

ABOUT US

OUR VISION

A Bible for everyone.

OUR MISSION

To provide affordable Bibles for everyone in their own language and in suitable formats so that all may experience the life-giving message of the Word.

OUR STORY

Our story can be traced back to the desire of a young Welsh girl, Mary Jones, to own a Bible in her own language. Mary was born in 1784, at a time when Bibles were very scarce and expensive.

This little girl longed for her own Bible from a young age and saved for years to be able to buy one. In 1800, when she was 15 years old, she travelled about 40 km on foot to obtain her own Bible.

During a meeting of the "Religious Tract Society" in 1802, Thomas Charles, the minister from whom Mary eventually received a Bible, related the young girl's story.

While plans were being made to make more Bibles available in Wales, Joseph Hughes, one of those present, cried out, "If for Wales, why not for the whole world?"

On 7 March 1804 at a meeting of 300 people in the London Tavern, the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed. The fledgeling Bible Society soon spread its wings and expanded to other countries.

On 23 August 1820, a group of people met at Tuynhuys in Cape Town where the Bible Society of South Africa was founded. Today, the Bible Society of South Africa (BSSA) is a non-profit company comprising five regions with its head office in Bellville, Cape Town. Different church denominations are members of the Bible Society, which exercises sound business principles directed by Christian values to render effective and efficient service. The highest governing body is the Board of Directors.

AFFORDABLE BIBLES AVAILABLE TO ALL

Like all other Bible Societies, the task of the BSSA is to make affordable Bibles available to all

Complete Bibles are available in 11 official languages of South Africa. The BSSA is also responsible for making the Bible available in suitable formats, like braille and large print. The Bible is available in various electronic formats to cater for the digital generation.

COLOUR-CODED WRAPPERS

Our products are colour-coded to make it easier for dealers, sales personnel and clients to differentiate Bibles according to language and the various translations.

LOOK FOR THE SOWER

The Sower, which appears on all our Bibles, is the official logo of the Bible Society of South Africa. It is the seal of approval that guarantees that this particular Bible has been translated and produced with the sole purpose of bringing the true word of God to all people in their heart language.



LOST IN TRANSLATION?

		FORMAL	M	ODERN USAGE	EASY TO READ
DIE BYBEL VIR ALMAL					
AFRIKAANS 1933/1953	TRANSLATION				
AFRIKAANS 1983 TRANS	SLATION				
AFRIKAANS 2020 TRANS	SLATION				
THE BIBLE FOR THE DEAF	:				
ENGLISH STANDARD VE	RSION (ESV)				
GOOD NEWS TRANSLAT	ION (GNT)				
KING JAMES VERSION ((KJV)				
NEW INTERNATIONAL V	ERSION (NIV)				
ISINDEBELE 2012 TRANS	LATION				
SEPEDI 1951 TRANSLATI	ON				
SEPEDI 2000 TRANSLATI	ON				
SESOTHO 1909 TRANSLA	ATION				
SESOTHO 1989 TRANSLA	ATION				
SISWATI 1996 TRANSLAT	ION				
XITSONGA 1929 TRANS	LATION				
XITSONGA 1989 TRANS	LATION				
SETSWANA 1908 & 1970	TRANSLATIONS				
TSHIVENDA 1936 TRANS	SLATION				
TSHIVENDA 1998 TRANS	SLATION				
ISIXHOSA 1975 VERSIO	N				
ISIXHOSA 1996 TRANSL	ATION				
ISIZULU 1893 & 1959 TR/	ANSLATIONS				
ISIZULU 2020 TRANSLATI	ON				
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AVAILABLE BIBLE SIZES	LARGE- PRINT SIZE 258 x 187 mm	MEDIUM SIZE 215 x 145 mm	STANDARD SIZE 180 x 120 mm	HANDY SIZE 165 x 115 mm	POCKET SIZE 145 x 105 mm

