
THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF EGYPT

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



The Bible Society of Egypt exists to make the Scriptures available and accessible to all, at an affordable price, in a language people can understand, and in ways and programs that can help each one comprehend the message and effectively apply it.

Looking back at 2018, we are so grateful for the many opportunities and the generous support that has enabled an increased focus on **Bible Engagement programs**, expanding to serve thousands of people who are eager to study the Scriptures.



We believe this is the right direction at the right time. As living costs increase dramatically, people are forced to change their spending habits. Normal sales are flattening out for the first time in history. However, several exciting programs have been flourishing these past years.

This summer, over 190,000 children in Egypt, along with their families, were using our **Summer Church Competition booklet** to study the books of Nehemiah, Esther, and Philippians. This is an ongoing summer program that continues to develop, with over 1 million children using these booklets in the past 8 years!



This year, we added a **Bible Quiz** aspect for these younger kids to attend events and have inter-church competitions around this study booklet.



Another project that has really taken off is our **Training for Bible Study Group Leaders in the Coptic Orthodox Church**. Now in the third year of the program, we have more requests than we can handle. It is hard to express the enthusiasm and the incredible response from participants, including many priests, as they are

inspired and equipped to start their own study groups. The potential is limitless for groups to multiply throughout the



nation. Here is a recent [2-Minute Clip](#) from a Christian Satellite TV station where two priests state how this program is impacting themselves and their congregations.

Just recently, a doctor who works in a hospital right in front of our downtown bookshop came in and said, “My son attended one of your Bible Study group leaders trainings, and I would like to make a contribution to support your work.” This man had not been asked for a donation, but came in response to the support that he and his family had received and considered valuable.

Many of our regular distributions in 2018 include **65,000 free Bibles for 7th grade students**; free supplements



to help study the **Religion Curriculum** for both students and teachers; and a special Subsidized Family Package of **Scriptures for the poor**. This year, our **Christmas Distribution**

provided 16,200 poor children with free backpacks full of illustrated Scriptures.



Pastor Sammy, who is responsible for coordinating an outreach in Upper Egypt said, “This work was started 12 years ago. We never get support from other ministries because we are so far away from the city. We are so grateful to have these Scriptures to give to our children. When children receive these Bibles, it makes them feel like they belong to the church and it builds loyalty in them.”

Fr Philemon said, “I had come to the point of despair in my ministry. Your visit, sharing these beautiful resources, encouraging us and showing us how to use them, has renewed my hope. Your visit is like drops of rain in the dry desert.”

While **Kingo festivals** have been going on for 13 years now, he is still a beloved



character, still relevant and popular, and in great demand! This year, in addition to **515 festivals serving 187,000 children**, Kingo has been very busy as a major component of several other programs, helping make Biblical values practical for young children.

For teenagers, we held three major 4-day events, serving over 50,000



people with our **Talent Show program**. In preparation for **Bible Quiz competitions** at these events, we had **20,000 teenagers** studying the Gospel of Luke and the book of Nehemiah in-depth. Kingo was on hand early in the morning for the young children, and we also included a **Bible Quiz for the middle aged kids, ages 8-12**, using our Summer Competition booklet. This is very exciting for these kids, as they have

seen the teenagers doing the quiz show, and they are excited to participate in such a competition as well. As with the teens, the peers of these children were watching and listening and inspired. As this has become a complete family event, we also incorporated



a **new Family Quiz** into the main nightly meeting, so that families could compete with other families. They were randomly selected from the audience, and usually it was the mothers who did the best, as they had been helping their kids study and solve the various competition booklets in advance!

We met many new youth in the talent shows who really want to serve our Lord with all their gifts. The theme is "In His Image," and there were 70 Talent acts per day x 4 days x 3 events = **840 performances**, from solo to large groups, with at least 5,000 teens involved in presentation and thousands of others watching. We added yet another feature in 2018, inviting in-depth **Bible Research** in the books of Luke and Nehemiah. This was actually a great opportunity to serve yet another age group – **the college-age group of young adults** who are too old to enter the Talent Show or Quiz events. 37 Research papers were submitted this year.

