



THE INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SOCIETY

2020

Annual Report





On Mission

Biblica is a global Bible ministry, releasing the world's most widely read Scriptures for maximum Gospel impact. Now in its third century of mission, Biblica continues to produce relevant and reliable Scripture translations and innovative resources that power the Bible ministry of hundreds of global mission organizations and invite millions to discover the love of Jesus Christ.



A woman from India who received a COVID-19 relief bag that included a Scripture resource.

Dear Friend,

If 2020 showed us anything, it's that God is beyond our circumstances and He is still moving!

As the year progressed and the pandemic continued across the globe, and as civil unrest and natural disasters dominated our headlines, we could have lost hope. But as Psalm 111:4 says, "He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate" (NIV).

We can say with humble assurance that His Word is true—and we certainly did see His wonders and experience His grace and compassion.

At Biblica, we are grateful to report that with partners who were undaunted by global COVID-19 challenges, our Frontline Church ministries were able to mobilize quickly and ramp up to serve the world's most impoverished and vulnerable communities. God's Word could not be held back by a global pandemic and continued to reach those in the margins.

Throughout this last year we have been so inspired by your faithful generosity to meet Gospel needs in a world of global turbulence. Instead of turning back, you leaned in, prayed with us, invested, and were determined to see God's Word released to serve people who needed to know the love of Jesus.

With your support, we celebrated more Bible launches in one year than any single year in our history. And in response to global needs, God created a path for 3X growth in Scripture ministry through Biblica in the last year—if that's not an indication that our God doesn't slow down, I don't know what is. Then, at the end of 2020, we launched our All In, All Together campaign, designed to fund a God-sized vision to connect people with Scripture as never before.

In the pages that follow, you will see how God moved in 2020 as we followed in His wake. Compelled by His radical generosity, we are humbled and thankful for your partnership and the opportunity to see God's Word changing lives across the globe.

Yours Gratefully,



Geof Morin
President/CEO

“Responding to global needs, God created a path for 3X growth in Scripture ministry through Biblica in this last year.”



Geof sharing the Reach4Life Bible with students in the Philippines before COVID-19 restrictions.

To review the digital annual report, please visit biblica.com/annualreport.

Even with all the challenges of 2020, nothing could stop the critical impact of our translation ministry. This year, we went all in to provide unrestricted access to some of the most widely read and trusted Scripture resources in history—progressing toward the free release of 90% of Biblica’s Bible translations for global ministry outreach.

We continue to focus on the top 100 strategic languages for Bible translation. As they are made available for free release, they serve as source texts, accelerating our reach and that of our Bible agency partners. With your partnership, we are moving even faster toward ensuring that 80% of the world’s population has a translation they can understand.

This year, we celebrated the launch of six new translations in Africa. Now, almost 160 million more people can study and understand God’s Word for themselves. With COVID-19 safety measures in place, our friends and partners in Nigeria and Ghana were still able to celebrate the launch of new and contemporary Bibles that will undergird Gospel mission now and for years to come.

85 Total Bible Translations

45

New projects
underway

6

New Scripture
launches

5.2 Billion

Number of speakers
of all our
translations

The Unstoppable Word

After 25 years of work, 2020 marked the year that the Ibibio people received the first-ever contemporary New Testament. Considered the most ancient ethnic group in Nigeria, they make up eight million Nigerians, with nearly 100% professing to be Christian. This is a truly significant first step forward in the work of Bible translation in this region, and it required great perseverance through political obstacles and the loss of beloved translation team members.

It all began with a persistent and committed Professor of

Linguistics at the University of Calabar named Dr. Ukun Essien. Passionate about Nigeria’s young people being reached in their everyday language of Ibibio, he got to work developing the orthography while successfully persuading the Ministers of Education, both locally and nationally, to make sure the Ibibio language was included in the school curriculum.

It was after this significant accomplishment that Ukun began working on the Ibibio Bible translation. Sadly, but not surprisingly, this holy work was met with significant challenges,

including the loss of Ukun’s wife and, eventually, Ukun himself falling very ill. And yet, through grieving his wife and his own illness, Ukun kept persevering. His dedication inspired his translation team so much that after his passing they were determined his dream would not die with him.

