



Bible Society News

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Since 1840

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Photography by A. Askew

Reading the Bible is Fundamental

Providing the Bible and encouraging its serious study

A central part of our mission is working in partnership with churches and ministries to assure that God’s Word is available and read. Our partners are churches, county jail 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.

Project Philip – 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 main

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, with about 80% of enrollees graduating after 12 weeks. In the jail where many are in the facility for a 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.

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2016 Gutenberg Awards

Dr. Lane Dennis and Tommy Lee honored at Annual Dinner



Tommy Lee (l) and Lane Dennis (r) shows their awards

The Chicago Bible Society celebrated the Gutenberg Awards with this year’s winners on October 12, 2016. Dr. Lane Dennis is President and CEO of

Crossway, the publisher of the ESV Bible. Tommy Lee is President of Resource Global and a leader among the younger generation of Asian Americans.

The Gutenberg Award was established in 1952 and has been awarded annually since then. Some of the best know award winners have been Billy Graham (1962), Cardinal Bernardin (1983) and Dr. Martin Marty (1986). The award recognizes people who have contributed to the understanding of the Bible or who have contributed to the betterment of the community through their Christian witness.

Reaching Youth with the Bible



Josh Hiben of Covenant Youth Collision interviewed Josh Hiben, who at age 27, is the founder and director of Covenant Youth Collision. His 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.

Josh explained the name: “The unusual name comes from a student’s misinterpretation of our original idea in 2008, forming a youth *coalition*. After a couple laughs, the name ended up sticking.”

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.

These students received their first bible because of CBS’s 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.

The average size of a Protestant church on the north side of Chicago is under 50 people. Most do not have youth programs. “What drove me to work with kids in the city is the simple fact that there are not enough people doing it . . . millions of kids are not being invited to encounter this love of Jesus.”

“Our goal is for kids to encounter the love of Jesus, and live in a new way with Christ. This encounter and new way of living occurs all year long when churches share their resources and their leadership to create a strong ministry for all of our students.”

You can read the full interview with Josh on our website at ChicagoBibleSociety.org/blog/hiben

Reading the Bible (cont’d from page 1)

We have also seen 711 inmates make a first time commitment of faith.

We are thankful for the contributions of our partners at Cook County, include the Bible League, Chaplains for Christ and Chicagoland Prison Outreach.

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 7,816 Scriptures, of which 2,779 were Bibles, and 5,040 were Scripture portions. This includes 1,200 Bibles for the Cook County Jail and 1,741 Scriptures for Courtside Ministries.

Children’s Bible Literacy – Our partnership with By the Hand Club for Kids continues to show positive results, with more than 200 1st and 2nd grade students using the Mission Literacy program to enhance their reading skills and learn about the Bible stories.

Small church partnerships – This year we partnered with 21 small churches, ranging from Baptist to Pentecostal to Lutheran to Catholic, and provided more than 3,000 Bibles or Scripture portions either free or at cost.



Chicago Bible Society At A Glance

Where we have been

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

What we are doing

- 1,296 jail inmates enrolled in small group Bible study
- 235 inner-city school children learn to read using the Bible
- 39 churches & ministries in partnership to reach their community with the Bible
- 7,816 Scripture resources provided to jails, hospitals, schools and churches this year