

পবিত্র  
বাইবেল

বাংলা  
সমকালীন  
সংস্করণ



Biblica



THE INTERNATIONAL  
BIBLE SOCIETY

# 2019

ANNUAL REPORT



# Our Mission

*To provide the Bible in accurate, contemporary translations and formats so that more people around the world will have the opportunity to be transformed by Jesus Christ.*

SO ALL  
WILL  
KNOW

*Isaiah 45:6*





# Letter from Geof Morin

Dear Friend,

As Biblica celebrates its 210<sup>th</sup> year of Gospel ministry, we thank God for the privilege of joining you to serve more and more Bibleless people across the world. Your sacrifice and generosity have released the Gospel hope of God's Word for millions.

In this past year, there were two phrases you could hear on repeat through the halls and in the fields of our ministry. Both capture the motivation of our hearts, minds, and actions:

**So all will know** – coming from the words of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 45:6), shouting out God's heart that all would know Him. We are doing all that we can to break down barriers to the Bible, so that all of God's people will receive the hope of all of God's Word.

**Radical generosity** – a foundational imperative for everything we do at Biblica. We realize that this is not our original idea. For in the most radical act of generosity in all of history, God gave His only Son for us. We are seeking to echo this same passion and commitment in all that we do.

In the pages that follow, you will see how these two come together — radical generosity, so that all will know. Throughout 2019, your generosity widened the reach of God's Word — launching five new Bible translations and related multi-media resources for people across the frontlines of the Gospel.

---

*Throughout 2019, your generosity opened a widened reach for God's Word — launching five new Bible translations and related multi-media resources for people across the frontlines of the Gospel.*

---

I know that everything you read here is not possible without an army of radically generous Christ followers — freely giving, so that many may freely receive. So thank you for your partnership. Thank you for joining what God is accomplishing here, all for His glory and for His Kingdom.

Gratefully Yours,



Geof Morin  
President / CEO



# Rooted in Radical Generosity

*Biblica is a global Bible ministry inspired by radical generosity. For more than 200 years, Biblica has helped people beyond the reach of God's Word discover the love of Jesus Christ. Through relevant and reliable Scripture translations and resources, Biblica serves people on the margins of the Gospel — the unreached, unengaged, unseen, and unwanted.*







It's as simple as this: we believe that no one should be kept from the unparalleled hope of God's Word. That's the reason **we are fully committed to the radical generosity of free Scripture ministry.**

Radical generosity begins with God's amazing grace, displayed through the whole story of His relationship with humanity as told in the Word.

It is also His radical generosity to give us His Word to hold within our very hands.

Could anything be more radically generous than to offer His grace freely to people of every background, nation, and social status? To offer us salvation, not because it's something we have earned, but simply because He loves us?

Our best response is to follow His example and to be radically generous in sharing God's life-transforming Word as widely as possible.

We are on the path to making 90% of our languages wide open for free release. And more importantly, growing the reach of God's Word for millions.

But this is more than just licensing. This goes to the core of how we serve in God's kingdom. God's invitation is to be radically generous with our prayers, our time, our talent and our treasure.

Everyday, we're watching God redefine the reach of Biblica's mission, as His generosity continues to outshine every bit of ours.

---

*We are on the path to making 90% of our languages wide open for free release. And more importantly, growing the reach of God's Word for millions.*

---



# Gateway Translations

In 2019, Biblica's Gateway Translation strategy served as a launch pad for accelerating the global reach of God's Word. This year we advanced 36 global Scripture translations, completing two full Bibles and three audio Bibles.

As we practice radical generosity with our translations, God made a way for many of our partner organizations to get the Word into the hands of more of His children. With your partnership, we launched a new Hindi translation, the third most-spoken language in the world with 341 million people calling it their first language. You also helped complete a new contemporary translation in Bengali, the second most-spoken language in India and used by 265 million people in South Asia. Additionally, because of your partnership, 10 translations in Africa are now fully funded and set to reach 158 million people upon completion.

