



## Share your blessings

Help bring the Bible to life for future generations with a gift in your will



Dear friend,

Thank you for your interest in leaving a gift in your will to Bible Society. We are deeply grateful for your support.

The Bible is like a mine, a treasure trove, that keeps surprising us. It's a portal into the riches of God's life, which is life-giving to the soul, enriching to the mind, stimulating to the intellect and expanding to the heart.

I imagine the Bible has influenced your life in some way – and that's why you are considering remembering Bible Society in your will. Firstly, I want to thank you for prayerfully reflecting on this. The mission to share the Bible around the world really does depend on the kindness and generosity of people like you, who love God's word.

The numbers of Christians around the world are increasing, creating an ever-growing need for Scripture. Demand for the Bible in places like China, Africa

and the Middle East is unprecedented. Here at home, inspiring work is taking place in primary schools, opening up the Bible for children who've never heard the stories before.

In this booklet, we'll show you how a gift in your will could help meet this demand far into the future, bringing the Bible to life for families and communities everywhere. There's a great opportunity before us: to bless the next generation and see future lives changed, for good, by God's word.

Thank you for everything you do for Bible Society and for considering supporting us in this special way.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Paul Williams, Chief Executive

## What you'll find in this guide

- 4-5 A short history of Bible Society, and how you can build on it
- 6 'Why I left a gift in my will': One supporter's story
- 7 Meet Heather, who wants to see the mission she loves live on
- 8 God's word for 4.6 million people: one supporter's impact
- 9 Why your help will be vital for generations to come
- 10 How to remember Bible Society in your will
- 11 The types of legacy you can leave

## The Bible: passed on through generations

The Bible is the story of God in the world, through which God speaks to us today. For generations, this story has been passed on. Many risked their lives to ensure others could have access to the Bible; translating it, distributing it, putting it into new formats.

In 1800, a 15-year-old Welsh girl called Mary Jones was so determined to buy a Bible in her own language, she saved her money for six years and trekked more than 26 miles through the mountain paths to buy a copy. The Revd Thomas Charles of Bala provided Mary with a Bible. The scarcity of Welsh Bibles led him to believe that more needed to be done to ensure everyone should have affordable access to a Bible in their language.

4



1800  
The Revd Thomas Charles provides Mary Jones with her Bible



1804  
British and Foreign Bible Society formed



1854  
28 million copies of Scripture in 52 languages have been distributed



1904  
181 million copies of Scripture supplied and distributed by 1,000 colporteurs



1914  
Bible work continues throughout World War One



1939  
45 million copies of Scripture are circulated during World War Two



1946  
Formation of the United Bible Societies, to co-ordinate global mission



1952  
The Queen becomes our patron

As a result, Bible Society was founded on 7 March 1804. Thanks to the dedication of our supporters, the charity grew through the early 1800s and our network began helping people across the world. In our first 150 years we produced 600 million copies of the Scriptures in 852 languages. In 2013 Open the Book merged with us to support Bible storytelling in primary schools in England and Wales.

Today we're part of a fellowship of more than 140 Bible Societies operating in 200 countries and territories. We are the biggest translator, publisher and distributor of the Bible in the world.



1976  
The Good News Bible, one of the UK's most popular translations, is published



1987  
Amity Printing Company opens in China, and is now the biggest Bible printing centre in the world



1995  
Faith Comes by Hearing, a Bible listening programme, is launched



2004  
Service at St Paul's Cathedral celebrates 200 years of Bible Society



2011  
*The People's Bible*, the first ever handwritten digital Bible, is created



2013  
Open the Book merges with us, supporting Bible storytelling in primary schools in England and Wales



2014  
Mary Jones World in Bala opens



2015  
Digital Bible Library now houses more than 1,200 texts in 957 languages



2019  
eSwatini Children's Mission Centre opens its doors, thanks to a generous legacy from Raymond Welch-Bartram

Case study: **Brenda Dainton**

## 'I liked the idea of giving everything to the Lord'

More than 70 years on, Brenda can still remember the first time she heard the Bible.

*'I was at primary school,' she said. 'The story of the woman at the temple who put in two small coins, and gave more than anybody else, really captured my imagination. I liked the idea of giving everything to the Lord.'*

Brenda's was not a church-going family. So when, for her 10th birthday, she asked for a Bible, her parents were astonished. But Brenda received a copy – and reading it became part of life.

The following seven decades have brought all sorts of experiences, good and bad.