In August, Ukun’s children were able to see the fruition of their father’s work as the Ibibio people celebrated the completion of the New Testament with a socially distanced, yet still vibrant celebration.



Gateway Translation

After 25 years of translation work, the Hausa Bible was released in Nigeria in August of 2020.



illumiNations

In 2020, 65,000 young people gathered in Atlanta for the Passion Conference, where they learned about global Bible translation. It was the largest attendance in its 23-year history.

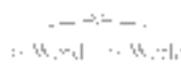
As a member of the collective impact alliance that makes up illumiNations, we continued to make great strides toward our goal of 100% of the world's population having Scripture in their preferred language by 2033. We are excited to see God's Word reach farther as we continue to release our Gateway Translations to our partners. These translations serve as source texts to smaller language populations, helping accelerate the translation process and getting us closer to the alliance's 2033 goal.

Beginning the year with a bang, illumiNations partnered with the 2020 Passion Conference to introduce a new generation to the mission and purpose of the Bible translation movement. From December 31 to January 2, 65,000 18- to 25-year-olds from 83 different countries and more than 1,700 universities gathered at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. They learned about this opportunity to eradicate Bible poverty, to reach every tribe and nation by 2033. The response was thrilling and included pledges of more than \$1.3 million!

This last year, we also celebrated a new all-time high for the total number of languages now served by a full Bible. Thanks to both technology acceleration and unprecedented collaboration among Bible translation agencies, the number of languages with the full Bible has nearly doubled in just the past 30 years—moving from 351 in 1990 to 700 in 2020.

Biblica is thrilled to be a part of such impact!

“The number of languages with the full Bible has nearly doubled in just the past 30 years—moving from 351 in 1990 to 700 in 2020.”



“God is on the move and the nations are coming to the light. Biblica’s generosity in this season through the illumiNations movement is a huge reason for the acceleration across this unique Bible translation alliance.”

- Todd Peterson, illumiNations Host

As the COVID-19 crisis swept across the globe, we doubled down with our partners to serve those who were hurting and in urgent need of God's Word. We released customized Scripture portions entitled "When Your Whole World Changes" as a special COVID-19 resource that ministered to 165,000 people in 31 languages.

Because of the generous support of investors like you, we launched a Bible outreach campaign called Stronger.Bible. Through this campaign, tens of thousands of English- and Spanish-speaking people in America received His comforting Word—more than 13,000 NIV Bibles were distributed and 42,000 COVID-19-related resources were downloaded.

We also launched The Word Worth Sharing, a bi-weekly Facebook video devotion by Biblica President and CEO Geof Morin, providing hope and encouragement in this challenging season. Over 17,000 people joined our online prayer events and our staff were honored to pray for the requests they shared.

Some of those most impacted by COVID-19 were the forgotten and marginalized in prisons. In 2020, we entered into a strategic partnership with Prison Fellowship International (PFI) to help children of incarcerated families find hope by engaging with God's Word.

In China, while people were in lockdown and church gatherings were restricted, enlarged impact came through our digital efforts. We provided six digital resources on Bible apps like WeDevote (essentially the Chinese version of YouVersion), which reached tens of millions of users. Compared to 2019, 2020 digital engagement in China more than doubled, and audio listening increased more than 10 times.

In the Middle East we mobilized over 180,000 printed Bible resources for those in Muslim countries in 2020. But as more people were confined to their homes, digital Bible engagement and requests for audio Bibles grew 150% from 2019. We are grateful to serve our world in this way for such a time as this.

1,167,559 People Reached

702,134

Christians facing
struggles

312,130

People living in
extreme poverty

153,295

People across the
Muslim world



"We are honored to serve those in the world's prisons and jails with our friends and partners at Biblica. Together, we don't take Jesus into prisons, we follow Him in."

- Andy Corley, President/CEO, Prison Fellowship International



Frontline Church

A woman from an internally displaced people (IDP) camp in Jalingo, Taraba State, Nigeria who received the new Hausa Bible in 2020.



