



Compass Braille
Good News at their fingertips



Newscast

Issue 2026-1

Welcome to the first issue of Newscast for 2026. Inside you will find stories from around the globe of how visually impaired people are being blessed by receiving the Bible in braille in their own language. One recipient shared, "Through it, I've not only expanded my knowledge, but also drawn closer to Jesus Christ." Our hope and prayer is that many more visually impaired people will be similarly impacted.

Nepal

"Love your neighbour as yourself"



NFH Retreat June 2025

Regular readers may recall that last year (2025) we sent a Nepali braille Bible to Nepal Fellowship for the Handicapped (NFH). This was to replace one damaged in a flood a few years earlier and was made possible

by donations from generous Compass Braille supporters.

Sadly one of the six boxes in which it was contained went missing in transit! Thankfully, however, we had funds to be able to reproduce these volumes and

send them again. In December we were pleased to hear that this time the box arrived safely! Bonnie Thapa, founder of NFH, recently sent us pictures of blind NFH members enjoying reading these braille volumes.

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NFH members enjoying reading Nepali braille Bible volumes

Earlier in the year, for the first time in 30 years, NFH gathered for a three day retreat. Bonnie told us she wanted to organise this retreat not only for NFH members, but for their families also. Families with children aged 3 to 15 participated together with their parents. About six NFH members' families came from outside the Kathmandu Valley,

and NFH were able to help them with travel costs.

Bonnie writes, "There were about 46 of us in total staying at the hotel, in addition to the worship team, and two pastors who came to help lead worship and teaching sessions. Many of our NFH members had never experienced participating in such a large gathering before, and holding this event in a nice hotel was a historic moment for them.

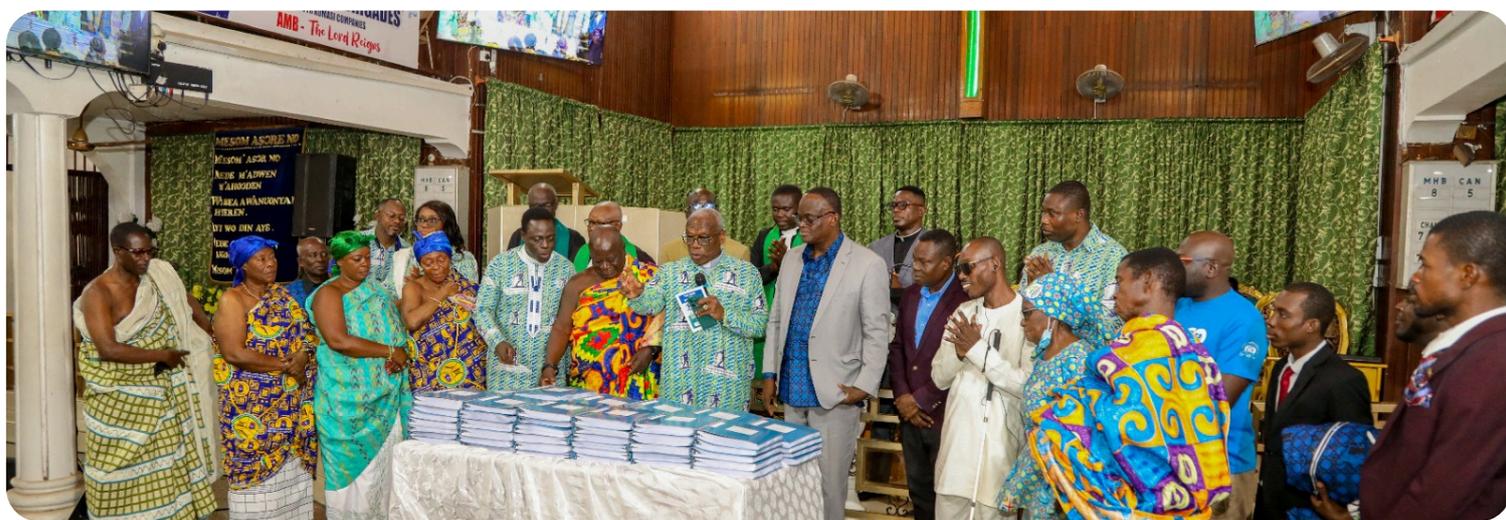
"On the first day we had a time of worship and a teaching session. Prashant led the singing and worship time. His wife, who was also blind, passed away in 2022 when she was only 24 years old, leaving behind a