But Brenda says Scripture kept her going throughout: *'I don't need any other book if I have the Bible; I read it through every year.'*

Brenda has chosen to leave a legacy to Bible Society in her will. She said simply, *'Because I love the Bible, I want other people to love it too. Everybody has a right to have God's word, to be taught how to read it and engage with it. I gave my life to God when I became a Christian, so this house and everything in it belongs to him.'*

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*'Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'* Luke 21.3-4 (ESV)

## Case study: [Raymond Welch-Bartram](#)

### ‘The team have such incredible hopes and plans for the centre’

The Bible Society of eSwatini has opened a new Children’s Mission Centre, thanks to the extraordinary kindness of one man, Raymond Welch-Bartram. Raymond was a life-long Christian from Aylesbury who left a legacy to our work. High rates of HIV and AIDS have left almost half of eSwatini’s children without one or both parents. The centre will offer them Bible storytelling, counselling, lessons in growing vegetables and cooking, a library of Christian books, and free school shoes. Raymond’s desire to pass on God’s word means future generations can benefit from this amazing resource.

Bible Society volunteer Heather Clements, who has also decided to leave a gift in her will,

was at the opening of the centre. *‘I was really impressed that what had been a vision only around a year ago was complete and ready to open. It has amazing potential. The team have such incredible hopes and plans for the centre, and their heart is very much for children. I have always been amazed at the proportion of Bible Society income that comes from legacies. Around a quarter of donated funds are from legacies. That’s really significant. So when my husband and I came to update our will, we decided to include Bible Society.’*



## Legacy gift reaching future generations

When Eric and Violet Roulet felt called by God to help translate the Bible for Fulfulde speakers in Cameroon, Africa, it was a mission that would continue long after their deaths.

Eric, who worked for Bible Society, spent 17 years translating the first New Testament for this community of nomadic herdsman. It was an arduous task among people who were fiercely resistant to the gospel. Eric wrote *'it was with fear and trembling'* that the couple took on the work.

The books of Mark and John had been translated in the 1920s but were riddled with errors. Eric discovered, for example, that *'only begotten son'* had been translated as *'simpleton'* or *'idiot'*.

Eric once wrote, *'No foreign language, no matter how well it may be spoken, can quite replace one's mother tongue in understanding the message of the gospel.'*



Their work came to fruition in 1963, when the New Testament in Fulfulde was published.

Eric served with Bible Society in Algeria until his retirement while Violet, a former missionary nurse, home-schooled their four children. Eric died in 1984, and when Violet passed away in 2010, aged 97, she left a legacy to Bible Society.

The gift went directly to Cameroon, to fund a revision of the Fulfulde Bible and continue the work the couple began more than half a century earlier.

In 2014, the revision was finally completed and launched. Today, more than 4.6 million Fulfulde speakers can read and hear God's word in their heart language, thanks to this couple's vision, faithfulness and generosity.

*'We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.'* Psalm 78.4 (ESV)

## How legacies can transform future generations around the world

The Bible is the story of God and the world. It's a constantly unfolding narrative, in which we can find life, purpose and satisfaction.

We're working hard here at home and in key areas across the world. We take the Bible and find ways to translate and distribute it, create digital formats, advocate for its place in society and help people relate to and make sense of it in their everyday lives.

All our efforts are driven by one conviction: we believe that when people engage with the Bible, lives can change – for good.



Christianity is growing fast here, but more than 40 per cent of people live in poverty and violence. War and corruption exist across the continent. Your legacy could meet the huge demand for Scripture in the toughest, hardest places.

*'If you don't have a Bible, how can you know God? Through reading this Bible of my own, I will have peace and comfort.'*  
Elizabeth, 72, Ghana



This region is in crisis, but in places like Syria the demand for God's word is higher than

ever. Your legacy could support Christians under pressure and offer the Bible's messages of peace, healing and forgiveness in the most divided place on earth.

*'The belief in Jesus makes life worth living, even though I own nothing. The Bible is everything in my life. I believe God brought me here from Syria, to go from dark to light.'* Salma\*, a Syrian refugee in Jordan



Christianity continues to grow in this global powerhouse, and your legacy could continue to provide Bibles to new Christians.

*'Today I am so happy to get a Bible! I have God in my heart all the time, but I haven't had a Bible for 14 years.'*  
Tang Xinnian, 46, China



We're bringing God's word to life for children in schools through Open the Book, our Bible storytelling project. Your legacy could help the vision become a reality: bringing the Bible to life for every child in every primary school.

*'Sometimes when you read a book, you go off it because there are too many words. Open the Book brings the stories to life.'*  
Alfie, aged nine, Cheshire

\*name changed to protect identity

## How to remember Bible Society in your will

Updating your will to include Bible Society as a beneficiary is a simple process. Your solicitor will help you do this with a codicil (see leaflet enclosed), which he or she will keep safe with your will. It's important to keep your will updated as some changes in circumstances, like getting married or the birth of a child, can affect your will.