## 85 Total Bible Translations

36

Translation Projects Advanced

2

New Bibles Translations Completed

**2019 also marked the year in which we opened our Contemporary Arabic Bible to creative commons licensing, freeing it up for exponential deployment by ministry partners.**

**This is already fast-tracking the translation and production of new Scripture texts in 29 regional dialects, opening God's Word in 14 countries across the Middle East reaching language communities of some 200 million people.**





*Serving 80%  
of the World's  
Population*





# *All Nations Will Come to Your Light*

In 2019, the illumiNations movement had much to celebrate.

This collective impact alliance of Bible translation agencies celebrated 50% of languages translated in the Americas and Pacific, 31% in Africa, and 31% in Asia and the Middle East. We are honored to be a part of this dynamic movement to ensure by 2033, **every language community and every person on earth will have the opportunity to experience the hope of God's Word in their preferred language.**



## illumiNations



# Love for the Word Compels Us



Before Mike and Cynthia Richards were even aware of it, God was paving the way for their passion for His Word and to join Him in His plans.

Mike recalls, “The Lord took one little Gideon pocket-sized Bible and it changed our family. It became a miracle that has been impacting our family now, for generations.” Mike is referring to the Bible his father was given by a nameless, faceless refinery worker in Port Arthur, Texas in 1949, when Mike was only 11. Prior to that day Mike and his family had no interest in God and were living lives without any spiritual purpose. But after his father received that Bible, small though it was, his family’s lives now began to have meaning, and nothing was the same for them again.

It’s that passion and determination that have driven the Richards for the past 40 years of Bible engagement. In the mid 80’s, Mike was invited to serve on the Board of Living Bibles International, which later merged with the International Bible Society, now known as Biblica. It was in those early years on the board that Mike gained a deeper appreciation of what is required to make readable, understandable translations available around the world.

“In America, most people don’t know what it means when we say what is needed to eradicate Bible poverty,” says Mike. “The challenge is to translate the Scriptures into peoples’ native tongue. When people in other parts of the world read the Bible in English, it’s America’s Bible. But when they read it in their heart language, it becomes their Bible.”

---

*The reason the Scripture is so important is because it’s the only thing that will last forever.*

---

Over the years, Mike and Cynthia’s passion for the Word of God has merged with their life’s purpose — exclusively focused on the Bible and seeing it translated, distributed and made available to all those that don’t have access to it.

The Richards have had several opportunities to travel with Biblica, but one trip really stood out to them. In Johannesburg, South Africa, they sat in a classroom that was using the *Reach4Life* Bible. With tears of gratitude, the principal told them that since the curriculum had been in use, absenteeism had gone down, teen pregnancy rates had dropped, and test scores were up. It was a living example of God’s Word at work.

“The reason the Scripture is so important is because it’s the only thing that will last forever. As the prophet Habakkuk says, ‘all man’s labor is but fuel for the fire’ (2:13, NIV). As the Word of God is eternal, so the souls of people are eternal! What better place to invest your money than in the Bible,” says Cynthia.

When asked what she wants her legacy to be, Cynthia says, “I want to see the Word of God in the hearts and minds of people, worldwide, leading to salvation and changed lives.”

As Mike reflects on the question, he is reminded of the man that gave his father that pocket-sized Gideon Bible. And although that man had no way of knowing the impact his generosity would have on future generations, it is safe to say it is immeasurable. With that in mind, Mike says he simply wants “to be that nameless, faceless American who helped to make the Bible available to people around the world.”

# Frontline Church

The Church is God's primary agent to reach those on the edges of society. In other words, those that live on the margins — the exploited, the discarded, the overlooked. We call this the "frontline" of the Gospel, or the Frontline Church.

In 2019, this included serving incarcerated men and women in many parts of the world through Biblica's *Free on the Inside Bible*. Your generosity also helped people with disabilities find their worth in God's eyes through resources like the *Accessible Bible*. You also served millions with a hunger for God's Word in the Middle East and North Africa who, despite persecution, received and discovered new hope through contemporary-language Bible resources.