NEW PRODUCTS

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES SHONA	NEW	BHAIBHERI DZVENE Mschillhaus Cheshad	 Shona (Contemporary Edition) complete Bible medium size black hardcover red-edged ribbon marker ISBN: 6009828390434	R309
INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES Portuguese	NEW	Bíblia sograda	 complete Bible in Portuguese (Sagrada) standard size black hardcover maps ISBN: 9789728780784	R319
JA! KLEUTER BYBEL PRETPAK AFRIKAANS	NEW	Jarkientar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Byla Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Bylar Byla Byla Byla Byla Byla Byla Byla Byla	 Bible stories colouring book crayons ISBN: 6009828390441	R109
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LITERACY PROJECT ISINDEBELE	NO STOCK AT BOOKSITE. AVAILABLE ONLY AT KEMPTON PARK BIBLE CENTRE	IBhayibheli Lami LokuSebenzela nokuFunda INcwadi-2 lindaba egade zicocwa nguJesu	My 2nd Bible Do and Learn Book (IsiNdebele) The next level of our Bible-based literacy series. This booklet teaches literacy skills as well as Bible literacy through the stories told by Jesus about the kingdom of God. Teaching is made easy through the use of icons, flashcards and a teacher's guide which are included in the book. ISBN: 9780798221825	R29
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TRANSLATION HISTORY

AFRIKAANS DIE BYBEL VIR ALMAL

'Die Bybel vir almal' was originally published by the Bible Society of South Africa as the Bible for the Deaf. It was translated from the source texts in an easily readable Afrikaans without losing the crux of the original text.

This Bible is printed in large print and that makes it easy to read. The large variety of footnotes provide explanations of words, concepts and interesting information.

AFRIKAANS 1933/1953

Portions of the Bible were translated into Afrikaans for the first time by CP Hoogenhout, A Pannevis and SJ du Toit since 1878. The first complete Bible was, however, only published in 1933. A revised version was published in 1953. Today, the translation is known as the 1933/1953 translation and is still a very popular, traditional translation, translated from the Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic source texts.

AFRIKAANS 1983

On 5 July 1968, during a seminar for translators of the Afrikaans Bible and other interested parties, a unanimous decision was taken to request that the Bible Society of South Africa begin with a new translation in Afrikaans. The translation had to take the development of the Afrikaans language into account and be as faithful a rendering of the Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic source texts as possible.

On 2 December 1983, 'Die Bybel: Nuwe Vertaling' was launched in Cape Town. The translation is meaning-based, more so than the 1933/1953 translation, and exceeded in its goal to address Afrikaans-speaking people within and outside the church in a contemporary yet proper Afrikaans.

AFRIKAANS 2020

The Afrikaans 2020 translation of the Bible was started by the Bible Society at the request of the Afrikaans-speaking churches. They recognised that there was a need for a Bible translation that was better aligned to the source texts (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) than the existing translations. Many

believers had a need for a Bible that was a faithful rendering of the source text, but that was still easy to understand.

The translation brief, therefore, was to create an easily understandable, source-text orientated Afrikaans translation of the Bible, which would be suitable for public reading and use in worship services, as well as for Sunday school instruction, Bible Study and personal use.

ENGLISH THE BIBLE FOR THE DEAF

This very easy-to-read Bible was translated by the Bible Society of South Africa for different groups of readers but specifically for deaf readers who use Sign Language and struggle to understand the words of other Bible translations that were formulated for hearing people.

This large-print Bible has more than 80 000 footnotes and 45 000 references to drawings that illustrate what objects looked like in biblical times.

This Bible is for anyone who wants to read a very simple and easy formulation of what the Lord said and what He wants to give us.

ENGLISH ESV

The English Standard Version (ESV) is a formal translation that was first published in 2001. This translation seeks to capture the meaning and structure of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer, while maintaining clear expression and literary excellence. Therefore the ESV is well suited for both personal reading and church ministry, for devotional reflection and serious Bible study.

ENGLISH GNT

The Good News Bible in Today's English Version is an easy-to-read translation which does not conform to traditional vocabulary or style, but seeks to express the meaning of the original texts in words and forms accepted as standard by people who use English.

This translation was first published in 1976 for use throughout the world.

TRANSLATION HISTORY

Bible – printed in two volumes – in 1907. This translation was revised in 1929 and in 2012, it was published in a new orthography.

A new translation in Xitsonga was published in 1989.

ENGLISH KJV

The King James Version (KJV), a formal translation where each word of the source text was translated into the target language, was first published in 1611. This translation is traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians.

Despite the many modern translations that are available, the KJV is still read by a large number of people throughout the world.

ENGLISH NKJV

The New King James Version (NKJV), also a formal translation, was first published in 1982. This version is a modern language update of the original King James Version. The purpose was to update and modernise the original KJV but also to preserve the KJV as much as possible.

ENGLISH NIV

The New International Version (NIV) is a modern translation. The purpose of this translation was to produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, as well as teaching, preaching, memorising and liturgical use.

