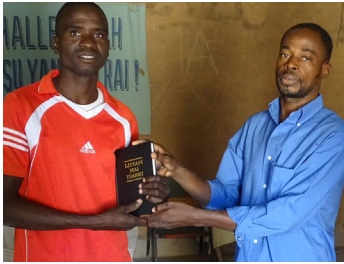


"I give thanks to God because I was given the greatest gift in the world, the Word of God. This Bible came at the right time in my life. [Due to] the COVID-19 pandemic, the church is closed, and I didn't have a Bible. I always depended on other people in the church, but now I have mine. ... I have in my hands the book of books, the book of life. Now, after the listening group, I will read mine. Praise God."

— Ivone Jeremias Sequera, 50, member of the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church, Inhambane, Mozambique

Niger

- The number of people in Niger listening to Scripture in 2020 grew, despite dealing with COVID-19 restrictions and the menacing presence of jihadists. Bible Society of Niger reported partnering with 477 listening groups that were attended by 3,200 people. This is up from the 389 groups active in 2019. Church leaders brought the End-to-End digital tools to families in their congregations, instructing them and encouraging them to meet as a family. The Bible Society acknowledges that this model makes it more challenging to report activities, but found the method actually strengthened the families and made more people aware of the Bible Society as the source for Scriptures.



“As the son of a pastor, I am supposed to come to church and be attentive to the Word of God, but I do not. Since I received the Bible from our college group, I often read it and thank God. I often speak among the students to preach. By the grace of God, I stopped fighting.”

— Raphael, 20, member of the Plenty of Life Church, Maradi, Niger

“I started the listening group in the prison by the pastor who came to visit us. It was as a result of the group that he gave us Bibles, mine is in French. Before I was adrift. I did not believe in anything or anyone, so I did not respect anyone. ... Even being in prison, I’m not cool with the others. But since I received the Bible and started reading, I felt more and more relieved as if I had a heavy burden on me.”

— Hassia, 30, imprisoned in Daykaina Prison for selling drugs and weapons



Bible Society staff speak of Malan Fordjoua, a Muslim holy man who is known for his aggressive stand against Christians. After listening to the gospel in his heart language, Fulfulde, those near him say he has softened his tone. He now says that ignorance is what leads to interreligious conflicts and that the ignorance is based on unverified prejudices.



Pastor Koffi met with Maman Rakia, an 86-year-old woman from the Tahoua region of Niger. After listening to the gospel in her heart language, Hausa, on a Proclaimer, she asked to be baptized. When it was over, she reached for her phone to call her 10 children and tell them what had taken place. She asked her children to “understand that Jesus came to save every man and that life on earth is insignificant in relation to eternity.” She regrets not coming to faith earlier in her life, but it wasn’t until she heard Scripture in Hausa that she understood what God was telling her.

Nigeria

- At the height of the pandemic in Nigeria, people were confined to their homes. There were no listening groups meeting and certainly no church gatherings. That's when some group leaders began playing their Audio Scriptures over a loudspeaker for their neighbors to hear. That is how much people longed to hear God's comforting words.
- As restrictions loosened, people again gathered with their listening groups to hear and discuss the gospel. This led to a year-over-year increase in the number of listening groups and those in attendance. In 2020, 501 active listening groups in Nigeria attracted 16,977 participants, compared with 281 groups with 12,537 in attendance in 2019. Even a pandemic couldn't stop God's Word from being shared!

Mrs. James Olowasuy is a fairly new Christian in Kwara State, Southwest Nigeria.
She came to the Lord after attending a Bible listening group.
The change in her life was obvious to many.



“The people in my neighborhood seeing the transformation in my life now come to me to hear the Word of God. Not only that, they tell me their challenges and ask me to pray for them. They see me as an Evangelist.”

— Mrs. James Oluwasuyi of Ilorin, Kwara State,
Southwest Nigeria, with the English Bible she received

Rwanda

- When Rwandans were no longer allowed to gather, even in their small listening groups, 835 of them turned to social media apps to continue hearing God's Word as a group and talking about how to apply it to their lives. So impactful were the gatherings, that most groups met twice a week in the evening.
- When the restrictions lessened at the end of 2020, listening group leaders met and reported on the impact the listening groups were having. They reported that the number of listening groups had more than tripled since 2019, rising from 281 groups attended by 12,537 people to 940 groups attended by 14,636 in 2020. There were no screenings of The JESUS Film throughout the year.