Rising Generations

Pooja sitting with a few younger girls at the school in India where she helps coach.

There is no doubt that the effects of the global pandemic will be seen for years to come, especially in today's Rising Generations. Knowing this, we accelerated projects already underway. With publishing blockaded, we moved our youth evangelism resources to social media, apps, video, and digital devotionals. The result was a 260% increase over last year in the number of children and youth reached through our digital resources.

This year, we crossed a milestone, publishing Reach4Life into 12 languages and serving 366,052 youth in 31 countries. We also completed the translation of Chinese Reach4Life materials and conducted the first virtual Reach4Life training in China.

In India, we made our Scripture evangelism resource, Game of Life, available in new digital channels, resulting in 10,000 youth receiving the Good News of the Gospel. One of those youth is a young girl named Pooja. Her dream was to become a runner; however all the odds were stacked against her—she was born into the poverty of a low caste in India. Because of this, she was considered unworthy for all those reasons. But God made a way! Through the Game of Life, Pooja learned of Christ and her life was changed forever. Now, she is coaching and mentoring young girls and telling them of Christ's love. Thanks to investors like you, we are seeing more youth choose Christ and share the Good News with their peers and families.

At Biblica, we know that through partnership we can reach even more youth. That's why in 2020, we partnered with Young Life to provide nearly 87,000 Bibles in 24 countries throughout Africa. This partnership allows every Young Life camper who decided to follow Jesus to receive a Bible.

Through this season of hindrance and hardship, ministry innovation was borne and partnerships helped facilitate stunning impact. The result: life-changing outreach for so many.

1,006,159 Youth Reached

366,052

Reach4Life
participants

597,107

Children's
outreach

43,000

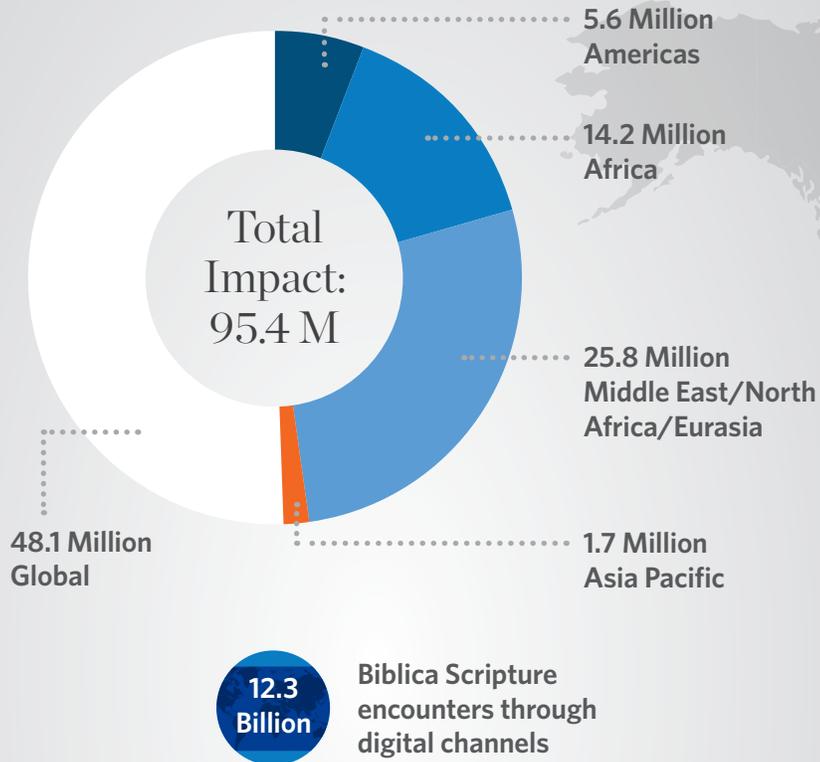
Sports
evangelism



"I am grateful for the long and fruitful ministry relationship Young Life and Biblica share. Each new project is a natural and vital next step for our organizations as we seek to reach young people with the Gospel and teach them to learn from and lean on God's Word in their walk with the Lord."