## 1,266,536 People Reached in 2019

562,262

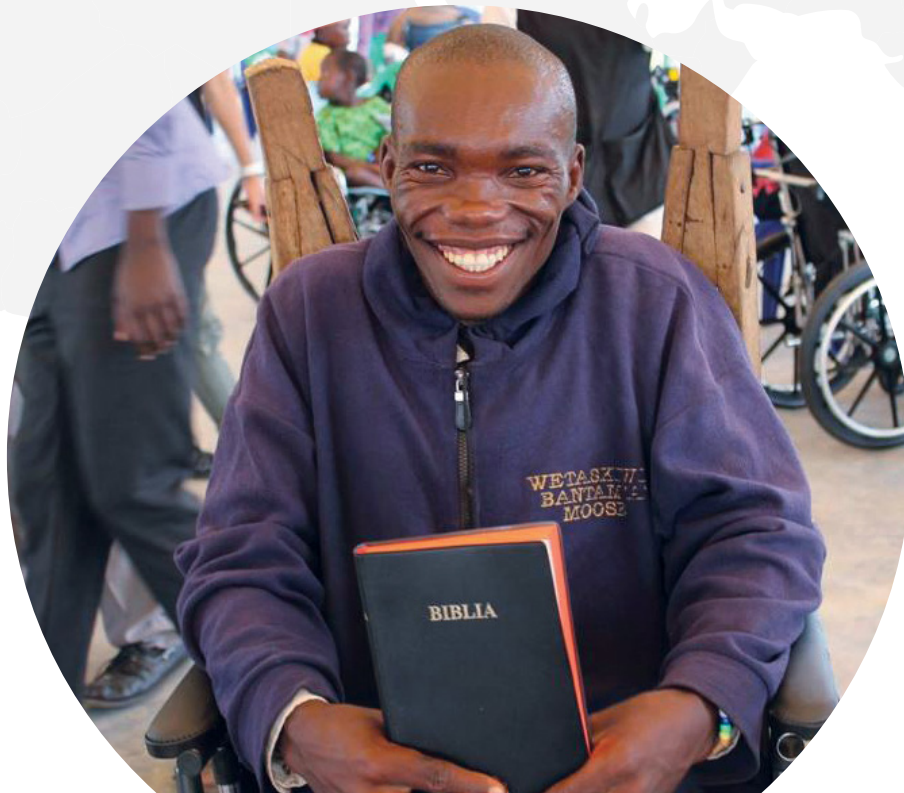
Christians Facing  
Struggles

315,602

People Living in  
Extreme Poverty

358,672

People Across the  
Muslim World





# *“My Arm Was Sore From Writing...”*

When the teams arrived at Sister Li's village church in rural China, with boxes of Bibles, her demeanor vacillated between tears of joy and a radiant smile. At first, she was speechless. Never before had so many Bibles been brought to their village. She knew first-hand the power of the Word, and now so many in her village would have access to it.

Now 79 years of age, she has been a Christian for 40 years. She is what Timothy would refer to as a “widow indeed,” someone who lives to serve in the church. One of her primary responsibilities is to teach people how to read her textbook: the Bible.

“Forty years ago, my mother borrowed a Bible,” Sister Li told us. “It was hand-written. The only copy we had in our area. My mother was concerned what would happen if it came apart so she encouraged me to copy it as I was the only one in our family who could read. I began the project. I finally completed copying the entire New Testament. When I finished, my arm was so sore...but my heart was full of joy.”

---

*Many are coming to faith because of your gifts.*

---

As she shared this distant memory, her eyes filled with tears.

“When I married my husband, he was not a believer. His goal in life was to make as much money as he could in business. I read the Bible to him many times, but he was not interested or convicted of his need for salvation. Then, his business took a severe downturn. He also became quite ill and required my prayers. I told him, now that you cannot go out and make money, you have time to listen to me read

the Bible and explain to you about God. In time, he decided to follow Christ, and accepted Jesus as His Savior.”