As always, the **nightly family meetings** were jam packed with the whole family, a definite highlight, to worship with special music groups, to hear sermons and a clear presentation of the Gospel message, and to watch an amazing Biblical Drama.

Bookshop “Ministry Centers”

The vehicle of this continued outreach is our nationwide network of 16 bookshops, providing the connections and a hub for all of our Scripture



activities. Each local bookshop team has established ongoing relationships with the churches in the area, are aware of the needs, and working together to respond, increasing our access for making God’s Word available and affordable and understandable to all in Egypt.

The simple presence of these “ministry centers” on the city streets, the open Bible in the shop window, the ads and promotions, all raise the profile of God’s Word. People come in to ask questions about the Scriptures and faith, and purchase our products, both for personal use and for distribution. 25% of our distribution now comes directly from these bookshops.

In most of our bookstores, we have an

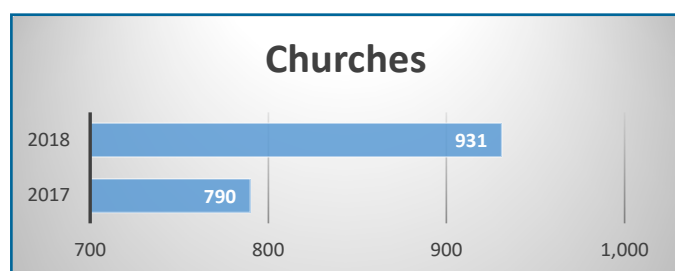
open Bible in the window. The pages are turned daily, as there are often people who walk by regularly and stop to read a short passage before continuing on their way. Recently, a man stopped briefly to read. He was obviously a very religious person. As he read, he shook his head in surprise and dispute. Turning, he walked away, but at the end of the block, he turned around and came back and continued to read. Three times he left and returned, showing confusion and perplexity as he read. Finally, he entered the shop and asked to see a Bible. The salesman explained that he had been reading the “Sermon on the Mount” and gave him a small selection focusing on this passage. The man immediately asked to see where this was in the Bible, and began to compare the tract with the Bible, word for word. The man decided to purchase a New Testament, and left. Three months later, still upset and perplexed, the man returned and asked to buy the Old Testament, and left with a full Bible. One year later, the man returned, but this time, the salesman no longer recognized him; he was a changed man, inside and out.

By God’s Grace and remarkable help we have been able to manage with a much lower deficit than feared, for two main reasons:

1. Generous contributions, both from Egypt and abroad.
2. A significant amount of our sales was from old stock calculated at old purchase prices. The challenge in 2019 will be the steadily increasing cost of world-wide paper prices, not just Egypt. We have been able to reduce the cost of many products by using less expensive

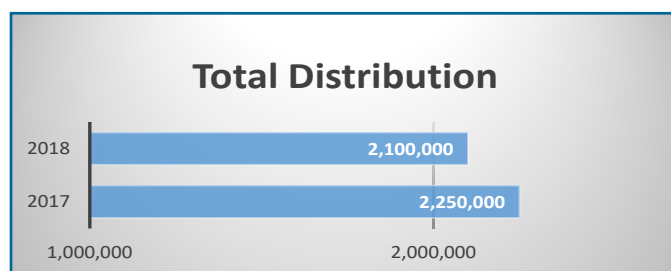
paper and bindings and covers while minimizing catalog varieties and consolidating orders with other printing ministries. We even re-typeset the NT in order to reduce the number of pages by 10%

In 2018, we intensified our efforts in local fundraising, our team of 45 full-time Church Relations team working extremely hard (as always). In 2017 we visited 790 churches, presenting the Bible Society work and receiving an offering of financial support. **In 2018, we visited 931 churches** (and in some churches we do up to 4 services) - that is 18 churches every week!