If you don't yet have a will, we recommend you use a solicitor to draft one that accurately reflects your wishes and is legally valid.

- 1) Calculate the value of your estate, taking into account property, investments and any debts.
- 2) Decide on your beneficiaries – members of your family, close friends and charities you want to remember in your will. Many people choose to provide for their family and friends first, then leave a percentage of their estate to Bible Society.

- 3) Appoint your executors. They are named in your will and will be responsible for making sure your instructions are carried out. An executor should be someone you trust and it's a good idea to check they're happy to be appointed.
- 4) Visit a solicitor to have your will drawn up and correctly executed. Details for how to find a solicitor in your area are in the leaflet called *'Your questions answered'* within this folder.
- 5) Store your will in a safe place and keep a copy yourself.
- 6) Make sure a relative or close friend knows where the original will is stored.
- 7) Finally, please take a moment to complete *'Your reply form'* (on a leaflet within this folder), giving us notice of your intentions.

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*'Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.'* Isaiah 26.4 (ESV)

## The type of legacies you can leave

There is more than one way to remember Bible Society in your will. Naturally, many people choose to provide for their friends and family first – but if you also wish to leave a gift to share God's word, there are several options available to you:

**A share of your estate** is a percentage of what remains once all other gifts and expenses have been deducted. You can choose to give any percentage. This is the most flexible type of gift, and it's also popular because it takes care of others first and remains proportional to the value of your estate by keeping pace with inflation.

**A cash gift** is a fixed sum of money. The value of this type of gift could decrease over time, as the cost of living increases.

**A specific gift** is a particular named item, for example a property or a piece of jewellery.

**A reversionary gift** allows you to leave assets for the care of a loved one for the duration of their life. When they die, your gift will then go to your chosen recipient.

And **it's tax-free**: remember, most gifts in wills to Bible Society are completely tax-free, and can even save tax on the rest of your estate. There's more information about inheritance tax on a leaflet within this folder.

To add a cash gift or leave a specific item to Bible Society in your current will, ask a solicitor to help you complete this form. Keep it safe with your will.

To add a share of your estate, ask a solicitor to write a codicil for you.

If you haven't yet made your will, you won't need this form.

I (full name):

Of (address):

Postcode

I declare this to be a  First  Second  Third codicil

to my will, dated and made on / /   
(day/month/year)

**I give (please tick as appropriate):**

The following specific item(s), namely \_\_\_\_\_

The sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_

To Bible Society (Charity Registration No. 232759), Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG for its general charitable purposes, and I direct that the receipt(s) of the duly authorised officer of Bible Society shall be sufficient discharge of my Executor/Trustees.

In all other respects I confirm my will and any other codicils thereto.

Signed:

Date:

Please ensure you sign this form in the presence of two independent adult witnesses. The following people cannot witness your codicil:

- a beneficiary of your will
- someone under eighteen years of age
- a beneficiary's spouse

Signed by the person mentioned opposite, in our presence and witnessed by us in the presence of him/her and of each other.

**Witness one**

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Signature:

Date:

**Witness two**

Name:

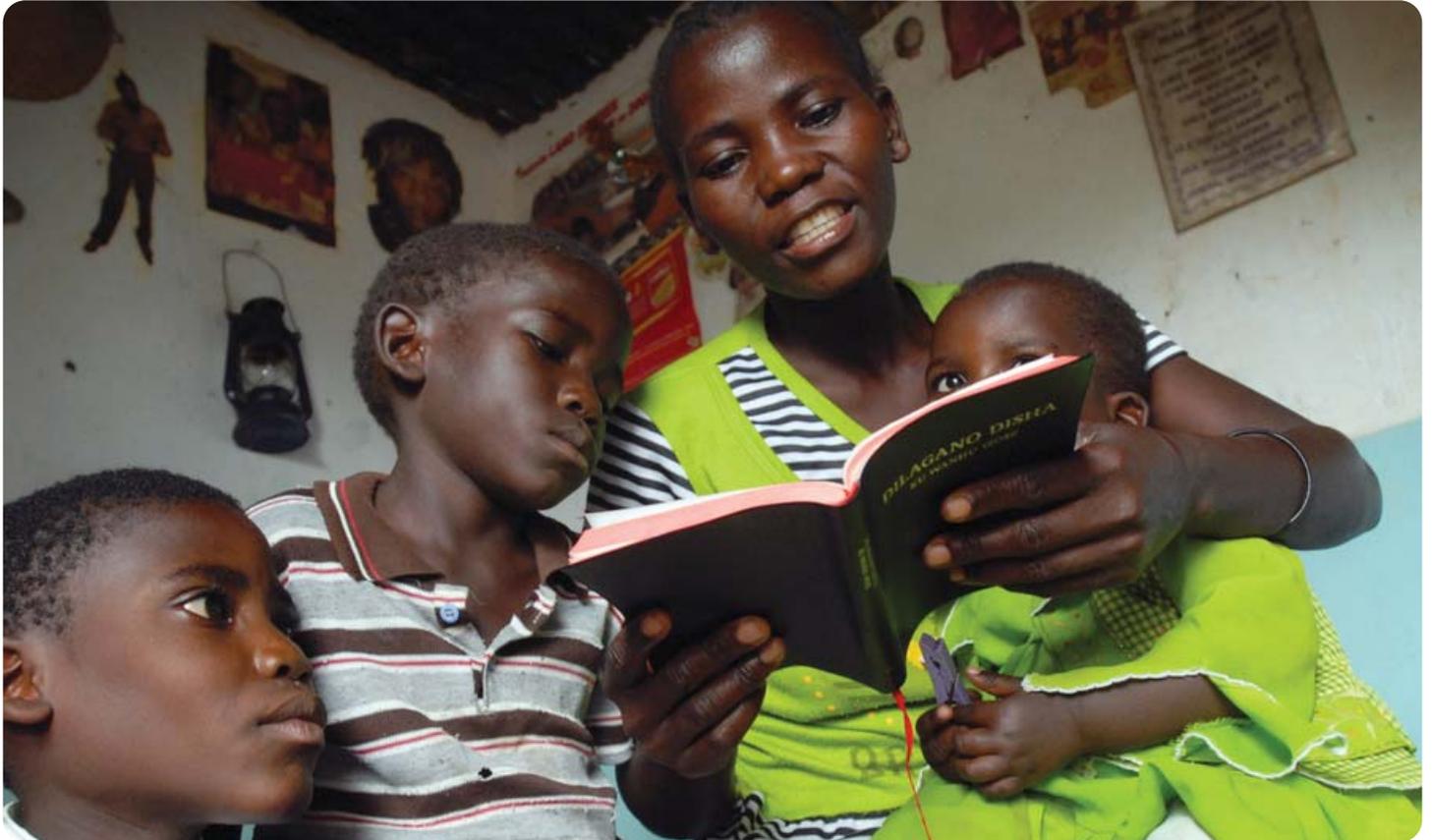
Address:

Postcode:

Signature:

Date:

If you need any information on making a will or amending your current one to include Bible Society, please call our **Gifts in Wills team** on **01793 418222** or email **giftsinwills@biblesociety.org.uk**



### What type of gift is best?

Any gift to Bible Society will make a difference. Leaving a share of an estate is popular because it takes care of others first and remains proportional to the value of your estate by keeping pace with inflation.

### Can I leave a gift to be used for a specific area of work or project?

Gifts in wills fund a significant amount of Bible Society's work. If you don't limit your gift to a specific area of work it can be incredibly helpful to us; we can use your gift wherever the need is greatest.

However, if one particular area is very close to your heart, please contact a member of the Gifts in Wills team on 01793 418 222 or email [giftsinwills@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:giftsinwills@biblesociety.org.uk) so we can discuss your gift in more detail.

To leave a gift to Open the Book, you can leave a gift to Bible Society with the wish that it's spent on Open the Book.

### Who is best placed to act as an executor of my will?

Although there is no legal need to do so, we suggest you consider nominating a professional executor, such as a solicitor or bank, alongside a family member or friend. You should not appoint a professional executor without establishing their costs, if any, in advance.

The professional executor may not need to take an active role in the administration. However, they can be on hand to provide advice and assistance to their co-executor when needed.

We also recommend you discuss your wishes with those you intend to appoint as executor, to ensure they are willing and able to take on the role. Bible Society does not generally act as executor.

### How do I choose a solicitor?

Details of solicitors in your area specialising in wills, probate and tax law work are on the Law Society website ([lawsociety.org.uk](http://lawsociety.org.uk)). Alternatively, call 020 7320 5650.

When deciding on a solicitor, we suggest you ask how much they would charge for preparing your will or codicil and for dealing with your estate if appointed as executor.

When receiving gifts in wills, our team works closely with executors to ensure your wishes are honoured. We also try to maximise the amount received for our charitable work by monitoring solicitors' fees for the administration of your estate.