After losing her husband and her children, Jeanne found little joy in her life until the Scriptures came alive to her through a listening group.

“All this left a huge gap in my heart and I could not think why God allows this to happen to me. ... I realized that only the Word of God can heal and bring us the joy in [our] hearts. The Bible is the Word of God. If you want to talk to God, to listen what God is telling you, read the Bible. A listening group has been a very encouraging approach that enabled me to love reading the Word of God and a tool of change.”

— Jeanne Mukasine, 45, from Kirehe District, Rwanda



Sierra Leone

- God's Word is changing lives in Sierra Leone. In 2020, Bible Society in Sierra Leone found pastors in rural areas very open to introducing the End-to-End ministry to their congregations. Leaders were trained to operate the Audio Scripture players and were appointed to the 1,380 listening groups serving 12,313 people. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, more than three times as many people gathered regularly to listen to the Word of God as compared to the 3,315 participants in 2019. In addition, 24 new churches were planted to serve areas where there wasn't one, and the program spread to two new suburbs, Kabala and Kono.

Hearing the Word of God has changed the lives of many people like Isatu Kamara, who was raised a Muslim. She came to a listening group at the invitation of a pastor.

"My life has changed completely because of listening to the Proclaimer in Krio. It has helped me understand God's Word more easily. I'm proud to own a Bible in my language and that has helped me to talk to others about God and bring them closer to him."

Because of Isatu's faith, her family is also hearing about Christ!

"Members of my family who know I am hot tempered are now respecting me because Christ is directing my going out and coming in. I am helping them as well to understand Christianity and to know the things of God and come closer to him. I thank the Bible Society for this opportunity and pray that my Muslim brothers and sisters will one day see the great light and turn to Christ like me."



— Isatu Kamara, 34, of Hill Station Community in Sierra Leone

South Sudan

- When the pandemic struck South Sudan, people turned to Audio Scripture players and the printed Word to find strength and hope in a difficult time. With churches closed, almost 2,000 people began attending one of 122 listening groups where they listened to the New Testament and then discussed what they heard. Serving these listeners, as well as thousands of other South Sudanese, the Bible Society in Sudan provided 18,725 Bibles. This gave people access to God's Word whenever they wanted and the comfort found in its words. Families were strengthened as they listened, watched, or read the Word of God. People found it comforting and encouraging to know God was with them.



Mama Halima, 50, (seated at the right) leads a listening group in Juba, South Sudan, attended by three other women and their children. The Scriptures they read and listen to are in Arabic.



The Rev. Repent Abraham Domini of the Bible Society in South Sudan (seated at the right in a blue shirt) presents Bibles and Audio Scripture players to a listening group meeting in Juba, South Sudan. Scriptures were in Arabic.

Tanzania

- In Tanzania, government officials placed no restrictions on public gatherings, choosing instead to downplay the risks associated with COVID-19. Out of caution, Bible Society of Tanzania introduced precautions into all End-to-End gatherings, adhering to guidelines issued by the World Health Organization. Despite all precautions taken, a senior leader of the Bible Society died from the coronavirus while conducting this ministry.
- A full slate of ministry activities took place in 2020, including 315 screenings of The JESUS Film – all held in the open air. By not holding the screenings inside a church building, people were kept socially distant and it attracted people of other faiths who would not have stepped inside a church. These screenings attracted just under 25,000 people, some of whom were hearing the life story of Jesus for the first time.
- Sixty-five churches were involved in organizing 184 listening groups where 4,200 people listened to Scripture and then discussed what they heard.
- A total of 1,500 Bibles were made available through The Timothy Initiative.



Fenketela Masetola, a 29-year-old Maasai shepherd, was not a Christian when he was invited to see The JESUS Film near his home in Ngongosele, Tanzania. When he heard it would be broadcast in his heart language, he agreed to go. The experience was life-changing for him.

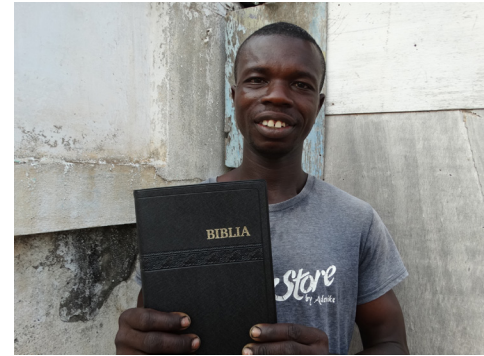
"I saw and knew that Jesus is a good man. He loves children and healed lepers. After the film, they asked who wanted to receive Jesus as their leader. I raised my hand. They led me in a certain prayer, and they gave me a New Testament."

