

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

<i>Building Partnerships</i>	1
<i>Providing Bibles</i>	1
<i>Children's Literacy</i>	2
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	2
<i>Year in Review</i>	2
<i>Project Philip</i>	3
<i>"Middle Man"</i>	3

**CBS at a Glance****Where we have been**

- 1840 - Founded in Chicago.
- 1871 - Provided Bibles to the city after the Great Fire.
- 1876 - Started Chicago Bible Work with Dwight Moody
- 1892 - Chicago Bible House founded by Emma Dryer
- 1952 - Gutenberg Award established

**What we are doing**

- 1,296 jail inmates enrolled in small group Bible study
- 200 inner-city school children learn to read using the Bible in the first year
- 21 churches & 18 ministries in partnerships to reach their community with the Bible
- 8,316 Scripture resources provided to jails, hospitals, schools and churches this year

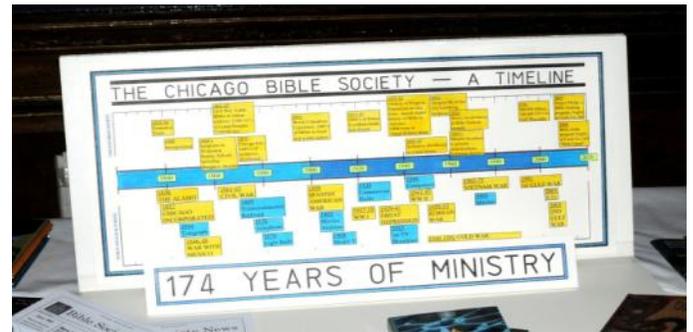
**Chicago Bible Society**

4300 N. Hermitage Ave  
Chicago, IL 60613  
(773) 857-0741  
[www.ChicagoBibleSociety.org](http://www.ChicagoBibleSociety.org)

**Building Partnerships****Chicago Bible Society works with 39 ministries and churches**

The mission of the Chicago Bible Society is to distribute the Bible and encourage its reading and study. We make sure that the Bible is available through our website and through targeted distribution to populations such as jail inmates.

The largest part of our work, however, is programs that encourage people to read and understand the Bible. We do this through Project Philip, through our children's literacy project and through partnerships with 39 urban ministries and churches.



A timeline of CBS ministry since 1840

Central to our mission is partnership. We work with Chicago churches and ministries to assure that God's Word is available and read. Our partners include inner-city churches, county jails chaplains, hospital chaplains, youth programs and senior's centers.

This year we partnered with 39 institutions – both with Bible engagement programs and in providing Scripture to meet special needs.

Find out more about our partnerships by visiting our website:

**[ChicagoBibleSociety.org](http://ChicagoBibleSociety.org)**

**PROVISION: BRINGING GOD'S WORD TO THOSE IN NEED****Bibles for Jails**

CBS targets its Bible provision to those areas where people do not have access to God's Word. Our major ministry is with the county jail systems including Cook County and Will County. This program year, we provided 7816 Scriptures, of which 2779 were Bibles, and 5040 were

Scripture portions. This includes 1200 Bibles for the Cook County Jail program.

**Church Partnerships**

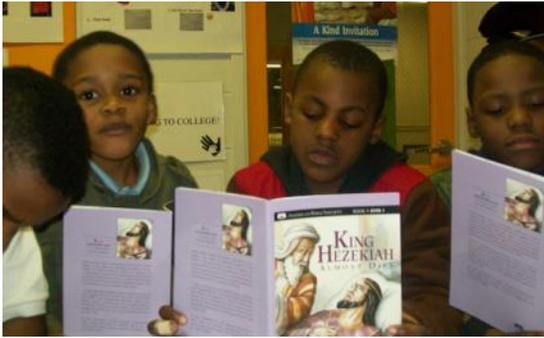
This year we partnered with 21 small churches, ranging from Baptist to Pentecostal to Lutheran to Catholic, and provided more than 3000 Bibles or Scripture

portions either free or at cost.

**Ministry Partnerships**

We provided 1741 Scriptures for Courtside Ministries, and 77 Bibles for Covenant Youth Collision. We also distributed 1500 daily bible reading guides at year end for use by church and outreach ministries.

## BIBLE-BASED LITERACY NOW REACHES 200 CHILDREN



Learning the Bible while learning to read

Chicago faces two great challenges: Low reading scores among a large number of school children, and a generation of children growing up without any knowledge of the Bible.

When children do not learn to read they will fall behind in school and even-

tually drop out. There is a direct relationship to dropping out of school and become involved in criminal activity. As one official put it: “we know how many prisons to build based on the number of children who drop out of school by the 10th grade.”

Chicago Bible Society has partnered with By The Hand Club for Kids and American Bible Society to directly address these two problems. The *Mission:Literacy* reading program uses the great stories of the Bible and professionally written reading materials to teach reading skills and Biblical knowledge to students reading on a first and second

grade level.

Three years ago this started as a pilot project in the Cabrini-Green Housing Project with 35 kids. In the pilot project, we saw significant increases in reading scores. We also saw a big increase in content retention, meaning the kids remembered the stories they read.