First published in 1978, the translators also sought to preserve some measure of continuity with the long tradition of translating the Scriptures into English, and the NIV thus retains wording which is the same as, or similar to, the earlier versions on many passages.

SEPEDI 1951 AND 2000

The translation of the Bible into Sepedi was first undertaken by the missionaries of the Berlin Missionary Society. The pioneer translator was Pastor JFC Knothe. After his death in 1892, the translation work was continued by G Trümpelmann and H Kuschke assisted by A Serote and G Eiselen. The first complete Bible appeared in 1904 and was revised in 1951. This revised edition is still in use

today.

In 2000, a new Sepedi Bible translation was published by the Bible Society of South Africa.

ISINDEBELE 2012

The first book of the Bible to be published in isiNdebele, the Gospel according to Mark, was published in 1977. The New Testament and a selection of Psalms appeared in 1986. In 2012, the translation of the complete Bible was published. IsiNdebele was the last of South Africa's 11 official languages to receive a complete Bible.

SESOTHO 1909 AND 1989

Eugène Casalis and Samuel Rolland, two missionaries of the Paris Evangelical Missionary Society, started translating the Bible into Sesotho as early as 1836 and the first Scriptures, the Gospels according to Mark and John, were published in 1839.

The translation of the complete Bible was finished in 1878 and printed in parts on the missionary presses at Morija and Masitisi in Lesotho. The first Bible to be published in one volume was printed in England in 1881, however, due to the Basotho wars the Bibles only reached the Basotho in 1883. This Bible which is still in use, was revised in 1909.

The most recent translation of the Sesotho Bible was published in 1989.

SISWATI 1996

The Gospel according to Mark was the first book of the Bible published in this language by the Bible Society of South Africa in 1976. The first complete Bible, translated by Miss H Eschen, Mrs T Zwane (née Maphalala) and Mr A Simelane, was published in 1996.

This easy-to-read translation is used in both South Africa and Eswatini.

XITSONGA 1929 AND 1989

The pioneer translators of the Bible into Xitsonga were Paul Berthoud, his brother Henri, and Ernest Creux; missionaries of the Swiss-French Mission who came to South Africa in 1875.

In 1892, the first two books of the Bible – The Gospel according to Luke and the Book of Acts

TRANSLATION HISTORY

were translated into Xitsonga. The first New
 Testament appeared in 1894 and the first complete

SETSWANA 1908 AND 1970

The pioneer translator of the Bible into Setswana was Robert Moffat who started translating the Bible soon after his arrival in Kuruman in 1817.

Setswana was the first South African language to receive a complete Bible. As each section was translated by Moffat, it was printed on a missionary press at Kuruman. The complete Bible was available by 1857 and was revised in 1908. This revision was mainly done by Alfred Wookey.

The latest translation of this Bible was completed in 1970.

TSHIVENDA 1936 AND 1998

The pioneer translator of the Bible into Tshivenda was the missionary and linguist Dr Paul Erdmann Schwellnuss who was employed by the Berlin Missionary Society. He completed the first Tshivenda Bible in 1936.

The latest translation, an easy to read translation in Tshivenda was completed in 1998. It was translated by Mr FC Raulinga, Mr AR Mbuwe and Prof JA van Rooy. They were assisted by various other people as well as a Review Committee.

ISIXHOSA 1975 AND 1996

The earliest Bible translation into isiXhosa was mainly the work of missionaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society such as William Shaw, William Boyce and others.

The history of the isiXhosa Bible started in 1833 when the first book of the Bible (Luke) was translated in Grahamstown. The first complete Bible followed in 1859 but was published in one volume in 1864. The latest revision of this Bible was done in 1975 and is still widely used.

The latest translation of the Bible in isiXhosa was completed in 1996 and is a thought-for-thought translation.

ISIZULU 1893, 1959 AND 2020

Missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) arrived in Port Natal in 1835. This group distinguished themselves as the first translators of the isiZulu Bible. The first complete book of the Bible to be translated into isiZulu was the Gospel according to Matthew translated by George Champion and revised by Newton Adams.

The first complete isiZulu Bible which incorporated the translation work of the ABCFM missionaries was published by the American Bible Society in 1883. A new edition was published in 1893.

In 1959 a new translation of the isiZulu Bible appeared. In 1997, this translation was published in a new orthography according to the latest rules of the then Zulu Language Board.

A new, source-text orientated translation which is dynamic where necessary and suitable for reading aloud in worship services and Sunday school, Bible study as well as for personal use, was published in 2020.

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