



Crossway Global Ministry

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the President

Crossway was founded in 1938 when my grandparents, Clyde and Muriel Dennis, began Good News Publishers out of their spare bedroom. They began publishing tracts in an effort to share the gospel in a clear, concise, and beautiful way. Since then, over one billion tracts have been distributed, along with millions of books and more than 290 million copies of the ESV Bible. Most of these Bibles have been given away freely through ministry partnerships. Crossway exists because this sick and dying world needs the gospel. The world needs beautifully crafted, God-honoring, gospel-proclaiming books, Bibles, and tracts. Our aim is to curate trustworthy resources, to publish words, and to prayerfully and humbly transmit the treasure of God's Word, in the power of the Spirit, with truth and beauty, through all forms of media. We seek to do so for building up the body of Christ to the ends of the earth and for God's glory alone.

As a not-for-profit ministry, Crossway is committed to providing resources to help encourage and strengthen the global church. The Global South (Asia, South America, Africa, and parts of Oceania) has increasingly become a primary focus for the free distribution of Crossway's book and Bible resources. This is why, in 2022, we launched the One Million Bibles Initiative with the goal of providing God's Word where it's needed most in the Global South. By God's grace, we have received funding for the printing and distribution of more than 500,000 Bibles, helping us to surpass the halfway mark in our goal of distributing one million Bibles.

Thank you for faithfully supporting the global vision of Crossway. We rejoice in the opportunity to partner with you in this mission as we seek to fill the earth with the knowledge of God's majesty.

*"For the earth will be filled
with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea."*

HABAKKUK 2:14

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Dennis', with a stylized, flowing script.

Josh Dennis, CEO, Crossway

Contents

Global Ministry Statistics 3

*One Million Bibles? A “Drop in the
Bucket” with Eternal Significance* 6

Project Updates

One Million Bibles Initiative 11

Global Pastors Book Sets 13

Study Bibles 15

God’s Design for the Church in Africa 17

Global Ministry Fund 19

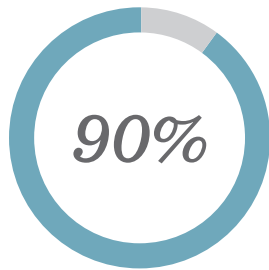
Contact Information 20

Global Ministry Statistics

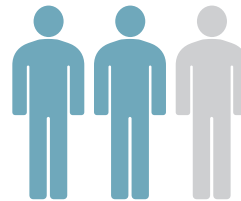
CHRISTIANITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH



67% of evangelical Christians live in the Global South¹



of all pastors in the
Global South are untrained
or undertrained²



Nearly 2 in 3

people in Africa do not have
online access to the gospel³

¹ Simon Kemp, "Digital 2022: April Global Statshot Report," *DataReportal*, April 21, 2022, <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2022-april-global-statshot>.

² Reuben van Rensburg, "Progress report from Re-Forma," *Theological News* 52, no. 3 (July 2023): 2, https://theology.worldidea.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/TN-52-3_web.pdf.

³ Jason Mandryk, "State of the Gospel 2019" (PowerPoint presentation, G19 Conference, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, April 22, 2019) <https://vimeo.com/331888073>.

GLOBAL MINISTRY IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



607,320

Free resources distributed since 2020



90

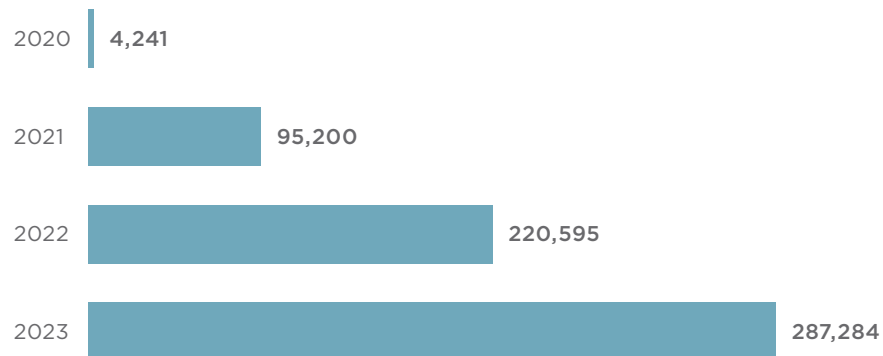
Countries



300

Distribution partners

Global Ministry Resources Distributed by Year





One Million Bibles? A “Drop in the Bucket” with Eternal Significance

One Bible, Times Six, Seven, or Eight . . .

