

QUARTERLY Record

ISSUE 655
Q2 2026

MAGAZINE OF THE TRINITARIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Page 4

A FAITHFUL BIBLE FOR CHICHEWA SPEAKERS

Page 14

WHEN THE GOSPEL
GETS LOST IN
TRANSLATION

Page 22

AN OPEN
DOOR IN
AFRICA





Trinitarian Bible Society

The Word of God Among All Nations

THE AIM OF THE SOCIETY

To promote the Glory of God and the salvation of men, by circulating, both at home and abroad, in dependence on the Divine blessing, the Holy Scriptures, which are given by inspiration of God, and are able to make men wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

To find out more about supporting the Society visit: tbsbibles.org/supporting

PRODUCTION TEAM

Matthew Vogan, Natalie Hanks, Elizabeth Tichelaar, Philip Hopkins, Debra Anderson, Michael Wade

Graphic Design: Pepper Collective
© Trinitarian Bible Society 2026
Stock Imagery: Shutterstock, Unsplash

‘In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me’
(Psalm 56.4).

tbsbibles.org
tbsonlinebible.com

All rights reserved. The Trinitarian Bible Society permits reprinting of articles found in our printed and online Quarterly Record and Annual Report provided that prior permission is obtained and proper acknowledgement is made. Unless otherwise stated, Scripture quotations are from the Authorised (King James) Version. Rights in the Authorised Version in the United Kingdom are vested in the Crown.

Contents

ISSUE 655 QUARTER 2 2026



- 2** The Beggar’s Cry for Daily Bread
- 4** A Faithful Bible for Chichewa Speakers
- 8** William Tyndale: The Fugitive Translator
- 9** The Journey of a TBS Bible
- 14** When the Gospel Gets Lost in Translation
- 18** Language Summary: Tamil
- 20** Distribution News
- 28** Become a Faithful Steward

Welcome

*From Jonathan Arnold,
TBS General Secretary*

‘And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it *is* not a vain thing for you; because it *is* your life’

(Deuteronomy 32.46–47).



These words of Moses remind us that the Word of God is no light thing. It is not to be neglected, set aside, or treated as a small matter in the life of the church. The Scriptures are given by God for the life of His people. By His Word He created all things, and by His Word He upholds all things. By that same Word, as applied by the Holy Spirit, He gives life to dead sinners, and by it He strengthens, corrects, and feeds His people in the way of faith.

If this is so, then the work of placing the Word of God into the hands of men and women is a weighty one, in which TBS workers, volunteers, members, and supporters all have their part. A Bible does not get printed and then arrive in someone's hands without long and careful labour. Behind every faithful edition lie many stages of work: translation, repeated checks, comparisons, theological reviews, corrections, proofing, typesetting, printing, and distribution, both physical and digital.

Each stage calls for patience, wisdom, and prayer. There are many challenges along the way, such as linguistic difficulties to overcome, practical obstacles to face, and many details that must be handled with exactness if the Scriptures are to be published clearly and faithfully.

This edition of the magazine helps us to look behind the finished page and remember something of that hidden labour. It points to the serious responsibility involved in Bible translation, the danger when the Gospel is obscured through unfaithful translation, and the continued need for trustworthy Scriptures in many parts of the world, including ongoing work such as the Chichewa project.

May the Lord increase our thankfulness for the Scriptures we possess and stir us to pray earnestly that many more may receive, in their own tongue, the Word of Life. ■

*By the Rev. E. Maljaars,
Member of TBS (USA) Board*

THE BEGGAR'S CRY FOR DAILY BREAD



**‘But he answered and said, It is written,
Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceedeth out of the mouth of God’
(Matthew 4.4).**

THE BEGGAR'S CRY WITHIN US

In a town I recently visited, many street corners were occupied by people begging for their daily needs. As I observed from corner to corner, each begging hand was unique, each person's path to this circumstance was also unique, yet they all had a common need: their daily food.

I felt compassion and tried to help those I could, but though they were satisfied for the moment, their need would continue.

Then it struck me: they, like us all, have a soul for eternity. Were their souls hungering for spiritual food? Did they also know the spiritual beggar's cry? Had they ever heard about the Bread of Life?

Though we are commanded to have compassion on our neighbour, and need daily food ourselves, the Truth tells us, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.' Perhaps your stomach is full, yet you know the beggar's cry, like the woman of Canaan in Matthew 15, desiring

crumbs from the Master's table. Is that your reality? Do you long for food for your soul? Do you thirst for God? Do you hunger and thirst after righteousness? Do you desire Jesus Christ, the Word, the Bread of Life, to feed your soul with a crumb of mercy?

LIVING BY EVERY WORD

The Lord Jesus instructs us further, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' (Matthew 4.4, cf. Luke 4.4). His Word is the living Word—it penetrates hearts (Hebrews 4.12), bringing spiritual life and making sinners hungry for God, Jesus Christ, and righteousness. God's Holy Word gives so much more than physical and worldly comfort—it is life-giving and authoritative, providing eternal life and direction. The Word of God satisfies the hungry soul. Do you value the Bible as life-sustaining? Or can you do without daily Bible reading, but not without a daily meal?

I do not know your personal circumstances. You may be found in great earthly want—I pray that you may be met with neighbourly compassion, but do not rest in gifts from man. Beg the Lord for bodily sustenance, but, above all, for grace for your soul. The Lord hears the needy when they cry (Psalm 72.12).

And for those who have never lacked on this earth, I pray you may yet know the beggar's cry for spiritual food. If not, take heed! Our circumstances can change in a moment. What testimony will it be if you die with pockets full, but soul lost—have you not yet learned: soul lost, all lost? The God of the Bible remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. He has compassion on those

who seek Him with their whole heart. Seek Him while He may yet be found. The earthly beggar's cry is not silent until his need is filled—may the same be for your soul.

