



#### **BIBLE & LITERATURE MISSIONARY FOUNDATION**

Dr. Shannon Lemmon, Director | Dr. Robert M Lemmon, Jr., Co-Founder

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A ministry of Victory Baptist Church, Pastor Loyd Warren

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1,499,000

Scriptures Printed to Date in 2024

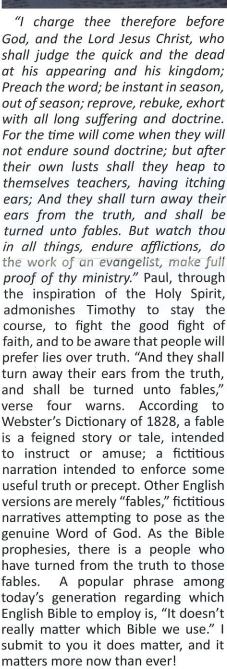


1,277,719

Scriptures Shipped to Date in 2024

# It Does Matter

Dr. Shannon Lemmon **BLMF Director** 



It matters for the sake of the Cross. Our Perfect Bible proclaims in

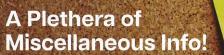
Colossians 1:14, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins;" The NIV completely omits the inspired phrase "through his blood." With nine hundred English versions available today, the last one translated from the Received Text is our King James Bible. The modern English versions remove the blood, the deity of Christ, and in many cases the literal hell. Would you like your grandchildren an adulterated memorize version of a Bible verse about the salvation of their souls? Of course not because IT DOES MATTER which English Bible we use.

It matters for the sake of the Church. The Local Church is the pillar and ground of truth, according to the Scriptures. We must contend for the faith, staying true to the Pure Word of God in the local Church. There are literally podcasts teaching Pastors how to "transition" their Churches away from the King James Bible in a "subtle" way. Pretty sure the last time I read that word, "subtle," it was used by the serpent! "Make full proof of thy ministry," the Bible commands. Shame on the man who claims to have been called by an Almighty God to preach His whole counsel, then would purposely deceive his flock to exchange the Pure Word of God for a counterfeit!

It matters for the sake of the Call. Our mandate is to preach the Gospel, and it has always been the Church's responsibility to Publish that Gospel – the Written Word. Seventy percent of the world's population has no portion

of the Scripture, and we must get them the PURE Word of God. It is by the incorruptible seed of God's Word that we are born again! The power of the Gospel is unmatched and absolutely necessary for the salvation of men! "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

Preservation equals inspiration. dear friend! We can be confident that the same Holy, Powerful Word that spoke this world into existence will KEEP His Word to PRESERVE His Word from this generation for ever! For the sake of our children and worldwide evangelism, it does matter. We must be diligent to share the truth about the Pure Word of God. We encourage you to bring your people to our Annual Scripture Conference on Oct. 21-23, where much preaching and presentations will be given regarding the Pure line of the Scriptures. Celebrate with us as we praise the Lord for His Perfect Word forever settled in Heaven!



Dr. Robert Lemmon, Jr. BLMF Co-Founder

I would like to join our Pastor, Bro. Loyd Warren, our Director, Dr. Shannon Lemmon, and our Board President, Dr. Mark Smith, in Bible preaching, uplifting, soulstirring singing and special music, good fellowship, and an abundance of delicious food as is our Victory Baptist tradition! This will be a time of praising the Lord and proclaiming and magnifying the precious, preserved, pure, and perfect Word of God!

old King James Bible (the verbally inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God) and appreciate what this ministry is doing to produce it for "free" foreign mission distribution, then this is where you need to be Monday Evening, October 21st through Wednesday October 23rd! The only way to make a great Scripture Conference even better is for you to be present. It won't be the same without YOU! You will be amazed- as I have been- to see and know what the Lord has done and is doing through this ministry to get His written Word produced and distributed around the world to those who do not have them!