Today, we have expanded to Englewood and Austin, reading 200 students who are involved in By The Hand’s tutoring program. We recently met with their staff and may expand to two other Chicago communities in the next year.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Chicago Bible Society recently partnered with Covenant Youth Collision – a ministry that works with small churches on the north side of Chicago to provide the sort of experience that large churches are able to provide through their youth programs. Josh Hibben, at age 26, is the founder and director of Covenant Youth Collision. The ministry partners with 15 churches: bringing 80 diverse high school

and junior high students together with 20 student leaders every week for fun and to learn about Jesus.

This past summer, Josh put on a summer day camp called “Kids College.” This outreach brought in 200 students over 4 weeks of camp. Chicago Bible Society partnered with Josh and donated Bibles for the kids to use. For many, it was the first time they ever opened a Bible.

Many of these students opened

their first Bible because of CBS’ donation, and many kids took home these bibles after hearing about the love of Jesus for the first time!

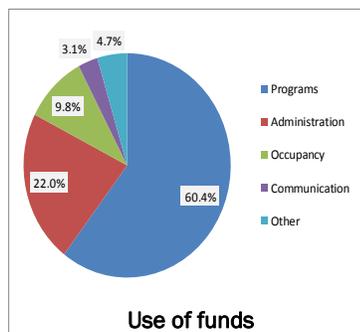
Josh says “I am passionate about creating and inviting others into these spaces for all people to encounter the love of Jesus.” The Bible is fundamental to the ministry. Whether it is in the weekly programs or the large group gatherings, Josh and his team are committed to “diving into scripture” with students.

## 2016 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

2016 saw some important changes. We moved our office from its downtown location to the north side – with the result that we reduced our office expenses by 75%. We finished two challenging years on a positive note, seeing an increase in our unrestricted funds account after two negative years.

We also have some signifi-

cant transitions in our board of directors. Eugene Lyman retired as President after serving ten years, and Jaime Shedd retired after nine years, the last two as Vice President. We welcomed David Dault and Michael Reletzky to our board at the beginning of the year, and Marion Ostrega was elected this December.



	12 Months Ending	Dec 31, 2016
<b>Revenue &amp; Support</b>		
Donations		\$ 111,891
Grants		58,201
Other		24,042
		<hr/>
		\$ 194,134
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs	\$	120,865
Administration		44,105
Occupancy		19,605
Communication		6,129
Other		9,328
		<hr/>
		\$ 200,032

# PROJECT PHILIP NOW TOUCHES THOUSANDS OF LIVES IN JAIL

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

Project Philip entered its ninth year seeing its 1,000<sup>th</sup> inmate graduate. By focusing on Bible study in a small group context, we have seen profound changes in the lives of those in the program.

This past program year, we had 152 inmates enroll in the Project Philip program, 46 of which were Spanish speaking inmates and 106 were English-speaking.

We continued to grow the program within the mail jail facility at 26th Street and California Ave, with a new group starting in Division 10, which is the maximum security wing of the jail. Even though the Boot Camp closed in 2014, we were able

to increase the overall participation in the program.

We are excited that our small groups continue to show very high participation rates, which about 80% of enrollees graduating after 12 weeks. In the jail setting where many are in the facility for relatively short duration, this 80% represents a nearly zero drop-out rate as most of those who do not complete the course do so because of trials or release.

We have now enrolled 1296 inmates and graduated 1044 over the past eight years. We have also seen 711 make a first time commitment of faith.

We are also thankful for the contributions of our



Jail can be a lonely time of searching

partners at Cook County: the Bible League International, Chaplains for Christ and Chicagoland Prison Outreach.

We look forward to 2017 when we will have our first cohort within the women’s division at the jail. We pray that God will continue to touch the hearts and minds of the inmates there.

## “WE ALL NEED A MIDDLE MAN”

A Message from Ken Oliver

### “The Middle Man”

It has been “a rule of thumb” for many years now that the “middle man” is a bad thing which we should all avoid. “Buy direct; cut out the middle man” means we are getting a better deal. Companies are flattening out their organizational structures, eliminating middle management. Being in the middle seems like a bad thing, something unnecessary, an obstacle to be overcome.

However, we all need “a middle man.” A mediator,

someone to stand in the gap, someone to connect us together. Teachers connect us to the world of knowledge; parents connect us the world of adulthood. Being in the middle: connecting, facilitating, bringing together people with a passion for ministry – that is the sort of positive middle-man role that Chicago Bible Society embraces.

We don’t just distribute Bibles (although that continues to be important); we bring people together so that the Good News is proclaimed more effectively. We are a

place where Catholics, Evangelicals and Mainline Protestants can come together and work on common ministry. We create partnerships so that the Bible is not only available, but read and understood. That is our “middle” role and we celebrate it.

### Chicago Bible Society Board of Directors

- Jeffrey M. Schwab, President
- Allen Stryczek, Vice President
- Michael Renetzky, Secretary
- Dr. Berlean Burris
- Dr. David Dault
- Eugene W. Lyman
- Rev. Jesus Nuñez
- Kenneth C. Oliver
- Marion S. Ostrega
- Lydia Talbot

#### Emeritus

- Dr. John H. Armstrong
- Mr. Victor Both
- Rev. George Lane, S.J.