If you were to poke your head into the home of a rural Ugandan village, you would likely be greeted by six, seven, or eight people. Some are likely young and others may appear to be at least two generations older. If you take a step into the home, you will likely find that it feels a bit snug. As you look around while your eyes adjust to the dim lighting, you may find that your living room is comparable to the size of this entire home. This is the kind of home that Elizabeth⁴ visited on her route to deliver Bibles to one rural Ugandan village.

As she approached the homes in one of these villages, she recalls being greeted by numerous members of a family. She knew she could give only one Bible to each household. But, in this case, that's even better. David Graves, Rafiki's Uganda Country Director, reflects that, “probably six or seven people in each of the little houses in this village . . . are getting the chance to have access to a Bible in their homes. It's making an impact on more than just one life, but numerous lives.”

The Bibles that Elizabeth is delivering have come from generous supporters of the One Million Bibles Initiative. Or, perhaps, by God's grace, we might think of it as the “Many Millions of Lives Changed Initiative,” because Elizabeth's experience in distributing these donated Bibles isn't uncommon.

Fulfilling Lifelong Hopes, and Others Yet to Be Fulfilled

Derrick serves as the Rafiki Foundation's Headmaster Assistant in Rafiki's Uganda village. Though he now lives and serves on the property of this village, he occasionally returns home for Sunday worship with his family: “It's a traditional Anglican church and we value traditional hymns, so we do a lot of singing. But when it comes to reading the Bible, the challenge we face is that a majority of the congregation does not have a Bible.” He knows from personal relationships with much of the congregation that they long to have a Bible, but for many, it's just not possible. He explains that this poses significant challenges for spiritual growth:

When you look at the pews in our church, one pew can accommodate over 20 people. And I realized that in a pew there are often only two people with a Bible. . . . And this is not good, because there is a huge threat for people

[Continued on the next page]

⁴ Name changed to preserve anonymity

who are being taught false doctrines. One of the opportunities the false teachers use is to take advantage when their congregations lack a Bible to read because they know you can't go back home and read for yourself and therefore you're misguided.

Though this threat of false teaching wasn't actively something his family's church was faced with, he didn't want it to be something that cropped up over time. So when he heard that 23,000 Bibles were being donated to Rafiki for distribution, he knew he needed to take some back home to his church.

This specific donation of 23,000 Bibles—part of the first distribution of a total of 127,000 Bibles from the One Million Bibles Initiative—arrived at Rafiki's village on the last Thursday of July. David Graves recounted that "I thought it was going to take us two or three months to complete the distribution of all these Bibles. . . . But every Bible was spoken for [in less than three weeks], and they were all distributed within a week after that."

When Derrick received the Bibles he was given for his family's church, he was thrilled. He waited to give away these Bibles until they convened for worship one Sunday, working with the church's pastor in the meantime to identify those who were most in need. When the time came, everyone in the congregation rejoiced in the blessing of having Bibles in the hands of more of their church members. But Derrick was faced with one major dilemma through the distribution:

It was really a challenge to see so many people who wished to carry a Bible home but they weren't able to because the number that I had brought with me didn't match the number of people in need. There is a desire to own a Bible, but not many of them can afford it, unfortunately. . . . But I thank God for the opportunity to give away these Bibles because I know how precious the Word is. And I hurt on my inside when I learn of someone who is really wishing and longing to have a Bible, but they aren't able to own one. When they have one and they go to church and the reverend is preaching a portion of scripture, you know when they go back home that they can dig deeper on their own.

A Drop in the Bucket of Need

Though a few more drops have been added to the bucket as the demand for Bibles is being addressed, the need is still great. Donors to Crossway are in a position to be able to help meet that need. Lives are being transformed and more people are coming to know the Lord, but the work is not yet finished. Would you consider joining Crossway in our effort to distribute one million Bibles to believers like those in Derrick's congregation, many who still do not have access to a Bible of their own?

Every \$40 you give delivers ten copies of God's Word into the hands of Christians in need. Our objective is to raise support for the printing and distribution of a total of one million Bibles to believers in need.

David shared that a ministry connection came to pick up her allocation of Bibles, and when she looked at the 40-foot shipping container filled with boxes of Bibles she said, "You could get rid of 10 of those containers in Uganda without thinking about it." We rejoice in lives being changed, but as David explains, "This is a drop in the bucket." Would you prayerfully consider joining us? Scan the QR code below to donate today.



Scan or go to crossway.org/OneMillionBibles to donate and learn more.

Prayer Requests: One Million Bibles

- Pray that the Lord would lay a smooth path for these Bibles to be delivered into the hands of believers in need.
- Pray that God would stir the hearts of the Bible recipients, creating in them a deep hunger and thirst for his Word.
- Pray for the provisions to fund the second half of this initiative.