nine-month-old baby. Pastor Prem Rai from Nepal Christian Church led the teaching session. The theme of our retreat was 'Love your neighbour as yourself,' from Mark 12:30-31 and Leviticus 19:18. After that, we split into two discussion groups (men and women) for 45 minutes to discuss the topic we learned during the teaching session.

"The next day, we had fun playing different games together and sharing our talents, such as singing and reciting poems. After lunch and afternoon tea, we again had a time of worship, a teaching session, and a discussion session in the evening. Pastor Mangalman Maharjan from Patan Church led the teaching session."

Asante Twi Braille Bible Launch

"We live by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7



The Asante Twi Braille Bible is unveiled

Asante Twi is a language spoken by approximately 4 million people who live mainly in Ghana and southeastern Ivory Coast. In 2025 Compass Braille was asked by the Bible Society of Ghana to transcribe the Bible in this language into braille. The work progressed quickly with the help of proof readers from Akropong School for the Blind. By July transcription was completed and two complete Bibles were

produced and dispatched to Ghana. On Sunday 26th October 2025, the Bible Society of Ghana held a special service to celebrate its launch. The following, together with the photograph above, comes from their report of the service:

The event, graced by clergy, educators, members of the visually impaired community, and Bible lovers, marked a historic

milestone in ensuring that the Word of God is accessible to all, regardless of physical limitations.

Praise and adoration uplifted the gathering. The Bible readings, taken from 2 Corinthians 5:7 in both English and Twi and read by visually impaired people, beautifully captured the day's theme: "We live by faith, not by sight."

In his message, Rev. Appiah (a visually impaired person) emphasised that faith transcends physical ability and that the availability of the Bible in braille enables persons with visual impairments to grow in the knowledge and love of God.

An address was delivered by the Regional Coordinator for Special Education, Ghana Education Service, commending the Bible Society of Ghana for its effort to promote literacy and spiritual development among visually impaired people.

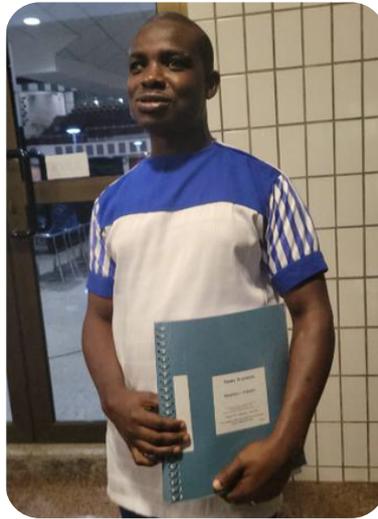
The dedication of the braille Bible was conducted by the Area Head of The Church of Pentecost, followed by the symbolic Launch by Rev. Prof. Benjamin Abotchie Ntreh, a member of the Bible Society of Ghana Council. A reading of the Asante Twi Braille Bible (Mark 1:35-39) demonstrated the beauty and practicality of the translation for the visually impaired community.

The launch of the Asante Twi Braille Bible stands as a testament to the Bible Society of Ghana's unwavering mission - to make the Word of God available, accessible, and meaningful to all people, including those living without sight, but not without faith.

First Public Reading

A month or so prior to the launch event, a historic moment unfolded at the University of Professional Studies Auditorium during the Bible Society of Ghana's 60th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. For the first time in Ghana's history, the Asante Twi Braille Bible was read publicly by a visually impaired person, Mr. Paul Anormah-Kodieh.