Sister Li smiled wide as she went on, “His priorities and his purpose were forever changed. Finally, my home was a Christian home because of the Bible. My husband realized when you follow money you will ultimately fail. Only in Christ do we find meaning.”

But Sister Li's struggle is not over. “Now my husband has passed away and I am alone here on this farm, but the Bible is still my life. With the new Bibles given to us, I can hold a class in our village church to teach others how to read the Bible. Not only that, by growing crops in my garden I can share with neighbors. Then they also listen to me as I read to them the truth of God's Word. I have two Bible ministries. One in the church and one outside.”

Thank you for opening God's Word to so many local heroes like Sister Li. As she shared in her own words, “Many are coming to faith because of your gifts.”



# 210 Years of God's Radical Generosity

**1809**

**The beginning:**

Manhattan, the heart of New York City, is the birthplace of the ministry — first called The New York Bible Society.



**1834**

**Serving the imprisoned:**

New York Bible Society organized volunteers from local churches to distribute Bibles and New Testaments to 25,000 prisoners in the boroughs of New York City.



**1865**

**Serving Civil War Soldiers:**

By the end of the Civil War, Bible Society volunteers had distributed nearly 300,000 Bibles and New Testaments to soldiers. The final Civil War distribution was to confederate prisoners, released from prison in Elmira, New York, to return to their homes in the South.



**1892**

**Reaching the Nations through Ellis Island:**

When Ellis Island opened for immigration, a New York Bible Society representative was on the first ferry transporting workers to the facility. As millions of immigrants came into the United States, our agents offered Scriptures in up to 65 different languages.

1800's

1900's



**1920**  
**First Bibles for the Blind:**  
The New York Bible Society is the first to publish the Bible in Braille.



**1952**  
**Mass Bible Distribution during the Billy Graham Crusades:**  
The Bible Society provided Scriptures for Billy Graham's New York crusade at Madison Square Garden.

*Billy Graham preached to a crowd in front of a New York Bible Society poster in a New York subway station.*

**1978**  
**Radical Decisions to make way for the NIV:**

In the 1970s the Bible Society sold their building for \$1 million to help pay for the translation of the New International Version (NIV) Bible. The translation was published and first released in limited distribution in 1973 and then for mass distribution in 1978.

**2008**  
**Partnering with YouVersion:**

When Apple's App Store launched in 2008, YouVersion was one of the first 100 apps. Biblica freely offered the NIV translation through YouVersion on its very first day.

**2018**  
**Radical Reach to Two Million Youth:**

Biblica's *Reach4Life* program hit the monumental goal of reaching more than 2 million youth with the Gospel.

**2019 Committed to Radical Generosity:**

Biblica is in on the path to making 90% of our 85 versions of God's Word in 74 languages wide open for free release. And more importantly, growing the reach of God's Word for millions.

2000's





# Digital Impact

Following Christ's command to freely give as we have freely received, we are looking for every way we can to get our Scripture texts freely deployed for those who need them. Often, this means lifting licensing restrictions and legal barriers. It also includes digitally downloading our texts for free. For example, through YouVersion alone, our texts are downloaded 481 million times per month!

As of 2019, we have made 69 translations of the Bible available in digital and 28 translations available in audio formats. The response to this continues to be astounding. In this last year, we saw a 30 percent increase in both Scripture requests and audio requests within the digital platforms of YouVersion and Bible Gateway. With the use of cross-platform and multimedia Scripture resources (print, audio, digital, video, and immersive technologies), **the gap between those who need it and the Word is closing.**

We also experienced 145 percent increase in visits to our website, Biblica.com. In this last year, 27 million people engaged with Bible stories and studies on our site, more than doubling the previous year's 11 million visitors.