- Newt Crenshaw, President, Young Life

2020 Global Impact



In their own words



"We are grateful for our partnership with Biblica, providing God's Word to help us accomplish our mission to bear witness to the good news of the Gospel to children and families around the world—especially in the world's hardest places."

- Edgar A. Sandoval, Senior President/CEO, World Vision U.S.

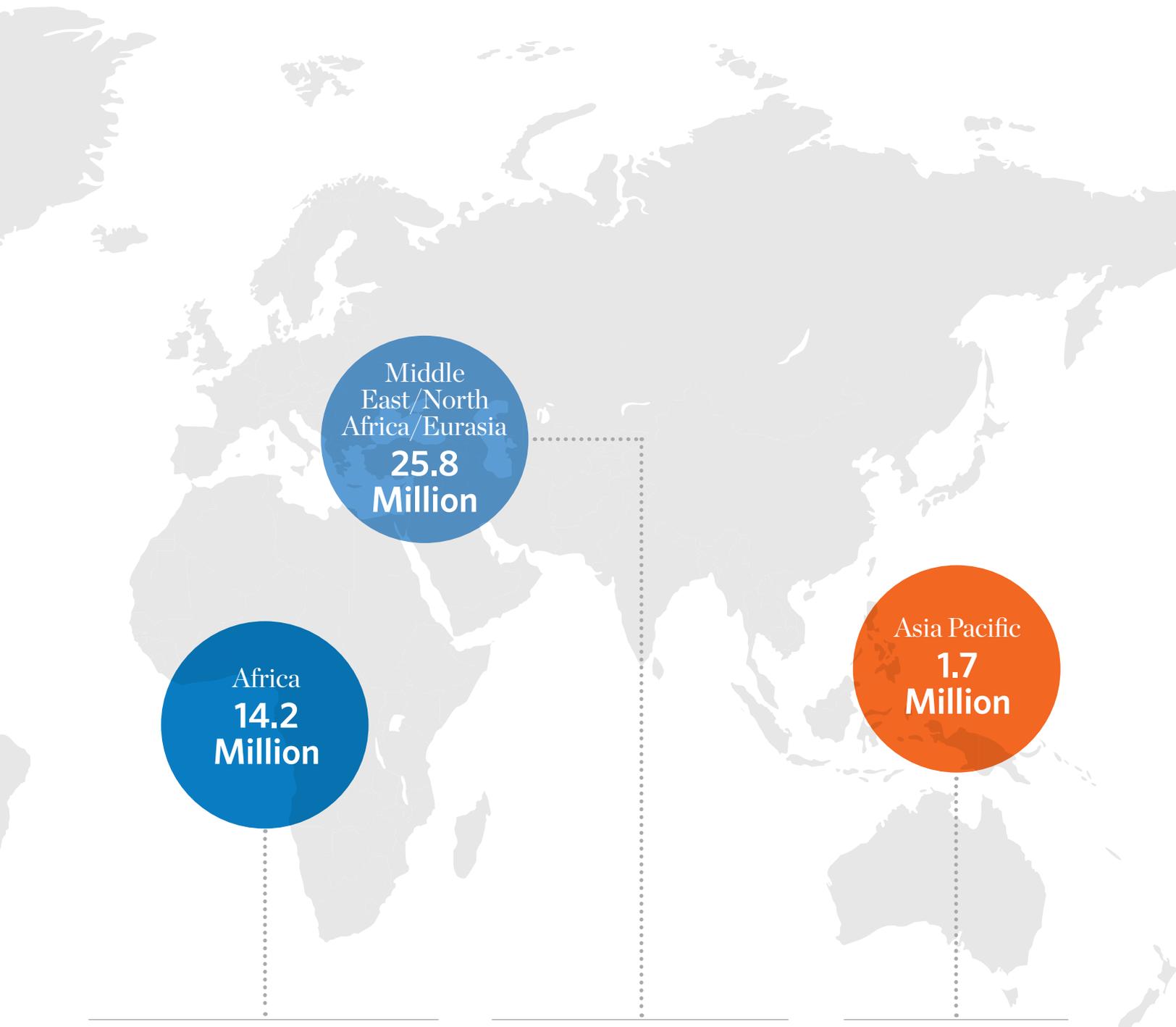


"During this historic time, we are grateful for our partnership to bring joy and the eternal hope found in God's Word to millions of children around the world."

