

Compass Braille Newscast 2024-1

Greetings from our new CEO Sarah Dawkins

Dear Friends of Compass Braille,

It's been three months since I joined the Torch and Compass Braille families. As I have seen more of the work that is happening, I have been so encouraged. One of the highlights of being in Torch House is seeing the stacks of braille Bibles being compiled in various languages to be sent across the globe. Knowing that they will bring God's Word to those who have not previously been able to access it is incredible. From our embossers to hands across the world who can read the goodness of the gospel for themselves - what a ministry to be involved in!

The production of these volumes is an area where we see many volunteers willing to come and give their time to assemble and bind them. The unity of the Lord's people helping to fulfil Romans 10:14-15 ... "how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" Your support helps these volumes reach people who are otherwise unable to open a Bible for themselves. Thank you for all your partnership. I am excited to see how this work continues to grow and develop, reaching more blind people with the good news of Jesus. - Sarah Dawkins

English Braille Bibles

Sheila Armstrong, one of the blind trustees of Torch, said, "Would you be surprised if I told you it is almost impossible for a braille reader in the UK to buy a braille Bible? I'd really love to own one." We want to transcribe the latest translation of the NIV Bible and make it available in the new standard of English braille. There are two areas where we need to invest, the first is in the process of transcribing the text and the second is in the production of the braille. Because of the size of braille volumes of the Bible it will be available for people to buy in multiple volumes these cost £9.05 each to produce, meaning a whole Bible costs over £400! We are praying for people to partner with us so that we can make these available for £1.50 a volume, meaning the whole Bible would be £68. We want everyone to be able to read God's Word in an accessible format. Can you join us in praying that God's Word will be available in this new format to braille readers?

Runyankore/Rukiga New Translation Launch

You may remember that Compass Braille transcribed the Bible in this Ugandan language in 2020. The translation used then was the 1964 version. In 2023 we were asked to transcribe the 2008 New Revised Joint Translation. This version uses more modern language and includes deuterocanonical books and so can be distributed within schools and institutions which the previous translation could not. Both versions will continue to be available in braille. The transcription was completed within a couple of months and 2 complete copies were sent to Uganda in time for a launch event in November. A video surrounding the event was produced by the Bible Society of Uganda. If you are on Facebook you can access it on their page. Here are some quotes from various people featured in the video:

Serumaga Peter Lumbuya (Acting General Secretary The Bible Society of Uganda): “We are excited that this Bible will communicate to the people who cannot read with the eyes the rest use, those who feel the Word of God using their hands. ... It helps them also in education. It will be used for literacy, those who teach using the braille and it also helps the people to feel that they are part of the community and, instead of pushing them aside because they cannot see, they will also feel included. And this will increase their spiritual life and their scripture reading so they will be part of the community as they are informed and reading the message God wants them to receive.”

A young blind woman: “I am happy because the Bible Society has provided us with the Bible. This Bible will help me to perform in class to master the spellings very well and even to know God.”

A teacher of visually impaired children: “We the teachers have been struggling to bring for them the Word of God, sometimes even omitting some words. But now these braille Bibles will help them because they just read them directly, no mistakes. Any time they want to read they will read it. And they love the Word of God. Just listening to other people reading for them has been a challenge but when they are reading for themselves then it becomes easy and they also master what they want to master.”

A blind man: “Anyone can be an evangelist and some of us now that we are able to read, in addition to the English version (the Bible that we have been having in braille) now Runyankore is coming, I think we are going to be able to share the Word of God extensively with even those others who did not go to school.”

Newscast Updates

Transcription

Urdu: Work continues steadily on this Bible. Having completed the first 5 books of the Old Testament we are now switching to the New Testament and so the Gospel of Matthew has been sent for proofreading.

English NIV (2011): Surprisingly this edition of the NIV has not yet been transcribed but now work is well underway. We understand that there is a demand for this Bible in several countries including Nigeria.

Spanish Reina Valera: This is an old but much loved Spanish translation that is still widely used in Spain and Latin America alike - much like the King James Version is in English speaking countries. We are transcribing this for a Dutch organisation called Christian Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBB) to emboss and dispatch.

Ndebele: Preliminary work on this Zimbabwean language has begun.

Kazakh: This project was placed on hold last year while copyright issues were resolved. We hope to pick up where we left off soon.

Production

At the end of last year we received a large order of 2289 Bible volumes in 8 languages for various destinations in India. Production is going well with volumes in Telugu, Gujarati and Oriya already dispatched. Still to complete are volumes in Bengali, Assamese, Marathi,

Punjabi, and Kannada. Before completing these we plan to dispatch 200 copies each of the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy in Urdu. Each book is in 2 volumes so that is 800 volumes in total. We also have an order for 5 complete Bibles (215 volumes) in Runyankore for Uganda.

Finally

Please note the new postal address below. The website, email address and bank account details all remain unchanged. Please let us know if you would rather receive this by email or other format.

Abbreviations:

BS(s) = Bible Society(ies);
CB = Compass Braille;
PVD = People with Visual Disability;
UBS = United Bible Societies;
Vol(s) = Volume(s)

Newscast & Prayer Pointers are available on request in Text, Braille, Giant Print or by Email.

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