Moving on to another subject: since much emphasis is placed on prayer in God's Word and knowing that the Lord hears and answers the effectual, fervent prayers of righteous men and women, we would like to ask you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in praying for some specific needs of this ministry. In addition to asking for His power, His divine guidance, and our usual need of additional financial support and paper sponsors,

**Continued on Pg 3** 

#### encouraging all of our BLMF pastors and Christian friends to make your plans, rearrange your schedules if necessary, and do whatever you need to be here for this year's 2024 Annual Scripture Conference & Anniversary Celebration! We are going to have another wonderful time in the Lord this year with an abundance of great old-fashioned King James

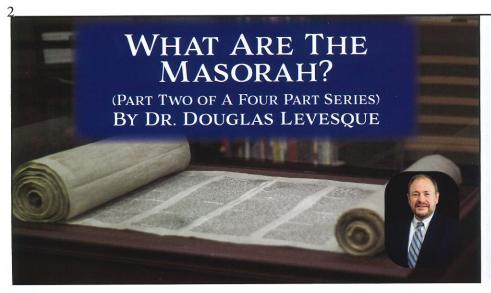
If you love the "Book," our blessed

# COME JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

BLMF 56<sup>TH</sup>ANNIVERSARY SCRIPTURE CONFERENCE

We are thankful to be celebrating 56 years of printing the Word of God at the Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation. Each year, we celebrate the Lord's goodness in this ministry by hosting our Anniversary Scripture Conference at our home Church, Victory Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Tennessee. We have some hotel rooms sponsored and would like to offer them to Pastors who have never attended our Scripture Conference or seen our ministry. You will be blessed by the tremendous preaching and singing, as well as all the wonderful meals! On Wednesday of the conference, we have a big Tennessee style BBQ at the Bible Barn, where we give tours of the print shop and Biblical Heritage Exhibit, then load a container of Scriptures! Please call us today to reserve your place at our gourmet Opening Dinner on Monday night, and allow us to book your room to join us for this great celebration! You may contact our office during business hours: 931-684-0304. Check out scheduled services at biblelit.com/ASC





The year 2024 marks the Five Hundredth Anniversary of the Chayyim/Bomberg Masoretic Text. This was the Hebrew language Old Testament text of choice for both the Jews and the King James Translators at the time of their monumental work. In our last article, we explained who the Masorites were. In this month's edition we seek to explain what the Masorah are. This great Scribal tradition is claimed by the Masorites to go back as far as Ezra the great scribe. Just as there is a momentous and accepted trail of the

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Greek New Testament text going back in time to at least the 2nd century AD, there is also as much evidence for the accuracy and historicity of the Hebrew text going back even before Ezra to the first findings of the proto-Hebraic language. One of the great marks of their unity is the Masorah or notes contained alongside the actual Scriptures themselves.

According to David Marcus, Professor Emeritus of Bible and Masorah at the Jewish Theological Seminary, "The Masorah reflects the combined efforts of thousands of scribes known as Masoretes, working over hundreds of years, to establish a uniform and fixed version of the Hebrew Bible in the 6th-10th centuries CE. In order to ensure that the text they established would be transmitted correctly, the Masoretes counted every word, made copious lists, and wrote thousands of notes on the margins of the manuscripts."

Professor Marcus, also the author of *The Masorah of the Former Prophets in the Leningrad Codex (Vol. 1 Joshua)*, tells of *lists* within the Masorah that count the exact number of uses of phrases and forms, helping to give understanding to the Bible student. Other Masorah *notes* are telling as to the phonology, morphology and syntax accentuating flow and knowledge of Hebrew Grammar. Ultimately, the Masoretes held to the *sacred preservation* of Scripture so as to pass on a *perfect text* to their posterity.

Amazingly, some of the Messianic texts of the OT were clearly prophesying Jesus as the Messiah. Because the Jews were resistant to this fact, they would make a note as to why this was not speaking of Jesus (or at least of a certain persona) but kept the exact Scripture anyway thinking it

may be spurious or for another time.

So the Masorah were marginal notes of different types, but they were also considered the <u>rules</u> of copy.