SEEKING THE BREAD OF LIFE

Our circumstances differ, but our need is the same. None of us are self-sustaining. We must realise our eternal need for the Word, for the Bread of Life. May the prayer, 'Give us this day our daily bread' become our personal beggar's cry, for both body and soul. Then we will value God's Word as life-sustaining; we will daily prioritise His Word more than our next meal.

May the power of the Holy Spirit convict of sin, give repentance and faith, and comfort with the Word, the Bread of Life, the Lord Jesus Christ. 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God'. His Word becomes sweeter than honey for guilty, perishing sinners. 'How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!' (Psalm 119.103).

Think of the paralytic in Mark 2 and the words of Jesus Christ, which declared forgiveness of sins to him: oh, how His Word became sweet to the soul. My friend, His Word of mercy and forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ satisfies the hungry soul. Do not be satisfied with bread alone, but seek Him who is the Word and said, 'I am the bread of life' (John 6.35).

'I will satisfy her poor with bread' (Psalm 132.15).

'Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled' (Matthew 5.6). ■

'Do you value the Bible as life-sustaining? Or can you do without daily Bible reading, but not without a daily meal?'

A photograph of a young woman with braided hair, wearing an orange t-shirt, smiling warmly. She is carrying a baby in a colorful, patterned sling. The background is dark and out of focus.

A FAITHFUL BIBLE FOR CHICHEWA SPEAKERS

By *Natalie Hanks,*
Lead Editor

‘Pray that needy souls might receive their own copies of the Scriptures in Chichewa, and that the Lord would bless His Word to the salvation of many souls’

Many of us have little comprehension of Bible poverty. We may personally own multiple Bibles, with different covers, features, and fonts. We may have a pocket Bible, a reference Bible, a family Bible, and more. This is a privilege many of us may take for granted.

In a large number of countries it is difficult for people to have their own copy of the Scriptures. In some countries this might be due to poverty, while in others it is the lack of an accurate and faithful translation of the Word of God in the people's language. Sadly, in many countries both problems exist.

In Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world, many people cannot afford to purchase their own copy of the Scriptures, even if they were readily available.

The Bible pictured here is a Chichewa Bible belonging to a Malawian pastor who had been using it for years. It starts at Leviticus 9 and ends at 1 Thessalonians 4! Years of constant use have worn away the rest. This poverty is made even worse by the fact that the only Chichewa Bible translation currently available has been translated from the Greek Critical Text and is marred by mistranslation.

This photo highlights the need for the Scriptures in Chichewa. The people, not just the pastors, of Malawi need the Scriptures readily

'Many of us have little comprehension of Bible poverty'

available in their own language and in an accurate translation.

MALAWI: LAND AND PEOPLE

Malawi is a small, landlocked country situated in southeastern Africa with a population of approximately 21 million. Malawi's geography is dominated by Lake Malawi, one of Africa's largest and deepest lakes. Much of the population lives in rural areas and relies on agriculture.

Malawi's recorded history begins with the arrival of Bantu-speaking people around the fourth century. The most notable early state was the Maravi Empire, which controlled much of the region and gave Malawi its name.

From the sixteenth century, Arab and Swahili traders entered the area, trading ivory and slaves. This led to conflict and population loss. In the nineteenth century European missionaries and explorers, including David Livingstone, arrived, campaigning against slave trade and introducing Christianity.

In 1891 Britain declared the region the British Central Africa Protectorate, later renamed Nyasaland. Malawi gained independence in 1964 and became a republic in 1966. Today, it is a republic with a multiparty political system. The country faces challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, adverse weather, and limited industrial development.



 An old Chichewa Bible

CHRISTIANITY IN MALAWI

Christianity was introduced to Malawi in the nineteenth century through the work of the missionary David Livingstone. Through his work exploring Africa, Livingstone opened ways for future missionaries to travel and spread the Gospel.

Several Anglican and Presbyterian missions were established in Malawi in the 1860s and 1870s. Missionaries established schools, hospitals, and churches, which helped spread both literacy and the Christian faith.

Today, Malawi is a nominally Christian country, with a significant Muslim minority. Around 80% of the population professes to be Christian. A 2018 census indicated that the two largest groups were Roman Catholic or belonged to the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). There are also many other denominations and small independent churches. However, practices of witchcraft and the occult are



common, and there is a frequent mingling of these things with professed Christianity.

CHICHEWA LANGUAGE

Malawi has several languages, of which Chichewa is the most widely spoken. Chichewa is a Bantu language spoken in southeastern Africa, primarily in Malawi, but also in parts of Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. There are an estimated 14.4 million Chichewa speakers.

THE NEED FOR A FAITHFUL BIBLE TRANSLATION

Bible translation into Chichewa began in 1893 with D. C. Scott's work on the Gospels and several Epistles, followed by further translations over the next two decades. The first complete New Testament was produced by W. H. Murray in 1909, and the full Bible was translated by W. P. Johnson in Zambia, published as *Buku Lopatulika* in 1922, with revisions in 1936 and 1966.

In recent years, the most widely accepted version has been *Buku Lopatulika ndilo Mau a Mulungu*.

Other versions include a Roman Catholic edition with the Apocrypha, and one used by Jehovah's Witnesses.

Sadly, all existing Chichewa versions are based on the Greek Critical Text with a range of significant textual and translational problems, such as missing verses and mistranslations. Local ministers and pastors who have compared the existing Chichewa versions with the English KJV have consistently found a surprisingly large range of differences in the meaning between the English and Chichewa text.

Some are seemingly inexplicable, like in Matthew 26.40, 'could ye not watch with me one hour' where the word 'hour' is changed in an existing Chichewa version to 'minute'. In another example, *Buku Lopatulika* translates 'son' as 'mwana' (child) instead of 'mwana wamwamuna' (son), while 'daughters' is usually rendered clearly as 'mwana wamkazi'. In some cases, 'sons' is translated as 'ana' (children) due to language constraints. Additionally, 'praise' is sometimes rendered as 'thank', 'honour', or 'mention'.