He now attends a listening group twice a week and church on Sundays. But more is coming for Fenketela.

“This pastor will baptize us in August. At that time I will be a full Christian. ... They have told me to find a new name. I have decided to be called Daudi because we learned about Daudi in the Bible. He was a Maasai because he was a shepherd. He was brave, and he killed a lion. I also killed a lion when I was a small boy, together with my brothers.”

Togo

- As Bible Society of Togo carried out the ministry under the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic, members of the staff discovered benefits of smaller, more intimate listening groups. Unable to gather as a community, many of the 347 active listening groups were made up of two to three families studying Scriptures together. Instead of attending their individual churches, these families came together – across denominational lines – to study God’s Word. They found unity as a body of believers.
- Sixteen screenings of The JESUS Film attracted 2,345 attenders. A total of 14,594 people participated in listening groups.



Listening to God’s Word as a member of a listening group in Lomé, Togo, helped Jeanne regain her dignity, find joy in life, and get back on track with God.

“I was a broken woman. I couldn’t read the Bible. I couldn’t pray. I was so discouraged about my life. My first husband died of HIV, the second one was not a Christian, he got me pregnant, and he asked me to abort. I refused, so he abandoned me. I was so desperate and deeply depressed.”

Then a neighbor asked her to attend a listening group where she could hear the Word of God read aloud in her heart language.

“When I started attending the Bible listening meetings, I realized that I left the road to heaven and was headed to hell. ... I was lost before I started attending the listening group. I recognized myself and asked forgiveness from God and truly speaking, I felt I was forgiven by God of all my sins. Peace returned to my life. ... The Word of God has changed my life from a broken and lost woman, and I have become the happiest woman. Now I am applying every word I read or hear from the Bible to my life.”

— Jeanne Dosseh, 32, of Lomé, Togo

Uganda

- While working through the challenges presented by the pandemic, Bible Society of Uganda learned the importance of taking God's Word to new communities – such as hospitals where patients had little to occupy their time. They had time to dive into God's Word using Audio Scripture players provided by the Bible Society. A total of 671 listening groups, including 351 new ones, were attended by more than 6,000 people.
- Initially, a hospital official refused to let the Bible Society bring the Audio Scripture players into the facility. They were told to wait until the pandemic was over. But once the official heard God's Word being played and realized the effect it could have on patients, the Bible Society was invited to minister to 67 patients.



John Kigozi, 54, a married father of eight children, was infected with COVID-19 while working at a border point in Elegu, Uganda. When his unit was tested, John was the only one who tested positive. He was quickly taken to Mulago National Referral Hospital for services.

“On entering my room at Mulago, I started feeling nervous because of the way we were treated. Food and drinks would be brought by the doctors wearing personal protective equipment.”

John grew sicker, with his blood pressure rising dramatically.

“I thought I was going to die.”

A doctor who had heard John praying brought him an Audio Scripture player.

“[It] helped me to get relieved from the stress and know that God would make a way through. I listened to the different stories from the book of Genesis and Exodus and discovered that God was with his children throughout their journey when they left Egypt for the Promised Land.”

John survived, and when he was discharged, he took the audio player with him.

“It's now part of my life and my neighbors often ask where I got this, but I tell them it was given to me when I was a COVID-19 patient. I thank the Bible Society of Uganda for this wonderful gift, my life will never be the same.”

“The Word of God is medicine; this is also another form of drug like the ones we receive from medical stores. It is actually stronger because it can heal diseases like COVID-19 that currently have no drug.”

— Dr. Celestine Barigye, director of Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital,
which received 27 Audio Scripture players



Zambia

- With churches closed in Zambia, the End-to-End ministry was one of the only ways to gather around God's Word. For those living in rural Zambia, people turned to radio or television programs to receive the Word of God, allowing people to stay safely in their homes. Because of the restrictions, the Bible Society turned to social media and online platforms to hold its Bible studies and even some church services. Some listening groups divided into smaller groups to ensure the members could remain socially distant. A total of 3,720 people attended 367 listening groups. Some 1,540 Bibles and 800 New Testaments were distributed, and 617 people proclaimed faith in Christ.