**7.3 billion**  
YouVersion Scripture  
Requests

**1.6 billion**  
YouVersion Audio  
Scripture Requests

**27 million**  
Engagements  
at Biblica.com





## *Digital Innovations in 2019*

We are thrilled to leverage today's technology to expand the reach of God's Word for people around the world. We invite you to pray with us for our three current ministry initiatives:

**Digital Training Library:** Biblica, in collaboration with Fuller Theological Seminary, is pioneering a Digital Training Library platform for the entire global translation community. This first-of-its-kind, online training platform will help tackle the number one bottleneck within Bible translation: strengthening mother-tongue translators and consultants to move global projects to completion.

**Rural Digital Engagement:** We are also partnering with new technology to serve the two billion people in rural communities across the globe without reliable access to digital Scripture content. Leveraging the patented technology of a partner, we will transfer the experience of Scripture apps for new Gospel engagement on low-end, entry-level mobile devices. This technology is planned to launch in 2021.

**Open.Bible:** Biblica launched the open.bible website, trailblazing Creative Commons licensing for mission partners to engage open licensed Bible texts and audio. Just by unlocking our Contemporary Arabic Bible, we are seeing a powerful acceleration for new Arabic dialect translation and millions to gain new engagement with God's Word in their heart language.

---

*“Biblica was one of YouVersion’s first Bible partners. We’re grateful for their partnership over these last ten years and the privilege to serve tens of millions together with Biblica Scripture content.”*

*Bobby Gruenewald, YouVersion Founder*



# *Rising Generations*

The Scriptures are clear about God's heart for children and youth. As we pursue the heart of our radically generous God, reaching the Rising Generations is core to Biblica's DNA.

Thanks to you and our ministry partners, Biblica's *The Survivors: Kids in Tough Places* has now been translated into six languages, bringing much needed hope to thousands of traumatized children.

Our *Reach4Life* New Testament continues to expand, adding 5 more languages this last year, and impacting 323,842 youth. Through your support, new peer educator trainings were held this year in the Philippines and Thailand.

Add to this another 267,432 children and teens who experienced the love of Jesus through the reach of Bible resources, like *Game of Life* and *Adventure Bible*.

## *591,274 Children and Youth Reached in 2019*

323,842

Through the *Reach4Life*  
New Testament

267,432

Through other Rising Generations  
Scripture Resources







## Partnering So All Will Know

In the community of Carabuela, Ecuador, 10-year old Joaquín lives with his five brothers and mother. His story is tragically typical for this region, having a father who abandoned him when he was very young. Generally, the parents of these children migrate abroad to find new opportunities and are left with older, remaining relatives. So while kids like Joaquin should be playing with friends, they are forced to work in the fields, sowing corn, harvesting fruit, doing whatever they can to keep their families afloat.

On a sunny Monday, life changed for Joaquin. Biblica, working in partnership with both Compassion International and Samaritan's Purse, arrived with much needed hope for this community. Joaquin was one of the 300 children about to receive shoeboxes filled with toys and a special copy of the Word of God.

Joaquin was also served by our partnership with Compassion, inviting the love of Jesus and God's Word to go far deeper within his life. So on this Monday, Joaquin stood stunned. Grateful, he approached the team and hugged every one of them. Our translator shared with us Joaquin's rushed words, "Thank you. Joaquín says thank you in his Quichua language."

---

*“We’re grateful for our Scripture partnerships with Biblica. Biblica’s **radical generosity** means we can pursue more **radical reach** — releasing more and more children from poverty in Jesus’ name.”*

*Jimmy Mellado, President & CEO, Compassion International*

---









# New Biblica Advocates: Matt and Danielle Forté

"It's time for us to take the torch," says Danielle Forté, "and continue the work that other generations have done to glorify God."

Before Matt and Danielle Forté joined Biblica as global advocates, the couple was navigating the world of professional athletes. Matt, a former NFL All-Pro running back with the Chicago Bears, had found great success as a professional athlete. During his career, Danielle felt a stirring in her heart to do even more for the kingdom. So when Matt retired, she immediately suggested they go to India and see what God was up to. While Matt was hesitant at first, from that trip began their journey to see God's heart for Bibleless people across the globe.