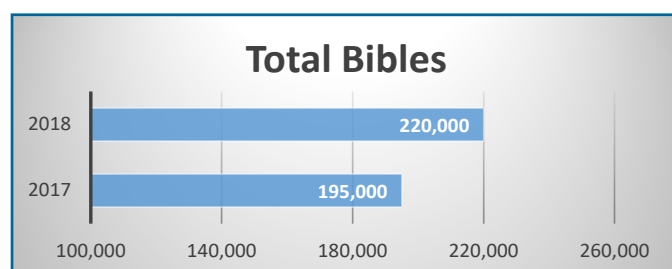
The local church contributions rose by 23%. Individual donations rose by 5% from a total of almost 7,000 individuals. So, despite an understandable drop in our regular sales, due to the decrease in the buying capacity of all Egyptians, **our total Local Donations increased in 2018 by 5%.** While the purchasing power of this amount is drastically less than before, this generosity affirms the commitment of Egyptians to the Bible Cause, a practical confirmation of local appreciation and support for the Bible Society of Egypt.

Despite a slight decrease in total distribution in 2018 (2,100,000 units of Scripture as compared to 2,250,000 in 2017), we are very encouraged with



an increase in total Bibles (220,000 compared to 195,000 in 2017) and some other specific products that are used in the various programs.

2018 Total Distribution:

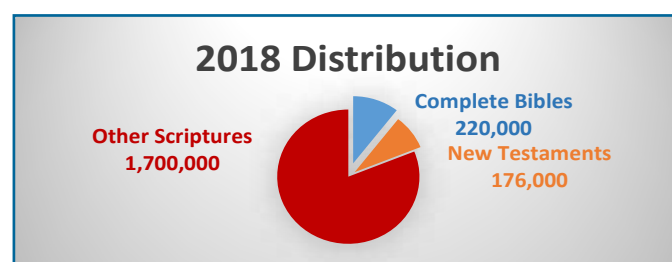


2,100,000 units of Scripture

Complete Bibles: 220,000

New Testaments: 176,000

Other Scriptures: 1,700,000



Goals and Prayer Requests 2019

We will focus on the Delta region with our Training Program for Bible Study Group Leaders in 2019. There is a very low Christian presence in the Delta, and this is the region where the least activities are being done. So we are looking forward to this initiative.

We are starting a 3-year push to get the Scriptures Translated into the Colloquial dialects of both Cairen

and Saïdi (Upper Egyptian), printed and/or recorded in audio formats, and digitally distributed widely and freely with huge social media campaigns and



marketing. We have some portions already available and will start by getting those reviewed and made available.



We plan to finish all the **Bible World renovations** by mid-year 2019 and have the new Bible World Tour up and running strong this summer, with the goal to **strengthen children in their faith, equipping Egyptian youth with a solid, life-long confidence in the Word of God.** We also hope to create a Mobile Bible World experience to serve children throughout the country as well. Please pray for **urgent need of funding for this Bible World Renovations** project

The new financial reality hits hard in 2019. Operation and production prices continue to rise and there is no way to increase prices. Our goal is to keep the Scriptures affordable and to continue and increase the reach of effective Bible Engagement programs. Please pray for **wisdom for BSOE Leadership** as they navigate these challenges.

Recently a lady came into our bookshop with her family. She asked for a Bible and while she browsed, her older daughter, about 13 years old, asked for the Gospel of Mark. The salesman found it strange for her to ask for this book specifically, and asked her. She said that she had heard the story about “the bleeding woman” from a Christian girlfriend in school, and wanted to know more. This fellow student of hers had most likely received the Gospel of Mark in our free School Distribution project.



THANK YOU

We know that God’s Word is powerful and at work. We **thank you** for your partnership and prayers as we reach out to all with products and activities that will help people engage personally in the Scriptures, be strengthened in their faith, and share with others.