Zimbabwe

- End-to-End was a fairly new ministry in 2019 in Zimbabwe. Because of the restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, impact numbers remained roughly the same in 2020. Bible Society of Zimbabwe supported 174 listening groups where 2,732 people gathered regularly to hear the Word of God. Thirty-three churches hosted listening groups, encouraging attenders to apply God's Word to their lives.

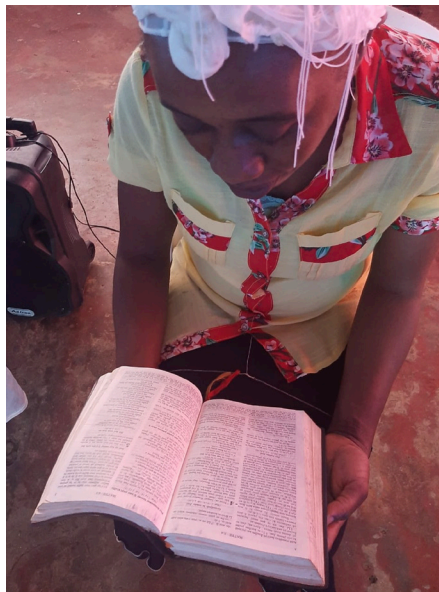
THE AMERICAS

Colombia

- Colombian Bible Society focused on supplying God's Word to its people in 2020. This contrasts with the End-to-End ministry in 2019 when the Bible Society focused on screening The JESUS Film, which introduces the life of Christ, from conception to resurrection. Unable to bring large groups of people together because of COVID-19 restrictions, Bible Society staff distributed 400 Bibles, 200 New Testaments, and 11,250 portions of Scripture to families and school children. For many of the families, this was the first Bible they owned.

Dominican Republic

- Dominican Republic Bible Society spent 2020 spreading the Word of God to its people, as well as the Haitian immigrants who fled the poverty in the neighboring country. Because of the uncertainty in their lives, many people were eager to learn about a supportive and loving God. The Bible Society worked with local churches to distribute 500 Bibles, 5,000 New Testaments, 10,000 Gospel portions, and 200,000 booklets that help people get to know Jesus.



In 2019, a woman invited Kalilia to watch The JESUS Film with her.

"I felt truly transformed. When it finished, I reconciled with the Lord, and a Dominican pastor from the Bible Society prayed for me. My life changed, and then I got baptized, too. I ask God to help me every day to follow his path, and to listen to the Bible on the (Proclaimer). ... I am praying for the Bible Society so that this program continues to be a success in the ethnic groups of the Dominican Republic."

— Kalilia Dezom of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, received a Bible in Creole

Ecuador

- After civil unrest and extreme weather hampered ministry in Ecuador in 2019, United Bible Societies in Ecuador was very active in 2020. It screened The JESUS Film 20 times, with 300 people watching the story of Christ. Local churches hosted 99 listening groups and some 2,000 Bibles were distributed.
- Before the quarantine was lifted in September 2020, people couldn't travel between cities. Their churches were closed. When society in Ecuador reopened, the people were hungry to gather together to fellowship and study the Bible. Audio Scripture players proved very popular, especially in rural areas.



“God bless you for the Quichua Bibles. It really is a very great blessing. ... We are handing out some Bibles to those who are Christians, but most to those who are not. The evangelism project is excellent. God bless them all.”

— Pastor Aurelio Lema, coordinator of Chimborazo Quichua Churches Association,
Chimborazo, Ecuador

El Salvador

- In 2019, Scripture listening groups were canceled when the new president, Nayib Bukele, declared a state of emergency in prisons. Audio Scripture players, like Proclaimers, were banned. Bible Society of El Salvador was hoping to be able to resume listening groups again in 2020, but that did not occur. However, in the third quarter of 2020, the Bible Society was able to resume the distribution of Scripture in the prisons. A total of 4,772 Bibles were distributed to two women's prisons and three men's prisons. In December 2020, the Bible Society was also granted permission to show The JESUS Film in prisons, but must first acquire a very large projection system that would accommodate an audience of 2,500 prisoners.
- The Bible Society reports that at least 76 people came to faith in Christ as a result of the End-to-End ministry. This includes a prison director who saw firsthand the prisoners' change in behavior after regularly reading Scripture.