THE TBS PROJECT

A new version of the Chichewa Bible is needed

that is faithful to the original languages, the Masoretic Hebrew Text and the Greek Received Text.

Since 2015, TBS has been engaged in a translation project in partnership with the Free Grace Evangelistic Association (FGEA) to produce a Chichewa version of the Scriptures, using the English Authorised (King James) Version and a Received Text interlinear as the principal references. The New Testament was published in 2020 and has been very well received.

Last year we were pleased to receive the Old Testament files, which have since been reviewed and analysed prior to typesetting. Final checking is now underway, and it is our prayer that the complete Chichewa Bible may be published this year, if the Lord will.

A HUNGER FOR THE SCRIPTURES

There is already a great hunger for the printing of the Chichewa Bible. An example of this was demonstrated nearly two years ago when a supporter phoned the office of TBS (USA) with a question. He asked whether it would be possible to purchase Chichewa New Testaments. In the course of



the conversation, and having understood the purpose for which the Scriptures were sought, the Society was pleased to provide the copies free of charge.

Recently the supporter's friend moved from where he was living in Cape Town to his home village in Malawi. He began evangelising in neighbouring villages, and arrangements were made for Chichewa Scriptures printed in Cape Town to be sent to Blantyre. There was a great demand for the Scriptures, with people turning up at his village desiring to hear the Gospel preached, and wanting their own copy of the New Testament.

What began with a single telephone call has, by the Lord's gracious overruling, borne fruit. The supporter who first made the enquiry remains thankful for the Lord's provision, and has asked to be informed when the full Chichewa Bible becomes available, writing,

Thank you and TBS so much again for everything and please let me know when the full Bibles come out and if you know of any cheaper way we can continue to get the Bibles to Malawi from anywhere in the USA, Europe, or Africa.

Many people who would never be able to afford a Bible are now able to have one for free because of all the work behind the scenes that no one knows about ... But God sees it.

PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE UPON THE LORD

Please pray for the publication of the Chichewa Bible, that the checking, proofing, and printing would go smoothly. And most of all, please pray that needy souls might receive their own copies of the Scriptures in Chichewa, and that the Lord would bless His Word to the salvation of many souls. ■

WILLIAM TYNDALE:

The Fugitive Translator

‘Tyndale’s legacy? How can an impoverished exile bequeath anything to anyone? Whatever he had owned in Antwerp would have been confiscated after he was arrested. Tyndale had no material goods to leave to anyone, but his legacy was a pearl of great price for many’

This new children’s article by Adrian Stoutjesdyk tells the story and legacy of William Tyndale. Tyndale risked his life to translate the Bible from the original Biblical languages into English so that ordinary people could read it. He declared, ‘I defy the pope and all his laws. If God spare my life, I will make the boy that drives the plough to know more of the Scripture than you do!’

However, Tyndale’s success made him a target. Eventually he was betrayed by Henry Phillips and arrested near Antwerp. Tyndale was imprisoned in Vilvoorde Castle in present-day Belgium. In 1536 he was executed—strangled and then burned at the stake. His final prayer was that God would open the king of England’s eyes.

Although Tyndale died, his work had a lasting impact. Much of his translation later formed the basis of other English Bibles, including the Geneva Bible and the Authorised (King James) Version. His efforts helped ensure that ordinary people could read the Bible in their own language, shaping both Christianity and the English language itself.

2026 CHILDREN'S QUIZ

Complete one of our Tyndale quizzes, based on *The Fugitive Translator*, to receive a prize! ■



Read the article and find out more about the quizzes:
tbsbibles.org/fugitivetranslator

THE JOURNEY OF A TBS BIBLE



EVERYTHING CHANGED

In the village of Chasuma, Zimbabwe near Victoria Falls, Chanel gathers 32 children under a lean-to shelter. This 21-year-old teaches the village children using a handful of worn Gospel leaflets while the village church meets under a tarpaulin for services lasting up to four hours.

Then everything changed. A mission team arrived

‘A mission team arrived with TBS Shona Bibles, and Chanel received her first Bible in her native language’

with TBS Shona Bibles, and Chanel received her first Bible in her native language. This is the story of how, in the Lord’s wonderful providence, a single Bible travelled an extraordinary journey spanning across continents and the hands of dozens of people before reaching Chanel.

FOUNDATIONS

The earliest translation efforts in Shona go back to the 1890s. English and Dutch missionaries began initial translation work at that time. The long legacy of Bible translation in Zimbabwe had started.

The foundations of the TBS project were laid between 1993 and 1998 when the need for a reliable, accurate Shona Bible based on the Greek Received and Hebrew Masoretic texts was identified. Following this, an evaluation of the main existing Shona translation identified wrong word order, poor word choices, difficult phrases, and punctuation errors that changed meanings. Thus, in 2009 the TBS Shona translation project commenced. →

JOURNEY OF A TBS BIBLE

1 WORK BEGINS

JANUARY 2009

The translation team is recruited and trained, and together with the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland Mission commences work on 6 January 2009.

2 NEW TESTAMENT FIRST DRAFT

JANUARY 2013

The first draft of the New Testament is completed and proofreading begins.

3 PANEL APPROVAL

AUGUST 2013

The Shona New Testament panel meeting agrees to send the text to TBS.

4 NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPT

SEPTEMBER 2013

Four years of translation work are completed.

5 EDITORIAL APPROVAL

SEPTEMBER 2013

The translation evaluation is completed and approved.

6 COMMITTEE APPROVAL

OCTOBER 2013

TBS General Committee gives formal authorisation for the printing and distribution of the New Testament.

12 TYPESETTING COMPLETED

AUGUST 2020

The final corrections are received and applied. The final layout and design completed.

11 COMMITTEE APPROVAL

DECEMBER 2018

The Shona Bible is approved for publication by TBS General Committee.