- Franklin Graham, President/CEO, Samaritan's Purse



Our ministry in the Americas reached people of all ages in 2020. Nearly 200,000 children's resources were distributed, along with thousands of printed Bibles to our military, prisons, and churches throughout the region. 2020 required a major shift toward crisis response and sharing the Bible more freely in digital, audio, and video platforms. TV and radio specials throughout Latin America, along with free Bible distribution, reached nearly two million people. It was one of our greatest impact years to date in this region.



Over half a million children, teens, and adults benefited through Scripture outreach and discipleship programs in churches, schools, IDP camps, and cities across Africa in 2020. As the pandemic spread, we pivoted to more digital and audio platforms. In southern Africa alone, scores of young people gave their lives to Christ simply by listening to Reach4Life being read on the radio. Over 12 million people engaged with our 30-day crisis devotional, When Your Whole World Changes.

Beyond the four million Bible resources deployed in the Middle East and North Africa, 22 million more were released digitally in 2020, bringing 50% overall growth in Bible engagement through online platforms, mobile, and social media. In Central Asia, more than one million people engaged with our Russian Bible online in 2020.

We had 10 times the growth from 2019 to 2020 in online Bible reading and listening through mobile apps in Asia Pacific, as well as over one million printed Bible devotionals through our partner, The Word for You Today.

Emerging technologies—especially when paired with outstanding global partners—help speed up the movement of God’s Word. With your investment, in 2020 we continued to prioritize programs and resources that produced the highest return on mission. In partnership with some of the most remarkable Gospel ministries around the world—YouVersion, Faith Comes by Hearing, LUMO, and more—we have impacted nearly 100 million people around the globe with God’s Word.

Each month of this last year on YouVersion alone, we saw about 645 million Scripture texts read, 200 million chapters of Audio Scriptures accessed, and 4.4 million verses of Bible content shared from the app. **That’s more than 10 billion Scripture encounters through YouVersion—an average of about 320 interactions with Biblica Scripture every second of every day.**

This year, serving in partnership with Fuller Theological Seminary and illumiNations, we launched the Digital Training Library. This library is an online learning platform which provides real-time training resources for translation teams worldwide. Now active in its pilot phases, field teams no longer have to wait for outside experts. They can become proficient themselves and receive the targeted training and certifications they need—when they need them.

We also refreshed Biblica.com and had nearly 24 million people engage with our website, with almost five million people freely reading the Bible online throughout the year. Over 83,000 people engaged with us on our social media platforms.

