

# 2025 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
- 198 Families received referrals and care
- 41 churches & ministries in partnerships to reach their community with the Bible
- 2,898 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

## Record Numbers at Gutenberg Awards

The ministry of Chicago Bible Society was highlighted at the annual Gutenberg Award Luncheon. The event was held on October 7 at the Cathedral Room of the University Club. The room seats 220 people, yet we somehow got 229 in the doors. This was the largest attendance at a Gutenberg Award event in the 70-year history of the awards.

Mary Hallan Fiorito introduced our panel of chaplains and interviewed them about jail chaplaincy and the role of the Chicago Bible Society. This was followed by a short video that highlighted the Bible Society work inside Cook County Jail. The video is available for viewing on our website.

The Gutenberg Awards winners this year were David Dillon,



A packed house gathers at the University Club for Annual Luncheon

founder of Together Chicago and Rev. Francis Hoffman, President of Relevant Radio. Father Hoffman is known as “Father Rocky” to the over 282 million listeners on 205 radio stations in the United States, reaching a Catholic audience with devotions, worship and topical discussions.

David Dillon, a son and grandson of missionaries, leads a successful technology firm, but his heart is never far from the mission field. He co-founded Together Chicago which is working with churches of Chicago to combat the root causes of city violence. ■

## FAMILY CONNECTION IMPACTS THE OTHER HALF



Out of jail and re-entering life

This past year, Chicago Bible Society saw continued growth as Family Connection and Care (FCC) program reached out to more families and provide more referral services. Expenses grew by 12% in 2025 as we entered a second full year of FCC. Donations increased by 7% primarily due to the success of the Gutenberg Award luncheon, which had a record attendance of 229.

Family Connection & Care completed its second full year of operation. A total of 64 new

families were visited, and 142 families had follow-up visits. In meeting those families’ needs, 381 boxes of food, 35 clothes were provided, and we helped 21 families find help with rental assistance. In addition, we made referrals for families that needed legal assistance.

The program also helped 56 families find a church home and provided

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# CBS PROGRAMS IMPACT CHANGING LIVES



Rev. Nuñez meets with inmate at the jail

### Project Philip

Changes continue at Cook County Jail with new limitations on group meetings and educational materials. This made 2025 a challenging year. However, Project Philip has been able to continue, with 117 new students joining this past year. 23 of the students were released before completing the study, but 94 remained to graduate.

We are thankful for the positive impact of the program on inmate's lives. The courts have also recognized the value of Project Philip, and participation is credited toward the attendee's case by the judge.

### Bible Provision

Providing access to the Bible remains a core mission of Chicago Bible Society. We partner with churches and ministries to make sure that the Bible is available at little or no cost depending on need. We also work

with member churches to help them meet their Scripture needs at the lowest cost possible.

In 2025, we provided 1,170 free Bibles to the county jails and distributed 1,362 Scripture resources to various Chicago area ministries. We also partnered with area churches to help them purchase 346 Bibles. In total, Chicago Bible Society provided 3,934 Bibles and Bible resources in the past year.

76 Bibles to families that did not have a Bible in their home. Bibles were provided in both English and Spanish. This includes 17 Illustrated children's Bibles. For Christmas, we partnered with local churches to distribute Christmas gifts to 22 of these families. Family Connection & Care continues to touch more lives this year than ever before.

### Watch Gutenberg Video Online

The 2025 Gutenberg Video can be viewed online at:

[ChicagoBibleSociety.org/Gutenberg](https://ChicagoBibleSociety.org/Gutenberg)

## PROJECT PHILIP

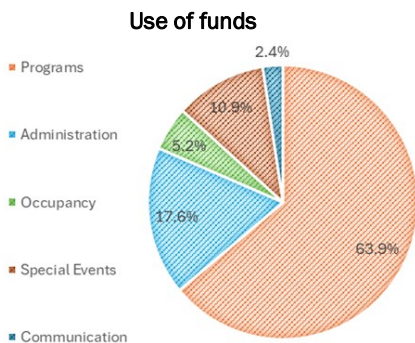
	English	Spanish	Women	totals	percent
<b>current year</b>					
total enrolled	41	36	40	117	100%
faith commitment	56	47	49	152	
mid-point	38	31	36	105	89%
graduates	33	27	34	94	80%
<b>Cumulative (since 2008)</b>					
total enrolled	1,488	1,083	484	3,055	100%
faith commitment				2,560	
graduates				2,522	82.6%

### The challenge of growth

As anyone over 50 knows, when you are older change is a challenge. Chicago Bible Society is 186 years old, but we are seeing growth with new programs and an increase in support. The Gutenberg Award lunch reflects that change. We went from an attendance five years ago of under 100 to welcoming 229 people this past October. The growth of our programs parallels this fact. Now in its second full year, Family Connection and Care is touching more lives than ever before. Project Philip continues to adapt to the changing environment while still bringing the Bible to inmates at Cook County Jail.

Over the past decade, our budget has doubled and our impact has tripled. We have gone from Chicago's quiet secret to an organization with increasing recognition and a higher profile. Please pray for us as we navigate running a larger and more complex organization into the future. And pray that no matter what, we do not forget that the Bible remains the center point of all that we do.

## 2025 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW



This past year, Chicago Bible Society saw continued growth as our new Family Connection and Care (FCC) program reached out to more families and provided more referral services. Expenses grew by 12% in 2025 as we entered a full year of FCC. Donations in-

creased by 7% primarily due to the success of the Gutenberg Award luncheon, which had a record attendance of 229.

Chicago Bible Society continues to be a lean operation. Most of our staff are engaged in direct program activities, and only 17.6% of our costs went to administration and fundraising.

	12 Months Ending	Dec. 31, 2025
<b>Revenue &amp; Support</b>		
Donations	\$	136,492
Grants		124,150
Release of Restr.		45,085
Other		12,054
	\$	317,781
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs	\$	213,575
Administration		58,695
Special Events		36,509
Occupancy & Com		25,498
	\$	334,277