



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## 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

- 2,186 jail inmates enrolled in small group Bible study
- 235 inner-city school children learn to read using the Bible in the first year
- 41 churches & ministries in partnerships to reach their community with the Bible
- 5,799 Scripture resources provided to jails, hospitals, schools and churches this year

## Board of Directors

- Michael K. Renetzky, President
- Dr. Wendy Cotter CSJ, V. Pres.
- Dr. David Dault, Secretary
- Jeffrey Schwab, Treasurer
- Kenneth C. Oliver, Exec. Dir.
- Emily Edkins Bohac
- Rev. Jesus Nuñez
- Lydia Talbot
- \*Rev. David Abrahamson, Hon.
- \*Honorary Lifetime Director

## Chicago Bible Society

8765 W Higgins, Ste 404  
Chicago, IL 60631  
www.ChicagoBibleSociety.org

## Annual Luncheon

# Celebrates New Programs Touching Lives

The 70th Gutenberg Awards were presented at Chicago Bible Society's Annual Luncheon on October 8 at the University Club of Chicago on Michigan Avenue downtown. The luncheon honored Rev Dr. James Meeks and Mr. R. Matthew Simon and was highlighted by a panel discussion. Cook County chaplain Brian Revor joined Jesus Nuñez and Gabriela Ruiz in discussing the work at the jail. Mary FioRito moderated the panel.



The luncheon was packed. We had 130 attending, which filled up the room. Thank you to the Committee – Greg O’Leary, Kelly Dean, Mary FioRito, and Michael Renetzky – for the hard work of making this event a success.

### Family Connection & Care

The panel discussed the Family Connection & Care program. Gabriela makes the initial visit to a

A packed house gathers at the University Club for Annual Luncheon

family that is referred to us, often by the inmate in Project Philip. She helps them with basic needs, like food and clothing, and refers them to other services as needed. She also helps them find a local parish for spiritual care.

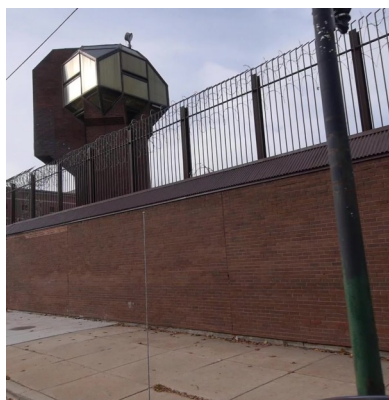
Family Connection and Care grew out of the relationships we have developed in Project Philip.

The inmate-students asked our chaplains to visit their families and make sure they are safe. In response, we began informal after-care several years ago.

In 2023 we started Family Connection & Care – starting out in faith that God would provide the resources. Ga-

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## PROJECT PHILIP CHANGING INMATES’ LIVES



Outside Cook County Jail

Project Philip saw sustained growth in 2024. We had total enrollment of 278 inmates with 81.3% graduation. This was our second largest graduating class ever. This included 83 women and 65 Spanish-speaking men. We also trained 14 inmates to be group leaders.

Since 2007, Chicago Bible Society has been sponsoring this Bible study and small group program at Cook County Jail. Over the past seventeen years, 2,938 inmates have enrolled in the program and 2,408 have graduated – an 83% graduation rate.

Typically meeting twice each week over a twelve-week period, small study groups meet in six separate groups in four of the main divisions of the jail. Two of the groups are in the women’s section, and the rest are in the men’s section; with one English and one Spanish language group in each section. Each group has between 12 and 18 inmates participating at a time, with multiple groups meeting over the course of the year.

# CONNECTING FAMILIES—CHANGING LIVES



Mary FioRito (left) interviews the team

briela joined us in January that year as the program manager and we set modest goals of connecting with 40 families and assisting 30. The actual demand was double those numbers.

In our second year, Family Connection and Care made initial visits to 72 new families, follow-up visits to 141 families and referred 136 to food and clothing pantries. They also

connected 50 families to local churches and provided 75 family bibles.

### Providing Bibles

Providing access to the Bible remains a core mission of the Bible Society. Chaplain Revor highlighted how this works in the jail. We ship Bibles directly to the jail, which then makes them available to chaplains and social workers. Mr. Revor explained how the Bible can change an inmate's life.

In 2024, Chicago Bible Society provided \$12,733 in free Bibles and Scripture resources to Chicagoland ministries. This includes 2,429 Bibles to Cook County Jail, Will County Jail and other ministries, and 1,544 Scripture portions, educational materials and reading guides to churches and individuals.

For more information, or to make a donation, please visit our website:

**ChicagoBibleSociety.org**



Bibles awaiting distribution to the Jail

### Watch Gutenberg Video Online

The 2024 Gutenberg Video can be viewed online at:

**ChicagoBibleSociety.org/  
Gutenberg**

## PROJECT PHILIP

	English	Spanish	Women	totals	percent
<b>current year</b>					
total enrolled	88	93	97	278	100%
faith commitment	114	101	92	307	
mid-point	79	86	88	253	91%
graduates	78	65	83	226	81%
<b>Cumulative (since 2008)</b>					
total enrolled	1,121	1,047	444	2,938	100%
faith commitment				2,408	
graduates				2,428	82.6%

### Settling into our new home

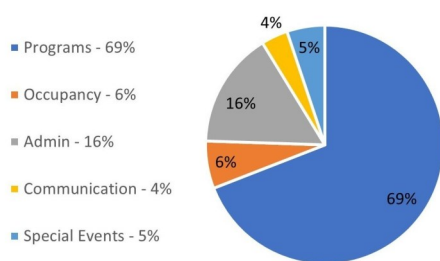
Chicago Bible Society moved into its new offices in August. We are now at 8765 W. Higgins Road, Suite 404, Chicago IL 60631. Last year, the church from whom we rented office space, decided to sell their property. Fortunately we found this space that is owned by the Lutheran Church. The modern office building provides a good work environment and gives us room to grow.

In the eighteen years that I have been at the bible society, we have moved from downtown to the near north side and now near the airport. The location is great, but the ministry happens in the neighborhoods, at the county jails and in the local churches. That has not changed.

-Ken Oliver

## 2024 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

### Use of funds



Chicago Bible Society continues to grow, both in our ministry outreach and in our financial health. We ended 2024 with revenues of \$316,694 and expenses of \$302,242. This represents a 15% growth over last year and a 60% growth since 2020.

The largest growth has happened in the new Family

Connection & Care program where we were able to expand Rev. Jesus Nuñez's role and add Gabriela Ruiz to our staff.

Program costs are 69 cents out of every dollar, and Administration is only 16 cents.

We are grateful to all of our faithful supporters who allow us to touch lives with the life-changing power of the Bible.

12 Months Ending	Dec. 31, 2024
<b>Revenue &amp; Support</b>	
Donations	\$ 126,671
Grants	171,600
Other	18,423
	<b>\$ 316,694</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Programs	\$ 208,866
Administration	47,495
Occupancy	19,384
Special Events	15,562
Communication	10,935
	<b>\$ 302,242</b>