11.9 Billion

YouVersion and Bible Gateway Scripture encounters

10 Million

Faith Comes By Hearing audio engagements

30 Million

LUMO visual Gospel interactions



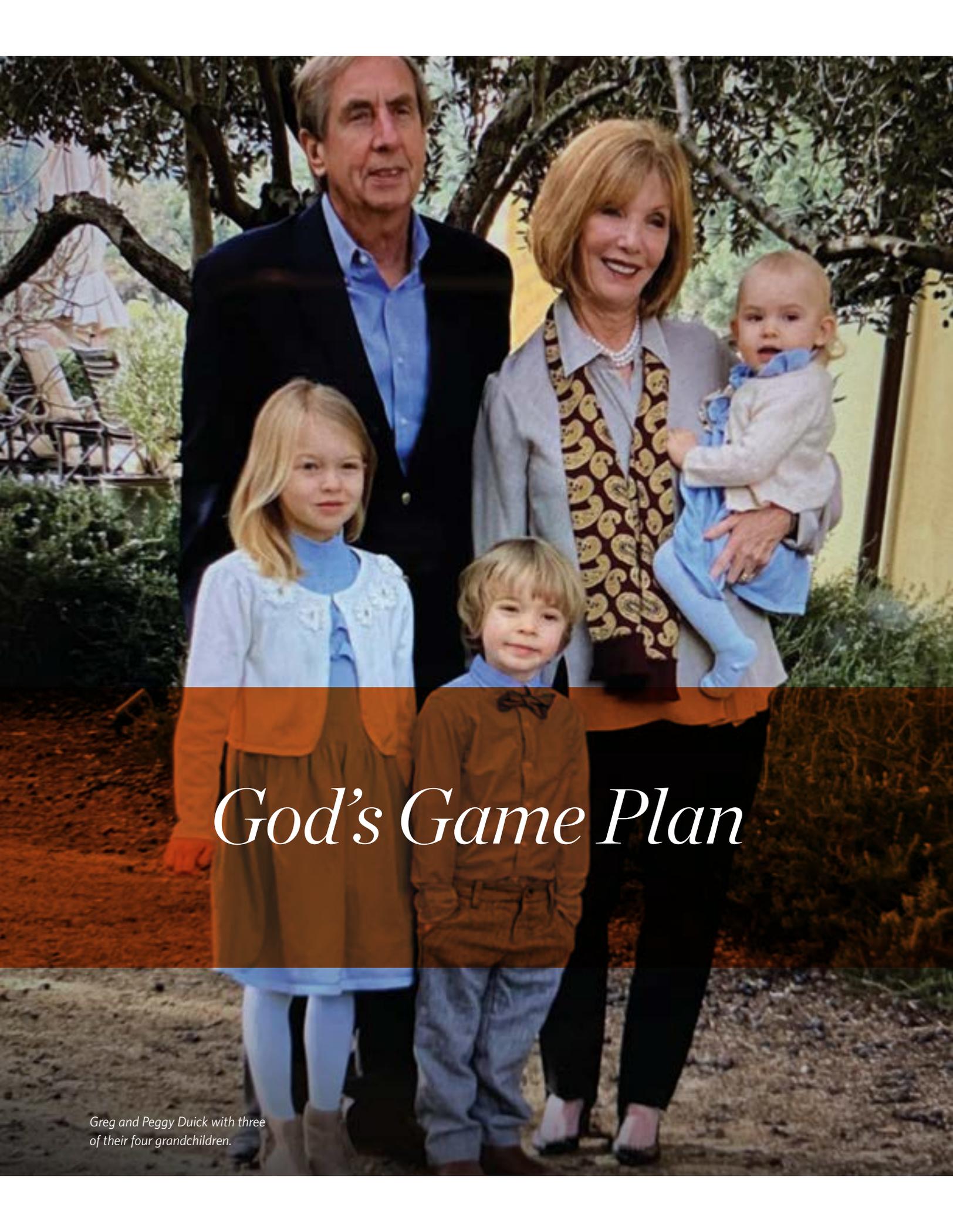
“Thank you Biblica for so generously releasing your Scripture to become the scripts for our visual Gospel media to serve millions!”

- Tessie DeVore, President, Bible Media Group & LUMO



Digital Acceleration

The Igbo New Testament was released in Nigeria in late 2019 both in print and digitally on YouVersion. The full Bible will be completed in 2021.



God's Game Plan

Greg and Peggy Duick with three of their four grandchildren.

As a lifelong Chicago Bears fan, Dr. Greg Duick and his wife Peggy would tell you that the Bears are practically another member of their family. Peggy jokes that Greg's dedication to the Bears over the years was second only to his medical career, and Greg laughs along with her.

The couple has been attending the annual Chicago Bears Gala for years and, as is his tradition, Greg always asks the players at his table to sign his program. One year, former Bears' player Matt Forté and his wife Danielle, both Biblica Advocates, were seated at the Duicks' table. In a chance moment—a side comment really—Greg mentioned something about prayer and Matt heard. Matt grabbed Greg's program back, and he added a Bible verse under his name. This small gesture was the beginning of the Duicks' adventure into the world of Bible translation.

