



# Bible Society News

Volume 79, Issue 3

Winter, 2017

*Since 1840*

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*\*Photography by A. Askew*

## Partnership is the Way CBS Reaches More People with the Bible

At Chicago Bible Society, we do not just distribute Bibles, we make partnerships where the Bible is used and understood. From jail ministry to youth ministry and everything in between, we work with outreach organizations and small churches to provide them with the Scripture resources that they need to impact their community.



Reading the Bible at Youth Collision event

**Youth Partnerships**

Chicago Bible Society is working with Covenant Youth Collision and its director, Josh Hiben, to provide Bibles for the Junior High School grade sum-

mer camp. Over 100 kids from mostly the north side of the city attended this week long event. Chicago Bible Society provided the easy to read versions of the Bible that were used there. We also provided a dozen study Bibles

for their leadership training program for older youth.

**Children**

Our work with By the Hand Club for Kids continues, reaching hundreds of kids in the poorest neighborhoods with the story of Jesus and the Bible. This year, the tutoring program was

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## 2017 Gutenberg Award Dinner

Chicago Bible Society celebrated the 2017 Gutenberg Award on October 12 at the University Club of Chicago. The award winner was Cardinal Blase Cupich. One of the highlights of this year's dinner were displays by many of the organizations with who we partner. We are thankful for Courtside Ministries, By the Hand Club for Kids, Covenant Youth Collision, Chaplains for Christ, and Catholic Scripture School for joining us in this celebration.

Chicago Bible Society has been presenting the Gutenberg Award annually



Director Oliver, Cardinal Cupich and Fr. Baima with the Gutenberg Award\*

since 1952. Winners have included both lay and clergy leaders from all Christian Confessions. Cardinal Cupich was the fourth Catholic Archbishop to receive the award, preceded by Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1974, Cardinal Bernardin in 1983, and Cardinal George in 1998.

## City Partnerships (continued from page 1)



Inmates at the Cook County Jail, behind the wire.

one of the featured partners in our new video presentation.

### Project Philip

Project Philip – our partnership with the Cook County Jail chaplains – expanded in 2017. A new women’s program opened in the spring, and we are on track to expand again next year with Life Learning partnership with Chicagoland Prison Outreach. The Life-Learning program will be a section of Division 10 that will be a “safe space” where both Christians and non-Christians can live as long as they participate in the

Bible study and education program and exhibit good behavior. Inmates in the maximum security areas typically stay for 6 months or longer.

With a population of 8,000 inmates, Cook County Jail is the largest facility of its kind in the county. The jail is a detention center for those who have been arrested but who are not able to be released on bail. Nearly 100,000 people walk through its doors every year. Those at the jail are either very poor or have been charged with serious crimes. Project Philip reaches a vulnerable population at a place and time of great need for spiritual and life-style transformation. About 20% of the inmates are Spanish-speaking and less than 10% are women.

The Project Philip started in 2007 and is now in its tenth year. Chicago Bible Society, using its experience and network of relationships within the jail system, designed and initiated the project. We brought together the primary partners: the Bible League International, a publisher of study materials with no experience working in a prison setting, Chaplains for Christ a prison ministry operating in six of the eight divisions at the jail, and Chicagoland Prison Outreach which provides chaplain services in the maximum security wing.

## From the Executive Director’s Desk

### *Bible Distribution still matters.*

Chicago Bible Society continues to be the primary provider of Bibles to the county jail systems in the metropolitan area. This past year, we provided 4,200 Bibles to Cook County Jail and 1,220 Bibles to Will County Jail. In addition, we provided 1,604 Bibles to area hospitals and other ministries, and 1,885 Bible portions and reading guides to churches and ministries. This represents partnerships with 39 churches and institutions in the Chicago area.

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. What makes us effective is our wide network of partners who work in the institutions and communities where the Bible is needed.

- Ken Oliver



## 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

- 1,560 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
- 7,024 Scripture resources provided to jails, hospitals, schools and churches this year