“Thank God because the Lord in this place rescued my life. He found me when I was already sunk in misfortune, in my sin, a wrong life. Thank God I met him in this place, and I am a Christian now. I am blessed with sharing the Word of God with my brothers. The Lord has also allowed me to experience many things in the gospel. I changed many facets of my life that were incorrect, and I understood in the light of the Bible that the decisions that I once made were not good. And now, I thank God that I can have a spiritual manual, the Bible, that governs my life.

“The Bible is like a double-edged sword that penetrates the soul, penetrates to the depths and achieves the change that no psychological treatment in any prison treatment can achieve. The problem was in my heart and the only thing that could reach my heart was the Word of God. Now I am going to be able to study the Bible to learn and teach my companions that the way of salvation is only through the Word of God.”

— “Pedro,” a male prisoner in Isalco Prison

“The Lord has resurrected me, and I am a living testimony to all who cannot believe that the gospel of God changes (people). The Bible transforms my life. The Word of God is alive and effective, and I believe it. I know that soon the Lord is going to raise up many people in this place thanks to all the Bibles that they have donated to testify that the Word of God transforms.”

— “Santiago,” a male prisoner in Isalco Prison

“We thank the Bible Society because it has taken the time to come to this place and share with us the Bible and has come into our hands. We thank God, first of all, because he puts the disposition in their hearts and we thank them as well, as well as the authorities who were present this day so that this could be carried out – both the director of this penal center, the authorities of penal centers, and the Bible Society. We hope that by reading this testimony as well, you can feel the satisfaction that the material that you have sent has reached our hands and we are going to put it to good use. May the Lord bless you.”

— “Ricardo,” a male prisoner in Isalco prison

Guatemala

- It was the third quarter of 2020 before COVID-19 restrictions loosened enough to allow Bible Society of Guatemala to distribute 1,173 Bibles to people hungry for the Word of God. After months of isolation, people were able to gather together to hear Scripture on an Audio Scripture player and then talk about how to apply it to their lives. While churches remain closed, the Bible Society hosted 139 screenings of The JESUS Film for more than 21,000 people. Local churches hosted 120 new listening groups in the community, and 30 people professed faith in Christ.

Guyana

- The lack of continuous electricity and internet service hampered ministry in Guyana in 2019, but in 2020 Bible Society of Suriname, which works in Guyana, took to the skies to solve its problems. Staff members put 75 Audio Scripture players, 480 Bibles, and 45 New Testaments on planes bound for the villages of Wapishana and Patamuna. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, only essential goods could be flown into these remote villages, so the Scriptures were placed on the bottom of food hamper, which were topped with food and addressed to End-to-End translators working in the villages.
- Ministry in Guyana continues to be difficult but effective, with coordinators forced to travel miles by bicycle or on foot to report on the groups. Churches are growing and baptisms are a regular occurrence. A total of 20 listening groups met regularly in 2020, up from three in 2019.

Translation coordinator Juraim Browne of Wapishana, Guyana, rode his bicycle 56 miles to reach a group of believers in a region near Brazil. During a church service there, members told Juraim they were thrilled to finally receive a printed Bible and an Audio Scripture player in their heart language. Up to that point, their only Bibles were in English.

“One of the church members, Jude, who is 30 years old (pictured), said that in the past he used to memorize Bible verses only in English. But now, having an Audio Bible in the Wapishan language, he can more easily understand and memorize Bible verses. ... the Wapishana’s can have a better understanding of God’s Word because for them reading God’s Word is one way of knowing God, but listening to God’s Word is another way of hearing God’s voice in the language of the heart.”

— Juraim Browne, translation consultant for the Suriname Bible Society



Haiti

- The lives of Haitians remained in turmoil in 2020. In addition to the COVID-19 restrictions, people’s sense of security was shattered by ongoing violence, kidnappings, and gang activity throughout the nation. With the country in lockdown until July because of the pandemic, little of the planned End-to-End ministry took place. But starting in August, Haitian Bible Society began to promote the ministry. It conducted awareness activities and scheduled screenings of The JESUS Film. Bible Society focused on showing the film in some of the most violent areas that were under siege by armed gangs.
- By the end of 2020, Haitian Bible Society reported distributing 1,000 Bibles and that almost 8,000 people had attended one of 46 screenings of The JESUS Film. Seventeen churches worked with the Bible Society and 28 new churches were planted.