Peggy has had a heart for God's Word for years, but it wasn't until they met the Fortés and the team at Biblica that Greg and Peggy learned of the great need for Bible translation and Bible ministry. In October 2019, Peggy attended the *illumiNations* gathering held in Ojai, California. Due to a scheduling conflict, Greg was unable to go. Every day, Peggy called Greg to replay the day's events. Having not known the breadth of the Bible translation movement, or the depth of need for the Word of God in native languages around the world, Peggy said, "It's like reading the book before you go see the movie. Sometimes it's actually better to see the movie before you read the book so you better understand."

Greg followed with, "The very fact that she was excited but couldn't explain it was enough for me to say, 'You know, I need to better understand this; there must be something great here.'" From then on, the Duicks were eager to determine their role in getting the Word of God into the hands of those who don't yet have it.

At the start of COVID-19 shutdowns, when Biblica launched Stronger.Bible—a website initiative with the goal of getting free Bibles into the hands of those who need it—Peggy jumped on board and set out to distribute 50 of them in her community. With Greg's help, she delivered them to a motel where many individuals experiencing homelessness live. For some time, Peggy has been serving this community with meal distribution, but this time, she handed them the Bread of Life. With a dear friend of hers, they distributed the remaining Bibles to residents of a Veterans Affairs community. Greg credits Peggy's curiosity and excitement around Bible translation and Bible ministry for the couple's involvement, saying, "We have the opportunity to do something together now, and the results are far greater than each individual performing by themselves."

At Biblica, we are grateful for investors like the Duicks and their commitment to seeing the Word of God made available to those who need it. We are All In, All Together.

"We have the opportunity to do something together now, and the results are far greater than each individual performing by themselves."

We ended 2020 awed by God's faithfulness, determined to break down barriers, connect people to the Bible as never before, and set God's Word free to serve all people. Now is the moment to reach deep into places torn by war, tyranny, and persecution so that everyone can experience the love of Christ.

As we reflect on this past year, we are also looking ahead to embark on a campaign to provide more Scripture, in more languages, in more ways, than ever before. We are All In, All Together with you—our investors, and our ministry partners! This past year helped lay the groundwork for the next three years, and we are eager to make this journey with you as we follow God's lead.

To meet such a great need, Biblica is embarking on a global campaign: to provide more Scripture, in more languages, in more ways, than ever before.

Our vision for the next three years:



Provide God's Word in 80 of the top 100 languages and accelerate 50 first-language translations.



Move 45 million children and youth into a new and growing relationship with Christ.



Equip frontline partners to guide 75 million people into growing Gospel discipleship.



All In, All Together



A Biblica missions team with children in 2019 who use Reach4Life at their school in Nigeria.

Leadership

In early 2020, our management team helped distribute Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes and Bible resources to children in Ecuador.

Our Mission is 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.

Management Team

Jonathan Call

Vice President, Translation & Publishing

Stephen Cave

Senior Vice President, Translation

Hans Combrink

Vice President, Training & Quality Assurance

Mark Finnie

Vice President, MENA/Eurasia

Mark Finzel

Vice President, Digital Innovation

Laura Fisher

Senior Vice President, Global Ministry

Aaron LeClaire

Senior Vice President, Impact & Strategy

Jason Mahaney

Vice President, Global Human Resources

Geof Morin

President/Chief Executive Officer

Lydia Munene

Vice President, Africa

Blake Silverstrom

Vice President, Investor Engagement

Tracy Thomas

Senior Vice President, Advancement

Bruce Trowbridge

Senior Vice President, Finance/Chief Financial Officer

(Identity Withheld)

Vice President, Asia Pacific

Board of Directors

Jim Bridges, Board Chair

*President/CEO
SuccessEd, LLC
Prosper, TX*

Gene Dewhurst

*Partner
Falcon Seaboard
Investment Co, LP
Director, VP-Finance & Secretary/
Treasurer
Falcon Seaboard Diversified, Inc.
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
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

*CEO
Life Balance Technologies
Sugar Land, TX*

Bruce McKenzie

*Senior Vice President
Northern Trust
Chicago, IL*

William Scott

*President/CEO
PetroLog International Inc.
Sugar Land, TX*

Henry Smith III

*CEO, Retired
IMCO Technologies, Inc
Highwood, IL*

Board Member Emeritus

Mike Richards, Sr.

