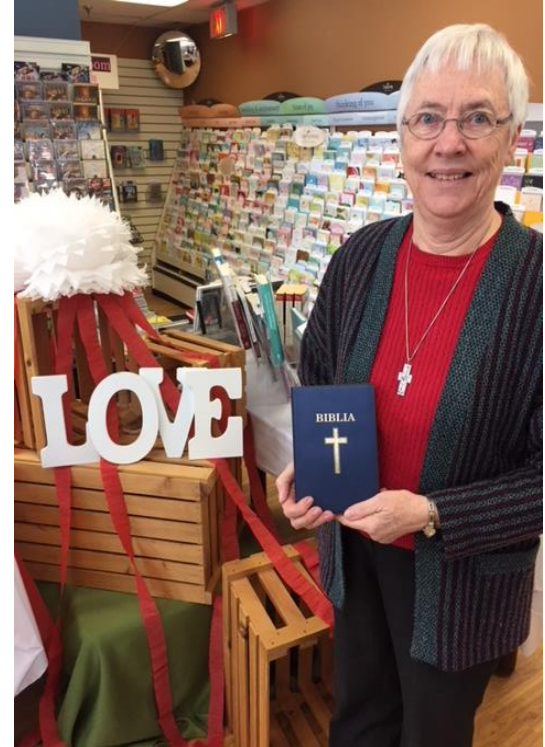




# Canadian Bible Society Société biblique canadienne



Congregational Representative Package

Trousse à l'intention des  
représentants au sein des églises

# What Do We Do?

## TRANSLATION



In recent years, here in Canada, the Canadian Bible Society (CBS) has published the Bible or portions of the Bible in Labrador Inuttut, Ojibway, Eastern Arctic Inuktitut Bible, and Atikamekw, among others. Scripture portions in about a dozen other native Canadian languages have been sponsored by CBS and additional

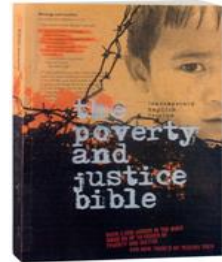
work is currently underway in several of these languages. CBS also held Canada's first-ever Inuit Scripture Translation conference in 2017.



## PUBLICATION



CBS participates in several national distribution projects, like those that provide Bibles for members of the Canadian Forces, for those in prison, and for people learning English as a second language (ESL), and for children learning to read. We frequently produce special editions with appropriate features at affordable prices for many of our partners.



## DISTRIBUTION

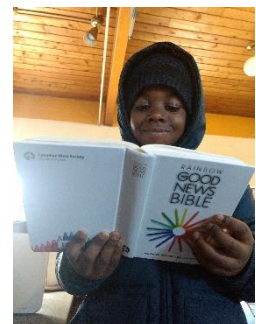
In 2016, together with over 145 Bible Societies around the world, we distributed 401.3 million Scriptures in various languages and formats. Our unique identity, resources and skills regularly allow us to play a role in distribution initiatives in other countries as we share The Word. For Life. We work together with churches, organizations, schools and at specific events to ensure that everyone has access to the Bible.



## ENGAGEMENT



At the Canadian Bible Society, we believe that the Bible is useful to our lives. We want to see the Bible being used to bring people closer to Jesus and the new life God offers. These initiatives are designed to help people engage further with the Scriptures.



## About the Congregational Representative Program

The Canadian Bible Society exists to serve God and the Christian community through the actualization of its vision and mission. This is only possible through collaboration with the Church-at-large. Operating with limited resources, it would seem impossible to build meaningful relationships with the faith community without the help of volunteers. The Congregational Representative Program is our attempt and approach to meeting this need. We recruit volunteer Congregational Representatives to represent their church to the Canadian Bible Society and vice versa, with a view to strengthening the faith community through the life-giving Word of God.



## Objectives

Congregational Representatives and the Canadian Bible Society are serving together to transform lives as they:

1. Promote and advance Bible use within their congregation;
2. Communicate the mission and ministry of the Canadian Bible Society;
3. Encourage participation in ministry programs of the Canadian Bible Society; and
4. Promote the use of Canadian Bible Society resources to enhance congregational ministries.