Project Updates

One Million Bibles Initiative 11

Global Pastors Book Sets 13

Study Bibles 15

God's Design for the Church in Africa 17

Global Ministry Fund 19



PROJECT UPDATE: ONE MILLION BIBLES INITIATIVE (2022-PRESENT)

Providing God's Word Where It's Needed Most



500,000+
Bibles Supported



14
Distribution Partners



17
Countries

Project Summary

Through the Bible, Christians grow in their understanding of God and salvation and are equipped to share the good news of the gospel with others. As a result, Crossway is providing one million ESV Bibles to believers in need throughout the Global South (Asia, South America, Africa, and parts of Oceania). By God's grace, we have received funds that will allow for the printing and distribution of more than 500,000 Bibles. Ministry partners on the ground have already received and are distributing 435,000 Bibles to those who are in need, and the additional Bibles are even now in the process of being distributed. We're praying for continued support of this initiative to allow for the remaining 500,000 Bibles to go out to those who are in need.

"For the people in my church to receive a Bible who don't have one is a really big blessing. They will be joyful to have a Bible because they all really long to have a copy of their own. Just recently I was teaching them the significance of the Word of God for all of life, and they have come to see how valuable it is. The Bible is filled with instructions that come from the Lord—it's a manual that they need to have access to each day." **MICHAEL RAYLA, PHILIPPINES**



To learn more about this initiative and to get involved,
scan or visit crossway.org/OneMillionBibles.



PROJECT UPDATE: GLOBAL PASTORS BOOK SETS (2021-PRESENT)

Supplying Ministry Leaders with Theological Libraries



Some Topics Covered in the Book Sets

- Biblical Theology
- Christology
- Counseling
- Discipleship
- Ecclesiology
- Eldership
- Evangelism
- Expositional Preaching
- The Gospel
- Hermeneutics
- Leadership
- Marriage & Family
- Pastoral Care
- Preaching
- Systematic Theology
- The Word of God
- Theology
- The Trinity

Project Summary

In many places around the world, pastors lack access to biblical resources to help them cultivate healthy churches full of thriving Christians. What's more, many church leaders have never received formal training in the Scriptures or theology—and thus easily fall prey to false prosperity gospel teaching. And yet, this global challenge also stands as an opportunity to work together with believers from around the world to equip under-resourced church leaders with Bibles and doctrinally sound books. That's why Crossway created the Global Pastors Book Set—a multivolume collection of resources that cover a host of topics crucial to pastoral ministry. This initiative continues to be resourced under Crossway's Global Ministry Fund following its significant impact from an initial fundraising campaign.

Adom⁵ is a Muslim convert living in Ghana. Since coming to faith, he has planted three churches. When he received a Global Pastors Book Set, he shared that:

"I have never received such books and Bibles. I have only two church Bible study materials and one Bible."

⁵Name changed to preserve anonymity



PROJECT UPDATE: STUDY BIBLES (2012-PRESENT)

Strengthening Believers’ Understanding of God’s Word



450,000+
Study Bibles



80
Distribution Partners



31
Countries

Spanish Concise Study Bibles

In the spring of 2022, Crossway and donor gifts provided 100,000 copies of the *Concise Study Bible, Spanish Edition* to pastors and leaders in the Spanish-speaking world. These study Bibles began to be distributed through a number of channels in early 2023. We are blessed to have surpassed our goal for this ministry project, and every excess dollar given to this campaign contributes further to international Bible distribution, enabling more Bibles to be provided by Crossway to other believers around the world who may not have a copy of their own.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, Spanish-speaking believers in over 20 countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela, and Mexico now have a study Bible in their own language. Praise God for these copies of God’s Word that are now being read by thousands of men, women, and children throughout Latin and South America!

Global Study Bibles

Since the *ESV Global Study Bible* was first published in 2012, Crossway, in partnership with donors and supporters, has freely distributed more than 350,000 copies to Christian leaders all over the world. We are humbled by the overwhelming response to this resource, and also soberly acknowledge the need that remains. Many pastors and elders on the front lines of global ministry are under-resourced, lacking both Bibles and the most basic Christian resources.

“Resources like the Global Study Bible provide a clear affirmation that we can look into God’s Word and teach it to anyone, whether you are in the city or whether you are in the province or rural areas and especially in the unreached areas. . . . We see the power of God’s Word transforming their minds and see that they can preach because the Word of God is already available in their hands.” **FRANCO FERRER, PHILIPPINES**



PROJECT UPDATE: GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE CHURCH IN AFRICA
(2020-PRESENT)

Equipping African Pastors to Lead Their Churches Biblically



150,000+
Copies Distributed



5
Languages



14
Countries

Project Summary

The church in Africa is growing rapidly. Estimates are that at the start of the 20th century, there were 9 million Christians on the continent; by the end of the 20th century, there were 380 million. There is much to praise God for in this growth, but evangelistic zeal has out-paced training of adequately equipped church leaders. Many African pastors serve their local churches with only a basic knowledge of the Bible and what a God-fearing, biblically faithful church should look like.