10 EDITORIAL REVIEW

OCTOBER 2018

The full text and comprehensive editorial review are completed.

9 FINAL TEXT

AUGUST 2018

With proofreading completed, the translation is finished on 31 August.

8 BIBLE DRAFT COMPLETED

JANUARY 2018

The Shona Old Testament translation draft is finished and ready for the intensive proofreading phase.

7 NEW TESTAMENT PUBLISHED

AUGUST 2014

TBS prints the New Testament with help from GBS.

13 FUNDING SECURED

JULY 2021

Funding is obtained for printing from international partners including GBS.

14 PURCHASE ORDER

SEPTEMBER 2021

Purchase order is approved for printing.

15 FILE SUBMISSION

OCTOBER 2021

The print-ready files are delivered to the printer. Technical specifications are confirmed.

16 PRINT APPROVAL

DECEMBER 2021

The digital proofs are reviewed and approved. The printed running sheets are received and checked. The sample covers and binding quality are confirmed and a full print run is authorised to proceed.

17 PRINTED BIBLES ARRIVE

FEBRUARY 2022

The printed Bibles arrive at TBS London.

18 QUALITY APPROVAL & STOCK ADDITION

MARCH 2022

Shona Bibles undergo editorial print quality checks. They are approved for free distribution worldwide, and added to TBS distribution inventory.

‘This is the story of how, in the Lord’s wonderful providence, a single Bible travelled an extraordinary journey spanning continents and dozens of people before reaching Chanel’s hands’

19 GRANT APPROVAL

MARCH 2023

The grant request is approved.

The allocation of Shona Bibles confirmed.



20 GRANT DISPATCH

MARCH 2023

The Shona Bibles are dispatched from the TBS London warehouse to the UK grantee for an upcoming mission trip.

21 MISSION DELIVERY

OCTOBER 2023

The grantee goes to the Victoria Falls area. Chanel receives her first Shona Bible.



A LONG JOURNEY

From the 1890s to 2023, we can trace faithful contributions by missionaries, translators, editors, printers, and mission organisations, all culminating in one young woman receiving her first Bible and shaping the lives of 32 children in a small Zimbabwean village. This is the power of God's Word and the faithfulness to His people across generations. ■

Does it matter?

Numbered with the transgressors

Mark 15.28

AV/KJV

And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

ESV

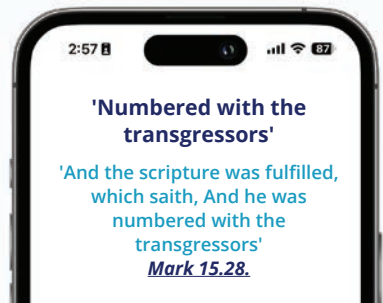
[missing]

It does matter.

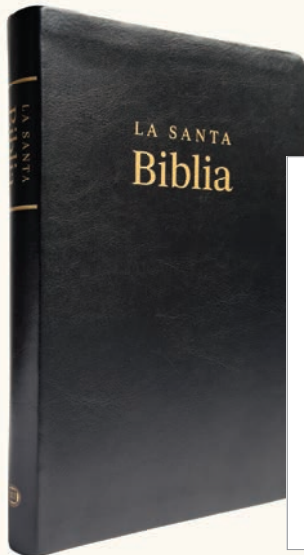
Because every word of God matters (cf. Proverbs 30.5), and there is overwhelming external evidence spanning multiple textual traditions and geographical regions for this verse.

It appears in approximately 88% of all manuscripts of Mark. It is also supported in ancient versions such as the Old Latin and the Syriac Peshitta, and cited by the early church historian Eusebius in the fourth century. Its omission in modern translations like the ESV represents a significant departure from the traditional text that served the church for centuries.

To find out more, read the article, Why Mark 15.28 is in the Bible at: tbsbibles.org/Mark15v28



Large Print Spanish Bible



A scaled comparison between the standard size and large print Spanish Bibles

In response to requests for an increased font size, we are pleased to present this new Spanish Large Print Bible, designed to make the Scriptures easier to read for those who find smaller print difficult.

The standard Spanish Bible is set at 8.6 point; this edition is enlarged to a clear and comfortable 10.6 point.

Presented in an elegant black imitation leather binding with gold stamping, this edition combines beauty with the durability needed for regular personal and church use.

EDITION FEATURES

- 10.6 pt large print typeface
- Helpful cross-references
- Full-colour maps
- Gilded page edges
- Sewn binding
- Bible paper
- Black imitation leather

TEXTUAL BASIS

Translated from the Biblical texts, aligned as closely as possible to the 1602 Reina-Valera, with current Spanish grammar and spelling throughout.

Product Code: SPABLP/EBK

Size: 244 x 161mm



Visit our website for more information or contact your local Branch.



By Matthew A. Vogan,
Editorial Director

WHEN THE GOSPEL GETS LOST IN TRANSLATION

‘These aren’t minor word choices, they materially affect core doctrine’

Accurate translation is vitally important. A wrong word changes everything. This article contains illustrations from non-TBS translations of the Bible to demonstrate this important principle, and why it is so important to faithfully translate the Word of God.¹

Most people may never notice anything wrong.

They trust their Bibles. Yet key doctrines, including how sinners are saved, have been quietly altered across versions, changing meanings in one language after another. These aren’t minor word choices; they materially affect core doctrines.

The changes are not always meant to deliberately obscure the Gospel but as

an unintended consequence the meaning may be lost. It might happen because translators either fail to realise that culturally familiar terms carry baggage from false religious systems, or they might believe that making the Bible immediately accessible is more important than preserving what God actually said.

GRACE DILUTED

Inaccuracy can weaken the understanding of grace as revealed in Scripture. The standard Chichewa translation (*Buku Lopatulika*) translates the same Hebrew word for grace as anything from ‘liberty’ to ‘sorrow’ to ‘good appearance’—preventing readers from tracing God’s grace through Scripture.