Dr. David H. Sorenson, an esteemed Independent Baptist Pastor and Author writes an appendix in *The Faithful Word: The Making of the King James Bible*,

### -The Masoretic Rules for Copying the Scripture-

- Shall be written on the skins of clean animals.
- Shall be prepared for the synagogue use by a Jew only.
- Shall be fastened together with strings taken from clean animals.
- Each skin shall contain an exact number of columns, which shall be equal throughout the entire manuscript.
- The length of each column shall be between 48 and 60 lines.
- The breadth of each column shall consist of 30 letters.
- The whole copy shall be first lined, if three words are written without a line it shall be considered worthless.
- The ink shall be black only and prepared according to a special recipe that is used only for copying scripture.

Sorenson goes on for another page and a half with these tedious rules of copy. They include the name of God, the copyists cleanliness, the spacing between letters, words and lines, and the mandatory counting of words. These rules were meant to convey an assurance of perfect preservation of the sacred text.

The Masorah were notes, lists, and rules, but that is not all. They also included <u>sacred commentary</u> of leading rabbinical leaders. Sometimes these notes were simply references to a certain rabbi or his writings, other times they were the actual commentary itself. None of the extra apparatus was considered sacred itself, but the exact copying of these Masorah was also considered important.

According to Ernst Wurthwein, author of The Text of the Old Testament, Western and Eastern schools of thought differed as to where to place the Masorah, but their exact copying was not in question. Western copyists sometimes included an alphabetic summary, an appendix of sorts, at the Scriptural portion of a scroll. Eastern copyists utilized side margins for one type of note, and top or bottom margins for another type. This allowed for some variation in what the final product looked like, but all of the text was meticulously kept perfect nonetheless.

The King James Translators, of course, had a wealth of material to choose from when deciding on what OT text to use, but were in agreement that the Masoretic text was clearly superior to the differing LXX or Septuagint texts then available. The Latin texts indeed chose to use these inferior Greek translations of the Hebrew/Aramaic texts. They were again available but rejected at the time because of their clear Catholic and non-Protestant readings. Much is being made of these texts in modern times as if they have been newly discovered or baptized with a new more virtuous tone because of modern sensibilities, but this author maintains that is an old and tired argument that fuels such insulting energy.

The King James is the English language Old Testament of choice of the Jews for its adherence to the Masoretic text. The Masorah did NOT make it into the actual 1611 edition of the KJV because it was not applicable. The English language was not yet fixed into stone. The spellings, grammar, and usage were being formulated. Most scholars agree that the KJV with its precise translations and beautiful prose was the formulating force that put the English people and the English language on the map.

We should celebrate the Masorites and the Masorah that helped formulate a scribal culture of perfect preservation. It gave to the KJV translators a perfectly preserved Hebrew with which to give to the English-speaking peoples of today.



Injoy touring the Bible Barn print shop with the machinery running! Walk through our new Biblical Heritage Exhibit to learn the history of the English Bible! Put your hands on the very Word of Life by collating the Scriptures, then help us load them onto a container for the foreign field. Hear from the missionary sharing the impact of the Printed Word on the foreign field, and finally help yourself to a Tennessee-Style BBQ with all the fixins!





Praise God for Releasing the Container in Kenya!!

After sitting in the shipping yard for many months,

Bibles are now being distributed in Kenya!!





PANAMA, where BLMF Bibles are being distributed to precious souls in need.



Beautiful pictures from the #blmfhopetoukraine

### "A Plethera of Miscellaneous Info! " Continued From Pg 1

we have a few tangible, material items both large and small, some very inexpensive and some very expensive needs for which to pray.

