

Chicago Bible Society 2010 Annual Report

Chicago Bible Society continues to expand and enhance the ways that we reach people with the Bible – God’s Word – by building on existing programs and finding new ways to reach today’s generation. This year we provided 76,753 Scripture resources to the greater Chicagoland area, including 10,238 Bibles. In our Scripture Engagement program, we had our 534th person enrolled in intensive Bible study, including 304 inmates at county jail facilities and 230 in our church-based program over the past three years.

Distribution – Bringing God’s Word to Those in Need

The heart of our ministry is providing the Bible to those who need to hear God’s Word, but who do not have access to the Scriptures. Our focus is on reaching people who are in prisons, hospitals and shelters, or who are in crisis circumstances, such as dealing with significant loss, hunger or unexpected pregnancy.

Reaching those in Prison

In the midst of shrinking government budgets, many county jails have cut back their budgets for inmate needs, including Bibles. Chicago Bible Society has been called upon to fill in the gap. This year, we significantly increased the number of Bibles sent to chaplains at suburban county jails. This is in addition to the work we do at Cook County Jail, where there never has been a budget to buy Bibles.

Chicago Bible Society is the principal supplier of Bibles for the county jail systems in the six-county region. We are also the largest supplier of Catholic Bibles to the state penitentiary system.

This past year, we provided 5,200 Bibles to the prison system in Illinois, including 2740 Bibles to Cook County Jail, 1685 Bibles to other metropolitan county jails, and 776 Bibles to the state prison system.

Reaching the Sick and Hungry

The economic hardship of recent years has seen a sharp increase in demand from shelters and pantries. Chicago Bible Society has responded to that demand by providing hundreds of Bibles to area pantries. We will only provide Bibles to food and shelter programs that have a specific use for the Bibles, either using them in group Bible studies or in one-on-one sharing.

In this past year, we worked closely with the professional chaplains at our area hospitals to meet their need for Scripture resources. We provided hundreds of Bibles and thousands of Scripture portions for use in eleven of the largest hospitals in Chicagoland.

Partnering with Churches

Chicago Bible Society continues to serve the church community in the Chicago region by providing Bibles and Scripture resources either for free, through our Scripture Grant Program, or at wholesale cost through our Member's Discount Program.

This past year, we provided more than 5,000 Bibles and more than 50,000 Biblical resources to our member churches and ministries through these programs. Our partner ministries use these materials as a part of their outreach to the community. We receive reports from them showing our impact through testimonies of lives touched.

Engagement – Transformation by Study of Scripture

The mission statement of Chicago Bible Society, written over 100 years ago, calls for “fostering the serious reading of Scriptures.” Today, we embrace that mission by encouraging people to engage with Scripture in small group Bible studies. We began three years ago with a Spanish-language Bible study program at Cook County Jail, and expanded it last year to include an English-language group at the jail. We also have partnered with the Presbytery of Chicago to develop a Spanish-language Bible study program with their Hispanic congregations.

Cook County Jail Partnership

This year, we saw a significant increase in participation in the small group studies. This past year 294 persons enrolled in the study program: 170 in the Presbyterian churches and 115 in the county jail. This is a significant increase over last year where 51 participated in the church-based program and 86 in the prison program. Over the past three years, 534 people have enrolled in the program.

We have seen the most significant impact in the jails, where 84 inmates reported a life changing experience with God, and 89.7% completed the entire 12-week study program. Over the past three years, 216 Bible study participants have reported a conversion experience, and 237 have graduated.

Presbyterian Partnership

In 2008, Chicago Bible Society partnered with the Presbytery of Chicago to empower their Spanish-speaking churches by training their leaders in serious Bible study. We have used the Project Philip materials that were used in the jail program. We have had strong initial response, but a higher drop out rate. This past year, 170 church leaders signed up for the program and 40% completed the basic training. Because of the lower completion rate, we are working with the church partners to explore different curriculum that may be more appropriate to their needs.

Finances – Stewardship of God’s Gifts to Us

Chicago Bible Society has continued to meet the challenges of a difficult economic environment because of the faithfulness of our supporters and by being very careful with the resources that have been given to use.

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010, we saw an overall 4% growth in revenue. Due to the difficult financial environment, we had a small decrease from individual donors that was offset by a larger increase from major donors, foundations and the Gutenberg Award Dinner. Administrative expenses were kept to a minimum, but increases in rent and insurance costs caused a 14% increase. We also saw an increase in our communications costs as we upgraded our website and created a video about the work of the Bible Society that was debuted at the Gutenberg Award Dinner.

We ended the year with a very small deficit primarily due to spending patterns in our restricted funds. The unrestricted fund balance increased and the balance sheet is healthier than last year. Chicago Bible Society remains a “lean” organization, with a small but healthy reserve. One of our goals for the future is building the reserves to allow us to keep three to four months of operating funds in unrestricted funds.

2010 Annual Financial Report**12/31/2011**

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue & Support			
Membership & appeals	\$ 14,682	\$ 14,650	\$ 32
Other donors	2,367	2,800	(433)
Major donors	8,200	6,000	2,200
Restricted gifts	38,075	60,000	(21,925)
Grants-unrestricted	43,000	28,000	15,000
Grants-restricted	48,000	33,000	15,000
Awards dinner	37,090	35,000	2,090
Bible sales	1,438	1,200	238
In-Kind (ABS Grant)	26,219	20,000	6,219
Other	2,384	1,800	584
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$ 221,454</i>	<i>\$ 202,450</i>	<i>\$ 19,004</i>
Expenses			
Program staff	\$ 94,582	\$ 88,442	\$ (6,140)
Administrative staff	46,008	46,008	-
Office & administration	19,953	20,000	47
Meetings & travel	3,534	3,000	(534)
Communications	5,844	4,000	(1,844)
Awards dinner	12,475	15,000	2,525
Equipment purchase	530	-	(530)
Program materials	12,980	6,000	(6,980)
In-Kind (ABS Grant)	26,219	20,000	(6,219)
Other	-	-	-
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 222,124</i>	<i>\$ 202,450</i>	<i>\$ (19,675)</i>
<i>Net Revenues</i>	<i>\$ (670)</i>	<i>\$ -</i>	<i>\$ (670)</i>

Balance Sheet12/31/2010

Net Assets-Begin Year	\$ 74,345
Change	\$ (670)
Net Assets-End Period	<u>\$ 73,675</u>

Restricted \$ 59,004
 Unrestricted \$ 14,671