Translation into tribal languages presents genuine challenges, especially where Biblical concepts have no cultural equivalent. Yet some translators seem to feel they must always use a cultural idea to represent a Biblical truth, rather than enrich it with new truths by coining new words.

For instance, the Uma translation in Indonesia renders ‘grace’ as ‘white insides’ to represent a pure emotion. But grace cannot be reduced merely to love, even pure love.

PERFECTION LOST

‘Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect’ (Matthew 5.48). This absolute standard reveals our inability to keep the law’s demands: we need a Saviour. Yet the most popular Turkish Bible (YC 2008) says, ‘be

competent’. One drives you to your knees for grace, the other sounds like achievable self-improvement.

The Yakan translation for the southern Philippines also sets a reduced standard: ‘Therefore you shall be good like your Father in heaven is good’.

REPENTANCE REVERSED

Every major Tagalog Bible translates ‘repentance’ as ‘pagsisisi’, the exact word Filipinos use for Roman Catholic penance, doing acts of remorse to earn God’s forgiveness. The Latin Vulgate translated repentance as ‘do penance’ but when Martin Luther read Mark 1.15 in the Greek New Testament, he realised Biblical repentance was something altogether different.

Similarly, many Hindi translations use ‘pashchatap’ for repentance (painful regret as penance to earn merit) combined with ‘prayashchit’ for atonement (rituals to cleanse yourself from sin), creating a works-based Gospel: ‘perform rituals to cleanse yourself, feel deep regret to earn forgiveness’.

Readers of 1 John 1.9 in the Spanish *Traducción en Lenguaje Actual*

understand that they only have to recognise that they have sinned before God ‘reconocemos ante Dios que hemos pecado’ rather than actually confess their sins ‘confesamos nuestros pecados’. It shapes their understanding of confession and repentance. This is misleading because various individuals in Scripture like Saul and Judas recognised their sin without repenting.

JUSTIFICATION CONFUSED

Justification is God’s legal declaration that believers are righteous through Christ’s work, not a gradual moral transformation (as Roman Catholicism erroneously teaches). Yet the widely distributed Portuguese *Nova Tradução na Linguagem de Hoje* says that God ‘nos torna justos’ (makes us righteous). Thus, Brazilian readers are in danger of confusing justification (God’s declaration that we are righteous through Christ’s merit) with sanctification (God’s work of making us holy).

Similar issues arise in other translations, such as in the Isthmus Zapotec language (Mexico), which renders justification as moral transformation—‘clean hearts’. In Uma it is being ‘straight’.

In the Indonesian *Bahasa Indonesia Sehari-hari* renders ‘justified’ in Romans 5.1 as ‘kita sudah baik kembali dengan Allah,’ or ‘we are back on good terms with God.’ This translation (derived from the Good News Bible) carries the sense of restored social harmony, which, however, obscures the Gospel truth that justification is a formal judicial verdict from God, not merely a subjective shift in a believer’s relational status.

Readers of the Spanish *Traducción en Lenguaje Actual* (TLA) likewise have ‘aceptado’ rather than ‘justificados’ in Romans 5.1. The idea that God has accepted us may come within the overall idea of justification, but it fails to communicate the fullness of the Biblical doctrine.

PROPIATION DIMINISHED

Romans 3.25 contains one of the clearest statements of propitiation and the turning aside of God’s wrath at the Cross. Yet translations such as the English NIV translate it merely as ‘a sacrifice of atonement.’ Something similar appears in many cross-cultural translations. An interconfessional translation of the Bible in Chichewa, published in 1999, translates ‘nsembe yopepsera

machimo athu’ (a sacrifice for saying sorry for our sins) which entirely misses the satisfaction of God’s wrath.

In Ajië (Melanesia) the translators used a term which referred to a leaf used in a traditional religion to heal a wound after the proper sacrifices had been made. But this blending of the ideas and practices of traditional religions risks distorting the truth.

Christ actively turned away wrath but the Louis Segond Bible, the standard Protestant translation in French, calls Christ a ‘victime propitiatoire.’ This shifts emphasis from Christ’s active work to His passive suffering.

MODIFIED GOSPEL

These mistranslations don’t exist in isolation. They accumulate across Scripture, creating texts that deviate increasingly from the original message. At best confusion arises.

The irony cuts deep: these translations were created to make the Bible more accessible. But they’ve made Biblical Christianity less accessible. For example, when you remove the distinctive vocabulary of grace in Scripture, Christianity sounds like

every other religion: be good enough, feel sorry enough, try harder, earn Divine favour, hope for the best.

DANGEROUS PRINCIPLE

These translators mean well, devoting themselves sacrificially to making Scripture accessible, yet many have embraced a dangerous principle. They think their job is to ensure readers immediately grasp what the text means, even if that requires changing what it says—replacing theological terms with culturally familiar alternatives.

This assumes human understanding trumps Divine revelation, treating the specific words God inspired as disposable packaging rather than the very words the Holy Spirit gave. But God didn’t just inspire general concepts—He inspired

‘The work of faithful Bible translation continues as we choose accuracy over convenience, trust God’s words over human wisdom, and believe what God said is exactly what people need to hear’

actual words, and the key question remains: will these translations provide what God said, or replace them with their own reductions of them?

TRUSTING GOD

The heart of this issue is simple: Do we trust that God chose His words carefully, or do we think we can improve on them? Christians worldwide deserve Bibles that preserve what God actually said, with the full vocabulary of Biblical faith—justification, propitiation, grace, repentance—accurately rendered so that they can understand the Gospel as God gave it.

These examples from other organisations underline the need for more accurate translation work in these languages and we are thankful for the progress made in TBS projects.