Mexico

- In Mexico, some towns were closed to outsiders who might introduce the coronavirus within their borders. As cases spread, the insecurity of people in some areas took a violent turn. People began arming themselves to prevent strangers from crossing their borders. It was in this atmosphere of anxiety that Bible Society of Mexico introduced the End-to-End ministry. Instead of trying to enter each town, the Bible Society identified trustworthy facilitators already living in each town to conduct the ministry activities. The facilitators knew the people they were reaching out to and were well-accepted as a result.
- As part of a new strategy, each of the 1,721 listening group leaders received a New Testament and an Audio Scripture player in one of 77 different languages for their listening group to use. Almost 10,000 people, hungry for stability in life, attended the listening groups regularly. They found great comfort in hearing about God's plan for their lives. And for many, hearing God's Word in their heart language was an especially valuable gift.

"While we live, while we are still good and happy, we must teach the boys above all not to throw themselves into drug addiction; because they are always on drugs. They are drunk and I have called them [on this] for a long time, but they do not understand me. I find the kids lying in the street and this [Audio Scripture] especially will help me a lot."

— Francisco, a pastor in the state of Guerrero, Mexico

Paraguay

- The impact of coronavirus hit at the heart of the Bible Society of Paraguay's ministry. It had been effectively reaching students through screenings of The JESUS Film and listening groups, where the students gathered to hear the New Testament and then discuss what they heard. In 2020, school chaplains used social media to send out videos featuring the New Testament, as well as daily devotionals. In the Misión la Amistad School, Chaplain Ignacio sent the devotion to parents in the morning and presented it to his students before starting virtual classes. This allowed parents to know what their children were learning and allowed them to reinforce the message at home.
- In 2019, some parents had asked schools to suspend the ministry because they were not Christians. But in the midst of the pandemic in 2020, it was the parents who went to Scripture distributions to make sure their children got one of the 3,000 New Testaments being handed out.

Vanesa had only been listening to the gospel in Guarani-Spanish during school for about a month when the pandemic hit. Her life suddenly changed in many ways.

In her 11 years, Vanesa says she's seen tragedy, but nothing like the pandemic.

"We have gone through difficult situations like flooding of the river and seeing many people suffering because of that in our neighborhood, but the pandemic reached all of us. From one day to the next, everything stopped. We couldn't leave the house and we didn't know what was going to happen."

She says that getting the video clips and texts helped her.



“The chaplain always encourages us to trust in God, that he loves us and is in control of everything that happens. I was very happy when I received my Bible at home.”

— Vanesa Carolina, 11, of Asunción Barrio Puerto Botanico, Paraguay

Peru

- With traditional ministry methods banned due to the pandemic, God’s Word continued to be shared in Peru in some very creative ways. Taxi drivers hung Audio Scripture players to their vehicle. The driver could listen between fares and would turn up the volume when a passenger boarded so they could hear it, too. People working in the fields took the players with them to work, listening to Scripture while caring for the land.
- During the lockdown, electricity was intermittent, making battery-operated Audio Scripture players the only dependable medium that gave people access to God’s Word. One church member said, “We can no longer gather to listen to our pastor, but now we have our pastor at home. We turn on the Proclaimer and listen to God’s message.”
- Before and after the lockdown, the Peruvian Bible Society held 33 screenings of The JESUS Film for 920 people. It also supported 85 listening groups attended by 415 people.

“I’m grateful for this Torch (Audio Scripture player). I use it when I’m working as a taxi driver to constantly learn about the Bible, and when a passenger comes in, I raise the volume so that both can listen to it. This way I’ve shared the Word of God with hundreds of persons. I also use the Torch when radio broadcasting.”

— Pastor Grover Carhuamaca, 56, who is in charge of various churches in the Santa Maria del Valle districts, Churubamba, Peru

Suriname

- The pandemic initially banned gatherings of more than five people in Suriname, bringing listening groups to a halt. Instead, Suriname Bible Society delivered Audio Scripture players to families that would gather to listen to the New Testament. Some people received SD cards, which allowed them to access the Bible on their smartphones. The families were encouraged to pass the Scripture players to other families.
- When visits were allowed, Bible Society staff reached out to villages they had never visited before. In 2020 they explored the Aukan villages of Godo olo, Mooitaki, and Drietabbetje. One of the village chiefs turned out to be their biggest booster. First, he granted the Bible Society permission to distribute printed and Audio Scriptures in the village. Then he explained the importance of the gospel to the Bible Society staff, telling them it was his wish to let everyone in his village hear the gospel.