It just may be that someone reading this article could have the very thing we need and willing to donate it, or knows of someone else who might be willing to contribute financially to help supply a need. Or it could be the Lord will answer our request if we pray and ask Him! Some of these requests are opportunities to participate in or sponsor special materials for Scripture projects that this ministry would not otherwise be able to provide! Such is the case with two projects we are working on now:

Both missionaries, Brother Lewis Young in New Guinea and Brother Brian Lawson in Brazil, are requesting black vinyl gold foil-stamped covers, a container of 55,000 Pidgin New Testaments for Brother Lewis Young in New Guinea, and a container of 30,000 Portuguese Bibles for missionary Brian Lawson in Brazil. If money were not an object we would like to put black vinyl covers on these two projects, but at an additional cost of \$0.65 per New Testament it will add an additional \$35,750 to the New Guinea project and \$19,500 to the Bibles for Brazil.

A sheet of vinyl that was \$0.48 a cover two and a half years ago is now \$0.75 per cover. We can put a paper cover printed in beautiful color on a Bible or New Testament for less than \$0.10. If we were to take the funds out of the contributions given to pay for the paper and materials to print the Bibles and N.Ts., fewer people will receive Bibles from this ministry. This has always been an issue; it's just worse now because of the increased cost of the materials. We use a very good quality Bible paper for the inside text and a heavier paper stock for the cover printed in beautiful color and a very good quality glue to bind them. There just is not a good quality cover material less expensive than the vinyl.

The vinyl material is definitely a more durable cover material that will help to increase the life of the New Testament and Bible especially in areas of heavy rainfall or high humidity. It is simple math: the more vinyl we use for covers, the fewer Bibles and New Testaments we can produce. We are producing the best quality Bibles and New Testaments possible for the least amount of money possible. So, we only have three options: do not supply missionaries Bibles or New Testaments with vinyl covers, use the vinyl for covers and produce fewer Bibles and New Testaments, or do what we are doing: share the need with others to see if someone, anyone feels lead of the Lord to help sponsor the extra cost for the better covers.

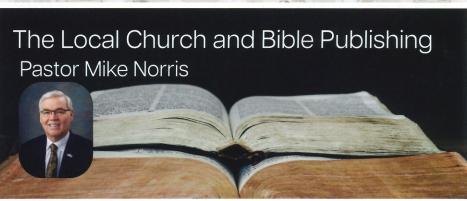
Those of us who are privileged to serve the Lord in this ministry are praying and looking for the day that we will be able to produce more, possibly even doubling our present production again; but to get there we need to start preparing for that time now. For ten years, since 2014, this beautiful spacious 32,850 sq. ft. facility that the Lord has provided has served this ministry well, but our production has already over doubled, almost tripled in these ten years. If we are by faith going to return to purchasing three trailer loads of paper a month every month, then please join us in praying, asking the Lord to provide some additional funds over and above regular support and paper sponsors for needs like warehouse space! The Lord has given this ministry twelve acres here at the Bible Barn so we have room to expand, but we cannot and will not use funds given for support or paper sponsors to build warehouse space. If there is a Christian friend out there somewhere reading this article who has the financial means to contribute \$500,000 to build a 10,000 square foot warehouse onto our present facility, please contact Brother Shannon or myself!

The Lord has been faithful to this ministry for the past 56 years, and the last three years with the escalating cost of paper and printing supplies and materials have been amazing with record Scripture productions in 2022 and 2023. Even after cutting back to two trailer loads of paper a month in September of last year through April of this year, we have had a productive 2024 producing 1.3 million Bibles and Scriptures. After the Lord provided the funds earlier this year to retire all of our paper and equipment debt, we purchased three trailer loads of paper in May, three more again in June, and five loads in August. Three of the loads we received in August were containers from a paper mill in Spain containing 51,000 pounds each and two trailer loads from the paper mill here in the US, a total of 240,000 pounds at a cost of \$252,000! Now this is something you can pray for, as we are about \$150,000 short of having sufficient funds to pay for them! It sounds like a lot of paper, but it might interest you to know that with both web presses running and consuming 10 tons of paper a day, we would go through all of this paper in 12 workdays by running just our largest web press in less than a

We started the year with requests for 32 containers of Scriptures, have shipped 15, and dropped 2 off our list, but we have added 6 new requests (into next year), leaving us with 21 container requests to go but that does not include the open, standing requests that we have from shipping ministries requesting anything and everything we might be able to give them. Consequently, there is no limit as to the opportunities and places to ship these Scriptures — only a shortage of the funds and materials necessary to produce them!