*Partner
Bethesda Capital
Sugar Land, TX*

Financials



*For the unseen in our world, the NIRV Accessible Bible is a great joy to read.
This young woman was so happy to receive this New Testament.*

Dear Investor,

In 2020, during a period of economic uncertainty, Biblica was especially grateful to our ministry investors. Your generous and sacrificial giving helped to provide the resources needed to reach a world in desperate need of the Word of God.

As a result, Biblica was able to continue a multi-year trend of increasing its investment in ministry resources as a percentage of its annual operating expenses from 74% in 2017 to 77% in 2020. These trends highlight Biblica's commitment to develop scalable operational systems, implement best practices, and further align global resources with our strategic mission. Based on our high commitment to integrity and transparency, Biblica makes our last three years of audited financial statements and Form 990s conveniently available to the public on our website.

Thank you again for your generous partnership with Biblica and our mission to eradicate Bible poverty by 2033.

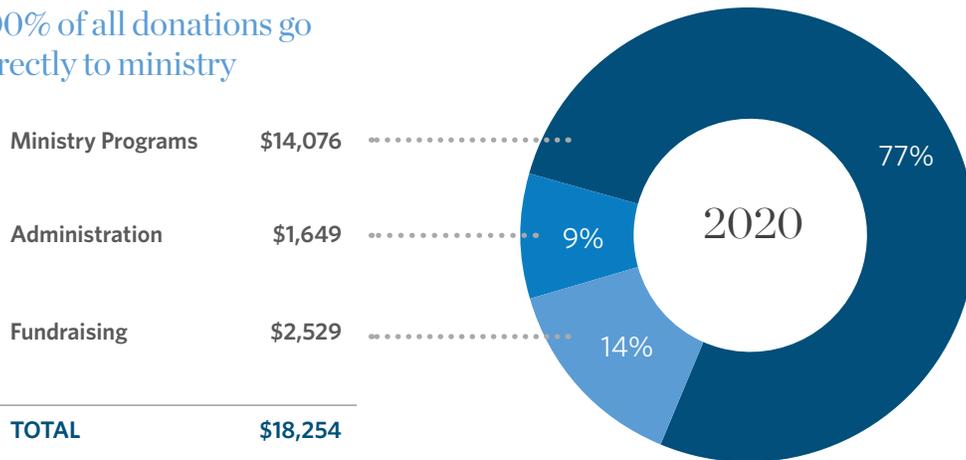
Gratefully,



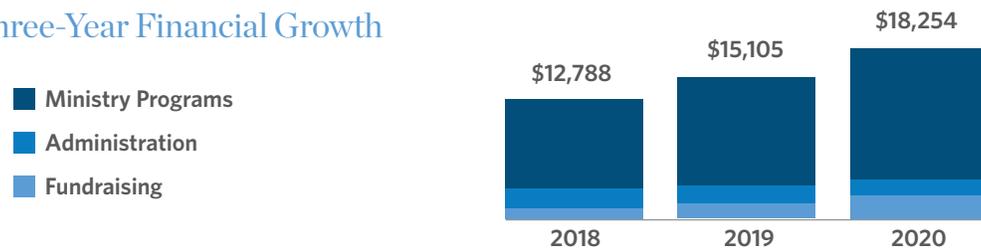
Bruce Trowbridge
Senior Vice President, Finance/CFO

“Sacrificial giving helped to provide the resources needed to reach a world in desperate need of the Word of God.”

100% of all donations go directly to ministry



Three-Year Financial Growth



All figures in thousands

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a pink and yellow striped shawl over a yellow top, is smiling and looking down at an open book. The book has Bengali text on its cover. She is wearing a gold earring and a necklace. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

*He has caused his wonders to
be remembered; the LORD is
gracious and compassionate.*

Psalm 111:4

Biblica.com

A woman in India reading *The Books
of the Bible* resource in Bengali.