As a pastor serving in Lusaka, Zambia for over 30 years, Conrad Mbewe has witnessed first-hand both the explosive growth of Christianity in Africa and how a majority of church leaders remain under-equipped to address challenges specific to the African context.

In *God's Design for the Church: A Guide for African Pastors and Ministry Leaders*, Mbewe addresses head-on "some of the major issues that are hindering the church in Africa from being what God designed it to be." Written specifically for African pastors and church leaders, this resource answers 20 crucial questions about the church in Africa today, ranging from the foundational (Why is the gospel so important to the church?) to the pragmatic (How should the church raise its money?).

"God's Design for the Church has strengthened my conviction in how I pastor my church. . . . I wish such books could be taught to all church leaders in Africa. If they could sit and evaluate such a book, then they could know that this is what the Bible says, so that's what they should be doing. They should be asking the question, 'How can we change what we are doing to do it the Bible way?'" STEVEN, KENYA

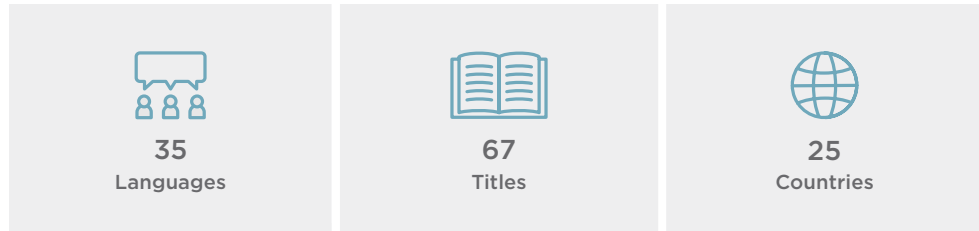


Listen to our interview with Conrad Mbewe
about the state of the church in Africa.



PROJECT UPDATE: GLOBAL MINISTRY FUND (2021-PRESENT)

Investing in Translations



Project Summary

Crossway created the Global Ministry Fund as a place for donors to give directly to support carefully chosen ministry projects aimed at equipping the church around the world. We partner with authors, translators, publishers, mission agencies, and theological training schools to provide books and Bibles to the least resourced.

With help from Christians around the world, the Global Ministry Fund is enabling the translation and publication of key Crossway titles in Nepali, Khmer, Zulu, Farsi, Croatian, Vietnamese, Polish, and many more languages.

There are several Global Ministry Fund projects currently underway:

- The translation of 6 Crossway books—including *Gentle and Lowly*; *Women of the Word*; and *Family Discipleship*—into Simplified Chinese for distribution in text and audio formats for free online through multiple digital ministry partners
- The translation of 12 important resources into the Arabic language for digital and audio distribution across the Middle East and North Africa
- The funding of the translation of key Crossway titles into strategic languages, including Vietnamese, Nepali, Thai, and others

Additionally, the Global Pastors Book Sets Initiative has continued to receive funding through the Global Ministry Fund, as Crossway sees ongoing needs throughout Africa, Asia, and South America for theologically trained pastors. Support of the Global Ministry Fund will contribute to projects like this.

“The majority of people in South Africa are uneducated. . . . There’s a massive void in accessibility to theologically sound resources. Because of this, I realized there’s a huge need here for resources and also for training. . . . I knew we needed to equip pastors, because if you change a pastor, you change his congregation. And if you change his congregation, you change the society or the community around him.” TOMMIE VAN DER WALT, SOUTH AFRICA

How can I help?

Donate

You can partner with us financially to resource more pastors and church leaders around the world.

There are a number of options for partnering with Crossway through your giving:

- Online: crossway.org/donate
- Mail: 1300 Crescent St., Wheaton, IL 60187
- Give gifts of stock, other securities, or via wire transfer
- Call Customer Service: 1 (630) 682-4300
- Email: giving@crossway.org
- Give to the Global Ministry Fund (crossway.org/donate/global-ministry-fund).

When you give to Crossway, 100% of your donation supports the process of providing biblically sound resources to believers in need around the world.

Deliver

You can take or send resources to your mission field.

- Tell us where you are engaged in global missions (countries/languages).
- Find out what resources you can take to your mission field.

To share about your global mission and the countries and languages in which you minister, please fill out a brief survey. We will use this information to notify you about any available resources. To take the survey, visit crossway.org/gmsurvey.

Pray

You can partner alongside other believers each month in prayer over these projects. To sign up for the Global Ministry newsletter, visit crossway.org/global-newsletter.

Email us at globalministry@crossway.org to learn more.

■ ■ CROSSWAY