"The Gospel is the solution for the problems of this world."

"The Bible is the Word of God and contains the answers to life's problems."

"The local church is the pillar and ground of truth and God's plan to reach the world."

I think many, if not all, who are reading this would follow these statements with a resounding, "Amen." As pastors and leaders, the current culture seems to be throwing something new at us at every turn. The last several years have brought on an onslaught of changes in society and ministry. As we wrestle with a new and changing world, I have found great comfort in the foundational truths at the beginning of this article and many more. The solution to new trends is often found in age old answers from the Word of God.

Undoubtedly, over the last few years, you have sought for new ways to engage people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You have probably had to preach on certain topics and issues that you never dreamed you'd have to discuss from your pulpit. You have even felt the pressure to change things in your local church that you never dreamed would be a conversation. In the midst of all this, the foundational truths of the Word of God are still very true, and yet we must ask ourselves, "Is there anything else I should be doing for the cause of Christ?'

I firmly believe that your church's involvement in Bible publishing deserves to be included in this question. I know that if you're like most pastors and ministry leaders you are not looking to add one more thing to your plate; however, Bible publishing is not just one more thing! The publishing of the Word of God is vital to all of the main things. Without the Bible, we do not have the Gospel. Without the Bible, we do not have the answers to life's problems. And, without the Bible, the local church has no foundation of truth.

The local church is on the frontlines of Bible publishing. The early church was known for meticulously copying the epistles and circulating them to other churches and Christians. Paul even writes to the church of Colossae in Colossians 4:16, "And when this

epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ve likewise read the epistle from Laodicea." William Tyndale's desire was to get the Bible to be able to be read by the plowboy. Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press and the church used it to get the Bibles in the hands of people. In fact, the only church leaders who fought these advancements were those who were apostate and did not believe the Gospel of Christ. The publishing of the Bible caused them to lose their power and for people to find faith in Christ alone.

Modern technology and a growing apathy toward the Word of God has caused many local churches to lose the vision of the production of the Word of God. Many homes have multiple copies of the Word of God. Our hotel rooms have a copy of the Word of God in the nightstand. We can even download the Bible straight to our phone and read it anywhere. Our familiarity with the Word of God has caused us to lose sight of the power of it. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

When you are a part of publishing the Word of God, you are spreading the power of God into the lives of people. For several years, Franklin Road Baptist Church has placed an emphasis on the printing and publishing of the Word of God. There are not enough pages in this newsletter for me to describe the blessings that have been associated with this decision. Would you consider making Bible publishing a line item in your missions budget? We have been honored to give and partner with BLMF on several projects. Would you consider including them in your missions budget or partnering with them on a current project?

If the Bible contains the Gospel and the answers to life's questions, what can you and your church do to get it into the hands of more people? The solution to all of the new in this world is found in the timeless truths of the Word of God!

## One Bible at a Time Steve and Kelly Murila, Missionaries to Kenya

In the heart of Kenya, a remarkable Bible distribution has been changing lives, one Bible at a time. The Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation, in collaboration with The Murila's missionaries to Kenya, with their unwavering commitment to spreading the Word of God, has been making waves in schools, youth shelters, prisons, police stations, and hospitals across the country. This tireless dedication to distributing free Bibles has sown the seeds of hope, faith, and transformation.

The Bible is often described as a "lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path" (Psalm 119:105, KJV). It is a source of guidance and solace, a testament of God's unending love and mercy. For many in Kenya, access to the Bible was a luxury they couldn't afford. However, the Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation, with the invaluable assistance of Murila's missionaries, has made it their mission to bridge this gap.