## How does CBS connect with your church?

Through YOUR role as the Congregational Representative, the Canadian Bible Society will be able to serve your church by:

1. Providing FREE Bibles for baptisms, child dedications or christenings taking place in churches with an active Congregational Representative;
2. Providing a variety of resources to be used in your church ministries;
3. Providing special resources that encourage your church members to read and study the Bible; and
4. Providing your church the opportunity to share in the translation, publishing and distribution of Scriptures that can change hearts and lives throughout the world.



## Role of a Congregational Representative

1. Maintain awareness of current CBS ministry programs through resources received from CBS, its website, publications, mailings, social media and/or other communication channels; and convey such information to his/her church.
2. Promote, at a time convenient to the church, at least one of the items listed in the quarterly resources provided by CBS.
3. Keep track of the church's baptism, christening, dedication and confirmation ceremonies and attend to the following so CBS may provide a personalized Bible (sample presentation page enclosed) as a gift to each individual participating in such ceremonies:
  - a. Provide CBS with:
    - i. Name of church
    - ii. Date of ceremony
    - iii. Name of Individual
    - iv. Age of Individual
  - b. Work with CBS to pick out an appropriate Bible for the individual. Suggested Bible list enclosed.
  - c. At the ceremony, present the Bible on behalf of CBS or stand with the minister or priest and have him/her present the Bible.
4. Maintain awareness of his/her church's Scripture needs (Bible products, Bible engagement interests and tools, outreach and ministry materials, etc.) and communicate such information to CBS, as well as share stories on how the Word of God has changed lives in the church.

## How to get involved

Send us an e-mail or give us a call and we will be sure to send you an application form to complete. Once your application is approved, we will send you a kit with a Canadian Bible Society pin indicating that you are a representative in your assembly! We will also send out monthly mailings, which feature one of our initiatives every month.



Alison Li, Volunteer Manager  
E-mail: [ali@biblesociety.ca](mailto:ali@biblesociety.ca)  
Telephone: 1 (800) 465-2425 ext. 3410

## Learn More About Us

<b>ONLINE</b>	Visit us at <a href="http://www.biblesociety.ca">www.biblesociety.ca</a> or at <a href="http://www.biblescanada.com">www.biblescanada.com</a>
<b>MAIL</b>	Write to us at 10 Carnforth Road, Toronto, ON, M4A 2S4
<b>PHONE</b>	Call us at 1 (800) 465-2425

## Get Connected



[www.biblesociety.ca](http://www.biblesociety.ca)



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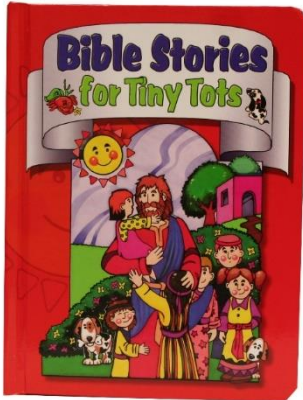
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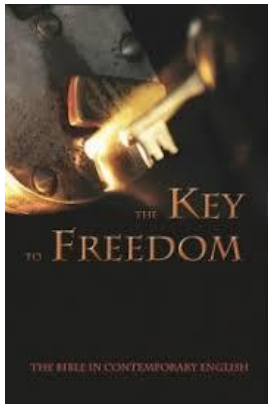
## Ongoing Events & Programs

### Bible Stories for Tiny Tots



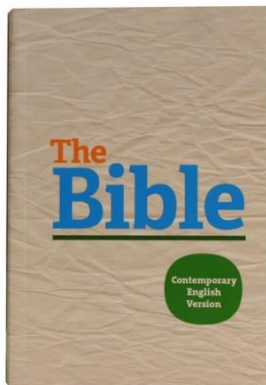
CBS provides Scriptures free of charge to babies and toddlers that are being baptized or dedicated, where there is a dedicated CR. Provided in this program is a small, illustrated "Bible Stories for Tiny Tots." A wonderfully themed Bible that provides Biblical stories for tiny tots to learn from. Each copy provided will be inscribed with the individual's name and date on a label that will be included in the Bible so that it can be presented at the baptism or dedication on behalf of the Bible Society.