"When I heard that there are over 7,000 languages in the world and yet only 3,384 translations, and did the math — I couldn't believe that many people are without the Word of God!" exclaimed Matt. "This is the most important thing I could be doing with my life. There are people dying without the Word of God."

Since their trip to India, the Fortés have traveled to South Africa and criss-crossed the United States, serving as both investors and advocates. They are deeply committed to God's Word and ensuring its transforming message is delivered to all God's children.

---

*This is the most important thing I could be doing with my life. There are people dying without the Word of God.*

---

They've also pressed into serving Rising Generations closer to home. In their hometown of Chicago, they are working with both schools and inner-city churches to launch the nation's very first *Reach4Life* program. Additionally, they recently launched a podcast, *True vs. Truth*, that discusses today's issues and challenges through the lens of the absolute Truth of God's living Word.

"When you invest in Biblica, you are investing in something greater than yourself!" exclaims Matt.

Matt and Danielle both wish they had known years ago just how great the need for Bible ministry is. And it's this desire to bring more people into God's work, so that all will know, that fuels their commitment.

"We want our legacy to be known as people who loved God, His Word, and immersed our lives in Him," said Danielle. "Advocating for the ministry of Biblica helps provide the avenue for much of that. And I hope this legacy isn't just passed on to our family but to all those who come across our path."







# Ministry Resources

During 2019, God has shown His radical generosity to Biblica as we trust Him to achieve the work of Bible mission. Thank you for your generous partnership in making this possible.

Last year we saw a 21 percent growth in ministry — opening new and needed resources to serve Bible needs around the globe. Buoyed by increased operational efficiencies, we were honored to see **100 percent of every ministry investment go directly to Bible ministry.**

And now in our 210<sup>th</sup> year, Biblica moves forward with a solid financial footing, balancing our annual revenues and expenses, maintaining low debt levels, and finishing with adequate reserves.

Thank you for faithfully partnering with Biblica this year to make all things possible...so that all may know!

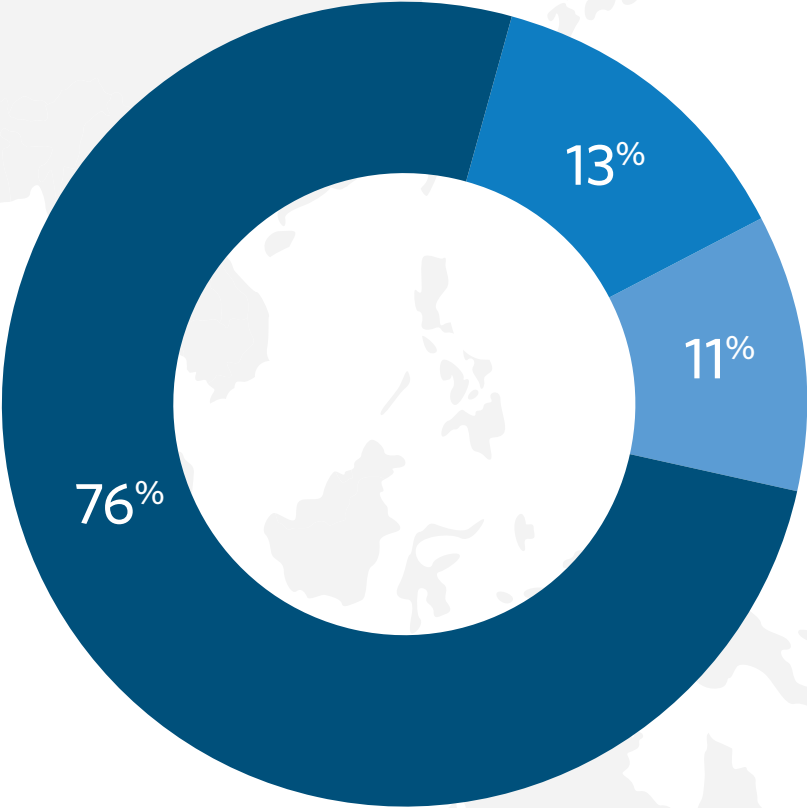
In His Service,

Bruce Trowbridge  
Senior Vice President, Finance / CFO



# Financial Summary

Biblica Inc. & Subsidiaries Consolidated Statement of Activities for the Year Ended September 30, 2019



