



# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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## CBS at a Glance

### Where we have been

- 1840 - Founded in Chicago.
- 1871 - Provided Bibles to the city after the Great Fire.
- 1880 - Worked with Dwight Moody
- 1900 - Chicago Bible settlement house with Emma Dryer
- 1952 - Gutenberg Award established

### What we are doing

- 1,144 jail inmates enrolled in small group Bible study
- 235 inner-city school children learn to read using the Bible
- 23 churches in partnership to reach their community with the Bible
- 9,045 Scripture resources provided to jails, hospitals, schools and churches this year

### Chicago Bible Society

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## New Ventures & A New Look

### Chicago Bible Society Reached More People In 2014

2014 saw a major expansion of our children's literacy program, a totally revamped website and steady growth with the Project Philip jail ministry. We continue to provide Bibles to chaplains, outreach ministries, and online. Please see the separate articles on Project Philip and the Bible Provision ministry.

#### Literacy Program Expands in the New Year

The Urban Children's Literacy Program continues its growth. We have now moved from being a pilot project – reaching 25 children – to a city-wide effort in Cabrini-Green, Austin and Englewood reaching more than 200 school children in some of Chicago's toughest neighborhoods.



New website at [ChicagoBibleSociety.org](http://ChicagoBibleSociety.org) shows CBS's new look

The success of this program demonstrates how strategic partnerships brought their strengths together to meet a critical need. Now we have both improved reading skills and a new group of young people who know at an early age the stories of the Bible. In a society and a culture where Bible knowledge is at an all-time low, this partnership makes an impact.

#### New Website Up and Running

As featured in our last newsletter, the new website and a new address ([ChicagoBibleSociety.org](http://ChicagoBibleSociety.org)) is up and running. The response has been enthusiastic. The result has been more timely content, including blogs and events, listed on the home page. The Bible Online continues to be our most visited site. "Keep downloading God's Word!"

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## PROVISION: BRINGING GOD'S WORD TO THOSE IN NEED

In 2014, Chicago Bible Society provided 4,109 Bibles and 4,936 New Testaments or Scripture portions to various ministries in the Chicago area. This includes nearly 2,000 Bibles to Cook

County Jail and 2,360 Scripture resources to Courtside Ministries.

Chicago Bible Society partners with chaplains in institutions and with ministries to make sure

that the Bible is available to those who desire to read it in a format and translation that they can understand. Every Bible is given to someone who

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# PROJECT PHILIP AT COOK COUNTY JAIL TOUCHES HUNDREDS OF LIVES

*“After the first 4 weeks, the change was real and profound.”*

This past year, 142 inmates enrolled in Project Philip, 36 of which were Spanish-speaking inmates and 118 were English-speaking. We saw a significant amount of growth in the main jail facility with two additional groups (a total of 19 participants) starting in the mid-summer and finishing by the end of the reporting period.

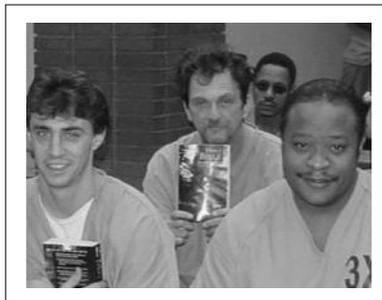
One of the surprising things is finding that God will open an unexpected door while closing a door that we thought would open. We were planning to expand the Project Philip program to the Will County Jail, but circumstances changed and we were not able to start

there. However, another volunteer came and we expanded the Cook County program instead – opening a new group in Division Five.

Another unexpected development was the closing of the Boot Camp for six months due to issues unrelated to our program there. The good news is that the facility reopened on a limited basis this summer and the numbers have increased enough that we will be re-starting the program in the near future.

An example of transformation is Joe’s story. He accepted Jesus and completed Project Philip. He was released on parole and re-

turned to his family. Our chaplain kept in touch with him and helped him find a church. A few weeks later, the chaplain received a telephone call from Joe’s wife.



Inmates studying the Bible at Project Philip in Chicago

The change in his behavior was so profound that she wanted to know what happened in jail. The chaplain met with her and as a result she too became a Christian.