The work of faithful Bible translation continues as we choose accuracy over convenience, trust God's words over human wisdom, and believe what God said is exactly what people need to hear. ■

ENDNOTE

1. English renderings from more obscure languages in this article come from the UBS tips.translation.bible



Translation Update: SUNUWAR



Location: Nepal

Speakers: 34,500

Project Status: Pilot completed, funding needed for work on New Testament

By the grace of God, the Sunuwar Gospel according to John was completed in November 2025. It was published on our Online Bible App, and 2,000 copies will soon be printed, Lord willing. This translation will provide God's Word to this group of nearly 35,000 people in Nepal in their heart language.

This brought the pilot project to an end successfully. Our attention is now turned to the New Testament, but the Society currently lacks the necessary funding to complete it. We earnestly seek the Lord's provision to proceed with this vital work of bringing His Word to this region of Nepal.



HOW TO PRAY FOR THIS PROJECT

- Pray that the Lord would provide the resources needed to complete the entire New Testament translation in Sunuwar.
- Pray for the Gospel to be proclaimed to the Sunuwar people of Nepal, and that the Lord would open their hearts to hear the truths declared in His Scriptures.
- Pray for the distribution of the Gospel according to John, that it may soon be placed in the hands of Sunuwar readers. ■

By *Natalie Hanks*,
Lead Editor



Language Summary:

TAMIL



Tamil is one of the major Dravidian languages of South Asia. It is spoken by an estimated 80 million people, primarily in India, especially in the state of Tamil Nadu (the southernmost state in the country), with additional speakers in Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Malaysia.

While spoken varieties of Tamil vary by region and community, the written standard is relatively uniform and widely understood; as such, a Bible translation in this language could potentially have a very large reach.

CHRISTIANITY AMONG TAMIL SPEAKERS

In Tamil Nadu the vast majority of the population (88%) are Hindu, 6% are Muslim, and 6% are Christian. Statistics suggest

that a large proportion of these are Roman Catholics, but there are a sizable number of Protestants in some southern districts.

Christianity has been present among Tamil-speaking people for many centuries, with tradition tracing its origins in South India to the arrival of the Apostle Thomas. In later centuries missionaries from Europe brought the Gospel to the Tamil.

Protestant Christianity began in earnest with the Danish-Halle Mission in 1706. Its earliest missionaries, including Germans Ziegenbalg and Plütschau, placed strong emphasis on preaching and the translation of the Bible into Tamil.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries,

Protestant workers further expanded Christian influence with missionary societies, including Anglican, Lutheran, and Reformed.

Some missionaries in Tamil-speaking regions sought to communicate the Gospel by engaging with local culture. This brought some challenges; for example, in some contexts Biblical teaching has been interpreted through Hindu philosophical categories. Other concerns included doctrinal compromise, the persistence of caste distinctions, and the growing influence of prosperity theology. In response, many faithful Tamil Christians emphasise the necessity of returning to the authority of Holy Scripture. They recognise the continuing need for accurate Bible translation.

THE TAMIL BIBLE

The Tamil Bible has a significant history as the first Indian language Bible. The missionary Ziegenbalg realised the need to learn Tamil in order to communicate with people, and learnt the language while sitting among the local children, writing in the sand. In 1712 the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) shipped a printing press to the mission, and in 1715 the Tamil New Testament was first published. Legend has it that metal covers from tins of Cheshire cheese, sent out to the mission, were used to make the movable type for the New Testament!

After Ziegenbalg's death another colleague, Schultze, brought out a revised edition in 1722 and issued the first seven books of the Old Testament from Ziegenbalg's translation. Schultze translated the remaining Old Testament books, and the complete Bible was published in 1727. Dr Fabricius published a translation of the Bible in 1777. In 1840 the Madras Auxiliary Bible Society published Fabricius' Old Testament translation with Rhenius' New Testament.

During the nineteenth century continued revisions

improved accuracy and readability. Under the auspices of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, Bower and colleagues produced a revised Tamil New Testament in 1863 and an Old Testament in 1868. A mutually accepted 'Union Version' of the Tamil Bible was then published in 1871 and a revised edition was published in 1914.

While early Tamil translations generally followed the Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Received texts, later editions were based on the Greek Critical Text. The Union Version is largely based on the Received Text, but there are a number of places where it follows the Critical Text.

Other versions of the Tamil Bible have been published, such as an ecumenical version, a Jehovah's Witness edition, and an Easy-to-Read edition.

THE TBS PROJECT

TBS is undertaking a relatively light revision of the Tamil Union Version to ensure closer conformance to the Received Text and to update archaic vocabulary. Following the help of several reviewers, the Gospel according to John was

Product



GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (Tamil edition)

Attractive pictorial
paperback

Product Code: TAMJN

published in 2025. This is now a full project and the reviser continues to work on the rest of the New Testament. We are thankful for the funding provided by the generosity of supporters in Canada.

We are encouraged at the response to the recently published TBS Gospel according to John. Churches and pastors have received copies enthusiastically, and some have actively distributed hundreds of Gospels. A second print run took place in January. Please pray that through these Scriptures many people would be brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. ■

THE DEMAND FOR TAMIL GOSPELS



Recently a grantee received 2,000 copies of the Tamil Gospel according to John, which he and his wife eagerly set about distributing throughout Tamil Nadu and Bangalore, India.

The couple visited church after church, moving across

‘Among those who gladly accepted a copy was a Hindu priest; a reminder that the presentation of God’s Word can open even unexpected hearts’

denominational boundaries. They were warmly received everywhere they went. Pastors expressed how the revision addressed the very difficulties they had faced for years. One pastor immediately began using the copies in his evangelistic work, sharing the Gospel





TBS Definitions

Providential Preservation

DEFINITION

God has preserved His Word through all generations, ensuring the integrity of the Scriptures in the Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Received texts.

WHY IT MATTERS

We can confidently read God's Word today knowing it has not been lost or corrupted.

