



# Bible Society News

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*Since 1840*

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*\*Photography by M. Adams*

## 2018: A Year of Challenge and Success



New Bibles arrive at Cook County Jail

2018 was a year of challenges and successes. Our Bible Provision ministry continues to make strong impact as we provided nearly a thousand bibles to Cook and Will County Jails, nearly three thousand Scripture resources to hospitals and outreach ministries. We also helped churches purchase, at cost, 1,600 Bibles for use in ministry. Our

partnerships continue to grow, as we connected with a number of new church ministries this year. Our partnerships also reflect the breath of our relationships, from jails, hospitals, Baptist churches in the city, non-denominational churches in the suburbs and the Chicago Archdiocese.

Project Philip at the county jail also continues to grow. We have Bible groups in five locations, including the women's division. For the first half of the year we had to suspend the program because the jail was undergoing a major reorganization. However, this summer, Project Philip came back strong. We enrolled 113 inmates, had 64 make a first time or renewed commitment to follow Christ and graduated 103 out of 113 – an amazing 91% success rate.

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## Gutenberg Award Honors Sutter and Magill

It's "back to the future" as the Gutenberg Award celebration returned to a lunch format after 35 years. Starting in 1952 as a luncheon, it moved to a dinner gala in 1983 when Cardinal Bernardin received the award that year.



Gathering at the Union League Club for the Gutenberg Award luncheon\*

Chicago Bible Society honored two leaders on October 18. Arloa Sutter is Executive Director of Breakthrough Ministries. She has built the organiza-

tion from the beginning, and today has a large and successful ministry to Chicago's west side, holistically ministering to the social, physical and spiritual needs of both the homeless and poor families.

Hugh Magill began his career in ministry before moving into the banking world. However, he never left his ministry commitment behind. He serves on the board of Chicago Sunday Evening Club and guides the pension board of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

## Challenges & Success (cont'd from page 1)



Chaplain Jesus Nuñez training a volunteer for Project Philip

We had 35 English-speaking men, 55 Spanish-speaking men, and 23 women participate in the program.

Chicago Bible Society also continues to work with children and youth programs.

We have an ongoing relationship with By the Hand Club for Kids, impacting 200 1st and 2nd grade students in some of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods. We also work with youth organizations and partner with chaplains in a dozen hospitals and crisis centers.

According to Ken Oliver: "2017 was a challenging year for us financially, but we decided not to cut back on our programs. Instead we reached out to our supporters and trimmed administrative expenses. 2018 is looking to be a much better year for us, and we are looking to grow and expand in the year ahead."

### Daily Bible Reading Guide Available

Chicago Bible Society is pleased to announce that the 2019 Daily Bible Reading Guide is now available. We make this guide available free to download on our website. We also are happy to provide printed copies of the guide to all of our contributors and to member churches. Please contact our office for more information. Email us at [info@chicagobiblesociety.org](mailto:info@chicagobiblesociety.org)

### Watch New Video About CBS Ministry

Our new video (both the 3 minute and 20 minute feature length version) is available on our website. This video tells the story of the Bible Society over the past 180 years as well as provides important information about our current work.

## From the Executive Director's Desk

### *The Bible does change lives.*

Our core value at the Chicago Bible Society is that the Bible, God's Word, can and will change lives. Too often Christians talk about the Bible, defend the Bible, and even battle for the Bible. However, the only way that the Bible can change your life is by reading it.

Sermons about the Bible, explaining the meaning of a certain text, are important; however, the true transforming experience of Bible engagement happens when we read it and allow the full text of the Word to enter into our minds. Bible reading cannot be replaced by sermons or books about the Bible.

This year we offer two ways to enter into a fruitful reading of the Word. First is the Daily Bible Reading Guide. This guide is designed to get the reader to devote about ten minutes each day to reading and meditation over a portion of Scripture. If you follow the guide, you will cover about 1/4 of the Bible—in four years you will cover the entire Bible.

Secondly, we are working with Tyndale House to promote the Immerse Bible, an easy way to start reading the Bible in a reader friendly format. I urge you to make 2019 the year of reading the Bible.

- 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

- 1,633 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
- 6,098 Scripture resources provided to jails, hospitals, schools and churches this year