Ministry Programs	\$11,551
Administration	\$1,962
Fundraising	\$1,592
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,105*</b>

\*In thousands



# Our Leadership

## Board of Directors

**Jim Bridges, Board Chair**

President, CEO  
SuccessEd, LLC  
Prosper, TX

**Dr. Pablo Deiros, PhD**

Retired Pastor/Professor; Writer  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Gene Dewhurst**

Partner  
Falcon Seaboard Investment  
Co, L.P.  
Houston, TX

**Michael Fitch**

Managing Partner  
UHY Hacker Young Fitch  
Limited  
Belfast, United Kingdom

**Barry Flynn**

Partner  
Gordon Rees Scully  
Mansukhani, LLP  
Houston, TX

**Vicki Garza**

CEO, Retired  
Garza Creative Group, Inc  
Monterrey, Mexico

**Rob Gluskin**

Managing Partner  
Gluskin Investment Partners  
Dallas, TX

**Andrew Goodwin**

Vice Chairman  
Optimum Investment Advisors  
Atlanta, GA

**Craig Hovda**

Senior Advisor  
CAH Advisors  
East Sandwich, MA

**Ramses Khalil**

Business Manager  
Cairo, Egypt

**Steve Manz**

Maquet Capital Advisors, LLC  
Sugar Land, TX

**Bruce McKenzie**

Senior Vice President  
Northern Trust  
Chicago, IL

**Roger Quy**

Partner  
Global Neurohealth Ventures  
Kentfield, CA

**William Scott**

President, CEO  
PetroLog International Inc.  
Sugar Land, TX

**Henry Smith III**

CEO, Retired  
IMCO Technologies  
Highwood, IL

## Board Members Emeritus

**Mike Richards, Sr.**

Partner  
Bethesda Capital, LLC  
Sugar Land, TX

## Staff Leadership

**Jonathan Call**

Vice President, Translation & Publishing

**Stephen Cave**

Senior Vice President, Translation

**Hans Combrink**

Vice President, Training & Quality  
Assurance

**Mark Finnie**

Vice President, Europe and MENA

**Mark Finzel**

Vice President, Digital Innovation

**Laura Fisher**

Senior Vice President, Global Ministry

**Aaron LeClaire**

Senior Vice President, Impact

**Geof Morin**

President / CEO

**Lydia Munene**

Vice President, Africa

**Blake Silverstrom**

Vice President, Donor Engagement

**Tracy Thomas**

Senior Vice President, Advancement

**Bruce Trowbridge**

Senior Vice President, Finance / CFO

**(Identity Withheld)**

Vice President, Asia



# Create a legacy Impact the world



This year, heaven gained a man whose life and legacy stand as a powerful example of rightly investing in kingdom priorities.

Stan Black first began serving in the leadership of Biblica in the early 1990's. And like the daring Navy pilot that he was, he dove right in. Leveraging his sharp and lawyerly mind, Stan didn't just identify opportunities, he called out needed changes.

And before long, Stan was invited to serve as chairman of the global board and even an interim CEO of the global ministry. Through these years, Stan helped lead the way for the ministry's rapid international expansion, new mission exploration and even its settling into a new home in Colorado.

Stan's deep love of God's Word and his unrelenting commitment to God's highest purposes helped guide Biblica, sustaining a mission that continues now into a third century.

This year, accompanied by his beloved bride Marge, we were honored to open the doors of The Rare Bible Room, dedicated to Stan Black for his Kingdom commitment and ongoing legacy. This room contains a beautiful collection of donated priceless Bibles including, among many others, a rare 1611 first edition King James Bible and 1597 Geneva Bible. Biblica is honored to steward such rare pieces, and grateful for the lives of radically generous co-laborers like Stan.





*So that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.*

*Isaiah 45:6, NIV*