Visibly filled with joy and gratitude, Mr. Anormah-Kodieh



Mr. Paul Anormah-Kodieh

expressed his excitement over this life-changing development. He described the production of the Asante Twi Braille Bible as “a wonderful and long-awaited breakthrough for the blind community,” noting that many visually impaired people have always yearned to read the Bible in their mother tongue, particularly in braille. He commended the Bible Society of Ghana for this groundbreaking initiative that brings God's Word closer to visually impaired believers. Being the first person to publicly read the Asante Twi Braille Bible, Mr. Anormah-Kodieh's participation symbolised empowerment, inclusion, and spiritual equality, a powerful testimony of how accessible Scripture transforms lives. In his closing remarks, he passionately appealed for more support for such projects, encouraging churches, individuals, and partners to assist the Bible Society of Ghana in producing and distributing more braille Bibles in local languages.

This remarkable event did not only mark a milestone in the Bible Society's inclusivity journey but also ignited renewed hope among visually impaired people, affirming that they, too, can engage directly with the Word of God in their own language and in a format they can read.

Since the successful launch of the Asante Twi Braille Bible, Compass Braille has been asked to transcribe the Bible in another significant Ghanaian language, Ewe. We will keep you informed of the progress.

Zimbabwe Ndebele Braille Bible Launch



A visually impaired lady holding a braille copy of Ndebele Mark's Gospel

Another Compass Braille transcription project completed in 2025 was the Ndebele Braille Bible for use in Zimbabwe. We have just heard that there was a special launch event held in the city of Bulawayo on 30th January 2026. We have received one or two photos from this but we hope to bring a fuller report in a future issue.

New Look coming soon

We have been designing a new Compass Braille logo and website. We hope to launch both these in time for the next issue of Newscast due out in Summer 2026.

Sri Lanka

"Always be strong, and always be grateful to Jesus Christ."



Poojane Sakuntala holding a braille Bible volume

In Spring 2025 Compass Braille sent 475 Sinhala braille Bible volumes to Sri Lanka. The Ceylon Bible Society later shared the following testimony with us to illustrate their impact:

My name is Poojane Sakuntala, and I come from a family of three sisters. Growing up, one of the greatest blessings in my life has been access to the Bible - especially in braille. It has become more than just a book to me; it's a source of freedom. With it, I can read whatever I want, whenever I want. It gives me independence, especially in my studies. When I learn about Christian culture, I turn to the braille Bible. Through it, I've not only expanded my knowledge, but also drawn closer to Jesus Christ. Sometimes I listen to the Holy Bible too - and in those moments, I feel a deep sense of peace and strength. It has truly become a guiding light in my life.

But like many others who are completely blind, I face real challenges. The greatest one is finding a job. It's tough, because many companies/organisations hesitate to hire someone who is completely blind. Often, they lack the experience or understanding of how to work with someone with a vision impairment. They aren't familiar with accessibility tools or inclusive practices - and this isn't just my struggle, it's a shared experience among many in our community.

Still, I hold on to my faith. My message to anyone listening is this: always be strong, and always be grateful to Jesus Christ. And from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the Ceylon Bible Society. Providing us with braille Bibles has made a real difference - not just in my life, but in the lives of so many others like me.

Updates

Transcription

Urdu: Transcription of the Gospels of Mark, Luke and John was completed. We hope to transcribe further books from the New Testament this year.

Spanish: Dios Habla Hoy (God Speaks Today). Transcription of the deuterocanonical books was completed. Production for distribution in South and Central America is taking place in Brazil by the Bible Society there.

New Project, Ewe: Transcription of the Bible in this major Ghanaian language has just started.

Production

In the 4 months from October 2025 to January 2026 we dispatched 1596 braille volumes. We had the capacity to produce more but we ran out of orders towards the end of the year.

The languages and destinations were as follows:

- 124 English to Zimbabwe
- 568 English to Kenya
- 175 English and 2 Runyankore to Uganda
- 300 Urdu to South Asia
- 7 Nepali to Nepal
- 300 Swahili to Tanzania
- 120 Kinyarwanda to Rwanda