REFERENCES

Psalm 119.152
Matthew 24.35
1 Peter 1.25

in neighbouring villages. Among those who gladly accepted a copy was a Hindu priest; a reminder that the presentation of God's Word can open even unexpected hearts.

The response from pastors is very encouraging. One said, 'We are eagerly awaiting the publication of the New Testament. Kindly continue the work and inform us soon. We are praying for you.'

The grantee found it a great joy to distribute the Tamil Gospels, writing,

It was a profound joy and privilege to place the Word of God into the hands of pastors and believers, knowing that it will bear fruit in their lives.

I hope that many will come to saving faith in Christ, that churches will be strengthened in sound doctrine, and that the Scriptures will be used widely in evangelism and teaching.

There is a pressing need for faithful revision work in Tamil. A clear, accurate revision is essential for preaching, teaching, and evangelism.

The demand for these Gospels is great. We give thanks to the Lord for the warm reception that these Gospels received. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless these copies of His Word to each soul, and that they would become a means of grace for those who have long waited for a clearer rendering of God's Word in Tamil. ■

'It was a profound joy and privilege to place the Word of God into the hands of pastors and believers, knowing that it will bear fruit in their lives'





AN OPEN DOOR IN AFRICA

French New Testament Distribution



Since its publication in 2022, the Trinitarian Bible Society's French New Testament has been warmly received by thousands, particularly across French-speaking Africa. By the grace of God, several reprints have already been required, and an edition incorporating the Psalms is currently in production.

French is a global language, spoken by approximately 300 million people worldwide. All five continents have communities of French speakers, and it is an official language in 29 countries, including France, Belgium,

Canada, and Switzerland, but also in many African countries. This wide geographical spread presents remarkable opportunities for the circulation of faithful French Scriptures.

As of February 2026, 90,000 copies of the French New Testament have been distributed, yet the opportunities remain vast and increasing.

'As of February 2026, 90,000 copies of the French New Testament have been distributed, yet the opportunities remain vast and increasing'

In 2024, a generous grant from Gereformeerde Bijbelstichting (GBS) enabled the funding of a major distribution project to place 50,000 French New Testaments freely into the hands of readers across West African nations, working in partnership with the Free Grace Evangelistic Association (FGEA). The countries included in this project are Benin, Burkina

Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. This has opened many doors for Scripture distribution throughout the region.

The Society has also supplied numerous additional French New Testaments to grantees in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Togo, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

In many cases further requests for Scriptures continue to be received.

We give thanks to the Lord for this open door into Africa and beyond. There appears to be a limitless demand for the French Scriptures, and we pray for the Lord to supply for the printing and distribution. The evident hunger for God's Word in French-speaking regions encourages us greatly, and we pray that every New Testament distributed will be used for the salvation of many souls. The following two accounts are snippets to demonstrate the hunger and need for these New Testaments.



‘We give thanks to the Lord for this open door into Africa and beyond. There appears to be a limitless demand for the French Scriptures and we pray for the Lord to supply for the printing and distribution’

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The DRC is an area of the world where there is a great deal of instability and conflict. The unreliability of postal services in the region of the grantees meant that it was not possible to send the parcels directly to eastern Congo, but instead via Uganda; from there a long journey of many stages to their final destinations.

Christian pastors in the DRC live and minister in extremely unsafe areas. They report that people



are killed almost daily. In July 2025, one

contact lost two members of his extended family in an attack. People frequently leave to seek a safe refuge, but often return, finding they have nowhere else

to go. One recipient wrote, ‘We lost everything in the war, but the Lord has sent His Holy Word’.

Another, living near Lake Albert, describes hearing gunfire at night between the army and rebel forces. Soldiers have

been killed and civilians wounded. Many soldiers themselves are waiting eagerly for copies of the New Testament.

One of the recipients wrote,

The French New Testaments were received with gratefulness and are a great blessing. The distribution has given us the privilege to meet and collaborate with different authorities, such as the police and the army, that in our part of the world, are actively protecting the population against armed rebels.

This initiative of distributing the New Testaments has reinforced our belief, as Christians,



‘We lost everything in the war, but the Lord has sent His Holy Word’

that possessing the Word of God is not only for the people of God, but for our whole society. The project of distribution has contributed to strengthening the faith of the believers, but it has also opened doors to collaborate with

unbelievers. It has proved that promoting the Word of God is a powerful tool to unite and transform our society.

Therefore, we remain committed to work closely with you for the Word of God to continue to spread





 Transporting French New Testaments in the DRC

‘The project of distribution has contributed to strengthen the faith of the believers, but it has also opened doors to collaborate with unbelievers’

and touch lives. Our goal for the future is to reach every household, every institution, and every individual that expresses the need of it.

We are extremely thankful for the quantity of New Testaments received for this initial distribution, even though it is modest compared with the immense needs. This has enabled us to understand the extent of the thirst for God’s Word in our community. For the future, we hope and pray to get more copies to reach more people.

A TESTIMONY FROM GUINEA

One of the recipients of the French New Testaments was

a man named Malik, from Guinea.

Formerly a respected marabout (Muslim religious leader), Malik was deeply rooted in Islamic practice. When he fell seriously ill, he sought help from doctors and traditional fetish priests yet found no relief. In the Lord’s providence, Christians prayed for him and he was restored to health. Through this experience, Malik came to faith in Christ.

Today, he is a dedicated church planter. By God’s grace, he has established seven churches in his region, one of which is currently under construction. He lives about 555 kilometres from Conakry, near the

border with Guinea-Bissau, in an area where there were previously no churches.

The living conditions in the area are extremely difficult. There is no access to drinking water, hospitals, schools, or proper roads. The prefecture is effectively landlocked, and even vehicles cannot reach certain areas.

Each Lord’s Day, Malik travels alone through seven villages to preach the Word of God. We ask for prayer that the Lord would preserve and strengthen him.