Seventy-eight year old Sriga Betti grew blind with age, eventually unable to read the Bible that had long supported him. But with the Audio Bible, Sriga is able to hear from God with what he calls his “spiritual eyes.” He had prayed for help and healing for years, but never imagined God would answer him with an Audio Bible!

Now when Sriga plays his Audio Bible, he says it is like Jesus speaking to him. He knows that Jesus is beside him and watching over him.



ASIA

Bangladesh

- Some 460 listening groups are introducing the people of Bangladesh to God’s Word and his plan for their lives. The Bible Society had hoped to begin showing The JESUS Film in 2020, but the pandemic prevented that. Instead it focused on getting more Audio Scripture players to the 460 churches taking part in the End-to-End ministry. It also distributed 2,000 Bibles to participants.
- A total of 7,779 people of all ages regularly attended the listening groups, growing in their faith as they listen to the New Testament and then discussing what they heard. Many of these listeners are also attending church more regularly.

The End-to-End ministry has been life-changing for 18-year-old Mamata Soren of Dinajpur, Bangladesh. Due to poverty, she was never able to attend school. She can write her name in Bangla, but reading something like the Bible is far beyond her capabilities. When the Proclaimer arrived in her village, she was fascinated with hearing the Good News of Christ. She now attends the listening group regularly, encouraging her family to do so as well. Mamata is a real example that faith truly comes by hearing!



“I was born in a Christian family. I am a member of the Pidullakati Baptist Church. I regularly go to my (vegetable) shop and I give time to my family. For this reason, I felt proud of myself that I never misbehave with others. But I do not forgive others and that was my egoistical problem. ... One day I heard a reading from Matthew 18:21–35 about the parable of the unforgiving servant. These Bible verses made me realize I don’t forgive others. Since then, I have vowed in my heart that I will not remember anyone else’s fault. It would have been a lot harder to do that at first, but now, I can completely forgive others.”

— Roy Prodip, 28, member of a listening group in Gournadi, Barishal, Bangladesh



India

- Ministry culminated in India with the distribution of 95,232 Gospels of Matthew, given away between Christmas and the New Year. Plans also called for showing The JESUS Film and its counterpart for children on television between the holidays.
- A total of 4,650 Bibles were distributed through The Timothy Initiative.



Jismiel Kumar receives the delivery of more than 95,000 Gospels of Matthew for distribution as part of the End-to-End ministry in India.

Kazakhstan

- While 2020 was far from ministry as usual, the confinement necessitated by the pandemic proved easier to reach some people, such as those with visual disabilities, the elderly, and those under harassment because of their faith. The different Scripture formats proved effective for these people – Audio Scriptures and large-print Scripture for those with visual disabilities, videos for those who can't read, and SD cards for those who don't want to be seen attending a listening group. They put the Bible on their smartphones so they could discretely read God's Word.
- Seven projectors were distributed to small towns, rehabilitation centers, and others so the people could watch The JESUS Film. It also distributed Gospel portions, 1,200 in Russian and 1,150 in Kazakh.

The Philippines

- With churches closed across the Philippines, ministry was carried out through 1,000 listening groups. Up to 12,000 people gathered regularly in listening groups to hear the life story of Jesus. And when the pandemic prevented screenings of The JESUS Film, the Philippine Bible Society turned to social media to get out God's message. Using its Facebook page, the Bible Society presented two-minute videos each day that featured Jesus' parables, teachings, miracles, healings, or his chronology. It also distributed 1,500 Bibles and 1,500 New Testaments, often to young people who had newfound time to read Scripture.
- Philippine Bible Society discovered that the longer the pandemic went on, the hungrier people became for God's Word. It tapped into its pool of trained program facilitators from across the country who were able to orient other leaders to the program without coming in direct contact with them. It taught the Bible Society staff to "look at the crisis as an opportunity."