### Do I need to draw up a new will?

If you do not wish to alter the contents of your existing will other than to include a gift to Bible Society, you can amend your current will by preparing a document called a codicil. A codicil needs to be signed and witnessed in accordance with the same legal formalities as a will. We therefore recommend you consult a solicitor to ensure the codicil is valid and your wishes will take effect.

We provide a codicil form within this pack that you can take to your solicitor. Nowadays, however, many solicitors keep wills as an electronic document and can therefore make changes quickly and simply.

### Can I save tax by leaving a gift to Bible Society?

A gift to Bible Society in your will does not attract inheritance tax, which may save tax your estate would otherwise have to pay.

Information about inheritance tax can be found on the sheet '*Understanding inheritance tax*'. Tax is a complex area of law and we recommend you take specialist independent advice, particularly if you have substantial sums to gift to individuals and charities.

Your solicitor can help draft your will to ensure gifts are transferred in the most tax efficient way and therefore give the greatest value to the beneficiaries.





**If the total value of your estate is over a certain amount, known as the nil rate band, (currently £325,000)\*, then inheritance tax may become payable.**

It is surprising how the value of your assets can add up, especially if you own your own home. Inheritance tax is something to consider when discussing the contents of your will with your professional advisor.

A properly drawn-up will can help reduce the tax payable and enable more of your assets to go to your beneficiaries. Leaving a gift to a UK charity, such as Bible Society, can lower the inheritance tax due, as registered charities are exempt from inheritance tax.

Any estate where 10 per cent of the taxable wealth is left to charity can benefit from a 10 per cent discount on inheritance tax, which will be reduced from its normal level of 40 per cent down to 36 per cent.

Married couples and civil partners whose spouse has died can take advantage of their spouse's unused inheritance tax nil rate band allowance.

This could potentially double the survivor's nil rate band to £650,000 (based on the current nil rate band of £325,000). There is also an additional nil rate band where a residence is passed to a direct descendant. Its value rises in line with inflation.

Tax is a complex area of law and we recommend you take specialist independent advice on the inheritance tax implications for your estate, particularly if you have substantial sums to gift to individuals and charities.

Your advisor can assist in drafting your will to ensure gifts will be transferred in the most tax efficient way and therefore maximise their value to the individuals and charities concerned.

\*Correct as of February 2020.





**When adding Bible Society as a beneficiary to your will, we suggest you use the following wording to ensure your gift is valid. Any gift to Bible Society will make a difference. A residuary gift is popular because it takes care of others first and remains proportional to the value of your estate by keeping pace with inflation.**

**We recommend you use a solicitor to draft a will that accurately reflects your wishes and is legally valid.**

**Residuary gift** (A share of your estate)

*To leave a residuary gift, we suggest the wording:*

'I give \_\_\_\_ percent of my residuary estate to Bible Society (Charity Registration No. 232759), Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG to be applied for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the finance director or appropriate officer shall be a complete discharge to my trustees.'

**Pecuniary gift (cash sum)**

*To leave a pecuniary gift (cash sum), we suggest the wording:*

'I give £ \_\_\_\_ to Bible Society (Charity Registration No. 232759), Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG to be applied for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the finance director or appropriate officer shall be a complete discharge to my trustees.'

## Specific item or property

To leave a specific item we suggest the wording:

'I give (clear description of item or property) to Bible Society (Charity Registration No. 232759), Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG to be applied for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the finance director or appropriate officer shall be a complete discharge to my trustees.'

## Open the Book

If you wish to leave a gift to support Open the Book, you can use the wording above, replacing 'to be applied for its general purposes' with 'with the wish that it is applied to the work of Open the Book'.



# 5

## Your reply form

Please let us know your intentions. This allows us to thank you properly and keep you updated. Please fill out this form and return it, postage free.

### My intentions

- I have already included Bible Society in my will
- I intend to include Bible Society in my will

### I need more information

- I would like to discuss this in more detail with your legacy advisor

My telephone number is   
please call me for a confidential chat.

If you would like to tell us more about your reasons for supporting Bible Society, please do so.

We'd love to hear from you:

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*Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your will to Bible Society*

- Mr    Mrs    Ms    Miss    Revd
- Other  (please tick a box)

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode

\_\_\_\_\_

We'd love to share updates with you about our work by email or phone.

To receive our weekly newsletter, please provide your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

To receive occasional phone calls about our work, please provide your telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

For further details, including your rights and to change your preferences, visit [biblesociety.org.uk/privacy](https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/privacy) or call Freephone 0800 178 4921

Please affix  
postage  
stamp here to  
help reduce  
our cost.

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Freepost Plus RSXL-GESC-AXGS  
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SN5 7DG