### Used Stamp Collection Program

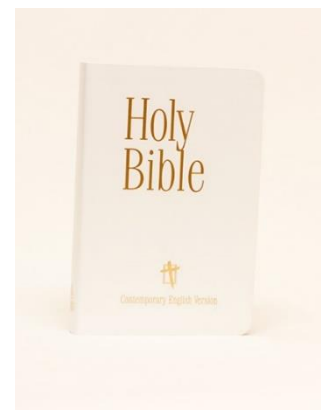


CBS collects used stamps to purchase *Key to Freedom* Bibles for men and women in prison. We encourage CRs to set up collection depots at their church and open up these depots to the community if others would like to get involved and help purchase Bibles with their used stamps! Stamps are collected from donations across Canada and are combined together to create charity boxes that are sold to stamp collectors and vendors. The revenue generated from this ministry allows CBS to purchase Canadian prison ministry Bibles.

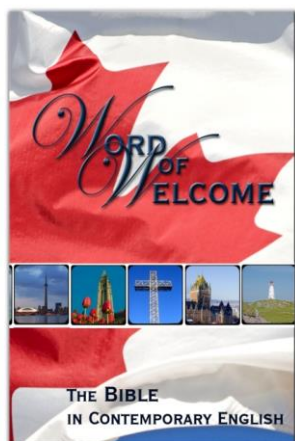
### Baptism Bibles



The Canadian Bible Society (CBS) provides Scriptures free of charge to youth, young adults and adults that are being baptized or dedicated, where there is a dedication. Each Scripture item provided will be inscribed with the individual's name and date on a label that will be included in the Bible so that it can be presented at the baptism or dedication on behalf of CBS.



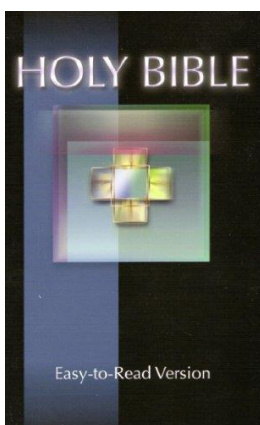
## Word of Welcome Bibles



The Canadian Bible Society provides copies of the *Word of Welcome Bible* in the *Contemporary English Version* (CEV) free of charge to newcomers enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Christian churches and Christian para-church groups in Canada.

A French New Testament in the *Français courant* (FC) version with a special cover is also available for French as a Second Language (FSL) classes.

## Hearing Impaired and Visually Impaired Scriptures



The Canadian Bible Society provides Scriptures free of charge to hearing impaired individuals living in Canada. The Canadian Bible Society offers easy-to-read versions of the Bible. For English readers, the 'Bible for the Deaf' is provided — a translation that seeks to accommodate deaf communication patterns, with the use of short sentences and restricted vocabulary. For French readers, a Bible in the modern, *Parole de Vie* (PDV) translation is provided. Applicants must be certified by a physician or a clergyman as being hearing impaired.

The Canadian Bible Society provides Scriptures free of charge to visually impaired individuals living in Canada. Items offered are available in English, French and various other languages and include New Testaments in audio or MP3 format on CDs, Bibles in large print or *MegaVoice*\* format, and Scriptures in Braille. Each eligible applicant who provides a CNIB registration number or a letter of recommendation from a physician or a clergyman is entitled to one item free of charge.



\* *MegaVoice* is a compact hand-held audio player that contains a complete digital audio recording of the Bible; works on solar power with rechargeable batteries; easy to operate and carry in pocket or purse.

## Seasonal Events

### Proclamation

CBS helps organize and plan Proclamation events. Proclamation is the reading of God's Word aloud in public in its entirety, traditionally over a 10-day period. Reading schedules have been developed integrating Old Testament readings with Psalms and Proverbs and New Testament readings with Psalms and Proverbs to allow for flexibility during this event. Proclamations are meant to bring together many different congregations, parishes from many denominations and confessions. This co-operative spirit to create a public witness of the Word of God makes a powerful statement of unity to the community.



### Annual General Meeting



Every year, each CBS region holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to share about the work that CBS has been doing the past year and plans for the upcoming year. This is typically a general meeting that takes place during the spring/summer months. It is a night that is filled with praise, prayer, delicious food, and sharing of projects.

### Bible Sunday



One Sunday out of the year is designated as "Bible Sunday" and serves as an opportunity to share about the Bible Society at each CR's church. This opportunity will allow the CR to share what they have been doing on behalf of their church and CBS. It will also allow for a guest speaker to come to the church to share about CBS ministry and engagement opportunities and materials. Bible Sunday also creates the opportunity for the CR, alongside a staff representative, to choose a project that the church would want to support so that an offering can be taken directly for that project on that given Sunday.