It is of vital necessity for people like Malik to have access to the Word of God, and it is our prayer that it would take deep root in this remote and needy region. ■



STORED IN A BASEMENT, SENT TO THE NATIONS

When 10,000 Armenian Bibles (which TBS had given permission to a trusted organisation to print under license) arrived in Yerevan from Belarus in January 2025, they were placed in the basement of a local church, awaiting the right moment. That moment came in April 2025, when 45 pastors gathered in fellowship to discuss the distribution of these volumes. Yet calls were still coming in from

‘Rather than rushing the process, the pastors paused to recalculate, reallocate, and prayerfully consider how best to steward the gift’

churches and pastors who had not heard in time and were pleading to be included in the distribution. The need was greater than anticipated.

Rather than rushing the process, the pastors paused to recalculate, reallocate, and prayerfully consider how best to steward the gift, so that each pastor and church could receive a share. The distribution was delayed but not denied.



‘One year later, these Bibles have been distributed, and another 10,000 are, at the time of writing, on their way to Armenia’

In due course, every Bible was placed into the hands of those who would use it for ministry, witness, and comfort. This was a quiet testimony to the Lord’s provision and the faithful labour of His servants; ‘But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus’ (Philippians 4.19).

Among those present was Pastor Suren, who had overseen the storage of the Bibles. With conviction, he asked whether some could be sent to Armenian communities living in hardship abroad. He was told that he knew more about the need for Bibles among Armenian speakers, and those closest to the



need, like he was, are best placed to discern it. As long as the Bibles were given freely, without charge, he was welcome to send them wherever the Word was most needed.

One year later, these Bibles have been distributed, and another 10,000 are, at the time of writing, on their way to Armenia. We pray that these will be distributed just as quickly. Pray for the Lord’s blessing on all who receive a copy of His Word.

‘... blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it’ (Luke 11.28). ■



BECOME A FAITHFUL STEWARD FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



THE FAITHFULNESS OF BIBLE TRANSLATION MUST BE GUARDED IN EVERY AGE

For nearly two centuries, the Trinitarian Bible Society has sought to ensure every generation has access to faithful, accurate copies of God's Word, translated from the original Biblical languages.

Yet a society is only as steadfast as the people who, by God's grace, uphold it. If you are not already, we would invite you to step beyond being a supporter and become a member of the Trinitarian Bible Society.

By becoming a member, you take up your place in the line of those who:

HELP US FULFIL OUR VITAL WORK

Your membership fee directly supports promoting the Glory of God and the salvation of men through the circulation of the Holy Scriptures.

SECURE THE LEGACY

Ensure that TBS remains a bulwark for the generations to come.

FORMALISE YOUR COMMITMENT

Publicly align yourself with upholding the purity of the Word of God and participate more fully in the work and witness of the Society. Members must agree with the Society's three membership requirements: be a Protestant, believe in the Holy Trinity, and believe that the whole Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, the sole, supreme and infallible rule of faith and practice.

STEWARDSHIP OUR AIMS

Your vote at the AGM is an important part of the stewardship of the Society. It helps support consistent governance in line with our objectives and principles.

To all who have faithfully supported us through membership, and to those who will take this opportunity to join, we and those around the world who have received faithful copies of the Scriptures are deeply thankful.

Stand with us on the frontline of faithful Bible translation and distribution by becoming a member today at tbsbibles.org/membership or contacting your local Branch for a membership form. ■

Save the Date



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 September 2026

If the Lord will.

METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE

London, SE1 6SD

Join us for reports
on the Society's
work, and for a
worship service to
be taken by the
Rev. A. J. Lewis.

Please see our website for
most up-to-date details

tbsbibles.org



Trinitarian Bible Society

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

William Tyndale House
29 Deer Park Road, London SW19 3NN, England
Tel.: +44 20 8543 7857 email: contact@tbsbibles.org

Registered Charity No.:
233082 (England) SC038379 (Scotland)
V.A.T. Registration No.: GB 215 9219 67

INTERNATIONAL BRANCHES

AUSTRALIA

Trinitarian Bible Society (Australia),
P.O. Box 1381, Grafton NSW 2460, Australia
Tel.: +61 2 6642 8880 email: aus@tbsbibles.org

BRAZIL

Sociedade Bíblica Trinitariana do Brasil,
Rua Julio de Castilhos, 108/120 Belenzinho,
03059-001 São Paulo, SP, Brazil
Tel.: (11) 2693-5663 email: sbtb@biblias.com.br

CANADA

Trinitarian Bible Society (Canada),
10, 320 41st Street S., Lethbridge, AB T1J 5B3, Canada
Tel.: 403-634-3911 email: canada@tbsbibles.org

NEW ZEALAND

Trinitarian Bible Society (New Zealand),
481 High Street South, Carterton, 5713, New Zealand
Tel.: +64 27 364 0363 email: nz@tbsbibles.org

USA

Trinitarian Bible Society (USA),
927 Alpine Commerce Park, Suite 100, Grand Rapids,
Michigan 49544, USA
Tel.: (616) 735-3695 email: usa@tbsbibles.org

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE TRINITARIAN BIBLE SOCIETY

President: Mr D. P. Rowland

Chairman: M. Keogh-Brown, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

Vice-Chairman: The Rev. J. P. Thackway

Treasurer: Pastor R. A. Clarke, B.Sc., F.C.A.

Members

Pastor D. J. Cadapen, B.A. (Joint Hons.)

The Rev. J. I. Gracie, Dipl. Th.

The Rev. W. Irwin


Mr A. K. Jones, LLB. (Hons.) Solicitor

The Rev. E. T. Kirkland, B.A. (Hons.), Dipl. Th.

The Rev. A. J. Lewis, Dipl. Th.

Mr J. P. Sayers

Mr J. D. Arnold, LLB. (Hons.), M.A. (ex-officio)



Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved,
and thy house.

ACTS 16.31

AUTHORISED (KING JAMES) VERSION