#### In Public Schools: **Shaping Young Minds**

In classrooms and lecture halls, the impact of this joint effort is evident. With Bibles readily available, students have been able to explore the profound teachings of the Bible, developing a moral compass that guides their lives. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The Foundation's efforts, supported by Murila's missionaries, have contributed to the moral and spiritual development of countless young minds in Kenya.

#### **Youth Shelters:** Offering Hope and Redemption

In youth shelters, the Word of God has provided solace to those who have faced life's harshest challenges. Many have found comfort in the verses of the Bible, like Psalm 34:18, which assures them that "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." The distribution of free Bibles has offered hope, redemption, and a path to rehabilitation for those who have lost their way.

#### **Prisons:**

#### **Transformation Behind Bars**

In the confines of prisons, where despair can be overwhelming, the Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation, supported by the unwavering efforts of Murila's missionaries, has been a beacon of light. Through the Bible, inmates have

discovered stories of redemption, like the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), and have found the strength to seek forgiveness and reform. Lives have been transformed, and countless individuals have found a renewed purpose, thanks to the free Bibles provided to them.

#### **Police Stations: Providing Comfort and Strength**

In the challenging and often dangerous world of law enforcement, police officers face numerous trials. The Foundation's distribution of Bibles at police stations has offered comfort and strength. The verses, such as Psalm 23:4, which declares, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil," remind officers of the divine protection that accompanies their duty.

#### **Hospitals:** A Source of Healing and Peace

Amid the sterile halls of hospitals, the Bible has brought a sense of healing and peace to patients and their families. Passages like Isaiah 41:10, with its words of assurance, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you," have offered solace in times of illness and distress.

#### **Inspiring Generosity**

To sustain their invaluable work, the Foundation and Murila's missionaries rely on the generosity of donors who understand the profound impact of distributing free Bibles. Luke 6:38 encourages us to, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom." The gifts and donations given toward the printing of these Bibles serve as seeds sown into fertile ground, reaping bountiful spiritual harvests.

In Kenya, the Bible and Literature Missionary Foundation has proven that the Word of God is not just a book but a transformative force. It's a source of hope, inspiration, and redemption that has touched the lives of people in schools, youth shelters, prisons, police stations, and hospitals. Their dedication and the generosity of donors, coupled with the efforts of The Murila's missionaries, have been instrumental in spreading the light of God's Word across the nation, illuminating the darkest corners and providing a path to salvation and redemption for all who seek it.

## **Container Highlights**



114,500 Scriptures leaving the Bible Barn and headed to Zimbabwe!



80,000 English New Testaments headed to Canada!



40,000 Spanish Scriptures with study helps for Honduras!



### Check Us Out!

Scan the QR code to discover how we are sending out God's Word around the world and how to help.



## **Production Report**

Year to Date



### Number **Breakdown**

**Bibles Printed** 1,499,00

**Rolls Ordered** 982 22 Truck Loads of

Paper Ordered

**Total Paper Expenses** \$801,759.89

17 Paid Truck Loads of Paper

**Bibles Shipped** 1,277,719

and Scripture Portions

**Container Requests** 

From Missionaries from Around the World

**Containers Shipped** 

On the Way to the Mission Field or have been delivered

## **Send Out God's Word**

Donate Bibles to Honor Someone Special

The Bible & Literature Missionary Foundation prints and sends Bibles across the globe because we believe it is the Church's responsibility to produce God's Word. For that reason, we offer a Legacy Program that allows people to dedicate Bibles as a thoughtful gift or memorial for loved ones. For only \$3.00 per Bible, you can provide the Word of God for those in need. Give as a Church, family, or individual. A presentation page will be inserted into each Bible you sponsor, and a card of your choice will be sent acknowledging your gift.





You may fill out form online or have an emailed copy sent to you. Please call 931-684-0304 or email officeblmf@bellsouth.net

> **Call Us for a Legacy Program Display** to Set up in Your Church.

(Table stand or wall display available)

We offer a variety of cards for your special occasion!