"I am the type who throws pots at people when I'm mad. Seriously, nobody can control me. But God said: 'That's enough. Breathe and rest because for me you are important ... no matter what you are.' Then that time, I continued to question life. Why am I like this? And from the book of Corinthians, it says there that all are forgiven. Therefore I say, I am saved. And that is because of Jesus, I am saved."

— Luwel Austria, 23, Philippines



"I just like a life that I got used to, which is hanging out with friends. Being carefree ... until there came the pandemic. I remembered what my Christian aunt told me even before the pandemic, that I should return to the Lord. That's the moment I realized that it's the right time to recommit my life to the Lord. At first I was double-minded because my friends were jeering at me, saying, 'Is that really true... you're into that born-again stuff?' I was disheartened and asked myself: 'Should I return to the Lord?' Days went by when I began realizing that I should not mind what others are saying. It was said that those who mock you are the ones who will give account to God. And the insults they hurled have fallen on the Lord. I continued on with renewed faith ... I am now a child of God!"

— Joy Angelica, Philippines

PREVIEW OF 2021 MINISTRY

The End-to-End ministry projected working in 43 countries in 2020. Looking ahead to the calendar year 2021, plans call for returning to 52 countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Central Asia, and the Middle East. The plan also identifies new ministry opportunities in Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Honduras, Brazil, Costa Rica, Panama, and the United States.

A total of \$4.566 million will be needed to achieve the goal of reaching 4.633 million people.

LOCATION	PROPOSED SUPPORT
Angola	\$52,581
Bangladesh	\$80,000
Benin	\$44,000
Brazil	\$400,000
BS Gulf	\$40,824
Burkina Faso	\$27,800
Burundi	\$30,000
Cameroon	\$55,981
Central Afr Rep	\$26,000
Chad	\$40,500
Colombia	\$17,000
Congo (Rep)	\$30,000
Dom. Republic	\$35,200
DRC	\$42,163
Ecuador	\$25,000
El Salvador	\$28,000
Eswatini (Swaziland)	\$33,710
Ethiopia	\$229,166
Gabon	\$51,321
Gambia	\$60,000
Ghana	\$39,654
Guatemala	\$30,738
Guinea-Conakry	\$15,950
Guyana (Suriname)	\$10,709
Haiti	\$43,800
Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama	\$120,000
Indonesia	\$60,000
Kazakhstan	\$32,536

LOCATION	PROPOSED SUPPORT
Kenya	\$79,900
Kyrgystan	\$30,000
Liberia	\$25,770
Malawi	\$40,000
Malaysia	\$20,000
Mali	\$11,553
Mexico	\$97,000
Mozambique	\$184,354
Nepal	\$41,628
Nepal	\$29,996
Netherlands Antilles	\$18,610
Niger	\$25,000
Nigeria	\$36,136
Paraguay	\$60,800
Peru	\$49,990
Philippines	\$40,000
Rwanda	\$34,759
Sierra Leone	\$52,120
South Sudan	\$51,260
Suriname	\$32,800
Tanzania	\$70,000
Togo	\$12,315
Uganda	\$73,533
United States	\$200,000
Uzbekistan	\$52,018
Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga	\$50,000
Vietnam	\$35,000
Zambia	\$58,355
Zimbabwe	\$16,191

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Pray for healing** – for the spiritual, mental, and emotional recovery of people impacted by the pandemic. Pray that in their encounter with God they can overcome the loss of loved ones and the changes in their lives.
- **Pray for those who came to faith in Jesus** as a result of seeing The JESUS Film, joining a listening group, or reading the Bible. Pray that someone comes alongside each new believer to help them understand the breadth and depth of God's love.
- **Pray for good health and protection** of all church staff, listening group leaders, media partners, and the volunteers who carry out the End-to-End ministry.
- **Pray for God's intervention** in stabilizing the economies of all countries.
- **Pray against the violence and conflict** that is impacting people around the world. Ask God to restore the lives of those displaced from their homes, give wisdom to their leaders, and let his peace reign.
- **Praise God** that the End-to-End ministry will reach new countries around the globe next year.
- **Thank God** for those who continue to generously support this ministry that sends God's Word out to the world.

“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”

— *Matthew 28:19-20 (GNT)*

THANK YOU!

In filing their reports, many of the Bible Society leaders prayed for God's blessings for the unnamed financial partners who make this ministry possible. We at American Bible Society know you by name, and we join with the Bible Societies in thanking you for your incredible generosity and partnership in this work.