## “TRANSFORMATION!” A Message from Ken Oliver

### Transformation!

What does Chicago Bible Society do? I have been asked that question many times. We distribute Bibles – or at least that is what we used to do. We still provide Bibles, but it is not the only thing we do. I would then go through the list of programs that we do, but it felt like I would lose people.

Then when they seemed puzzled, I would over-explain the programs. It only got worse. I think of myself as a pretty good communicator, but I found

myself communicating poorly about something very important.

Then it dawned on me: “transformation.” We are in the transformation business. The Bible changes people’s lives. God works in many wonderful ways – acts of love and compassion can be transformative. Sharing about our personal encounter with God and fellowshiping together are also transformative.

But – and this I truly believe – no deep and profound transformation can happen apart from God’s Word.

When God really acts to change a person’s life, He uses the Bible as the primary means.

The challenge today is that so many Christians are living a life only partly or shallowly transformed because they do not know the Bible and do not have the tools or encouragement to seriously read the Scriptures. That is our task. We are in the transformation business.

### Chicago Bible Society Board of Directors

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# REACHING MORE CHILDREN AT CABRINI

The Urban Children’s Literacy Program, which began last year as a pilot project, is now reaching 200 children in some of Chicago’s most challenging neighborhoods. The program uses literacy materials developed by American Bible Society and the Bank Street College of Education using stories from the Bible.

Last year, in partnership with By the Hands Club for Kids, we had 35 second-grade kids from the Cabrini-Green hous-

ing project use the program. The results were impressive: a 35% decrease in kids reading below grade and a 250%



1st-Grader improving his reading skills using the Mission:Literacy reading program.

increase in kids reading above grade. This year we have expanded the program to sites in Englewood and Austin neighborhoods of Chicago.

Donnita Travis, the founder and Executive Director of By the Hands Club, welcomes the expanded partnership with Chicago Bible Society. She comment-

ed that the children really enjoy and remember the stories. The results speak to the impact that we are having on the lives of these young children.

Ken Oliver of Chicago Bible Society said that this is the type of partnership that CBS is looking to create in the city. Creatively using the Bible to have a real impact on the lives of people in need.

## PROVIDING BIBLES (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

has expressed a desire to read it. In most cases, the chaplain or pastor is able to follow up with that person. At a time when jails and other institutions have had to cut back on their budgets, we are often the only source of materials available to those who minister there.

In 2014, the value of all Bibles, provided free of charge by Chicago Bible Society, was \$24,099.

There is still a need to provide printed Bibles to prisons, jails and other institutions where people cannot get access to Scriptures in any other way. Today, many have been too quick to dismiss the need for the Bible to be made available for all. Using inaccurate or prejudiced stereotypes, some would say that providing Bibles is a wasteful expense.

We strongly disagree.

Many do not have smart phones or other devices that allow easy access. Certainly, those behind bars cannot access the internet. Poverty, isolation or lack of education remain barriers.

While distributing Bibles is no longer our sole purpose, or even the largest program, it remains an important part of the mission and ministry of Chicago Bible Society ▪

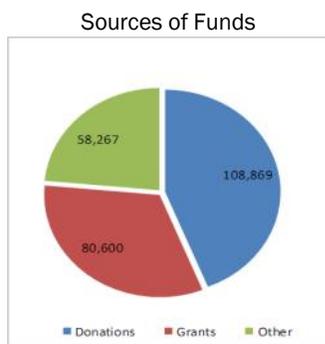
## 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW (CONTINUED)

### Year ends well— Challenges continue

2014 ended well financially as we covered our expenses and showed a small surplus. Chicago Bible Society had total revenues of \$247,737 and expenses

of \$225,970. We ended the year with net assets of \$95,262 in the Restricted Fund and \$18,196 in the General Fund.

For more information please contact our office.



	12 Months Ending	Dec 31, 2014
<b>Revenue &amp; Support</b>		
Donations	\$	108,869
Grants		80,600
Other		58,268
	\$	247,737
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs	\$	123,280
Administration		52,137
Occupancy		27,913
Communication		11,985
Other		10,655
	\$	225,970